BEAUSIDE HILLS BEAUSIDE HILLS

ISSUE 193, VOLUME 20, November 2024 | OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.





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Save the Date

BHCA GENERAL MEETING Election Night

Tuesday, November 26th, 2024 • 7:30 at the Colonial Church of Bayside

Future Dates

Holiday Lighting Ceremony

December 8, 2024 • 5:00 pm at the mall at Bell Blvd and 53rd Avenue.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Bayside Hills Neighbors

Today was the perfect morning to go for a fall run. My jog around Bayside Hills reminds me why we work so hard to preserve this gem of a neighborhood. I see some of the neighbors have put up Halloween decorations which make the neighborhood look very festive. It is a visible reminder that I have yet to put up my Halloween lights. The BHCA reminds everyone to be safe on Halloween night. Make sure all trick or treaters are easily visible on our sidewalks and streets.

I would first like to thank all of those who participated and supported this year's September 11, 2001, Observance. It is important that the community comes together to recognize and observe the impact of this day on our city, our country, and the world. Your participation made this vear's observance our best attended community event of the year.

City of Yes

The Board continues to partner with other Queens civic associations to combat the rezoning of our neighborhoods as part of the. The community Holiday Lighting will be "City of Yes" program. On Monday, September 16th, at 212th St. and 38th Ave in Bayside, a coalition of elected officials held a press conference to unite against the and your community for sweets, hot City of Yes. There was a large turnout which chocolate and the fun! Messages from our demonstrates the residents' concern with this program.

Bell Boulevard Malls

At long last, the project has begun! This week construction began on the Bell Blvd. Malls project. The malls are an important part of the character of our community, and you can see the city has begun construction by putting protective barriers around the trees on the malls. It is a good sign that this project is underway.

Candidates' Night

Our October general meeting on the 29th was our annual Candidates' Night. It was well attended and the crowd was spirited and receptive. The candidates were well versed, well spoken, and informative. I personally want to thank them, along with everyone who made this night possible, as well as all those who came out to support our Bayside Hills Civic Association.

Reminders

There are some important events coming up, so please mark your calendar.

- Our last General meeting for 2024, BHCA Election Night, will take place on November 26th. We will be emailing out the agenda so please if you are not receiving emails from the BHCA Gmail account, please email us your email the BHCA at baysidehillscivic@gmail.com so you can be added to our email list.
- As a friendly reminder, the clocks fall back an hour on November 3.
- held on December 8, 2024, at 5:00 pm on the mall at Bell Blvd and 53rd Avenue. Plan on joining Santa, school musical groups, spiritual leaders will kick-off the festivities.

Thank you. Jack E. Niedermeyer, President BHCA

• Candidates' Night •

Our annual Candidates' Night affords us the opportunity to share information, ideas, and opinions in an open forum.

Kudos to our BHCA for hosting this great event.



•9/11 Ceromony•







Mike Feiner, former BHCA President coordinated and officiated at this 911 Memorial event

Thanks to all who attended and took part in our 9/11 Memorial. We thank the Bayside Hills community, and our surrounding areas, our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts Troop 142 and Pack 142, The Bayside Hills Civic Association and its Beautification Committee, our Police and Fire Departments, our EMS, Bayside Glen Oaks Volunteer Ambulance Corps, our Elected Officials, Knights of Columbus St Robert Bellarmine Council # 8964 Bayside, special guest speaker Judge George Grasso, people who helped Bayside Hills Civic Association advertise this event including Carole Papadatos, who ordered American flags and posted on Facebook, Jennifer DeVito, our graphics artists who designed the 9/11 fliers, Eileen Miller for her conscientious email blasts to the community, our local newspaper publications, Noah Sheroff and Bayside Village BID, District 26 Supt Anthony Inzerillo and UFT District 26 representative David Waltzer who were asked to help us advertise in our local schools, our Internet Webmaster, Yang Li, Father Gabriel Lee of Saint Robert Bellarmine Roman Catholic Church, Rabbi Gordon Yaffe of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, Little Neck, L'Italiano Trattoria and the Lupo family, Joe Lupo Jr., The New York Black Belt Center, Garden World and Ronald Keil, The New York City Department of Parks, entertainer Johnny Sullivan, audio expert John Macom, who made sure our sound system worked properly, Rich Kashdan for his expert picture taking, and finally, Gregg Sullivan who supplied our video screen and streamed this event over BaysideLive TV.

We Need to Talk about the Advocates' Criticisms of the BHCA's Position on Bike Lanes

Recently, advocates for the Queens Greenway criticized the Bayside Hills Civic Association (BHCA) for opposing a bike lane on the six-block narrow, grass median bifurcated segment of 56th Ave between 211th and 217th streets. The article was replete with misrepresentations of our position.

The BHCA considers the safety of its 1200 homeowners and families a prime responsibility and goal. The recent article accusing the BHCA of making the neighborhood more dangerous for our kids was disingenuous and wrong on several counts. The BHCA boundaries are bordered by 211th St and Springfield Blvd on the west and east and 48th Ave and the Horace Harding Expressway on the north and south.

It is important to note that the advocates have never approached the BHCA to collaborate on a shared safety goal for complete streets. Homeowner input was not sought. Instead, they have embraced a flawed unilateral plan for the expansion of bike lanes in an inherently unsafe six block narrow corridor where the road width is sub-Federal DOT standard for a vehicle/bike lane. When we pointed this out to NYC DOT in our position paper, their original design for separate vehicle and bike lanes was changed to a shared lane.

The advocates further state that parking is not an issue on this segment, since cars infrequently park on this reduced width road that separates east and west traffic with a grass median. Untrue. Cars regularly park there especially on Sundays during church services, youth sports activities at the gym which borders the segment between 213th and 214th streets, and during PS390Q school drop-off and pick-up hours. And yes, the road and sidewalks are further unsafely narrowed by cars parked partly on the sidewalk. This behavior is unlikely to stop when parking is prohibited.

The BHCA agrees that parking on this six- block narrow segment is ill advised. Our statement simply pointed out that it is allowed now, contrary to the DOT proposal that stated it was prohibited. We made this point because homeowners, despite the access to side streets and driveways, object to the removal of parking in front of their homes. This was reinforced several years ago when DOT erected no parking signs along 51st Ave. between Bell Blvd. and 216th Street. The homeowners objected vehemently, and the signs were removed within six months. That two- block segment is identical geometrically as the six block segment in question. It has a similar grass median separating east and west trafficways.

BHCA's Position on Bike Lanes continued

The BHCA is not alone in objecting to this proposed prohibition. St Roberts Church objected to prohibited parking regulations on this segment and CB11shared our objections with DOT. The congestion on this segment along with partial sidewalk parking would continue to worsen along this roadway.

False too is the claim that the BHCA has never complained about blocked pedestrian paths and sidewalks. Our objections to cars parked on the sidewalks, illegal curb cuts to create extra driveways, and lampposts positioned on sidewalks obstructing safe passage are longstanding. Our recent objection to the DOB and 311 re the blocked sidewalks adjoining the Adonai tire store on 210th Street and Horace Harding is one more example. We share a common concern about the blocked sidewalks that create a fire and pedestrian safety hazard.

The advocates further criticized the BHCA for not complaining about the DOT work to update the corners to make them Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The BHCA applauds the DOT for making our sidewalks more accessible to all. Surely, the advocates agree that the ADA work was worth the temporary inconvenience caused by the construction.

Finally, the advocates accuse the BHCA of being dishonest. If there is any razzle-dazzle and misrepresentation going on, it is by the advocates. We have not objected to every cycling safety improvement. Our objection centers on a six-block segment that is unfit for a bike lane. The revised shared lane is better than DOT's first proposal thankfully but still is sub-standard. Fast streets? NO! We would like to see everyone slow down - cars, scooters, e-bikes included. Speed humps? Yes. Daylight our corners – Yes. There is no culture war on these issues. Just a failure to communicate.

Collaborate and partner? Yes. Here is our invitation:

Come to our next General Membership meeting on **November 26th** at the Colonial Church at Luke Place and 217th St. at 7:30p. Ask questions and engage in a dialogue on complete streets for Bayside Hills. Or if you wish, we can meet at another time. Simply respond to baysidehillscivic@gmail.com

BHCA Board of Directors

NOTE: Readers may follow this link to our folder of 53rd Ave. and tire shop photos that were used in our communication with our representatives, CB11, DOT, Buildings Department, and 311: https://photos.app.goo.gl/4c35FV6ZDn5De2a16

NOTE: The BHCA position paper which includes our analysis of 56th Ave. can be found here: BHCA position - Safe bike lanes 2024

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Dear Community:

The following is the slate for the BHCA Officers and Board of Directors to be voted on at the November 26th General Meeting. The term will commence January 1, 2025. As this is an uncontested election, we will cast one vote to elect the entire slate. Best regards, Eileen Feiner BHCA Election Chair

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Board of Directors

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Rich Kashdan
Ronald Keil
Tom Louizou
Joe Lubomski
Eileen Miller
Daniela Niedermeyer
Jack E. Niedermeyer
Nicholas Paolucci
Carole Papadatos



Dear Bayside Hills Homeowners,

For over a year, we have been working with CB11 and Council Member Linda Lee's office in opposition to the NYC DOT plan to install an unprotected bike lane on 56th Ave. between 211th and 217th Streets. This is a bifurcated segment of 56th Ave, with a wide grass medium separating east and westbound traffic. As a result, the travel lanes are narrowed to a sub-Federal DOT guideline width for the inclusion of separate vehicle and bike lanes. The gutter pan includes longitudinal grates in the proposed bike path that are especially dangerous to riders.

The result would create an unsafe, unforgiving road that would put bikers, motorists, and pedestrians in harm's way.

St. Robert Bellarmine Church has also voiced opposition to the planned removal of parking on this segment, part of which is adjacent to the church property (betw. 213th and 214th streets).

Note the Bayside Hills Civic Association (BHCA) supports the safe expansion of the bicycle lane network. The BHCA stands in opposition to unilateral lane expansion that ignores homeowner and community input and the inclusion of unprotected, unsafe bike lanes.

Our work with Council Member Lee's help has successfully paused the plan for 56th Ave. Lee's office has informed us that the City has modified its plan and will retain parking for the entire length from Oceania St. to E. Hampton Blvd. Floating parking lanes will be installed in parts. The segment between 211th St and 217th St. will be a shared lane instead of separate vehicle and bike lanes on the narrow roadways. As of now, this information has not been confirmed. We await written confirmation of this information from the DOT and will share it with you upon receipt.

In the meantime, please consider sharing your thoughts on this issue with our representatives.

Contact them online, by telephone, or by mail:

NYC	State	Commissioner	State	Mayor Eric Adams
Council	Senator	Ydanis Rodriguez	Assembly	
Member Linda Lee	John Liu		Member Nily Rozic	City Hall
District, 23		NYC Dept. of	HOZIC	,
District. 20	District 16	Transportation	District 25	New
73-03 Bell	District 10	Transportation	District 25	York, NY 10007
Boulevard	38-50 Bell	55 Water Street.	159-16 Union	101K, INT 10007
<u>Oakland</u>			Turnpike	Contact the Mayor
Gardens,	Blvd. Suite	9 th floor	Flushing, NY	City of New York
NY 11364 718-468-01	<u>C</u>		11366 719 900 0041	
37		New York, NY	718-820-0241	
J	Bayside,	10041	rozicn@nyass	
district23@c	NY 11361		embly.gov	
ouncil.nyc.go		https://		
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The planning documents for City of Yes for Housing present a rosy picture in which thousands of affordable new homes flood the market, eliminating the housing shortage and reducing costs, with no drastic changes to any of our neighborhoods. That picture is not accurate at all, and the rampant disinformation needs to be refuted before this ill-conceived proposal comes to a vote. If passed, the City of Yes for Housing will permanently destroy many neighborhoods – especially, but not limited to, historic neighborhoods in eastern Queens.

There are 5 basic myths at the foundation of the proposal:

A little more housing everywhere. The proposal claims that no neighborhood will be overly burdened, and that all of our communities can easily absorb just a few more homes to solve the crisis. There are no limits built in to this proposal, however – there is nothing that would prevent "a little more" from becoming "a lot more" once developers target a neighborhood. None of that new housing may be affordable if developers see an opportunity to build market-rate or even luxury units instead. The character of your neighborhood won't change. A high-density neighborhood that is already filled with apartment buildings may not feel different once a few more buildings are added. But it's disingenuous to suggest that a low-density neighborhood now made up of single-family homes will not have a different character once it starts filling up with apartment buildings. We are not eliminating single-family zoning. That is simply not true. Once accessory dwelling units are allowed in single-family zones, no builder will ever erect a single-family home again. Even if the zoning on the books remains the same, in fact the neighborhood would become a multifamily zone. Why not say plainly that New York City no longer wants anyone to live in a single-family zone, rather than hiding that intention behind the myth?

Single-family zoning is racist, exclusionary, and outdated anyway. New York City has a marvelous diversity of housing and neighborhoods to suit many different needs, for people of all kinds. It is untrue and insulting to imply that our single-family zoning is racially exclusionary. In my current Zip code, 11361, the population is half White, a third Asian, and the remainder a mix. In the nearby neighborhood where I grew up, Zip code 11429 is 80 percent Black, with the remainder a polyglot. What we have in common is that we want, and have earned, our little patches of green and tiny plots of land. With only 15 percent of New York City zoned for single-family homes, why would we want to eliminate housing diversity and deny it to those of us who have worked our way up to homeownership?

It's only fair to treat the whole city the same way. The only truly fair way is to treat communities as the unique entities that they are. For example, eliminating the off-street parking requirement may be workable where car ownership is low and there are commercial garages available for those who need parking. In neighborhoods like mine, people need and have cars – and wishing they didn't doesn't make it so. Allowing developers to build multi-family buildings without off-street parking will lead to predictable results: more cars, with nowhere to park them. A developer can walk away and leave a neighborhood to deal with more cars on the street. That is not an issue to be shrugged off, but a real consequence, and it's why the entire city cannot be treated the same.

City planners who are trying to solve a real problem – a need for more housing – are trying to do so by destroying historic neighborhoods when there are alternatives. Thousands of empty NYCHA units, luxury investment units that stand empty, landlord-held unoccupied apartments, deserted shopping malls, empty office buildings, outdated industrial buildings – these all have potential for conversion to housing. It may be easier to just demonize homeowners who want to preserve their communities, but once our historic neighborhoods are gone, they are gone forever. If the planners behind the City of Yes for Housing were honest, their PowerPoints and webinars would admit candidly that they are deliberately targeting our neighborhoods for urbanization.

Not since Robert Moses imposed his vision of a car-friendly metropolis, decimating neighborhoods in the process, has there been such a threat to our neighborhoods. We are not "housing units" – we are homes, and neighbors, and communities. The City of Yes for Housing is a crude cudgel that would destroy our communities, hidden behind the myth that it would creating affordable housing.

Roseann Henry is immediate past president of the Bellcourt Civic Association in Bayside, Queens.



The ill-conceived City of Yes proposal is still going forward. This proposal has the potential to change the character and quality of life enjoyed by us Bayside Hills residents and that of many similar areas throughout NYC. It will eliminate 1 and 2 family zoning as we know it.

Your Civic Association has joined with the Queens Civic Congress in opposition to this proposal.

As of this date our Councilwoman Linda Lee commendably has indicated that she is firmly against this proposal. However, that is not the end of the battle because the City Council consists of 51 council members, and many do not appreciate the suburban like living that we in the outer boroughs enjoy and cherish.

On August 6 Borough President Richards hosted a public hearing to ascertain the views of the Borough residents. The overwhelming majority who opined indicated disfavor of City of Yes. As reported in the Queens Eagle onAugust 26 Borough President Richards said he was mostly in favor of the City of Yes and he is described as being all in on basement apartments and wants the city, state, and federal governments to function \$1 Billion to fund a basement apartment program. The Borough President's views are nonbinding and marks the end of the Borough's review of the proposal.

Sometime in the Fall the City Council will take a vote on this matter. In the meantime, you can help by petitioning the City Council Members, the Mayor and the Borough President to not pass his proposal. Also, there are a lawn signs available. If you would like to display your solidarity against his proposal simply e-mail your Civic Association, and one will be provided while the supply lasts.

The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity will:

Eliminate one and two family zoning.

Allow accessory dwelling units (ADU's) such as basement apartments, garage apartments, and more to be built on all one and two family properties.

Allow LARGE MULTI family buildings and retail to be built on blocks that are now zoned for one and two family homes

Creates high-density residential zoning in "town centers" which will allow apartment complexes to be built on top of street-level retail.

Eliminates or significantly reduce density and height limitations, front and rear yard requirements, parking requirements, and green space requirements.

Allow apartment buildings to be built within a half-mile of train stations despite the current zoning.

Proposed letter to forward to Linda Lee

Dear Councilwoman Lee:

I am writing today to urge you to oppose the City of Yes proposals that you will be voting on soon. These proposals will have negative impacts in both low-density and high-density areas of our city. While the City of Yes – Housing Opportunity proposal will frankly have catastrophic consequences on our residential communities, the matter at hand now is the City of Yes – Economic Opportunity proposal, which, if passed, will allow unregulated commercial uses throughout all of our neighborhoods. This pressing matter must be rejected to help preserve communities across the city and allow us to consider better solutions that will get our city back on its feet – the right way. While many of the aspects of these proposals will have dire impacts on our community, some of the worst include:

- Allowing owners of houses and apartments to open business establishments, including massage parlors, nail salons, and barbershops, will disrupt the quality of life in neighborhoods across the city and negatively affect the residential atmosphere that we have fought to maintain.
- This proposal will allow businesses into commercial areas where they shouldn't be able to locate, creating dangerous conditions on neighborhood retail commercial strips.
- Expanding the areas where cabaret licenses will be granted will diminish the quality of life in residences that are in close proximity to these areas.
- Allowing retail/office/storefronts such as corner stores
- Up to 2500 square feet on all properties within 100 feet of every corner on every residential block, transforming the quieter areas of our city into an unrecognizable commercial nightmare.

These changes, along with many others proposed alongside them, will lead to a need for increased enforcement from various city agencies that are already not equipped to take on the volume of issues we have today, let alone in the future. Between staffing shortages and newly announced budget cuts, these changes are all but guaranteed to place the burden of enforcement on already strained city workers. In addition, when considering zoning proposals with a citywide impact like these to the zoning code, collateral damage must be taken into consideration. In this instance, the myriad unintended consequences that would occur from adoption of these zoning changes are immense – and unacceptable.

As a resident of New York City that will unquestionably be affected by the negative impact of these proposals, I urge that you take these points into consideration, and that you further research and weigh how these proposals can affect myself as well as all of your constituents.

	,	
Name		
Address		
Email		
Phone		

Sincerely, your constituent.

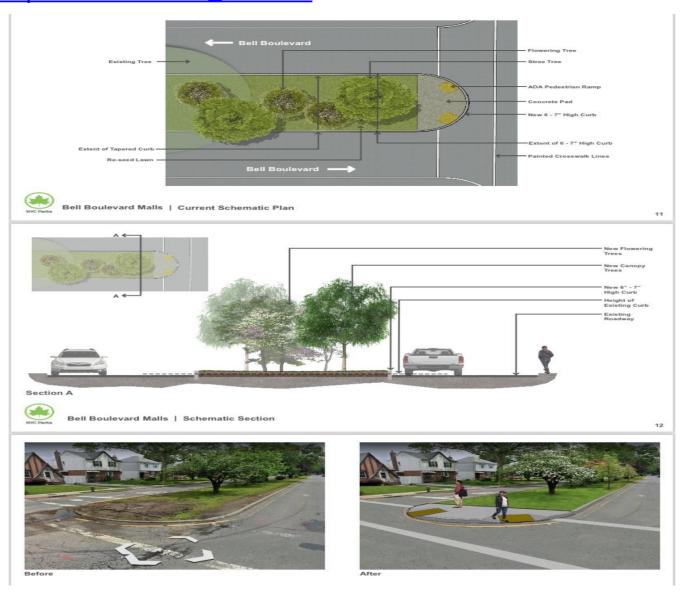
Bell Malls Construction Project

The Bell Malls Construction Project has begun to help beautify Bayside Hills.

Goals

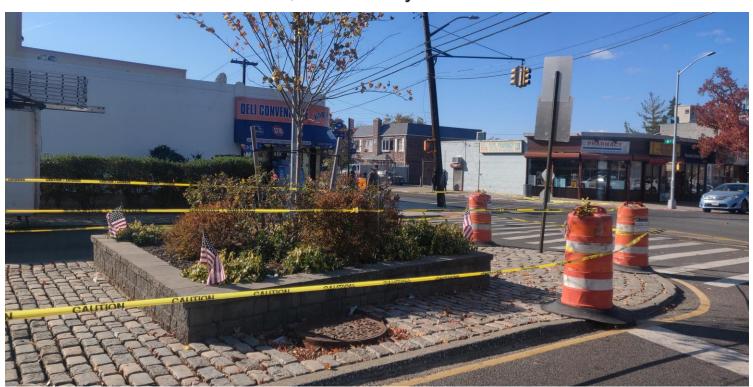
- Reduce vehicular impacts to the mall through planting and new raised curbs.
- Remove aging planters and planting bed. Various trees will be removed based on conditions of the tree per recommendations from NYC Forester.
- Installation of native and naturalized/non-invasive species known for drought and salt-tolerance

https://fb.watch/liHL_mveWB/



Bell Malls Construction Project

"And so, it begins. The long-awaited Bell Boulevard Mall project initiated and monitored by former President Michael Feiner and The BHCA Board, has finally come to fruition."











ATTENTION property owners and managers: Beginning November 12, 2024, all trash must be set out in a bin (55 gallons or less) with a secure lid.

This applies to:

- single-family homes
- two-family homes
- buildings with up to 9 apartments

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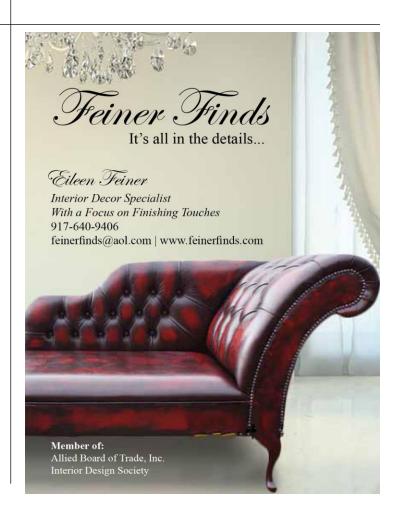
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We continue to work with local merchants to offer them increased consumer traffic and offer you discounts on a variety of products/services. Discounts vary by merchant and are subject to change without notice. Minimum purchase may be required. Just remember to show your BHCA Membership card! Enjoy the savings!

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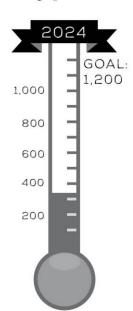
If you are a business owner who would like to participate and help the Bayside Hills community, please contact us at baysidehillscivic@gmail.com, we'd love to include you!

• 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.





Beacon e-newsletter, post cards, business letters and general membership mailings; office supplies, member cards and stickers, postage, copies, paper stock, graphic design and mailing services

\$10,573 \$11,900 \$617 \$850



Landscaping malls-cuttings, planter renovation, garbage removal, clock repairs and flags. Note: A City Council member's grant supplements the BHCA landscaping budget with grass cutting services.

Administrative supplies, refreshments, holiday gift bags for children



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Website domain fees

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

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES

NAME:

ADDRESS:

O UPDATED EMAIL: O NEW

O CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER OF THE BHCA

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PLEASE INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO HAVE YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD/STICKERS MAILED TO YOU.



YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPTION TO PAY VIA PAYPAL AT:

WWW.BAYSIDEHILLS.INFO/MEMBERSHIP