

THE BAYSIDE HILLS BEACON

ISSUE 163, VOLUME 11, JUNE 2018 | OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

CARDOZO H.S. ANNEX UPDATE

By Amina Mukhtar

There has been a lot of talk about the building being constructed as an extension to Benjamin Cardozo H.S. All we've heard was an announcement in the fall, followed by rumors and 'maybes', no real corroborated information. However, an interview with Principal Meagan Colby sets the facts straight about the upcoming construction project that would change Cardozo in more ways than one.

What Principal Colby knows for sure is that there will be an extension to our high school (already approved by the DOE and School Construction Authority), most likely on the hill at the corner of Springfield Blvd and 58rd Avenue. This project is being pushed by local politicians, such as Councilman Grodenchik, because of how congested all city schools are and the need for more space. According to Principal Colby, we are at approximately 156% capacity.

The building would accommodate approximately 548 seats, but they would not



(...continued on page 5)

GENERAL MEETING

Bayside Hills Civic Association's next

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 • 8PM

SPECIAL GUEST

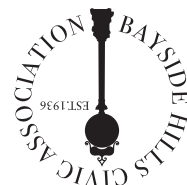
SENATOR AVELLA

Colonial Church of Bayside

Located on Bell Blvd, where Luke Place and 216th Street converge

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HELLO SUMMER!



See that ray of sunshine up there to the right? Not only does it mean we wish everybody a wonderful summer, it signifies more sunny days for Bayside Hills on the horizon. Recently we have received word from our Queens Budget Director, Richard Lee, that funding has arrived to finally complete long overdo repairs to those iconic guide towers on 48th Avenue and 216th Street, which are two of the most spectacular structures in Bayside Hills. In addition, promises have been made that all the residue of construction project QED1002 will finally be totally out of Bayside Hills and our neighborhood will be restored to its original configurations: (bus routes, street directions, construction materials, debris removal, etc)



This leads to the announcement of our next **Bayside Hills Civic Association General Meeting Tuesday, June 26th 8:00 PM** at the Colonial Church of Bayside, Bell Blvd. where Luke Place and 216th Street converge. This meeting will be quite significant with special guests State Senator Tony Avella, and representatives from our 111th Precinct on hand. We will be discussing items such as:

- ***AirBnb regulations** and how it is may affect Bayside Hills. Concerns and complaints vis-à-vis one particular location on 213th Street in Bayside Hills over a residence that has been converted to an AirBnb rental. (Senator Avella)

- * The latest update concerning the revitalization of Dermody Park Triangle. (Senator Avella)

- * News of the \$500,000 allocation to repair our Bell Blvd Mall and when hopefully work is going to begin. (Barry Grodenchik's office)

- * Presentation: BHCA Rick Scutch Scholarship Award to William

Liao. William has unselfishly given of his time and talent to enhance our public community ceremonies. William's scholastic achievement of admission to an all scholarship esteemed Regis High School is a credit not only to his family but to the community schools where he was educated. William's impeccable character and good citizenship have for years enhanced our Bayside Hills community.



* Food Drive and 50/50

A thank you must go to former BHCA President Kevin Farrelly, who provided a little article which appears elsewhere in this Beacon vis-à-vis Adrian (King) Cornell, our past vice president and chairman of our Board of Directors. Adrian passed away May 26th at the age of 100. When I joined the BHCA, I served under our Public Works Committee, which he chaired. Needless to say I learned quite a bit about how a civic association deals with government agencies. Thanks also to Jerry Iannece who contacted Adrian's niece, Arlene Lancetta, so we can have photos of Adrian and his late wife, Marion for our Beacon. We will be sending a copy of the Beacon to Arlene after it is published.



Hope to see everybody 8:00 PM, Tuesday, June 26th at our next general meeting. Happy summer everybody!

THE PASSING OF ADRIAN CORNELL

Adrian Cornell died on May 26 in Florida at the age of 100.

No doubt many people living in Bayside Hills today do not recognize his name. But, during the 1970s through the 1990s, Adrian was an extremely active member of the Bayside Hills Civic Association who volunteered countless hours of his time for the betterment of the community.

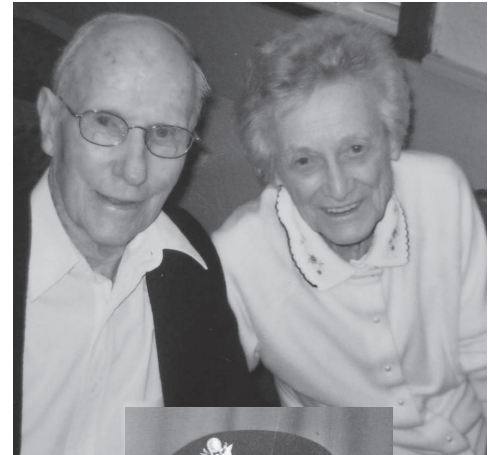
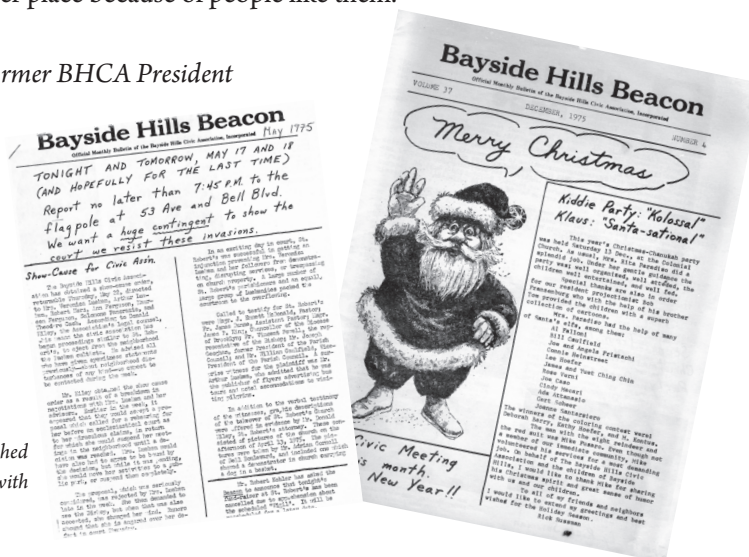
Adrian was involved in many of the challenges facing the BHCA during those years. He fought the followers of Veronica Lueken who sought to erect a shrine on the grounds of St. Robert Bellarmine Church. He was instrumental in resolving the dispute with BQ Cable over the placement of its wires along the avenues of Bayside Hills. He was a fierce and vocal defender of strict residential zoning laws.

During much of the nine years that I was BHCA President, Adrian served as both Vice President and Chair of the Board of Directors. In some ways Adrian and I were very different. He was retired and more than twice my age when I was first elected President in 1988. Politically, we were polar opposites. But I always respected his commitment to the community. We worked well together and we had some fun while doing it. He and I played "Starsky and Hutch" one evening when we tracked down the hit and run driver who destroyed the Bayside Hills entrance cupola at 48th Avenue. We also partnered undercover with the police to help apprehend a graffiti vandal. Adrian was a proud fiscal conservative. As a result, one of the rare issues on which we disagreed was an increase in BHCA dues. But after he lost that vote, he went right back to working hard for the BHCA.

During my years on the BHCA Board, I was privileged to work closely with Adrian as well as with others who are no longer alive, such as Bill Caulfield, Margaret Battle and Leo Green. Bayside Hills is a better place because of people like them.

—Kevin J. Farrelly, former BHCA President

Some vintage Beacons published during Mr. Cornell's service with BHCA in 1975.



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Please email us at baysidehillscivic@gmail.com with any questions or concerns you may have. Send us your email to join our mailing list! Feel free to let us know of any upcoming neighborhood events that you would like us to add to our calendar!

THANKS to all who came out to HONOR OUR VETERANS

The Bayside Hills Civic Association held our annual memorial day ceremony on Saturday, May 26th. We were fortunate to have a bright sunny day to honor all our veterans and to have a good turnout from the community. Once again thank you for your continued support and contributions. The ceremony and the participation of our neighbors definitely brought pride and respect to our veterans.



Photos courtesy of Carole Papadatos

(...continued from cover...Cardozo Annex Update)

be meant to increase our student population.

"What we have been promised and what the neighborhood has been promised, including some of the civic associations and the local community board, is that the purpose [is] ... to alleviate the overcrowding," Principal Colby clarified.

What Colby has been told tentatively, is that the layout of the school would mimic ours, most probably a three-story building with a basement.

Colby also envisions enrichments in all the current programs at Cardozo (dance, Da Vinci, journalism, and law). When asked for input as to what the new building should have, during the meetings with some administrators and UFT (United Federation of Teachers) Representative Dino Sferrazza, she gave several ideas as to how to make our school's programs run more smoothly and become more refined.

She wants to have one floor dedicated to STEM labs for the DaVinci Program, a professional broadcast room for Journalism and Media Studies Program, and the installation of the courtroom for the Law and Humanities Program.

This courtroom would be funded by the half a million dollars we received in last year's participatory budget. The other enhancements would be partially paid for by the million dollars we were endowed with last summer from the Borough President's office.

"In terms of the dance program, since we would have new [science] labs in the new building, I would like to repurpose current outdated lab space in the main building into additional dance studio space."

Principal Colby has also suggested that there be a pool built in the basement of the new building, for our swim team to practice in and possible electives that students could take in regards to building swimming skills.

Students would take classes in both buildings, prompting the question of whether or not there would be a covered walkway between both buildings. The structure is uncertain and would be decided upon in the later planning stages of this project.

What Colby wants to assert is that all of these plans are very tentative and haven't been approved as of yet. All that is certain right now is that an annex is being constructed, to give the school additional facilities and enhance students learning experience.

****From Bayside Hills Civic Association Zoning Co-Chair****

Currently there are 3,744 students enrolled at Cardozo HS. This is 156% of the school's capacity. To alleviate this overcrowding condition at the school the School Construction Authority is proposing to build an additional building. The proposal is for the building to be constructed at the south west corner of Cardozo HS property on 58 Ave abutting Springfield Boulevard. The building will provide an additional 548 seats, a moot court and other amenities. The time frame for this project would be to have a design ready in 1 year. 5 Million dollars has been allocated for this phase. After a design has been completed the project would be sent to bid and a contract awarded. It is estimated that completion of the project would be 3 years after the contract is awarded. This extension is to accommodate the current school population and there is no consideration that the enrollment will be increased.

A new addition to Cardozo HS would be a good thing. The Bayside Hills Civic association is concerned about the over enrollment situation at Benjamin N Cardozo HS. Something must be done to accommodate these students and the Department of Education should not be overpopulating Cardozo HS. The number of students at Cardozo HS needs to be reduced, even if an addition is built. Enrollment priority should be given to students who reside within the school zone.

Further, the Civic Association is concerned that the construction should not interfere with or inconvenience the lives of residents living in the vicinity of the school property, traffic along Springfield Boulevard and the surrounding streets not be affected, careful consideration be given to storm water drainage from the new building so that there will not be a recurrence of the flooding conditions that occurred in the vicinity of 56th Ave. and Springfield Blvd, and that the student population not be expanded especially by students from outside the district

—Joe Lubomski





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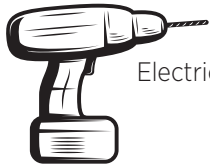
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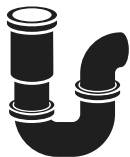
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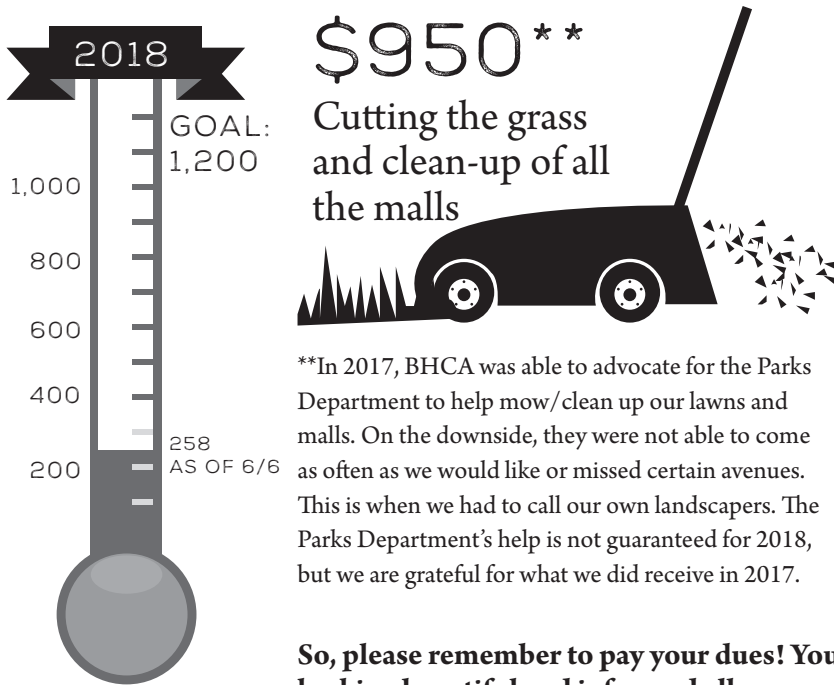
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