

Bayswater Breeze



74th Year

BAYSWATER

June 24, 2019

BAYSWATER OPEN MEETING

~~MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 AT 8:00 PM~~

BAYSWATER JEWISH CENTER, CORNER HEALY AVE. & DICKENS ST.

GUESTS: ST. JOHN'S REPRESENTATIVES

RENEE HASTICK-MOTES & GWEN PINCKNEY

HAPPENINGS

ROCKAWAY DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION CORPORATION (RDRC)

A number of events are occurring through this organization this summer including the MIDDAY DINING @ THE PLAZA from July through August, 2019. RDRC is offering local restaurants the opportunity to participate in this program during these summer months on Mondays and Tuesdays from Noon to 2 pm. RDRC says that restaurants in Downtown Far Rockaway and throughout the Rockaways will be able to sell their favorite dishes to the 1000's of shoppers, commuters, and workers that enter our district daily.

The Beach 20th Street Pedestrian Plaza is located at 1033 Beach 20th Street between Mott and Cornaga Avenues. RDRC manages the Plaza on behalf of the City of New York. Since re-opening in 2016, the Pedestrian Plaza has become Far Rockaway's town center for live concerts, merchant fairs, fashion shows, and holiday and community events that have attracted 1000's of people. RDRC believes this is a great way for local restaurants to increase their customer base and promote Rockaway. The goal is to draw more foot traffic into the district for longer stays that includes shopping, entertainment, and dining. They want everyone's help in promoting the Rockaways as a great place to shop, dine, and explore. For more information and to see what else is being offered including job information, go to rdrcinfo1@gmail.com. They are located at Mott Avenue.

St John's Episcopal Hospital representatives Renee Hastick-Motes, Vice President of Externals Affairs and Gwen Pinckney, Chief Nursing Officer will present updates from around the hospital. In addition to being available to answer any questions you may have.

The Bayswater Players Presents

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

JULY 9, 14, 15, 18

For more information and tickets contact Michael 718-208-9687.

OPEN MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 24

**BAYSWATER
JEWISH CENTER**

**CORNER HEALY
AND DICKENS**

We look forward to seeing you. Our guests for this evening are Renee Hastick-Motes and Gwen Pinckney of St. John's Hospital to tell us about the new happenings at our area and only hospital on the peninsula.

Our 101st Precinct will also be joining us with community updates.

This is a good time to visit with friends and neighbors, enjoy conversation and coffee and cookies before the summer season starts in full earnest.

If you haven't sent in your 2019 membership dues, this is also a good time to do so.

We wish you a most enjoyable and relaxed summer.



THE BAYSWATER BREEZE

Published By
BAYSWATER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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ROCKAWAY NASSAU SAFETY PATROL



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SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS,
CALL THE 24 HOUR HOTLINE**

516-858-7300

POLICE - 911

To receive Security Alerts sign up at:
securityalerts@rockawaypatrol.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ARE YOU IN THE GAME OR NOT?

Are you a person who says you can't beat City Hall? BCA does not accept that position. We may not win our battles but at least we can say we try to express our opinions. Members of our Board of Directors attend most meetings of importance to our community.

Won't you come to our next Open meeting on June 24 and help us know your concerns and interest? We will be hosting Renee Hastick-Motes and Gwen Pinckney of St. John's Hospital who will update us on the additions and improvements of our local hospital. Also we always have a representative from the 101 Police Precinct.

On June 25th you have the chance to choose the next District Attorney of Queens. Please take advantage of your opportunity.

Good wishes for a pleasant summer.
Enid Glabman
President

TO A CHILD, THE WORLD

By Vincent Aguirre

So, what can you build on a site that is only big enough to park a few cars?

To a child, the world.

Through much effort on the part of locals a program was generated to transform a small patch of weedy grass nestled between buildings of the Dix Avenue Apartment Complex into a playground that will encourage the development of strength and imagination of the neighborhood youth.

The program was given generous support by the New York Mets Foundation in conjunction with The Child Center of New York and developed by Kaboom! the national non-profit dedicated to providing great places to play.

The kids of the community were consulted on the specific design of the site before the May 30th build-date with 170 volunteers provided by the NY Mets Foundation.

Everyone is welcome to see the result of this project on the corner of Dix Ave and McBride St.

CLEANING UP THE THRIFTWAY MALL

IN DOWNTOWN FAR ROCKAWAY

The following article appeared in THE WAVE on May 10, 2019. It discusses the need for remediation of the Thriftway site because of soil contamination.

THRIFTWAY CLEANUP

CM Richards clearing the way for new Far Rock Village Development

The development of 457 mixed-use affordable homes at the former Thriftway Mall site must be preceded by a brownfield cleanup process, as per DEC records.

By Ralph Mancini

Reports of an imminent decontamination process at the former Thriftway Mall site were confirmed earlier this week.

While the March 6 demolition of the retail center had several community members brimming with anticipation about forthcoming mixed-use housing, a full-scale cleanup must take place before the kickoff of construction activities.

A Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) fact sheet details how the 20-02 Mott Ave. location currently poses "a significant threat" to public health and the surrounding environment.

Councilman Donovan Richards, who is spearheading the redevelopment, has reportedly been monitoring the issue every step of the way, according to his media spokesperson Jordan Gibbons.

"We'd rather stay in front of this now than have to go back and revisit any contamination down the road," Gibbons explained during a recent phone call with The Wave.

He also explained that the paucity of available lot space to build in New York City may require many future projects to take place at similar brownfield sites in need of remediation.

The remedial work plan, as stated in the DEC fact sheet, will require excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil; the collection and analysis of end-point soil samples; the importing of clean material for use as backfill and the implementation of a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) and a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) for long-term maintenance of the remedial systems.

DEC Project Manager Christopher Allen has not immediately responded to The Wave's inquiry for further specs on the undertaking.

DOWNTOWN FAR ROCKAWAY

Revitalization may be happening in DTFR, but debate and discussion go on. The following is a THE WAVE May 24th article that is well worth reading.

DEBATING THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Schools, hospitals, density issues all on the table at update session
By Ralph Mancini

A group effort on the part of Councilman Donovan Richards and NYC agency reps to shed light on the progress of \$288 million of investments in Downtown Far Rockaway (DFR) saw residents relate their concerns to the large panel of government officials.

An elaborate PowerPoint presentation narrated by the Economic Development Corporation's Assistant Vice President Erich Bilal at Challenge Preparatory Charter School was followed by questions and comments voiced by skeptical attendees on the topic of affordable housing.

Community Board 14's Dr. Gerald David targeted the increased density (i.e. the influx of new residents entering Rockaway) resulting from the development of residential units particularly in the DFR area. "The amount of people of moving into the community, which the city itself said in various meetings is close to 3,000 families and that includes the Mott Avenue "rezoning," said David, as he openly wondered if there's enough infrastructure to support new construction.

"What we do not want here is what Robert Moses (a former NYC public official known as "The Master Builder") build, which were projects and have a group of all placed together, which is not a community. It's great to have stores. We want to have a community and not stores along."

On that note, the CB14 member communicated his dismay with City Council opting to rezone DTR by assigning it an R6 designation - used for apartment houses - which reportedly went against the board's wishes of having it remain an R5 area that generally favors one and two-family residences.

Richards didn't share David's views on the ramifications of 600-plus new mixed-income units since 2017, with at least 1,100 more in the pipeline.

"Let me just remind everybody: one of the sites has 100,000 square feet of retail. It's a significant amount of retail, and one of the things which, and you're correct, we don't want to do is go back to the Robert Moses era, where Robert Moses just build housing," claimed Richards.

The city legislator further explained that a greater number of people in the community ensures the ample density required to adequately patronize local businesses.

"You go to Mott Avenue now, we walk outside these stores - all of these are pretty much closed, right? There's no walkable traffic out there; there's no one living in the epicenter. There's really not really a nightlife here, right? So, we've now created that nightlife which will then support the businesses."

Richards proceeded to dispute widespread grumblings on the part of locals citing how an overabundance of low-income residents would ultimately undermine efforts to reinvigorate commercial

activity.

To that end, he pointed out that more storefront vacancies exist in DTR than in the Laurelton end of his district, which is generally considered the more affluent neighborhood of the two.

Housing Preservation Development (HPD) Queens and Staten Island Planning & Pre-Development Director Perris Straughter addressed the low-income quandary by breaking down the logic behind the residential makeup of Edgemere's Beach Green Dunes Phase I.

City government, he said, couldn't accept applications from families over the 80-percent AMI (Area Median Income) threshold - excluding residents with annual earnings exceeding \$76,880 - given HPD's efforts in staying in line with market rate rental fees in Edgemere.

Added perspective was offered by Richards, who stated: "Let me just touch on this because I'm going to try to be as diplomatic as I can in this conversation about affordable housing. The average AMI for a Rockaway resident is 40 percent from here up to the west. So, we're not going to gentrify my community. Everything we've build so far is for individuals earning \$30,000 or a little bit below up to \$80,000."

An assortment of mass transit and parking hand-ups uttered by Norman Silverman were handled by Richards and Department of Transportation (DOT) Queens Commissioner Nicole Garcia, the latter of whom assured the long-time Rockaway transportation advocate that special placards for the disabled are available through her agency.

As for Silverman's gripes over the lack of options in accessing the LIRR, the Councilman announced - to the delight of his constituents on hand - that a connection between the A Train and the Long Island - base railroad system is forthcoming. Richards also promised that a full revamp of the 22-A bus line is in the works.

When responding to specific inquires about the development of the land formerly occupied by the Thriftway Mall on Mott Avenue and Beach 22nd Street, Richards told the crowd that he "anticipates" a gym coming to the site. NYC Department of Design (DDC) and Construction Assistant Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Jessica Douglass expounded on the commercial makeup of the location by reporting that a daycare center will be part of the retail mix as well.

When she broached schools, however, the DDC spokesperson informed that environmental analysis conducted by her team "doesn't indicate a need for additional seats just yet."

One community leader who endorsed the grand-scale investments spearheaded by Richards- also comprising new and remodeled park space; new streetscape and sewer infrastructure and a brand new \$30 million library - was CB 14 District Manager Jonathan Gaska.

"I really want to give a lot of credit to the Councilmember. We would not be here today if it was not for him. He is super active. He's really trying to bring money into a district, which some people are not used to on this end of CB14.

SUMMER GARDENING

Rain does many wonderful things. Amongst them is the beautiful look of our lawns, gardens, trees, flowers, and everything else that Mother Nature has bestowed upon us this season. Except...there are little areas here and there that are shaded and not all plants grow in the shade. To the rescue comes Paula Digioia who writes The Glorified Tomato articles in THE WAVE. She has come up with a suggestion for those shady areas. A plant that she found for really shaded areas is the semi-evergreen perennial Ajuga which is also known as the Bugelweed.

This is a charming spreader that flowers and thrives in shade but will also grow in full sun. Like sedum sarmentosum, it's indestructible. There are 60 different species all with beautiful color varieties. Some have deep burgundy leaves, others white-tipped, green and purple foliage. The flower appears in late spring and the hue ranges from blue to purples and pinks. It grows in poor soils and quickly spreads.

Another problem is poor quality soil and for that Digioia found a perennial plant called sedum sarmentosum, a perennial flowering succulent that is used as a ground cover. It reaches six inches in height and has tiny yellow flowers appearing in July. It's drought tolerant, can handle full sun and will grow anywhere. It is good for the budget also because it will cover large areas of poor quality soil, is less maintenance hungry than grass, and is quite durable. The reporter notes that it is also edible. She lists her email address for anyone interested in trying it in the garden or as an edible: pdigioia@rockawave.com.

Jessica Damiano who writes the LIGARDENS column in Newsday is excited by the fact that impatiens are back. The shade loving plants were being killed by a disease called downy mildew. The plant, Imara XDR, was found to be highly resistant to the disease by the Cornell University Research and Extension Center in Riverhead. They come in rose, red, orange, violet, white, and patterned.

To help identify the "new" impatiens when shopping, the company recommends that consumers do three things: "Shop at the big-box stores that are supplied by our top grower partners (Lowe's, Walmart and The Home Depot all have growers producing commercial quantities going into stores now); look for very healthy plants - [downy mildew] moves in quick, and if the plants are susceptible, they usually look pretty bad at retail; look for the tag. The folks at Syngenta say that "since the market for impatiens is undifferentiated [until now], plants will be sold with mostly generic tags, so Imara XDR will be hard for consumers to identify."

At garden center, ask the garden center manager if the impatiens being sold are specifically Syngenta's Imara XDR. XDR stands for Xtreme Disease Resistance.

Still an option are New Guinea impatiens (*Impatiens hawkeri*), which have always been immune to the disease. They can tolerate more sun, have pointed leaves and more of a spreading habit.

A hybrid species of the New Guinea type called Bounce, and the larger-flowered Big Bounce, are not susceptible, either. Their name comes from their ability to bounce back from severe wilt with a simple watering.

It is hoped that these two ladies here helped our gardeners as we move into the summer months.

PARKING ISSUES & THE 101ST PRECINCT

At the May 15 Community Council meeting at the Centerlight Healthcare Center, Deputy Inspector Vincent J. Tavalaro talked about traffic congestion and double and triple parking in the downtown Far Rockaway area. As there have been a goodly number of complaints about illegal parking, Travaloro said "that there will be no tolerance or courtesies issued any longer to those violating the law. The main areas seem to be on Beach 20th Street from Seagirt Boulevard to Mott Avenue and along portions of Mott avenue and Central Avenue. Over 700 summonses have been given out since the start of January. Tavalaro assured the committee, "Get the word out and spread it to the families; we're going to continue to start to pick up the summonsing." We've been warned.

It seems from this writer's point of view that as more work is being done in the town and more parking spaces are being taken away, the situation will only get worse. This is a good time for residents to start complaining to our elected officials and to RDRC about this problem as it will only get worse. The real question is about how to use the stores and facilities in town if there is no place to put your car and no bus transportation to help you get there and back home. Not everyone lives within a few blocks of downtown.

Apropos of the above, this article from the May 17, 2019 THE WAVE column Looking Back:

The Wave Said...

10 YEARS AGO...

If you think the fact that more than 16,000 parking tickets were issued in 2008 to a population of 120,000 just wait. Rockaway is on track for a record parking ticket year because, if you extrapolate from the first four months of this year and last year's experience, it looks as if we will top 8,500 tickets this year. Add the fact that Bloomberg plans to lay off several thousand city workers at the same time he hires hundreds of traffic enforcement agents, and you can bet on a growing curve of parking tickets, and we would bet the farm on a total of more than 9,000 tickets in 2010. This is your mayor at work.

May 3, 2019

10 YEARS AGO...

While there is something of a frenzy about the cost of parking meters and the number of tickets being issued for illegal parking in this city, Rockaway residents seem to be more laid-back than residents in other areas. A quick, unscientific survey in west end parking areas last week showed that many people simply ignore the meters entirely and don't really care about the increase in cost. A number of locals told us that there is so little parking available, especially in shopping areas, that they just do their own thing and pay a ticket if they get it. "It's the cost of living in a beach area, like Rockaway," one parker on Beach 129 Street told us.