

# Notes From The Board Room 2010

*Sue Mays - President*

August is the month that Neighborhood Watch program is brought to your attention in the newspapers and TV because of the National Night Out celebrated in communities across the US. Our celebration in West Neck is held at the Village Hall and Bob Kolin, West Neck's chairman of the Neighborhood Watch program gets speakers from the City and Police Department to come out and mingle with the neighborhood. The questionnaire amazed some of us on the committee because there were a lot of people who asked "What is Neighborhood Watch?" or "I didn't know we had one". Neighborhood Watch is, put very simply, neighbors watching out for neighbors. Do you know your neighbor? Do you have someone close by in your neighborhood that knows your emergency information in case you need help and they need to call a family member for you? When you travel do you know someone that can keep an eye on your home or do they have a key in case the water heater overflows? That is neighborhood watch; to learn more come out and meet some neighbors. Join us on August 3rd at the Village Hall beginning at 7PM.

One of the biggest concerns in West Neck is communication. The condos have the advantage over the other villages because there are six owners to a building and whether you are using a building captain system or just have a good email system the problem can be simply someone who makes sure the notices, updates and neighborhood newsletters get sent out. The villages have one person responsible and that is the voting rep. The usage of the website amounts to 388 registered users, not even half of the 860+ residents that West Neck currently has. Computer usage is not everyone's choice. If you have a computer go on the West Neck website and look around. We try to keep it updated with just about everything going on in West Neck. [www.westneckvillages.com](http://www.westneckvillages.com). Wouldn't it be great if new neighbors had a place to go to see what is happening in the village? Come on West Neck give it a try!

Remember I asked you to look around before signing that proxy for the voting member election coming up this month for someone that would really represent you and keep you informed about West Neck and your village? This representative carries the power of your vote and the votes of your neighbors for the entire village. Wouldn't you like to be able to communicate with the Board of Directors on issues? If you want your rep to communicate with you on issues and notices then give your email information to that rep so they can. The Board has not given up on the newsletter that was started, we are just taking a sabbatical until we can get the committee in place and have looked into a better way of distributing the newsletter. Your chairman of the



newsletter committee is Deborah Rinehart and she is looking for committee members. We believe to truly have a newsletter that appeals to everyone it should have articles from every village and be full of information concerning the community and the City we live in. In order for this to work we need your input and possibly your expertise. I know you want the information but we also want something that is of value to West Neck along with keeping all of its residents up to date. The most important aspect of this is to get those avenues of communication open so we aren't bogged down with rumors or the feeling that we aren't telling all.

West Neck has some awesome volunteers and they are definitely unsung heroes. Your Social committee keeps us happy with fun events, ever thought of joining that committee and helping out? We have a flag committee, Neighborhood Watch committee (each village has a representative, do you know who yours is?), Finance committee that keeps us on the straight and narrow, newly formed newsletter committee and last but not least the ARC a very thankless job that keeps us looking like the place we fell for. There are not enough thanks said to these folks and I for one want them to know how much we appreciate them giving their time for us. I purposely saved the Village Hall and Pool committee until now because I don't believe the community knows that they are your direct link to the Board of Directors for anything pertaining to the Village Hall. They meet primarily so you can stand up and ask questions, voice concerns or suggest ways for the Village Hall to be used to better serve your community. This is your time to have a voice and with that we are back to the key word again, Communication.

Our neighbor the Signature Golf Course asked the community to stop walking the golf course. Some years ago they allowed you to walk the paths when the flags were down. It became a problem when dog walkers didn't pick up after their pets and visiting children were playing on the greens tearing up the turf. They finally informed us that the golf course was for golfers only and it was trespassing if you walked, rode or jogged the course. We have new residents that don't know this and residents of Indian River are still bike riding on the paths but the golf course would very much appreciate it if you would do them the courtesy of using the surrounding sidewalks or streets instead of the golf paths. If you are a golfer you have already seen the damage that has been done. Thanks for listening.

Until next month, see you around the neighborhood.