

# Centereach Civic Association



## 2006-2007 Board Members

### **PRESIDENT**

*Diane Caudullo-  
Rudilosso*

### **1st VICE**

**PRESIDENT**  
*Carol Cavalieri*

### **2nd VICE**

**PRESIDENT**  
*Jeff Freund*

**RECORDING  
SECRETARY**

*Christina Macari*

**CORRESPONDING  
SECRETARY**

*Julia Wilson*

**TREASURER**  
*Arlene Rizzolo*

**DIRECTORS**  
*Tracey Lamentino  
Joe Rizzolo*

**TRUSTEES**  
*Ben Crimi  
Bob Mille*

*January 2007*

## Message from the President...

Our Community is great. From the daily happenings and interaction of people to the tremendous outpouring of support for baby Jaelyn Gibb. Sadly, baby Jaelyn did not make it. Our sympathies go out to her family. However, when the word was spread about the fundraiser everyone dipped into their pockets. At the Holiday Tree and Menorah lighting we put out a boot and asked people if they weren't able to go to the spaghetti dinner at the Firehouse they could possible make a small donation. The boot filled up quickly and that is what makes us great. Pulling together when one is in need. I would like to commend Peggy Guiliani and Chief Tom Pelio of the Centereach Fire Department for initiating and organizing this huge success of a fundraiser. Although the family suffered the worst loss imaginable we, the community, made a positive difference because in the end the bills are still there.

For those of you following the **VISIONING PROCESS**. Everything is moving along as expected. The Smart Growth Coalition is on track and the design team is working on the final plan. Our target date for getting the full plan presented to the public is mid February early March. The coalition is looking to hire an Executive Director because there is that much going on. We are continuing our search for resources so we can fund these projects. Many people thought that these plans would result in higher taxes. That is not the case. All of our projects will be funded through various fundraising and grants. So everyone please stay updated and involved by visiting the website [www.middlecountrysmartgrowth.com](http://www.middlecountrysmartgrowth.com). There is also a way to contribute your thoughts and ideas. This final design is not actually final – it will serve as parameters for our future plans – a guide that has room to grow or change where needed.

Our next general meeting to be held **January 25<sup>th</sup>**, our guest speaker will be **Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh**. Councilwoman Walsh will be highlighting the many projects she has undertaken. We have tentatively scheduled our Sheriff Vincent Demarco and Legislator Joe Caracappa to talk about and give away a new software program that will allow parents to track the sites that their children are accessing.

Respectfully,  
Diane Caudullo

## **Elections for Fire Commissioner**

Congratulations to Frank Rudilosso who was elected Fire Commissioner and was sworn in January 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Fire Department is a great asset to our community and we welcome more involvement from them in our Civic.

## **Civic Website**

The Civic Website is up and running again thanks to Jason Rudilosso (my son). It needs to be updated on some pages but it is newly designed and functioning. Please visit us at [www.centereachcivic.org](http://www.centereachcivic.org). Jason owns Outta Site Designs.

## **What's in a name.... apparently a lot.**

In the November newsletter were the details for the annual **Tree Lighting**. However, since we were able to add our Menorah it was labeled as a Holiday Gathering in the newsletter. This seemed to cause some confusion and quite a few people said they missed the event because of it. We are certainly sorry for the confusion.

## **Thanks all a round...**

Special thanks go to the Centereach Fire Department Company 3 for the difficult task of putting up our tree lights as well as joining us with their trucks and escorting Santa. Special thanks to Santa, the Centereach High School Chorus, the new Walgreens for the donation of candy canes and Starbucks for their donation of coffee and hot chocolate. An extra special treat this year was from John Hoctor and Newsday. John handed out books published by Newsday titled "Santa in my Father's Shoes". So thank you to all who make this night possible and to all who attended.

## **The Times of Middle Country Newspaper**

It appears that there are still some who do not know about our local newspaper. It is inexpensive to subscribe or you can pick them up for free at various locations around town. This paper is dedicated to happenings and news in Centereach and Selden. If that weren't enough of a reason to start reading it now there is this.... The Times has invited both the Centereach and Selden Civics to enter a column on alternating weeks. Our first column will be in this week's paper (1/18). The paper is weekly and delivered on Thursdays. It is definitely worth it and is going to assist our community in becoming the best it can be for many years to come. Your input or ideas for topics are welcome.

## **Pearl Harbor Bridge**

Some of you know that our very own Nicolls Rd Bridge was recently dedicated as a memorial to the Veterans of Pearl Harbor. We feel the aesthetics and the maintenance of the surrounding areas need to be greatly improved upon to properly serve in this manner. The civic has been working on this issue before it was dedicated but now it is that much more important that we succeed on this one. A memorial done correctly is an honor, if done poorly it is a disgrace. Board members Carol Cavaliere and Julia Wilson are heading this committee and have made real progress. Please join them.

## **Need a better way...**

Another issue that will be facing us before you know it is the school budget and elections. In mentioning the schools I believe this is an issue that needs to be dealt with. Not the school system itself but the annual budget and election period. Without fail each year the budget is proposed and we instantly go into the blame game. Many of us homeowners blame the teachers' salaries and benefit packages for the out of control costs. The school board always points out the state gives them less and less to work with as costs rise. The yearly threat of no full day Kindergarten as well as a loss of sports and specials is the recurring theme. Someone always brings up the lottery system. The elected officials talk about changing the funding but never do, not to mention that we are told other areas through New York think we are quite wealthy. Apparently they see our income without respect to what it costs to live here. People talk about changing the school board but many run unopposed. Some within the schools blame the parents – overscheduled, lack of priority, using school as babysitter, etc. And the kids progress is closer to mediocre than great. I am trying to cover all points of view to show that this is getting us nowhere and we do this year in and year out. The budget process is constant and continual. Our district has a Budget Advisory Committee and the civic will be extending an invitation to them to inform us of their view of the process as well as the budget. Every April we invite the school board members, candidates for school board and various personnel to come down and explain the budget. We need to come up with a better way to discuss the budget and the issues directly related to it if we ever hope to end this divisive procedure and really create positive changes.

## **Membership**

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**Please use the following section to join or renew your membership. Please make copies and distribute -- there is strength in numbers! Please include your phone number and e-mail address as we are trying to ensure that we can notify the community quickly when things come up.**

**Visit our web site often - current news will be added regularly. You can also join the civic or contact us through the site.**

**Please fill in and send:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>E-mail:</b>
<b>City/State/Zip: Centereach, NY 11720</b>	

**Please send \$20.00 (voluntary) per family made out and mailed to:  
Centereach Civic Association, PO Box 35, Centereach, NY 11720.  
Additional donations welcome!**

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

## Your Representatives

### Brookhaven Town Level

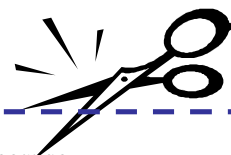
Councilwoman Kathy Walsh – 451-6655  
Supervisor Brian Foley – 451-9100  
Highway Superintendent John Rouse – 732-3571

### 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!"**

Held at the Centereach Fire Department at 7:30 p.m.  
Upcoming meetings, Jan 25<sup>th</sup>; Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>; Mar 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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