



Courtesy of SAFE

**JEAN QUARTAROLO, FAR left, Jacqui Tecce, Carol Waldman, Carol Meschkow, Sharon Harris and Shirley Pinckney** are working together to protect Glen Cove residents from the dangers of second hand smoke.

## Tobacco Action Coalition partners with the G.C. seniors and SAFE

For nearly a decade, the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition has successfully partnered with Carol Meschkow, manager of the Tobacco Action Coalition of L.I. on environmental strategies with the mayor's office and other community leaders from the city, library, Youth Bureau, Boys and Girls Club, Melillo Center and the Housing Authority. The groups have all been working on initiatives to protect Glen Cove residents from the dangers of second hand smoke, and most importantly, to change the social norms of tobacco as an acceptable norm to prevent individuals from becoming the next generation of "replacement smokers."

The Coalition's mission continues to be the elimination of alcohol, tobacco and other substance use in the Glen Cove community. It strives to change societal norms about use and dispel the "right of passage" behavior.

In August, the Glen Cove Senior Center joined in by precluding smoking at the entranceways to the facility. "The mission of the Glen Cove Senior Center is to support the health and welfare of all seniors in Nassau County," said Carol Waldman, the Senior Center's executive director. "Partnering with the Tobacco Action Coalition and SAFE is an impactful way

to send the message that our goal is to create as healthy an environment inside and around the outside of the Senior Center as possible."

"Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the US, killing more than 450 thousand individuals each year," Meschkow said. "In fact, the Surgeon General concluded there is no safe level of second-hand smoke. If current trends continue, 5.6 million of today's youth will die prematurely from a smoking related illness."

The benefits of entryway bans and tobacco free grounds are abundantly clear, and have been addressed by nearly 600 municipalities and hundreds of businesses across the state.

For more information on Quitting and Cessation help please call the New York State Smokers Quitline at 1-866 NY-Quits or (1 866 697-8487). It is always a good time to quit, and to offer help to those you care about.

For more information about SAFE and its other initiatives please contact call (516) 676- 2008 or visit the website at <http://www.safeglencove.org> or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition>.