

# THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2010

## *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

My Dear Queens Villagers,

In the "thanks for small mercies" department," our neighborhood has been lucky to escape the worst of the season's snowstorms. Let's keep our fingers crossed for the rest of the winter!

Our member, Paul Robison, tells me that the Our Lady of Lourdes' January blood drive, which he organized, was very successful. Eight of our civic members donated. Why not more? If you can't give, encourage others to give "the gift of life."

Last month's guest speaker was FDNY Fireman Kelly of the Fire Safety Education Unit. He spoke about all aspects of keeping our homes safe and gave out new fire and smoke alarms to those attending the meeting. If you missed the meeting, fire safety literature is available from your civic association.

As we all know, city services and public works have been severely impacted by our depressed economy, with many projects for our neighborhood now on the wait list. Sewers, catch basins, pipe lines, and roads were built for the requirements of fifty years ago or earlier, and with the technology of that time. Therefore, until the major work is undertaken (don't hold your breath), you and our civic can help to safeguard our quality of life by reporting promptly to 311 such conditions as street flooding, clogged catch basins, potholes, and street light outages. When you call 311, record the complaint number you are given so that we can keep track of the repairs.

This month, we have invited Bryan Block, the new Chairman of Community Board 13, to address our members. Having been a civic leader in Queens, he is aware of local concerns.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Your neighbor,



John Stiller



Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 16  
8:00 P. M.  
Place: Stewart Hall  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Springfield Blvd. & 93<sup>rd</sup>. Ave.  
Guest Speaker: Bryan Block, Chairman  
Community Board 13

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE IF NEW MEMBER

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### EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009-2010

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Nagassar Ramgarib . . . . . Trustee

## OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our newest members are Ken Johnson (Jamaica Avenue), S. Margaret Ramrattan ( 217 Street ), and Indura Ramprasad (214 Place). Welcome aboard. You can join our organization at our monthly meetings or by using the membership application form in this newsletter. We have enrolled 14 new members during the current civic year, and 59 Queens Villagers have renewed their membership. 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 us 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 Mondays, February 1 to April 12, 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 sites, call 888-227-7669.

## CENUS 2010 JOBS AVAILABLE

The Census Bureau is hiring people for a wide range of positions, including Census takers, crew leaders, and Census clerks. You must be a least 18 years of age and pass a written test. For more information, call 347-967-4020 or 866-861-2010 from Monday through Friday between 5:00 P. M. to 9:00 P. M., and on weekends from 11:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M.

## KEEPING SAFE IN YOUR HOME

There are criminals operating in our community who try to enter your home pretending to be utility repairman or business representatives who have a great deal for you that will save you money. Working in pairs, one of them distracts the homeowner with conversation while the other steals money, jewelry, and other valuable personal belongings. Do not allow anyone into your home unless you absolutely know who they are. If they say they work for a utility company, they must be wearing a Photo ID. If you are victimized by such individuals, call 911 immediately as the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct may be able to apprehend the perpetrators as they may still be in the immediate area Keep all you doors and windows locked, especially when you are out or retire for the night. Thieves believe that if they look long enough, they will find an unlocked door or window. For info on how to prevent home crimes, call the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Crime Prevention Officer at 718-776-9207.

## LIBRARY DAY IN ALBANY

The Queens Library will conduct its annual "Library Day in Albany" on Tuesday, March 2. 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 several library 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 a 94-11 217 Street. For more information, call 718-990-0817.

## ANIMAL NOISE COMPLAINTS

The Department of Environmental Protection now handles animal noise complaints. The noise code holds pet owners accountable for their animals' noises. Dog barking for ten continuous minutes between 7:00 A. M. and 10:00 P. M. and for five consecutive minutes between 10:00 P. M. to 7:00 A. M. is considered excessive. Call 311 to make your complaints.

## SECURE YOUR GARBAGE

If you don't put out your garbage in tied bags or containers that have a lid, it will blow all over the place on windy days, polluting our environs. The sanitation code calls for all garbage cans to be enclosed by a lid. The fine is \$50.00, although the Department of Sanitation rarely enforces it. Please comply with the code to keep our community beautiful and to avoid a summons.

## SAVE MONEY ON YOUR AUTO INSURANCE

You can save money on your auto insurance by having the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of your automobile etched on its windshield and windows. You can have this done free by the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct on Saturday mornings from 8:00 A. M. to 12:00 P.M. The process is simple and takes about five minutes. Insurance companies offer a discount on the comprehensive portion of your auto insurance as the VIN- etching makes your automobile easier to identified if stolen. Call Crime Prevention Officer Brian Wimpelberg at 718-776-9268 to make an appointment. The 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct is located at 92-08 222<sup>nd</sup> Street in Queens Village.

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