



# Ridge Civic



*Caring Citizens in a Quiet Country Community*

Ridge Civic Association • P.O. Box 354 Ridge, NY 11961 • [ridgecivic@gmail.com](mailto:ridgecivic@gmail.com) • [ridgecivic.org](http://ridgecivic.org) • [facebook.com/ridgecivic](https://facebook.com/ridgecivic)

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## **General Membership Meeting March 15, 2023, 7:30 pm Ridge Fire House**

### Call to Order and Pledge

- Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm.

### Reading of the Minutes

- Minutes are accessible online so please access those on our website: [ridgecivic.org](http://ridgecivic.org).

### **Guest Speaker: Mike Loguercio, Town of Brookhaven Councilman, District 4**

- Mike Loguercio announcements and Q&A:
  - Happy to see Ridge Civic is doing a summer concert again this year—I've secured Longwood Estate for that event on July 15—and also excited about Easter Egg Hunt on April 1 and Earth Day Celebration on April 22.
  - Town of Brookhaven events and programs:
    - Spring Fling social event at Rose Caracappa Senior Center on March 20.
    - Dress for Success Program offers prom dresses for students who cannot afford their own; Macy's and others donate brand new dresses
    - Confidential counseling services by licensed clinical social workers are available for youth ages 12-24 (with or without families)
    - Town has a partnership for lower prices on your natural gas bill so residents can get reduced rate
    - Call my office if you have questions or concerns and not sure who to call; we'll put you in touch with the right party to address your concerns.
    - Be alert to scam letters accusing you of owing property taxes and threatening that your property will be seized; letter claims to be from Suffolk County tax processing unit but it is a scam.

- Will potholes on Whiskey Road be fixed? Yes, those will be attended to as soon as possible.
- Will light poles be fixed in downtown Ridge? Town is working on it. The cost is about \$100,000, about 60-70% of them switched to LED lights, and others need to have poles replaced but that's on 60-day back order.

### Financial Report

- President Scott Wood reports on behalf of Treasurer Ken Casanova the following current balances. Some payments have gone out to secure the summer concert; those will be reimbursed by the county through Sarah Anker's office thanks to the grant we received.
  - **\$15,775.24** — Total in all accounts
  - \$4,574.54 — General checking
  - \$3,518.75 — Community park fund
  - \$854.89 — Schoolhouse fund
  - \$2,620.40 — Scholarship fund
  - \$533.75 — Beautification fund
  - \$3,672.91 — Savings

### Correspondence

- None at this time

### Unfinished Business

- None at this time

### New Business

- Next month's guest speaker is Trisha Ewald from Blessings in a Backpack to accept our \$500 donation.
- Summer concert will be from 4-6 pm on July 15, rain date July 16. The band will be Tradewinds, a wedding band known for great variety of music. Also trying to secure some other form of entertainment since extra money for that in the grant.
- Mike just addressed issue of the streetlights on Middle Country Road.
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 1, at noon. Easter Bunny will be there for pictures, we'll have candy filled eggs to distribute, and seeking a few volunteers.
- We're planning first annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 22. That will include a neighborhood litter cleanup challenge for the week ahead of that. Ridge families encouraged to clean up litter and take before-and-after photos. We'll give prizes on April 22 to the top cleanup crews; these are gift certificates to local businesses Drifters, Dunkin Donuts, Go Burger, Joy Luck Club, Alfredo's, and Hollywood Sweets. We'll see if we can plant butterfly bushes at Ridge Community Park and have experts from Cornell Cooperative Extension or Holtsville Ecology Center there. We'll distribute free Earth Day seeds and would like to have Town of Brookhaven recycling bins available for residents. Save the date and we will have more information soon.

- Suffolk County COPE Officer wasn't able to attend this evening but will be here at our April 19 meeting.

**Guest Speakers: Jeanne Knudsen, Social Studies Department, Longwood High School and two LHS Students — New York State Seal of Civic Readiness Program**

- [Seal of Civic Readiness](#) is a NYS initiative to get civics into the classroom; Longwood High School chose to participate. Focus is on seniors but also 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the group. Students do an individual project but this year doing school-wide project. 40 students in program, about 25 are seniors. Ridge Civic's Earth Day project could be something they could volunteer for since it is civic engagement. We have partnered with League of Women Voters and are taking students to National Constitution Center in Philadelphia for some workshops. Students find out by end of May if they have earned Seal of Civic Readiness for their efforts.
- LHS Student Joe: To earn a certificate, chose to focus on increasing voter registration in upcoming local elections. Large gap between people who vote in local versus in state and federal elections. Goal is to address lack of awareness of local polling places, registration information, and NYS law that you can get two hours off from work if you don't have a specific number of hours after work to be able to vote. Voter turnout is only about 5% in local elections. Efforts focused on making sure residents know where to vote and how to register, so visiting local civic associations and local fire departments to spread the word.
- LHS Student Layla: Planning to announce voting dates and locations, creating infographics for Ridge Fire Department, helping people with registration because it can be tricky, and encouraging high school students to register and vote. Young adults often don't vote because they don't understand process. For example, deadline for voting for the school budget and school board vote is May 11, but people often don't know. Developing a Google Docs site to serve as repository of information for the public to access.
- Scott: Thank you so much. Ridge Civic Association can help advertise that repository and any infographics you have to share.

**Member Concerns**

- None at this time.

**Committees**

- A. Community Park (Chris Sosik/John Gulino): Scott notes that John and Chris are not here this evening; we will follow up.
- B. Membership (Holly Wood) — Holly reports that we continue to welcome people into Ridge Civic Association; received two new membership forms today.
- C. Downtown Beautification (Debbie Bedell) — Scott reports on behalf of Debbie that the planter boxes are being finished up by Residential Fencing Corporation and should be placed this spring along Middle Country Road.

- D. School House (Chris Sosik) — No report at this time.
- E. Clean Up (Rich Paduspska) — No report at this time.
- F. Scholarship Committee (*vacant*) — Cynthia will serve as the *interim* chair of this committee this spring. Forms for the two \$500 scholarships are on the website.
- G. Events (Ninette Kayton) – Ninette indicates our two upcoming events have been reported on already.
- H. Brookhaven National Lab (Ken Casanova) – Scott notes that Ken is not here this evening due to a medical issue.

### Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.