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Manhasset CASA Upcoming Workshops

By **MANHASSET PRESS STAFF**
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Manhasset CASA collaborates to strengthen families and help kids grow up to be healthy and safe. Collaboration is paramount in Manhasset CASA's mission to reduce substance abuse as it continues under its Drug Free Communities Support Program Grant. Since its first sector meeting in October, CASA has met often with parent, school, community and youth committees to develop new innovative programs, initiatives and policies in its mission to reduce substance abuse in the Manhasset community.

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Members of the SCA discuss CASA initiatives

Turning Lane In Springtime

By **ALIZA SCHAUDER**
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Town of North Hempstead residents and officials hoped the creation of a turning lane at Manhasset Avenue and Plandome Road would be in place before the school year commenced. Now, they are hoping that the two-lane Manhasset Avenue—and the congestion that comes with it—will be things of the past by springtime.

Town spokesman Collin Nash said the project exited the planning stage and entered the construction stage in October, when an unutilized police booth on the southwest side of the intersection was removed.

Soon thereafter new utility poles were installed further south on Plandome Road in order to relocate wires from the intersection and remove poles that would block construction of the new lane, said Town spokesman Ryan Mulholland. These wires facilitate electricity, Nassau County traffic signals, and Verizon and Cablevision operations.

This set the stage for construction crews to widen Manhasset Avenue enough to fit an additional lane, dedicated to drivers turning right onto the southbound portion of Plandome Road.

The Town is now awaiting Nassau County approval for an upgrade to the intersection's traffic signal, Mulholland said, but construction will not commence until the

DiCerbos Honored By Archbishop



Manhasset residents Lou and Pat DiCervo received the Spirit of St. Nicholas Award.

BY **ALIZA SCHAUDER**

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Lou DiCervo often turns to the Prayer of St. Francis when asked to explain his reasons for donating to charity. "It's in the giving that you receive," he said.

DiCervo considers this Catholic prayer as thematically interfaith, citing the universal resonance of its opening line: "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace."

Perhaps this boundless desire to make the world a better place, regardless of religious distinctions, is one reason why the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York selected Lou and his wife Pat to receive this year's Spirit of St. Nicholas Award.

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CASA welcomes parents, teens and community residents to attend its exciting winter programs:

Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.
MHS Black Box Theatre- Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD) will preview its Youth Stress Management Program for members attending the Middle/High School SCA meeting. Parents will learn how stress is a part of a teen's world along with the strategies



SCA High School President Caroline Kenlon and Manhasset Library administrator Maggie Gough.

that can reduce the effects of stress on our teens. LICADD, a CASA Sector member since 2010, will also discuss how teens can use techniques to help them feel calmer and more in control during stressful situations.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 - Manhasset High School Health Classes will celebrate National Drug Facts Week by participating in National CHAT Day. 8th and 10th Grade Students will be able to ask questions online about drugs and get scientific answers from experts at the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Thursday, Jan. 30 - Back by popular demand and as seen on 20/20, Dateline, and Good Morning America, Dr. Stephen Dewey of the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at North Shore LIJ Hospital will discuss the teen brain and speak candidly about the health effects from youth exposure to alcohol, marijuana and drugs. Join us - along with your teen - and celebrate National Drug Facts Week and Shatter the Myths!

Feb. 11 - With the support of The Friends of the Manhasset Public Library, CASA will kick-off its Power of Parenting Education Series featuring parent educators from the Cornell Cooperative Extension



Police and community members work on CASA initiatives.



Students working on CASA initiatives.

of Suffolk County's Family Health and Wellness Program. Six Parent Workshops will run on specific dates from February to April at 1 or 7 p.m. to provide families with practical solutions to real-life problems along with information, skills training, and support to parents as they raise their children to be responsible, productive adults and citizens.

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 - LICADD's Youth Stress Management After School Program will review techniques and skills that can help youth feel calmer and more in control during stressful situations. Teens can learn about relaxation techniques, how to use positive self-talk as well as mindfulness-based stress reduction skills.



School Superintendent Charles Cardillo and Jane Grappone in discussion of CASA initiatives.

For more information or to become a member of Manhasset CASA, go to manhassetcasa.org. You can also like them on Facebook!



Lis Shibley and Lisa Belinsky work with community leaders on CASA initiatives.

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springtime due to the weather-dependent nature of concrete work and asphalt paving.

Some residents blame funding removal as the culprit for this delay. Mulholland declined to comment on the possibility and Rich Bentley, an original conceptualizer of the six-year-old project, said he chalks it up to a rumor.

"We're dealing with inter-municipal affairs and they are always time consuming, they're always frustrating in that they get delayed, but there's nothing that we can do other than wait for the approval to happen," said Bentley, who also serves as the president of the Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations, Inc. "Patience is a virtue, when you're dealing with government."