

# THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2008

*We Don't Complain About Problems — We Work On Solutions*

**EDITOR:** Joseph Nickischer

*Our E-Mail address is: [QueensVillageCivic@msn.com](mailto:QueensVillageCivic@msn.com)*

**CIRCULATION MANAGER:** Dawn Insanalli

*Our Web Address is: <http://www.qvca.org>*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Members and Neighbors,

I and our Executive Board wish everyone a wonderful, happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. With the holidays behind us, we are looking forward, with the help of our community, our members, and elected officials, to a good, productive civic year.

Finally, we had pleasant weather for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration on December 7. There was no numbing cold or freezing rain or blustery winds. The turnout of members and guests was very good. We especially thank Senator Frank Padavan, Assemblywoman Barbara Clark, Community Board 13 Chairman Richard Hellenbrecht, and the Reverend Victor Lowery, Pastor of Love Oasis Christian Center on Hollis Court Boulevard, for attending. The Love Oasis Choral Group led in singing Christmas Carols and songs of the season. We gratefully thank Ines Cestra, Dolores Shea, Tom Carrington, Ram, Lennie Fazioli, and Reverend Lowery and friend for decorating the tree, and, of course, Robbie, Ram's son, for putting on the tree lights. And last, but not least, Eleanor Carrington for her scrumptious brownies and Ram's wife for the delicious hot chocolate and Steffie Kaminski for pouring it. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Community Board 13 Manager Sally Martino-Fisher has resigned. Deputy Inspector Stephen Haynes, Commander of the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct, has retired. We do not know as yet who will replace them.

We are still waiting for the "Yield to Pedestrian" sign to be placed at 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Springfield Boulevard after a number of people were struck by a car there. I will keep you posted on this matter.

Please refer to article in the news page about calling 311. Please use it to help improve our quality of life.

I hope to see you on January 15. Our guest speaker is Swaranjit Singh, President of the World Sikh Peace Foundation.

Stay well. God bless.

Always,



Amelia A. Kent



Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15  
8:00 P. M.

Place: Stewart Hall  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Springfield Blvd. & 93<sup>rd</sup>. Ave.

Guest Speaker: Swaranjit Singh, President of  
World Sikh Peace Foundation

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

We need not only your financial support, but your contribution of ideas, expertise, and time to make our community a better place. Dues are \$5.00 a year per person. Please mail this form to P.O. Box 0766, Queens Village, NY 11428-0766 or enroll at our meetings. Make your check payable to the Queens Village Civic Association.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

HOW YOU CAN HELP (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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## IN MEMORIAM

### OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our newest member is Kula Horimiotis, who resides on 218 Place. Glad to have you aboard. We have added four new members during our current civic year, and 70 Queens Villagers have renewed their membership. If you have been thinking about joining us, you can do so at our monthly meetings or by using the membership application form in this newsletter. Dues are \$5.00 a year per person. As a member, you will have our newsletter delivered to your home and receive our support in helping to resolve problems in the community that diminish your peace and comfort. We need you to increase our strength and our clout as we fight for City services and programs that help to maintain and improve our quality of life.

### CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

Christmas trees will be collected by the Department of Sanitation from January 3 through January 16. Clean Christmas trees, without any lights, tinsel, ornaments, and stands, should be left at the curb. Do not put the tree in a plastic bag. The trees will be chipped, mixed with fall leaves, and recycled into rich compost for use by New York City's parks, community gardens, and residents.

### ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

If you haven't paid your dues, they have been due since last September. Please remit your dues at our monthly meetings or by mail to the Queens Village Civic Association, P. O. Box 0766, Queens Village, New York, 11428-0766. We need your financial support as well as your moral support. We thank you gratefully.

### HELP FOR SENIORS TO INSULATE THEIR HOMES

Winter has come a little late this year, but now the terrible cold and dangerous wind chill temperatures have made life miserable for many of us. Seniors who cannot afford to insulate their doors and windows and around air conditioners to combat cold drafts and soaring heating bills can receive help through the City Department of Aging Weatherization Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP). The program also provides for the repair and cleaning of home heating systems. For information and a brochure, please call WRAP at 212-442-3055.

### MEETING DATES OF THE QVCA

Our civic association will conduct monthly meetings during the current civic on the following dates in 2008: January 15, February 19, March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17. The meetings are held in Stewart Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Springfield Boulevard and 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, beginning at 8:00 P. M. The public is invited.

Brendan McElroy, a favorite son of Queens Village, passed away on October 7 of last year. He was 89. He and his late wife, Mary, had five children: Thomas, Maryanne, Brendan, Eileen, and Maureen. There are nine grandchildren.

Brendan was a dynamic, one-of-a-kind guy who served his community as President of the Queens Village Civic Association, President of School Board 29, as a member of Community Board 13, and as a concerned citizen. He was active in politics and a member of the Queens County Democratic Committee. Brendan was fearless in speaking out against happenings in the community that diminish our quality of life. He considered himself a fortunate person who was blessed with a beautiful family and a strong constitution that enabled him to be a compassionate adviser and leader to those who are less fortunate. In addition to his verbal skills, he was a very competent craftsman who built his family a lovely brick home from scratch after the foundation and the exterior were in place.

Brendan was a veteran of World War 11. He retired from the NYC Department of Sanitation as a foreman. He believed that everyone should do a fair day's work for their pay.

Brendan was given the Queens Village Civic Association Community Service Award for his dedicated and outstanding service to our community. We hope we will see his like again.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the McElroy Family.

### CALL YOUR FRIEND AT 311

Since March of 2003, Call 311, which accesses the City's Citizens Service Center, has been in full operation. This free customer service hotline helps New Yorkers to obtain vital information and quickly find the right agency to handle their particular problems or complaints. The line is staffed by over 200 trained "call agents" who speak the many languages of our City. It is open 24/7.

311 was founded to save New Yorkers the hassle of being bounced around from City Agency to City Agency until they find the right office. The call agents will be able not only to refer your call to the appropriate agency, but they have the expertise to answer many questions themselves so that you don't have to explain your problem over and over. And your quality of life complaints—such as excessive noise, blocked driveways, loitering, illegal truck traffic and parking, illegal housing construction, sanitation code violations, posting of illegal signs, graffiti—will be given a tracking number if follow up is needed. You do not have to give your name; your complaint can be made anonymously. Let's all use this extraordinary service to help improve our quality of life.

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