

THE CORAM CIVIC ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

March 25, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Erma Gluck, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our troops home and abroad.

Board members present: Erma Gluck, Bob Gluck, Paul Ziems, Vana McClure, Chris Reilly, Kathrine Soscia and Jean Hartling. There were approximately 46 members and guests in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The 5th annual "Blessing in a Back Pack" fundraiser takes place on May 4 from 7:00 to 11:00 PM at County Fair in Medford.
2. The State DOT plans road paving on Middle Country Road between Coram and Middle Island.
3. The Suffolk County District Attorney will hold a community meeting Thursday March 28, 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Newfield High School.
4. A "Help Shape the Future of Nichols Road" meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4 at Suffolk Community College Brookhaven campus to discuss bus and transportation improvements.
5. State of the County address to be held April 17, 7:00 PM At Suffolk Community College Brentwood campus.
6. Brookhaven Lions Club and the North Shore Chamber Choir will hold a Chinese Auction on May 10.
7. The Davis House Historical Society Victorian Tea is Saturday, May 4; the Craft Fair takes place Saturday September 21 and a reenactment of the Coram Hay Burning is planned for October 2020 in celebration of its 240th anniversary.
8. The Great Brookhaven Cleanup will be Saturday May 18. Civic members were asked to sign up and help clean the Coram Plaza area.
9. The Civic Country Line Dance event will be held Friday, March 29, 7:00PM at the Fire House.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Longwood Library Director, Lisa Jacobs and Assistant Director, Ann Hofbauer gave a detailed presentation of the library's numerous programs, services, on-line learning, streaming opportunities, equipment and museum pass loans. They outlined the 2019-2020 Budget Vote and Trustee Election scheduled for Tuesday, April 2. A leaflet with all details was provided.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Coram Plaza Shopping Center: Chris Reilly led a discussion on needs for the center. He asked members for ideas to take to the Plaza Task Force Meeting, April 2. Members suggested: better communications with the homeless, installation of system to prevent shopping carts being removed from Home Depot parking lot, better security surveillance, discussion with landlords regarding prohibitive rental cost, better lighting and ownership responsibility and accountability for conditions there.

Upcoming School Budget Vote & Board of Education Elections: Our April 22nd General Meeting will feature Dr. Michael Lonergan, Superintendent of the Longwood School System who will present the 2019-2020 school budget to our membership and guests. Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 21. There will also be two Board of Education seats open for election on that same day. Our school board consist of seven members; publicly elected residents who receive no remuneration. The school board is a highly important entity as it is primarily responsible for the control of our approximately \$260,000,000 annual school budget, policy making, and by working through the superintendent of schools, the successful education of over 9200 students. And yet, voter turnout for the school budget and BOE elections has fluctuated between 4% and 9%. We need to do better. More timely information will be conveyed to the membership in the hope of increasing voter turnout.

Police Liaison SCPD 6th Precinct: **Officer Zieman** gave an update of current issues. The 6th Precinct is working with Federal and State officials in many areas. The Coram Plaza is a top priority of the Precinct.

Coram Civic Community Service Scholarship: The deadline for application is March 31.

50/50 Drawing:

The 50/50 was won by Kathy Nohe who took home \$22.00.

Motion to Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Hartling

Recording Secretary