

# THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

FEB. 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,

Half way through our civic year, let's take stock of how the national rollercoaster ride affects our local community. One evident result, reminiscent of 1987, is the number of storefronts on Hillside and Jamaica Avenues "for rent" or with posted sheriff's signs. While some may think as a local civic organization we have no impact on matters of national scale, I prefer to recall the quote from Tip O'Neill, past Speaker of the House of Representatives, who famously said: "In the final analysis, all politics are local."

Considering matters political, we were without New York State Senate representation from January 1 to February 4 of this year as incumbent Senator Frank Padavan, who has been our representative in the 11th Senate District since 1972, was not certified the winner of the November 4 election until February 5. Senator Padavan, never behind in the vote tally, prevailed in holding off a well-financed opponent who challenged many of his votes. It's a sad comment on our times that the courts decide drawn out election cases after negative campaigns. I believe that most of us would agree that Senator Padavan has served us well for many years and has earned his campaign slogan: "Nobody cares like Frank." (Refer to article in the news page.)

My Beware of Section: When the economy goes down, scams go up. With tax filing time near, an alert from the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs warns against false and misleading advertising of some tax preparers who promise "instant" or "rapid" refunds, and often charge exorbitant fees. Most are ethical, but a recent DCA inspection sweep of 400 tax preparers showed 1200 violations. You can call the Department of Consumer Affairs at 212-487-4110 to ascertain if there are any complaints about a tax preparer.

Happier Note: City residents surveyed over last summer indicated that Queens is the happiest borough as 51% were "very satisfied with their quality of life," citing "the people and diversity" and the "green spaces." Staten Island, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx trailed behind.

Rose Olson, a longtime member of our Executive Board and Queens Village booster, is recuperating from a fall. Our best wishes go to her. Remember her in your prayers.

Stay involved. Let's have a good turnout at this month's meeting. I hope to see you there.

Your neighbor,



John Stiller



Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17  
8:00 P. M.

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

Guest Speaker: Fred Kress, Executive Director  
Cornucopia Society

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

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Nagassar Ramgarib ..... Trustee

## OUR MEMBERSHIP

We are behind in our goal of enrolling 200 members during the current civic year. If you haven't paid your dues as yet, please do so. You can pay your dues at our monthly meetings or by mailing your check of \$5.00 to the Queens Village Civic Association, P. O. Box 0766, Queens Village, NY, 11428. You can also help us increase our membership by asking your friends and neighbors to join us; invite them to our meetings. 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 to maintain and improve our quality of life.

## FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Bellerose Library, located at 250-06 Hillside Avenue, is offering free income tax assistance for low-income older adults on Tuesdays, February 3 to April 14, from 1:00 P. M. to 5:00 P.M. Bring a copy of last year's tax return, W-2 and 1099 forms, forms mailed to you by the IRS, and any other information concerning your income and expenses. The program is sponsored by AARP. To find other AARP Tax Aide sites, call 1-888-227-7669.

## SAVE OUR SUPERMARKET RALLY AT FOOD DYNASTY

There was a spirited rally by more than 100 demonstrators on February 7 in front of the Food Dynasty Supermarket, 220-46 Hillside Avenue, to protest the closing of the supermarket, as early as February 28. The store's lease expires on that date, and there are indications that the landlord wants to bring in another type of business. Our community vigorously opposes any usage of this space except as a supermarket; a supermarket has been located in this spot for almost 50 years. Seniors and families with young children shop there. Many of the shoppers at Food Dynasty live within walking distance. If they have no supermarket nearby, they will have to travel out of their neighborhood to shop for food.

Food Dynasty wants to keep the store open. Assemblyman Mark Weprin is working with the owner of the building to help negotiate a new lease. Among those in attendance at the rally were Assemblyman Weprin, Senator Frank Padavan, and Bob Friedrich and Bobby Sher, rally organizers. Your civic was represented by Vice President Joseph Nickischer, Amelia Kent, and Barbara and William Talley.

## DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR DIGITAL TV

The deadline for the conversion of analog TV to digital TV has been extended to June 12, 2009. You must install a converter box if you now rely on rabbit ears or rooftop antennas. Call 888-DTV-2009 to obtain information and up to two \$40 coupons to purchase the boxes. Don't let your TV go dark.

## SENATOR PADAVAN IS REELECTED

Finally, on February 5, State Senator Frank Padavan was declared the winner in the 11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District Election that was held on November 4 of last year. He won by 578 votes over Democratic Councilman James Gennaro, who contested and tried to invalidate many of Senator Padavan's votes, causing an unprecedented delay in determining the winner. We are very pleased that Senator Padavan was reelected. He is always there for us when we need him.

## LIBRARY DAY IN ALBANY

The Queens Library will conduct its annual "Library Day in Albany" on Tuesday, March 10. Library friends, supporters, and staff will board buses that will bring them to our State Senators and Assembly Members to speak to them about the importance of fully funded libraries and the disaster of massive budget cuts. Let the legislators know what library service means to you. They do listen, and you can make a difference. Buses will depart from various locations in Queens at 7:00 A. M. and return at approximately 7:00 P. M. A light lunch will be provided. You can pick up an application for the trip at our Queens Village Community Library, located at 94-11 217<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information, call 718-990-0817.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- . Free home heating oil, provided by CITGO, is available for those who cannot afford to buy it. Call 877-563-4645 for information.
- . The Cornucopia Society collects cell phones no longer in use and converts them to "911 only calls" for seniors to be used in emergencies. Call Executive Director Fred Kress to apply for such a phone. There is no charge for the service.
- . The Caregiver Program of SNAP (Services now for Adult Persons) offers a variety of services to individuals caring for an older adult age 60 or over. SNAP is located at 80-45 Winchester Boulevard, Building #4, CBU #29, in the Creedmoor Complex. Call 718-740-6519 for information.
- . The Queens County Bar Association offers free legal services to Queens homeowners facing foreclosure. Residents who want assistance should come to Queens Civil Court, 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Room 106, on Wednesdays from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P. M. or Fridays from 9:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M.

## CONDOLENCES

Our longtime member Gertrude Heidelberger passed away on January 2 at the age of 90. She and her late beloved husband, William, had a large family, with many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We send our heartfelt sympathies to the Heidelberger family. Gertrude was a dear friend of many and loved by all who had the privilege to know her.

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