

“Round the Town” *by Mike Dragonetti*

“Will you fight with me?” At the January 5th meeting of the Nostrand Gardens Civic Association, president Mel Harris gave a very stirring speech. “Will you fight with me against drugs, gangs, and illegal housing? Where will you stand this year? This is the year we turn action into real change. Will you join with me? I still believe we can make a difference.” Since Nostrand Gardens has now expanded to Hempstead, Hempstead Mayor Wayne Hall spoke about progress made during his term as mayor, and asked for support in the upcoming mayoral election. Nassau County First Precinct (which includes Uniondale) Police Officers Glenn Neuman and John Bilello reported that in December there were 15 burglaries (2 arrests, and there may be more), 7 stolen cars (4 were recovered), 6 robberies (and there are leads on them) in Uniondale. They urged all not to leave their cars running. The officers also noted a new type of crime perpetrated on high-end luxury cars where all four tires were being stolen. They urged residents to form neighborhood block associations, and stated that they would help support any block interested in forming one. They also noted that, despite recent published reports about shortage of police cars, the First Precinct is not affected. The First Precinct’s Explorers, a student organization sponsored by the Police Department, took first place in New York State tournaments – outranking Explorers from New York City. The group also took two first-place awards in a recent National competition. Nostrand Gardens meets on the first Monday of every month at the Uniondale Library. See the website, www.weareuniondale.com, for details and a membership application.

In Hempstead’s upcoming mayoral elections, St. Martha’s own Paul Delle is running for Village Court Justice (on James Garner’s Alliance ticket), and Dr. Raymond Rhoden, a name familiar to the Uniondale School District residents as he has served many years on the School Board, is running for Trustee (on Lance Clarke’s Good Government Ticket).

In November a few citizens banded together to re-establish the Uniondale Chamber of Commerce. Since November membership has tripled. Chamber President Arthur Katz, who is also President of Knockout Pest Control Inc., described the mission statement as “a liaison between our community, business, and government, while offering real solutions to Uniondale’s issues and opportunities.” While the Chamber’s primary focus is on business in Uniondale, individuals and organizations are welcome to join-and businesses are encouraged to join. The Chamber meets on the second Tuesday of every month. See www.11553.com for more details.

There’s a second newspaper in Uniondale, the Hempstead Uniondale Times.

On Sunday, January 25th, the Uniondale Library will host the 15th annual “Uniondale: A True Global Village” from 2pm until closing. This popular multi-cultural event celebrates the uniqueness of our community. Contact the library for more details.

On Friday, January 30th, the Uniondale Community Council will have their annual trustees dinner dance at Verdi’s, \$68 per person before January 18th, \$70 afterwards. Ads and sponsorships are available as well. The Uniondale Community Council’s next meeting will be on Monday, January 26th, at the Uniondale Library.

In the midst of the hectic holiday season, we often forget that Long Island’s version of the “Rockefeller Christmas Tree” is on display at the Reckson Center on Hempstead Turnpike. This year’s tree was the equal of any displayed in more prominent places. Did you remember to stop and see it?

