

Rocky Hill Civic Association Bulletin

..... proudly serving the community for more than 80 years

Practice "Random Acts of Kindness". It will make this a better community

Website: rockyhillcivicassociation.com

November 2008 Bulletin

**Rocky Hill Civic
Association(RHCA)**

Email, phone or send
updates, suggestions and
questions to:

88-19 Billings St.
Bellerose Manor, N.Y.
11427-2646

Phone: (718) 465-3608
Email: rhca@nyc.rr.com

Please mail dues to:

RHCA attn: Marie
deAngelis
80-35 236th St.
Bellerose Manor, N.Y.
11427-2123

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Bernard Aquilino

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday November 18th at 7:30 P.M.

Location: P.S. 18 on 235th Court

(Between Hillside Ave. and 88th Ave.)

**Speakers: Corey Bearak
President, Queens Civic Congress**

**Inspector Paul H. Piekarski
105th Precinct**

Corey Bearak as president of the Queens Civic Congress, the umbrella organization for our civic organization and all others in Queens, is a wealth of information about civic and local government affairs. Please bring your questions.

Inspector Paul H. Piekarski will tell us about efforts to lower crime in our area and will also be available to listen to your complaints and concerns.

We strongly urge our membership to come to our meetings and actively participate in your local civic organization. Democracy is more than just voting, it entails your input and involvement. We work hard to provide interesting and informative speakers, please join us.



Thanksgiving Day Turkey Raffle For All in Attendance

We had deferred our monthly meeting from the normal 2nd Tuesday of the month until the third Tuesday since P.S. 18 was closed for **Veteran's Day**. We thank our veterans for their sacrifice and honor them for their service.

President's Message:

On the front cover I wrote about involvement in our community. The Board and I have worked hard to do what we can to make this a better community and to help maintain the value of the homes in our community. We monitor complaints, initiate projects to beautify and run membership meetings with informative and interesting speakers. Last month Assemblymember Mark Weprin was our guest speaker. He provided excellent comments on term limits and insights into efforts to improve our education system. Our speakers this coming month should be equally informative and interesting. If you want to know what is being done to keep you and your family safe, Inspector Paul H. Piekarski will be at our meeting to answer that question. You will have the chance to voice your concerns. Corey Bearak will also be speaking, bringing his wealth of knowledge about city government and Queens civic happenings.

It is no secret that we are coming upon some hard economic times. New York has not been hit as badly as many other areas of the country at this time. However, most agree that the financial sector will be hit hard and that will affect us greatly. It is times like this that we need those in our community more than ever. Please come down and join us. It will make our civic organization stronger which in turn will make it more effective in serving our community.

Fall Leaf Pickup

Please note that there is a major change in the collection of fall leaves. There will be no separate pickup of leaves this year due to the tough financial times. In the past, the leaves that were collected separate from other garbage were turned into compost which in turn was returned to New York City residents. This will not occur this year. You can simply place your leaves out with the rest of your garbage. No special bags are needed. **Above all, please clean up your leaves in a timely fashion, leaves left on the ground can cause accidents and clog drains.**

The New Rocky Hill Civic Association Banner has at last been delivered and will be on display for the members of our association at this meeting and all our meetings in the future. We are proud to display a colorful banner that represents our community.

Fines have been raised to \$250 for not cleaning up after your pet. It was just last year that the fines had been raised to \$200. Clearly the City of New York is looking to raise revenue in these tough economic times. Nevertheless, you should always clean up after your pet because it is the right thing to do and in consideration of your neighbors and community.

Our speaker for the December 9th Meeting will be Mr. Laurence McClean, District Manager for Community Board 13Q. The December meeting is also our **Annual Holiday Party**. There will be raffles of many gifts from our local merchants, food and beverages. It is an event you do not want to miss.

SNAP, Services Now for Adult Persons, is located in our community at 80-45 Winchester Blvd. Building 4, CBU 29 on the Creedmoor Campus. The phone number is 718-454-2100 and the office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

This wonderful organization has been providing, meals, counseling, educational services and other assistance for the past 29 years. If you are in need of their services we urge you to contact them. If you know of all their good work, we urge you to support them. They are an organization our Association is proud to have supported for many years. Contributions can be sent to:

Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc.

Building # 4, CBU # 29

80-45 Winchester Blvd.

Queens Village, N.Y. 11427

If Liberty and Equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will best be attained when all persons alike share in government to the utmost
Aristotle

Beautification of our community was undertaken by members of the RHCA association. Daffodil bulbs were planted in the median all along Union Turnpike from the Grand Central Parkway almost up to Winchester Boulevard. Contributing to the effort were RHCA Board members Marie de Angelis, Suwarna Rambukpotha and Jesse Vukich along with RHCA member Josette Jean Baptiste.

Winter is almost upon us. It is time to put away all the lawn chairs, tables and other items or pieces of furniture we have used to help us enjoy the good weather. Leaving these items out to the elements will only hasten their destruction but when left out they can serve as an attraction to thieves, vandals, and persons who will treat them as their local park bench.

Democracy and Voter Turnout

In 1960 we had a 63.1% voter turnout rate for people of voting age. In recent history it was only a little over 50% and in 1996 dropped down to 49.1%. These statistics are from presidential election years. The non-presidential election years were much worse, often not much better than 36%. This year, our early statistics indicate about a 64.1 % voter turnout rate. It is an improvement but we still have a long way to go before we can consider ourselves a vibrant democracy where all citizens partake in this government of, for and by the people.

Congratulations to the elected officials who serve our area on their re-election. Congressman Gary Ackerman, Assembly Member Mark Weprin, and Assembly Member Barbara Clark. As of this writing, Senator Frank Padavan holds a slim lead over Councilman James Gennaro. We have also witnessed the historic election of our first African American President. We wish him well and hope and trust that he will guide our great country and help bring it peace and prosperity.

Home owner rebate has been cancelled. All homeowners had been promised a \$400 rebate on the increased taxes we had paid. Unfortunately, due to the financial crisis the Mayor has cancelled it.

Dues collections for the Rocky Hill Civic Association now stands at 265 homes for 2008. This is down significantly from the well over 300 homes that contributed in 2007. Last year we had received additional funding to help us raise dues collections and participation in our civic association. The efforts were quite successful but without the additional effort dues contribution levels have once again diminished. I ask all those members who have not contributed their dues for 2008 to do so before the end of the year. All the work we do is for the whole community and it should be supported by the whole community not just by some.

Rocky Hill Civic Association, Inc. -- Annual \$5.00 Dues Drive Receipt for 2008

Name..... Email.....

Address..... Phone.....

Please make your check Payable to: **Rocky Hill Civic Association** and mail it with this coupon to:

RHCA Attn: Marie deAngelis, 80-35 236th Street, Bellerose Manor, N.Y. 11427-2123

I am interested in becoming a RHCA Board or Committee Member or would like to volunteer for a Special project. Yes No We will contact you to discuss volunteer opportunities.

