

Bayswater Breeze



73rd Year

BAYSWATER

June 25, 2018

BAYSWATER OPEN MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018 AT 8:00 PM

BAYSWATER JEWISH CENTER, CORNER HEALY AVE. & DICKENS ST.

**GUEST: KEVIN ALEXANDER of the
ROCKAWAY DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION CORP.**

WHY HAVE A CIVIC ASSOCIATION

This is a long love letter to the residents of Bayswater, but it is one that will explain the need for a Civic Association, Bayswater Civic Association, to exist with the support and dues of every resident in this wonderful community. So we ask your forbearance in reading it.

Walk out the door. Take a deep breath. The air is very fresh. There might be an aroma of ocean in the air. Walk around the block. Notice the trees and flowers and shrubs growing on most of the lawns. Such a pretty picture and such a good feeling.

Take a walk to the bay, Jamaica Bay. The ducks, geese, and an occasional egret are on the water. If the sun is out, the water is gleaming. If not, you see the grey of the clouds reflected in the water. If the tide is low, there is a spit of land that you might walk out on. Not too good an idea, but it has been

done. Look across the bay and you can see the planes taking off from JFK. Then, there is lower Manhattan.

Remember the fall and the winter. Think of the summer to come. Each season brings its own charm and beauty to the area.

This is what your community is your community. This is your Bayswater, a beautiful community of families and diversity.

It did not have to be this way. Bayswater needed an organization to keep the community as residential and as lovely as it still appears. The early 1940's saw great growth with homes built and sold upon completion. Older buildings were either occupied or converted into rental apartments. The newer residents wanted to be sure that Bayswater would continue to be the Bayswater they moved into and they

JOIN US

Join us for our last meeting of the 2017/2018 season. It is a wonderful time of the year as we look forward to summer with all its pleasures.

We have as our guest Kevin Alexander, director of the Rockaway Development and Revitalization Corporation. He is a vital cog in our quest for knowledge about what is happening in Downtown Far Rockaway. We see an old faithful store closing down in the old Waldbaum's shopping center and a new supermarket not opening on Beach Channel Drive. What is going on? This is our opportunity to ask and find out what exactly is happening in our backyard so to speak.

Important! All members in good standing, having paid their dues, may vote tonight for the officers of the BCA (List on Page 2)

Take this opportunity to meet your neighbors, share a cup of coffee, and bring in your BCA dues of \$25 for the 2018 year. It's a wonderful way to support the Bayswater volunteers who work for you.

If you can't attend, mail in your dues and have an enjoyable summer. We'll see you in September

Continued on page 3

THE BAYSWATER BREEZE

Published By
BAYSWATER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

President, Board of Directors,.....Enid Glabman
Secretary.....Rosemarie Creelman
Treasurer.....Harvey Rudnick
Editor and Circulation.....Phyllis Rudnick
BAYSWATERCIVIC.ORG - CONTACT US

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's time to become a member of the Bayswater Civic Association! If Bayswater was an independent municipality, it would have its own government agencies to whom local citizens could turn when they believed action was necessary on matters of public concern. Since Bayswater is only a very small part of a very big city, our interests are looked after by regularly elected and appointed officials of the city. Even our particularly local representatives do not just represent Bayswater; there are whole other sections of the city within their governance. Donovan Richards does not represent only Bayswater.

Yet there are important local matters to be addressed. There are many calls for help from neighbors who do not want to be involved but know that BCA will do its best for them.

That is why civic associations have been formed, to address the local problems that come up and to make our representatives aware of the need to deal with these matters. They are respected in official circles. They are often consulted by our representatives. Bayswater Civic Association is one of these. Its goals: to maintain the present suburban character of Bayswater, to provide a forum for its residents to air complaints and to suggest improvements, to keep its members informed of the happenings and changes planned by our elected and appointed officials and to fight to ensure that Bayswater will not be harmed by them.

Today people are so busy - working, caring for families and homes, taking care of family members, yet still investing time in their communities, making the time to volunteer as civic association members and participants. They are truly appreciated!

Not every Bayswater resident is inclined to take an active participatory part in Bayswater Civic. But we do ask that you consider the efforts of the resident - volunteers who do. Much of what we have in Bayswater, this garden area, would not exist but for them.

You may not be able to be active, but at least you can become a member and so give your moral and financial support to those who strive to make life better here for you and your family.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following is the slate of officers of the Bayswater Civic Association for the term of June 2018 - June 2020 to be elected at the June meeting on June 25, 2018.

President: Enid Glabman

Vice President: Norman Shapiro

Corresponding Sec.: Phyllis Rudnick

Recording Sec.: Rosemarie Creelman

Treasurer: Harvey Rudnick

Members only are allowed to vote.

Anyone interested in joining the Board of Directors may contact President Enid Glabman at 718-471-7093 or email glabmans@aol.com

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. SENATORS

Charles E. Schumer
757 3rd Ave., Ste. 1702
New York, 10017
(212) 486-4430

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
780 3rd Ave., Ste 2601
New York, 10017
(202) 224-4451

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Gregory W. Meeks
67-12 Rockaway Beach Blvd.
Arverne, NY 11692
(347) 230-4032

STATE SENATORS

Joseph Addabbo, Jr.
88-08 Rockaway Beach Blvd Ste. 11
Rockaway Beach, NY 11693
(718) 327-7017
159-53 102nd St.
Howard Beach, NY 11414
(718) 738-1111

James Sanders, Jr.
19-31 Mott Avenue
Ste. 305
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(718) 327-7017

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Stacey Pheffer Amato
95-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd
Rockaway Beach, NY 11693
(718) 945-9550
Fax (718) 945-9549

Michèle Titus
19-31 Mott Ave., Rm 301
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(718) 327-1845
Fax (718) 327-1878

DISTRICT MANAGER

Jonathan Gaska
19-31 Mott Avenue
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(718) 471-7300

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Melinda Katz
Borough Hall
120-55 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11424
(718) 286-3000

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Donovan Richards
19-31 Mott Avenue,
Ste 410
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
(718) 471-7014

Eric Ulrich
114-12 Beh. Channel Dr.
Ste. 1
Rockaway Park, NY 11694
(718) 318-6411

IT'S 2018! DON'T FORGET!!!

We need each other. YES, I'll send my dues!

Bayswater Civic Association
1022 Bay 24th Street
Bayswater, New York 11691

YES, I will join my neighbors for the betterment of Bayswater.

Enclosed \$25 for the year 2018

Do you have a skill BCA can use? Join us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Print clearly, so we can send messages!

Yes, we have been sending messages.

wanted a strong civic association. With this interest and cooperation on the part of the residents, both home owners and tenants, old and new, a small organization started in the early 1920's, developed into an Association that fought for and still fights for the community that you are living in today.

A case in point: zoning regarding an area you come across everyday as you come from Beach Channel Drive down Mott Avenue toward P.S. 104. In April, 1952, the L.I. Lighting Company secured the unanimous APPROVAL of the City Planning Commission to rezone the north side of Mott Avenue from 24th to 25th Street from a residential zone to a commercial zone so it could build a building with sales, display offices, and neon signs.

BCA volunteers spent long hours at the Board of Estimate until finally the vote was postponed until May 8th. BCA filed a brief, the community wrote hundreds of letters, and finally, on that day members of the BCA went down to the Board of Estimate, presented the community's position and the letters, and the board of Estimate reversed its position and killed the lighting company's proposal.

IF NOT FOR BAYSWATER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, THIS

COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE HAD QUITE A DIFFERENT LOOK TODAY. This holds true for the zoning we obtained to stop builders from building into blocks with totally attached housing. Also true for stopping a gas line from running through Bayswater and right by P.S. 104.

So, now we come to the point of this letter to you, the residents of Bayswater. What is the prime concern? We all want clean streets, presentable looking homes, regular and efficient garbage removal service, proper sewage, well maintained streets, satisfactory transportation facilities for our commuters and residents, proper police protection, and surely many other needs. BUT, Bayswater Civic is also the conduit whereby you learn about what is going on in our area, the Rockaway Peninsula, and the city with regard to how it affect us. It is also the Association that will go to meetings, state positions, and fight for them and for our community. As individuals we can do very little, but as a united body we can do a great deal.

Bayswater needs each of you to join Bayswater Civic so that we can stand strong and exert this strength in the maintenance of our residential character and beauty of our community for years to come.

DOES BAYSWATER NEED BUS SERVICE?

The April, 1944 Bayswater Breeze had the following headline:

BAYSWATER WINS ALL YEAR BUS SERVICE

The long needed and the long awaited bus service in Bayswater was inaugurated on April 1, 1944. It was Bus Route Q22a, a part of system "C". "Its necessity and convenience was certified to by the Transportation Commission when the contract was executed. By directing the continuance of its service throughout the year on Route Q22a the Board of Estimate has recognized its necessity."

Go back to January 27, 1944 when 30 Bayswaterites attended a hearing of the Public Service Commission in the Woolworth Building in Manhattan. The reasons? For the housewife and her marketing, the commuter, for visitors commuting by train and bus to visit Bayswater residents, for employees of the Hospital for Joint Diseases that used to be at the end of Mott Avenue in Bayswater and the doctors and the visitors, for social and religious activities, for after school religious training.

We need the same bus service today. Downtown Far Rockaway is being revitalized, but how will we of Bayswater benefit? Go to the library? Go shopping in the stores? Bring the packages and groceries home? Get to the train? Make use of the cafes and restaurants being talked about? Go to the banks? You could probably add more reasons.

We need community participation. We need 30 Bayswaterites to complain. We need hundreds of letters to our elected officials. The addresses are in the Breeze. Please write. This bus service is sure to increase business in what was once known to the Village.

Use our last paragraphs or more as an example of letters you can write. Representatives addresses on Page 2.

A NEW LIBRARY SERVICE

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SANDY AND THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Queensborough President Melinda Katz was instrumental in setting up a meeting on April 25, 2018 in Queensborough Hall between the Army Corps of Engineers and the civic association representatives of the Rockaway peninsula, Broad Channel, Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach among others.

To our dismay, it was learned that after 6 years of study, there are no plans for Bayswater's protection from Jamaica Bay.

BCA finds this unacceptable. The following letter was sent to all the officials listed informing them of our disappointment and hope for a better outcome. As always your letters and calls are most helpful as we look for a better outcome. Please find representatives addresses on Page 2. You can use our letter as an example.

BAYSWATER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

BAYSWATER FAR ROCKAWAY NEW YORK

The Honorable Queensborough President Melinda Katz
Borough Hall
120-55 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, New York, 11424

Secretary
Phyllis Rabinich
1022 Bay 24 Street
Bayswater, NY 11691

May 18, 2018

Dear Ms. Katz,

Thank you for having the April 25, 2018 meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers with relationship to the Rockaway Peninsula and environs.

Unfortunately, based upon what was said and the information heard at this meeting, we of the Bayswater Civic Association find the conclusions offered and, particularly for Bayswater, to be inadequate and unacceptable.

Having shifted off the most difficult part of the Rockaway project - the gate across the bay - to a years long study, it is impossible to believe that any effort at all was put into the rest of the program, particularly for Bayswater, Inwood, Broad Channel, and Hamilton Beach in the six years that the problems were studied and solutions were to be developed. So much time seems to have been wasted.

We are hoping that some changes will be made; that there will be more concrete action taken in the very near future without another six years going by.

Bayswater Civic Association is most disappointed. We cannot accept the results of the Army Corps of Engineers. We saw what happened before. Are we to sit and wait for another disaster and another six year study?

We thank you again for having this meeting for us.

Yours truly,

President, Bayswater Civic Association

Cc: U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer	Assembly Member Michele Titus
U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand	Council Member Donovan Richards
U.S. Representative Gregory W. Meeks	Council Member Eric Ulrich
State Senator James Sanders, JR.	Community Board #14 President Dolores Orr
State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr.	District #14 Manager Jonathan Gaska
Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer Amato	

STREET CHANGES COMING OUR WAY

Usually, we moan and groan when this happens. What now we ask. But these changes may be of value.

From NEWSDAY, Thursday, May 31, 2018:

FLOOD PREVENTION ROAD WORK STARTS

\$130M project to also create bike, pedestrian paths.

By Stefanie Dazio

A \$130 million construction project has begun on problem intersections of the Nassau Expressway to prevent flooding and ease congestion along the roadway, a 6.35-mile evacuation route that runs from the Atlantic Beach Bridge to Howard Beach.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the start of construction, saying in a news release that it would be completed in December 2019 - six years ahead of schedule.

State comptroller records show that the Tully Group was awarded a \$93.5 million contract on May 23 for the work on the Nassau Expressway, which is also known as State Route 878.

The remaining \$36.5 million is for preliminary engineering, hydraulic analysis and environmental process work, according to the state Department of Transportation.

Construction began Tuesday, and Tully will work during the day and at night, according to the DOT. Day-to-day work hours have not yet been determined.

Work is planned at Burnside Avenue in Inwood, Bay Boulevard in Inwood and Rockaway Turnpike in Lawrence. The 0.7-mile stretch carries more than 56,000 vehicles daily and was constructed in 1975 as an interim roadway officials said.

The construction project will raise the roadway 3 to 4 feet above the floodplain - it's currently 2.5 feet below the 100-year floodplain - and build new drainage structures, according to the release. A new bike and pedestrian path, as well as turning lanes, will also be created.

Officials, also plan to remove a mound of construction debris- which local residents call the Inwood mound - that rises 30 to 50 feet above the roadway.

The second street change involves a DOT proposal for pedestrian safety at the Beach Channel Drive & Far Rockaway Beach Blvd intersection as noted in THE WAVE, Friday May 25, 2018

INTERSECTION OVERHAUL

By Fionnuala O'Leary

The NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) revealed plans to improve intersection safety, increase pedestrian access and simplify the traffic flow in specific areas of the peninsula at a Community Board 14 Transportation committee meeting on May 22.

DOT Project manager Alice Friedman and the agency's pedestrian project group presented a proposal which focused on pedestrian safety at the Beach Channel Drive and Far Rockaway Boulevard intersection ahead of a senior center opening up and the residential/commercial nature of the area.

DOT proposed closing the slip lane from Beach Channel Drive to Far Rockaway Boulevard with paint and creating a continuous path along Beach Channel Drive to replace the crosswalk on Far Rockaway Boulevard.

The boulevard would also become one-way westbound between Beach Channel Drive and Bay 32nd Street, while Bay 32nd would become a two-way street from Beach Channel Drive to Far Rockaway Boulevard.

The board heard that "the overall benefits for this project is simplifying vehicular movement and improving the pedestrian access."

Queens Deputy Borough Commissioner Al Silvestri described the proposal as being "pretty solid" and an "immediate improvement" for the elderly.

"There's a new Senior Center opening up right at this intersection. We've been in contract with them back and forth. We've been at the precinct and listened to their concerns," he said.