

## LEADERSHIP TOWN HALL MEETING - FEBRUARY 27

*Mark your calendars! All Jamaica Estates Residents are Invited!*  
**The second Jamaica Estates Association Leadership Town Hall is scheduled for 8:00 PM, Monday evening, February 27 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike**

The evening will feature Assemblyman David Weprin, Councilmember Rory Lancman, State Senators Leroy Comrie and Tony Avella, as well as Hope Knight, CEO of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, and Martha Taylor, chair of Community Board 8. Leaders from St. John's University, the Union Turnpike Merchants Association, and Down-to-Earth Farmers Market will also be in attendance.

Members of the audience will have the opportunity to get answers to their questions and make suggestions directly to our community leaders. ***Make your voice heard!***

Last year's town hall resulted in positive changes to the Union Turnpike business district and the introduction of a Farmers Market, which will open this spring in Cunningham Park.

A full status report on these and other important projects will be given at this meeting.

If you have an idea that you think will improve our neighborhood, we want to hear it.

**Don't miss this opportunity to interact directly with our community leaders who can get things done.**



## BE SURE TO SHARE OUR EMAIL ADDRESS

When you fill out your JEA membership application, be sure to include your email address. The emails that the JEA sends include important news, interesting neighborhood information, and emerging alerts about things such as upcoming construction or planned roadwork. These days email is one of the fastest and most effective ways to receive news, so take advantage of this terrific resource that is constantly updated. Be in the know about what's happening in Jamaica Estates by sharing your email address with the JEA. Don't be left out!

## THE NEGATIVES OF ADDING SPEED BUMPS

### FROM THE COMMUNITY BOARD 8 NEWSLETTER

The Community Board's Transportation Committee has been inundated with requests for speed bumps within our district. In addition to having buyer's remorse whereby residents change their minds once the speed bumps have been installed, the members wanted the community to be aware of the following negatives associated with the installation of speed bumps:

- Speed bumps cost between \$4,500 and \$7,500 each to install.
- They interfere with response times for emergency vehicles.
- They reduce property values. Prospective buyers reject homes on streets where speed bumps are located.
- They increase the noise level with each passing vehicle.
- They increase wear and tear on vehicles.
- Once installed they are expensive to remove.
- They increase air pollution: carbon dioxide by 82%, carbon monoxide by 50%, and nitrogen oxide by 37%.
- They reduce fuel efficiency and increase gas consumption.
- In addition studies show that the installation of speed bumps does not change driver behaviors.

For more information, go to: [www.radarsign.com/why-municipalities-are-moving-away-from-speed-humps/](http://www.radarsign.com/why-municipalities-are-moving-away-from-speed-humps/)

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2nd Vice President	Dr. Alan Antonelli, 718-591-5919
Recording Secretary	Kate Donnelly, 857-891-1618
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### OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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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

## ANNUAL JEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER MEETING



*(seated, l-r) Marc Goldmann, Email committee member; Ed Morrill, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Mark Lefkof, Treasurer/Financial Secretary; Dr. Ed Toriello, President; Martha Taylor, Chair of the Board; Bob Taylor; Dr. Avi Siev, Security Patrol chair (standing, l-r) Angela Shimunov, Security Patrol committee member; Ed Chung, Membership Outreach chair; Ralph Straus, Insurance chair; Susan Zigman, Program/Publicity chair; Alys Ensmann, Bulletin Advertising chair; Dr. Alan Antonelli, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Carl Ballenas, Education chair; Lila Chui, Real Estate/Taxes chair; Dr. Delores Duckett, Neighborhood Beautification chair; Michael Bookbinder, Security Patrol committee member; Howard Fried, Legal chair*

The Board of Directors of the Jamaica Estates Association meets every other month at a director's home to discuss upcoming events within the community. But once a year, the Board holds a dinner meeting for a working meal. It is a chance for the Board to gather in a more social setting while discussing the matters at hand.

The Board of Directors is a diverse group of people who truly represent the character of Jamaica Estates. Each member brings their various expertise from their personal and professional backgrounds to their volunteer position on the Board. This is a commitment of both time and talent in which they participate throughout the year.

## DECISIONS ON TREE PRUNING IN NYC

*Excerpt from the New York Times, November 6, 2016, FYI column by Tammy La Gorce. For full article, visit [www.nytimes.com/2016/11/06/nyregion/how-does-the-city-decide-what-trees-to-prune-and-when.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/06/nyregion/how-does-the-city-decide-what-trees-to-prune-and-when.html?_r=0)*

The process of deciding who prunes New York City trees, and when, and why, all starts with a detailed count of the trees, says Jennifer Greenfeld, assistant commissioner for forestry, horticulture and natural resources with the New York City parks department.

"Every 10 years we do a census, with every tree on every street over five inches in diameter counted, so we know exactly how many trees there are, and can factor that into our tree-pruning budget," Ms. Greenfeld said. [...]

The department's tree-pruning budget is primarily used to pay private tree-pruning companies—one in each borough—but that does not mean they can trim your favorite Osage or catalpa tree willy-nilly. "Each contractor has really detailed references for how to prune, and we have qualified arborists supervising the pruners," Ms. Greenfeld said. "The contractor also has to have a certified arborist on staff. And there are pretty much industry standards they all follow, but it's sort of part art and part science."

Bough and branch clipping runs on a cycle: "The way we look at it, you have an ideal pruning cycle, and in that ideal cycle every tree should get actively pruned every seven to 10 years. For the last eight years, we've achieved pruning on that seven-to-10-year cycle, usually closer to seven years." But not all trees are shorn equally, and all are assessed before the saws and loppers come out.

"We deal with conflict, like if a tree is growing too close to someone's house, and what we call 'structure,' which takes into account the tree's age and how it's growing," she said.

They also deal with concerned citizens. "Anytime somebody sees something we haven't caught, like falling limbs, we go out," she said. "We absolutely rely on the public calling in through 311 to let us know of emergencies or dangerous situations."

What the parks department does not deal with are trees growing up into power lines or traffic lights. Ms. Greenfeld said that was Consolidated Edison's job.

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