



Next BSW Neighborhood Association Meeting Monday, April 1, 8 PM at 290 Stratford-- Come at 7:30 for wine and snacks

Agenda for April meeting:

- 1-70th Precinct representatives- 25 minutes
- 2- Private Security- 5 minutes
- 3- Good Neighbor committee report- 15 minutes
- 4- Other business- 15 minutes

March-April 2013 Newsletter

To receive the newsletter electronically, e-mail BSWneighbors@gmail.com with your name and house number.

Officers:

Co-Presidents
Bob Pandolfo and Jack Rubman
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Miriam Rubman
Member at large: Glenn Wolin

Block representatives:

Stratford/Beverley- Bob Pandolfo, 214, Tel 347-578-4146,
Westminster- Audrey Campbell, 297, 718-282-5937/ Janice Hamann, 330, 718-287-5408,
Argyle- Jack Rubman, 261, Tel 718-469-6633,
Rugby- Tom Montuori, 306, Tel 718-287-6502,
Marlborough-Sally Bowman-Schneider, Tel 516-768-8059.

From Miriam Rubman:

LOW COST HOMEOWNERS WATER AND SEWER LINE INSURANCE

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection has been mailing out brochures to all homeowners recommending a low-rate insurance plan to cover water and sewer line repairs. Many homeowners have not received this literature yet.

The plan, offered by American Water Services, covers water service line protection for \$9.99 per month and sewer line protection for \$7.99 per month or \$11.99 for both if purchased by June 30, 2013. The cost will be included in your quarterly water bill. All repairs will include a year warranty. Without insurance, replacement of a water line costs \$3,000 - \$5,000 and replacement of a sewer line costs \$10,000 - \$15,000.

Please call 888-300-3570 for more information or enroll on-line at awrusa.com/nyc. BSW highly recommends that all homeowners purchase both water and sewer line insurance since our neighborhood is an older community with a reasonably good chance of damage.

From Co-President Bob Pandolfo:

Homeowners are advised to use porch lights at night. There are energy-efficient lights with photo-electric switches available. Lights on houses add needed light to our blocks, and are a crime deterrent. Also, placing your house number on the back of your house can identify your house to a neighbor just in case.

If your house is adjacent to a storm drain, keeping it clear of debris helps prevent floods on the street and possibly in our homes.

Minutes of BSW Meeting March 4, 2013

(recorded by Bob Pandolfo)

1- Private Security: As Glenn reported, our private security will end in March unless several new members join. (It did end, on March 21.) (Glenn is requesting increased 70th Pct. patrols for our area.)

2-Plans for Block Party and a May/June family-oriented meeting: Olgierd is getting permission for a block party on Marlborough, for the Sunday after Memorial Day. Another family-oriented meeting is also planned for late May or early June.

3-Landmarking- The application for several Victorian Flatbush neighborhoods, including BSW, was delivered to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission on March 7th. The task now is to meet with and influence our local politicians to get priority for our submission. A Landmark Committee is addressing this.

4- Treasurer's Report Please call Miriam for details at 718-469-6633.

5-Other Business: There will be a **memorial service for Ilse Henry**, a recently deceased Argyle resident, on April 21st, at 2 pm, at Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl St. A resident told a story of a bike stolen from a garage- the point: Always insist on a police report.

From Member at Large Glenn Wolin:

Why I Should Join My Local Neighborhood Association

Many of us are fortunate enough to live in one of the beautiful Victorian Flatbush neighborhoods. It doesn't matter if we own or rent, we all benefit from the beauty, cohesiveness, and friendliness of these neighborhoods that are more like living in a suburb or a park than in a major urban center, New York City. We are close to Manhattan by subway or car and we can park with ease in our driveways or the local streets. If you take a walk on Cortelyou Road, there is a good chance that you will meet people that you know, or pass people who will be happy to smile and say hello. We live in a great neighborhood.

Downzoning

The neighborhoods are great because many people with a sense of community have organized into neighborhood associations to protect the things we love and continue to improve our quality of life. Many of you may not know that the city zoning in Victorian Flatbush would have allowed for hundreds of our beautiful homes to be knocked down and replaced with six story apartment buildings. Can you imagine what that would do to the quality of life if it happened on your block? Many people, working through their local neighborhood associations and Community Board 14, managed to get the zoning changed so our neighborhoods can never again be threatened by developers. That took dedicated people, associations, letters, phone calls, meetings, and four and a half years to accomplish.

Landmarking

There is now a group of people working with the local neighborhood associations and the Flatbush Development Corporation trying to get landmark status. If you want to know why that is important, go look at the house on Argyle Road between Ditmas and Dorchester. The house that bricked up the front from the ground to the third floor. How would you like to walk out of your house and look at that every day? What do you think that did to the values of the houses nearby?

Security & More

Many things get accomplished by neighbors getting together and recognizing the problems, forming a plan of action, and working to solve them. We are fortunate to have these neighborhood associations so we have an opportunity to affect change. How about personal safety? Most neighborhoods have Security Patrols to help keep us safe. We have a green market on Cortelyou Road also brought to you by neighbors working through their neighborhood associations. The general upgrading of Cortelyou Road was a cooperative effort of the Flatbush Development Corporation, Councilman Mathieu Eugene, Cortelyou Road Merchants, and local neighborhood associations. Traffic calming, traffic lights and speed bumps, Mathieu Eugene and neighborhood associations.

(continued on Page 3.)

Why I Should Join My Local Neighborhood Association (continued)

Social events to meet your neighbors like block parties, wine tasting, progressive dinners, ice cream socials, arbor days and much more are brought to you by your local neighborhood associations. Historic street lights, Marty Markowitz and neighborhood associations. The list is quite long and glorious but it takes new people getting involved all the time to continue the trend.

Most people don't realize that when neighborhoods crumble around them it is their lack of involvement that allowed it to happen. Most people also don't realize that when their neighborhood is improving it is only because some of their neighbors are getting involved. It is now time for you to get involved, for yourself, your family, and your neighbors. You can start small, just show up at your local neighborhood association meetings. Find out what's going on, bring your concerns, if you have any, but mostly, meet your neighbors. Find out about educational activities, or how to get paid for using your house for a film shoot, or maybe, how to get a new traffic light like the one on Cortelyou and Westminister. There is a world of knowledge and information easily available to you, just come to a few meetings. You might even enjoy yourself or make new friends.

In the Garden Corner

by Vera Julia Gordon

April. Showery April is the month when spring really makes its appearance, and our winter landscape of grays and browns is transformed into one of a thousand shades of green, and then we see the shades of yellow of forsythia (Brooklyn's official flower) and of the 9/11 memorial daffodils, the whites of magnolias and dogwoods, and the rainbow hues of tulips. Yes, it can snow in April and temperatures have ranged from 18° to 96°. April is a changeable month, but it is true spring.

The new moon is April 10, and the full moon, the pink moon, is April 25th. It is partially eclipsed in Asia, Africa, and Europe but so little of Earth's shadow falls on it that it will be hardly noticeable. The moon and Jupiter will be visible together in the west on April 14th, and the full moon is to the lower right of Saturn. Saturn's tilt lets its rings be clearly seen and it is visible all night at the end of the month. It is at its brightest "showing" in six years. Venus is low in the west after sunset all month.

We gain an hour and twenty minutes of daylight in April.

Weeds pop up as days get longer and warmer. Keep after them. It is easiest to pull them out if the ground is damp, and get the **roots**. Put down a small amount of grass seed where the weed was growing. By the end of April the grass may be high enough to mow back to 3 and a half or 4 inches. When the forsythia blossoms drop, it is time for the first lawn seeding and fertilizing. Read the labels! More is not better- because it can force rapid growth which will not create strong grass able to stand up to summer heat.

If trees have not been pruned, get that task done. Call an arborist for any job you cannot do with your feet firmly on the ground. Once the leaves come out it is harder to discern the branching structure and the branches are much heavier. Always check for signs of Asian Long-horned Beetle: half-inch round holes and tan patches of egg mass.

It's now time to move the leaf mulch to the compost pile or to dig it into the ground. Then put down a summer mulch layer of one or two inches of mature compost on your planting beds and a light layer on lawns.

Houseplants can be given full strength fertilizer. Read the label because each brand and formulation is different. Plants can have a **day** on a shaded porch if it is warm, but they don't go outside for the summer until mid-May.

Some early seeds can be planted outside (peas, radishes) in **late** April. Check the labels! Hardy pansies can be planted. Passover and Easter plants can be grown inside on the windowsill. Depending on the plants, in mid-May move them outside to deck or patio or plant them in the ground to grow on for next year. They may or may not be successful, depending on whether they were forced for sale.

Cut branches for forcing: forsythia, quince, fruit trees, lilac, etc. It is best to choose branches which you would otherwise prune out to shape the tree or bush or to rejuvenate it. Do not hesitate to cut deeply into the plant. Cut when buds swell and begin to show color.

Earth Day is April 22nd and Arbor Day is April 27th.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden Plant Sale is Wednesday, May 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to noon, but remember the members-only preview sale is Tuesday, April 30th from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You can join the Garden that day! There will be annuals, perennials, veggies, houseplants, bonsai, orchids, cacti, African violets, roses, hanging baskets, trees, bushes, herbs--just about every kind of plant a gardener could desire. On Wednesday there will be demonstrations and lecture by gardener-curators and various experts. There will also be workshops on Greenest Block in Brooklyn ideas.

Enjoy the April flowers of early spring in your garden.

From Co-President Bob Pandolfo:

NYC Trees and Sidewalks Program-

Homeowners can sign up for this program if tree roots have damaged their sidewalks, and possibly get free repairs:

<http://www.nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/trees-sidewalks-program>

USEFUL CONTACTS

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 311

70th Precinct: 718-851-5511

Gas / National Grid: 718-643-4050

Electricity/ ConEdison:

800-75-CONED

Community Board 14:

718-859-6357

Councilmember Eugene:

718-287-8762

Assemblymember Brennan:

718-940-0641

Senator Parker:

718-629-6401

Ditmas Park Blog:

www.ditmasparkcorner.com

ditmasparkcorner@gmail.com

CY 2013 LIST OF BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST DUES PAYING MEMBERS (JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2013) AS OF MARCH 12, 2013

ARGYLE ROAD

Rubman; Clemens/Tyroler; Lozada; Eiss; Gordon; Wahrmann

BEVERLEY ROAD

Intratter; Intratter; Krainin/Woolever; Aranda; Popkin; Gross; VerEecke; Cherkis

MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Litchman; Draho; Garfinkel; Wendroff; Troy/Iozzio; Borbolla; Blaine; Taylor/Boucaud; Bilanow

RUGBY ROAD

DelQuaglio; Turoff; Herzog; Fallon/Hunter; Moed/Nelson; Wertheimer/Goldsmith

STRATFORD ROAD

Wolin; Landy/Colen; Martin-Grady; Popkin; Speranza; Pandolfo; Rosenberg; Riback

WESTMINSTER ROAD

Silverman/Hohman; Jaffee/ Warshawsky; Cheung; Mintz; Mangiacapre;

La Marita

SLOCUM PLACE

Varon

Total: 44 (out of @ 255 houses)

If you think that I made a mistake in omitting your name, please call me at (718) 469-6633.

BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST DUES for CY2013 are due now.

Your dues support:

Printing the monthly newsletter and social event flyers, supporting social events- refreshments, other expenses, financing our biennial party, buying wine for our monthly meetings. Please see form below.

Thank you for your continued support of our community organization.

BSW Dues for 2013

BSW membership dues are payable on a fiscal year basis. All 2013 dues are due now. Dues are \$25.00. Please fill out the form below and mail it today with your check made out to Beverley Square West Association to Miriam Rubman, BSW Treasurer, 261 Argyle Road, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Thank you for your continued support of our beautiful neighborhood. If you have any questions, please call Miriam, Treasurer of BSW Neighborhood Association at 718-469-6633.

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____