

# THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

JAN. 2009

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

**EDITOR: Joseph Nickischer**

**CIRCULATION MANAGER: Nagassar Ramgarib**

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

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

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Queens Villagers and Neighbors,

On the whole, our Queens Village neighborhood passed the Holiday Season relatively uneventfully, for which we can be grateful. Moreover, even in this difficult time, the coming year's challenges will find us not complaining "but working on solutions" as best we can.

So, on a positive note in what I call "the something to be thankful for" department, we note that prior to last January, the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct had gone through five or six Commanding Officers in as many years. Well, Inspector Paul Piekarski, the current Commander of the 105th Precinct, has been with us a year, and, given the size of our precinct and the constraints of the City budget, he has been highly responsive to our needs. Let's hope he stays with us.

Likewise, last January the District Manager of our Community Board 13 handed in her resignation after a less than harmonious relationship with the board. The new District Manager, Lawrence McClean, who addressed us at our October meeting, has been able to work with the board for the benefit of our community.

Amelia Kent, a past president of our association, is a member of the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council and our liaison there. Amelia, thanks for your involvement and the reports of police activity that you bring to us. Our thanks also go to past president Nagassar Ramgarib, who represents us ably on Community Board 13.

If you have analog television, your set will go dark on February 17, 2009, as all TV becomes digital on that date. Since millions of analog sets have not as yet been converted to accept the digital signal, President-elect Obama has asked Congress to extend the deadline. (Refer to article in the news page.)

Since our last meeting, we have continued to focus on illegal parking of 18-wheel tractor trailers as well as individuals who use our streets as used car lots.

Stay safe and think warm! I hope to see you on January 20.

Your neighbor,



John Stiller



Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 20  
8:00 P. M.

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

On the Agenda: Discussion of Community  
Problems

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

- EXECUTIVE BOARD 2008-2009**  
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 Nagassar Ramgarib ..... Trustee

## OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our newest members are Mario Bellicose (92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) and Frank Dumont (Davenport Avenue). Welcome aboard. We have added seven new members during the current civic year, and 75 Queens Villagers have renewed their membership. You can join us 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 maintain and improve our quality of life

### HELP FOR SENIORS TO INSULATE THEIR HOMES

Winter has come on time this year, bringing terrible cold and dangerous wind chill temperatures that make life miserable for many of us. Seniors who cannot afford to insulate their doors and windows and around air conditioning ducts to stop cold drafts 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, call WRAP at 212-442-3055.

### ARE YOU READY FOR THE SWITCH TO DIGITAL TV ?

On February 17, 2009, TV stations will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. If you have cable or satellite TV, you are already receiving digital TV. Those who rely on rabbit ears or rooftop antennas for their television reception must install a converter box that will allow analog TV to receive the digital signal. The NTIA will provide up to two \$40 coupons per household for the purchase of such boxes. For information, call 888-DTV-2009 or visit [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov). Don't let your TV go dark on February 17.

### SENIOR ACTING REPERTORY AT OUR LIBRARY

Calling all older adults. You can join the Galaxy of Stars to perform theatrical works at our Queens Village Community Library with a great group of people while brightening your life. Rehearsal dates this month are on Fridays: January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, beginning at 10:30 A. M. Our library is located at 94-11 217th Street. Call 718-776-6800 for information.

### MEETING DATES OF THE QVCA

Our civic association will conduct monthly meetings during the current civic year on the following dates in 2009: January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, and June 16. The meetings, in Stewart Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, begin at 8:00 P.M. and are open to the public.

## CRIME DOWN 8% IN 105<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT

According to crime statistics compiled by the New York City Police Department, there were 1,949 major crime incidents in the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct in 2008, down from 2,219 in 2007, a drop of more than 8 percent. Major crimes include assault, burglary, car theft, grand larceny, murder, rape, and robbery. The 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct patrols the communities of Bellerose, Cambria Heights, Floral Park, Glen Oaks, Laurelton, New Hyde Park, Queens Village, Rosedale, and Springfield Gardens.

The 20 percent decrease in murders, from 10 in 2007 to 8 in 2008, represents the largest reduction in the seven major crime categories. That was followed by the 16.1 percent drop in burglaries from 2007 to 2008, 457 to 545. Double digit declines were also recorded in rapes and assaults. There were 32 reported rapes in 2008 and 37 in 2007, a decline of 13.5 percent. Assaults were down 12.5 percent, from 238 in 2008 to 271 in 2007. Grand larcenies were down 8.9 percent, from 479 in 2008 to 525 in 2007. The 390 robberies recorded in 2008 were a slight decline of 2 percent from the 398 reported in 2007. Car thefts were the only crime to rise in the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct. There were 345 cars reported stolen in 2008 compared to 332 in 2007, a 3.9 percent increase.

### ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

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

### MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

Some of our residents are facing home mortgage foreclosure due to the sub-prime lending mess and the collapse of lending institutions. Congressman Gregory Meeks, through the Consortium for Worker Education, a non-profit organization, is offering mortgage counseling that includes assistance to home owners in renegotiating the terms of their mortgage to save their home. The CWE workshops are held every Wednesday in the office of Congressman Meeks, located at 153-01 Jamaica Avenue, on the second floor, from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P. M. Call Jason Hilliard or Brian Simon at 718-725-6000 to make an appointment. The CWE is an arm of New York City's Central Labor Council with the mission of reaching out to families across the City to enrich their lives.

### GET WELL WISHES TO OUR MEMBER

William Talley has had knee surgery at LIJ Hospital and is undergoing rehabilitation therapy. We wish him a speedy recovery and send our best wishes to him and his wife, Barbara. We hope to see them soon at our meetings.

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