

# THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014

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

EDITOR: Joseph Nickischer

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Chris Trofemuk

Our E-Mail address is: [qvca@qvca.org](mailto:qvca@qvca.org)

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

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Neighbors,

Spring is here with all its variation in weather and temperature. Let us enjoy it as we prepare for the summer and various outdoor activities.

Beginning in September 2014, the Martin Van Buren High School building will host The Business Technology Early College High School (B-Tech), a six-year Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. The school is designed for students to graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate's degree in either computer systems or internet technology, which they earn by taking free colleges classes at Queens Borough Community College. The school partners with SAP, a multinational company that develops business management software. This is a positive development for our community, and parents need to take advantage of this opportunity by having their kids apply for admission.

We applaud Mayor de Blasio's sweeping plan to create or preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing over 10 years. The heart of the plan would require developers to set aside a percentage of units for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers in exchange for zoning changes allowing taller buildings and greater density. The administration also wants to legalize some illegal basement apartments, seek state approval for more rent-stabilized apartments, and launch programs to turn hundreds of vacant lots into affordable housing developments. Civic organizations, including our civic, have a long history of opposing using basements as living quarters because of the unsafe nature of these areas and the congestion it will create.

Please show up at Veterans Park Plaza on the corner of Springfield Boulevard and Jamaica Avenue on Memorial Day, May 26, and pay tribute to and honor our veterans for their selfless service and dedication. (See article on page 2).

Also, please remember to purchase your tickets for our June 17 installation dinner. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meeting on May 20.

Your friend and neighbor,



Mohamood Ishmael



Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 20  
8:00 P. M.  
Place: Stewart Hall  
Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Springfield Blvd. & 93<sup>rd</sup>. Ave.  
On the Agenda: Discussion of Community  
Problems

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



## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES IN OUR TOWN



American Legion Post 301 and its Auxiliary will conduct Memorial Day services on Monday, May 26, at 11:00 P. M., in Queens Village Veterans Plaza, located at the intersection of Jamaica Avenue and Springfield Boulevard. Our fallen and living war veterans will be honored. We must never forget them and the sacrifices they made for us, many of them giving their lives to preserve our freedom and our way of life. Please come and bring your family and friends. Our elected officials will be in attendance. Your civic will be placing a commemorative wreath at the Veterans Monument there. After the service, refreshments will be served at the legion's headquarters in the Creedmoor Campus, on Winchester Boulevard, Building 73, by the rear parking lot.

## RESULTS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Our Council Member Mark Weprin has announced the results of the district-wide public vote to decide how one million dollars from the City budget will be spent in the communities of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council District. The vote was the culmination of Council District 23's participatory budgeting process, a program that Council Member Weprin initiated in Eastern Queens. The community developed a list of project proposals, and 1,888 residents voted. The projects with the most votes will become part of this year's City budget. The voter turnout this year was 70 percent higher than last year.

The winning projects are: Smart Boards at five schools ( PS 33Q, IS 109Q, PS/IS 266Q, Benjamin N. Cardozo High School, and Queens High School of Teaching), fitness walk and exercise loop at Cunningham Park, portable security cameras (at locations to be determined by the NYPD), technology upgrades at two schools (PS 135Q and PS 18Q), and security upgrades at three libraries (Fresh Meadows, Hollis, and Windsor Park.)

Last fall, Council Member Weprin held a series of public meetings, called Neighborhood Assemblies, at which residents offered hundreds of ideas on how to spend the million dollars. Then, community members who volunteer to serve as budget delegates worked in committees for three months to turn the project ideas into full proposals that were vetted by the relevant City agencies before they were listed on the ballot. The public vote and the announcement of the winning projects were the culmination of the months-long process.

For more information or to participate in Participatory Budgeting, call Council Member Mark Weprin's office at 718-468-0137.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE IF NEW MEMBER

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 Gabreilla Krill . . . . . Trustee  
 John Stiller . . . . . Trustee  
 Nagassar Ramgarib . . . . . Trustee

## **OUR MEMBERSHIP**

Our newest members are David Gerdes (Jamaica Avenue) and Reverend Marianne Tomecek (217 Street). Welcome aboard! You can join our association at our monthly meetings or by using the membership application form in this newsletter. Dues are \$5.00 a year person. As a member, 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.

## **LET'S TAKE THE TIME TO COMBAT THE WEST NILE VIRUS**

Mosquitoes and the potentially deadly West Nile Virus will soon be in season. Do everything you can to eliminate standing water from your property to guard against mosquito infestation. That means disposing of empty cans, uncapped plastic and glass bottles, or similar water collecting vessels. Remove discarded tires as they are the Number One fertile breeding places for mosquitoes. If not in use, keep pools covered. Drain water from pool covers and turn over wadding pools when not in use. Change water in bird baths every three or four days. If you have questions about the West Nile Virus, call the New York City Department of Health at 800-698-9411 or the New York State Health Department. 800-458-1158.

## **QUEENS BAPTIST CHURCH CONDUCTS FREE COMMUNITY HEALTH DAY**

The Queens Baptist Church, located at 93-23 217th Street, (corner of 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue) will sponsor a Community Health Day on Saturday, May 17, from 10:00 A. M. to 3:00 P.M. Health screenings will be done for blood pressure, vision, dental care, diabetes, foot care, sickle cell, HIV. Information will be available on fire safety, health insurance, nutrition, home health care, planned parenthood, abuse assistance, SNAP. Free refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Department of Sanitation now accepts for recycling all rigid plastics, including toys, hangers, bottles, and food containers.

## **QVCA ANNUAL DINNER AND INSTALLATION CEREMONY**

Tickets for our 57<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **CITY TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICE**

Homeowners of 1, 2, and 3 family homes whose sidewalks are uplifted by the roots of a City tree can now apply to the City to repair the sidewalk at no cost to the homeowner. To apply for the program, call 311 or our State Senator Tony Avella at 718-357-3094. Once the City's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) receives a complaint, they will inspect the site, and inspectors will rate the damage and qualify and quantify it. Ratings are based on the seriousness of the damage, and repairs are made according to severity. This is now a pilot program. Senator Avella has introduced legislation in Albany to codify the program into law and ensure that co-ops and condos are included.

## **CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD'S FAIR IN FLUSHING**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1964-1965 World's Fair in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park will be celebrated on Sunday, May 18, in the park from from 1:00 P. M. to 8:00 P. M. The events include a concert by the Queens Symphony Orchestra and fireworks. There will be additional programs in the park during the summer celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and also the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1939-1940 World's Fair.

## **FREE DIGITAL MAMMOGRAMS**

Free digital mammograms will be given at Council Member Mark Weprin's office at 73-03 Bell Boulevard on Thursday, June 12. Screenings are by appointment only. Call Amanda at 212-788-6984 to make an appointment. The Clinic Mobile Van will be parked in front of Weprin's office. The American Italian Cancer Foundation is a co-sponsor.

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Council Member **Mark S. Weprin**

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Telephone: (718) 468-0137  
Facsimile: (718) 468-0178  
E-mail: MWeprin@Council.NYC.gov  
Office Hours  
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