

# BROAD CHANNEL CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*A Publication of the Broad Channel Civic Association*

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## CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

\*\*\*\*\* VFW Hall – Shad Creek Road – 7:00 PM \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*March 23, 2017\*\*\*\*\*

**This issue of the Newsletter is sponsored by  
Grassy Point Bar, Hotel & Restaurant.**

## President's Message

This month's Civic **meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM** at the VFW Hall. Come down and get caught up on what is going on in your neighborhood!

The Civic meeting will see a presentation by **NYC DDC, DOT and the RBA design group** regarding **Phase 2 of the Street Raising Proposal**. Phase 2 proposes to address tidal flooding, lack of drainage and resurfacing of blocks 14th through 19th Roads on the West side using the model created for blocks 11th through 13th. That model employed a design called "**Shared Streets**", which creates one multi-use street surface that does not have traditional sidewalks but rather a single surface roadway/walkway which allows pedestrians, cars, and bicyclists to share the roadway. This design was developed in the Netherlands where it was discovered that on small side roadways, such as exist in Broad Channel, this concept was proven to be safer for all roadway users. Cars entering the blocks are made aware, through a speed bump as well as signage that this is a multi-use roadway. This is reinforced through visual design features, concrete patterns, and the end result is a wide safer road. The Shared Streets design also addresses a major issue that this Civic Association has been trying to resolve for over a decade and that is the no parking regulations that exist for all of these streets on one side of the road. The issue came to light a number of times over the last 10 years when DOT would install these signs on the blocks to the dismay of the residents. Attempts to get this regulation legally changed proved impossible due to minimum width requirements that are required for emergency vehicles. The Shared Streets design raises the street grade to eliminate tidal flooding, installs a new much needed drainage system, creates a new and neat street surface (much needed on these blocks that have not been paved in years), puts new and straight telephone poles on the block, creates new end of block bulkheads, and finally it resolves the no parking sign issue as it allows cars to legally park on the "sidewalk" as that area is now no longer designated as such.

Residents of those effected blocks are urged to both attend this meeting as well as to take a walk down West 11th or West 12<sup>th</sup> Road, as they are now nearing roadbed completion, and one can get a visual concept of what this proposal will look like when it is built out and completed.

This is a critical year for **Flood Insurance** and for all who live on the coast, or near a river for that matter, as the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) needs to be reauthorized by Congress, or it will cease to exist. Most Broad Channel residents are very aware of the Biggert's-Waters Act, which was an ill-conceived law that saw tremendous insurance industry input and which resulted in massive premium increases for homeowners. This community joined with many others and advocacy organizations such as STOP FEMA NOW to protest this potentially devastating impact and saw some success when a subsequent bill was written and passed into law, the Flood Insurance Affordability Act. This law slowed down the premium increases to 18 percent (from the 25% that Biggert's-Waters imposed) for those primary home owners with existing flood policies. The problem is that while the premium increase was slowed down it is still going to continue to increase to a point that will have a dramatic impact on real estate values and home owners when premiums continue to climb in some cases to over \$3000 a year and beyond (Louisiana which is ahead of us in facing this problem and is already seeing premiums that are over \$10,000 a year). FEMA, which manages the NFIP program is considered by many to be one of the most poorly run agencies in the federal government. Many Sandy survivors will remember the investigative stories that ran on the nightly news shows highlighting the systemic corruption that was uncovered in which flood victims were underpaid, as NFIP allowed engineer reports to be doctored to show structural damage reduced from that which were actually reported. FEMA's mismanagement of Hurricane Katrina created a deficit within the NFIP program that exists to this day and one which those increased premiums are required to pay off. It is imperative that residents call their Federal elected officials (Senator's Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressman Meeks) to urge them to fix this broken program and to ensure affordable flood insurance going forward.

After the DOT/DDC presentation and Q&A, there will be an update on **the Build it Back** program. At this time the Civic Association has been shown a master plan for all homes in Broad Channel, which shows that all those who moved out of their homes already should see construction starting on their homes by the end of March and all those who are moving out now should see a construction start in April. In addition, some homeowners who are in the rebuild pathway (new house) and who did not have designs completed may be offered modular homes. This is a recent development and will be discussed at the meeting.

The Broad Channel NY Rising Committee met with the State representatives last week to get an update on the Broad Channel projects. These projects include; 1) American Legion-flood proofing, new heating system and generator, 2) BCAC new flood proof storage building and generator, 3) VFW new handicap access ramp, ADA bathroom and elevation of heating system, 4) Lanark Road sewer and water main system, 5) Lighting along business strip, 6) East 12th Road boardwalk and sewer system, 7) Sunset Cove boardwalk and eco dock.

These are the town projects that are being funded by Governor Cuomo's **NY Rising Program** and that were identified by the town through numerous public meetings. We are pleased to report that much progress has been made with some projects at the permit stage and others working their way through the final design stages. They will individually be great projects and collectively will add a new element of resiliency to our town. I want to thank the committee members who have donated so much of their time to attend the numerous meetings to advance these projects -- Leo Chavanne, Dan McIntyre, Frank Bassetti, Bruce Fuller, Jim Harper, John McCambridge, Dan Mundy Sr., Michelle Green, Rich Sorrentino and Steve Albert.

**Quote of the Month** -- *Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.* --Thomas Edison

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dan Mundy Jr.**



**The Flag will fly in April for  
Robert Glade,  
US Army, Korea**

### **ST. VIRGILIUS / ST. CAMILLUS**

#### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**PALM SUNDAY** (April 9<sup>th</sup>) - Saturday Vigil Mass at 4PM & Sunday Mass at 10AM

**RECONCILIATION MONDAY** (April 10<sup>th</sup>) - Communal Penance Service at 7PM

**HOLY THURSDAY** (April 13<sup>th</sup>) - NO Morning Mass. Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30PM in St. Camillus Church

**GOOD FRIDAY** (April 14<sup>th</sup>) - Service of the Lord's Passion (with Holy Communion at 2PM & Stations of the Cross at 7PM

#### **Good Friday is a Day of FAST & ABSTINENCE**

**HOLY SATURDAY** (April 15<sup>th</sup>) - NO 4PM Vigil Mass.

**EASTER VIGIL** at 8PM in St. Camillus Church

**EASTER SUNDAY** (April 16<sup>th</sup>) - MASSES at 10AM & 12 Noon

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** Beginning Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> the 8AM Mass (Monday to Thursday) will be celebrated in St. Virgilius Church

The Communion Service at 8AM on Friday will also be held in Church

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:** NO CCD classes on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> (Public Schools are closed for Passover.)

There will be CCD CLASSES on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> (even though Catholic Schools are closed for Easter)

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5PM in St. Camillus Church

**DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE:** Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> 7PM to 10PM in St. Camillus Springman Hall

**BREAKFAST WITH EASTER BUNNY:** Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in St. Camillus Springman Hall. CALL 718-634-5260

**VIRTUS TRAINING:** Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1PM in St. Camillus Springman Hall. Pre-registration is required. Call Mary Kay Flynn at 718-634-8229.

The Virtus Workshop is **REQUIRED** for ALL ADULTS (18 years of age & older) who have access to MINORS in any CYO SPORT.

ALL new coaches and volunteers must attend this workshop **BEFORE** they can work with MINORS in any CYO sport. The workshop is **FREE**.

### **BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

The Annual Spring Planting along Cross Bay median will take place on Saturday, May 6th. We'll start distributing flowers at 10AM - so come on out and claim your tree pit. Let's keep this town beautiful!

The Beautification Committee will be holding a photo contest starting June 1st. We're looking for photos, old or new, and black and white depicting the best of Broad Channel. More information and rules will be in the April Civic Newsletter.

### **GLIMPSE OF THE PAST**

This history of Broad Channel appears as the Introduction to *Images of America: Broad Channel* by Liz and Dan Guarino and was written by Barbara Toborg.

#### **A Brief History of the Community of Broad Channel**

In the 1950's, the LIRR trestle burned for the last time. It had been plagued by interruption of service over the years by fire and the havoc that ice in the bay worked on the miles of open trestle. The line was transformed into a subway line by the NYC Transit Authority when it struck a deal with Parks Commissioner Robert Moses to lay the tracks on fill dredged from the bay and make two impoundments. These brackish ponds would become the two ponds of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, later to be incorporated into Gateway National Recreation Area, a part of the National Park Service. Driving the first subway train to traverse the new line across Jamaica Bay in 1956 was none other than Broad Channel's own, Joe Carey.

In the ongoing struggle for Broad Channel residents to buy their land, organization and hard work by the community finally paid off in 1982 when the administration of then Mayor Ed Koch concluded successful negotiations with a united Broad Channel. Amenities taken for granted by other communities would now flow to Broad Channel – a sewer system, a library, parks, and a new PS 47. The 2000 census put the population of Broad Channel at 2,630 with 1,019 housing units.

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