

# Centereach Civic Association



## 2005-2006 Board Members

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Very often at the beginning and end of our general meetings a lot of conversations are going on between attendees. Some are social, some are discussing the issues of the night and some joining with others because they find they have other similar issues. This is a key component of community life and therefore very important to a civic organization. With respect to that the civic would like to hold our February meeting in that format. We invite you all to come down, for an open style meeting where we will answer random questions, hand out a few "Good Neighbor Awards", celebrate our longest standing member Ted Landy and enjoy making our own ice cream sundaes and coffee. This would be a great time for some neighborly "networking" or simple socializing.

Just recently we have learned of issues a few of our streets are facing and have banded together to form a Block Association Initiative and more and more people are signing on. Realizing that someone else shares your issues and concerns and you can collaborate to get some answers is empowering.

So please join us at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting at 7:30 pm for coffee and ice cream and bring your neighbors, your questions and concerns. Fair warning, we know a lot but we don't know everything and we don't take and fix your problems but we assist you in getting the answers that you need. Join us now and become a part of a civic that is going from good to great in the very near future.

Respectfully,

Diane Caudullo

January 2006

### Old Business...

For clarification, Dave Moran, a Town of Brookhaven attorney came to our last meeting to clear up some misinformation we received about Dart Fuel. It was informative. We learned that Dart Fuel has submitted a site plan to purchase the Sunoco Gas Station next door and build a small empire on those two parcels combined. It was clear that the general community members present are not okay with having a fuel oil company in the immediate neighborhood abutting houses and a park. There seems to be many more reasons why this plan couldn't and shouldn't go through but the civic will continue to stay abreast of this and not passively wait for the Town to render decisions. Since then we have met with Councilwoman Walsh to ensure that she is well aware of this situation as well as her aide George Lessler who was present at the meeting. We have written a letter detailing this saga and sent it to all Town Council, Supervisor and involved departments. Keep your eyes open for an "open letter" in the Middle Country Times regarding this site plan.

One major point brought up at the meeting is those houses behind the Dart Fuel site need the whole community to back them up, similar to many community members garnering support for a better design on our new CVS. Many people pledged their support and obligated themselves to follow through. We will provide some ways to do just that. Remember, the next issue may be in your backyard, we need to create a team approach. It is our sincere belief that Centereach will be undergoing some significant changes and all residents and businesses should be the better for it.

Those you who prefer to call and voice your opinion can call Councilwoman Walsh, or Supervisor Foley's office. Maybe if we all start calling about Dart Fuel we can impress upon him that this is important to us. Both office numbers are on last page of this newsletter. Those of you who wish to write but do not feel you have enough specifics here are the basic facts.

Dart Fuel has operated without a site plan for over 10 years, The site plan he has submitted needs a change of zone. His land does not meet the minimum requirements of 5 acres to be rezoned to J5. He needs a variance from the town to do this. Even if J5, a fuel oil company is not appropriate for this site that abuts houses, park and a restaurant. Under new town code which was created to eradicate the mistakes of the past the property should also not house a gas station because of its proximity to a park. The many uses proposed for this 3.65 acre parcel include fuel oil delivery trucks, along with the constant traffic that would be generated from the gas station / convenience store / car wash, as well as office workers and excavating and cesspool vehicles. All via 2 curb cuts. He is requesting special accommodations to be made and due to his history of failure to comply to a variety of codes it does not seem appropriate that he be awarded anything more than he is legally entitled to. Certainly no concessions on the part of the Town that are detrimental to the community life of its residents should be made.

## BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD

### AN ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY

Ted Landy, who is a permanent fixture of our general meetings is respected by all. Ted is a community activist, who speaks his mind for the benefit of the community at large. When an issue comes up such as school budget increases, Ted does not hesitate to call all related elected officials to let them know his concerns. The commissioner of education is no stranger to Ted Landy's calls. Ted asks the questions that need to be asked and he reports his findings back to the community. Ted stays abreast of a variety of issues, he is an advocate for the senior citizens and makes sure they are aware of the various services available to them. Somewhat of a senior himself he is mindful of what the younger people in the community need as well. He has quietly assisted some neighbors during their time of need and is outspoken to many on the need to get involved. We have learned a lot from Ted over the years and wish to take this opportunity to thank him and celebrate him.

### Good Neighbor Recognition Awards

There are many good people in our community but some stand out above the rest.

One such neighbor is Rich Donnelly, you may know him from "your Floor Store" or MC Baseball or his numerous area rug donations to any and every worthy cause. Every time a donation is needed- you can count on Rich and that is especially true if the children of the community are the beneficiaries. He is more than generous with his time as well, for many years he is a key part of the success of the Middle Country Baseball League, which as hopefully you know is very successful. Generous with his time and his money and to top it all off he is a really nice guy. Thank you Rich.

Another Good Neighbor is Erika Ingalls, the manager of our local Starbucks. For the last few years she has been providing Starbucks coffee at many community events. For example, our Holiday Tree Lighting, events held by the Chamber of Commerce and by the Community Foundation of Centereach. This type of participation from a local business is greatly appreciated and again adds to the sense of community. Thank you Erika.

### Block Association Meeting

The next meeting for the Block Associations is scheduled for Feb 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the main library on Eastwood Blvd in the Foundation Room. Please join us to learn more. Our suggestion if interested in starting one is to get 4 key people to take on the initial start up of group. Those 4 people can act as liaisons to civic and should possess the organizational skills necessary as well as the desire to follow through.

Our apologies to all regarding the Menorah still being out. The Town Parks Department has graciously accepted the obligation of removing it and storing it, but due to the many changes under the new Town Government it just took a little longer. We appreciate the Town for their cooperation and we apologize, especially to the Northfork Bank Property, for the inconvenience.

PLEASE VISIT [www.centereachcivic.org](http://www.centereachcivic.org)  
Centereach Civic Association, P.O. Box 35, Centereach, NY 11720

## Your Representatives

### Brookhaven Town Level

Councilwoman Kathy Walsh – 451-6655  
Supervisor Brian Foley – 451-9100  
Highway Superintendent John Rouse – 732-3571

### Suffolk County Level

Legislator Joe Caracappa – 854-9292  
County Executive Steve Levy – 853-4000

### New York State Level

Assemblywoman Ginny Fields – South side of MCR – 589-8685  
Assemblyman Steve Engelbright – North side of MCR – 751-3094  
Senator John Flanagan – 2nd District – 361-2154



*"I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something, and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."*  
~ Helen Keller ~

## Come Join Us!"

### Upcoming meetings:

Held at the Centereach Fire Department at 7:30 p.m.

February 23<sup>rd</sup> "Ice Cream Social"

March 30<sup>th</sup>      April 27<sup>th</sup>

May 25<sup>th</sup>      June 29<sup>th</sup>

PLEASE PARK IN THE VISITOR PARKING LOT

HANDICAPPED MAY USE DESIGNATED SPOTS IN RESPONDING FIRE PERSONNEL LOT

CENTEREACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 35  
CENTEREACH, NY 11720

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