

# **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**

**May 2009 Bulletin**

**Rocky Hill Civic  
Association(RHCA)**

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President Emeritus

**Bernard Aquilino**

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS BEING HELD  
ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**Wednesday May 13th at 7:30 P.M.**

**Location: P.S. 18 on 235<sup>th</sup> Court**

(Between Hillside Ave. and 88<sup>th</sup> Ave.)

**SPEAKER: Pamela Glazer  
NYC Department of Housing,  
Preservation and Development**

**Topic: Preserving and Protecting Your Home**

**Invited: Homeowners and Renters**

**Some of the topics that will be discussed:**

- Foreclosures
- Mortgages and Interest Rates
- Mortgage Fraud
- Predatory Lending
- Property Values—Effects of Foreclosure on them
- Real Estate Taxes and Assessed Valuation
- Enforcement of Building Codes and Regulations
- Down-zoning and Zoning Variations
- Theft of Real Estate through Illegal Alteration of Deeds
- What renters should know about foreclosure and how it affects them

**Free Coffee, Tea, Cakes 50-50 Raffle**

**Free Magnets, Handouts and Brochures**



**HONOR MEMORIAL DAY**

**Thank a veteran for your freedom**

*HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY*

## **President's Message:**

Earlier this year I decided to invite the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development to speak at our civic membership meeting. I had a sense that although the issue of foreclosures had not yet hit our area heavily, that the problem would only grow worse as the unemployment rate continued to go up in our area. They were able to schedule for our May meeting.

Foreclosure is a problem that can affect all of us in our community. Whenever there is a foreclosure on your block property values go down. Empty homes breed nothing but problems. On April 14<sup>th</sup> the New York Times ran an article entitled "Prosecutions Lag as N.Y. Foreclosure Frauds Surge". The article details the fact that as early as the year 2000 the Department of Housing and Urban Development declared the City a foreclosure fraud "hot zone". In 2005, the National Consumer Law Center wrote a report, "Dreams Foreclosed: The Rampant Theft of American Homes Through Equity-Stripping Foreclosure Rescue Scams", warning that the F.B.I. and local prosecutors remained dangerously understaffed in this fight. Bank robbers average less than \$2000 a robbery and face a 75% chance of being caught. A mortgage fraud ring walks away with hundreds of thousands of dollars per house and run little risk of arrest. Please make every effort to attend this presentation as it is an issue that can seriously affect everyone in our community.

Our association was happy to present last month's speakers who talked about the 2010 census and the National Children's study which will be conducted in our area. Once again, both are important topics that affect our area. I only wish that the attendance at these meetings would grow. We need an active membership to keep our community strong. If you have suggestions for speakers you would like to hear from or if you have issues to be addressed, please contact us at the phone number, address, or email address on the front cover. I would love to have the whole community involved.

# ***COMMUNITY***



### **Birth Announcement:**

**Thomas and Candace Garret** of Winchester Blvd. proudly announce the arrival of their grandson **Ian Thomas on March 24, 2009**. Ian was born 9 lbs and 7 oz. 22 inches. Ian is the little brother of Alex and the second son of Ellen and Matt Petrangelo who live in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

### **Bus Shelter:**

Our request for a bus shelter for Union Tnpke and 232<sup>nd</sup> Street has been denied. The reason given is that the sidewalk is too narrow. We disagree but have initially been told there is no appeal. We will keep you updated.

### **Greenstreets:**

Frank Toner, Bernard Aquilino, and Linda Gritsch met on Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> with Michael Meric, a Landscape Architect for the City of New York Parks & Recreation, to discuss Greenstreet Projects along the median of Winchester Boulevard. Part of the project would also result in a sign to identify our community as Bellerose Manor. Updates will follow.

### **Star Rebate:**

A recent correspondence from Assemblymember Mark Weprin's office clarified the status of the various tax exemptions and abatements that New York State offers. STAR, Enhanced STAR, Veterans, Senior Citizens, and Disabled programs all remain in effect. The 2009-2010 budget discontinues the Middle Class STAR rebate program, under which many homeowners receive rebate checks in the mail. For additional information contact his office 718-428-7900.

### **Condolences:**

Condolences to the friends and family of Mr. Michael Jankowski of Sabre Street. He passed away this past March.

### **E train Alert**

From 12:01 am Sat. to 5 am. Mon. May 9-11, the E train will be rerouted when traveling to Manhattan. For more information go to [mta.info](http://mta.info).



