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Letters to the Editor

Manhasset Clergy Encourage Talking With Your Children About Prescription Drug Abuse

Last week clergy and laity representing eight local houses of worship met with representatives from the Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse (CASA) and were confronted with a harsh reality: prescription drug abuse among our nation's youth is at an all-time high, ranking just behind alcohol and marijuana abuse. As the clergy of your town, we wish to be of help.

The research is clear; parental involvement in your child's school/community, as well as setting boundaries and monitoring behavior, are the keys to raising safe, healthy and drug-free children. Naturally actions speak louder than words, so we need to examine the kind of example we are setting. Most importantly we need to talk and listen to our children. Just as we needed to teach them to tie their shoes and ride a bicycle, we need to teach them about the dangers of substance abuse, including prescription and over the counter drugs. These conversations should start when our children are young and continue until they are adults.

The Manhasset Clergy recognize that the discussion about the harmful effects of substance abuse cannot stop at any one door. We are pleased to collaborate with Manhasset CASA in their Lock Your Meds: Be Aware Don't Share Prescription Drug Misuse Awareness Campaign, including the pharmaceutical take-back event this Saturday, Oct. 23. The campaign works in partnership with the entire community to provide information regarding the health and safety risks of prescription medication misuse with a primary focus on keeping prescription and over the counter pharmaceuticals away from our youth. Parent resources are available to you at CASA's website at www.manhassetcasa.org.

We hope you will talk with your children about prescription drug abuse. A clear and consistent message at home will reinforce a child's ability to make healthy decisions. The benefits from talking to your child can last a lifetime, and indeed make a lifetime last.

The Manhasset Clergy Association

Then minutes later Officer Reteguiz left a message telling me that Officer Pettenato and two good Samaritans found Lucca on Plandome Road, were bringing her home and to "stay put." I cannot tell you how grateful and relieved I was. Lucca was suffering from bone cancer, could hardly walk, but apparently had her last "hurrah" to Plandome Road.

My daughter and her husband were in Hong Kong. Lucca is a pit bull. I took her collar off thinking she would be more comfortable (my fault), very people friendly, but her saviours did not know this and still took the trouble to help her. Thank you all for caring about a stray animal.

She's since had to be put down, but spent her last day with her owners, who did come home in time, and then Lucca left us with dreams of a walk to Plandome Road and some very nice humans.

Gudrun Kuhn,
Rebekka, McInain and Lucca

Nothing Is Free

I recently read in the *Manhasset Press* that the Village of Munsey Park received a grant of \$50,000 from the Dormitory Authority to fund sidewalk repairs in the village. This was apparently obtained through the efforts of Craig Johnson, our state senator. This is nothing more than a "member item" used by state politicians whose primary goal is to get elected or re-elected. Let us look at the facts:

1. I am a longtime resident of the village and I was unaware that there is a pressing need for sidewalk repairs in the village. If there is, the mayor and the trustees should go to the residents, explain the need and ask for voter approval. We should not have to depend on state, federal or Dormitory Authority funds to finance our needs.

2. The money from the DA is not a gift to the village but is supplied by bonds i.e. debt. The interest on the bonds is paid by us, the taxpayers. If the residents want to incur debt, do it at the local level where we can have a say on how our money is spent.

I do not know Craig Johnson. He is probably a nice guy. However, he suffers from one fatal flaw. He is a member of a dysfunctional state legislature that is riddled with corruption. Let us not forget the recent headlines, which publicized this at

bad behavior of those who do. First, unless you are the Secretary of Defense or a transplant surgeon, you don't need your cell phone. This short list does not include "Manhasset realtor." Second, where's the respect? I posed this question to one of the priests of St. Mary's: Which is acceptable for an adult to do at Mass?

- Play with an iPod
- Drink from a water bottle
- Bring your kid dressed for soccer practice
- None of the above

He replied, "The correct answer is D, but I'll settle for C." That plus A & B were going on in pews around us. Frankly I'm not the most pious person on the planet; I doubt I'm even in the top 10 of my street. Indeed I find it hard to pay full attention during Mass, my mind wanders, I make shopping lists, and pondering the Fighting Irish football program doesn't quite count as Catholic instruction. But I do show up and bring my family every Sunday because I have obtained that small smidgen of maturity to realize how fortunate I am. We have a roof over our heads in a nice town, we're employed, we have our health. The bills are paid and we have ice cream. So if God wants me to shut up and listen to someone else in His house for only an hour a week, I can make that sacrifice. And if I get lucky, I might just have a religious thought. When my children grow up and leave the house, they may do as I once did and skip services for months on end. When they mature, though, perhaps they will have the good sense to return...and know it's better to show up at soccer in church clothes than the other way around. A little respect is one less thing to apologize for.

Martin Dekom

Secret Campaign Cash Is Wrong in Our Democracy

It's just wrong. Secret campaign cash should have no place in our American democracy. But now we are seeing huge sums of money from secret sources going into campaign advertising, much of it the negative advertising that poisons the airwaves. Special interests are spending millions and millions of dollars in this election and it threatens to drown out the voices of individual voters. And because of changes in the law, there are no disclosure requirements - even foreign government

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