

THE QUEENS VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2016

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Queens Villagers,

So far the year 2016 has been full of surprises: 50 degrees today and a blizzard snowfall a few days later. I hope that everyone recovered from the record snowfall of 29 plus inches. E-mails are the best and fastest method of communication when the weather causes cancellation of activities and meetings. I again urge you to enroll for our e-mail messaging and e-mail delivery of our newsletter.

We of the Queens Village Civic Association lost a "Dear Friend" and colleague with the passing of Amelia Kent last October in Advance, North Carolina. She was 96 when she died. Amelia was very strong and opinionated in fighting quality of life infractions in our civic area. Yet she was gentle and a sweetheart to work with. She served with distinction as President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Trustee of the Queens Village Civic Association. I miss her dearly. I pray for her soul to rest in peace.

A very disturbing development from our neighbors in Nassau County: Their elected officials are poised to locate 1,000 Video Lottery Terminals (VLT) for betting (gambling) in Parking Lot A in Belmont Park. They project to raise \$20 million yearly from this venture. Given Nassau County's record of political corruption with OTB, this will be another place for cronies and political operatives and another failed venture. If they succeed in locating these VLT machines at Belmont, full casino gambling is the future for Belmont Park. The adjoining Villages of Elmont and Floral Park are up in arms against the proposal because of the added traffic. New York City will not share any proceeds from the betting site, although we in Queens Village and other Queens communities located near Belmont Park endure many traffic problems during the racing season and the June Belmont Stakes, which closes Hempstead Avenue except for emergencies.

Our State Senator Tony Avella has sponsored several bills to make Albany more voter friendly. We will provide copies of the bills and discuss them with you at this month's meeting.

Keep warm, stay dry, and, weather permitting, I will see you at our February 16 meeting.

Your friend and neighbor,



Nagassar (Ram) Ramgarib



Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 16
8:00 P. M.
Place: Stewart Hall
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Springfield Blvd. & 93rd. Ave.
On the Agenda Bills sponsored by Senator
Tony Avella

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

IRS SCAM

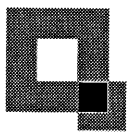
It's income tax time, and the scammers are off and running to steal your money by posing as IRS Agents, making threatening telephone calls to inform you that you owe unpaid tax money that must be paid immediately or you will be jailed or lose your home. The IRS wants you to know this:

- IRS will never call a taxpayer to demand immediate payment of taxes nor will the agency call about taxes before first mailing a bill.
- IRS will never demand that a taxpayer pay taxes without giving him or her the opportunity to appeal the amount claimed to be owed.
- IRS will never ask for a credit or debit card number over the telephone to pay taxes and will never require the taxpayer to use a specific method to pay taxes.
- IRS will never threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to arrest you for not paying taxes.

If you receive such a threatening scammer's call, hang up to shut him or her up. They do not deserve your courtesy. Then call the Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484 in Washington, DC. Let's turn the tables and put these brutal crooks in jail.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT

For information on where to get flu shots, speak to your doctor or call 311. 311 will provide the names of pharmacies in your area that give the flu shot or flu nasal spray. Some of the pharmacies give them free. The flu is a viral respiratory disease that usually strikes in the winter and can be fatal.



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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 \$10.00 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.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

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718-598-1483

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OUR MEMBERSHIP

We enrolled 177 members during our last civic year that ended on December 31, 2015. If you've 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 \$10.00 a year per person. As a member, you will receive our newsletter and have our support 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.

HELP TO COMPLETE YOUR TAXES

More than 6,500 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide sites nationwide offer free help in preparing and filing federal, state, and local tax returns. The confidential program serves low-to-moderate tax payers of all ages, with special attention given to those 60 and over. With over 35,000 volunteers, Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service. To find a Tax-Aide site nearest you, call 1-88-227-7669 or visit aarp.org.

Our Queens Village Community Library, located at 94-11 217th Street, has tax forms. Call 718-776-6800 to find out library hours.

HELP WITH SNOW REMOVAL

If you are over 60 years of age or disabled and cannot remove snow from your sidewalks, call 311 for help. The New York City Volunteer Snow Assistance Program provides shovelers on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

To avoid fines, you must remove snow from your sidewalk within four hours after the snow has stopped falling or by 11:00 A. M. if the snow stops falling after 9:00 P. M. the previous evening.

FIND YOUR LOST MONEY

New York State is holding more than \$14 billion in unclaimed money from forgotten bank accounts, investment companies, insurance plans, utilities, and many other businesses. The average find is \$50.00 to \$100.00, but recently a family found \$4 million. To find out if you have money due, call 800-221-9311 or visit ocs.state.ny.us. One of our members made the call and found money.

CALL YOUR FRIEND AT 311

Since March of 2003, Call 311, which accesses New York City's Citizen's Service Center, has been in full operation. This free customer service hotline helps New Yorkers to obtain vital information and quickly find the right agency to handle their particular problems or complaints. The line is staffed by over 200 trained "call agents" who speak the many languages of our city. It is open 24/7.

311 was founded to save New Yorkers the hassle of being bounced from city agency to city agency until they find the right office. The call agents will be able to not only refer your call to the appropriate agency, but they have the expertise to answer questions themselves so that you don't have to explain your problem over and over. And your quality of life complains--such as excessive noise, blocked driveways, illegal housing construction, sanitation code violations, illegal truck traffic, posting of illegal signs--will be given a tracking number in case follow up is needed. Let's all use this extraordinary service to help improve our quality of life.

105TH PRECINCT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the 105th Precinct Community Council will be held on Wednesday, February 24, in the precinct located at 92-08 222nd Street in Queens Village. Our local police will be there to give reports and statistics on crime in our community. They will answer your questions about safety and you will be given the opportunity to make complaints.

The 105th Precinct Community Council does not charge dues. Their meetings are open to all. They need your financial support to publish their newsletter and to send out mailings. Please send your donations to the 105th Precinct Community Council, 92-08 222nd Street, Queens Village, New York, 11428.

BOOT CAMP AT OUR LIBRARY

This total body workout, with instructor Kiersten Clay, addresses muscle strength and endurance while keeping the heart rate up to burn calories and improve cardiovascular health. Workouts will be held at our Queens Village Community Library, 94-11 217th Street, on Thursdays at 6:00 P. M. through May 19. Admission is free. Space is limited. Wear loose clothing and sneakers, and bring a bottle of water and a towel.



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