
WOODSIDE ON THE MOVE NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2018



Woodside on the Move is a grassroots community organization dedicated to making Woodside and Western Queens a better place to live and learn. The focus of our services ranges from education, tenant advocacy, and housing assistance. Our services include one-on-one help with affordable housing, pro bono legal clinics, after school and summer camp, adult ESL and computer classes, and public events including street fairs and art festivals. On a monthly basis we hold tenant meetings and rallies where seniors, immigrants, and other residents gather and bring up questions, concerns, and give their input on the changes they want to see.

From these gatherings we are able to act on citywide campaigns for rent stabilization and issues on our right to counsel. Ultimately, we envision a stable community in which everyone has a voice and is engaged in lifelong learning. We work diligently every day to achieve this through our education, advocacy, and housing services. Throughout this newsletter you will learn about some of the many services that we offer as well as events that we hold for members of our community. We hope that you will learn from this information and reach out to us if you or someone you know may need help.



TENANT ADVOCACY

Woodside on the Move's Housing Department is a one-stop-shop where Queens' families can **learn about affordable housing** in their neighborhood, access legal services and special subsidies, and get empowered about tenant's rights.

Our services include **free one-on-one counseling** and case management to tenants. We believe strongly that tenants themselves can become their best advocates. so we regularly organize tenants' rights workshops, support tenant association efforts, hold press conferences against abusive landlords, and partner with other housing groups on joint campaigns for rent control and neighborhood stabilization.

EDUCATION

Woodside on the Move believes that all of its residents deserve a well-rounded education and training to succeed

For adults: All year round we provide free computer and English classes for adults. Community residents can come learn a variety of computer skills from beginner to intermediate levels to be able to update their work portfolio or for their personal use. English classes help residents increase their employment opportunities through learning the language.

For children: We provide afterschool and summer camp for youth in grades K to 6, and English and computer classes for adults. Our afterschool Programs at P.S. 151, P.S.152 and P.S. 11 serve approximately 700 Woodside-based school children each year.

Classes held at the schools include **homework help, sports, music** and performance arts, dance, music, creative writing, health and nutrition, computers, and **STEM** (Science Technology Engineering and Math) activities such as a 3D Printer Program.

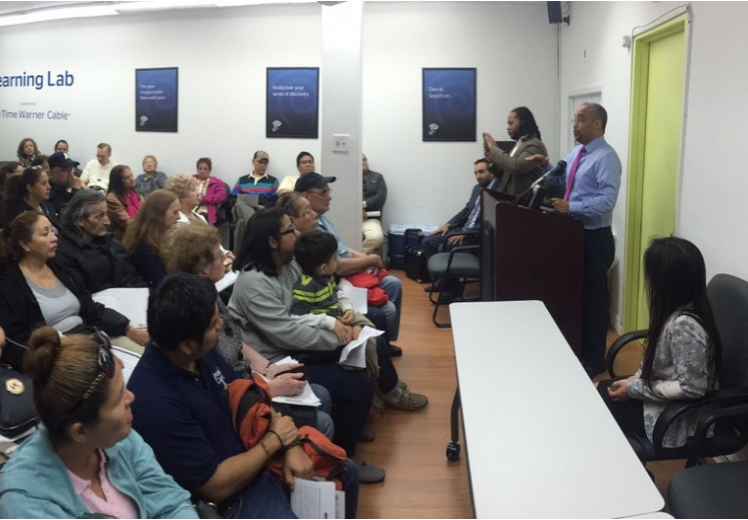


HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Tenants can also get assistance with submission of **grant, subsidy, and housing voucher applications**, navigating housing court, landlord/tenant mediation, entitlement information and procurement, relocation assistance, and referral services for other needs.

For senior clients, we assist with enrollment of medical benefits and entitlements including **HEAP, DRIE, and SCRIE**, rent regulations, and more.

In addition, tenants can attend our **free monthly legal clinics with pro bono attorneys** including Queens Legal Services and JASA, where they can ask questions about their individual cases and seek assistance in navigating housing court.



WORKSHOPS & ACTIVITIES

The organization's commitment to providing the community with enriching experiences could be seen through our community activities. We also host a variety of workshops from tenants' rights to immigration services. Workshop topics vary from:

- Know your rights
- Housing & Affordable housing
- Emergency planning
- DACA
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- Visa and U-Visa
- Tenants' rights
- Tax services



EVENTS

To put our new year's health resolutions into full gear, in January we partnered up with Shape UP NYC to offer **free, drop-in fitness classes**. Classes started on January 20th and are held at PS 361's Beacon Program located at 39-7 57th Street. These classes are open to the public and require no class registration—simply show up and take fitness classes like aerobics, yoga, Pilates, Zumba, and much more!

As we do every year, we kicked off the tax season providing **FREE tax preparation** services for seniors. This year we also teamed up with Food Bank for New York City to provide free tax preparation for all low-income New Yorkers, helping them get the refunds and credits to which they are entitled. These services undoubtedly relieve the pressure that tax preparation can put on many, especially to the underserved populations in our communities.

Prom Pop-Up Shop: This spring Woodside on the Move partnered up with #WGBWC365 (#WeGiveBecauseWeCare #365Days) for a good cause. In February we announced that we were accepting donations of new or gently used prom tuxedos/suits and dresses. This was done in an effort to provide high school teens who cannot afford tuxedos and dresses, the opportunity to attend their proms without the financial burden of having to pay for the attire. With the help of members of the community, we were able to distribute dresses and tuxedos at the #PromPopUpShop on April 21st which took place at WOTM's Beacon Center located at P.S. 361. In addition to the clothing, we were able to give out accessories and makeup as part of the giveaway. The Prom Pop Up Shop was more than just giving away clothing attire, it was about community, fellowship and building with our future generation.

Easter Eggstravaganza: Our first annual Easter egg hunt at Doughboy Park saw a lot of eggs, candy and prizes. The family friendly event featured over 4,000 eggs filled with candy and two golden eggs with special prizes! And yes, you guessed it... the Easter Bunny made an appearance! Children from 0-9 years old were all able to enjoy this great event.



shapeup NYC

Cardio Sculpt Dance
Thursdays 6:30p.m.

P.S. 361Q Beacon
39-7 57th Street
Woodside, NY 11377

Instructor: Misty
All fitness levels welcome!
Bring water.

NYC Parks | shapeup NYC | Empire Blue Cross Blue Cross of NY | NYC Service | Fund for Public Health NYC | NY State | BHC BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



EVENTS

Rally in Albany! Rent Reform Campaign

On April 17th, Woodside on the Move along with many tenants from our community took part in rally in Albany of over 150 tenants from all across New York City. The purpose of the gathering was advocate for stronger rent laws. Tenants made the effort to travel to the capitol to ask the State Senate to close four loopholes that are eliminating affordable housing in New York City. We demanded that representatives do more than the conservative and stagnant efforts that are being made. We demanded that bills be brought to the floor and passed this year. We need to end Preferential Rent law, repeal the Vacancy Bonus, repeal Vacancy Destabilization and eliminate Major Capital Improvements (MCI). In mobilizing a good amount of tenants, we feel we have played an important role in advocacy for changes.

Please be sure to check out our Facebook and webpage at Woodsideonthemove.org to find all of our future events. Volunteers welcomed!



CONTACT US

For Housing Assistance, clients can visit or call our office Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

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