



Ridge Civic



Caring Citizens in a Quiet Country Community

Ridge Civic Association • P.O. Box 354 Ridge, NY 11961 • ridgecivic@gmail.com • ridgecivic.org • facebook.com/ridgecivic

Officers

Scott Wood
President

Ninette Kayton
Vice President

Cynthia Eaton Tvelia
Secretary

John Capurso
Treasurer

Directors

David Donofrio
George Fernandez
Susan Kaufold
Holly Wood
Scott Wood

Trustees

Ninette Kayton
Victoria Molloy
Cynthia Eaton Tvelia

General Membership Meeting June 19, 2024, 7:30 pm Ridge Firehouse

Call to Order and Pledge

- Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm by **President Scott Wood**

Reading of the Minutes

- Minutes are accessible on our website: ridgecivic.org.

Financial Report

- **Treasurer John Capurso** reports the amounts in the Ridge Civic accounts—general checking, community park, schoolhouse, scholarship, beautification, and savings. The amounts reflect a \$2,000 reimbursement from Suffolk County for our annual summer concert grant.

Correspondence

- We had received a letter from Jennifer Pisano of [New York Blood Center](https://www.nybc.org/) regarding an upcoming blood drive, and she graciously came to speak to our group about it. Jennifer announces a blood drive on July 24, sponsored by Suffolk County Legislator Chad Lennon and Brookhaven Town Councilman Mike Loguercio. There's a blood shortage emergency in the county right now, which means local hospitals do not have the two-day supply on their shelves that they need. Only 2% of New Yorkers donate blood, but every two minutes someone is in need of blood, from children to the elderly. The blood drive event will be held right here in this meeting room of Ridge Firehouse, so please come on July 24 to donate and help people in need.

Phil Reany Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award

- Congratulations to Kaylee Merkle, a recipient of this year's \$500 Phil Reany Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award! Kaylee was selected for the way she has embodied Phil's spirit of community service and dedication to helping others. Kaylee's volunteer

work includes the following:

- Longwood Public Library True North Community Service Program
- Great Brookhaven Cleanup
- Ridge Elementary School Art Gallery Shows
- Blessings in a Backpack
- Ridge Civic Association events, e.g., Easter Bunny at the park

Kaylee wrote in her application that “All of these experiences have brought light and joy to my life as well as to the community that I am proud to belong to” and “This has led me to want to continue to help those around me as I continue my educational studies after high school.” Kaylee plans to study sonography at LIU Post in the fall, and we hope this scholarship helps her along her educational path.

Election

- **President Scott Wood** notes that all four officer positions are up since those are one-year terms; in addition we have four director positions and one trustee position up for election. Three candidates for director positions are new to the group and were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Kevin Aug (in person) — I moved to Ridge, on Marc Drive, just about one year ago. I’m putting down roots with my family, a 1 ½ year old daughter and another on the way, and feel this is a good way to become involved and show pride in our community. I learned as a preteen from a family friend what it’s like to be involved in a local civic association; back then it was delivering newsletters door to door but I know there are many other ways to contribute and be involved. Thank you.

Nora Adams (unable to attend, statement read by Secretary Cynthia Eaton Tvelia) — I moved to Ridge about six years ago and want to serve on the board because I’d like to help make Ridge more a part of our lives and the lives of our three young daughters. I’ve been volunteering at Ridge Elementary to help out with events and am always looking to do activities locally, such as at farms and at Longwood Public Library. I love helping, voicing my ideas, and volunteering my time to make Ridge better for families. If you want to improve your community, I feel it is important to be an active part of that.

Nina Fielding (unable to attend, statement read by Secretary Cynthia Eaton Tvelia) — I moved to Ridge three years ago and quickly learned how great of a community it is here. A neighbor explained how most people in the community have not changed as people generally do not move out of the area. I can see why now. The small town feeling in the community is something you cannot get in most places on Long Island. One of things making this happen is the Ridge Civic Association. I’ve attended many events with my young son, and he looks forward to them, always asking when the next one is. I am glad he is growing up in this community and would love to do my part by being actively involved in the Ridge Civic Association.

- Member question: Can you explain difference between directors and trustees? All board members have a voice in helping to shape the policy and activities of Ridge Civic Association and are charged with ensuring all activities taken on behalf of the association are in keeping with our Bylaws. Trustees carry an additional fiduciary responsibility regarding intake and expenditures of member dues. All [duties of board positions are outlined in our Bylaws](#), which is on our website (in the About Us

section).

- Ballots distributed to all dues-paying members in good standing, then collected for counting by Victoria Molloy who will announce results at meeting's end.

Unfinished Business

- Just a comment and a few photos to show from the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 18. We are grateful to the Ridge Fire Department for hosting this every year; it is an important event. Despite the rain, we participated, with three local teens volunteering to carry our banner this year. Local groups were involved, from Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion to local Cub Pack 187.

New Business

- **Summer Concert** — As mentioned in previous meetings, we are hosting our annual summer concert on Saturday, July 27, from 6 to 8 pm at the Longwood Estate. We hope the later time frame brings more people in and helps keep everyone cooler. The band is the local group Abby Normal which includes some Longwood teachers. Our rain date is July 28. You'll see signs posted around the community as well as on our social media.
- **Family Fun & Film Night** — In addition to the concert, we'll be hosting a family fun and film night on a Friday night in August. Right now, it is tentatively being scheduled for Friday, August 16, and will likely run from 5 to 9:30 pm, with the film running from 7:30 to 9:30 so it's dark enough. We will have family friendly activities as well, and this will also be at the Longwood Estate.
- Please save the date for the annual Town of Brookhaven Longwood Fair, which is slated for September 21-22 this year. Ridge Civic has long hosted a booth at the town fair, and it will be here before you know it!

Member Concerns

- [Neighbors Being Human](#) representatives note that the people they serve who reside at county parks are now in tents given the time of year, and as always all donations are appreciated. Do you take clothing donations? No, not at this time. Donations needed are food and toiletry items.
- [Blessings in a Backpack](#)'s Barbara Royce is here with coffee and cookies. Please enjoy!

Committee Reports

- Community Park — Still need to have the gazebo power washed and a light changed; Victoria Molloy indicates that she has passed on that work request to the park commissioner
- Membership — No report at this time, other than annual dues are due! Three ways to pay are on the agenda: Pay online at ridgescivic.org (click Become a Member), by check at P.O. Box 354, or by cash or check in person at today's meeting or at Gray's Hardware.

- Downtown Beautification — The downtown planters are all filled with flowers and we are working to keep them watered in this heat
- School House — No report at this time
- Clean Up — No report at this time
- Scholarship Committee — Congrats again to Kaylee!
- Events – As mentioned, next event is the summer concert
- Brookhaven National Lab – No report at this time; next meeting is in September

Election Results

- **Board member Victoria Molloy** announces the following vote results with a congratulations to all. Always nice to see new people become involved!

President

- Scott Wood — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes

Vice President

- Ninette Kayton — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes

Secretary

- Cynthia Eaton Tvelia — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes

Treasurer

- John Capurso 16/0/0 — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes

Directors

- Nora Adams — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes
- Kevin Aug — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes
- Nina Fielding — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes
- Scott Wood — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes

Trustee

- Cynthia Eaton Tvelia — 16/0/0 — no write-in votes

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.