



January 2009

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## 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
January 5	The Local Real Estate Market	February 2	All Things Town
March 2	TBA	April 6	TBA
May 4	TVSD Budget	June 1	Year End Review/Party

## A New Year Message

The Executive Board of *The Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook* would like to wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. Living in the Three Villages is a special experience! We have outstanding museums, parks, beaches, shops and schools. Each year we enjoy a tremendous number of unique artistic, scientific, cultural and social events. The Three Village area blends the charm of a New England Village with the exciting opportunities of a modern urban center.

With the end of one year and the start of another, it is important to reflect and remember the many "giants of the community" who, over the years, fought to protect and preserve our environment, resources and "sense of place." These people freely gave their time, energy, and money to create a better community. The names of these people can be found on this area's past, present and future volunteer boards and membership rolls. Now, with the New Year, make a personal commitment to get involved and contribute to the Three Villages.

We will need your involvement in the many issues that will face our community. Undoubtedly, this year will bring more efforts to sub-divide properties, lift zoning requirements, breach existing covenants, add more "signage" and build high-density housing developments. Only an active and informed citizenry can preserve and protect the community.

## Teens- Get Involved in your Community

The first meeting of *Civic Teens*, the Civic Association's new committee will be held at 6:30 p.m. on January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Emma Clark Library, an hour before the Civic's general membership meeting. The mission of *Civic Teens* is to encourage and help teens get involved in local civic activities they care about and to educate teens about their own potential to make a difference. Contact Karina Gerry at [karinadale@gmail.com](mailto:karinadale@gmail.com) for more information.

## Our Membership Outreach Drive Continues

As noted in our previous newsletters, we are working to expand our membership - with an emphasis to sign-up new, young families living in the Three Villages. Please help us by encouraging your friends and family to join our organization. Here are some more great ways you can help grow our membership:

- ❑ Make this newsletter "refrigerator paper" - by posting it in your home- visitors will likely see and ask about the Association.
- ❑ Schedule your "night out" to coincide with our civic meeting - drop by for an hour or so before you get started with your other social activities.
- ❑ Give an annual membership to your son or daughter as a birthday present.

P.O. Box 2432, Setauket, N.Y. 11733

Web address: [www.CivicAssociationOfTheSetauketsAndStonyBrook.org](http://www.CivicAssociationOfTheSetauketsAndStonyBrook.org)

# Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook

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Setauket, NY 11733

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## NEXT MEETING:

**MONDAY, January 5, 2009**

**EMMA CLARK LIBRARY, 7:30 P.M.**

**Location, Location, Location** The sub-prime market crisis, the credit crunch, the market downturn, the decline of re-sale values – the current real estate market has everyone talking!! Our Annual Real Estate Information Meeting is one of our most popular events. It updates us on our most important investment – our home, and gives us the opportunity to hear from local experts. Real estate agents and mortgage brokers will give us the “real estate scoop.” We will also be an important presentation by the Three Village School Board's legislative committee regarding a proposed fix to the current formula used by New York State for school funding.

## A Brief History of Your Civic Association Part II

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

Not long after our Association helped to defeat the NYS plans to convert Route 25A into a “super highway,” another monumental battle emerged in the 1960's over Suffolk's plans to install sewer systems and treatment plants throughout our communities. This was seen by many Civic groups, including ours, as little more than a pork barrel project for many local politicians. Sewers connected to regional treatment plants were also seen as catering to the building industry's plans for higher housing density, which would be allowed with sewers, but not with recharging cesspools.

Housing density itself was an ongoing issue in the 1960's, as Brookhaven Town slowly moved, with prompting from the CAS, to increase minimum lot sizes and add new zoning categories in the Three Village area. The 1960's and 70's saw the construction of most of today's suburban landscape in this area – the various alphabetical sections of Strathmore, the Story Book Homes in East Setauket, etc. Smithhaven Mall was added to the landscape, and our Association fought relentlessly against any further down zoning for commercial uses along Route 347. What remains today of green spaces or residential areas, rather than commercial “strip-mauling” along Route 347, is largely a result of battles fought by The Civic Association of the Setaukets with developers, and all too often with the Town of Brookhaven itself. One of the more recent of these was with the giant retailer Carrefour, which tried to take over the abandoned regional mall site at Route 347 and Nichols Road to construct a single mega-store of its own, well after this made any sense to the local economy or the future of Nesconset Highway. While we were successful in defeating Carrefour, the Town failed to take advantage of the opportunity to rezone this land and now much of it has been developed into big-box stores.

In 1975, our Association made the first suggestion that a new Brookhaven Master Plan should include Historic Districts, and shortly afterward that concept was enacted in the Town's zoning code. As a result, *four* Historic Districts in northern Brookhaven were designated in the Three Village area.

In recent years, the CAS continued to be an active voice in preserving and protecting the unique beauty of the Three Villages. The Association has joined with other local groups in the successful advocacy for the preservation of The Thompson-Detmer Farm (a 20-year-long cliff hanger), The Sherwood-Jayne farm in East Setauket, The Forthsyth Meadow and Forest, Smoke Run Farm in Stony Brook and the 9-acre Amy Elzon Preserve in Setauket.

**Part III Next issue – what's your Association doing today!**

## We Know the Economy is Bad, but ...

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 check to the association. And while you have your checkbook out, don't forget the volunteer firefighter's appeal that you received in the mail in Oct. Thanks!

## Nominations

The Nominations Committee of *The Civic Association of the Setaukets and Stony Brook* is currently seeking the names of members who wish to serve on the Executive Board for 2009-2010. Please feel free to forward your name or that of a deserving member to our Nominating Committee. A brief description of the member's background and “civic” qualities is helpful to the Nominating Committee.

## The Race for Supervisor is Next Up

In November, Supervisor Brian X. Foley was elected to the New York State Senate. As a result, a Town-wide election for a new supervisor must be held within 60 to 90 days after Mr. Foley vacates the Supervisor's office. No date for the election has been set at the time of publication, it is likely to be mid to late March, we will keep you posted!