

BROAD CHANNEL CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Broad Channel Civic Association
December 2017

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CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

***** VFW Hall – Shad Creek Road – 7:00 PM *****
*****December 7, 2017*****

This issue of the Newsletter is sponsored by
Edward F. Phillips.

President's Message

This month's Civic **meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7th at 7PM** at the VFW Hall. Come down and get caught up on what is going on in your neighborhood!!

Broad Channel Christmas Lights will be back up lighting up our town for the Holidays thanks once again to Stephanie Wagner's fund raising efforts. Great job and big thank you to all who supported the fundraisers and raffle for this effort the lights really bring some great holiday cheer during the winter darkness.

Buy Out Properties in Broad Channel, also known as the Build it Back Acquisition program, was discussed at the last meeting. Adjacent property owners will have an opportunity to purchase these lots for as little as \$500. There will be a **special meeting December 11th at 6:30PM at the VFW** for those who are interested in participating, and who are adjacent to these parcels. Build it Back reps will be on hand along to help applicants who have questions and to provide free legal advice from NYLAG attorneys. If you live next to one of these parcels you should have received a mailed notice of your eligibility to purchase and it is highly recommended that you attend this meeting.

Street Raising Project Phase 2 is the current plan to raise the West side streets from 14th to 19th similar to phase 1 (West 11th thru 12th). Numerous Civic meetings have been dedicated to presentations on what this would entail and in addition over the summer special "block meetings" were held to bring down every homeowner to sit down with the design team one-on-one to understand impact to the homeowner properties. December 15th the consent letter will be sent out to all homeowners on the effected blocks. Homeowners in favor of proceeding with this project should sign the letters and return them. The Civic expects to receive, at that time, an electronic copy of the plans as well for anyone who would like to review them. It is the opinion of the Civic that the street raising project is an exceptional opportunity to finally address tidal flooding on these blocks. In addition it will finally make permanent the ability to park our cars on both sides of the block. A common practice now that is not technically legal due to street width. Finally the project will also replace all street infrastructure, new water mains to homes, new sewer lines and all new storm drains. It is unusual to see this type of funding in place and design near completion for so many blocks in one neighborhood. It is a great opportunity to make the town safer in light of sea level rise and at the same time increase property values.

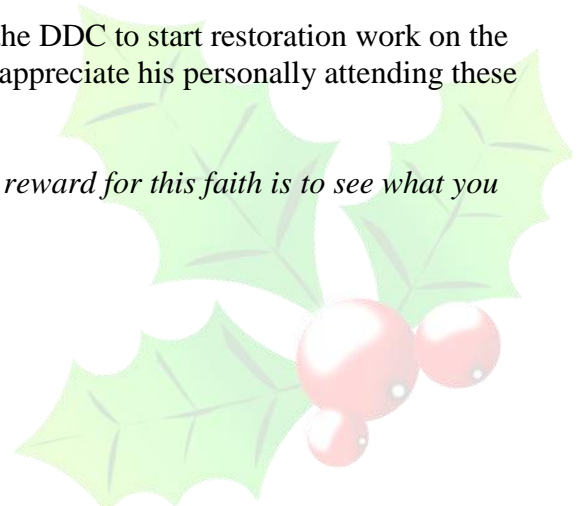
Express bus stop riders complained to the Civic that it appeared that the town had lost a bus stop for that bus line in both directions leaving us with only one stop north and one stop south. I want to thank Assemblywoman Amato for immediately reaching out to MTA and demanding that they address this situation. We are grateful to see the two stops reinstalled and while the official line from MTA was that this was an oversight, we tend to think otherwise, and either way we are glad that they are back and thank the assemblywoman for her help.

Congratulations to Councilman Ulrich on his reelection! He has been a big supporter of all Broad Channel issues and we look forward to continuing to work with him on the many ongoing projects that we are currently cooperating on.

Senator Addabbo has been very involved in our recent efforts to get the DDC to start restoration work on the street raising blocks, which was halted for Build-It-Back work, and we appreciate his personally attending these meetings and holding the agencies accountable .

Quote of the Month -- "*Faith is to believe what you do not yet see; the reward for this faith is to see what you believe.*" -- St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Mundy Jr.





**The Flag will fly in January for
Patrick Brosnahan,
US Navy, WWII**

AMERICAN LEGION AND AUXILIARY

The Annual Craft Fair will be held on December 1st, Friday, 6PM-9PM, and Dec. 2nd, Saturday, 9AM to 7PM at the American Legion Hall. Come on down and see all the beautiful crafts made by our own crafters. There's something for everyone.

Christmas presents?

The American Legion Children's Party is on Sunday, Dec. 10th, 1PM. All children ages through 3rd grade. Post Christmas Party, Friday, Dec. 15th, 8PM. Come on down. Hope to see you there!

ST. VIRGILIUS / ST. CAMILLUS:

St Camillus Catholic Academy is hosting their annual Christmas Boutique. Shoppers mark your calendars!! Always wonderful gifts at the boutique!! December 9th and 10th, 2017 at Springman Hall. We are currently looking for vendors. Please call the academy office at 718-634-5260 during school hours 8AM to 3PM.

St Camillus Parent Association is planning another Outlet Trip. Contact person is Monique Henglein.

Sign up for a bus ride to the outlets to shop for the holidays!! Breakfast and treats provided. December 2, 2017. Call 718-634-5260 for a reservation.

2018 HISTORICAL CALENDARS ON SALE

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping by buying the Broad Channel 2018 Historical Calendar, a bargain at just \$5.00! The calendar is available from Channel Market, All American Bagel & Barista, from members of the Historical Committee, and at Civic meetings. Thanks for your support!

GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

The following article, written by William E. Geist, appeared in the June 23, 1984 edition of the New York Times.

About New York

Of Subways, Summertime and Smitty's by the Bay

Every 20 minutes or so, there is the startling sight of a subway train rattling through this postcard scene on a low railroad bridge a stone's throw from the dock.

The 747 airliners rise from Kennedy International Airport just across the bay – the colorfully striped Iberia Air Lines planes, the red and white T.W.A.'s and the silver Americans taking their place in the skies with green winged teals, marsh hawks and mallards. A long line of sea gulls sits on the subway tracks staring out at the mammoth 747's, thinking God knows what.

The main topic of conversation among islanders this day is their newly won right to buy their home sites from the city. Since 1939, the city has owned all of Broad Channel's property, and residents have lived under threat of eviction, from one short-term lease to another. Now they can purchase their property, and most are doing so.

No one seems to move. Some families have four generations on the island.

"It is a relatively inexpensive place to live," explains Bobby, Smitty's older son, who wears a shirt with the message "I live, love, eat, drink and sleep fishing." He adds matter-of-factly, "And I guess it is as near to paradise as you're going to get."

"I went to a graduation the other day," says George Ogden, whose six children have all settled in Broad Channel, "and the names were the same as when I went to school here 50 years ago. It's to the point where I think most of us are related in one way or another.

In a random test of this theory of relativity, Jane Murray is asked if she is related to Mr. Ogden. It just so happens that she is.

"It's a small town," Mrs. Murray says. "Everyone knows everyone else's business.

About 5,000 people live in the modest homes of Broad Channel, a community about 20 blocks long and never more than three blocks wide, shore to shore. Many residents say they never lock their doors. More than one person stopped by the Milk Farm store this day, picked something up and told Delores Maltese he would pay her later. Many women arrived at the store wheeling baby carriages. Some ducks, out for a stroll, happened by.

When Madeline Maier, Smitty's wife, says there is no entertainment on the island, he interjects: "Not true. I can sit at my window and be entertained by nature for hours."

His son, Bobby, tells a story about watching a sea gull trying to bust open a clam by taking it higher and higher and repeatedly dropping it on a rock. Everyone has a good laugh over that.

On an otherwise deserted Broad Channel subway platform, Stanley Pawlak of Long Island City, Queens, sits on the lid of a bucket of fish – flounder, bluefish and some porgies. "I've been coming out here for 16 years," he says, "all year round. This solitude."

Mr. Pawlak boards a subway car filled with raucous young people returning from the beach at the end of the line. On the bridge back to the mainland, the train stops. The rock station on a young man's blaring radio fades out, and for a moment, passengers on the "A" train sit out over the bay, listening to the calls of sea gulls.
.....to be continued

Material to be printed in the next Newsletter is due by January 10th.

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