

THE BAYSIDE HILLS BEACON

ISSUE 167, VOLUME 12, JANUARY 2019 | OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

I first heard the expression “collaborative effort” from former P.S. 203 principal, Carole K. Nussbaum in describing a spectacular Lunar New Year extravaganza which I was invited to years ago. That’s the best expression to use to describe our 2018 BHCA’s “Holiday Lighting Festival.” To date, it was our best attended event even on a rainy December 2nd, 2018 evening. In making this event so successful, big time thanks must go to our local schools, houses of worship and our elected officials in attendance, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz, Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, and Senator-Elect John Liu, Judge Jerry Iannece. Special thanks also goes out to Community Board 11 with 3rd Vice Chair Eileen Miller representing Chair Christine Haider, our terrific police department from the 111th Precinct who not only took care of directing traffic but was able to contact a very wonderful Santa Claus, along with a couple of elves for us,



Continued on page 3

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

Colonial Church of Bayside

TUESDAY, JAN 29 • 8PM

GENERAL MEETING

Bayside Hills Civic Association's next

Bayside Hills Civic Association
P.O. Box 640246
Oakland Gardens Station
Bayside Hills, New York 11364



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If we were to compile a list of the most poorly treated residents of New York City it would be easy to place commuters and motorists very near the top of that list. With that in mind, our next Bayside Hills Civic Association general meeting, Tuesday, January 29th 8:00 PM at the Colonial Church of Bayside, Bell Blvd. where Luke Place and 216th Street converge, will cover transportation issues in our city, particularly in Queens. The photo you see here was taken this past October at the Murray Hills Long Island Railroad train station. This was a NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer led press conference introducing a proposal to improve mass transit where the MTA should charge the \$2.75 MetroCard fare for all commuter rail trips within our city. We will have City policy makers from the Comptroller's office including Elaine Xiaojang explaining aspects of the plan to improve our mass transit system.



In addition, our meeting will include our Queens New York City Department of Transportation Borough Planner Andrew Arcese to discuss such matters as sidewalk violations, stop signs, speed bumps, and our biggest bugaboo, illegally parked commercial vehicles.



As always we have invited officers from the 111th Precinct with their regular police update, as well as our food drive (no perishables please) and 50/50 raffle. Oh yes, refreshments will be served as usual, hosted by our

wonderful programs committee.

Elsewhere in this publication we thanked all participants who contributed in making our December 2nd, 2018 Holiday Lighting Festival our most successful and best attended ever, (until next year that is). Considering that on the same day there was an incredible Hanukkah Menorah lighting at the Bay Terrace Shopping Center and a Children's Holiday Parade

and Lighting Ceremony on Bell Boulevard, we must reiterate the collaborative effort in making our event so successfully attended was most appreciated.

I would be remiss in not wishing the PS 203 family a Happy Year of the Pig and thanking them for

inviting our Bayside Hills Beacon photographer Carole Papadatos and myself to their always spectacular Lunar New Year celebration. It is always an honor to be in attendance at this very special event.



So Happy New Year Bayside Hills and everyone else for that matter. The BHCA will be working hard to make our wonderful neighborhood more beautiful and better than ever. Hopefully news of the revitalization of Dermody Park Triangle "shovel to the ground" date will be forthcoming sooner rather than later. All our files and those of our former Senator Tony Avella have been forwarded to newly elected State Senator John Liu, who is very aware of this project's often delayed history. Hopefully I'll have an encouraging update on Dermody and plans for the Bell Boulevard Mall, (also unfortunately in a delayed status). If you look around the neighborhood this year, you will see we have been repairing or refurbishing our planters, cupolas, guide towers, and even FDNY fireboxes. In some cases, the work has already been completed.

Hope to see everybody **Tuesday, January 29th** at our **BHCA GENERAL MEETING** at the Colonial Church!

2018 HOLIDAY LIGHTING FESTIVAL



Continued from cover

our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) assisting the NYPD with security, P.S. 203's principal Deborah Florio and music teacher, Linda Holcomb, assistant accordionist "Papa Joe" DeClemente with the delightful and extremely talented 2nd Grade accordionists and chorus, the Saint Robert Bellarmine Roman Catholic Church Folk Singers, our audio experts Jess and Lindsay Feiner, the New York City Department of Parks providing us with electricity and aiding with the cleanup of our Bell Mall afterwards, Chris Liecht and Ronald Keil of Garden World, Keil Bros for supplying the menorah and Christmas tree, Ian Zdatny, for lighting our hanukiah during the eight days of Hannukah, the Burke family who contribute and install the Crèche, the Programs Committee of the BHCA (Marianne Downes, Rita Kashdan, & Rich Kashdan) who supplied the refreshments, our local media; Bayside Hills Beacon staff photographers Carole Jacobson Papadatos and Rich Kashdan, Yvonne Wong-Fein and Yang Li for promoting our event in The Beacon and on our website, and most important, the residents of Bayside Hills and surrounding areas. As you can see it truly was a collaborative effort. Once again thank you everybody and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We wish to thank all those who lighted up our beautiful Bayside Hills neighborhood with their lovely displays. The following are the winners as well as those who deserve honorable mention.

The Winners

53-08 214th Street
53-48 214th Street
213 -15 56th Avenue

Honorable Mention

50-03 Bell Boulevard
53-47 Bell Boulevard
58-08 211th Street
53-08 213th Street
53-12 213th Street
53-16 213th Street
58-02 213th Street
50-12 214th Street
56-49 215th Street
51-03 216th Street
48-18 217th Street
56-44 217th Street
56-14 218th Street
58-11 218th Street

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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!

FINALLY THE FIELD IS FINISHED

After a long year of anticipation, sport teams and gym classes are finally able to experience the new field. With a bulldog surrounded by glaring bright stripes of Cardozo's spirit colors, it signals the completion of Cardozo's field.

It's been more than a year since Cardozo's field was first announced to be reconstructed. Sport teams and gym classes were forced to adjust to the new changes by resorting to indoor activities or traveling to other schools' practice grounds. Lacrosse, football, and soccer teams had to travel to Alley Pond Park, the baseball team had to go to Cunningham Park near Union Turnpike, and the softball team had to go to Linnaeus Park.

Cardozo's sport teams started to miss their home ground and Cardozo students' chants of support.

Alex Chang, second baseman on the baseball team, said "Playing at Cunningham wasn't ideal. When it rained even a little bit, the field was unplayable and without equipment to fix up the field, it would leave the dirt rocky and bumpy which made it harder to field the ball."

Now, with the new field completed, Cardozo will have more physical education classes outside, as well as encouraged sports teams. For over a year, students in physical education classes stayed inside the humid and overcrowded gymnasiums. Now they have the opportunity to enjoy their gym classes in the fresh air.

A colorful and well-constructed field represents our school as a whole. It shows the



public our image from the outside and encourages more students to apply to Cardozo if they want to pursue physical activities.

When asked about when the field is opening, Principal Colby surprised us by saying "It's opening [October 3rd]".

Although the field opened on October 3rd, the opening of the baseball field was the delayed due to the grass on the field being unkempt. The baseball field opened a few weeks after the opening date of the main field.

The delay of the field was the main concern that students had for over a year. The field was set to open a short amount of time after it first started construction, but it was delayed.

"There are certain protocols and checklists that have to be done when you have a major construction project finished," said Colby.

A walkthrough took place to confirm the readiness of the field. Principal Colby, the

athletic director, school custodians, general contractors, and people from the school construction authorities had to be there to check the field.

One of the main features of the new field is the track. Previously, Cardozo's track wasn't regulation-sized.

"It's pretty exciting that we have one of the best track teams in the city, and now they have a track that they can actually use to hold competitions at," said Christopher Milani, the coordinator of student activities.

From now on, Cardozo will be able to hold track competitions. With the completion of the field, Cardozo's atmosphere seems more lively with students playing on the new brightly colored field. Students now have a sense of pride and spirit for this latest addition to our school.

—Vivian Zhu, Andy Wu,
Dylan Guglielmetti

THANK YOU to **Gene Greenlaw** for generously donating our 2019 membership card stickers. Many thanks to **Garden World** as well for all your help. Your contributions to our community are greatly appreciated!

2019 BAYSIDE HILLS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

Apply by May 15!



The Bayside Hills Civic Association is again offering two (2) high school and two (2) middle school scholarships to eligible family members. If you are a BHCA member and have an eligible child, who is a high school or middle school student, urge them to not miss this opportunity for a **\$100 BHCA Scholarship Award**.

Criteria are as follows: The awards are presented to students who have demonstrated leadership qualities and concern for civic responsibility and good citizenship. Disciplines include environmental sustainability, volunteerism, advocacy for clean air and safe sustainable transportation, public health, education and other livability concerns.

Recipients must demonstrate all-around achievement in scholarship, character, and civic responsibility. Provide an essay application (1-2 pages) detailing your qualifications. Applicants are encouraged to include letters attesting to their achievements. **Applications must be post-marked by May 15 to: BHCA, P.O. Box 640246, Bayside Hills, NY 11364** Questions? Please email baysidehillscivic@gmail.com Winners will be listed in the Beacon.

Not a BHCA member? Join now so you can take advantage of the Scholarship Awards Program and other benefits available to BHCA members.

WINTERIZING TIPS FOR YOUR HOME!

Reduce drafts. Loose fitting windows and doors can be major sources of heat loss. Properly seal them with weatherproofing materials. Adding weather stripping around the edges of doors and windows will help keep heat in.

Check attic insulation. The majority of heat that escapes from a home is from the roof. Proper insulation of at least six inches will help prevent heat loss.

Maintain heating equipment. Properly maintain heating equipment to assure maximum efficiency and reduce the risk of malfunction. Have equipment cleaned and serviced yearly by a qualified individual to ensure safe use.

Clean your chimney. Have your chimney cleaned and checked once a year, preferably before heating season starts. If you have not had your chimney inspected within the last three years, you should have it checked to ensure that there are no blockages.

Protect water meters and pipes from freezing. Pipes and meters can freeze when in unheated areas. Ensure there is proper insulation in the surrounding areas. Turn off water to outside faucets, remove hoses and drain the pipes.

Employ proper precautions when thawing pipes and meters. If pipes and meters freeze, thaw them carefully. Do not use a flame, which could ignite a fire or cause a steam explosion. Open a faucet near the frozen area to release vapors from melting ice.

Prevent snow/water accumulation. Snow/rain that collect on roofs can cause a leak or compromise a building's structural integrity if the accumulated weight becomes too great. Clean gutters and roof drains to prevent clogs.

Check contractor qualifications. Make sure that individuals inspecting a boiler or chimney have the proper qualification from the DOB and Department of Consumer Affairs. Make sure your heating/oil company has had its delivery truck inspected by the Department of Consumer Affairs to check for faulty meters.

Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Make sure that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Change the batteries of these devices twice a year – when you change your clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION GOALS FOR 2019

We are excited about the New Year and will continue our work toward a safer, more beautiful and more secure Bayside Hills. In addition to the core ABCs detailed earlier, here are a few tasks we will be focusing on this year:

- Attracting new members to the BHCA. Approximately one-third of the Bayside Hills households are dues paying BHCA members. Currently, approximately one-third of the Hills 1,200 households are dues paying members. Our advocacy, beautification and communication work benefits every household regardless of membership status.
- Advocacy for the completion of the Dermody Triangle and Bell Blvd mall rehabilitation projects and the strict enforcement of all zoning and construction regulations in our neighborhood
- Timely mall landscaping services, including rehabilitation of avenue planters
- Opposition to congestion pricing
- Rehabilitation of the iconic landmark cuppollas and entrance gates

How can we serve the community better? What can we improve? What are your greatest concerns for the neighborhood? Let us know!



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out on the
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of the
merchant
discount
program!
Join
BHCA!

BHCA MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS!

We continue to work with local merchants to offer them increased consumer traffic and offer you discounts on a variety of products/services. Discounts vary by merchant and are subject to change without notice. Minimum purchase may be required. Just remember to show your BHCA Membership card! Enjoy the savings!

BHCA PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS

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47-46 Bell Boulevard, 718-225-0010
Discount: 5% lunch/ 10% dinner

Bayside Hills Shoe Service
212-01 48th Avenue, 718-423-1606
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Bell Blvd Pharmacy
47-48 Bell Boulevard, 718-229-2344
Discount: 10%

Blue Water Fish Market
47-35 Bell Boulevard, 718-423-5397
Discount: 10%

Feiner Finds, Interior Decorating
feinerfinds@aol.com, 917-640-9406
Discount: 1 free hour in-home consultation and 1 free hour of shopping

Foodtown of Bayside
47-33 Bell Boulevard, 718-224-0544
Discount: 5%

Garden World
46-20 Francis Lewis Boulevard,
718-224-5440
Discount: 10-20% depending on purchase

L'Italiano Trattoria
216-01 Horace Harding Expressway
718-224-2536
Discount: Complimentary cookies and coffee

Mamma's Pizza & Restaurant
47-40 Bell Boulevard, 718-279-0808
Discount: 8%

New York Black Belt Center
216-03 Horace Harding Expressway
718-224-0855
Discount: 10% off tuition per month

If you are a business owner who would like to participate and help the Bayside Hills Community, please contact us at baysidehillscivic@gmail.com, we'd love to include you!

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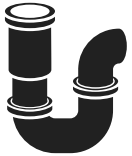
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THINGS CHANGE. So much of the news receive is immune to deadlines—it's real time and not limited to copy space. The Bayside Hills Civic Association has produced and delivered a print edition of the Beacon to 1200 Bayside Hills households for over seven decades. We began supplementing the print edition with a digital version a couple years ago. It allowed us to share timely construction and crime updates, upon receipt. Still, our e-mail address book is limited. We hope that you will join our digital mail group by sharing your e-mail address with us. In addition to the print edition, you'll receive advocacy, beautification, zoning, merchant discount and safety news on-line. Please send us (or update) your email address at: baysidehillscivic@gmail.com

111 PRECINCT, SECTOR C NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATION OFFICERS

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JOHN.ALUSKA@NYPD.ORG

PO MELISSA BONILLA
MELISSA.BONILLA@NYPD.ORG

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

We appreciate your generosity. The Bayside Hills Civic Association is an open homeowner membership organization representing over 1,200 households within the boundaries of Bayside Hills. Our mission is to promote a safer, more livable community. The BHCA Board is volunteer-powered and service-driven. Its advocacy, beautification, and communication work rely solely on the support of members, sponsors, *Beacon* advertisers, and participating discount merchants to maintain and improve our neighborhood. **Here is a simple infographic to show how some of our dues were spent in 2018. Please pay your dues within the first quarter of 2019 so you can take advantage of our merchant discount program all year!**



\$8,646

Printing/mailing our newsletter, business letters, office supplies, membership cards and stickers, postage, and insurance



\$629

Colonial Church rental and refreshments

\$951

Misc. Expenses: Scholarship awards, plaques, flags, banners, Queens Civic Congress dues, website maintenance

So, please remember to pay your dues! Your donations help to keep your neighborhood looking beautiful and informed all year-round.

2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: ☐ NEW ☐ UPDATED

☐ CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER OF THE BHCA

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