

Biz groups get newcomers started



Photo courtesy of the Queens Chamber of Commerce

Representatives of the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce attend the Queens Chamber of Commerce Business Trade Show in May 2006.

BY ALEX CHRISTODOULIDES

Whatever neighborhood is ideal for you to open or run a business, there is at least one organization that can help you. Some areas have many such groups, each focusing on a different type of business or part of the neighborhood.

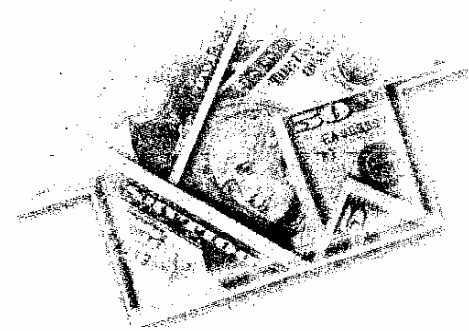
In central Queens,

Forest Hills has an active Chamber of Commerce headed by Leslie Brown. Besides working to promote local shops and restaurants in Forest Hills, Brown also organizes events such as summertime concerts near Austin Street to draw crowds to the area. The FHCC office can be reached at P.O. Box 1123, Forest Hills, NY 11375, 718-268-6565 or www.shopforesthills.com

A few blocks away is the Metro-Forest Chamber of Commerce, founded by Rosemarie Iacovone after a string of robberies in the early 1990s. The chamber boasts about 100 paid members and Iacovone runs the show during the day from her lingerie store Roxanne and holds meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

"We cover Metropolitan Avenue from Union Turnpike to Woodhaven Boulevard. There are 160 businesses on the avenue. These are all local businesses, the riding stables, a lot of restaurants and antique stores. It's really a unique area," Iacovone said. Her store is located at 105-11 Metropolitan Ave., Forest Hills, NY 11375, 718-263-2526.

The Greater Jamaica Development Corporation has big plans to revitalize downtown Jamaica. It draws on public, private and nonprofit sector resources to improve the quality of life in the area



and create sustainable growth for the business and residential communities. Its offices are at 90-04 161st Street, Jamaica, NY 11432, 718-291-0282.

In the west, the Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1947, hopes to help local businesses in every way.

"We continue to be an organization built around assisting and helping local businesses, professionals, and merchants. We have a voluntary board of direc-

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Dan Miner
Long Island City Business Development Corporation

tors who are trying to help build businesses and improve services in our community. Always mindful of the community services to which we are entitled, our chamber acts as a watchdog in monitoring that these services are delivered," says its Web site.

The Long Island City Business Development Corporation has been going strong for "over 20 years," said Dan Miner, senior vice president. It partners with city business services to assist local businesses with their problems, speaks on behalf of local business development for the community and organizes networking and educational events for the commercial, industrial, cultural and residential sectors, Miner said.

The LICBDC Web site, www.licbdc.org includes "an interactive amenities map of Long Island City, available online free, and an online member directory also available free," said Miner. The LICBDC

office is located at 29-10 Thomson Ave., Ninth floor, Long Island City, NY 11101, 718-786-5300.

The business groups mentioned here are only a small sample of what is available. The Queens Borough President's Web site offers a more comprehensive list at http://www.queensbp.org/content_web/econ_dev/rg_biz_neighborhood-guide.shtml.

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