



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</p> <p>NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____ TEL _____</p> <p>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>KARMEL DENTAL Russell Karmel DDS • Gary Karmel DDS Really Nice Dentists We Care A Lot 87-03 Jamaica Avenue (718) 849-5900</p>	