



BROAD CHANNEL CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Broad Channel Civic Association

March 2018

Vol. 31 No. 3

CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

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

*****March 22, 2018*****

This issue of the Newsletter is sponsored by
Stephen Lattmann.

President's Message

This month's Civic **meeting will be held on Thursday March 22nd at 7PM** at the VFW Hall. This is the second meeting to be held in March as the February meeting had been pushed back to March 1st and the meeting on the 22nd is the normal date for our meetings. In case someone was asking, the normal date for the Civic meeting is the 4th Thursday of the Month.

Yard Expansion Program - Is the program created by the Build-It-Back program in consultation with the Civic Association to address the homes in the program where the owners took the buy-out option (called an Acquisition) leaving the property in the possession of the Build-It-Back program. Our program called the "Yard Expansion Program" YEP allows the adjacent neighbor to purchase the program for \$500. If both neighbors are interested, they then submit bids with highest bid winning the right to purchase. The first phase of these offerings have now been completed and at the March 22nd Civic meeting Build-It-Back reps will discuss the next round of properties being offered. Specific addresses affected, process to place bid and available legal assistance will all be discussed.

Modular Homes - The first modular in Broad Channel was installed last weekend and it went off without any issues. Broad Channel will see an additional 17 of these homes installed over the next two months. Cooperation in moving cars and observing traffic patterns is greatly appreciated. The process in the long run is much less of a local disturbance than a new building being put up as once the home is set, in one day, the house work involves around 3-4 weeks of additional work and then is completed. A much shorter timeframe than a traditional rebuild.

Street Raising Project - As reported at the last Civic meeting, the restoration work to residents homes on West 11th and West 12th Roads was supposed to start on March 1st and major road work was to resume on West 13th on May 1st. This is what the Civic was told after over 8 meetings with DDC and DOT at the Borough President's office. The first week of March came with no contractor on scene and we are now told that there is a contractual dispute with the contractor that revolves around additional work that needs to be done due to the Build-It-Back work and that the contractor is seeking additional compensation for. We immediately reached out to our elected officials including Borough President Melinda Katz, Assemblywoman Amato, Senator Addabbo and Councilman Ulrich and they have all been pushing DDC and the Mayor's office to get this resolved ASAP. We hope to have an updated report at the Civic meeting.

Jamaica Bay Task Force Meeting - On April 16th at 6:30 PM at the Gateway Wildlife Refuge on Crossbay Boulevard, there will be a Jamaica Bay Task Force meeting in which a number of presenters from the scientific community as well as from the controlling agencies will be presenting plans and projects going on within the Bay. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in the Bay to come down and find out more about this tremendous ecological resource. Topics will include: Sunset Cove Project (about to break ground), Spring Creek Project (update on the planning and design), Penn and Fountain Landfill Update (land is going to be developed as a park by the State as per the recent announcement by Governor Cuomo), and the new Science and Resiliency Center at Jamaica Bay will give an update on the work they are doing and on the long-term oyster study in Jamaica Bay (Stony Brook University will present on their findings over the last 10 years).

Quote of the Month – *"Well done is better than well said" ---- Benjamin Franklin*

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Mundy Jr.



**The Flag will fly in March for
William "Bill" Morris,
US Navy Medic, WWII**

**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.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

American Legion Auxiliary will be having a Brunch
on April 15th from 10AM to 1PM at the Post at 209
Cross Bay Blvd. Hope to see you all there!

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BY THE SEA

Christ Presbyterian Church will be having Breakfast
with the Easter Bunny on Sat. March 31st from
10AM to 2PM. All are welcome. Breakfast will
include - eggs, omelets, sausage, bacon, hash
browns, pancakes, coffee, tea, juice, etc. Everyone
is welcome! You don't need to have a child to
come and enjoy a nice breakfast among friends.
We will also be having a 50/50 drawing. Come out
and enjoy! No reservations needed.

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.
continued.....

Frederick Dunton and Patrick Flynn planned
to build a trolley line that would rival the railroad.
The project was underway when Dunton's leases
were invalidated and the land title switched to the
city. Under the control of the city, anyone who
wanted to live in the area was issued a permit.
This transformed Broad Channel into a real
community. In 1915, five hundred acres of land
were leased to a developer named Pierre Noel,
provided that he improve the land. Noel formed the
Broad Channel Corporation. The BCC brought
running water and electricity to the island,
subdivided land plots, and rented them to settlers.
This was the beginning of a town whose size and
location would be the center of its history.

Broad Channel's anonymity can be
attributed to its location, situated on the outskirts of
the city. Not only its location but also its size.
Historically, Broad Channel has had to pay a high
price for living in relative remoteness and seclusion.
Back during Prohibition, Broad Channel was
nicknamed "Little Cuba" and "the island of free
love." Since the Channel was overlooked,
speakeasies went unchecked. Too far away for
police raids, the island proved to be the perfect
place for rum-running. It was rampant and it
seemed as though Broad Channel had been
forgotten. As seaplanes dropped off shipments of
illegal alcohol, Broad Channel became a famous
nightspot. Due to its seclusion, Broad Channel
became a major criminal setting.

Once Prohibition was over, there was no
need for illegal alcohol manufacturing and
distribution. The bootleggers were replaced with
middle class Catholic families, of mostly Irish and
German descent. These residents of Broad
Channel have had to face longer-lasting problems
than their predecessors.

All throughout its history, the town of Broad
Channel has been plagued by the constant threat
of eviction. When the Broad Channel Corporation
went bankrupt in 1939, New York City became the
owner of all Broad Channel property. Residents
tried to negotiate with the city to buy the land on
which they were living, but they were not allowed.
The Channelites were left as permanent renters....
In 1938, Parks Commissioner Robert Moses tried
to have Jamaica Bay placed under his jurisdiction
in order to protect it from the Sanitation Department
which wanted to use the area as a landfill, and from
new developers. Moses envisioned a great park
rivaling the Central and Prospect Parks. He
ultimately wanted to displace the residents of Broad
Channel, referring to the community as a "slum."
He was not allowed to remove the citizens, but after
World War II he had specialists design a bird
sanctuary on the north end of the island. Because
of its size and small population, Broad Channel was
considered negligible.

.....to be continued

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

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.

**Message from the Civic Treasurer – Thanks
to all who have paid their Civic dues for 2018.**