

# *Kings Park Neighbors 'Association*

January 31, 2007

Dear Neighbor,

We hope this letter finds everyone well. We typically send an end of the year letter, recounting some of the important issues that have faced our community and what we, as a community, have done to shape, react or define those issues. Well, the last several months have been a roller coaster ride regarding the Kings Park Psychiatric Center.

In January of 2006, after many months of hard work by the community, Senator Flanagan announced that the sale of the Kings Park Psychiatric Center had been stopped. We have always maintained that selling this property to a private developer would be devastating to our community. "Stop the sale and clean up your mess" has been and remains the KPNA motto regarding this issue. In March, Senator Flanagan announced that 25 million dollars had been secured towards the cleanup of the property. During the past year, the developer sued the state to compel the sale. They soundly lost that suit in the lower court and have since appealed.

KPNA has also maintained that the vast majority of this property remains park due to not only environmental reasons, but also the enormous tax benefits our community receives on state owned property. At the end of December, it was announced that 365 plus acres of this property was transferred into the Nissequogue River State Park. This victory, as we all know, may be in jeopardy. The new Governor and Parks Commissioner have yet to commit to this park. In an effort to send a strong message to Albany, KPNA hosted a community rally last week, which many of you attended, to send the message that this community is united in our commitment to this park. We demanded that the transfer of parkland be respected. KPNA brought together not just friends and neighbors, but republican and democratic politicians, including, Senator Flanagan and County Executive Steve Levy. All had the same message, "Keep it a Park." The rally was successful and we are continuing to push Albany for a commitment to this park.

KPNA has also been involved in other exciting areas. We have not only had politicians to speak at our meetings about the important issues facing our community, but also wonderful speakers such as Miles Borden, who spoke about the history of the Kings Park Fire Department. We have donated to such various causes as Adoptive Parents Committee, NephCure Foundation and we provided a \$500 dollar scholarship to an extraordinary Kings Park graduating senior, Samantha Faver.

Among these and other activities we have been involved with, there is one that we are particularly excited about. This past November, KPNA hosted our first annual "Meet the Candidates" forum. Members of our community had an opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates running for NYS Senatorial Race (2nd District) and NYS Assembly (7th District). We hope to be able to provide this community service each November. Our community deserves to know what each person who wishes to represent us stands for.

We would like to thank you for your support this last year and ask for your continued support. Attached, please find a renewal membership form. Your support is essential because only by working together can we continue to ensure that our community remains a wonderful place to live.

Best Regards,

Linda Henninger  
KPNA President  
[www.KPNA.org](http://www.KPNA.org)