

'Parking Pal' Gives Motorists An Edge Against Ticket Blitz

By Liz Schoyer

Parking restrictions are strictly enforced in Bay Ridge, Sheepshead Bay, Canarsie and Dyker Heights because motorists in these neighborhoods are most likely to pay their fines, said "Parking Pal" Louis Camporeale.

About 30 angry motorists gathered at the Green House Café in Bay Ridge to hear tips on how to beat the parking violations system in a seminar presented by Camporeale.

Proprietor John Keegan invited Camporeale because he believes Bay Ridge residents are being overwhelmed by a barrage of parking tickets, some of them given unfairly.

Camporeale said that 20 percent of all tickets have some kind of defect, but a faulty ticket is upheld unless the motorist points out an error.

The most common type of defect is the wrong location; 59,000 tickets last year had no geographic reference.

During the seminar Camporeale answered numerous questions about New York City's parking laws and gave tips on how to fight a ticket.

The recent change of nearly half a million "No Parking" signs have caused a great deal of confusion in the city, Camporeale said. New

signs have a large "P" with a broom and do not mention alternate side parking.

Camporeale, a Gravesend resident, says that he began the Bensonhurst-based "Parking Pals" in 1994 because he felt the Parking Violations Bureau and the Department of Transportation were not being honest with people.

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Tickets are commonly administered unfairly at broken parking meters, according to Camporeale.

"Just last week, I parked at a meter at Sheepshead Bay Road and when I went to renew, I had received a ticket," said Joanna Cummings, a Midwood resident, who feels the city should adhere to parking laws instead of breaking them just to meet revenue quotas.

"The city is making millions of dollars in revenue and is projected to make

even more this year," said Camporeale.

Brooklyn cars are ticketed the most because of the volume of people and the number of alternate side street parking sites, said Camporeale.

During his presentation at the café, 7717 3rd Avenue, Camporeale stressed the basics of defective tickets.

Among the top 10 ticket defects that can render a dismissal are:

- No time or dates of first observance for meter feeding.

- Violation date and time missing; no "in front" or "opposite" address or site specific details given or location described as "corner of."

- Incorrect or missing license plate type and/or number, car make and/or body type.

- Incorrect state of registration or registration expiration date.

- No "a.m." or "p.m." and/or "days" and "hours" of restriction not listed from the regulation sign, or no parking, standing, stopping stated.

- "All" box not checked or "anytime" not stated for no parking, standing or stopping.

- No meter serial number; no feet measurement from hydrant; no issuing of agent's signature.

If you get a valid ticket, Camporeale recommends



Louis Camporeale, the "Parking Pal," gave tips to motorists on how to avoid parking tickets at a seminar on April 7.

sending in the payment by certified mail to ensure that it was received. If there are any delays in processing the ticket, the responsibility falls to the Parking Violations Bureau and the motorist cannot be charged interest or additional penalties.

Furthermore, Camporeale advises, "Don't take risks. If you're not sure you can park there, don't."

For more information about "Parking Pals," contact the website at www.ParkingPal.com. Write to Parking Pal, P.O. Box 350-003, Brooklyn, NY, 11235; or call: 946-6736.

Social Security Privatization

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on, "and nobody talks about this, because they don't want to talk about this, it's in the real fine print: How do you shift from a system in which most of the money we're paying in today pays for current retirees to a system in which you say, that money isn't paying for current retirees, today, that money is going into private savings accounts to pay for retirement 30 years from now?"

"What is then going to pay for the current retirees today?" Nadler demanded. "Well, the people who support privatization have an answer, in the fine print. The answer is raise social security taxes by 1.6 percent. That will pay for it. But, if you want to raise the social security taxes by 1.6 percent, you don't have to go into the whole system in the first place. You've almost solved your entire problem just by doing that."

Photo by Liz Schoyer