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HOME OWNERS/TENANTS NEWSLETTER

TO MAKE THIS A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE

September 2013

www.woodlawntaxpayers.com

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Welcome back! We hope that you had a safe and enjoyable summer. Our next meeting will be held on **September 9th at 7:30PM** in the St. Barnabas High School cafeteria. Our featured speaker will be **Deputy Inspector Brian Mullen**, Commanding Officer of the 47th Precinct.

For the time period mid-July through mid-August, there were 3 auto thefts within Woodlawn. If your car is stolen, you can increase the chance of recovery by having the etching of your car's VIN number placed on the windshield. If you are interested, please contact Officer Chin at the 47th Pct. to make arrangements. This is a free service provided by NYPD which if done commercially can cost over \$100.

Summer began with our June Walk and we thank our volunteers – especially **Maureen Misch**, Chairperson, **Barbara Selesky**, our Journal Editor and all who helped out on that very hot day. We would also like to very much thank the following Journal sponsors :

McLean Avenue Merchants Association
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Anna Artuso's Pastry Shop
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Katonah Pizza & Pasta
Mary's Celtic Kitchen
Woodlawn A.A.R.P. #1147
The Celtic House
Woodlawn Deli Grocery
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The Butchers Fancy, Gavin's Barber Shop
Sean's Quality Deli, John Mulligan's Fireside Pub
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NYC Councilman G. Oliver Koppell, NYS Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Danton Plumbing & Heating Corp., St Stephen's Thrift Shop, Woodlawn Gift Shop, Katonah Hardware and Housewares, County Cycle Center, Linda's Pizza, Aisling Irish Community Center, Parkway Liquors, Riley's Carpet, Landmark Construction, The Woodlawn Height Library Support Group, Trendsetters, Carvel Ice Cream Bakery, Ozzy's Barber Shop, Behan's Bar, DHO Travel Agency Inc., New Image Salon, The UPS Store on McLean Avenue, Merk Chemists, McLean Avenue Bagel Café, National Pet Supply, Genevieve and Rob Thompson, Greenland Deli Grocery, Angelica's Bakery & Coffee Shop, All Boro Floor Service, Inc., Katonah Family Deli, Aspire Wireless, Bella Napoli, Kozy Korner, Lark's Nest, MOS Electric, Patrizia, Precise, and the P.S. 19 P.T.A

Our June meeting was very well attended – members and residents from Woodlawn and Yonkers filled the cafeteria. The City of New York Dept. of Homeless Services and the Doe Fund were represented by **Lisa Black**, Director of Government Relations and **John McDonald**, COO of the Doe Fund. Ms Black provided an overview of what NYC does for the homeless population. By NYC law, if you are homeless, you have a 'right of shelter' and NYC is legally obligated to find you a place to sleep. There are over 50,000 homeless in NYC & 21,000 are children. NYC operates 250 shelters.

Mr McDonald explained that the Doe Fund is a 9

to 12 month transitional work program for homeless men to obtain a full-time jobs. Ms Black and Mr McDonald stressed that this shelter will house veterans of our Armed Forces. They promised that it will be a secure facility and that all residents go to work each day.

Our community is very upset that this shelter and another which is being built across the street from 555 Nereid Avenue called **Project Renewal**, are both being placed in our community. **NYC is creating a saturation of homeless .**

Our elected representatives while supportive of our concerns have so far been unable to prevent NYC from continuing with its plans. This saturation of shelters is critical issue upon which Woodlawn and Yonkers voters will decide for whom to vote for in the next election. **Please reach out to our elected representatives listed below and let them know your concern for our community –**

SENATOR KRISTEN E. GILLIBRAND
478 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Wash., DC 20510
(212) 688-6262 www.gillibrand.senate.gov

SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
(212) 486-4430 www.schumer.senate.gov

CONGRESSMAN ELIOT ENGEL
3655 Johnson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
eliot@mail.house.gov (718) 796-9700

MAYOR MICHEAL BLOOMBERG
City Hall, New York, NY 10007
(212) -788-3000 or 311
www.nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html

SENATOR JEFFREY D. KLEIN
1250 Waters Place, Suite 1202, Bronx, NY 10461
(718) 822-2049 jd Klein@senate.state.ny.us

SENATOR RUTH HASSELL-THOMPSON
959 E. 233rd Street, Bronx, NY 10466
(718) 547-8854 hassellt@senate.state.ny.us

ASSEMBLYMAN JEFFREY DINOWITZ
3107 Kingsbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463
718-796-5345 dinowitzj@assembly.state.ny.us

NYC COMPTROLLER JOHN C. LIU
One Centre Street, New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-3916

BOROUGH PRESIDENT RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
851 Grand Concourse, 3rd Floor, Bronx, New York 10451
webmail@bronxbp.nyc.gov (718) 590-3557

NYC COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHRISTINE C. QUINN
224 West 30th St (Suite 1206) NY, NY 10001
(212) 788-7210

NYC COUNCILMAN G. OLIVER KOPPELL
3636 Waldo Avenue Bronx, New York 10463
(718) 549-7300 AO'Connor@council.nyc.gov

As of this writing, we have still been unable to learn if the federal government has transferred the Mueller site to NYC.

In June, Woodlawn resident Kevin Bell was killed in a fatal hit and run accident on East 233rd Street.

Our prayers and thoughts are with his parents and family. This tragedy was further compounded by the disgraceful behavior by the OCME unit which responded to the scene of the crime. In conjunction with the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and this Association, NYPD Deputy Inspector Brian Mullen held a meeting with community leaders and briefed us on what had occurred. The investigation is still on-going. The OCME choose not to attend this meeting. As a result of community outrage and with the support of Councilman Koppell, a hearing was held at City Hall and the driver was suspended for 30 days without pay and the unit and its supervisors will be now required to go through sensitivity training. We believe that not only should the driver have been suspended but the OCME managers and commissioners should be accountable for the disrespect shown for the deceased.

Special thanks to **John McGrath, Pat Reilly, Donald O'Keefe and Ken Wong** for hanging the Association sponsored American flags along Katonah Ave in time for the 4th of July.

Graffiti vandals have defaced St Barnabas elementary school and the parish center as well as private property throughout the neighborhood. Vandalizing religious institutions is a serious bias-crime and should be punished to the fullest extent of the law. If you know of any information on who these individuals are, please let us and/or the 47th Precinct know.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 23rd Senator Klein is sponsoring a **concert by the McLean Avenue Band on Friday, August 23rd**, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on VCPE, between 238th and 240th street. (Rain Location: P.S. 19, on Katonah Avenue)

Sept 14th from 10:00AM to Dusk :
St Barnabas Annual Street Festival and Flea Market and The McLean Avenue Merchants Association Festival are all on the same day!
Come out to McLean Avenue and enjoy the fun!!

Sept. 21st: the 7th Annual Woodlawn Run for Cause will take place along VCPE. The 3.1 mile race begins at 10:00AM by St Mark's Place More information can be found on the internet at <http://www.woodlawnrunforacause.org>. Prizes will be awarded after the race at Indian Field at 11:30AM. Come out and cheer the runners and walkers.

We encourage all Woodlawn residents - home owners, renters, merchants, co-op and condo owners to get involved and become members. *Like us on Facebook.*

Please bring a friend to our **September 9th** meeting, meet your neighbors and make some new friends.

Sincerely,

Jim Reilly