



December 2008

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 2

Stony Brook and Setauket Fire District Elections

Monday, December 15

– Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Organization's (ABCO) Annual Holiday Party Mt. Sinai Heritage Center, 7:30 p.m.

Civic Association Meeting Dates

All meetings are scheduled to be held at the Emma S. Clark Library at 7:30 p.m.

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
December 1	Fire Department Elections	January 5	TBA
February 2	TBA	March 2	TBA
April 6	TBA	May 4	TVSD Budget
June 1	Year End Review/Party		

Teens- Get Involved in your Community

The Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook has a new Committee: *Civic Teens*. Its mission is to encourage and help teens get involved in local civic activities, and increase teens' awareness of community issues and find ways for them to make a difference. When teens learn of the rewards of being involved while young, they are more likely to stay involved in the community.

Karina Gerry, Committee founder and 10th grader at Ward Melville High School, states that "The goals of Civic Teens are to educate teens about their own potential to make a difference and to show the community teens can make a difference. We want to get teens to take charge of local activities that are important to them and to get teens to learn and understand what it takes to effectuate change." Contact Karina at karinadale@tmail.com. The first meeting of *Civic Teens* will be January of 2009.

A Brief History of Your Civic Association - Part I

Here is the first of a three part series, describing some of the foundations of our Civic Association:

The Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook (CASSB) has been an active voice in Three Village affairs for more than 60 years! As one of Long Island's oldest and largest civic associations, we have continually worked to preserve and protect the unique characteristics of the Three Villages, while also participating in issues that affect residents throughout Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County.

In the 1940's, the Three Villages were a quiet rural area struggling out of the effects of the depression years of the 1930's and the impact of WW II. Farming was still a significant activity, and the total population was a small fraction of the present 38,000 inhabitants. Dr. Charles Herman, a resident of Stony Brook, was a prime mover in the Association's formation in May 1942. Under the name of *The Civic Association of the Setaukets*, the association drew members from throughout the Three Village area. Ward and Dorothy Melville were among the association's earliest members and long-time supporters.

In the 1950's the association worked with the United Zoning Committee, an umbrella group of Three Village citizens and organizations, to institute the area's first comprehensive zoning plan. The general outline of the plan can still be seen by viewing East Setauket's light industrial zone surrounding the old sand-pits (now county parkland) and the research and development area along Terminal Road. This zone was intended to serve as a comprehensive and stable tax base for the fast-growing Three Village School District. Amendments to this early zoning plan included land for a regional shopping center at the south-east corner of Route 347 and Nicholls Road, when

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Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook

PO Box 2432

Setauket, NY 11733

NEXT MEETING:

MONDAY, December 1, 2008

EMMA CLARK LIBRARY, 7:30 P.M.

Fire Department Elections – at our next scheduled meeting on

Monday, December 1 at 7:30PM we are hosting a special Meet the Candidates Night. Candidates running for the position of Fire Commissioner will be in attendance. All community residents are invited to attend this informative evening in the Community Room of the Emma S. Clark Library. Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions you would like addressed during the evening, please e-mail us via the Association's web site. We'll be sure to include the questions in our format.

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A Brief History *Continued from Front*

these new highways were being laid out in the 1960's. The regional center was preempted by the construction of SmithHaven Mall, whose tax base went instead to Smithtown and Lake Grove. The unused shopping center land at Route 347 and Nicholls Road was to become of considerable concern to the association for decades to come.

In the mid-1960's the association, along with other North Shore organizations, was successfully opposing a major highway rebuilding for Route 25A. A plan was promoted by New York State highway and park czar Robert Moses as a first step to a bridge crossing Long Island Sound to Connecticut from somewhere between Old Field and Shoreham. Locally, the plan included a four-lane highway through Kings Park and bypassing Smithtown via a high-rise bridge over the Nissequogue River. The proposed project sliced through Head of the Harbor and then leaped Stony Brook Road and the Mount House via another high-rise bridge, and headed east through the area near the Stony Brook Railroad Station and went onward to Port Jefferson. Eventually, Governor Rockefeller recognized the general opposition from so many communities along Route 25A and announced the proposal was dead. Life in the Three Villages would certainly be different today if this super highway had been built!

No sooner was this monumental battle over, than another major problem emerged! Read Part II in next month's Newsletter.

Fire District Update

As you know, our Newsletter has attempted to keep you aware of the latest developments in the Setauket Fire District. A \$12.9 million bond issue to build an administration building, new fire house, and a garage facility was defeated earlier this year. Following this defeat, many worried residents asked "Will the commissioners use their special taxing authority to raise the necessary building funds to complete these projects?"

In October, the Setauket Fire Commissioners presented a 2009 budget which calls for a 36.1 percent tax rate increase. The average home assessed at \$4,000 would see its annual fire district taxes rise from \$440 in 2008 to \$596 in 2009. Under this adopted budget, \$2 million would be placed into the building reserve fund for undesignated purposes. Obviously questions have emerged: Are these funds being raised as "back door" funding for projects previously opposed by the taxpayers? Why hide the exact purpose of this \$2 million tax increase? With all the other economic woes, is this the best time for a tax increase?

With elections of two new fire commissioners slated for this December, everyone needs to look carefully at the candidates and vote for those qualified individuals who will best lead the district and spend your money.

Hate Billing Reminders? Read No Further!

Check the label of this Newsletter to see if you are a paid-in-full member of *The Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook*. If the label indicates a past due notice, this may be a good time to send your dues check. And **while you have the check book out, don't forget the volunteer firefighters appeal that you received in the mail in October. Thanks!**

Please Recycle

Don't throw this newsletter away!
Recycle it to a neighborhood
resident or friend in the
community. And ... mention that
we can always use new members!

