

# THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 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 Members and Neighbors,

This month our Nomination Committee will present a slate of officers for our 2009-2010 civic year. Our officers serve as volunteers, and, for a civic to be successful, new ideas and faces are needed to keep the good in our community and to strive for needed improvements.

Evidently, our members appreciated the Irish Soda Bread since it received "due justice" at our March 17 meeting. The guest speaker, Richard Gentles, Director of New York City Animal Care and Control, addressed topics that were of interest to those members in attendance who have cats and/or dogs as pets. ACC takes in over 100 animals daily citywide. I have since learned about NYC's "TNR Program" (Trap-Neuter-Return), which aims to minimize the feral cat population in all boroughs and also offers free training to volunteers. Stay tuned for details at this month's meeting.

The water/sewer rates have been of concern to many members, and a 14% increase has been proposed to take effect in the next fiscal year (2009-2010). I had time to attend a City Hall Press Conference called by Councilman David Weprin to oppose the increase. A public hearing has been scheduled by DEP at 10:00 A. M. on April 27, at 59-17 Junction Boulevard, in Corona. More information will be available at this month's meeting.

We are fortunate to have a YMCA in our neighborhood with a full program that includes swimming. This offers a smooth segue into the next topic: The New York City Parks Department hires about 900 lifeguards each summer. If you know of anyone interested, let us know. Call us at 718-217-4049.

Detective Jovoda Cooper, the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Community Affairs Officer, will be the guest speaker at this month's meeting. Let's have a good turnout.

Your neighbor,



John Stiller



Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 21  
8:00 P. M.  
Place: Stewart Hall  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Springfield Blvd. & 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
On the Agenda: Det. Jovoda Cooper, 105th  
Precinct, Community Affairs

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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.

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

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## OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our newest member is Tom Matzerath, who resides on 216<sup>th</sup> Street. Glad to have you aboard. We have added 14 new members during the current civic year, and 142 Queens Villagers have renewed their membership. If you've been thinking about joining us, you can 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 to maintain and improve our quality of life.

## CRIME WATCH

The 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct reports that home burglaries are up 15 percent. Most are committed in the daytime. The police are asking us to be observant of suspicious persons and vehicles in our neighborhoods, noting descriptions of the people, license plates numbers, and make and color of vehicles. If you observe something suspicious, call 911 immediately. And remember to keep your doors and windows locked when you are out or retired for the day. Also remember not to let into your home persons who claim that they have come to fix a problem that you are not aware of and have not requested assistance for. They have most likely come to rob you. NYPD offers a free crime prevention program that helps to safeguard your home or business. Call 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct Crime Prevention Officer Brian Wimpelberg at 718-776-9207 to make an appointment. He will come to your home or place of business and give you a written report on what you need to do to make your property more secure and inaccessible to burglars.

## HAVE A TREE PLANTED BY YOUR HOME

A tree planted in front of your home will help to beautify our environs and also improve the quality of the air we breathe. To obtain an application for a free tree from New York City, call Community Board 13 at 718-464-9700 or 311. Let's all do our part to keep Queens Village as green as possible.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Our Lady of Lourdes Church will conduct a blood drive on Sunday, April 26, from 8:30 A. M. to 1:30 P. M., in Stewart Hall. For more information or to make an appointment, call the church's Outreach at 718-479-0924. If you have any medical related questions, telephone Long Island Blood Service, 800-688-0900. "To give blood is to give the gift of life."

## CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL AT FARM MUSEUM

The Queens County Farm Museum, located at 73-50 Little Neck Parkway in Floral Park, will hold its Children's Carnival on Saturday and Sunday, April 18, 19, 25, and 26, from 11:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M., in the apple orchard. Enjoy carnival rides, good food, midway games and prizes, petting zoo, hayrides, and children's entertainment. Tours of the historical farm house will be offered. Admission is \$9.00 per person. (All carnival rides are included at no additional charge.) Height rules apply at all rides.

## FREE PRESCRIPTION SAVER CARD

The New York State Department of Health is accepting applications for the new, free "New York Prescription Saver Card." The program offers significant discounts on thousands of prescription medications, providing savings of more than 60 percent on generic drugs and 30 percent on brand name drugs. Effective April 1, the Prescription Saver Card will serve low-income New Yorkers who are disabled or between the ages of 50 and 64. To be eligible for this benefit, the annual income must be \$35,000 or less for single individuals or \$50,000 or less for married individuals. Medicaid recipients or those enrolled in the EPIC program for the elderly are not eligible.

To learn more about the Prescription Saver card or to apply, visit <http://nyprescriptionsaver.fhsc.com> or call 1-800-788-6917. TTY users should call 1-880-290-9138. Applications are also available at participating pharmacies.

## NOSTALGIA AT OUR LIBRARY

"Wait Till Next Year," a dramatic reading in the style of radio drama, will be performed at our Queens Village Community Library, located at 94-11 217<sup>th</sup> Street, on Tuesday, April 21, at 2:00 P. M. You will enjoy historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's touching memoir of growing up in love with family and baseball and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Diana Heinlein is the Voice of the book and David Houston is Narrator, with sound and music from the 1940's and '50's.

## IMMIGRANT BENEFITS GUIDE AVAILABLE

The new Guide to Public Benefits for Immigrants in New York City is a road map to information on federal, state, and City benefits. It is the first guide to public benefits based on immigrant status. The guide is published in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean, and Bengali. The guide explains who qualifies for food stamps, Medicaid, and other public assistance programs. It also shows those who are eligible how to apply for the benefits. For copies of the free guide, call the Office of the Public Advocate at 212-669-7250.

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