

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
October 12, 2009**

2009 Officers

President:	Ray Carta	560-4650 - present
Vice President:	Stan Feldman	523-8835 - not present
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	589-8222 - present
Recording Secretary	Carol Schwasnick	589-7455 - not present
Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Triolo	589-5981 - not present

Directors

Cathy Cohen - not present
John Eder - not present

Minutes Recorded by Bob Mirro

www.OakdaleCivicAssociation.org

Pledge of Allegiance

President Ray Carta called the meeting to order at 7:31pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes for the September meeting

Mr. Carta welcomed everyone to the meeting and allowed a few moments to review the minutes. Mr. Carta asked for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made and seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Kassten gave the current state of the treasury report. Ms. Kassten announced that there were 151 paid members for 2009, and 4 paid members for 2010 so far.

President's Report

President Ray Carta discussed that there would be a meet-the-candidates night on Thursday October 22nd; candidates to attend will include those running for Town Council positions and possibly some running for judgeships. Mr. Carta announced that an email reminder would go out, and that questions for candidates may be submitted in advance.

Mr. Carta also discussed an article he read having to do with the heroin epidemic. The idea of the article was about a community awareness approach to the issue, and that it will take all of us to combat it - and is something to remain aware of.

Mr. Carta discussed the need to put together a nominating committee.
Member Bob Mirro volunteered to chair this effort.

Guest Speaker: NY State Assemblywoman Ginny Fields

Ms. Fields explained that she is part of several committees. Ms. Fields also discussed the structure of the NYS Assembly in that there are 150 assembly members, with 110 Democrats and 40 Republicans. Ms. Fields stated that the Assembly completed its work on time, but she pointed out that the state of the power struggle that took place in the state Senate may have led to some good works not getting done.

Topic #1: Oakdale - A community of History and Pride

Ms. Fields discussed the history and population of Oakdale, including mention of the WORC, Idle Hour, the Oakdale merge, and the Connetquot State Park preserve. Ms. Fields discussed

the Oakdale grist mill as a historic park building. Ms. Fields discussed the Connetquot fish hatchery and the effects of the IPN virus on NY State closing the hatchery. Ms. Fields confirmed that the State decided to close the hatchery in the face of questionable and inconclusive information on the cause and effects of the virus on the preserve. Ms. Fields discussed Pig Wallow Pond and noted the presence of member Trish Bergin who had helped clean up the pond years prior. Ms. Bergin spoke on the process of cleaning up the pond and that a fundraiser she chaired helped purchase the materials to accomplish this task. Ms. Bergin also mentioned that her group reintroduced the pigs to the pond so that they may wallow as was the original intent of the space. Ms. Bergin stated that she also frequently wades into the pond to tend the weeds, flowers and do general clean up.

Topic #2: What has your Assemblywoman been up to?

Ms. Fields stated that the NYS Senate had not completed its work, and she stated she did not vote for the budget that passed in April which included increased taxes, fees and some of the highest spending in history of New York State. Ms. Fields discussed the payroll mobility tax as a bail-out for the MTA. Ms. Fields asked Mr. Carta if he knew how much money this MTA tax amounted to for the Connetquot district – Mr. Carta replied that this estimate is approximately \$260,000.

- Ms. Fields discussed the ramifications of the NYS budget on all of us and listed several issues as potential manifestations of tax increases: Additional “temporary” personal income tax
- Utility assessment (gas, electric and water)
- Bottle bill – 5 cents per bottle
- Millionaire’s tax
- Transportation services tax on limos/black cars (but taxis are exempt).
- Beer tax raised 11 cents ... all to support the MTA.

On the MTA bail-out Ms. Fields mentioned that if MTA riders don’t want to pay the drastic increases they are always free to pay to finance a car, insurance, gas, tolls etc. Ms. Fields stated that there were increases in executive salaries at the MTA and that the MTA needs oversight. Ms. Fields also discussed inappropriate wastes that occur within the structure and unions pertain to the MTA.

Ms. Fields discussed the availability of heroin in the Oakdale area, and that heroin is also a problem in many other communities. She has had meetings with leaders in education and other coalitions on this topic.

Ms. Fields discussed a variety of other topics including the abuse of alcohol as it pertains to DWI with respect to the Fire Island Ferries, and her opposition to the issue of selling wine in grocery stores as it pertains to putting liquor stores out of business. It also is hard to control young people purchasing wine leading to underage violation problems. In addition, she discussed an insurance forum that she is holding Nov 9th for other legislators; noted that she has asked Steve Levy to meet with her to discuss the Fire Island Marine Bureau on the rumor that the County Executive was going to replace them with sheriffs; and noted that she is the Chairperson of the subcommittee of child product safety (Last year she got the yo yo water balls banned this year she is trying to ban novelty lighters).

On the topic of jobs and the economy, Ms. Fields discussed the importance of salaried employees who own homes and pay mortgages, buy food, cars, clothing, furniture, etc. If we don’t have jobs we can’t build more jobs. Ms. Fields stated that we are still losing thousands and thousands of jobs on Long Island. Ms. Fields discussed how to save jobs on Long Island – a Company in Bohemia recently saved 276 jobs due to the Empire State incentive program – keeping them here in our area Ms. Fields noted that Dowling is becoming a business resource through the LI Economic and Social Policy Institute and is hosting symposiums and acting as a liaison for the business community.

Ms. Fields discussed Economic Development: the Town of Islip has programs and incentives;

New York State has the Empire State incentive program. Ms. Fields then discussed "Pork Barrel" spending and highlighted the following as some projects that are important to her and she has secured funding for:

- American Red Cross: \$10k
- Youth and Family Counseling of Islip: \$10k
- Disabled American Veterans: \$5k
- FOCUS: \$20K
- Island Harvest: \$28K
- Town of Islip Citizens: \$35k
- United Way \$35k
- \$250k for Connetquot River State Park Preserve
- \$250k for Dowling College
- \$250k for Town of Islip Emergency Services
- \$250k for the Sayville Lacrosse club

Ms. Fields discussed sex offenders in our area – and a group called "Parents for Megan's Law." Ms. Fields showed the locations of several offenders in our area via the website www.parentsformeganslaw.org. Ms. Fields also discussed the different levels of sex offenders.

Topic #3: What's new in New York State?

New features/programs:

Enhanced NYS Drivers License will be coming out soon.

Dial 511 – Emergency Alerts about traffic and weather conditions.

Ms. Fields discussed the changes in the STAR rebate. In essence it cost the state millions of dollars to send the rebates out. You will get the rebate but not the check in the mail. But you still have to apply for it by March 1st. Ms. Fields stated that the financial state of NY State is bad. She said in the future it is very possible that there may be a lot of cuts that will be painful for NYS. After the stimulus money is gone there are going to be problems and that she would keep fighting for us.

Islip Town Councilman Steve Flotteron

The next speaker was Islip Town Councilman Steve Flotteron. Mr. Flotteron wanted the membership to know that he has been fighting for jobs the Town has planned to cut, and is in general disagreement with some recent actions by the Town Council. Mr. Flotteron stated that if anyone needs clarity on an issue he's voted on feel free to call him at his office.

Town Report

No Town Report given this week

Open Floor

Trish Bergin introduced herself as running for Town Council and gave a synopsis of her background.

President Carta called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm.

A motion was made by the membership and seconded.

The next meeting of the Oakdale Civic Association will be on Monday, November 16th. The guest speaker will be State Senator Brian Foley.