

THE BAYSIDE HILLS BEACON

ISSUE 189, VOLUME 20, January 2024 | OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



Save the Date

**Bayside Hills Civic Association
GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, January 30th • 8pm
at the Colonial Church of Bayside
Featured guest
Historian Paul DiBenedetto,
President of Bayside Historical Society**

Future Dates

BHCA April General Meeting on
April 30th, 2024 • 8pm at the
Colonial Church of Bayside

**BHCA Annual Spring Festival –
May 4, 2024** Captain Dermody
Triangle

BHCA June General Meeting on
June 18th, 2024 • 8pm at the
Colonial Church of Bayside

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•PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE•

What a spectacular BHCA 2023 Holiday Lighting Festival our community had this past December 10. Everybody had a fantastic time in spite of some occasional rain. Congratulations to our Programs Committee and all their contributors for a job well done; please see photos elsewhere in our Beacon. The turnout was incredible and we on the BHCA Board and other volunteer helpers couldn't be more proud. We hope you had a chance to enjoy the videos posted on Facebook, including the coverage of our event from BaysideLiveTV. Thanks to everybody for your above and beyond collaborative efforts and for joining us!

As we enter the new year, throughout all media, we see retrospectives everywhere. With that in mind, how about a Bayside Hills Civic Association retrospective? What have we been doing and what have been some of our accomplishments over the past twenty years?

One of our greatest triumphs was the elimination of massive floods incurred due to antiquated and inadequate storm sewers and seepage basins. When heavy rains arrived, a large swath of Bayside Hills experienced huge floods damaging our homes and cars. Back then those rains made sections of Bayside Hills look like a quagmire, while at the same time manhole covers would shoot ten to twenty feet into the air and then crash dangerously to the ground. Following six years of lobbying, with the assistance of former Community Board 11 Chair Jerry Iannece, there was a three-pronged initiative including installing new combined storm sewers in the Bayside Hills area; a restoration of the ravine and Oakland Lake Park and; a completion of the \$25 million Alley Creek/Oakland Ravine Combined Sewer Overflow project. Photos below show the floods and engineers and other representatives at the ribbon-cutting ceremony which marked the reopening of Oakland Lake, closed for over a year as the path was being made navigable. (Photos by Carole Papadatos)

Another BHCA achievement also involved a lengthy, massive effort. Believe it or not, at one time our identity of "Bayside Hills," the name for our community that is nowadays easily recognized and accepted, had disappeared. Our community suffered an identity crisis when the Postal Service referred to Bayside Hills as "Flushing" or "Oakland Gardens," despite its being a separate entity. Homeowners in the northern central section of zip code 11364 fought to have their community of single-family homes clearly discernible from Oakland Gardens, where the Post Office is located, with its two-family homes, high rise buildings and garden apartments. Finally, when the BHCA enlisted the aid of former Rep. Gary Ackerman and the cooperation of then Flushing postmaster William Rogers, Bayside Hills was beginning to be recognized as an official town designation once again. Our next step was that for many years we asked our elected officials to remind the databases of map indicators such as Google Maps, Magellan, Mapquest, etc. to recognize us as Bayside Hills. We repeatedly asked the offices of our congressional representatives to do this for us by sending out reminders. We also frequently asked our Bayside Hills residents to remember whenever at all possible to address all mail only "Bayside Hills." Now, more often than not our maps appears as follows:



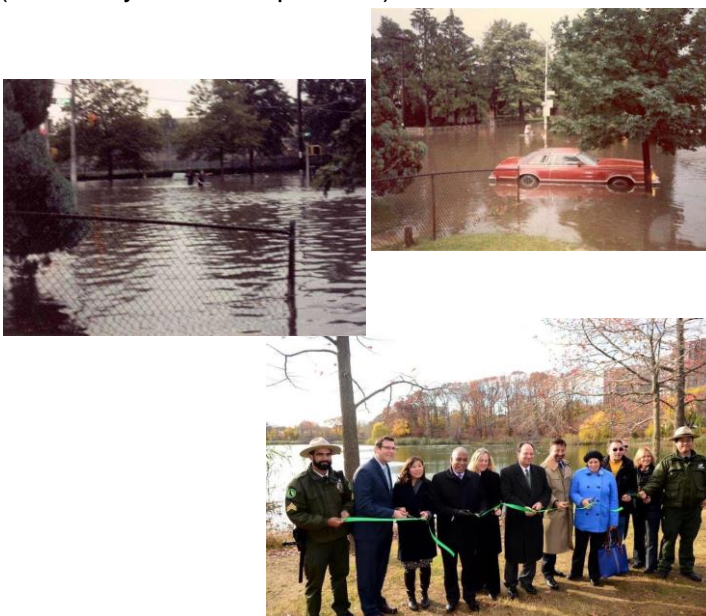
DAILY NEWS

Bayside Hills residents want to be recognized, just not as Oakland Gardens!



Michael Feiner, president of the Bayside Hills Civic Association, says of mail delivery, 'It would be nice to be called what we are.'

Of course, there's the saga of Captain Dermody Triangle and the effort to have that iconic Bayside Hills landmark revitalized. Much has been written about that endeavor and the recently conducted incredible Veterans' Day ceremony, including our reminders about that May 4th BHCA Spring Festival to be conducted at Dermody



• BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION •

President's Message Continued

Triangle. As a picture is worth a thousand words, here's a photo of the original proposal from over ten years ago presented by former BHCA Board Members Marianne Downes and Jay Koellner, with the assistance of community member JoAnn Skutch, at a participatory budgeting meeting at former District 23 NY City Councilman Mark Weprin's office:



Honorable mentions include our BHCA 9/11 observances, Holiday Lighting Festivals, Memorial Day ceremonies, Mall Clean-Up Fests, Spring Festivals, General Meetings at the Colonial Church every Oct, (Meet the Candidates Night) Nov, Jan, April, and June, (except for Superstorm Sandy never postponing as much as one BHCA event), our incredible BHCA Beatification Committee and volunteers keeping their watchful eyes on our Bayside Hills Malls, and finally, our wonderful, dedicated, magnificent BHCA Board of Directors who have kept our organization going since 1936! Photo courtesy TC Chan.



Going forward there is still plenty of work for the BHCA to delve into including our opposition to the "City of Yes" initiative; concerns vis-à-vis the migrant crisis; those unacceptable plans for Creedmore; seeing the proposed construction project for our Bell Boulevard Mall finally begin; continued opposition to bike lanes being placed in inappropriate areas; working with our 111th Precinct to keep us safe; plus new issues that can come up at any time.

Please remember our next BHCA General Meeting will be Conducted Tuesday, January 30th, 2024 at 8:00 PM at the Colonial Church of Bayside, Bell Boulevard., where Luke place and 216th St. converge. Our featured guest will be Bayside Historical Society Historian and President Paul DiBenedetto, with a history lesson that everybody will find most fascinating. We also invited our 111th Precinct Community Affairs officers for their regular police report. Please join us and spread the word because a great turnout is most appreciated.

On a personal note, at the January 30 General Meeting we will have in attendance our 2024 Board of Directors including officers for the next fiscal year. Included in this group will be the interim president of the Bayside Hills Civic Association, appointed by The Board of Directors at the January 2nd Board meeting, whose term will commence February 1st, 2024 and continue until a new president takes office, voted upon in the next election in November 2024. Thus this will be my final President's Message. Call it an epiphany, but one day it dawned on me that following 21 satisfying years as BHCA President, it's time to step down and pass the reins on to somebody else. Thanks to our Board who has had to deal with me for ten, sometimes lengthy, Board of Director's meetings a year at the Bayside Colonial Church. I will always appreciate you guys. Suffice it to say I will always love this great community of ours. I have been a Baysider ever since our family came here from the Bronx in 1958, attended PS 31, Marie Curie 158, and Bayside High School. This town has been wonderful to me over these past years.

One final item, Happy New Year everybody!

Michael Feiner, President BHCA



• BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION •

Holiday Lighting Festival

I would like to express our thanks to all who attended our Holiday Lighting Festival. Most importantly to our Board members who meet monthly to continue to address issues that arise in our community. Michael Feiner, Eileen Feiner, Sebastian D' Agostino, Jack Niedermeyer, and his wife, Daniela both who served hot chocolate and cookies, Tom Louizou, Joe Lubomski, Nick Paolucci, Eileen Miller, Ronald Tabano, TC Chan, Rich Kashdan who did photography, and William Liao who provided the impressive sound system and music. Ron Keil for the beautiful Christmas tree. The Girl Scouts Troop 4279 sang Christmas carols and did an awesome job!

Thank You To: Our Elected Officials.

Senator John Liu who lit our Christmas tree. Assemblymember Braunstein, Council member Linda Lee.

Our Community Friends

Gregg Sullivan and Lisa Robin Gindi videoed our event.

Rita Kashdan was serving hot chocolate.

Alan Miller gave a blessing and lit the Menorah.

Carole Papadatos for her photography.

The Burke family for the Crèche

PS 203 The Accordion Players "Squeezebox 18" And their leader Papa Joe.

Their Music teacher Ms. Holcomb was the highlight of our event.

Bayside Hills Civic School

Bayside Hills School of Excellence.

Father Godofredo Felicitas from St. Roberts gave blessings.

The St Roberts Bellarmine Choir especially Mike Palermo and John.

Michelle Marie Nestor played guitar with her students and did a terrific job!

All our community members sang Christmas carols, and Hanukkah songs.

Bob Reid (AKA) Santa Clause.

Hon. Jerry Iannece

111 Community Affairs officers and Thomas Corey

Justin Argo, Parks and Recreation Manager

Thank You,

Eileen Miller Holiday Lighting Committee Chair



Pictures by Rich Kashdan and
Carole Jacobson Papadatos

baysidehillscivic@gmail.com • facebook.com/baysidehills • baysidehills.info

• BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION •



Save the Date BHCA Annual Spring Festival – Captain Dermody Triangle May 4, 2024

Michael Feiner, President Bayside Hills Civic Association

Let There Be Light!

Once again, the Hills were alive with the sounds and sights of the holiday season. We want to thank everyone who beautified our lovely neighborhood with colorful lights and decorations. The following is a list of those homes that particularly stood out this year. There are two winners and two runners-up, followed by a list of those homes that particularly caught our eye. Thank you to all and wishing you a wonderful New Year ahead!

Winners: 213-15 56th Ave. & 53-48 214th Street

Honorable mention:

56-10 Bell Blvd.

53-24 213th Street

53-39 214th Street

53-02 217th Street

58-11 218th Street

53-46 211th Street

50-12 214th Street

50-23 215th Street

56-06 218th Street

56-31 219th Street

Runners up: 53-08 214th Street & 53-47 Bell Blvd.

53-39 212th Street

50-28 214th Street

50-10 215th Street

56-43 218th Street



Also, just a reminder to please make sure your address is visibly displayed. It helps facilitate not only deliveries, but access to your home by friends, family, and visitors, and should the need arise, emergency vehicles. Not to mention those judging the holiday lights!



BHCA would like to recognize Constantine's Delicatessen, a staple deli in the Bayside community since 1931, is set to close its doors at the end of the year. Thank you for being a part of our community for 92 years!



Bayside Hills Must Stand Together and PROTECT Our R2A Zoning

Sharing this information and wish to inform everybody that the BHCA stands against any upzoning within our community and will take positive action to protect our R2A Zoning. We are working with the Queens Civic Congress, (QCC) a nonpartisan, not for profit umbrella group of eighty-five civic associations throughout Queens.

**Thank you - Michael Feiner,
President BHCA**

Mayor Adams inks bill to set housing growth targets for every NYC neighborhood



Mayor Eric Adams signs Council Speaker Adrienne Adams' bill to set housing growth targets for every neighborhood into law at City Hall. Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023.

<https://www.amny.com/politics/mayor-adams-housing-growth-targets-nyc/?fbclid=IwAR1CbEPMfBaYt6UA0I-lvrYHrX13uagtWG7iRIP2FscKmvMn4IX7mZB6vxM>

:

To the community from BHCA board member and zoning chair, Joe Lubomski:

Community Board 11, our community board, voted against the City of Yes Plan. That vote against the City of Yes Plan is a positive step in preserving Bayside Hills as we know it. Also, it is good to see that BHCA board member and CB11 board member, Eileen Miller, was given credit for taking a strong stand on this most important matter. Bravo Eileen!

The preservation of Bayside Hills and other one- and two-family zoned neighborhoods within NYC is the most important concern that the BHCA has at this time. We must protect our 2A zoning!

What is disturbing are the comments by our Councilwoman Linda Lee: "Hope for the best and prepare for the worst." and "We need to advocate, we need to raise our voices, and also on top of that we need to negotiate".

We should not be hoping; we should be working, advocating for our neighborhood. As for negotiating, there should be no negotiating for our R2A zoning. That is something we strived long and hard for and it should not be changed. The one- and two-family neighborhoods of NYC are gems of the city and should be preserved and protected. We should put our elected representatives on notice that any change to our R2A zoning is totally unacceptable and that they are expected to do everything in their power to protect it. R2A zoning is not on the table.

• BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION •

BHCA annual financial report – December 31, 2022

The Bayside Hills Civic Association represents over 1200 homes within the boundaries of Bayside Hills. Last year, 301 member households supported the Association through their annual \$25 dues and optional neighborhood beautification donations. Additional funds were collected from the Beacon newsletter advertisers and a non-BHCA resident friend.

Major cost categories included landscaping, printing and distribution of the Beacon post card bulletins, membership letters and postage.

A legislative member grant provided approximately \$5,000 worth of grass cutting services for our avenue malls. The NYC Parks Department serviced the Bell Blvd. malls. Due to inconsistent work, contractor services were needed periodically throughout the year. Beautification improvement projects included periodic clock maintenance, mall planter care, and 48th avenue tower copper roof caps.

As of December 31, 2022

2022 Credits

Paid households 2022	Dues	Beautification	Beacon advertising	Friends	Total collected 2022
301	\$7,508	\$8,698	\$1,150	\$85	\$17,441
Carryover from 2021					21,024
Total 2022 credits					\$38,465
Escrow					\$5,002

2022 Expenses

Landscaping malls – avenue cuttings and planters, 48 th Ave. tower roof caps, garbage removal, clock maintenance, flags, street fire alarm box rehab	\$5,802
Beacon e-newsletter, post cards, letters and general membership mailings; office supplies, member cards/stickers, postage, copies, paper, graphic design and mailing services, PO Box rental	7,772
liability insurance	371
Bayside Live TV media	300
Web domain fees	199
Administrative supplies, refreshments, holiday gift bags for children	810
Student scholarship awards	100
Queens Civic Congress dues	135
PayPal fees	29
TOTAL 2022 debits	\$15,518

2022 ending balance (credits – debits) carry forward to 2023 $\$38,465 - 15,518 = \$22,947$

escrow	5,002
Total liquid assets on January 1, 2023	\$27,949

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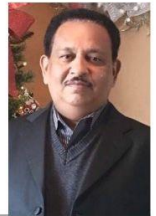
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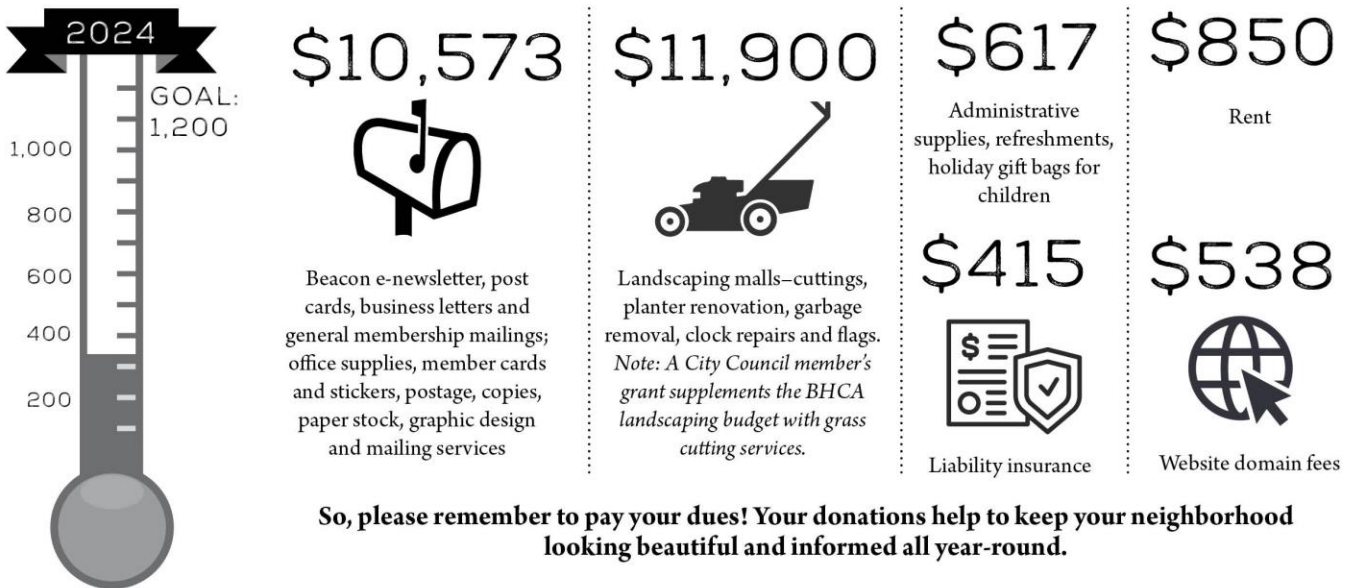
If you are a business owner who would like to participate and help the Bayside Hills community, please contact us at baysidehillscivic@gmail.com, we'd love to include you!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

BHCA

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2024 DUES DONATION TODAY!

We appreciate your generosity. The Bayside Hills Civic Association is an open homeowner membership organization representing over 1,200 households within the boundaries of Bayside Hills. Our mission is to promote a safer, more livable community. The BHCA Board is volunteer-powered and service-driven. Its advocacy, beautification, and communication work rely solely on the support of members, sponsors, *Beacon* advertisers, and participating discount merchants to maintain and improve our neighborhood. **Here is a simple infographic to show how some of our dues were spent in 2023.**



So, please remember to pay your dues! Your donations help to keep your neighborhood looking beautiful and informed all year-round.

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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BEAUTIFICATION DONATION: \$

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