

NEWS FROM BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #10

Contact K. Kearns at 718-892-1161

Among the activities of a community board, is to render advisory opinions on land use matters. All of our decisions regarding these matters are governed by the City's Zoning Resolutions. Many times developers come before Community Board #10 and request variances to an existing provision within the Zoning Resolution or a special permit. The Board meets with the developer and the members of the affected community and discusses the issue at hand and sometimes, the Board will support the proposed variance, or special permit request because it will result in an improved set of circumstances for the affected community. Other times, the Board will oppose the variance or special permit request because it will be in the Board's opinion, injurious to the community.

Those familiar with land use matters may have heard the term "As of Right," with respect to an owner/developer's plans for a parcel of land. This term refers to the ability of a property owner/developer to develop a piece of land that he/she owns in any manner that he/she chooses. However, this interpretation is misleading; the decision of what to build and where it will be, must be consistent with existing zoning regulations for the area in question. For instance, an owner may decide to put a residential high rise in a community of 1-3 family homes. The construction of a large building in such an area would not be allowed under the zoning regulation governing that area. So, the developer would have to come before the community board and request a variance or special permit. The Board would conduct a public hearing with the affected community and receive their input, and subsequently meet with the developer/owner and generally arrive at a compromise, which allows for the development, while preserving the character of the community. In the event that no compromise is possible, the developer will appeal the matter to a body known as the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) and there will be a hearing, where the developer pleads his case and the community board, its case. In instances such as this, the BSA will make the decision which often results in a compromise between the developer's interest and those of the larger community. Bronx Community Board #10 routinely engages the assessment of projects that fall outside of the parameters of the existing Zoning Regulations. Our decisions are advisory in scope, and in each of these cases the Board consults with the City Planning Commission, the Department of City Planning and our colleagues in the City Council, who are the experts in zoning and land use matters, and during the assessment phase, the community board truly endeavors to bring about a compromise that benefits our communities.

Jury Duty has just become a lot easier. Thanks to the efforts of Borough President Diaz, Hon. Douglas McKeon, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters for the 12th Judicial District, Hon. Efrain Alvarado, Administrative Judge for the Criminal Division of the 12th Judicial District, and Bronx County Clerk Louis Diaz, Bronx County has instituted a call in system for jurors. When summoned for jury duty, Bronx residents can now call a number printed on the top of their summons a day before they are to appear, to learn if

they are needed on that date. The call in program replaces the system where everyone who received a summons had to come in on a certain day and remain in the court building to determine if they were needed for jury service. The call in system makes it easier for potential jurors and eases the problem of having too many or too few jurors available for service. This system has a proven record of success in other Boroughs.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is accepting applications for its 2012 Summer Camp Program. The Program provides week long adventures in conservation education for youth between the ages of 11-13. Campers learn about environmental stewardship through actual experiences in the New York's beautiful upstate environs. Participants enjoy fishing, bird watching, fly tying, archery, canoeing, hiking, hunter safety education, instruction about fields, forests and streams. Counselors from DEC teach the young people conservation techniques and natural resource management. The DEC operates four upstate camps and Camp Rushford offers camping experiences for teens between the ages 14-17. DEC encourages civic organizations, sporting clubs, and environmental groups, to sponsor a child for a week at one of the camps. Information for the 2012 Summer Camp Program is available on DEC's website: www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html or by calling 518-402-1814. Applications from both sponsors and parents can be submitted starting January 28th. The cost for a camper for one week is \$350.00.

The American Diabetes Association has announced that March 27, 2012 will be the 24th Annual American Diabetes Association Alert Day 2012. This is a day where the American Diabetes Association (ADA) seeks to heighten the awareness of the population about Type 2 Diabetes. The ADA will be advising people to take the Diabetes Risk Test and will provide people with the opportunity to obtain support via Facebook. The ADA hopes to raise the awareness of one million people through the Alert Day. Additional information can be obtained by visiting Facebookstopdiabetes.com or by calling 1-800-342-2383.

The Advocacy Counseling and Entitlement Services Project of the Community Service Society is looking for individuals who are 55 or over to serve as volunteers to assist others in securing public benefits. Volunteers will participate in a seven week training course that provides instruction in Medicaid, Food stamps and other entitlement programs. After training, they are placed in community service agencies across the City, where they will provide six hours a week of volunteer service. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Ms. Osborne at (212) 614-5412 or Ms. Collado (212) 614-5467.

Unfortunately, we have a large number of stray cats in our communities. These creatures are deserving of our help in efforts to find them responsible homes and to control overpopulation. You can participate in this worthy effort by joining the TNT or Trap Neuter Return program. This is one of the truly effective ways to control the feral cat population. On Saturday, February 25, 2012, from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, you can attend

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a seminar on the program at the Parkchester Branch of the New York Public Library, located at 1985 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462. Advance registration is required. to participate: please contact tnr@neighborhoodcats.org and ad the subject line BronxTNRworkshop.

Many of us are truly fortunate to have four legged friends; please remember to clean up after your dog. It is very important for the health of your dog and your neighbors. Besides, there is a \$250.00 fine for failing to clean up after your pet and violating the pooper-scooper law.

Bronx Community Board #10 is available to assist you with your concerns; please feel free to contact us at 718-892-1161 or BX10@cb.nyc.gov or visit our office at 3165 E. Tremont Avenue. We are open five days a week between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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