

BROAD CHANNEL CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Broad Channel Civic Association
February 2018

Vol. 31 No. 2

CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

***** VFW Hall – Shad Creek Road – 7:00 PM *****
*****March 1, 2018*****

This issue of the Newsletter is sponsored by
Margaret Wagner.

President's Message

This month's Civic **meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1st at 7PM** at the VFW Hall. This is a change from the normal 4th Thursday of the month due to the mid-winter school break.

Street Raising work on West 11th and West 12th Roads which mainly revolves around the work on the front, and sides, of homeowner's property will resume on March 1st. This work, known as restoration work, has been put on hold for some time now due to the need to have the streets cleared to allow Build it Back to perform their elevations and rebuilds. West 13th Road is scheduled to see road work resume on May 1st. The Civic wants to thank Dan Brown, Borough President Melinda Katz office, Assemblywoman Amato and Senator Addabbo for pushing the City agencies to come to an agreement on a start date and for also pushing the NYS DEC to expedite the permit for this work.

The Civic Association hosted DDC and the NV5 Design Team at the VFW on February 8th for **a workshop for residents on West 14th through West 19th Roads** to allow a one-on-one sit down to discuss impact to homes and questions that homeowners had. Over 50 residents turned out and it was a very productive meeting. A big thanks to the VFW Hall for once again allowing us to use their hall. They are always willing to help the Civic out, often on last minute notice and it is greatly appreciated!!

We expect to have a **Notary available** at the Civic meeting and any residents who need to get their consent form signed can bring them to the Civic meeting.

On February 11th **two criminals were attempting to get into any open cars on** Crossbay Boulevard in an attempt to steal any change or personal items that were left in those cars. An alert resident saw them and followed them and observed them getting on the train. NYPD was notified, and they were able to have them apprehended at the Aqueduct train stop. Outstanding job by the Broad Channel resident!!

We hope to have a **Cell Tower representative** at the March 1st meeting as requested by residents to understand the current proposal to put a cell tower at the northern end of town.

Just a reminder from the NYC Parks Department that the **open lots on West 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Roads** are considered open wetland lots and any items, floats boats, etc., that are stored there are subject to being removed and fines could be issued. Parks Department does not allow any items to be stored in these areas.

The recent removal of pavers and the hole that was dug at the **17th Road Park** was part of the NYC Parks recent assessment of the Park as part of the plan funded by Councilman Ulrich to beautify the parks pavers, benches, and walkways. The Civic has been told that all pavers will be replaced in a short time.

Quote of the Month –“Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something. – Plato”----

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Mundy Jr.





The Flag will fly in March for
George Chamberlain,
US Navy, Korea

BROAD CHANNEL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

BCVFD Annual Officers Installation Dance Celebrating 113 Years of Service - Saturday, March 24th, 2018 at the BC American Legion Hall Post 1404. This year's honorees are the Werther, Neuer, O' Hare and McIntyre families for their unparalleled commitment and dedication to the BCVFD dating back to the 1950s. Tickets are \$45 each. Tables of 8 are available. Contact us through our Facebook page or President Jill Spinelli at 917-995-2390 and Treasurer Donna Bassetti 917-863-4984. If you would like to take out an ad for your business or perhaps a congratulatory or memorial message for a loved one, you may contact the same members listed above. BCVFD Annual Fund Drive will be commencing in April as well.

The Jane Fuller brunch for cancer will be held on March 11, 2018 at the American Legion Hall from 10am to 1pm.

ST. VIRGILIUS / ST. CAMILLUS

PARISH ST. PATRICK'S DANCE will be held on Sunday, March 4th from 3PM to 7PM in Springman Hall. Live Music provided by the Cunningham Brothers. Sit-Down Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper catered by Ludwig's. Beer - Soda - Set-Ups. Adults: \$45. Children (6-12): \$20. Infants (5 & under) FREE! Tickets may be reserved by calling 718-634-8229.

ST. VIRGILIUS SENIOR CITIZENS meets every Thursday afternoon at 12:30PM in the American Legion Hall.

BUGALOU PRODUCTIONS presents John Sebastian in concert at St. Camillus Springman Hall, 7PM. For tickets, email Bugaloumusic@gmail.com.

ST. CAMILLUS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

REGISTRATION for 2018 is now open!! FREE PRE-K for All Class (for children who are 4 years of age in 2018). Seats are available in Grades Kindergarten to Eighth Grade. Tuition Assistance Grants & Scholarships are available. Call Sheila Smith - Gonzalez (Principal) at 718-634-5260 to arrange a tour and meeting.

ST. VIRGILIUS BUILDINGS UPDATE: Preliminary work has begun on the construction of the new parish center at St. Virgilius. Soil testing is complete. The site survey is finished. We are meeting to discuss some design concepts and demolition on March 1st. The FEMA grant is almost approved. Hopefully, we will be able to present drawings and plans for the new building so that work can begin when the permits are approved.

NYS 6 HOUR DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

Thursday, March 8th & Thursday, March 15th 7PM to 10 PM at Springman Hall – Beach 100th St., Rockaway Park. Fee \$45. Payment guarantees a seat. For attending **both nights** you will receive a 10% discount off liability, collision & No-Fault insurance for 3 years and up to a 4 point reduction off your driver's license. **NO TEST WILL BE GIVEN!** Call Helen at 917-553-2409 or Don at 917-553-2408. Refreshments will be served. Proceeds benefit St. Camilius Catholic Academy.

Dues for 2018

I  **BROAD CHANNEL**

New or Renewal Membership
\$5 Dues per Household per Year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Bring dues to Civic Association meetings or mail or drop off to:

Tracey Harper, 11 West 16th Road. Please make all checks out to BCCA. If you have any questions please contact Tracey at 718-536-0947.

GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

The following is a term paper written in 1998 by Diana McGee, a student at Hunter College High School.

“Broad Channel, Where’s That?”

“It’s the type of place you drive through. I don’t think anybody even notices that there is a community there. It is a curious backwater, an unearthly, unworldly place.” Vincent Seyfried, Queens Historian.

Often overlooked as a constituent of New York City is the small town of Broad Channel. Many New Yorkers have never even heard of this town. If one has, it is most likely that he has merely passed through on the A train. Throughout its short history, Broad Channel has remained isolated and discreet, causing the frequent “Broad Channel, where’s that?” However, having a reputation like this can be both wonderful as well as terrible. The island’s isolated location and small size are the main reasons why residents love Broad Channel, yet many of the town’s historical problems have arisen from these very characteristics.

Broad Channel is an island located on the abundant waters of Jamaica Bay. For this reason, Broad Channel was originally an island attractive only to clam-diggers and fishermen. During the period after the Civil War, a few big fishermen such as Bill, Joe, and Ben Shaw, would ferry in visitors from Brooklyn, providing them with boats and bait for three dollars a day. During this time, there were very few residents in Broad Channel. In 1880, however, the New York, Woodhaven, and Rockaway Railway constructed a wooden trestle stretching across Jamaica Bay from north to south. In 1904, this was purchased by the Long Island Railroad. Since the island was made more accessible, many people came and settled down. Springing up around the trestle were small hotels, bathhouses, and fishing shacks. A few men had bigger plans than fishing.

.....to be continued

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