

# Miller Place Civic Association, Inc.

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November 2008

## **A Message from the President**

Dear Neighbor,

We congratulate Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner and County Legislator Dan Losquadro on their re-election as our local representatives. Their support is always present but especially crucial for the recent acquisition and preservation of the Vassilaros property.

The 6th Annual Christmas Tree lighting and visit from Santa will be held Saturday December 12th 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. Santa and his friends make sure every family has individual time to take a photo with them so bring your cameras.

The Council of Dedicated Merchants is joining us this year with their first Tree Lighting sponsored by the Aliano Family, also on December 12th. You can't miss the gorgeous, huge tree just planted on the west end of the Aliano Shopping Center on RT 25A. Plans are being finalized as to the time of both lightings.

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

*Kathy Rousseau*

## **Local Updates**

### **DeLea Sod Farm**

The DeLea Sod Farm preservation efforts remain, for the moment, deadlocked due to the large number of out-parcels located within the farm boundaries. We are working hard to help the family and the County come to an agreement so that the property can be preserved as a farm.

### **Ging's Nursery Property**

There is nothing new to report on the Ging's Nursery property which has been approved for rezoning of the small parcel fronting 25A next to McDonalds so that new commercial development can proceed. There are a number of restrictions that the Town has placed on this property. The auto store is no longer interested, but it remains unclear whether or not Walgreen's is. For the record, the Civic Association is *not* advocating another pharmacy. TGI Friday's has backed out of the center to the west of Ging's Nursery. There have been no further considerations for that property that we are aware of.

*continued on page 2*

**General Membership Meeting**  
**November General Membership Meeting**  
**Monday**  
**November 23, 2009, 7:30-9:30 PM**  
**Miller Place HS Library**

**Fred Drewes**  
**Avenue of America**

**6<sup>th</sup> Precinct Officer**  
**Learn how to keep your home safe from intruders.**

### **Vassilaros Property**

The County and Town of Brookhaven have announced that the owners of the Vassilaros property have agreed to sell. Preservation will involve a joint purchase by the County and the Town. We would like to express our thanks to the Vassilaros family for their willingness to help preserve this land located in the heart of our Historic District.

### **Marshall's Shopping Center**

Marshall's has now been open for several months replacing the vacant Waldbaum's grocery store. The property owner has asked us to work with a sign company to design a new center sign that is aesthetically appealing to residents yet meets the advertising needs of the tenants. This is still in what has turned into a long process.

### **25A Corridor Study**

The Town of Brookhaven has initiated a corridor study covering the length of 25A from Mount Sinai to the Brookhaven Town line in Shoreham. A steering committee, which includes Civic Director Woody Brown and Miller Place School Board President Ann O'Brian, was selected by the Town and convened over the summer. The initial effort was to choose finalists from a number of contractors who had bid on the job. The winner of the contract was BFJ Planning.

The contract will be executed in two phases over the coming years. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase will be a visioning process with a charrette and public workshops scheduled for each of the hamlets along the study area. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will be an analysis and implementation phase. The goals of the 25A Corridor Study are loosely stated as the following though individual hamlets can have additional and/or different goals:

1. *Improve* vehicular and pedestrian safety
2. *Coordinate* Town Planning with SCDPW and NYSDOT Transportation Planning
3. *Redevelop* Blighted Parcels
4. *Revitalize* existing Hamlets and Preserve unique attributes
5. *Strengthen* neighbor businesses and *encourage* walkable/green Hamlet Centers
6. Assess development pressure/*ensure* open space/community amenities
7. *Maximize* citizen participation
8. *Integrate & Update* into past hamlet Studies
9. *Coordinate* with Brookhaven 2030 Comprehensive Plan

The steering committee has been asked to help form a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), in each hamlet, comprising 15 – 20 people who have knowledge of the community, a willingness and the ability to meet regularly, and will provide leadership in helping the Visioning Phase (Phase 1) of the project. Meetings will begin in January.

If you are interested in participating on the Community Advisory Committee – please contact Woody Brown at [wbrown@millerplacecivic.org](mailto:wbrown@millerplacecivic.org) or 631-764-4608.

### **Sewers vs. Cesspools: What's the Right Choice for Suffolk?**

From Vision Long Island newsletter Sept 7, 2009

In many Suffolk County communities, there is an ongoing debate as to how to systemize disposal waste. Many politicians are in a battle over whether cesspools should be replaced with sewer systems. This political battle has caused a halt in business and private property development in places like

the Hamptons. Currently, a Suffolk County task force is pushing for 19 sewer projects, at a cost of approximately \$910 million, in Eastern Long Island, including Southampton.

Cesspools, along with septic tanks, handle 70 percent of Suffolk's wastewater. Proponents of maintaining cesspools argue that converting to sewers will be expensive, increasing the cost of living for many residents through taxes and diminishing the unique characteristics of many Suffolk communities.

There are many who disagree with this. Town and Country Real Estate reported that the average price of a home in Southampton Village was roughly \$1.9 million in the second quarter. According to Southampton Mayor Mark Epley, a conversion to sewers would lead to affordable homes being built for important people of the community including those working in local hospitals, schools, and country clubs.

While cesspools may be a cost-efficient way to dispose of waste, many question whether it is the safest and cleanest method with an increasing Suffolk County population. Leakage from cesspools has been blamed for groundwater contamination, said Adrienne Esposito of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. She told Bloomberg News, "We've never had an overall plan for growth in Suffolk, so it's been more cesspools and more contamination."

A conversion to a sewer system would allow for growth and decrease the chance of ground water contamination. Sewers, which are a system of pipes, carry wastewater to plants which remove contaminants. Sewers help prevent nitrate contamination of drinking water, which can lead to illness or even death.

Suffolk County Legislator Wayne Horsley and Citizens Campaign for the Environment say the new sewer system initiative "will create 36,000 jobs, spur building of apartments and stores, safeguard water and stem the flight of adults ages 20 to 34 who can't afford houses." It is vital to keep the 20-34 year olds within Long Island as that specific population has decreased by 2 percentage points—twice the national average—from 2000-2007, according to the Rauch Foundation.

Vision's Eric Alexander added, "The push for sewers is heating up, and unlike in the past it's happening from the bottom up, from the communities themselves, which gives the projects greater momentum." With the help of the federal government (\$14.4 million towards Suffolk County sewers, and \$30 million in 2009 allocated towards sewer maintenance and expansion), it is clear that Suffolk County is making an effort to move away from cesspools and towards sewers.

Civic Note: And we have to ask...how long before sewers would be followed by increased housing density in our communities? There are pros and cons to be considered and resident input is vital.

**Suffolk County's Cancer Awareness Task Force Unveils Product Checklist to Avoid Toxins in the Home** Suffolk County's Cancer Awareness Task Force developed the checklist as part of a comprehensive educational program, which is available through a link on the main page of the Suffolk County government website, [www.suffolkcountyny.gov](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov), as well as through print materials. The Home Product Checklist includes many types of consumer products -- such as plastics and food storage containers, household cleaners, paints, and yard and garden products -- as well as personal care products, including cosmetics and lotions. The direct page link is:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/department/s/environmentandenergy/cancerawareness.aspx>

**New Initiative in fight against Heroin – PoliceSmart Program Expanded...**the PoliceSmart initiative program involves 10 police officers who serve as full-time instructors throughout the school year and who interact with students from kindergarten through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. *The program has been expanded to include a segment covering the perils of drug abuse.* The heroin presentation includes powerful facts and video clips, that will initially be shared with 8<sup>th</sup> graders, but will be expanded to include other students going forward. The lesson covers the criminal side of possession, the victimization that a person experiences once hooked on the drug, and the real-life consequences that come about with even a single use of heroin. The presentation also provides information about the health effects of heroin, and it dispels myths about the drug and its users.

Also a police department poster campaign, coordinated with Suffolk District Attorney Thomas Spota, encourages students to voluntarily and anonymously send text messages with information about drug activity in their schools and communities to **CRIME STOPPERS 1-800-220-TIPS**. All calls are kept confidential. Since March, Suffolk has received 120 tips and numerous leads – one resulting in a significant heroin arrest – through this “**Know a Drug Dealer?**” initiative.

**Federal Stimulus money at work in Suffolk...**Suffolk has secured \$1.5 million, while Islip and Babylon have qualified for \$840,000 and \$520,000, respectively, under the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009’s Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program**. The municipalities are joining forces with the

Family Service League and Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. to assist people with rent arrears, utility arrears, security deposits and even rental assistance, as well as other needs. The funds will help keep people housed and provide financial support to families and individuals that are in the process of getting back on their feet. Under federal criteria, people above the social services income standards (\$45,000 for a family of four) are eligible. In addition, rental assistance and other services are limited to a period of 18 months, with a requirement that municipalities expend 60% of the funds within two years and the full amount within three years.

The Suffolk County Executive noted that Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program is strictly for those in rental properties and does not deal with foreclosure prevention or defaults on mortgages, however, there are numerous county programs in place to help residents with those issues as well. Applications for this program, as well as information about other county help initiatives can be found on the county’s website, <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov>.

**From Councilwoman Jane Bonner:  
Brookhaven Tax Receiver Louis  
Marcoccia Announces Off-Site Locations  
For Tax Payments in Mt. Sinai, Mastic**

Brookhaven Town Receiver of Taxes Louis Marcoccia is pleased to announce the expansion of his offsite tax collection service that will be available at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center in Mount Sinai to accept payments for the first half collection in December.

Collection will occur from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center, Route 25A, Mount Sinai.

“Many seniors who prefer to pay their taxes in person have told me the difficulties they have of getting to town hall”, Marcoccia said, “I want to reach out to the senior community and other taxpayers and do whatever I can to address these concerns; the Caracappa and Mastic Nutrition centers will help to service the north and south shores of our town.”

Mr. Marcoccia wanted to remind everyone that only check or money order will be accepted. Please do not bring cash to these sites. “I wish to thank the Town of Brookhaven Senior Citizens Division for their cooperation and assistance in helping to make this program possible”, Marcoccia, said, “I look forward to offering this service at other locations throughout the Town of Brookhaven in the future.”

Taxpayers should be sure to bring the following when coming to either location:

- Copy of tax bill
- Check or money order with payment stub---Cash payments will not be accepted

A receipt of payment will be presented to the taxpayer and an additional receipt will be mailed

### **Historical Society News**

The Historical Society again welcomes children to bring pre-written letters intended for Santa to the old Miller Place Post Office at 75 North Country Rd. on December 6 anytime between 12:30 and 3:30. Postman Pete will hand cancel letters and send them to the North Pole. The child will receive a letter from Santa sent to the home shortly thereafter. This popular event includes refreshments and caroling in the historic 1720 Wm. Miller House.

A \$5 pre-registration per child is requested. Visit <http://www.mpmshistoricalsociety.org>

[to download](#) information and a registration form. Click on "more details" under Postman Pete on the homepage. Call 631 476-5742 with inquiries.

The Historical Society invites you to a Christmas cocktail party on Sunday, Dec. 13 in the beautifully restored and decorated Hopkins home in Miller Place from 4 PM to 7 PM. Known as The Point Place, this historic home has appeared in Colonial Homes magazine and is on the National Register. The owners graciously allow guests to wander through the entire home while enjoying wine, food and amiable conversation. Reservations required. \$25 (members) \$35 (Non-members). Limited to the first 120 respondents. Visit the [www.mpmshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.mpmshistoricalsociety.org) homepage and click on "more details" under Christmas Party.

### **Xerox Soldier Thank-you Card Program**

Go to <http://www.LetsSayThanks.com> and pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services. It is FREE and it only takes a second.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Precinct Update**

Four Suffolk police precincts are under new leadership after the department announced last week dozens of promotions and new posts.

Insp. Robert Oswald, the former commanding officer of the major crimes bureau, has been named to lead the Sixth Precinct, according to an order issued by Commissioner Richard Dormer. The spot was vacated by Insp. Frank Stallone, who has been named deputy chief overseeing detectives. Check

[http://www.newsday.com/topics/Frank\\_Stallone](http://www.newsday.com/topics/Frank_Stallone) for info.

Insp. Cornelius McKenna will take over as commanding officer of the First Precinct. Insp. Edward Brady was named commanding officer in the Third Precinct. Insp. David Ferrara will lead the Seventh Precinct. Deputy Insp. William Neubauer, formerly the executive officer of the Third Precinct, was named to take over the major crimes bureau.

Chief Nicholas Mango, who has been acting chief of patrol since Robert Ponzio retired in June, was given the permanent post. Deputy Chief Patrick Cuff was named assistant chief of patrol.

Twenty officers and sergeants were also promoted. The changes were announced Nov. 13th and went into effect Monday, Nov. 16th. A promotion and designation ceremony was held that Friday at the Brentwood campus of Suffolk County Community College.

**The Sixth Precinct's 4<sup>th</sup> Community Conference** was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. Woody Brown and Kathy Rousseau represented our civic in joining other community organizations within the precinct. The purpose of these meeting is to provide an opportunity for members of the community to bring up concerns with police personnel and to attempt to solve these issues. It is an opportunity to become familiar with precinct personnel and the procedures with which they operate.

### **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, though 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 supply. The first source would be in the form of trade with England. The second source 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), 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...”

**Membership** Welcome to new members Tim and Vicki Davies. It is time to ask you to renew your membership for 2010. Our membership runs a calendar year. We strive to represent our members in many areas of life here in Brookhaven. If you have any questions please email [millerplacecivic@aol.com](mailto:millerplacecivic@aol.com) or call 473-0943.



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

Family Annual Dues \$15.00 2009\_\_\_ 2010\_\_\_ Renewal\_\_\_ New\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**We are happy to accept 2009 late payments along with your 2010 membership.**

**MPCA Board of Directors**

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

Board Meetings are held the second Monday of the month.

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

**February 2010 meeting: Monday February 22, 2010**

**7:30-9:30 PM**

**Guest Speaker/Topic TBA**

**Miller Place High School Library**

**No meetings in December or January.**



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Inside...

Important Information Regarding *Your* Community!