

Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

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Spring 2009

A Message from the President

Dear Neighbor,

Our last monthly meeting prior to summer break will be held on May 18th and will feature County Legislator Dan Losquadro and Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner, who will provide updates on topics affecting our hamlet at the local and county levels. Consider attending this informative evening.

Sid Bail, Wading River Civic Association president and avid recycler, was a guest speaker at April's meeting. Sid discussed the SMART program that the town is considering implementing in lieu of our current waste management system. This entails the purchase of special bags used for garbage pickup at a cost that includes the service. The \$360 fee now charged on our tax bill would be eliminated. Under the present system, all single family homes are charged the same whether you have two or twelve family members. Your new cost of garbage disposal under the SMART program would be predicated by how much you actually throw out. The more you recycle, the less you have to dispose of. There will be no town fee for recycling. This program is utilized successfully in other parts of the country. The town will be holding informational meetings regarding this concept in the near future.

Another speaker was Deirdre Dubato, Mount Sinai Civic Association president and local realtor, who discussed the State of Real Estate on Long Island. While the big picture has been grim for the past few years, she reports that our area is one of the more positive in terms of home median price sales, days on the market, and number of sales. Miller Place real estate is feeling the pain economically, but less than felt in most other locations on Long Island. Lisa Doll Bruno is slated to feature Miller Place in one of her upcoming Newsday articles.

Kathy Rousseau

Local updates

DeLea Sod Farm

The Owners were forced by an internal dispute to advertise their land for sale at the Miller Place Sod Farm. We have reported that the county has plans to purchase the development rights for this land. The County legislators passed a bill in September of 2007 authorizing the initiation of the process to purchase the development rights.

This purchase has come to a temporary impasse within Suffolk County's Real Estate Department.

The problem is centered around "out parcels," which are small lots owned by numerous individuals within the Sod Farm boundaries. The County wants the DeLea family to purchase these lots, which number over a hundred, before moving forward. This will take years to accomplish. Legislator Dan Losquadro said he will push for an agreement between the DeLea family and the County to move on the portion that is free of out-parcels. Dan stated that our support before the County Legislators may be required. He will advise us when this happens so we can notify residents.

Remember, this property could potentially yield 250 single family homes if developed as it is currently zoned.

General Membership Meeting

Monday May 18, 2009

7:30-9:30 PM

Miller Place High School Library

Brookhaven Town Councilwoman

Jane Bonner

Suffolk County Legislator

Dan Losquadro

Vassilaros Property

The second hearing before the Town Planning Board was held on April 20th. Several dozen residents spoke to question the wisdom in allowing this application to go forward with the negative declaration the owners and their representatives claim is warranted by the studies they have already completed. Is this plan, shown below, actually the most desirable one for the property and our community?



The serious and indisputable impact of traffic on the Historic district has actually been denied by the town employees who “specialize” in traffic issues.

The accuracy of the yield of 58 single family homes is another primary concern, considering that all the property was counted as buildable, including the portions of significant variations in elevations. While it is possible to build on the side of a mountain is it financially desirable for a developer to actually do so? The fact that the town encourages clustering to leave open space on this property was like winning the lottery for the owner. At the initial meeting with the Vassilaros family, we asked if perhaps the 1-acre zoning shouldn't be adhered to since it was obvious they would prefer to only build on the centrally located, level portion of the property. The Planning Board has 62 days to state their decision on this project.

Thank you to Woody Brown for the many hours of work he put into educating us all on this project and for presenting so eloquently at the town hearing.

Waldbaum's shopping center

Despite being told that Marshalls would be open for business by Easter, we can all see that didn't happen. Store owners are being told by shopping center owner Nino Militello that it will be “soon”. We hope he'll also fix the gigantic potholes in the parking lot before allowing cars to frequent this new addition.

Ging's Nursery property

Although we heard that the developer for the Walgreens Pharmacy and Advance Auto Parts is no longer interested in this parcel initially heard by the town in November 2007, they never formally removed it from the Town Board Agenda and it had been held over every meeting since. Councilwoman Bonner decided to go ahead and approve the zone change from J2 business and A1 residence to J2 business recently to better allow for future planning at this site. Dozens of residents spoke in opposition to this plan when presented in 2007 primarily because of the exit onto Miller Place Road that was to encompass traffic from this site along with the adjacent (future) TGIFriday's center. The change of zone approved by the town board carries with it covenants and restrictions that limit commercial and retail development on the site to 18,000 square feet and allow a maximum of two tenants. It also states that architecture must conform to historic district guidelines, and there is to be no direct access to Miller Place Road.

Li2day Breast 6th Annual Cancer Walk: Saturday June 6th & Sunday June 7th

The Long Island 2-Day Walk To Fight Breast Cancer is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit dedicated to helping Long Islanders affected by breast cancer. Since its inception, the LI2DAY has raised over \$2 Million from the annual 35-mile, two day walk. LI2DAY helps fund programs that assist with medical expenses, transportation, prosthetics and wigs, physical therapy, child care and more. While researchers forge ahead to determine why breast cancer rates are so high on Long Island and to find a cure, LI2DAY will continue to raise awareness and much needed funds for the women and men in our community who are fighting breast cancer right now - emotionally, physically and financially. Their web site is <http://www.li2daywalk.org> .

Great Brookhaven Plant-in: May 16

We have plans for several areas around town but are open to suggestions from membership for new areas. It would be wonderful if residents adopted a corner near their homes to clean-up and plant a few hostas and perennials/annuals. Think about it. One idea is to adopt a small area along the path in Sylvan Avenue Park if you're a regular walker there or use the playground with your children. This could easily be done with a shovel, a few bags of compost, mulch, plants and some time. There is a water source now at the park however the dynamics of accessing it for gardening has yet to be worked out with the town.



Our youngest volunteer, Jonathan, grandson of Civic board member Kevin Cantwell.

Keep Brookhaven Beautiful

While the number of volunteers in Miller Place was abysmal and embarrassing, overall resident participation in the town of Brookhaven was remarkable.

We thank those few who did volunteer their time on the morning of April 18 to help clean parts of our town. Thanks to Troop 204, who faithfully clean the Pond and Sylvan Avenue Road and sump. There are supplies for anyone still interested in cleaning up an area. If there is a spot near your home, or a section of road you drive by everyday that is repulsive to you, please consider cleaning it up. Studies have shown that cleaned areas tend to give the litterers pause when throwing out that next bag of fast food wrappers. It's the broken window theory- if there's one broken window in a building, the tendency is for vandals to break another... The same holds true with litter on a roadside.

The town is encouraging groups who wish to continue cleaning an area throughout the year to notify them through the Adopt-A-Spot program at 451-TOWN.



New Bottle Bill

Starting June 1, all water bottles in New York will be included in the state's 5-cent deposit program. In addition, beverage companies will now be required to send 80% of the unclaimed deposits they collect to the state. The new law makes other updates to the state's Bottle Bill that will make it easier for consumers to return their empty bottles and cans.

This marks the first comprehensive reform of New York's Bottle Bill since it was created in 1982.

Why so much litter?



This editorial appeared in the April 24 edition of the North Shore Sun.

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This weekend, the Town of Brookhaven's Keep Brookhaven Beautiful program partnered with local civic associations and independent volunteers to collect more than 25 tons of trash as part of the annual Great Brookhaven Cleanup. Nearly 4,000 individuals participated in the cleanup. Since the Keep Brookhaven Beautiful program began last year, the town has collected nearly 800,000 pounds of litter and debris.

Of course they scooped up the usual paper cups and plastic bags as part of their cleanup efforts Saturday. And lots of cans and bottles that should have been recycled, but instead wound up along roadways throughout Brookhaven, were picked up by volunteers this weekend.

We even heard of some very strange discoveries, like a refrigerator found in a wooded area, and, oh yeah, an artificial leg complete with a sneaker. We wish we were kidding.

But then again, we wish we were joking about all of this, because what a joke it is that more than 25 tons of garbage could be picked up in one day in this town. The efforts are noble and appreciated, but wouldn't it be nice to live in a town where that much litter never found its way out onto the roadways?

In this town, and really all across Long Island, we're always holding someone accountable. We don't remain quiet when we see something we don't agree with. Just look at the headlines in this newspaper the last couple of weeks to see the power of the public voice. You wouldn't even have had to go beyond the front page of last week's issue for the Broadwater headline to see how far public advocacy campaigns can reach in these parts.

Yet we don't seem to be holding ourselves and our neighbors accountable for our litter problem, a very visible issue here in Brookhaven. You

wouldn't have to leave the island to see other towns with a better handle on the issue of illegal dumping and littering. Heck, from many places around here you can drive just one town over to see cleaner roadways and shopping centers.

Keep Brookhaven Beautiful Committee Chairman Tom Talbot said he's proud of the effort to clean so much trash off our streets. It's just a shame it has to be done, he added. We couldn't agree more.

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Brookhaven to Host Free Residential & Small Business Paper Shredding Event May 8-9

Brookhaven Town residents and small businesses can clean out those attics and storerooms full of old letters, medical forms, and financial records and bring them to the Town's Materials Recycling Facility on May 8 and 9, where they can watch them being fed into a large shredder and baled for recycling. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days.

The massive mobile shredder, provided through Hudson-Baylor, the company that manages the Recycling facility for the Town, can shred large volumes of records in minimal time while preserving security.

Many residents and small businesses use small desk-side shredders before recycling personal papers. The May shredding event will enable those who want to discard a large volume of stored documents to shred these records en masse. Documents brought to the Shredding Event will be dumped into a 65-gallon container and then into the shredder, enabling each participant to witness the secure destruction of sensitive papers.

Paper can be brought in boxes or bags. Documents can remain stapled together, but paper clips and other metal must be removed along with any other contaminants such as rubber bands, etc.

The event is open to Brookhaven residents on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and to Brookhaven small businesses on Friday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. As space is limited, small businesses must first register by calling 451-6222.

Suffolk County Announces Recycling of Electronic Waste

Looking to provide county residents with environmentally responsible alternatives, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy today signed a contract with e-Green Management, LLC, to provide electronic waste recycling for county residents.

Other e-waste collection days have been scheduled for:

- Saturday May 30: Riverhead County Center
- Saturday June 27: Central Islip Court Complex
- Saturday July 25: Gabreski Airport, Westhampton
- Saturday September 12: Bergen Point, Babylon

STAR Rebate checks

Senator Ken LaValle and members of the Senate Republican Conference have launched a statewide, grass-roots petition drive to restore the STAR property tax relief rebate checks to middle-class families. The response will be used to put pressure on other lawmakers to restore the rebate checks eliminated in the recently-enacted state budget. Restoring the STAR rebate checks would provide an additional \$368.64 million in tax relief for homeowners on Long Island. The checks were generally mailed out each fall and helped residents pay bills or ease the costs of rising school property taxes.

Senator LaValle said, "The state of our economy has made it even more difficult for families to make ends meet. The last thing we should be doing is eliminating property tax relief."

The petition drive being launched is an opportunity for the public to tell the naysayers in Albany that the STAR rebate checks are important to their families. The drive encourages residents to complete an on-line petition that can be accessed by visiting <http://iwantmystarcheck.com>.

Membership

Please remember to renew your membership for 2009. If you are unsure if you still need to please email us at millerplacecivic@aol.com . I have to apologize to two members who sent in their renewals at the beginning of February. While I typically stick to a strict routine when receiving membership mail I misplaced these two renewals and checks and have not yet found them. Please let me know if this may've been your information.

Our May meeting will hold the yearly election for Board Members. There are 5 positions open this year and five incumbents interested in continuing their positions. For the bios on those running, please see our web site. Any nominations from the membership are welcome. We suggest that nominees be sincerely interested in issues affecting our hamlet, willing to give at least several hours of their time each month, and be a regular attendee of our monthly meetings.

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

2009 Family Annual Dues \$15.00 Renewal___ New___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

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.

May meeting will be held on May 18.



Inside...

Important Information Regarding *Your* Community!