

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

December 2009 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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Gene Foster

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Craig Frey

President Emeritus
Bernard Aquilino

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS

Tuesday Dec. 8th at 7:30 P.M.

Location: P.S. 18 on 235th Court

(Between Hillside Ave. and 88th Ave

Featured Guest Speaker:

New York State Senator Frank Padavan



Annual Holiday Celebration

Free Refreshments ~ Raffles ~ Merriment

Join us for the annual **Holiday Celebration**. It is a great chance to take a break, get together with your neighbors and relax for a while.

- **Free Food and Refreshments**
- **Raffle –Gift Certificates from local merchants—over 30 prizes**
If you have a favorite local merchant please ask them to donate a gift certificate. They can support their community while introducing new customers to their products and/or services.

Holiday Greetings to All

Both the **Officers and the Rocky Hill Civic Association Board of Directors** extend their wishes for a joyous Holiday Season as our members, friends and families gather to celebrate in keeping with treasured traditions. May the spirit of this loving time extend throughout the coming year for you and your family. We wish you a healthy New Year and we look forward to serving the community once again. We hope that you join with us in helping to make this a safer, cleaner, and more beautiful community in which to live.

President's Message:

In last month's issue when I thanked all those who contribute, I mentioned the various Board Members and Officers and then the various volunteers. I do need to mention some of the volunteers a little more specifically. Special thanks to **Lynn Lodato** for her work in maintaining our website. Thanks to our many **Block Captains** who distribute the bulletins. By my last count, we have at least 30 people who actively contribute to the workings of our association. That is an impressive number and is a reason we have remained an active and viable organization.

Welcome to our newest Block Captain, **Barbara Negron** of Sabre Street.

Thanks to **Gene Foster** for his many years of service to RHCA. Gene was a Board member and Program Director, who recently resigned from the Rocky Hill Civic Association Board after many years of service. We are grateful to both Gene and his wife Carol for their work in setting up refreshments at our meetings.

Important Community Meetings:

Besides the Rocky Hill Civic Association meetings there are other community meetings that are open to residents in our area. Our local precinct, the **105th precinct**, has a monthly meeting where any resident can go and register complaints on safety or quality of life issues. Most often you will have a chance to speak directly with the commander of the 105, currently Deputy Inspector Piekarski.

The other community meeting that may be of interest is the monthly **Community Board 13Q** meetings. At the beginning of each meeting there is an open forum for members of the community to raise issues. The Community Board is an advisory Board, so it does not have the power to make changes, but it is the Board that represents the constituents of our area and intercedes with city agencies to ensure delivery of services. These meetings can be held at different locations but we are fortunate since many are held close by at the Assembly of God church located at 240-15 Hillside Ave:

Details of upcoming meetings are below:

105th Precinct Community Council:

Meeting Location: 105th Precinct located at 92-08 222nd Street, Phone: 718-776-9090
Date and Time: Last Wednesday of every month (except July and August) at 8:00 P.M.

Community Board 13Q:

Meeting Location: Movable locations—the next two meetings will be at Bellerose Assembly of God Church located at 240-15 Hillside Ave.
Date and Time: Each month (except July and August) on Monday evenings beginning at 7:15pm. Next meeting is December 21st.

Illegal Apartments:

The president emeritus of the Rocky Hill Civic Association, Bernard Aquilino, shared with me a letter he had written regarding illegal apartments. I think it clearly states the dangers they present to not only occupants of that household but to other neighbors as well. Below is the reprint.

“As a former civic president in Queens I have tried for many years to report Illegal Apartments in one, two and three family homes in vain. It seems that if the home owner denies entrance, the inspector cannot inspect the premises. It is about time that the Fire Department has the authority to gain entrance to these homes. They are death traps for the tenants, and also for firefighters. (Re: The Bronx apartment when firefighters lost their lives because rooms were walled off in violation of the building codes). Every few weeks we hear of another fire in an illegal basement apartment that kills a person or family. Our semi-suburban homes are fraught with these violations. They tax our services, facilities and they don't pay taxes on their illegal earnings and real estate taxes as well. This shouldn't be allowed to continue. How many more can they let perish.”

Please read page three of this bulletin on Fire Safety Tips.

Fire Safety in the Home:

At our last meeting, a Fire Safety Officer from the New York City Fire Department spoke about fire safety in the home and distributed free smoke detectors to those in attendance. It was an important and informative talk so I have decided to reprint some of the information in this bulletin, especially since there are special concerns during the winter and holiday seasons:

Winter and Holiday Fire Safety

- ❖ Always have a qualified technician install all equipment.
- ❖ Schedule regular cleaning of your boiler, furnace, or hot water heater, including chimney.
- ❖ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of fireplaces—and have them inspected every year.
- ❖ If you are buying an artificial Christmas tree make sure it is labeled fire retardant.
- ❖ If buying a real Christmas tree, test for freshness—if a branch snaps easily or if needles fall off excessively then it is not fresh. Make sure you check the water level daily. Unplug tree lights when out of the room.

Electrical Home Safety

- ❖ Use light bulbs with appropriate wattage. Do not overload electrical outlets.
- ❖ Do not use appliances with damaged cords. Do not run cords under carpets, don't hang from nails. If an outlet is unusually hot to the touch, disconnect the plug and contact an electrician.
- ❖ Don't leave cooking food in the kitchen unattended. Wear short or tight fitting sleeves.
- ❖ Do not use water to put out a stove fire. It could cause splashing and spread the fire. Keep a lid handy to smother the fire or use baking soda.

Smoke Alarms

- ❖ Install only smoke alarms that have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark.
- ❖ Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling, preferably in the center of the room—not less than 4 inches from a wall—if installed on a wall, it must be placed 4-12 inches from the ceiling. Alarms should be placed on each floor of your house, including the basement.

Plan Your Fire Escape

- ❖ Plan your escape route in advance with everyone in your home
- ❖ Have a Fire Drill and practice this with everyone in your home. Assign who is responsible for waking your child? Don't stop for possessions and practice crawling low on hands and knees below the smoke. Agree on a meeting place outside the house to ensure you are all out safely.

Flu Symptoms?

You can now call 311 and talk to a nurse. Or for more information on vaccinations or treatment you can go to the New York City Website <http://nyc.gov/>.

Rocky Hill Civic Association, Inc. -- Annual \$5.00 Dues Drive Receipt for 2009

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.