

City of Glen Cove Announces Tobacco Regulations

Local Playgrounds Protected Against the Dangers of Second Hand Smoke

The Glen Cove Substance Abuse Free Environment Agency (SAFE, Inc.) and the Tobacco Action Coalition (TAC) are pleased to announce that the City of Glen Cove has established Tobacco Restrictions in their Parks this summer.

On Tuesday, July 26th, the City joined over 280 Municipalities statewide who have established Tobacco Free Outdoor Policies to protect their residents, employees, and the environment from the dangers of Second-hand Smoke, Cigarette Litter, and helping to change the social norms associated with the acceptability of tobacco use.

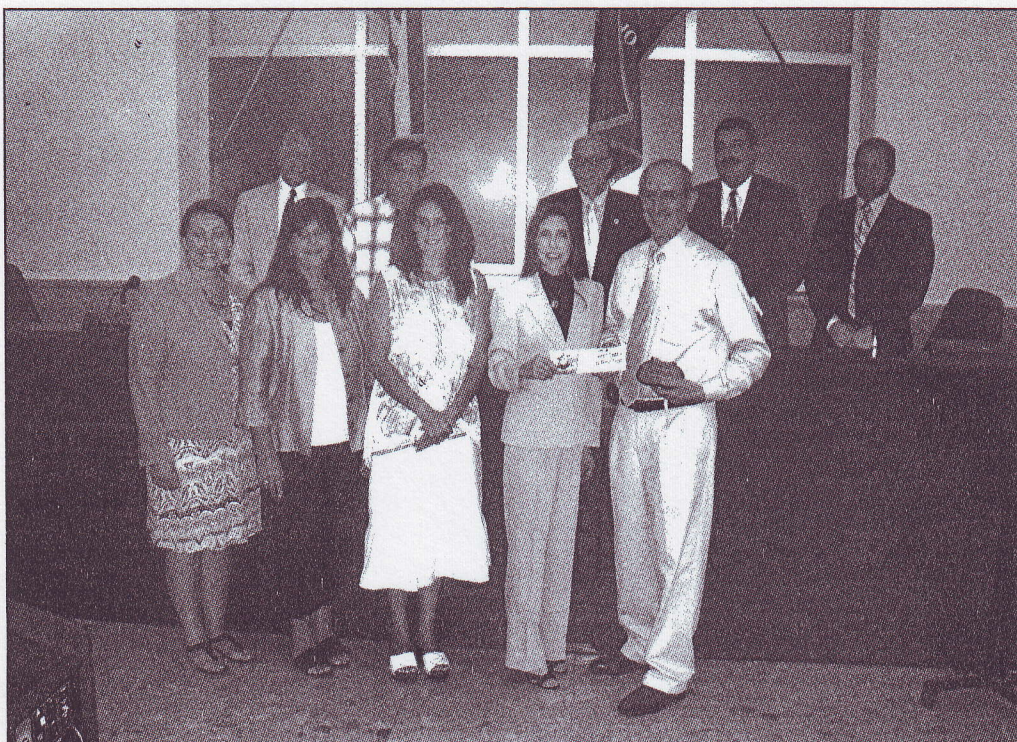
The Tobacco Action Coalition (TAC) is one 30 Community Partnerships funded by the NYS Department of Health's Tobacco Control Program working on the Tobacco Free Outdoor Initiative. Under this initiative, TAC is working with businesses and community organizations to implement voluntary entryway bans, as well as educating local municipalities about the benefits of adopting tobacco use regulations for outdoor recreational areas such as playgrounds, parks and beaches.

After a very positive initial discussion with Mayor Ralph Suozzi, and subsequent invitation to a work session, the Mayor suggested Carol Meschkow, Nassau Coordinator for TAC reach out to Dr. Sharon Harris, Executive Director of Glen Cove SAFE, Inc.. With the mission of eliminating alcohol, tobacco, and substance abuse in Glen Cove, SAFE, Inc. has been successfully serving their community since 1982 as the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in Glen Cove and shares many of the same concerns as TAC – most notably, keeping our young people free from the dangers of tobacco use and second hand smoke.

Second-hand smoke, which is a known Class A Carcinogen, contributes to and causes dozens of diseases and illnesses including; asthma, heart disease, respiratory tract and ear infections. Tobacco litter is poisonous to children and wildlife. Cigarette butts have been shown in studies to be toxic, slow to decompose, costly to remove, and have been found in the stomachs of fish, whales, birds and other marine animals. Children pick them up and try to place them in their mouths as well.

Over the course of the year, the three entities forged a very successful partnership that culminated in restricting smoking in three of the City's facilities; Dennis Brian Murray Park's Playground, Stanco Park's Playground and Danis Pocket Park.

"It was an absolute pleasure to work with Dr. Harris and Paula Castiglia of SAFE,



Front Row (Left to Right): Paula Castiglia-PRIDE Project Coordinator-SAFE, Darcy Belyea-City Recreation Director, Dr. Sharon Harris-Executive Director-SAFE, Carol Meschkow-Nassau Coordinator-TAC of LI, Glen Cove Mayor Ralph Suozzi.

Back Row (Left to Right): City Councilmembers-Famiglietti, Jimenez, DiLeo, Tenke and Dwyer.

Inc. and Darcy Belyea the City's Recreation Director, who all feel passionately about protecting the citizens of their fair City," stated Mrs. Meschkow. "The Tobacco Action Coalition is most concerned about changing the social norms regarding tobacco use and protecting our next generation from the dangers of Second-hand Smoke, especially children. Their lungs are still maturing and smaller, and subsequently they breath in 50% more air than an adult making them more vulnerable to the dangers of tobacco smoke.

SAFE's mission to keep Glen Cove safe and protect our young people from the negative consequences of alcohol and substance abuse can't be accomplished in a vacuum. The value of community partnerships is imperative to our work here at SAFE, Inc. and on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of SAFE we are grateful to have this effective collaboration to accomplish this goal.

"We are appreciative of the support that both the TAC and SAFE, Inc. have provided in accomplishing this initiative, and welcome a continued partnership in keeping our parks clean and safe," commented Darcy Belyea, Director of the City of Glen Cove Parks & Recreation department.

TAC and SAFE are both delighted, and

commend Mayor Ralph Suozzi and the City Council for their outstanding effort, and look forward to expanding their work together on a broader policy to include Beaches and other Recreational amenities along the Island's beautiful Gold Coast.

For more information about the Tobacco Action Coalition, visit www.breathe-freely.org. For more information about SAFE, Inc. and to view their public service announcement, visit www.safeglen-cove.org.

Sunset Serenade Draws Young



Young Children under the direction of Frank Ferrara entertain at Sunset Serenade on August 4. Photo by Carol Griffin