

## July 2005 - Safety Communication

We feel it is important to raise awareness about safety within our community regarding the following topics that were discussed at the July 6, WHNA Board of Directors meeting:

1. The homeless shelter at the Westchester County Airport which houses 58 homeless men, including sex offenders. One of these sex offenders murdered a woman in a parking structure by the Galleria in White Plains nearly 2 weeks ago. These men have been walking into our town via Lake Street and seen in our business district.
2. The homeless (other than the airport population) that are going into the woods, by the lake, in close proximity to Camp Seaside at Passidomo Park.

The following steps have been taken to date:

- As of July 7, 2005, the Mayor and Councilman Cannella have been contacted about our concerns; Councilman Cannella assured us that the town government is aware of the situation at the airport. Mayor Malfitano spoke to the County and it maintains its commitment to close the facility by the end of the year. The mayor's office will continue to monitor the County's progress. Councilman Cannella assured us that the police are well aware of the issues and are on the alert and have been since the end of school. Community awareness is key and residents should call the HPD front desk at the first sign of a problem or issue of any type. While there are some limits as to what the police can do depending on the circumstances, they will be there quickly and will do everything possible.
- Superintendent of Recreation - Ron Belmont was reached and informed us that he has taken appropriate measures with the Police Department regarding the homeless going into the woods.

A meeting with David Hall, Chief of Police was held July 8, 2005 and the following was discussed and agreed to:

➤ Police will investigate the woods surrounding the lake for homeless camp sites and take appropriate action.

Effective: Immediately

➤ Police presence is being increased at the two camp sites, Camp Seaside at Passidomo Park and the Leo Mintzer Center Camp in the morning and at dismissal time. The police will also be patrolling Underhill Avenue from Harrison Street up to Lake and Grant Street at lunch time since middle school children, with parental/guardian written permission, are allowed to leave the Leo Mintzer Center for lunch.

Effective: July 8, 2005

➤ Police Officers will meet with campers to reiterate what is hopefully being taught in the home regarding STRANGERS & SAFETY.

Effective: Week of July 11, 2005

For your information, the homeless shelter at Westchester County Airport is scheduled to relocate to a new multi million dollar facility, in Valhalla, by year end. There is an organization NOWAY-Neighborhood Organizations for Westchester and Youth protesting this move. We are planning to meet and join forces with Purchase residents to create a plan of action to collectively voice our concerns about having this shelter so close to our residential neighborhoods. If the County waivers on relocating the shelter, we will then be prepared to act immediately.

Please contact us on this web site or call Fred Sciliano at 428-4969 if you have any questions or would like to help in this endeavor. We **welcome** your input.

Sincerely yours,  
Board of Directors  
West Harrison Neighborhood Association, Inc.