

THE BAYSIDE HILLS BEACON

ISSUE 152, VOLUME 9, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016 | OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONSTRUCTION ZONE NEWS!

Water Mains, Sewers and Roadway Hieroglyphics

The noise may have stopped, but the Bayside Hills water main and sewer pipe replacement project endures. Construction has paused, as the City resets the work plan with a new contractor. The NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC) website contains an incomplete list of projects and information on the 216th Street (from 38th Ave to Luke Place) and adjacent avenues job is difficult to find. Susan Seinfeld, CB 11 President, is keeping the BHCA informed as new information becomes available. The CB reports that work completed quickly on 213th St between 50th and 53rd Avenues was for a different job. Further, the multi-colored sidewalk and street markings may be related to more than the water main and sewer work. Con Edison and Verizon are also spraying paint marks to guide maintenance work.

Continued on page 7



216th Street and 51st Avenue

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

Colonial Church of Bayside

TUESDAY, NOV 29 • 8PM

GENERAL MEETING

Bayside Hills Civic Association's next

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Why? Why? WHY?

We will hopefully be learning the answer to “**What Went Wrong With Project Number QED1002**” and the \$19.7 million upgrade to the water delivery and sewer systems in Bayside Hills at our next **BHCA General Meeting on Tuesday, November 29th at 8:00 PM.**

In the history of the Bayside Hills Civic Association and the community of Bayside Hills (which dates back to 1936) we have had an entire assortment of conundrums, dilemmas, nightmares, and mind bogglers. Over the years we had to use goats to cut our malls, endure a huge international following due to the supposed sighting of the Virgin Mary at St. Robert Bellarmine Roman Catholic Church, battle a cable company (BQ Cable) over their placement of unsightly above ground cable wire and poles, horrendous floods due to antiquated sewers and seepage basins, ongoing battles over McMansions, abandoned zombie houses, and placement of the homeless in neighboring hotels.

We definitely must add to the “QED 1002” list and find out what is in store for our community with regards to the stalled project and all its construction materials strewn all over our Bayside Hills streets. In an effort to apprise our community about the future of this project, we will have members of the **NYC Department of Design and Construction, the DDC’s Ali Mallick, and DDC’s Deputy Commissioner of Infrastructure** attend our next meeting. They will enlighten us to the original company’s abandoning the project, (initially I heard they went bankrupt). Also agreeing to be in attendance is **City Councilman Barry Grodenchik and Susan Seinfeld**, who along with the Bayside Hills Civic Association have been following this project ever since the original walk through last summer. I will be inviting **Christine Haider, the Chairperson of Community Board 11, Debra Halpern, the Parent Coordinator of P.S. 203, and Chief Chris Scalone of Engine 326, Ladder 160.**

Aside from lengthy work stoppages, additional grievances reported to the DDC about this project include: dangerous placement of the construction materials on our streets for an inordinate length of time, leaving streets dirty and dusty at the end of the work day, being unable to park anywhere near our homes for months at a time, damage to our property caused by pile drivers digging adjacent to our homes, cloudy tap water that wasn’t fit to drink, increased appearance of rats, mice and other vermin in unattended construction areas, and



unsightly construction materials stored all around Dermody Triangle Park rendering that area unusable which delays our BHCA Spring Festival scheduled to be there in 2017. As of this writing, there is a company (currently working on another project elsewhere) assigned to complete this job. Nevertheless I have learned that they will be **removing the construction material before Thanksgiving** so Bayside Hills will look presentable for the holiday season. They will be back in January to resume working on the project.

Besides construction updates, **Marguerite Manela of the NYC Department of Sanitation** will also be making a brief presentation at our meeting about the **organics collection program**, DSNY’s curbside service to collect organics—food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste from residents in select areas of NYC. Participants receive a brown, rodent-proof bin with a latching lid to deposit their food scraps and yard waste. Just like with your trash and recycling, DSNY collects the material from these bins on a set schedule each week. The organic material is turned into compost or renewable energy.

As always, we have invited representatives from our **111th Precinct**. I’ve asked the officers to discuss a scam that’s been prevailing for awhile where suspects were stealing checks out of mailboxes, altering them and cashing them at local banks. At a recent meeting I have seen what our NYPD is suggesting how we as citizens can protect ourselves from this kind of fraud.

We’ll have our regular food drive, 50/50 raffle, and wonderful refreshments. Finally, on **Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 PM**, we will be having our **BHCA Holiday Lighting Festival**. Most of our usual guests will be in attendance including a return engagement from the children of P.S. 203. **In Motion Dance Center of New York** will also be on hand to perform.



So please remember to attend our VERY IMPORTANT general meeting on Tuesday, November 29th at 8:00 PM with the New York City Department of Design and Construction AND our BHCA Annual Holiday Lighting Festival on December 18th. Bring your friends and neighbors.

Happy Thanksgiving everybody!



Cloudy tap water



Dec 2015 by my house



Snowed in for three days



Dermody Triangle November 2016



HEALTHY EATING TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

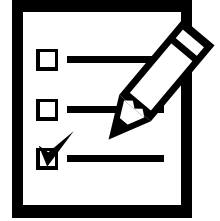
- **Don't arrive on an empty stomach!**
Skipping breakfast or lunch may cause you to overeat and consume more calories that you would if you had eaten beforehand.
- **Offer to bring a healthy dish.**
This strategy not only provides you with a good menu option but your host will appreciate your help as well.
- **Select small portions.**
Moderation is key. Selecting small portions allows you to control your calorie intake while enjoying different items offered. If you really crave a high-calorie item, go ahead and treat yourself to a small serving.



PREVENTION DURING THE HOLIDAYS

- **SHOPPING:** Stay alert and be aware when you are out shopping. Park in well-lit spaces and don't carry large amounts of cash or hide bags/gifts in the trunk.
- **TRAVELING:** Don't forget to stop your mail. Set an automatic timer for your lights and don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.
- **STRANGERS:** Be aware of people going door-to-door asking for charitable donations (ask for their ID).
- **AFTER THE GIFTS ARE OPENED:**
Break down boxes and don't put them out until the evening of your regular garbage pick up. Don't leave hints out for burglars!

BHCA 2016 ELECTIONS!



The following is the slate of nominees for the BHCA Officers and Board of Directors for the term beginning January 1, 2017. **Elections will be held at the November 29 general meeting.**

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Armando Cortino, *Vice President*
Mary Parrino, *Secretary*
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Eileen Feiner	Joe Lubomski
Michael Feiner	Eileen Miller
Rich Kashdan	Carole Papadatos
Rita Kashdan	Mary Parrino
Ronald Keil	Rick Skutch
Matt Kenny	Ronald Tabano

Matt Kenny has expressed interest in joining the BHCA Board. Matt was a big part of our Spring clean up. He is extremely involved in activities at his church, his children's school and their sports. His years of business experience would complement our board.

Save the Date!

Bayside Hills Annual Holiday Festival

December 18th, 2016

5:00 PM

Bell Boulevard and 53rd Avenue mall

Tree Trimming & Lighting • Santa Claus • Refreshments

Please continues to check our Facebook page and your email for updates on our guest list and activities!

REMINDERS

- **Please pay your \$25 Bayside Hills Civic Association 2016 annual dues if you have not done so already!**
- **American Legion clothing donation for adult men. Contact Sebastian at 718-225-3438.**
- **Food pantry collection at every BHCA General Meeting.**



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

OLYMPIANS RETURN BACK TO THEIR ROOTS

By Chelsea Longmore



Two Cardozo Alumnae returned from the 2016 Rio Olympics and stopped by their alma mater to participate in a celebration of their athletic accomplishments. Dalilah Muhammad class of '08 and Deajah Stevens class of '13 qualified to participate in the most prestigious competition of athletic ability- the Olympics. Muhammad won gold in the 400m hurdles with a time of 53.13 seconds. In addition she was able to become the first American woman to win gold in the hurdles. Stevens placed seventh in the women's 200m finals with a time of 22.65 seconds.

Both their faces were filled with excitement and gratitude for the celebration and all the people that nurtured them throughout the years to become the accomplished athletes that they are today. To make it to the Olympics these women overcame many challenges. Muhammad got emotional when she recalled not making it to the 2012 London Olympic Games. She said, "I remember wanting it so badly...I didn't make the 2012 Olympics...I was so devastated... but I kept going and look where I am today."

Muhammad discussed how she had to work extremely hard to get back in shape when she aspired to qualify for the Olympics. She specified, "I was having difficulties in 2014-2015, I was thinking-what do I need to do differently..." Muhammad accepted defeat then she got right back up again and trained even harder. She came home and trained with coaches Gail Emmanuel, a former Olympian in the 1984 Los Angeles games, and Coach James, one of the top track coaches according to www.tracklifeinternational.com.

"In life you are going to come through so many hurdles and there's going to be so many things in your way, but never give up and just keep pushing..."
—*Dalilah Muhammad*

Muhammad gave credit to her Cardozo coaches, "If anybody could whip me back into shape and get me where I need to be, it's these two," she said referring to Coach James and Emmanuel. Coach James, one of the coaches for the Olympic Athletes proudly stated, "Coming home from USC was hard for Dalilah when trying to stay steadfast, but she would come out and train with the girls. I've known Deajah since about the eighth grade... coming to Cardozo her junior year she could not wait until school ended, she would come out to Queens to come practice and trained all summer..." Coach James spoke proudly of what these athletes have achieved. Muhammad also gave advice to the audience, "In life you are going to come through so many hurdles and there's going to be so many things in your way, but never give up and just keep pushing," she said. She also said to keep "believing and keep your faith and just believe in yourself" and that will ultimately get you through the struggles that life brings.



Deajah Stevens, Class of '13, and Dalilah Muhammad, Class of '08 come home to Cardozo to celebrate their success (Photo by: Adriana Kostakis)

Coach Emmanuel was filled with pride when she said, "They [Muhammad and Stevens] are great role models. As a coach it's nice to know that I had some impact on their lives. If I didn't do my job, then they might've not gotten to this point, they could've fallen off. It's really about molding them to be good student athletes... I also thank them for giving me recognition and for making my job easy."

Stevens describes her day as exhausting. She is a student athlete attending the University of Oregon. She starts her day at 6 a.m. with her morning workout then she is off to class. From there she has to go to another workout, and afterwards, tutoring.

When attending Cardozo, these two Olympians participated in activities other than track. Muhammad, who was in the dance program. At the assembly she expressed her love of dance, "I used to be on stage a lot, not for track, but for dance... front and center." Stevens had other passions as well and that was for English. According to Stevens her favorite subject was English because of Mr. Shea's sense of humor. Emmanuel explains these two women attended Cardozo at different times, they never personally knew each other since. However Stevens knew of Muhammad, they first met when they started to gain rank in the Olympic Games.

These two athletes made their mark at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and represented the United States well. Not only did they make the country proud they made Cardozo especially proud. Rebecca Bince, a sophomore, and fellow track athlete said, "I felt emotional and inspired because former students from my school made it to the Olympics, so I wondered if there was a chance for me to make it to the Olympics one day."

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Go to www.nyc.gov/fdny click on "Community Calendar" to find out about scheduled events and about fire safety.

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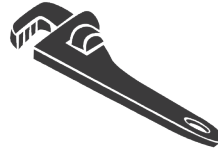
216th Street and 48th Avenue (Photo on cover and this page by Carole Papadatos)

**Red=electrical, yellow=gas, orange=telecommunications,
blue= water, green=sewer**

For over a year, some streets and avenues have been cluttered with heavy equipment, piles of pipe, a field office trailer and portable toilets. When will the project be completed? What streets are targeted for work?

What is being done to keep our streets and driveways safe, accessible and clear of construction equipment and debris during construction? **The BHCA will be seeking answers at the November General meeting on Tuesday November 29 at the Colonial Church.** It's the last general meeting before the holiday break. Project managers from the DDC will be present to answer your questions. Please join us and help raise our community's concerns.

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