

CASA Meeting Discusses Member Collaboration

Positive Alternatives for teens

At Manhasset CASA's recent sector meeting, the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence presented an overview of the current substance abuse outlook on Long Island highlighting the role community members can play to help our teens grow up healthy. Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, executive director, LICADD, discussed the necessity for collaborative solutions when it comes to youth substance abuse

and risk behaviors. "To tackle underage drinking and the opiate epidemic, all of us have to be a part of the solution to develop innovative approaches to helping our teens," stated Reynolds.

Community collaboration is the foundation of Manhasset CASA and is vital to reducing substance use among teens. Since 2001, the Manhasset Community coalition Against Substance Abuse (CASA) has existed in the Man-

hasset community as a resource to reduce the illegal, underage use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among its youth. As a recipient of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Drug Free Communities Grant Program, CASA works with key sectors from the community: Manhasset Public Schools, Manhasset SCA, Manhasset SADD, Manhasset Clergy Association, Manhasset Chamber of Commerce, Manhasset Great Neck EOC, The Manhasset Press, LICADD, Long Island Volunteer Center, Nassau County Police De-



Community and school representatives attend Drug Use and Young People presentation by LICADD. From right to left: Carlo Prinzo, president, Manhasset Board of Education, Nancy Schlafer, Shelter Rock SCA president; Lisa Belinsky, Manhasset SCA high school president; Lisbeth Shibley, president and executive director, Manhasset CASA; Ed Garofolo, Manhasset CASA board of directors; Maggie Gough, Manhasset Public Library; Theresa Curry, Manhasset district health and science coordinator; Carol Meschkow, Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island; Anna Kaplan, Town of North Hempstead councilwoman; Dean Schlanger, Manhasset secondary school principal; Angel Branch, Manhasset-Great Neck EOC; Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, executive director, LICADD; Donna Taylor, Manhasset CASA board of directors; Cathy Samuels, project director, Manhasset CASA; and Steve Chassman, clinical director, LICADD.



Cathy Dodge and Pat Moroney, Daniel Gale Realty, pose with Manhasset students who participated in the Tag It activity at the Above the Influence Dance. Daniel Gale Realty donated water for all students at the dance.

partment Sixth Precinct, Nassau County Division of Chemical Dependency, Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County Legislature and the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island.

"The Manhasset Community's support is really essential to our mission. Our kids love our neighborhoods, schools and community and with this positive attachment, we can reduce teen substance abuse by increasing positive alternatives for our teens," stated Lisbeth Shibley, Manhasset

CASA executive director and president. The 2011 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey indicates that a majority of Manhasset Public School teens have a positive neighborhood attachment. Research shows that youth who like the neighborhoods in which they live and have more opportunities for pro-social involvement are less likely to become involved with risk behaviors and drug use.

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Schimmel Continues Valentines for Vets

Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel invites the 16th Assembly District residents to participate in her annual Valentines for Vets Program.

"As a member of the Assembly's Veterans' Affairs Committee, I look forward to your participation in continuing to make this program an overwhelming success," said Assemblywoman Michelle Schimmel.

For the past four years public and parochial schools, as well as businesses and private citizens in the community, have donated personal care items, outerwear and electronics for the Valentines for Vets Program. Each year, Assemblywoman Schimmel personally delivers the handmade valentines and donated items to the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook and the Northport VA Medical Center.

Please drop off items by Wednesday, Feb. 1 to Assemblywoman Schimmel's District Office located at 45 North Station Plaza, Suite 203 in Great Neck. If you have a question please contact the Assemblywoman's District Office at 482-6966.

All items must be new. Suggested donations include handmade valentines, tooth brushes, tooth paste, denture adhesive, shampoo, deodorant, hair brushes, non-slip socks, winter hats, gloves, scarves, stamps, patriotic caps or T-shirts, compact discs, scratch-off lottery tickets, iTunes gift cards, wheelchair cup holders, note cards, phone cards, hand-held computer games, electric razors, clock radio/cassette players, walkmans, terrycloth robes, winter coats, universal remotes, DVDs, portable CD players, ear phones, electric toothbrushes, sweatpants, and sweatshirts.

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As part of its comprehensive approach to prevention, CASA seeks to increase positive alternatives for Manhasset teens that promote skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes that support youth in refraining from future substance abuse; occupy free time that might otherwise be idle or unstructured; engage in community service; provide meaningful involvement in socially responsible activities; and further develop opportunities to interact in positive ways with peers.

This past week, Daniel Gale Realty along with Manhasset Public Schools, Manhasset SCA and CASA revitalized

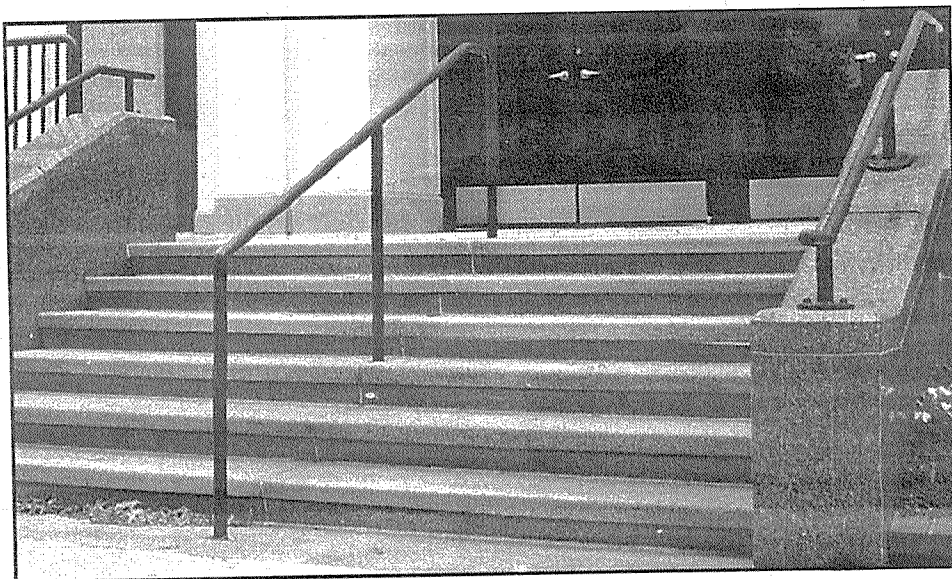
Friday Night Live for a new "Above the Influence" Dance for the seventh and eighth grade students at Manhasset Secondary School. Working together, the partners provided a DJ, photo booth and refreshments for the young teens. Future pro-social activities include collaboration with the high school Green and Nutrition Club's Community Movie Night featuring *What's On Your Plate* on Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. as well as the Manhasset Unplugged Talent Show on Thursday, May 24 at 7 p.m.

If you would like to get more involved or assist in providing positive alternatives for Manhasset teens, contact Cathy Samuels, Manhasset CASA at 516-267-7548

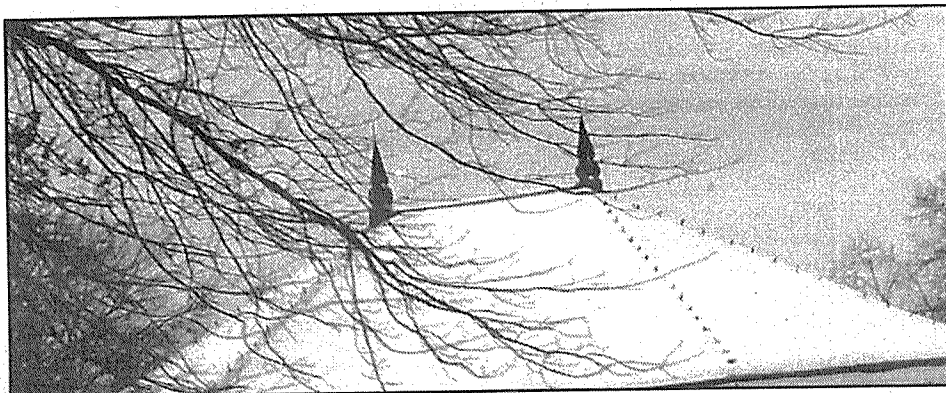
HIDE & SEEK By Hayley Kucich

Last week's photo of the staircase at the Americana Manhasset was correctly guessed by Doris Bezkor, Bob Miglis,

Gary Kucich, and Robbie Anastasia. Good luck guessing this week's mystery snowy photo!



Last week's photo of the staircase at the Americana Manhasset.



This week's mystery photograph—if you recognize the photo, email Hayley Kucich at hideandseekmanhasset@yahoo.com