

# Montauk Business Owners Plan Charitable Event

by Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

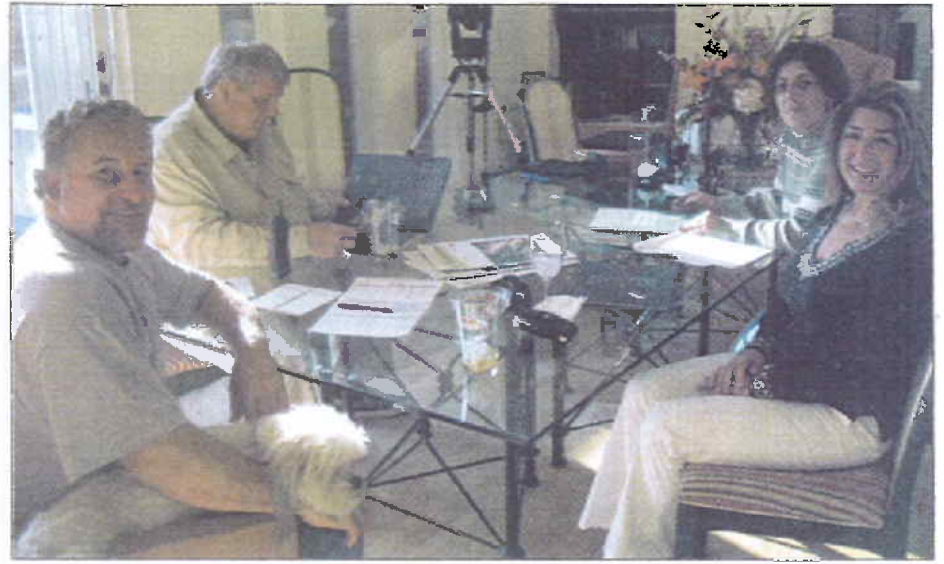
Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting in on a meeting of the initial planning stages for a wonderful event to be held in Montauk in late May. The meeting was between several Montauk businesspeople and the Director of Development, Linda Giammona, of one of the most beloved charitable organizations in New York. Ms. Giammona represents New York Police & Fire Widows & Children's Benefit Fund. This meeting was to organize the details for inviting 40 children and adults to Montauk for the day. These children have lost a parent in the line of duty.

The branchchild for hosting this event is Richard Warne, of the Ebb Tide. For the last few years, the Ebb Tide has been inviting under privileged children from the East End area to spend a day on board, fishing and enjoying nature. With the hearty agreement of Ebb Tide owner, Jane Bowman, Rich contacted the Benefit Fund to extend this same opportunity for children of fallen heroes.

After some back and forth phone calls, a meeting date was held at the home of *Montauk Sun* owner and publisher, Ken Giustino. When he heard of the planned outing, Mr. Giustino offered his Montauk home for the children to enjoy a barbeque and swim in his pool, after the boat excursion. The ever charitable Gurney's Inn has stepped up to the plate with a promise of food for the event.

Details pertaining to transportation, exact date, and a host of other logistics were covered and planned at this first meeting. During the conversation, Ms. Giammona, a vivacious, knowledgeable and personable young woman, described how the Benefit Fund began and exactly how they help the widows and children of these brave and admirable heroes that died in the line of duty.

Established way back in 1985 by legendary baseball great, Daniel J. "Rusty" Staub, the charity's mission is to give assistance to the families of New York City police officers, fire fighters, Port Authority Police and EMS personnel that died in the line of duty. The



Benefit Fund gives financial assistance to grieving families immediately after they lose their loved one. The goal of the Benefit Fund over the years has been to raise money to keep helping out these families as the children grow and the financial needs remain. It is a volunteer based organization and operates with a minimal administrative overhead. Approximately 97% of donations go directly to the beneficiaries! How many families does the Benefit Fund help? In 1987, about 320 families received annual assistance and as of 2007 this commitment has grown to nearly 700 families. It is a registered charitable organization in New York State and other jurisdictions and more information is on their website: [www.answerthecall.org](http://www.answerthecall.org)

The largest event held each year to raise money is a well-attended event at Shea Stadium. This year the 24th annual picnic is set for May 28, 2008 at a game between the METS and MARLINS. It is a day of baseball, hot dogs, meeting the METS players and celebrating. The public is welcome to purchase tickets and attend this terrific day. The picnic starts at 4 pm and the game at 7 pm. For more information about purchasing tickets and joining in on the day's events, call 212 735-4505 or visit [www.answerthecall.org](http://www.answerthecall.org)

**Donations:** If it is not possible to attend the ballgame to support this worthwhile charity, donations of any amount will dearly help keep the Benefit Fund going. No check is too small to help continue their good deeds for helping these families. The widows and children need financial assistance while coping with the loss of their loved one. Checks can be mailed to: New York Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund, General Post Office PO Box 26837, New York, New York 10087-6837. Contributions can also be made online by visiting [www.answerthecall.org](http://www.answerthecall.org)

## Chamber Meeting for Nick's Beach

by Ken Giustino

Paul Monte & Loraine Creegan  
 Guests: Pete Hammerle, Town Councilman  
 Julia Prince, Town Councilwoman  
 Also in Attendance: Jay Schneiderman

The Meeting was well attended with standing room only. Pete brought members up to speed on the threat to close Nick's Beach.

Taken from the minutes of the meeting: Due to several drownings in 2003 and before, the Town of East Hampton deemed a Life guard stand was necessary at this beach. Health dept requirements state that a comfort station must be located within 500 ft of the lifeguard stand at a guarded bathing beach. Waivers were granted to use porta potties. An



application was put in for a comfort station at one site, but upon review the DEC said the facility must be further from the dunes and road drains. Last year, another waiver was granted when the town cited other beaches where the comfort station is over 500' from the beach. This year, the SCDHS told the town that they must post signs stating

that there is no lifeguard and that swimming is prohibited. They also stated that signs were not enough and that the town must patrol and enforce this ruling. This issue has gone through much discussion between the town and SCDHS representative Mack Waters. At this time, Pete stated that SCDHS will grant a waiver once again as long as the Town can submit a conceptual plan for the construction of a comfort station and also provide a porta potty trailer system that also supplies running water for hand washing. There is a town owned alley way that may meet the requirements of location for providing a comfort station that was brought to light by Jay Schneiderman. Town engineers need to look into the water lines and water table and other factors in this area to make a determination that this would be an acceptable site.

If there are any problems with water lines and water table etc., it appears they will need a plan B. There are more locations but they may involve the purchase of prime real estate pushing the project cost up to a million dollars. Julia Prince had some other research to fall back on as well. The town appears to be pursuing the most logical and cost effective solution first. Claire, Nick's wife, offered to give a rightaway from part of their parcel to let them build a comfort station just across from where the porta pottys were last summer. This location is too close to the Dunes by the DEC's regulations. The most logical is the location Jay presented, which was found by Jay, Carl Darenberg & Loraine Creegan. thanks to their efforts the beaches of Montauk should stay open for all of us to enjoy.

A second topic covered in the meeting was to post signs in 2 locations on the Old Highway saying "No Lifeguard" or "No Lifeguard, Swimming Prohibited". The exact wording was not available at the meeting. Tom Milne owner of the Surf Side Restaurant asked Pete Hammerle to guarantee the group of members that the verbage of the sign will be presented before it is approved. Pete agreed and stated that this is recommendations of the Towns Insurance Co. and not the Town Boards Idea.

## Carl's Birthday Bash

Carl and Friends chartered the Magical Mystery bus in April to the Lizard Lounge in Bohemia for a night of Karaoke & Fun. Happy Birthday Bud!!!

