

South Shore Press 2009 Citizens of the Year

This year we received dozens of suggestions from our readers as to who we should select as our South Shore Press 2009 Citizen of the Year.

Brookhaven Town Councilman Keith Romaine



Each day as we work to report the news and events that affects our community, town, county, state and nation, we have the privilege to work with many great community leaders and elected officials. It's not often that we find someone whose only interest is to improve our community. Someone who understands and believes that through positive change our area can be anything it wants to be. One such person was former Brookhaven Town Councilman Keith Romaine.

As most of you know, Councilman Romaine's life was cut short, when he passed away suddenly on November 14, 2009.

Councilman Romaine had just been elected to his 2nd term as a member of the Brookhaven Town Council. Keith was very strongminded and was not afraid to break a few eggs to make an omelet. Keith was a fighter who tried, who wanted, and who did make a difference in our lives.

Following a long, hard fought campaign, we think Keith understood how important communications had become in reaching out to the residents of his district.

His job and his family were his life. It's hard to understand why God would take someone so young, someone, who had much more to do, but God, works in mysterious ways.

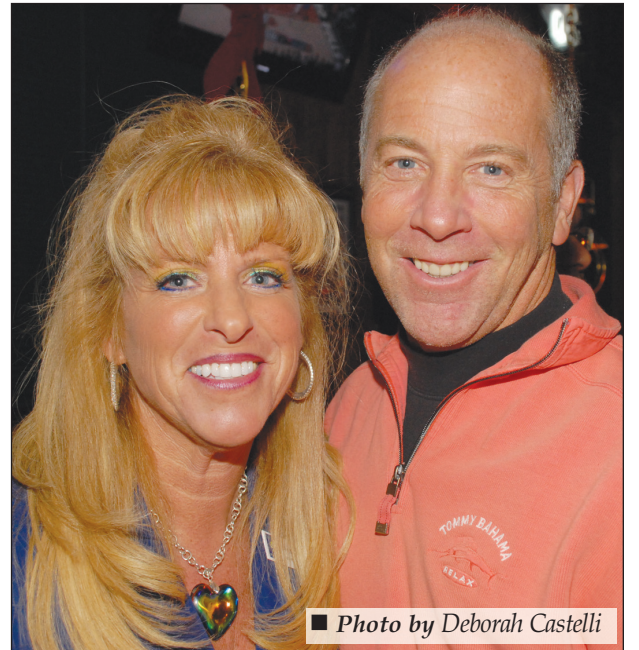
As we close out the year, we miss our good friend, Councilman Keith Romaine.

We think of him often and we are hopeful that he is now at peace.

Because of his dedication, determination and spirit on behalf of the residents of the 6th Council District, the South Shore Press is honored to select, Brookhaven Town Councilman Keith Romaine as our 2009 South Shore Press Citizen of the Year.

Allyson and Steve Scerri

We first met Allyson and Steve Scerri in 2005 when we purchased the paper. Steve and Allyson own and manage a storage facility in



Medford. Steve also is the manager of the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Center Moriches.

Most recently we worked with Steve and Allyson in their efforts to develop New Beginnings, a treatment center in Medford helping those suffering from brain injury.

They recently, celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for the facility and their first fundraiser that was attended by over 500 supporters.

Allyson's father suffered a head trauma injury, which helped them better understand the difficulties that people and their families experience during these tragedies.

Steve and Allyson have dedicated themselves to helping others in need, with their dream of New Beginnings to open in the spring of this year.

We congratulate them on their efforts and wish them much continued success.

It is for these reasons that we are pleased to announce Steve and Allyson Scerri as our first couple to be selected as the South Shore Press 2009 Citizens of the Year.

Past Citizens of The Year

2005	Robert DeBona	Vinny Pascale
2006	Greg Miglino	Tom Wilwerth
2007	Ray Hopp	Beth Wahl
2008	Paul Bernstein	Fausto Fabbro
2009	Keith Romaine	Steve and Allyson Scerri

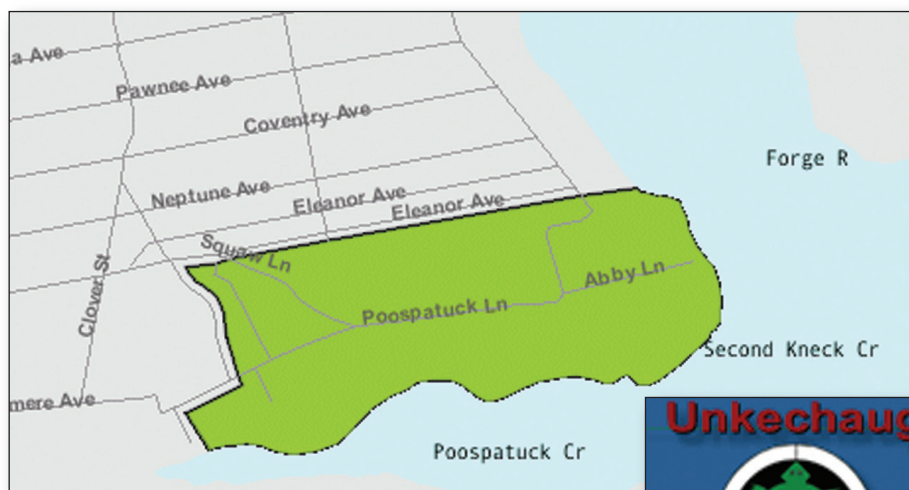
Green-Friendly Community Center Planned for Poospatuck Indian Reservation

• by BARBARA LAMONICA

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First and foremost, Alfano emphasized, is the tribe members' sentiment to devise a self-sustaining, all-green, and environmentally-friendly community center. "The building, which will be exclusive to those living on the reservation," Alfano explained, "measures 8,700 square feet, and will include a food pantry, classrooms, computer labs, a commercial kitchen that will be equipped to accommodate the entire reservation, a senior citizen facility, health care facility and treatment area, a meeting hall, and a cultural library."

It has been an apparent and cohesive partnership and working relationship between the Poospatuck Indian Tribe and the team at Ace Builders throughout



the planning stages of the project. Asked how Ace Builders came to be commissioned to build the Poospatuck Indian Reservation Community Center, Alfano explained, "They came to us because of our reputation for being in business in this community since

1946, and because we have a long and reputable history. The members of the tribe have been very receptive to ideas and suggestions for the entire proj-

ect, and," Alfano emphasized, "they wanted this to be an all green building, and they have been very, very positive about the project."

While ground-breaking commenced on the community center on December 16, 2009, Alfano estimates the project will take nine months to complete. "One of the most important things to note is that the building will be constructed of materials that will make this a green facility, with one of the primary features being that it will be completely green and all solar, and there will also be geo-thermal heating and cooking facilities," Alfano explained.

Poospatuck Indian Tribe Chief, Mr. Harry Wallace could not be reached for comment by press time.