

## Nursing Home Artist Presents Drawing To Onorato



*Photo Luis Rocha*  
Artist James Keane Sr. (seated), is presented with a state proclamation by state Senator George Onorato. Holding Keane's drawing, which will hang in Onorato's district office is Edwin Graham of the Foundation for Quality Care (l.) as Anthony Clemenza, owner of Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility (far r.) looks on.

James Keane, Sr., a 79-year-old artist who lives at Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility, 61-11 Queens Blvd., Woodside, presented a drawing, featured in a 2006 calendar as a winner of the "Art from the Heart" program, to state Senator George Onorato as part of a National Nursing Home Week celebration on May 18. Onorato said he planned to display the loaned artwork in his district office to showcase the talents of people living in nursing homes.

The New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA) and the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. launched the first ever "Art from the Heart" program to shine a spotlight on the vitality and artistic creativity of individuals who reside in nursing homes throughout New York state. More than 100 pieces of artwork were submitted from nursing homes across the state and a panel of independent jurists selected 13 pieces, including Keane's, to be featured in the "Art from the Heart" 2006 calendar.

"I would like to thank the New York State Health Facilities Association and the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. for creating 'Art from the Heart' and giving all of us the opportunity to recognize the vitality and creativity of people like James who are living in nursing homes throughout our state," Onorato said. "And, of course, I would like to thank the Queens Boulevard Extended Care Facility for providing its residents with the chance to participate in unique programs like this. I am proud and grateful that James is permitting me to borrow his drawing for display in my district office here in Queens. His drawing was one of 13 pieces of artwork chosen for the 2006 'Art from the Heart' calendar, and I am happy to provide the public with yet another opportunity to see it. His drawing symbolizes not only his own talent, but the creativity of so many other nursing home residents throughout New York."

## Leonard T. D'Amico Is Library Trustees President



**Leonard T. D'Amico.**

Leonard T. D'Amico has been named president of the Queens Borough Public Library's governing body, its 19-member board of trustees. D'Amico was first appointed as a library trustee by then Borough President Claire Shulman in 1998 and has served as board treasurer and secretary.

"Len D'Amico's knowledge and expertise in business and volunteer service to Queens complements Queens Library's commitment to providing our diverse customers with the finest library service to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs," Library Director Thomas W. Galante noted.

Born and raised in Astoria, D'Amico is a principal in the firm of The D & F Development Group, a real estate development, construction and management firm based in Whitestone and specializing in the creation of affordable senior and family housing. He has served for the last 12 years as a community and legislative liaison to state Senator George Onorato. In addition to his appointment as a library trustee, he was named to several committees and task forces by Shulman, including the Fresh Kills Landfill Closure Task Force and the Prevention Subcommittee on Illegal Conversions.

A graduate of St. John's University with a B.S. degree in finance, D'Amico continues his longstanding involvement on the boards of Queens Centers for Progress, Queens Economic Development Corporation and several other community and civic groups in Queens. He and his wife and daughters live in North Flushing.

Other officers newly elected to the library board of trustees are James Y. Ho, Esq., vice president; Mary Ann Mattone, secretary; Carl L. Figliola, Ph.D., treasurer, and Joseph R. Ficalora, assistant treasurer.

The Queens Library serves a population of 2.2 million in the most ethnically diverse county in the United States. With a record 18.9 million items in circulation and in-person attendance of 14.3 million people in Fiscal Year 2005, the library has one of the highest circulations of any public library system in the world. For more information about library programs, services, locations, events and news, visit the Queens Library Web site at [queenslibrary.org](http://queenslibrary.org) or call 718-990-0700.

## Fire Forces 36 People From 3 Buildings



*Photo Vinny DuPre*

A blaze broke out steps away from a long closed firehouse in Long Island City last Wednesday afternoon and went to three alarms before being brought under control. Some 36 people were forced out of their apartments in the three buildings involved and were being resettled in temporary quarters by the Red Cross. The firehouse had been used as a location setting for the television series, "Rescue Me". The fire at 38-57 Ninth St. started at about 4:30 p.m. and spread to two adjoining three-story buildings, one on either side. It went to three alarms, bringing 138 firefighters and 33 units of equipment to the scene before being brought under control at about 6 p.m. The roof of one of the buildings collapsed during the fire. Seven firefighters sustained minor injuries; five were treated at the scene and two were taken to Elmhurst Hospital Center. The cause of the fire is under investigation.