



July 2009

"The Guardian of Woodhaven"

Established 1972 - In Our 38th Year

Welcome!

The Woodhaven Residents' Block Association (WRBA) would like to welcome residents to our new newsletter. Beginning this month the WRBA has expanded our newsletter to include more useful and enjoyable information and returned to hand delivery for 6,000 households.

With funding limited we apologize in advance for those who do not receive the newsletter directly. We have made arrangements with certain Jamaica Ave storefronts to have the newsletter available by the weekend before our open meetings.

If you would like to have the newsletter mailed to your home for the cost of postage. Please contact our office.

Recent Neighborhood Headlines

- Queens' best secret denied landmarking- Richmond Hill recently named a top urban/suburban community by "This Old House" (Queens Chronicle; Lisa Fogarty; 7/2)
- Seminerio seat scramble in 38AD- three local citizens have expressed interest in seat (Courier Sun; Victor G. Mimoni; 7/2)
- State Senator Addabbo announces stimulus funding for Queens transportation (Forum Newsgroup; 7/2)
- A little more, despite tough economic times- Councilwoman Crowley comfortable with budget passed by City Council (Queens Ledger; Daniel Bush; 7/2)

Last Month's Highlights

Last month scheduled guests Rene Herrera, Park Manager for Forest Park, and Rebecca Alibatya and Vilma Daza from the Woodhaven Branch of the Queens Library spoke about their summer programs.

In addition we had Steve Addonissio from State Senator Joseph Addabbo's office fill us in on current legislative matters and the recent upheaval in Albany.

Councilman Eric Ulrich from the 32nd Council District made an unscheduled visit to discuss, among other issues, the recent NYC budget deliberations and the cancellation of planned firehouse closings.

Also in attendance were District Manager Community Board #6, Frank Gulluscio, candidate for the 32nd Council District seat, and District Leader Lew Simon.

Photo of the Month



The first numbered home in Queens County, right here in Woodhaven.

Meeting Round-Up

Next WRBA Meeting: July 15th at 8PM
 Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps @ 78-15 Jamaica Avenue
 Speaker/Topic: David Quintana / Nature's Silent Gift - The Ridgewood Reservoir

Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation: No Summer Meetings
 St Thomas the Apostle Parish House @ 87-08 88th Avenue

102nd Precinct Community Council: No Summer Meetings
 Moose Hall @ 87-14 118th Street

Community Board #9: No Summer Meetings
 Call (718) 286-2686 for Location of Meeting

Town Trivia

What is now Woodhaven began in the mid-1700s as a small town that revolved around farming. The first European settlements here were Dutch and comprised the Ditmar, Lott, Wyckoff, Suydam and Snediker families.

One of the greatest battles from the American Revolutionary War took place near Woodhaven, just west of present-day Forest Park, and in part of the original parcel of land purchased by John R. Pitkin in the early 19th century.

A Connecticut Yankee, Pitkin developed the eastern area of his land as a workers' village and named it Woodville (1835). In 1853, he launched the town's first newspaper, which folded following tough economic times. The few inhabitants voted to change the name of the village to Woodhaven on July 30, 1853.

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President's Corner

Greetings friends and neighbors. I've had the privilege of serving as President of the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association since December of 2007. When I first joined the WRBA I wasn't sure what to expect. Woodhaven had quality of life issues like many neighborhoods do. For the most part, we were a sleepy little village in the middle of NYC.

My approach has always been you can learn a lot from people and that you never have all the answers, no matter how smart you think you are. So for the first few years on the WRBA Board I sat, listened and observed.

What I observed were a group of volunteers who were committed to making Woodhaven a safe and quiet place to live. A place where you invested in your home and your family. Where folks swept their sidewalks while talking with their neighbors. It was evident that these people really cared about what went on around them.

So you know what they say, if it's not broke, don't fix it. So my most challenging job as President has been how do we use that incredible base to move forward.

With this new newsletter we hope to put a more polished and forward thinking look on our organization while still sticking to our core values.

We want Woodhaven to be a fun and fulfilling place to live. So in the coming months and years we will be introducing programs and efforts designed for community involvement. Fun stuff. Because why should we at the WRBA have all the fun. (Vance B. Barbour)

Groovy Links

Project Woodhaven
www.ProjectWoodhaven.com

A home-grown website launched in October of 2008 dedicated to all things Woodhaven.

Woodhaven Business Improvement District
www.WoodhavenBid.com

Garden Photo Contest

The WRBA is happy to announce the 2009 Woodhaven Garden Photo Contest. We ask that all residents who are proud of their gardens, whether big or small, potted or planted, send us your best photos.

Make them good shots and mail or e-mail them to our office. No more than three per submission, please. Give us your name, address and phone number so that we can confirm receipt of the photos and ownership of the garden. At our August 2009 meeting we will display the winners. Please send all photos by August 7th.

The Grand Prize is a \$100 gift certificate to C. Verdino & Sons Garden Center, one of our proud sponsors. Second Prize will be a \$50 certificate. Third Prize will receive a framed and matted photo of their garden. All winners will receive a "Community Pride" certificate.

We would like this program to catch on so please tell every Woodhaven resident you know so they can get in on the celebration of beautiful gardens in our community.

New on ProjectWoodhaven.com

Woodhaven On The Air!
Our first live call-in radio show!

4th of July Coverage
Fireworks and band music

1941 Tour of Woodhaven
See vintage pics of Jamaica Avenue

Remembering Matthew
Our Community Honors a 4-Year Old Hero

Seuffert: Behind The Shell
Behind Woodhaven's Famous Bandshell

102nd Precinct - Cops of the Month for June 2009
"Fantastic Teamwork All Around"

Elvis Spotted In Forest Park!
Concert Opens Forest Park Summer Series

For Political Buzz, The WRBA Is The Place to Be
Local Election Season is on the Horizon

Summer's Here . . . And So Is The Noise!
Woodhaven's # 1 Quality of Life Issue

Eye on Local Business

New stores and businesses have opened in our Woodhaven Business Improvement District on Woodhaven's Jamaica Avenue from Dexter Court to 100th Street.

Joining the new Avenue Diner Restaurant and the Cordon Bleu, our new catering hall, right next door now is the new under \$5-Store (part of the Dollar Tree Corporation). Also the Gourmet Deli and the New "Sam's" on 87th Street.

Shop the many new and established stores and businesses on your Jamaica Avenue, where we are "Taking Care of BIDness." The Woodhaven Business Improvement District Website is www.WoodhavenBID.com.

Our 102nd Precinct

Woodhaven's Beat Officer is P.O. Ioel and he can be reached at (718) 805-3237. The 102nd Precinct telephone number is (718) 805-3200; Community Affairs Officer (718) 805-3215; Anti-terrorism 24 hour hotline is (866) NYC-SAFE.

For emergencies and suspicious persons in driveways, backyards or ringing doorbells call 911. The Commanding Officer of the 102nd Precinct is Captain Charles McEvoy who is very responsive to our problems and concerns.

Going Green in Woodhaven

During hot months, try to park your vehicle in a shady spot, which decreases the amount of fuel lost to evaporation and requires less air-conditioning when you get back in.

Gasoline evaporates rapidly, and even escapes from closed tanks. The process is sped up by high temperatures.

Keeping your vehicle cooler means you'll run your air conditioner less, resulting in a substantial savings in fuel. You'll be less likely to damage car contents from extreme heat, meaning you'll have fewer items to replace.

Also check out cardboard or shiny metallic windshield sun shades, which reflect solar heat away from the cabin

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<p>YES - I would like to join the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association for 2008 Membership \$10.00 Business \$7.00 Boosters \$5.00 Sign me up for both Membership & Booster \$15.00 Senior Citizen Membership \$5.00 For Membership & Booster \$10.00 NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____ TEL _____ Please return this form by mail or in person to the WRBA OFFICE, 84-20 JAMAICA AVENUE. Please print clearly. (Checks are preferred)</p>	<p><i>Deneille Loprete</i> Dance Studio Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Exercise, Salsa Birthday Parties Private Lessons 94-14 Jamaica Avenue 718-846-9126</p>	<p>St. Luke's Nursery School 87-34 85th Street Licensed by NYC Still accepting registration Call 718-296-6683</p>	<p>KARMEI DENTAL Russell Karmel DDS • Gary Karmel DDS Really Nice Dentists We Care A Lot 87-03 Jamaica Avenue (718) 849-5900</p>	

Smörgåsbord

Back on May 18, 1869, the New York Times reported that there had been a successful auction of properties in Woodhaven, Long Island. Amazingly, by today's standards, lots on Atlantic Avenue were going for between \$170 and \$350. Wow!

WOODHAVEN, L. I.
By Johnson & Miller.

1 lot No. 1 Atlantic-av. and Perry-st., block No. 62.....	\$350
4 lots Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 Atlantic-av., adjoining above, block No. 62, each.....	270
2 lots Nos. 6 and 7, Atlantic-av., block No. 62, each.....	270
1 lot No. 8 Atlantic-av. and Benedict-av., block No. 62.....	320
1 lot No. 10 Benedict-av., adjoining above, block No. 62.....	180
2 lots Nos. 12 and 14 Benedict-av., adjoining above, block No. 62, each.....	170
2 lots Nos. 16 and 18 Benedict-av., adjoining above, block No. 62, each.....	170
3 lots Nos. 20, 22 and 24 Benedict-av., adjoining above, block No. 62, each.....	170

Local Resources & Contacts

102nd Precinct

Captain Charles McEvoy
87-34 118th Street
Richmond Hill, New York 11418
(718) 805-3200

Elizabeth Crowley

Councilwoman 30th Council District
64-77 Dry Harbor Road
Middle Village, New York 11379
(718) 366-3900

Eric Ulrich

Councilman 32nd Council District
93-06 101st Avenue
Ozone Park, NY 11416
718-738-1083

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

New York State Senator - District 15
159-53 102nd Street
Howard Beach, NY 11414
(718) 738-1111

Audrey I. Pheffer

Assemblywoman - 23rd Assembly District
108-14 Crossbay Blvd.
Ozone Park, NY 11417
(718) 641-8755

TBD - Seat Empty

Assemblyman - 38th Assembly District
107-05 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
(718) 847-0770

Poetry / Prose

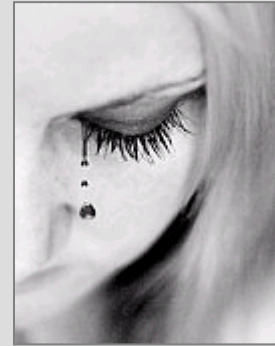
The WRBA is dedicating this space to local poetry or prose. If you have poetry or prose you are proud of, submit it to us and we'll try to get it in this space.

My Old Tears

Christine A Barbour - Woodhaven

I have lived for so long
in this house that I can see
my sweat staining the walls.
I can see my footsteps indented
into each stair. I can walk around
the house in the dark
and never trip over a footstool
in the middle of the room.

I can see my old tears outlined
on the floor where they have fallen.
But most of all, I can still smell
your presence inside the house -
a perfume of leather emanates from
your shoes and your boots even though
you've been gone for years.



Oh! How I love, on a fair summer's eve

John Keats (1795-1821)

Oh! how I love, on a fair summer's eve,
When streams of light pour down the golden west,
And on the balmy zephyrs tranquil rest
The silver clouds, -- far, far away to leave
All meaner thoughts, and take a sweet reprieve
From little cares; to find, with easy quest,
A fragrant wild, with Nature's beauty drest,
And there into delight my soul deceive.
There warm my breast with patriotic lore,
Musing on Milton's fate -- on Sydney's bier --
Till their stern forms before my mind arise:
Perhaps on the wing of Poesy upsoar,
Full often dropping a delicious tear,
When some melodious sorrow spells mine eyes.



Volunteer Opportunities

The WRBA is looking for a few good men and women with ideas to help make our neighborhood a better place to live. If you are interested in dedicating your time to this cause the WRBA will announce it at our open meeting and will advertise it in our newsletter.


Drop us a letter or e.mail with contact information telling us about your project and we'll try to get willing hands and minds to help you.

Letters

The WRBA would love to hear what you have to say about life in Woodhaven. The good, the bad, and the ugly. Mail us your letters, drop them at our office, or e.mail us and we'll post the well articulated ones and try to respond to as many as we can.

We have a special interest in hearing from folks who have stories to tell about Woodhaven from days gone-by. We want to pass this great history down on these pages. Be brief and to the point and English, please.

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<p>Jasmine Nails</p>  <p>84-20 Jamaica Ave Woodhaven, NY 11421 (718) 296-7198</p>	<p>Your Ad Here (Seen by 6,000 Woodhaven Households)</p>	<p>KARATE YOUTHS - TEENS - ADULTS SHORINJIJRYU KENRYUKAN KARATE 980 Jamaica Avenue 1-718-647-4157 Unlimited Classes (certain restrictions apply) Serving Our Jamaica Avenue Neighbors for over 30 Years Professional Not Commercialism</p>	<p>Dr. Arthur Stern Dentist 80-46 Jamaica Avenue Woodhaven, NY 11421 (718) 296-8100</p>	<p>Leahy - McDonald Funeral Home James F. McDonald, Manager Atlantic Avenue & 111th Street, Richmond Hill (718) 849-0785</p>	
<p>ABOVE A STEP/ CEMENT WORK • Blockwork • Brick Stoops • Stucco • Driveways • Tile Work FREE ESTIMATES James Baxter (718) 847-6930 92-12 89th Avenue Woodhaven, NY 11421</p>	<p>Your Ad Here (Seen by 6,000 Woodhaven Households)</p>	<p>Your Ad Here (Seen by 6,000 Woodhaven Households)</p>	<p>Your Ad Here (Seen by 6,000 Woodhaven Households)</p>	<p>MANOR DELICATESSEN All Homemade Salads Done On Premises 94-12 Jamaica Ave. 718-849-2836</p>	<p>Woodhaven Business Improvement District Working for Jamaica Avenue From Dexter Court to 100th Street and the Woodhaven Community President Matthew Xenakis</p>

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for mankind to declare their solemn and irrevocable and unalienable rights, that they should be duly acknowledged and secured, that they should be duly acknowledged and secured, that they should be duly acknowledged and secured...

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The Bill of Rights
Ratified December 15, 1791

Article I
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article II
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article III
No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger, nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article VI
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article VII
In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

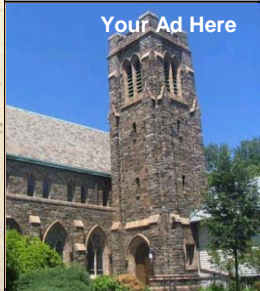
Article VIII
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

Article IX
The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

A reminder to be ever vigilant in the protection of these rights Presented in loving memory of Corliss Samsel 1902-1995

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New York, NY 10010



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The Mayflower Compact

In ye name of God Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereigne Lord King James, by ye grace of God, of Great Britaine, France, & Ireland King, defender of ye faith, &c.

Havinge undertaken, for ye glorie of God, and advancement of ye Christian faith and honour of our King & countrie, a voyage to plant ye first colonie in ye Northernne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in ye presence of God, and one of another, covenant, & combine ourselves together into a Civill body politick; for our better ordering, & preservation & furtherance of ye ends aforesaid; and by vertue hereof to enacte, constitute and frame such just & equal Lawes, ordinances, Acts, constitutions & offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & convenient for ye generall good of ye colonie: unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Capz-Codd ye 11- of November, in ye year of ye reigne of our sovereigne Lord King James of England, France & Ireland ye eighteenth, and of Scotland ye fiftie fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.

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