BEACONI THE BAYSIDE HILLS

ISSUE 173, VOLUME 15, AUGUST 2020 | OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



SAVE THE DATE Our next GENERAL MEETING, Candidates Night, will be held on October 27 at 8pm at the Colonial Church, conditions permitting.

Further meeting information to follow at a closer date.

After the Storm...







Photos by Rich Kashdan

On Tuesday, August 4, tropical storm Isaias blew its way through the northeast. While Bayside Hills residents remained safe, the clean-up, however was quite a task. We would like to thank the city agencies who were able to assist as well as Christopher Fuentes-Padilla and his Civilian Air Patrol team who were instrumental in clearing as much debris as quickly as they could. Sometimes it really does take a village.



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• PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE •

Over and over during all these pandemic days we have been hearing the expression, "the new normal." Nevertheless, the Bayside Hills Civic Association has been doing the same thing since 1936. Allow me to explain by reprinting an excerpt from the BHCA mission statement:

The Bayside Hills Civic Association is an open homeowner membership organization representing over 1200 households in 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 relies solely on the support of members, sponsors, Beacon advertisers, and participating discount merchants to maintain and improve our neighborhood.

Through partnerships and strategic alliances with citizens, businesses and government, the BHCA works to protect homeowner rights and investments and cleans up and beautifies the malls and streets, thereby creating a healthier place to live. In addition to our annual mall clean-up event, we promote litter law enforcement and support landmark preservation efforts.

Now that this has been established, the following examples of what the BHCA has been working on lately demonstrate the two above paragraphs:

- 1. In June we had a Zoom meeting with the community where we met Captain Portalatin of the 111th Precinct as well as Melody Leib, the Project Coordinator of PS 390, located in the current St. Robert Bellarmine RC Church building.
- Our BHCA Beautification Committee continued its ongoing task of administrating the maintenance of our malls with the assistance of the NY Parks Department, a group known as "The Wildcats" furnished by CM Grodenchik, and other gardeners standing by just in case.
- 3. Advocacy vis-à-vis the revitalization of our Bell Boulevard malls and Captain Dermody Park Triangle.
- Enlisting the assistance of Christopher Fuentes Padilla and the Civil Air Patrol to join our BHCA Beautification Committee and NY Parks Department to clean up our neighborhood following the devastation of Hurricane Isaias
- Conducting free Thursday evening Yoga lessons with Danceintolight@gmail.com instructor, Dina Denis.





Let's now return to a particular segment of our mission statement which states, "Through partnerships and strategic alliances with citizens, businesses and government, the BHCA works to protect homeowner rights and investments." This endeavor becomes difficult when our government makes decisions that negatively affect our safety and well being. With that in mind, let me refer you to a letter composed by President Bob Friedrich of Glen Oaks Village signed by eight of our neighboring civic associations sent to our Councilman, Barry Grodenchik. Elsewhere in this Beacon publication you can read our issues vis-à-vis his signing of a bill which includes the defunding of our police department. In our letter we respectfully requested that the councilman reconsider his stance on these vital issues, and urged him to work with other local politicians (including CM Vallone, who also signed the bill) on these matters and to inform us how he planned to address them. We have always had an excellent working relationship with Council Member Grodenchik, who has been most helpful in meeting our needs, and are hopeful he will work to resolve our policing issues as we know he has our best interest at heart, as well as that of this great city. As of this writing there are officers in our 111th Precinct still recovering from injuries due to ill fated Bayside protests that became violent this past July 12. This was the result of a situation that ensued whereby protesters, perhaps who should have taken opposite routes or coordinated marches on a different day to avoid conflict. failed to do so. While we sympathize with the nature of these marches and protests, the safety of our residents and community is of the utmost importance. In addition, also as of this writing, if you go near the 111th Precinct building, you will see the area is heavily protected by barriers, a very unfortunate optic indeed for our community but highly necessary. Speaking for a community and a civic association that has been extremely well treated by our local police precinct, we would like this entire defunding issue to be reconsidered in the hopes of a more plausible solution to ensure the safety of us all.

One final item about our 111th Precinct; over the years they have admirably provided security at our BHCA outdoor events with the community. Recently I asked our community affairs officer Baimadajie Angwang if we can have police presence at our annual BHCA 9/11 ceremony on September 11th at our Bayside Hills Memorial Garden, Bell Boulevard and Horace Harding Expressway. (conditions permitting). During this scheduled event there will be an unveiling of a plaque by the 9/11 sapling thanks to Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, who secured that special planting for us from Bowne High School students. This is a second generation sapling that survived at Ground Zero on 9/11. For now, please plan on joining us September 11th at 7:00 PM and of course remember to social distance and wear a mask. By the way, we're thinking of a smaller scale ceremony and hopefully it can be seen on Gregg Sullivan's BaysideLive TV.

Hope to see everybody soon. Just stay well and hang in!

Coalition of Concerned Civics' Letter- referred to in President's Message

Coalition of Concerned Civics

August 1, 2020

Dear Councilmember Grodenchik:

The undersigned Civic leaders are writing you today on behalf of our residential communities of families, seniors, and working adults. We are extremely concerned about the significant rise in crime that has rapidly escalated in what was once the safest large city in America. Safety is always of paramount concern for communities like ours. Shootings, murders, burglaries, auto larcenies and violent crimes in New York are increasing at levels not seen in decades and are all trending in the wrong direction.

The policies that you have advocated have been harmful to our community and have contributed greatly to a climate of crime, shootings, graffiti and lawlessness. These policies include:

- Defunding \$1B in police resources and cancelling the new class of police recruits that will directly impact on our communities
- The release of a large portion of Rikers Island inmates, many of whom have serious prior arrest and conviction records
- Ending cash bail for serious offenses, which has created a revolving-door system of justice, allowing
 individuals arrested or re-arrested to be quickly released after being processed,
- Decriminalization of quality of life crimes such as Noise, Public Consumption of Alcohol, Farebeating and Public Urination
- Removal of many crime-fighting tools necessary for the police to be proactive and to maintain safety for the public and themselves
- Termination of the NYPD Anti-Crime Unit that was responsible for removing illegal weapons off the streets and preventing crime before it happens
- Ending "Broken Windows" policing, and discussions about ending CompStat

Support for these policies is not shared by many of your constituents, but rather they are in lockstep with the demands of a small group of vocal individuals. Our residents of all ethnicities often tell us that they depend on the police for safety and a sense of security, and your notable absence of vocal support for members of the NYPD who put their lives on the line every day for all of us is especially appalling. Our residents, who are your constituents, feel safer when they see NYPD cars patrolling our streets. Many of us who signed on to this letter work closely with the NYPD to ensure our share of police resources is marshalled into our community -- and your advocacy for the policies above and for defunding the police is counterproductive and not helpful.

It should come as no surprise that proactive policing screeches to a halt, leading to soaring crime, when elected leaders like yourself remove effective policing tools, fail to discourage and stop lawlessness, and refuse to vocalize support for the NYPD or condemn the demonization rhetoric against them.

Our Coalition of Concerned Civics represents thousands of families, and we have adopted this letter and statement of disappointment that you, as our representative, have supported these policies or failed to

COALITION OF CONCERNED CIVICS

GOVOnyc@aol.com

Coalition of Concerned Civics' Letter- referred to in President's Message (continued)

act to stop them. We are concerned that you have remained mostly silent as our city plunges into a precipitous crime wave that seems to be ominously spiraling out of control. The PBA recently stated, "You make the law. You set the policies. You are responsible for the results."

We respectfully request that you reconsider your stance on these vital issues. We also urge you to work with other local politicians on these matters and tell us how you plan to address them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Friedrich

President, Glen Oaks Village Co-op

Angela Augugliaro

Interim President, Queens Colony Civic Association

Michael Castellano

President, Lost Community Civic Association

Michael Feiner

President, Bayside Hills Civic Association

Lourdes Hartrick

President, Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

Bobby Sher

President, Bell Park Manor Terrace Co-op

Elaine Young

President, West Cunningham Park Civic Association



Welcome PS 390Q!

PS 390Q, *The CIVIC School of Bayside Hills*, will be the newest elementary school to open in District 26. This will be the home for many Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten student leaders. The school is located at 56th Avenue and 214th Street. Visit their website for more information: www.ps390q.org

Reminders!



Bayside Hills Civic Association 9/11 CEREMONY Never Forget

Please join us as we unveil a plaque in front of a second generation sapling that was grown from a pear tree which survived at Ground Zero on 9/11. John Browne High School students nurtured the sapling and donated it to Bayside Hills through the assistance of Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, who is responsible for obtaining the plaque that will grace our Memorial Garden.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 7PM AT MEMORIAL GARDEN

Northside corner of Horace Harding Expressway and Bell Boulevard

Please remember to wear masks and practice social distancing.

LET'S STAND STRONG TOGETHER



Busy as Bees...Cheers to our **Beautification Committee**

Our Beautification Committee, spearheaded by chairman Ronald Keil and assisted by Rita Kashdan, has been very busy this past spring and summer. Rita has established a liaison with the Department of Parks as well as Council Member Barry Grodenchik's office. We have made great strides in obtaining their services and would like it to be understood that while the Bell Boulevard malls are city property with BHCA responsible for overseeing and maintaining them, we are seeking to lock in the Department of Parks to a regular schedule as best can be maintained. The avenues are DOT property maintained by us and as they cannot commit to a regular schedule, Barry Grodenchik's office has been instrumental in obtaining The Wildcats for us to service the malls on these Bayside Hills avenues.



We appreciate this assistance so that our funds can be utilized elsewhere such as rehabilitating the planters or working on our iconic structures. We also welcome any individual help to clean up an area near your house should you see debris or a particularly unkempt spot needing weeding. We are all volunteers and in this together to make our neighborhood as beautiful and special as it can be. Thank you for your support and understanding.



Photos by Rich Kashdan

Our Refurbished Planters!

We would like to commend Rita Kashdan, Marianne Downes, Jo-Ann Skutch, Rich Kashdan and Ron Keil on their tireless efforts to refurbish the planters via weeding, trimming, watering, adding new mulch and a new paint/stain job. It is this dedication to our community that is priceless! If anyone wants to help in the future, please reach out to us at baysidehillscivic@gmail.com!

Photos by Rich Kashdan









A big heartfelt congratulations to former BHCA Board Member Carole Papadatos and family on the birth of her new grandson Benjamin.

We wish them the best!



You must request an absentee ballot to vote by mail this fall—absentee ballots are not automatically sent to you. On the application, you can select the reason "temporary illness or disability" due to the risk of contracting coronavirus.

Please be sure to request a ballot *as soon as possible*. It takes only 3 minutes to make the request online! You must request one for the November election even if you voted by absentee in the primary elections this past June. If you request an absentee ballot, you can still choose later on to vote in person instead of sending in your ballot.

You can request your absentee ballot the following ways:

Online: nycabsentee.com ***RECOMMENDED!***

Email: complete the application and and email the pdf to Apply4Absentee@boe.nyc

Phone: 1-866-VOTE-NYC (1-866-868-3692)

Mail: print out the application and send the completed form to the Queens Board of

Elections, 118-35 Queens Blvd, Forest Hills, NY 11375 **Fax:** complete the application and fax to 212-487-5349

How to Be a Good Neighbor

Being a good neighbor Step 1: Do a favor.

Invite your neighbors to contribute to your garage sales, have them over for coffee/tea, or offer to babysit their kids/pets while they're away. They'll do the same for you.



Being a good neighbor Step 2: Share news.

If you hear of any neighborhood news (events, crimes, special garbage pickups, special event parking restrictions...) give your neighbors a heads-up.

Being a good neighbor Step 3: Lend a helping hand.

If you have a snow blower and they don't, spend that extra 60 seconds to clear their walkway. It will save 60 minutes of hard work and they'll be grateful! Replace garbage pails after pickup.

Really good neighbors watch out for each other. They ask each other for advice, and offer to help, especially on matters that impact the larger neighborhood and greater good. They respect each other's boundaries but are quick to assist in a crisis. They look for opportunities to collaborate and to socialize. Great neighbors make for great neighborhoods, and it is well worth the effort.

The overwhelming majority of our residents and small businesses are good neighbors. We recognize their efforts and thank them for helping to make things better by working toward the common good and a more livable Bayside Hills. If you are experiencing problems with an anti-social neighbor and you are unable to resolve them yourself, then let us know at Bayside-Hills-Civic@gmail.com. We'll do our best to resolve any problems and reach a mutually satisfactory remedy.

Remembering Claire Shulman

Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee stated the following about the passing of former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, who served as president from 1986 to 2002, and was the first woman ever to have served in the position in Queens history:

"Claire Shulman was larger-than-life," said Borough President Lee. "She did not waste time, and lived every single minute fully and with purpose. In a borough known for its trailblazers, few have led a life of dedicated public service as robust and as effective as Claire Shulman. You just couldn't say no to Claire Shulman. She transformed the landscape of the City's largest borough, and so much of what we see and enjoy today are the results of her extraordinary vision and decisions made over 18 years ago. No one loved Queens more than Claire Shulman, and in turn, she was widely respected and deeply loved.



A Personal Message from Michael Feiner, President, BHCA

On a personal note, I became involved with the BHCA back when there was such severe flooding in my area of Bayside Hills that when the heavy rains came, houses actually tilted on their foundation; manhole covers would shoot up high into the air and dangerously crash onto the ground; basements became flooded; and there was unbelievable devastation.

For years, along with my neighbors Armando Coutinho and Carole Papadatos, we wrote letters to every possible elected official and city agency while circulating petitions throughout our vulnerable area, but made absolutely no progress. When we joined the BHCA, then President Jerry Iannece began to help us lobby for a project titled the "Alley Creek-Oakland Ravine Project," which was to redirect flood waters out of Bayside Hills, and revitalize nearby surrounding areas including Oakland Lake. Meetings were held regularly at Borough President Shulman's office with engineers, New York City Department of Parks officials, the BHCA, and other dignitaries, but everything moved at a snail's pace until at one meeting Claire had enough, and with the most stern expression I've ever seen, she demanded to know when there will be a "shovel to the ground" date and not too long thereafter, the project finally began to become a reality. Needless to say, Clare Shulman was one of the most effective elected officials I have ever met.







Photos by Carole Papadatos

Community Support During Covid-19

Food Insecurity/ Food Options

Get Emergency Food NOW

Call 311 Or 866-888-8777

https://access.nyc.gov/programs/emergency-food-assistance/

NYC Food Delivery Assistance Form

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/contact/services/CO VID-19FoodAssistance.shtml

Get Food Today NYC DOE program Text "Food" or "Comida to 877877

Food banks of NYC Link:

https://www.foodbanknyc.org

Invisible Hands Deliver (Volunteer Program)

Tel: 732-639-1579

Hunger Free America National Hunger Hotline 1-

866-348-6469

https://www.foodbanknyc.org

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Assembly Member Michael Blakes Office

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Tel: 1-844-863-9314 to schedule an appointment

HOW TO WEAR A MASK?



It should COVER YOUR MOUTH, NOSE AND CHIN, with the coloured side facing outwards.



PINCH THE METAL EDGE OF THE MASK so that it presses gently on your nose bridge.



Remove a used mask by **HOLDING ONLY THE EAR LOOPS**.



WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY WITH SOAP AND WATER.

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9:00am-11:00am Key Food Supermarket 61-50 Springfield Blvd

*Wear a face covering and stand 6' apart while waiting

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In our ongoing effort to reach out and stay connected, please let us know if you have a preferred email address to receive our communications. Also, please reach out to any new neighbors as well to have them furnish us with their email addresses. They can do so by contacting baysidehillscivic@gmail.com, as always. Thank you so much

• 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!

Amy's Chinese Gourmet

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

Bayside Hills Shoe Service

212-01 48th Avenue, 718-423-1606

Discount: 10%

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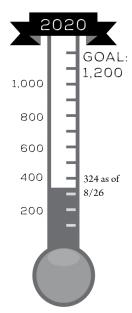
Join BHCA!

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!

• MEMBERSHIP DUES •

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2020 DUES DONATION TODAY!

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 2019.**





Last year, along with our regular mall cuttings, we took on new projects i.e. renovating the planters in our malls, garbage removal, clock repairs, fixing the cupola and 48th Avenue entrance pillars



\$10,584

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\$1,097

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