

Highlights

NOVEMBER 2006

of the Sayville School District

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 22.4
<http://www.sayville.k12.ny.us>

NEWSWORTHY

Sayville Schools
will celebrate
"National
Inclusive Schools
Week"

★ From December 4th – 8th

"Inclusive Schools" exemplify the very best in education by individualizing instruction and support to meet the needs of all students from special needs to the gifted, and everyone in between.

These schools celebrate diversity in all its forms—cultural, ethnic, social, and academic! Talk to your children about the importance of not just accepting and tolerating differences, but also cherishing the diversity around us.

Join us in celebrating National Inclusive Schools Week by attending:

Join us at
Superintendent's Roundtable
Tuesday Dec 5th
7-9 P.M. IN THE HIGH SCHOOL
to discuss "Inclusive Schools"

All parents are invited to join in on this topic. There will be an informative panel presentation, time to share ideas and concerns, and refreshments!

to the tune of *New York, New York*

Start spreading the news/
We're winning today/
We're proud to be a part of it/
Sayville, New York!

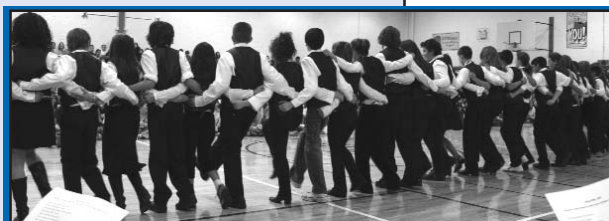
We're really the best/
We've beat all the rest/
We're proud to be a part of it/
Sayville, New York!

We love to wake up and attend
Sayville Middle School...
We've earned our spot at the
top...Showing we rule!

So now we can sing
About a great thing

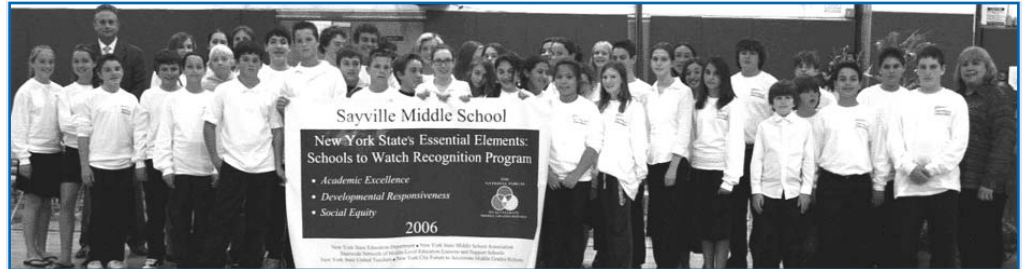
Our State has recognized our school
For what we are.

So thanks to you Walt Schartner,
You're our favorite partner
Making us the School to Watch!



Celebrating a SCHOOL TO WATCH

SAYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL HOSTS AWARD CEREMONY



Sayville Middle School Principal Dr. Walter Schartner (left) and the President of the New York State Middle School Association and Wantagh Middle School Principal Jeannette Stern (right) flank the Middle School Honor Society as they hold the Schools to Watch Award Banner.

The Middle School's journey toward educational excellence paused for a proud moment of celebration. As a national winner of the *Schools to Watch Program* and the only one to win from Long Island, Sayville Middle School held an award ceremony that was shared by the entire Middle School community—Principal Dr. Walter Schartner, Assistant Principal Thomas Murray, faculty, support staff, and of course, all 866 students—because everyone had a hand in earning the prestigious distinction.

Yet, for the Sayville Middle School faculty and staff, it was also an opportunity to honor their educational leader and role model, Dr. Walter Schartner.

Festively colored mums, haystacks, and balloons transformed the podium set up in the Middle School gym. Students were seated on the bleachers and floor in respectful silence—and perhaps, in amazement—as

Master of Ceremonies Mr. La Dolcetta introduced the

speakers. Remarking on the school's wonderful achievement were Assistant Principal Murray, guests Superintendent of Sayville Schools Dr. Rosemary Jones, BOE Vice President Norm deVenau, STA President Tim Southerton, and representing all the faculty, Mrs. Deborah Reith (who was appointed on the same day, September 1st, 1978, as Chemistry and General Science teacher Walter Schartner). In the audience with Middle School parents were Dr. Schartner's wife, Susan, and his father, Walter, Sr. (photo right)

Musical Director Mrs. Betsy Cohen combined two musical groups, the *Show Choir* and *Boys Select Choir*, in an entertaining song and dance routine to the tune of *New York, New York*. The lyrics were specifically rewritten by Mrs. Cohen for the Sayville Middle School celebration. (See insert, left.)

At the highpoint of the ceremonies, the President of the New York State Middle School Association, Jeannette Stern, who is also the Middle School Principal in Wantagh, acknowledged the school's qualities and character before she presented Dr. Schartner and the entire Middle School with the Schools to Watch Award Banner.

A modest man by nature, Dr. Schartner continues p. 2.



Highlights of the Sayville School District



BOARD OF EDUCATION

JOHN VERDONE, PRESIDENT
 NORMAN DEVENAU, VICE PRESIDENT
 ALLISON J. CRUZ
 MAUREEN DOLAN
 KEITH KOLAR
 RAYMOND J. NELSON
 DEBORAH VAN ESSENDELFT

BOARD NOTES

At the November 16th BOE Meeting

Board Citations were awarded to the following Sunrise Drive students (below).

Dr. Rosemary F. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, reported on the following:

1. 2005-2006 Audit Report
2. TAN Borrowing
3. Proposed 2007-2008 Budget Calendar (Motion under New Business)
4. Inclusive Schools Proclamation
5. Schools to Watch Celebration
6. Security Update
7. Emergency Management Drills
8. Area 12 Director Revote
9. Facilities Planning

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION:

1. Facilities Planning
2. Board Reports

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DECEMBER 5** Superintendent's Roundtable, topic on National Inclusive Schools 7-9 p.m., High School
- DECEMBER 6** Cherry Avenue Holiday Concert, 7:30 p.m., High School
- DECEMBER 7** BOE Business Mtg, Admin. Bldg. 8 p.m.
- DECEMBER 12** Sunrise Drive Holiday Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- DECEMBER 14-16** Middle School Musical, "George M" at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Event: Each year, Dowling College and News12 Long Island select 12 teachers for the honor **Teacher of the Month**. Congratulations to Music Department Chairperson and teacher **Neil Bernstein**, who has been selected this year. Visited by Clyde I. Payne, Ed.D., dean of the School of Education at Dowling College, Mr. Bernstein was acknowledged for his many contributions to education which earned him this distinction. The month, still to be determined, will feature Mr. Bernstein on News12. **Stay tuned.**

(cont.) School to Watch Celebration at Middle School

was instrumental both in spearheading the STW campaign and setting the inclusive educational climate that garnered the distinctive award. Humbly deflecting all compliments from himself as he thanked the NYS Middle School Association, Principal Dr. Schartner applauded the contributions of his teachers, all the staff, and especially the students. "It has been a great honor for me to see this community develop. Our teachers are a driving force behind the children... This [award]



didn't happen overnight, and is not a job that is finished."

In his calm voice, Dr. Schartner encouraged the students to get involved, stay involved and become an active member in the community. He praised them for their

phenomenal good behavior and asked them to remain focused on doing their best at all times. Recognizing that the gym floor was not the most comfortable, he thanked the students for being a truly wonderful audience. A thunder of applause ended the official ceremony.

As the Sayville Middle School continues on its journey toward self-improvement, guided by their gentle giant, the Sayville community can take pride in knowing that our Middle School has already come so far.



BOE Citations AWARDED TO STUDENTS

Awards presented by Principal Rose Castello and BOE trustee Keith Kolar:

Michaela for participating in the *American Cancer Society's Relay for Life* to help fight cancer. **Kevin** with brothers **Steven** and **Daniel** transformed Sunrise Drive's "Butterfly Garden" into a beautiful and peaceful place for the community.



Highlights of the Sayville School District

A Boo-tiful Tradition

Every fall, select Sayville Middle School and High School artists are given the opportunity to showcase their boo-tiful window-painting talents with the Halloween Window Painting tradition. This art department-sponsored event had students and art teachers chillin' in town this year with art teachers Mary Troiano, Jennifer Berotti, and Debra Urso at the Middle School, along with Evan Hammer, Kim Kamensky, Roberta Dalpiaz, and Department Chair Julia Lang-Shapiro at the High School. As always, a very special thanks goes to the Sayville Kiwanis Club for their continued support by generously donating the art supplies.



No Crazy Fling For PUMPKIN CATAPULTING

During the **Fourth Annual Pumpkin Fling**, held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County Farm, the Sayville Middle School Technology Club competed with groups from all over Suffolk County in the *Pumpkin Catapult Contest*. The contest challenged teams to design and build a machine. From a simple rocking mechanism to full-scale trebuchets with dumbbell

weights or sand for counter-weights, the devices were required to fling a 3- to 5-pound pumpkin as far as possible.

Our Middle School Technology Club [Joe Burns, Robert Hitzig, Kaleigh Acevedo, Olivia Coley-Bishop, Jackie Christensen, Jack Weisheit, DJ Kelly, Melanie Drinkwater, Tim Cowan, George Mullowney, Kiana Bustamante, Justin Knopf, Dylan Schreiber, and Anna Mizzzi] worked hard preparing for the contest. They met after school with the Sayville Middle School Technology teachers [Jeff Goodman, Sam Kruse, Kris Krol, and Jim McLoughlin] and constructed a trebuchet-style catapult. While engineering different solutions to create a successful catapult, the team learned about kinetic and potential energy, transferring motion, centrifugal force, as well as simple machines.

In this year's Pumpkin Catapult Contest,



each team received three chances for a successful maximum distance. Sayville Middle School scored second in this category with a distance of 177.7 feet.

"Then," Mr. Jeff Goodman explained, "each team got a **fourth** try to prove their machine could be accurate. We **won** this category as the only team to hit the target! Sayville was also honored to have its design voted most creative by the audience. Our team cannot wait till next October, when we hope to redesign and improve our results."



Taken with Laughs at Sayville's Players **You Can't Take It With You**

Boy meets girl; they fall in love despite their incompatible families. Sounds like Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, you say?—but it's not!

It's Kaufman and Hart's Pulitzer-Prize-winning comedy **You Can't Take It With You** about lovely Alice Sycamore from an eccentric family, who has fallen in love with her boss' son, Tony Kirby, a VP in a Wall Street banking firm. Written in 1936, this popular American classic, which first ran on Broadway and then won the 1938 Academy Award for Best Picture in its film version, was recently

presented by forty Sayville Players comprising eighteen roles in three remarkable cast-combinations.

Living proof of the play's timeless appeal, the Sayville Players delivered with comic timing the high antics and low-keyed wit of a household of idiosyncratic characters in pursuit of individual happiness. Wisecracking, ditz, kooky, inept, and witless may describe the characters themselves, but the diverse talents of the students portraying them had the audiences laughing at all five performances.



“Undeniably escapist theater,” Director Steve Hailey comments, “it has clearly influenced American comedy. The formula originated by Kaufman and Hart—a loveable family getting into scrapes and overcoming obstacles—has been adopted as a format by most of today's television situation comedies.”

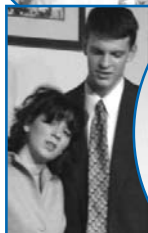
Applause goes to the three casts, the crews, and Director Steve Hailey, who worked his magic to prevent Mr. Kolenkhov's famous opinion, “**It STINKS!**” from being true.



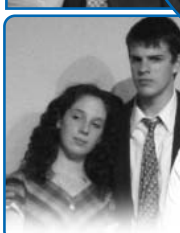
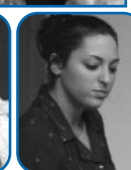
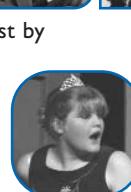
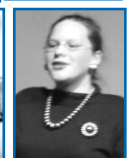
Central character Grandpa Martin Vanderhof was at heart a tax-evading philosopher spouting wisdom that inspired: • his daughter Penny Sycamore to pen plays or paint portraits; • her husband Paul to play with pyrotechnics assisted by Mr. DePinna; • his granddaughter Essie Carmichael to create candies and dance the ballet; • and Essie's husband Ed Carmichael to compose xylophonic symphonies and distribute homemade candy along with printed propaganda.



Enter normal Alice who is torn between her love for family and the love of her life—Tony. His stodgy, high-brow parents, Anthony Kirby, Sr. and Miriam Kirby are appalled by the zany ensemble (all photos below right) that parades through Grandpa's living room, including the highly volatile and opinionated Russian Mr. Kolenkov, drunk actress Gay Wellington, household help Rita, and her “dashing” boyfriend Donald.



After a hilarious crescendo of exploding fireworks, a household under mistaken arrest by “J-Men”, and a night in jail, Alice and Tony seemed destined to part; until the charming appearance of the deposed Grand Duchess Olga Katrina of Russia, a waitress in New York since the Revolution, reconciles the two families to their uniqueness.



Highlights of the Sayville School District

Weather Wreaks Havoc, but...

Homecoming Spirit Prevails

Predictions of wild weather, including high winds and heavy rains, postponed the Homecoming parade and skits that were

scheduled for the last Saturday in October. While the Homecoming football game went on as planned (Flashes vs. Hills West, 19-0), intermittent showers drenched the die-hard spectators in the stands and sent the band scrambling for cover.

Bottling up their Homecoming school spirit until an evening activity in mid-November, throngs of students (representing each class) rocked the High



School gym in an explosive celebration of floats, skits, and catapulting cheerleaders.

(The event was simulcast on WSAY web radio for those who couldn't attend.)

With action movies as the theme, the Freshman Class (*below left*) designed their surfside float and choreographed a swimming routine to the sinister music of *JAWS*; Sophomores (*below center*) barely dodged the bullet with a frolicking homage to *DODGEBALL*; Juniors (*right*) played it slick with a class *JAMES BOND 007* skit of intriguing weaponry and smooth dance moves; however, the adventurous Seniors (*above right*), depicting Captain Jack Sparrow (KJ Kennedy) and fellow *PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN*, stole the show with their overflowing treasure troves of bountiful spirit, sly school parody, and swashbuckling pirates jig.



When the judges pronounced the final score—the Seniors won, followed in order by the Freshmen, Juniors, and Sophomores—the uproar of cheers filled the gym. To all the classes for showing their spirit and pride, congratulations!

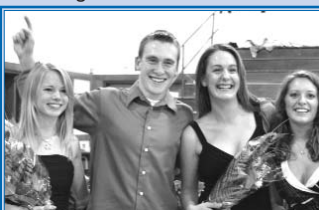


stole the show with their overflowing treasure troves of bountiful spirit, sly school parody, and swashbuckling pirates jig.



The following students from each class were selected for the Homecoming Courts:

Senior Class
King Mike Iorio & Queen Whitney Pynn, Conrad Jones, Chris Dudo, Rosalie Serra, Elysa Lomangino



Sophomore Class
King Mike Kaminski & Queen Katie Gallo
Holly Merrill, Brendan Rogers



Junior Class
King Shawn Mazzarone & Queen Judy Lite
Emily Pirro, Nikki Spalma, Zach Lane, Lenny Olmstead



Freshman Class
King Josef Haas & Queen Nicole Ali
Vicky Herrmann, Jennifer Norris, Nick D'Amico, John O'Malley



Highlights of the Sayville School District

Cherry Makes Merry with Care Packages for U.S. Soldiers

Making merry at Cherry Avenue Elementary School is nothing new, but since the beginning of this academic year, the entire school community has dedicated themselves to a yearlong worthy cause—collecting nonperishables to send to our armed forces overseas.

Thanks to the diligence of First Grade Teacher Mrs. Susan Metzler and her charges, the ongoing collection has been a work in progress. Not only are the children contributing piles of boxed and canned foods, they are including amusing notes, letters of gratitude, and pretty drawings to help our troops keep their morale high.



LINCOLN AVENUE...

HOSTS HALLOWEEN PARADE

Lincoln Avenue students in grades Kindergarten through Second enjoyed an outdoor Halloween parade in cooperative weather. While the students showed a great deal of creativity in choosing their colorful costumes, even the classroom teachers enjoyed the opportunity to dress up as book characters: Dorothy from the Wizard of

Oz, Puss In Boots, The Wicked Witch of the North, GI Jane, and a beautiful butterfly. Although arrayed in their finery, the students needed one more item—a cheering crowd—to make their parade a success. Thankfully, Lincoln Avenue parents turned out in great numbers to witness the spectacular event.



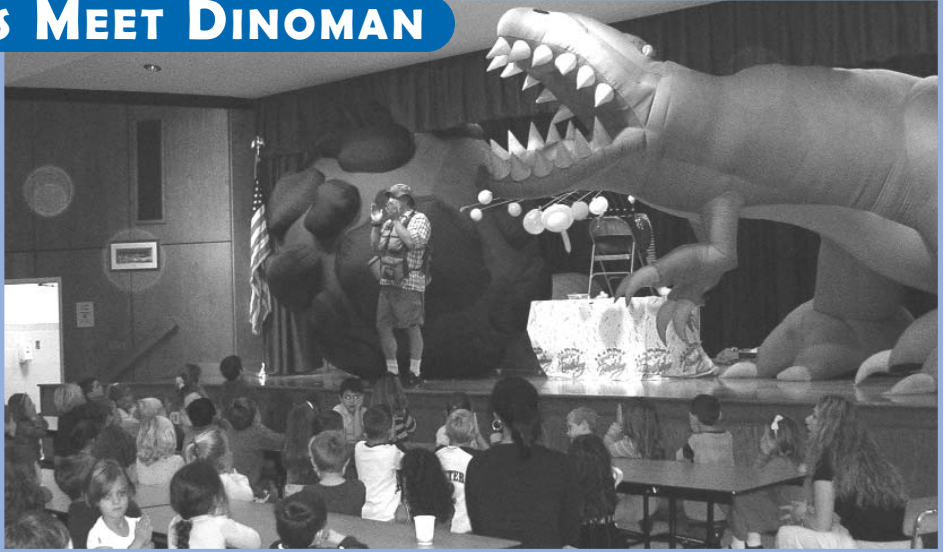
DOWN ON THE FARM

It was a chilly fall day, but the Lincoln Avenue Kindergarten classes didn't seem to mind. They were engaged in a multisensory experience at Cornell University Cooperative Extension Suffolk County Farm. While observing a working farm, the students enjoyed a tractor-drawn wagon ride, studied farm animals, and selected a favorite pumpkin to take home from a pumpkin patch. The children also came home with lasting memories of "Onkey the Donkey," "Daffy the Duck," the cute pigs, sheep, and turkeys.



LINCOLN LEARNERS MEET DINOMAN

Lincoln's PTA Cultural Arts program proudly sponsored Dinoman-Space!, a fun-filled age-appropriate program about the solar system. During Dinoman's visit, the students learned the connection between dinosaurs and space. Among the topics presented in a visually stimulating fashion were "the probable causes for extinction of dinosaurs on earth, and the simulation of negative 300 degrees below zero temperatures of Neptune." Using ordinary and extraordinary props such as liquid nitrogen, Dinoman demonstrated thermodynamics, showed the pros and cons of bringing oxygen in balloons to astronauts, and questioned whether it was "wise to eat marshmallows that come from the frozen void of outer space?" The students were greatly entertained as Dinoman revealed the secrets of science.



Star Counters



Asking the question: Do people around the world see the same number of stars we do in Sayville? Mrs. Whitehurst's Third Graders and their parents came looking for answers at Lincoln Ave. Elementary School on a starry night in October.

In the back field where it was fairly dark, each student counted the visible stars in the sky using a viewing tube. With information about longitude and latitude and elevation, the

students planned to submit their data to NASA, which is collecting information about the amount of stars in the skies.

"You had to adjust your eyes to the lack of light, and then count the stars with a viewing tube," said Savannah Votino. "We had to count 10 different times and average the numbers," said Brian Burgos. "You wouldn't expect that you could count so many stars. I counted 133!" said Chelsea Burnside. "Sometimes it was hard to find stars," said Emily Sneddon. "It was a little hard to see if the light was a plane or a star," said Sean Velazquez.

As they learn about countries and cultures around the world, the class will also access the NASA database to discover the amount of stars counted in other areas around the globe. The students learned an amazing fact: Anyone can count stars wherever and whenever...as long as it is dark!

Unforgettable Characters

For Children's Book Week (November 13-17), students at Lincoln Avenue Elementary were visited by several book characters. Among the books featured during the week were: *The Princess Knight* by Cornelia Funke, *Carmine: A Little More Red* by Melissa Sweet, *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude* by Kevin O'Malley, *Traction Man is Here* by Mina Grey, and *Wait! No Paint!* by Bruce Whatley. Students participated in a variety of literature activities such as designing a coat of arms, creating a fairytale alphabet book, and composing group circle stories.



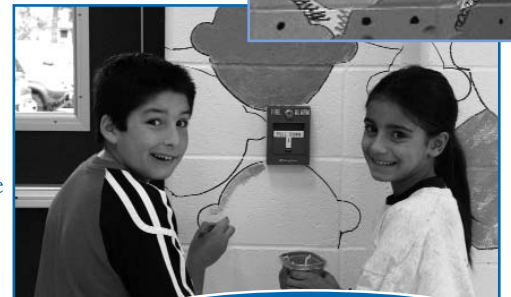
For the occasion, Lincoln Librarian Mrs. Kateri Volpe appeared as the Princess Knight.

An About Face at Sunrise Drive

Adorning their new cafeteria/ auditorium with a mural of children's faces may have been the brainchild of Principal Rose Castello, and the handiwork of professional artist Janine Bendicksen (photo right), who specializes in murals, but the



joy on the students' faces was reflected in the joyful faces they painted on the walls. During her visits to Sunrise, Mrs. Bendicksen organized the mural project by helping the students mix paints and learn techniques. She worked with each grade and encouraged even the most timid student to contribute to their unique school mural. As the students became acclimated to the art project, they developed social skills along with hand-eye coordination. It was a wonderful lesson. Rather than defacing their school, each Sunrise student proudly left his and her artistic face through an approved hands-on activity.



Highlights

SAYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
Linda A. Mittiga, mittigal@sayville.k12.ny.us
Past Winner of NYSPRA Awards

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DR. ROSEMARY F. JONES, SUPERINTENDENT OF SAYVILLE SCHOOLS

****ECRWSS****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Sayville's First ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Hurting weather-related obstacles on Homecoming Weekend, the first **Sayville Athletic Hall of Fame** Induction Ceremony didn't miss a stride. Keeping events on track (*thanks to the amazing efforts of catering owner Gerard Scolland and the adaptability of the Hall of Fame Committee, inductees, and invited guests*), twenty-nine inaugural candidates were honored at **West Lake Inn**.

After warmly welcoming the honorees and guests to the festivities, Athletic Director Charles Delargy described his goal of establishing a Sayville Athletic Hall of Fame. Since he joined Sayville School District six years ago, Mr. Delargy enlisted the endorsements of the Sayville Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Rosemary Jones, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dr. Geraldine Sullivan Keck, building-level administrators, and community members. He met with committees and key individuals who eventually formed the Sayville Athletic Foundation. Through the collaboration of the Athletic Department and the financial support of the Sayville Athletic Foundation, this year the Sayville Athletic Hall of Fame became a reality.

During the ceremonies, Girls Track Coach and retired Sayville

teacher Mr. Donald MacKenzie enumerated, in loving detail, the extraordinary accomplishments of Sayville's greatest athletes and coaches as he introduced each candidate. His flair for words and his heartfelt sentiment polished their record-setting statistics to a shimmering luster. Some candidates were honored posthumously as graduates or coaches or supporters as far back as the 1920s and 1930s. Others were more recent by comparison. Yet, it was apparent that each inductee, though distinctive on the playing field, shared the same "outstanding character and leadership qualities," which made them eligible for Hall of Fame status.

Congratulations go to all the Inaugural Inductees and their families for their illustrious achievements. Special thanks go also to the

Recognized for their outstanding contributions as athletes, coaches, or community members, the following twenty-nine inductees were deemed worthy of permanent recognition in the **SAYVILLE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME:**

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Marinus Buys | • Woody Hubbard | • Huron Smith |
| • Harvey Case | • Caren Kropp Carver | • Rosemary Smith |
| • Kristin Coccaro | • Otto Kubelle | • Evelyn Stoll MacKenzie |
| • Susan Daly Gibson | • Jamie LaBelle | • Edna Suckow |
| • John DeLuca, Sr. | • Donald "Buck" MacKenzie | • William Thieben |
| • Jim Dietz | • Eileen MacLellan | • Lee Van Voorhees |
| • Ken Donovan | • Brian McGinty | • John "Bud" Van Wyen |
| • Jesse Fitzgerald | • Chad Smith | • Carl Varone, Sr. |
| • Suzanne Gamboli Hoss | • Derek Smith | • Lynn Weik Campilii |
| • Ralph Howe | | • Peter Yozzo |



Hall of Fame Committee and the Sayville Athletic Foundation for their immense assistance in launching this long-awaited tradition in Sayville.

In addition, Athletic Director Charles Delargy expressed his plans to continue the process of seeking "many other athletes that are worthy of membership in this Hall," as part of the Homecoming weekend events. Check the Athletic Department links on the Sayville School District Website for more Hall of Fame information and upcoming events.

