

DAILY NEWS

Qns. span will get its fireworks

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THE QUEENSBORO Bridge will get candles on its birthday cake after all.

Supermarket mogul John Catsimatidis told the Daily News he will donate “whatever is necessary” for a fireworks display at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Queensboro Bridge later this month.

Catsimatidis read about the bridge’s fund-raising woes in The News.

Officials from the NYC Bridge Centennial Commission said they were having a hard time getting donations for the historic Queens crossing, often overshadowed by the Brooklyn Bridge.

“I’m in New York all my life and I love New York,” said Catsimatidis, a billionaire who has mulled running for mayor.

“Not having the fireworks is almost as bad as not having the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade,” he said. “Someone has to step up to bat.”

News of Catsimatidis’ donation was hailed by Sam (Gridlock Sam) Schwartz, a former deputy transportation commissioner who is president of the nonprofit centennial commission.

“Too many people only think about infrastructure when it is failing,” said Schwartz. “This will give us the opportunity to get the public to understand the beauty of the bridge and the history that makes it so magnificent.”

When the Queensboro Bridge was completed back in 1909, its cantilever design was considered unique and distinguished it from the other East River crossings which are all suspension bridges.

The week-long birthday bash starts May 31 and will include a reenactment of the first trip over the bridge and other festivities.

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