

Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

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November 2008

A Message from the President

Dear Neighbor,

The annual Miller Place Christmas Tree lighting and visit from Santa will be held Saturday, December 13, in the parking lot of Starbucks. The actual start time will be posted in the kiosk and on our [web site](#) closer to the date. We will have caroling, hot chocolate, and coffee to keep you warm. It's a lovely community event to share even if you don't have children anxious to see Santa. Bring your cameras because Santa and his friends make sure every family has individual time to take a photo with them.

This week we'd like to thank the Robotics team for their Nov. 16th clean-up of Miller Place Road from 25A to the High School, a road that they adopted through the town several years ago. They collected 12 bags of litter, a significant amount but still a reduction from what's been collected in the past on this road. I'm typically optimistic and see at least some reduction in what's being thrown from cars as they pass to and from the High School.

The Civic Board of Directors wishes you all a beautiful Holiday Season.

Kathy Rousseau

Thanksgiving

It's a story often told but bears repeating. Thanksgiving is a story of the giving of thanks for the season's harvest.

Scholars' debate the actual first Thanksgiving feast, although some documentation alludes to the first celebration taking place on September 8, 1565 at St. Augustine, Florida. Though this may be true, our traditional Thanksgiving harkens back to Plymouth Plantation in 1621. President Lincoln made this a holiday in 1863. The date has been changed several times since, recently by Franklin Roosevelt, modifying the date to the next-to-last Thursday in November to increase the Christmas shopping season. Public uproar caused him to move the date to the last Thursday in November. Congress, in 1941, made this a legal holiday and set the official date to the fourth Thursday of November.

The early settlers at Plymouth Plantation were having a hard time adjusting to their new home. While many had an agricultural background, their experience was in England with old-world crops. The new-world soils and climate were different, and they would need to rely on two important sources for their food

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General Membership Meeting

Monday November 24, 2008

7:30-9:30 PM

Miller Place High School

**Guest speaker: Fred Drewes
Professor Emeritus SCCC**

The 3 R's: Recycle, Reduction, Reuse

Next Meeting: Feb 23, 2009

Thanksgiving (continued)

supply. The first source would be in the form of trade with England, while the second was for them to learn how to use the newly discovered crops the Indians had been using.

Tisquantum (Squanto), who knew some English, agreed to live and teach the Pilgrims how to adapt to their new environment. He taught the new arrivals the uses of the different wild and cultivated plants. By the end of the first season, the Pilgrims had a "bountiful" crop thanks to their new friends!

Traditional Thanksgiving dinners include turkey, potatoes, cranberries, pumpkin pie, and popcorn. This would have been slightly different for the first feast, which evidence would show as venison, wild fowl, nasaump (dried corn pounded and boiled into porridge), and mashed pumpkin (rather than a pie). Potatoes were probably not on the menu, as this crop had not yet been introduced this far north.

Miller's Place was also celebrating Thanksgiving. Most people would attend church services followed by a family gathering. Over time, the wild game had become scarce as agriculture and farming became a dominate way of life. The menu was changing. Certainly, wild ducks and geese were still used but by 1881, a menu might typically include Roast Spare Ribs or Ham, potatoes and sweet potatoes, boiled onions, Indian pudding (a tastier version of nasaump which used cornmeal, butter, milk, eggs and usually a sweetener such as molasses or maple sugar), carrots and, for dessert, various pies such as pumpkin, apple or even lemon meringue.

Whatever your menu may include, Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks for, in Lincoln's own words, "...the blessing of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To the bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come..."



Brookhaven National Laboratory

Sometime during the week of December 8, the Laboratory will be performing its annual emergency response exercise simulating a high wind weather scenario. As a result, on-site sirens will be heard around the Lab's perimeter. If, during this period, questions arise as to reports of sirens sounding on the BNL facility and you desire a confirmation, please feel free to contact 631-344-2345 to validate any concerns that reports or inquiries may generate. When the simulation event has been completed, information will be provided on BNL's [Community Relations](#) web page.

Historical Society Christmas Program for Children

will be held December 7 at the *old* Miller Place post office next to the historic 1720 William Miller House at 75 North Country Rd. Postman Pete arrives from the North Pole to accept pre-written letters to Santa between 1-3 PM. The program includes a visit to the historic house for refreshments, caroling with the Miller Place High School chorus *AND* a letter from Santa sent to the child's house shortly thereafter. Send the child's name and address, along with \$5 registration per child to Postman Pete, P.O. Box 723, Miller Place, NY 11764. Call 476-5742 for more information.



1720 William Miller House

When Writing Your Holiday cards This Year

send one card to the address below. If everyone sends just one card, think of how many cards those who have sacrificed so much would receive.

Holiday Mail for Heroes
P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD. 20791-5456

All cards must be postmarked no later than Dec. 10. For more information, visit www.wramc.amedd.army.mil or www.redcross.org/holidaymail

Local Veterans Preference for Town-County Affordable Housing

Seeking to ease the transition for returning veterans who have served honorably in the Middle East, Suffolk County has proposed legislation which provides a preference for returning veterans in the county's 72-h affordable housing program.

Each year Suffolk transfers properties, acquired through non-payment of taxes, to towns and villages under New York State General Municipal Law 72-h. Many of these properties are then utilized for affordable housing by the towns, working with not-for-profit housing agencies. Suffolk has transferred more than 300 such properties since the program's inception.

The legislation will establish service in Iraq or Afghanistan as a qualification for eligibility in town programs. The law will also make workforce housing funding available to adapt homes to Universal and Adaptable Design Standards for returning veterans with disabilities.

Levy praised the efforts of LI Home Builders Care, the not-for-profit affiliate of the Long Island Builders Institute, who have promoted the idea of building or renovating affordable homes for local veterans, as well as the many veterans' organizations in Suffolk who are advocating for returning veterans.

Traffic Safety

Jim Moran reports that the State DOT has approved a traffic light at the entrance to the center just west of Ging's Nursery where TGIF will be located. Frank Klement reports there is now a 'No Left Turn' sign on Sylvan Ave. where it intersects with 25A. A right turning lane will be installed on 25A in the near future for those turning right onto Sylvan as well.

Suffolk Police Dept.

A community meeting held at the 6th precinct presented information about the CRIME STOPPERS program. It is a not-for-profit, community based organization that works with the Suffolk County Police Department. Our Suffolk County organization was founded by the community in 1994. It offers anonymity and cash rewards to people who furnish information leading to an arrest.

As a concept, Crime Stoppers has proven successful throughout the US and is a perfect example of how citizens, the media and the police can join forces to improve our quality of life. You can help in two ways. First, whenever you have information that can assist a criminal investigation, call **1-800 220-TIPS**. Second, if you are interested in the work that Crime Stoppers does to help make Suffolk County a safer place to live, volunteer to join Crime Stoppers.

How It Works: The police dept. has set up a "TIPS LINE" at 1-800-220-TIPS. The caller receives a code number and remains anonymous when giving information to a police officer. If the information leads to an arrest, Suffolk Crime Stoppers will authorize a reward of up to \$5,000.

The caller, using their code, will pick up the reward at a prearranged bank, walk out with the money and remain anonymous.

The Highway Dept. will replace the broken and missing road material in front of the Welcome sign on Miller Place Road. They promised to do the best job possible using Hot Patch. This shoulder is actively used and traffic drives over it daily, often to turn south on MPR from Helme Avenue, or to pass cars waiting to turn onto Helme.



Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

Mail to: Miller Place Civic Association, PO Box 623, Miller Place, NY 11764

Family Annual Dues \$15.00 2008___ 2009___ Renewal___ New___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

We are happy to accept 2008 late payments along with your 2009 membership.

MPCA Board of Directors

- Kathy Rousseau - President, Membership
- Jim Moran - Vice President, Zoning/Planning
- Woody Brown - Treasurer, Webmaster
- Kevin Cantwell
- Jackie Czarnecki - ABCO
- Mike Guido - Zoning/Planning, School Affairs
- Frank Klement - Traffic and Safety, ABCO
- Kyle Markott
- Rita Miszuk - Secretary

Board Meetings are held the second Monday of the month.

General membership meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month.

November meeting will be held on November 24.

No meetings in December or January.



Inside...

Important Information Regarding *Your* Community!