



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

2018 JEA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

THE VISIBILITY OF JAMAICA ESTATES' SECURITY PATROL CARS WITH THEIR FLASHING LIGHTS DETERS CRIME.

Support the Security Patrol! Registration and invoice enclosed.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NOTES FROM UNDER THE RADAR

Each year at this time, the Board of the Jamaica Estates Association undertakes a critical assessment of the state of the Association. I am pleased to report that your JEA is strong. Our Board has successfully recruited enthusiastic members who reflect the diversity of our community and we owe them a debt of gratitude for the time they have freely given to maintain the character of our neighborhood.

There is, however, an area that concerns me. Despite the magnificent efforts by Ed Chung and his membership committee, the JEA and Security Patrol member rolls continue to trend downward. It is my opinion that as current members age and move away from Jamaica Estates, their place in the Association is not filled by the families who move into their homes. New homeowners may be unaware of the vital role the JEA has played since it was founded in 1929 and therefore would question the need to join.

Their hesitance in joining is understandable since much of the valuable work of the Association and Patrol is done "under the radar," that is, quietly and without fanfare. Kindly indulge an illustration...

Continued on Page 2



Swearing-in ceremony: (l-r) Councilmember Rory Lancman, JEA Treasurer/Financial Secretary Barbara Lefkof, former JEA Chair Martha Taylor, JEA President Edward Toriello, JEA Chair Mark Lefkof

Photo by Ed Chung

Help maintain the stability of your neighborhood. Please mail in your 2018 JEA membership and Security Patrol dues in the enclosed envelope.

In this issue, we enclose application cards for 2018 JEA membership and Security Patrol dues. Participation in both is an extremely important step toward supporting and protecting our neighborhood. The JEA plays a unique and crucial role in preserving and enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhood.

BRS, our security patrol company, is performing extremely well, providing more extensive services than in years past, with a strong focus on community outreach and support.

While clearly the Security Patrol cannot possibly eliminate all crime in our midst, the continuing presence of the security vehicles with flashing lights provides a visible deterrence and a valuable first level of defense and response. Joining the Patrol is a small price to pay for an added watchful eye for both your person and property. Please, don't just rely on your neighbor or others to support the Patrol. Become part of it, and remind your neighbor and friends to do so, too.

The Patrol's cars are monitored by GPS and transmit their location every few minutes. That system permits tracking records to be pulled as required. In addition, video footage is captured, enabling us to look back at images the Patrol car records. The Patrol responds to members within minutes and alerts the NYPD when necessary. Recently, due to a lack of funding, we have been forced to reduce Patrol hours. Only with member support and increased participation can we increase Patrol hours. As we aspire to increasing coverage to 24 hours without a Security Patrol dues increase, that can only be accomplished if more residents join the ranks. That said, please promptly join, and get the word out.

While we accept dues checks at any time, because we are an organization of volunteers, it is far more efficient to process payments *en masse*. Therefore, please make an effort to send in your dues as soon as possible!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CON'T

Recently Mark Lefkof, JEA Chair as well as member of Community Board 8, sent a notification to the Executive Committee of the JEA that the city is planning to prune the trees in our area. When Ed Morrill, Chair of the JEA Landscape committee and JEA board member, read the notice, he acted quickly. Here's the email Ed wrote to JEA leadership:

They are only pruning trees between the curb and sidewalk. As we all know, city trees can be on the OTHER side of the sidewalk, especially when they are right up against the sidewalk, as on much of Midland Parkway.

I caught up with a supervisor for Greenleaf Tree Care, who seem to be the company with the contract here and confirmed that, unless they get more instructions, that's all they will do. So I called Dorothy Lewandowski [NYC Parks Borough Commissioner] 15 minutes ago, she took my call. I explained what was going on. She said she would call Joe Bonkowski, Supervisor of Forestry. He called me five minutes ago. Went over this and he has agreed and says he will have his team focus on this Monday am and get all our trees identified properly and pruned. He will call Monday am to let me know more.

At first glance, this may not seem like much, but pruning city trees is key to keeping our trees healthy and is an effective way to avoid damage and loss of power caused by falling tree limbs during storms. The relationship that the JEA has nurtured with NYC officials over the years enabled Ed to alert them to this situation. This is the type of work the JEA does that would ordinarily remain "under the radar." Next time there is a Nor'easter and your home remains lit and your family warm, send a mental note of thanks to Ed!

We deeply appreciate our neighbors who have been JEA members for years. Your membership allows us to continue to forge relationships with our elected representatives and NYC department officials as well as to keep our community among the most desirable places to live and raise a family.

If, on the other hand, you have not yet joined, I invite you to consider the \$35 membership dues and \$200 Security Patrol dues as your way of expressing appreciation for the work that the volunteer members of the Board do on your behalf without fanfare and oftentimes *under the radar*.

JAMAICA ESTATES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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1st Vice President	Edward Morrill, 718-380-0433
2nd Vice President	Dr. Alan Antonelli, 718-591-5919
Recording Secretary	Kate Donnelly, 857-891-1618
Treasurer/Financial Secretary	Mark Lefkof, 718-380-5386

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

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OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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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 2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

2018 SECURITY PATROL DUES NEW SECURITY PATROL WITH ENHANCED SERVICES MEMBERSHIP FEE \$200.00

We are pleased to be able to offer renewal for another year of the successful Security Patrol. The police do not give us a block-by-block patrol. Our marked Security Patrol car and uniformed guard make a detailed patrol of our community and respond to Security Patrol members within minutes.

Our streets are protected, as are our members' homes and each of us personally, as we walk the streets of our community. As a member of the Patrol, you receive a private telephone number to contact the Security Patrol company directly to report suspicious persons and vehicles or any unusual noises such as breaking glass. Members' children or their babysitters can feel more secure knowing that help is but a call away.

Every family that joins the Patrol will receive a new 2017 sticker for their home indicating membership. Every member family will also receive the private telephone number to put directly on the phone so it will be handy.

The cost of this very valuable service is \$200.00. Even with the greatly enhanced services, we have maintained the Security Patrol fee as in previous years. Details will be provided in a future mailing. But how can we be sure we are getting what we are paying for? We now have a global positioning system (GPS) which allows us to keep an eye on the location of the Security Patrol car on a minute-by-minute basis, in real time or at any time in the past! In addition, the Patrol car captures video enabling us to look back in time at patrol routes.

The Patrol responds to members within minutes and alerts the NYPD when necessary. Recently, due to a lack of funding, we have been forced to reduce Patrol hours. Only with member support and increased participation can we increase Patrol hours. As we aspire to increasing coverage to 24 hours without a Security Patrol dues increase, that can only be accomplished if more residents join the ranks.

Dr. Avi Siev, our JEA Security Patrol liaison (volunteer), can check how long a rest period the Patrol took, if the Patrol went through all of our streets, and if the Patrol left the area. If you happen to see any questionable actions by the Patrol car or driver, or have any other complaint, please contact Dr. Siev at avisiev@gmail.com. Please use a subject line such as "Question about the JEA security patrol."

We need your support. The more member families, the more hours of service. And please join the 2017 Patrol early! It will facilitate our work to process a few large batches rather than many small ones. We want to send most of the '18 Patrol stickers by the New Year. Join your neighbors and help support the Patrol.

JAMAICA ESTATES — PROMPT REPLY NEEDED

Join the Jamaica Estates 2018 Paid Security Patrol

** Annual Fee \$200.00*

Members Will Receive: 2018 Identification Door Sticker and a private telephone number to reach the Patrol. Subscribers will be permitted to have their alarm system dial the Security Patrol firm's number at no monthly charge.

2018 JEA DUES \$35.00

\$35.00 will definitely not fill up your gas tank. It won't buy you a meal for two at a local restaurant. And unless you're paying senior citizen rates, you will just about make it into a movie theatre.

But look at what you can get for \$35.00 when you become a member of the Jamaica Estates Association. You get a community organization that has, for the last eight decades, provided our residents with:

- An active and effective Security Patrol
- A community recognized for its excellence throughout the city
- Preservation of the tradition and character of Jamaica Estates, a highly desirable neighborhood since 1910
- Maintaining our excellent zoning classification
- Dialogue with a police precinct known for its supportive relationship with our community
- A task force that has created a successful working approach to address community issues concerning St. John's University
- Landscaped malls, parkways and Greenstreets triangles
- Contact with city and state governments to ensure they understand our needs and provide essential services necessary to maintain our quality of life
- And meetings with an array of public servants actively working to enhance our community that includes Senator Tony Avella, Senator Leroy Comrie, Assembly Member David Weprin, Council Member Rory Lancman, Borough President Melinda Katz, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown, Community Board 8 District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, and many other agency leaders.

The Jamaica Estates Association keeps the community informed via published bulletins, postcards, emails, and a continuously updated website.

Join the JEA by sending in your check for \$35.00.

Note: JEA dues (\$35.00) are separate from patrol dues. You must pay with *two* checks.

IMPORTANT:

Please include your email address on your Jamaica Estates Association membership application. The JEA provides up-to-the-minute information to members on emergency alerts and on many timely issues that are too important to wait for printed mailings.



MONTHLY BULLETIN
Established in 1929
The Jamaica Estates Association

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