

THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

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

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CIRCULATION MANAGER: Chris Trofemuk

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

The City of New York is moving aggressively to implement Mayor Bill de Blasio's signature program, a truly universal pre-kindergarten system that provides every 4 year old with high quality, full day pre-K. With \$300 million in place from the state budget, the city has identified 140 schools across the five boroughs for the new pre-K seats. Parents who want one of those new seats should act fast – the deadline to apply is April 23. City officials have begun sending out notices urging parents to apply. Parents interested in applying for the seats can go to nyc.gov/prek. Seats that aren't at public schools will be placed at community organizations or religious schools. The city still has to choose private operators, and expects to have a list by the end of May. Parents will have more time to sign up for pre-K programs, with the application process lasting through the summer – but will have to apply individually to each program they're interested in.

I hope you voted in Council Member Mark Weprin's participatory budgeting that took place in early April. The result will be announced by the time this newsletter is published. Once again I would like to thank Mr. Weprin for giving the people a voice in how their money is spent, and I am glad to see that more council members are following this trend.

In her 2015 budget request, it is refreshing to see our new Borough President Melinda Katz responding to community needs by including the splitting of the 105th Precinct by creating a new one in the southern section of its coverage area. Community Board 13 and many civic leaders, including our civic, have been calling for an additional Precinct for a very long time. Establishing a new Precinct is a costly endeavor, but the need is well documented so let's keep our hopes up.

On behalf of the QVCA board, I would like to extend special greetings to our neighbors who will be observing Passover and Easter. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meeting on April 15.

Your friend and neighbor,



Mohamood Ishmael



Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 15
8:00 P. M.
Place: Stewart Hall
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Springfield Blvd. & 93rd. Ave.
On the Agenda: Discussion of Community
Problems

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

SPRING CLEANUP

With the coming of spring, we are asking Queens Villagers to maintain their homes and properties well and in compliance with City building and sanitation codes. That means cleaning your property up to 18 inches from the curb, disposing garbage and recyclables properly, keeping lids on your garbage cans (especially on windy days), getting rid of unlicensed cars and materials that are decaying on your property, keeping your lawn neatly cut. The Department of Sanitation is enforcing the 18-inch curb and sidewalk law. (NYC Administrative code 16-118(2). The fine is \$50-\$250. Your compliance with sanitation and building codes will help to keep our environs clean and Queens Village beautiful, improve our quality of life, and save you money.

MAIL-A-BOOK SERVICES

Our Queens Library provides free Mail-a-Book services to homebound residents who have no access to a library due to poor health or disability. The service is available for seniors, adults, young adults, and children. The books are sent free of charge through the mail to the reader. The items will be enclosed in reusable book bags and should be returned in them. Postage paid return labels will also be enclosed. When books are returned to Mail-a-Book, other books are automatically sent out. Mail-a-Book customers are not required to have a library card, but a registration process is necessary. Materials are available in hard cover, paper back, and audio format. Books circulate for 45 days and all items are renewable. For more information about this extraordinary service, please call 718-464-008 or visit our Queens Village Community Library at 94-11 217 Street.

GREEN DOT MONEY PAK CARD SCAM

The NYPD warns us about a telephone scam that is now spreading throughout New York City. The scam targets our elderly residents and immigrant communities.. It is done by using the Green Dot Money Pak Card. The scam starts with a telephone call to your home informing you that you owe money to the IRS or utility companies and that if you don't pay up immediately your electricity and gas will be turned off and you will be deported. They may tell you that a member of your family has been arrested or was in an accident or has been kidnapped and that , if you don't pay a specific amount of money, your loved one may be harmed. The caller will ask you to go to a certain store and purchase a Green Dot Money Pak Card for the money that you owe. He or she will ask you to give the 14-digit serial number on the back of the card, and that's how your money is stolen. These scammers are very forceful and convincing. Remember that no utility company or government or law enforcement agency will ever contact you and ask you for immediate payments on a Green Dot Money Pak Card. If you receive such a scam call, hang up immediately and call 911. For more information, call the 105th Precinct Crime Prevention Officer at 718-776-9207.

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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Financial Secretary Chris Trofemuk

Corresponding Secretary

Sergeant at Arms Thomas Carrington

Gabreilla Krill Trustee

John Stiller Trustee

Nagassar Ramgarib Trustee

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our newest members are Warena Hawes (208 Street), Beverly Layne (Murdock Avenue), and Pascal and Tyrone Parker (108 Avenue). Glad to have you aboard. If you have been thinking about joining us, you can do 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 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 new 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 718-698-1483. Nominations will be closed at the meeting.

FREE HEARING TESTS AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center is sponsoring free speech and hearing screenings through May 12. Please call 718-990-6480 for an appointment and directions. The speech center is located at 152-11 Union Turnpike. The center is also offering free hearing aid service to those who are experiencing difficulty in using their hearing aid.

IMMIGRANT BENEFITS GUIDE AVAILABLE

The 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 assistance 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.

QVCA ANNUAL DINNER AND INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Tickets for our 57th Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers Ceremony on Tuesday evening, June 17, will be available at this month's meeting. The gala affair in Stewart Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church begins at 7:30 P. M. The cost of the buffet dinner is \$12.00 per person for those who pay in advance. Tickets sold at the door on June 17 cost \$15.00. Come and enjoy the delicious food and the good company of your friends and neighbors.

QUEENS FARM MUSEUM EVENTS

The Queens County Farm Museum, located at 73-50 Little Neck Parkway in Floral Park, has these special events scheduled this month.

The Children's Carnival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6 and April 12 and 13, from 11:00 A. M. to 6:00 P. M. Enjoy carnival rides, midway games and prizes, hayrides, and children's entertainment. Tours of the historic farmhouse will be offered and food will be available. Admission is \$11.00 per person. (All carnival rides are included at no extra charge.) Height rules apply at all rides.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 12:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M., in the farm's orchard. Egg hunts will be ongoing throughout the day. Bunny "Whiskers" will be hopping around the farm to greet the children. You can dance the "Bunny Hop," play egg and toss rolling games on the front lawn, visit the animals, and take a hay ride. Tours of the farmhouse will be available. Admission is \$5.00 per person.

The 35th Annual Auto Show will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 11:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Start your engines for this exhibit of classic cars by the New York Antique Auto Club. Automobile memorabilia, historic farmhouse tours, and food will be available. Admission: Adults: \$5.00. Children: \$2.00 (12 and under).

For more information about these events, please call 718-347-3276.

DUES DUE

We are notifying you in this newsletter if your dues are due. You can pay your dues at our monthly meetings or by mailing your check or money order of \$5.00 to the Queens Village Civic Association, P.O. Box 0766, Queens Village, N.Y., 11428. We gratefully appreciate your support.

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