

THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014

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

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CIRCULATION MANAGER: Chris Trofemuk

Our E-Mail address is: qvca@qvca.org

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

As we adjust to Daylight Savings Time, I know everyone is ready to put this difficult winter behind us and welcome in the spring. The winter weather has not been good for our roads and has created numerous potholes. The city has been very good at fixing them, but they need your help in identifying them. Please report any potholes you encounter by calling 311.

Council Member Mark Weprin's participatory budgeting process will be climaxing with residents from his district voting on projects starting Saturday, March 29, through Saturday, April 5. Volunteer delegates, together with staff from Weprin's office, finalized a list of 14 projects to be placed on the ballot. These projects are for schools, libraries, parks, community facilities, transportation, and public safety. There are many valuable projects for our area: Smart Boards and Technology Upgrades for many schools in Queens Village, as well as Security and Technology Upgrades for the Queens Village Library. Please make sure you vote. The most convenient location for us is the Cross Island YMCA, 238-10 Hillside Avenue, on Sunday, March 30, from 10:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M., and Saturday, April 5, from 11:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. (Refer to the article in page 2.)

On behalf of the QVCA board, I would like to extend special greetings to our neighbors who will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Holi, the Hindu spring festival of color. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on March 18. Police Officer Carleton Epps, of the 105th Precinct Office of Community Affairs, will be the guest speaker.

Your friend and neighbor,



Mohamood Ishmael



Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18
8:00 P. M.

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

Guest Speaker: Police Officer Carleton Epps
105th Community Affairs

FROM
QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 0766
QUEENS VILLAGE, NEW YORK 11428-0766

TIME TO VOTE ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

The 2014 Participatory Budgeting (PB) ballot is ready. The residents of Council District 23, represented by Council Member Mark Weprin, will begin voting on Saturday, March 29. The voting runs through Saturday, April 5. Last year, voters approved six projects for our communities that provided more than \$1 million dollars for improvements for schools, ambulance service, parks, security, and the Queens County Farm Museum. This year, there are 14 projects on the ballot to improve our schools, libraries, community facilities, transportation and public safety, and parks. People can vote for these projects if they live in Council District 23 and are at least 16 years old. Voters must present a valid identification. Each voter may cast five votes, one vote for each project. The projects to be voted on and the places, dates, and hours of voting will be available at this month's meeting. Take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity to improve our community with over \$1million dollars from the NYC budget. For more information, call Council Member Weprin's office at 718-468-0137.

105 PRECINCT FIRST IN CRIME DROP IN NEW YORK CITY

Deputy Inspector Michael Coyle, Commander of the 105th Precinct, has announced that so far this year the 105th Precinct is number one in crime reduction in the 77 numbered police precincts in New York City. Statistics released by the NYPD through February 16 show the precinct down 41.9 percent in major crimes compared to the same period in 2013. Robberies are down more than 51 percent, from 62 to 30, Burglaries are down 68 percent, grand larceny down 33 percent, and auto theft down 25 percent. Coyle said that the theft of auto parts such as tires, rims, and catalytic converters have his officers sounding the alarm. He added that the thieves work like an Indy 500 pit crew and that they deliberately set off car alarms to cover the sounds of the electric saws they use. Coyle wants any suspicious activities around cars, especially in the early morning hours, called in promptly to 911. "Give us a chance to catch them," he said. "When you come out of your home and see your car sitting on cinder blocks you feel violated."

The 105th Precinct covers the communities of Bellerose, Cambria Heights, Floral Park, Glen Oaks, Laurelton, New Hyde Park, Rosedale, Springfield Gardens, and Queens Village.

BLOOD DRIVE BY OUR LADY OF LOURDES OUTREACH PROGRAM

Our Lady of Lourdes Church will be conducting the first blood drive of 2014 on Sunday, May 4, from 8:30 A. M. to 2:00 P. M., in Stewart Hall, located in the church compound at Springfield Boulevard and 93rd Avenue. Coordinator Paul Robison will be at our meeting this month and also at our April meeting if anyone wishes to sign a pledge card to donate. For more information, call 917-613 -5190 or visit probison@aol.com.

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 _____ ZIP _____

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E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CHECK HERE IF NEW MEMBER

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Nagassar Ramgarib Trustee

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our newest members are Vincent Davan, (220 Street) and Barbara Rose (Murdock Avenue). Welcome aboard! 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 of our association, you will receive our newsletter and 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.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Your civic association will hold its annual election of officers at our May 20 meeting. Please give consideration to serving your community in this capacity. You will find the work very interesting and rewarding. Let us know at this month's meeting. Or call us at 718-598-1483.

GETTING RID OF OUR POTHOLES

Extreme wintry weather has pockmarked our streets with many potholes that are a danger to both motorists and pedestrians. The City has repair crews out every day filling thousands of holes. You can help direct the crews by calling 311 to report potholes in your street or neighborhood. Let's do all we can to get rid of these monsters.

DUES DUE

We are asking that you pay your 2014 dues. We need your financial support as well as your moral support. Dues are \$5.00 a year per person. Dues can be paid at our monthly meetings or by mailing your check or money order, payable to the Queens Village Civic Association, to P. O. Box 0766, Queens Village, New York, 11428-0766.

HEAP HELPS PAY HOME HEATING BILLS

HEAP, the Home Energy Assistance Program, can give you help to pay this winter's soaring home heating bills. You may be eligible for this program even if you have money in the bank, stocks, bonds, or other resources. For more information, call 311.

IDENTITY THEFT

Identify theft happens when someone steals your personal information and uses it without your permission. It is a serious crime that can wreck havoc with your finances, credit history, and reputation, and take much of your time, patience, and money to fix. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), our nation's consumer protective agency, has prepared a guide booklet to help you repair the damage that identity theft can cause and reduce the risk of identity theft happening to you. The guide will be available at this month's meeting.

WE NEED NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS

Your civic association needs help to distribute our newsletters to members. It will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to give out the newsletters in your block or immediate vicinity. Our newsletter is published nine times a year. Please call 718-598-1483 if you're interested. Your help is appreciated.

HELP TO COMPLETE YOUR TAXES

If you're having a problem completing your federal income tax return, call the IRS for assistance at 1-800-829-1040. For help on your New York City and New York State income taxes, call 518-457-5181. The service is free. Low and moderate income earners can find local AARP Tax-Aide sites that will help them to complete their taxes without charge at 1-888-227-7669. Federal and state and city tax forms are available at our Queens Village Community Library, located at 94-11 217 Street.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) empowers customers and businesses to ensure a fair and vibrant marketplace. The DCA licenses more than 75,000 businesses in 55 industries. To check if a business is licensed, call 311 or search DCA's Instant License Check at nyc.gov/consumers. DCA also regulates many industries under the Consumer Protection Law, and secures millions of dollars to give back to consumers. It works to resolve conflicts through mediation. If mediation doesn't work, an administrative judge can hear the case or, when necessary, DCA will pursue litigation in State Court. To file a complaint, call 311.

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