

For more information  
Visit our web site:  
[www.jamaicaestatesassociation.com](http://www.jamaicaestatesassociation.com)

2010  
Volume No. / Jamaica Estates



*Mission Statement: "To maintain and promote the civic and social welfare and interests of all residents and property owners of that section of Jamaica, Queens, New York, known as Jamaica Estates."*

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

## The Jamaica Estates Association

### ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS JEA SECURITY PATROL

JEA President Dr. Ed Toriello's letter sent to SJU President Dr. Conrado Gempesaw:

Following the Community Dialogue meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>, Joe Sciamè presented the Jamaica Estates Association (JEA) with a check from St. John's University for our private security patrol. I am writing on behalf of the Jamaica Estates community to express our gratitude for your generous contribution.

We appreciate your commitment to the strong partnership that has been forged between St. John's University and the Jamaica Estates Association.

One of the tangible products of this excellent working relationship is the presentation that Joe made at the JEA Leadership Town Hall a few weeks ago. Joe was able to report that as a result of the wide avenues of communication that now exist between the University and the JEA, community complaints about students living in off-campus housing has dropped substantially in recent years. Members of the audience expressed understanding that this is the result of much hard work on the part of all involved.

Once again, thank you for your generous contribution and your leadership in making St. John's a premier educational institution as well as an asset to our community.



*(l-r) SJU Vice President of Public Safety Thomas Lawrence, JEA Treasurer Mark Lefkof, JEA President Dr. Ed Toriello, SJU Vice President of Community Relations Joe Sciamè, SJU Campus Minister Reverend John Kettelberger, SJU Associate Director of Community Relations Paul Lazauskas*



### FARMERS MARKET at CUNNINGHAM PARK

The Jamaica Estates Association is pleased to announce the opening of a Farmers Market from Down to Earth Markets at Cunningham Park.

The market, located at the Northeast corner of Cunningham Park lot off Union Turnpike, will be held every Sunday from 9am to 2pm starting May 28<sup>th</sup> offering local selections of seasonal produce, meat, dairy, baked goods, specialty items, and more.

The JEA was instrumental in bringing this market to our area and looks forward to its success and contribution to the quality of life in our community.

There are part time job opportunities available.

Go to this site for all information:

[http://downtoearthmarkets.com/company-job\\_opportunities](http://downtoearthmarkets.com/company-job_opportunities)

Our annual Jamaica Estates Association International Night has been a success for the last ten years and continues to show our desire for inclusiveness and our desire to have all our neighbors participate. See the insert for details about our most recent International Night.

## ON PATROL

### A report on the recent activities of the JEA Security Patrol

Bay Ridge Security provides shift reports from the officers on patrol in Jamaica Estates. Here are some of the recent reports that the officers provided.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>:** At approximately 8:15pm while patrolling on Henley Road and Barrington Street, Officer Eon Washington observed two individuals being placed into a patrol car handcuffed. Officer Washington stopped to see what was going on and was informed by the plainclothes officer that they had everything under control. Officer Washington continued with his patrol.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>:** At approximately 7:30pm on Dalny Road and Somerset Street, Officer Eon Washington was approached by an East Indian man in his car with his wife and kids stating he was lost and needed help. He said he was rich in his country so he offered his jewels for help. He was willing to take the officer to a place to get the money. Officer Washington gave him \$10 for gas as he stated he was from Florida and needed to get home. A resident saw when it happened and said it happened to her last week. She was approached by a Caucasian man with the same story. Officer Washington urges all residents to make note of this and be aware of their surroundings.

**April 24<sup>th</sup>:** Bay Ridge Security received a call at approximately 7:45pm about guys sitting in a car in front of a house on Avon Street smoking marijuana. Officer Melvin Anderson asked them to leave, and they did.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** Officer Melvin Anderson noticed a car window had been broken into across from a house on Somerset Street.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** Officer Melvin Anderson noticed three guys in a car on Kruger Road smoking marijuana. Officer Anderson asked them to leave, and they did.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** Bay Ridge Security received a call about a burglar alarm from a house on Midland Parkway. Officer Melvin Anderson went to the home and found all was fine. The homeowners were there.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>:** Officer Eon Washington reported that at approximately 4:30pm, a person was arrested on Union turnpike and 186<sup>th</sup> Street. The reasons are unknown. There were ten cars on the scene from the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

## JAMAICA ESTATES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

Chair of the Board.....	Hon. Martha Taylor, 718-657-7640
President.....	Dr. Ed Toriello, 718-791-1551
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President.....	Edward Morrill, 718-380-0433
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President.....	Dr. Alan Antonelli, 718-591-5919
Recording Secretary.....	Kate Donnelly, 857-891-1618
Treasurer/Financial Secretary...	Mark Lefkof, 718-380-5386

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Hon. Leon Beerman, Michael Bookbinder, Dr. Arthur Flug, Howard A. Fried, Hon. James Gennaro, Evan Gorin, Mark Lefkof, Frank Scuderi, Hon. Martha Taylor

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Aviation/Noise Abatement.....	Marilyn Chapoteau, 718-262-9797
Bulletin Advertising.....	Alys Ensmann, 718-454-0887
Bulletin Editor.....	Kate Donnelly, 857-891-1618
Education.....	Carl Ballenas, 646-229-2455
Email.....	Edward Morrill, 718-380-0433
.....	Marc Goldmann, 718-487-4593
Health/Sanitation.....	Dr. Alan Antonelli, 718-591-5919
Highways/Transit.....	Marc Goldmann, 718-487-4593
Insurance.....	Ralph Straus, 718-969-3443
Legal.....	Howard A. Fried, 718-380-7088
Membership/Outreach.....	Edward Chung, 718-658-6009
Neighborhood Beautification...	Dr. Delores Duckett, 718-291-6620
.....	Susan Zigman, 718-969-7574
Parks/Landscape.....	Edward Morrill, 718-380-0433
Police/Fire/Security Patrol.....	Mark Lefkof, 718-380-5386
Program/Publicity.....	Susan Zigman, 718-969-7574
Real Estate/Taxes.....	Lila Chui, 718-657-3971
Security Patrol Membership....	Dr. Avi Siev, 718-523-1024
.....	Michael Bookbinder, 718-657-2224
.....	Angela Shimunov, 917-608-9514
Utilities/Postal.....	Alys Ensmann, 718-454-0887
Web Editor.....	Edward Morrill, 718-380-0433
Zoning.....	Hon. Martha Taylor, 718-657-7640
.....	Dr. Ed Toriello, 718-658-0096

### OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor.....	Bill de Blasio, 212-788-3000
Borough President.....	Melinda Katz, 718-286-3000
U.S. Senate.....	Charles Schumer, 212-486-4430
.....	Kirsten Gillibrand, 212-688-6262
U.S. Congress.....	Grace Meng, 718-358-6364
.....	Gregory Meeks, 718-725-6000
State Senate.....	Tony Avella, 718-357-3094
.....	Leroy Comrie, 718-454-0162
State Assembly.....	David Weprin, 718-454-3027
City Council.....	Rory Lancman, 718-217-4969
Community Board #8.....	Marie Adam-Ovide, 718-264-7895

# Jamaica Estates Association MUSLIM INTERNATIONAL NIGHT Celebrates Diversity



*Dr. Ed Toriello, President, JEA, and Martha Taylor, Chair, JEA*



*Imam Shamsi Ali, Director Jamaica Muslim Center*



*Dr. Mohammed Billah, Chairman, JMC*



*Dr. Billah and Ed Chung, JEA Outreach Committee Chairman*



For over twenty years the Jamaica Estates Association has celebrated its diversity and history of inclusion by putting together and celebrating an annual International Night. It has honored the cultures and religions of the Chinese, Indians, Irish, Albanians, Africans, and Bukharians. The residents celebrate, learn, and develop a healthy respect of their fellow neighbors' rich cultures and faiths. Also, we learned why they are drawn to Jamaica Estates to live and raise their families.

On Monday, April 24th the Albanian Orthodox Church, led by Father Nathan Preston, served as a welcoming venue for International Night, where attendees were introduced to the Bangladeshi culture and their religion. The meeting hall was filled with a diverse audience who reflected the demographics prevalent throughout Queens. The audience enjoyed a variety of international food along with traditional Bangladeshi dishes and Mediterranean cuisine from merchants that contributed to the festivity.

Martha Taylor, Chair of the Board, and Dr. Edward Toriello, President of JEA, welcomed the attendees and thanked the presenters for what would prove to be a highly entertaining evening. They emphasized that the JEA does all it can to advocate for the interests and concerns of its members.

Edward Chung, Chair of Membership Outreach, emphasized that a large membership roster will get the attention of city agencies and local political leaders. He introduced Dr. Mohammad Billah, Chairman of the Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC) and member of JEA. Through Dr. Billah's leadership with the trustees and officers of the JMC, his community provided a program that gave his neighbors a glimpse of the rich culture and religion observed by the Bangladeshi. He passionately stated that he is happy and grateful to live freely in Jamaica Estates with his family, practice his religion, and pursue his profession.

Mr. Khawja Mizan Hassan, President of the JMC, complimented and admired the JEA for the number of dedicated residents who have joined and participate in the Association. Also, he was thrilled that we celebrate our community's international background on an annual basis.

Imam Shamsi Ali, Director of JMC and a prominent scholar, is known for promoting interfaith dialogues among Abrahamic religions in U.S. He believes in building bridges between religious communities. Imam Ali spoke about five significant parts of a way of life and promoted peaceful Islam.

Ms. Dilafroz Ahmed, Cultural Coordinator of the evening's program, gave a background summary of her community, the members of which immigrated to this country and NY. The first wave came from the 1970s through 1990s as professionals, and many via HB-1 visas (special technical skills). She then introduced the performing artists. They provided a beautiful glimpse of the Bangladeshi culture with songs, dances, music, and displays of beautiful dresses and colorful costumes.

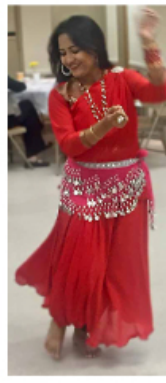
Also attending the evening's event were representatives from the Arafah Islamic Center, among them Mohammad Tohin and Misbaah Uddin Mahmood. Many officers and trustees were present from the Jamaica Muslim Center. Aftab Mannan, proprietor of Ali Baba, provided an abundant amount of Mediterranean food.

Events such as this are not possible without a team of volunteers. The JEA would like to extend a special thanks to the helpers who assisted in making the evening run smoothly: Tuey Chung, Lila Chui, Josephine Lu, Lenore and Joseph Ting, Edward and Joyce Morrill, Susan Zigman, Edward Toriello, and Helen Chin and Patricia Leung from the Chinese Center on Long Island.

In this part of Queens, the leadership of the JEA made a statement that this neighborhood believes in inclusiveness for anyone who want to live and raise their families.



Dr. Ed Toriello, Pres., JEA, and Dilafroz Ahmed, left, cultural director of the program, with dancer



Dr. Billah observes as Zeeshan Ahmed sings verses from the Quran



Many thanks to the generous merchants and friends who participated in the event. Over 140 members and guests enjoyed a wide variety of foods and ethnic flavors. We are fortunate to have their businesses here in our community. Please remember their contribution and respond with your patronage!

## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!

<b>ACQUISTA TRATTORIA</b>	178-01 Union Turnpike - Joseph & Alessandro	(718) 969 - 1411
<b>ALI BABA</b>	183-10 Horace Harding Exp. - Aftab Mannan	(718) 436 - 7900
<b>ANNIE CHAN'S</b>	190-11 Union Turnpike - Annie & David	(718) 740 - 1773
<b>A TO Z SUPERMARKET</b>	186-05 Union Turnpike - David	(718) 454 - 4200
<b>BAGELS &amp; COMPANY</b>	188-02 Union Turnpike - Hilla	(718) 217 - 7755
<b>BAGELS 'N CREAM</b>	80-02 Surrey Place - Dennis & David	(718) 969 - 2640
<b>BENNY'S KOSHER PIZZA</b>	181-30 Union Turnpike - Benny	(718) 969 - 1928
<b>CAFÉ MUSCAT</b>	178-07 Union Turnpike - Alon	(718) 591 - 4050
<b>NORCREST SERVICE STATION</b>	178-02 Union Turnpike - Channi & Sam	(718) 591 - 3203
<b>ROMEO'S PIZZA</b>	188-08 Union Turnpike - Ralph	(718) 454 - 4223
<b>SAIGON ASIAN CUISINE</b>	176-61 Union Turnpike - Simon	(718) 380 - 0028

## BIOSWALES COMING TO JAMAICA ESTATES?

Recently questions have been raised by JEA membership about the issue of bioswales, or rain gardens, in our neighborhood. The following information appeared in a recent Community Board 8 newsletter.

According to acting commissioner Vincent Sapienza, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has installed over 2,000 curbside rain gardens. Rain gardens are designed to absorb rain water within 48 hours. This does not allow mosquitoes to breed since it takes 72 hours for them to develop.

The DEP has been working with their engineers and developed alternatives to the traditional rain gardens that would provide the same green infrastructure benefits:

- **Green strips** will function like a rain garden underground; however, it will look like the existing green planted strips that are currently on the sidewalks. There will be no guardrails. If a homeowner has already installed a sprinkler system in those areas, that location will not be considered for a green strip.
- **Porous sidewalks** will function like a rain garden underground; however, they will look like the existing concrete sidewalks. There will be no tree guards at these locations.

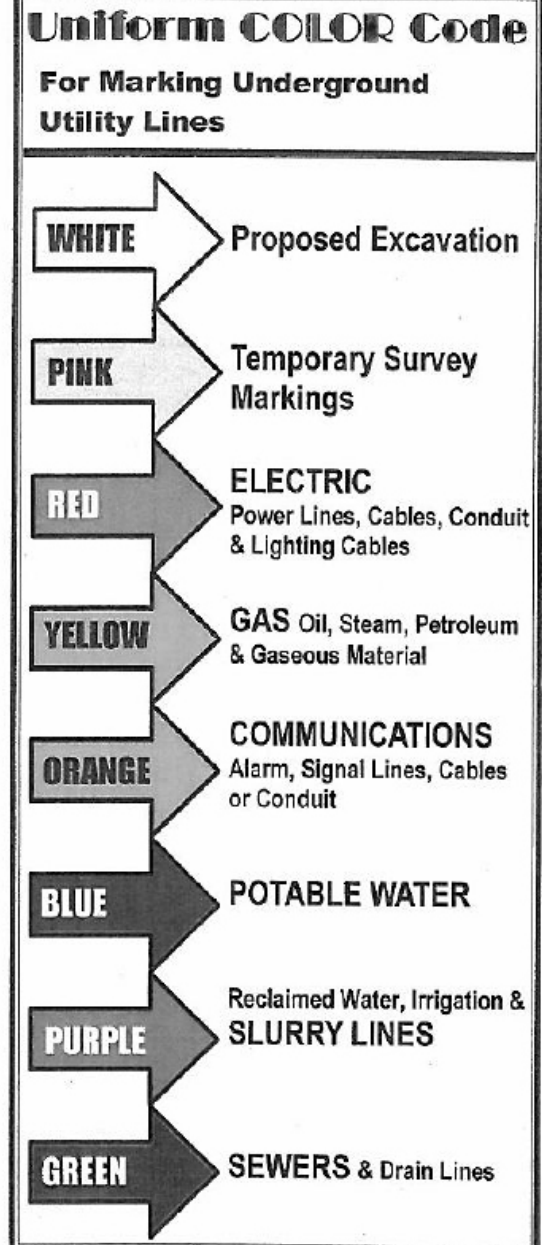
Are you a disabled property owner with a disabled license plate or parking placard? If so, DEP will allow you to opt out of any Green Infrastructure in front of your home.

Articles have appeared in the New York Times and other publications discussing the pros and cons of these bioswales. In an effort to get more specific information about how this will affect Jamaica Estates, the JEA reached out to Community Board 8 with some specific questions. Below are the responses.

- *Does the DEP have any plans to install in Jamaica Estates?* At this time, the DEP says they do not have any locations in Jamaica Estates. There will be a map of all locations for Community Board 8 in the near future.
- *How are potential sites marked?* Red markings indicate where power lines are. When an area is being considered for rain gardens, it is marked with neon green. DEP should have an online map of locations that will have green gardens in the near future. See the chart to the right for the different color codes used for street and sidewalk marking. Before certain public work takes place, utility companies are usually asked to mark their underground lines. This would prevent any entity from breaking the lines during excavation.

Please visit this link to a fuller explanation of what bioswales are, complete with graphics:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/stormwater/bioswales.shtml>



**CUT OUT AND SAVE!**

Visit our website at  
[www.jamaicaestatesassociation.com](http://www.jamaicaestatesassociation.com)  
 to find previous issues of the  
**Bulletin, upcoming membership  
 meeting information, neighborhood  
 news, photos, and much more.**