

BROADWAY FLUSHING HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendar! Our next meeting will be held on **March 23, 2017 at 7:45pm at Church-on-the-Hill.** Our special guest speakers are Susan Lacerte, Executive Director of the Queens Botanical Garden, Officer Anthony Loverme from Crime Prevention, 109th Precinct, and Pat Sherwood, Queens Historical Society!

BFHA IN THE NEWS

Use the links below to view recent news stories ...

http://www.qchron.com/editions/north/broadway-flushing-homes-cause-concern/article_8deb1e55-89c9-

http://www.qchron.com/editions/north/parking-problems-in-broadway-flushing/article_ab1b40c5-e95a-58ac-a3d6-f0a20620531c.html

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT – JANET MCCREESH

Greetings and Salutations to all our wonderful members! This winter has been incredibly busy. On December 5th, Maria Becce and I attended the Queens Legislative Reception hosted by the Queens Civic Congress. It is a wonderful tradition and we get to chat with all our elected officials and neighboring civics and express our concerns and exchange ideas. On December 18th BFHA co-hosted the Bowne Park Holiday Lighting with the Bowne Park Civic Association, sponsored by State Senator Tony Avella. It was cold but festive. We managed to keep warm with lots of hot chocolate and tasty holiday treats. Thank you to everyone who joined the fun and to all the special guests who gave their blessings and warm remarks!

The past six months have probably been the busiest of any for our Association. We have had a record number of homes with Stop Work Orders and violations issued by the Department of Buildings. Most of these situations came about by interested and vigilant members emailing, posting on Facebook or calling one of our board members to let BFHA know of possible illegal construction, or raising concerns of potential zoning violations. The volunteers who serve on the Executive Committee continue to work very hard to maintain Broadway-Flushing as a beautiful single-family residential community. BFHA has initiated a lawsuit on one of the homes that was listed on Airbnb, and we have also worked with the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement to have another two homes removed from the website. As of this writing there are no homes in Broadway-Flushing listed on Airbnb or any other hotel website. This is far from over, as our neighborhood has become one of the most desired places to own a home in the entire city. We also sent attorney letters to homeowners that are illegally renting out parking spaces, illegally parking on their front lawns, and the illegal construction of a car pad. While we have the protection of the Rickert-Finlay Covenant and our Association has been successful each time in enforcing the Covenant in court, our Association incurs fees with each legal action. Please help to replenish our legal fund so that we are always prepared to enforce the Covenant. While it is the responsibility of the DOB is to interpret and enforce zoning codes, and monitor the safety of new construction, homeowners have expressed great concern that some of the new construction might seem inappropriate for a single-family neighborhood. The Association must stay vigilant! Over the years, BFHA has received the support of all our elected officials. Senator Tony Avella has introduced two Bills in the State Senate, and Assembly Member Ed Braunstein has introduced these Bills in the State Assembly. The Bills call for the creation of an architectural district for neighborhoods like Broadway-Flushing. These Bills need the support of the New York City Council, and our Association will be calling upon Council Member Paul Vallone to help in these efforts. This proposed legislation is not as restrictive as landmarking, but it would help maintain the architectural character of our century-old community. We look forward to reaching out to BFHA members with many ways to support these efforts. In the meantime, I certainly look forward to welcoming you on March 23 at the General Membership Meeting at Church-on-the-Hill.

A wonderful program is being planned!

MORE PLAQUES FOR BFHA



If you would like to order a plaque, please visit the BFHA website and select "Order a Plaque"



**Maria Becce, Queens Civic Congress President
Kevin Forrestal and Janet McCreesh**

AIPLANE NOISE UPDATE:

Senator Tony Avella will hold a rally outside his office (38-50 Bell Blvd.) on Thursday, February 9th at 12 noon to highlight the continued failure of the Port Authority to establish a functioning professional Roundtable.

What to do when the inevitable storms come:

Did you know that snow or ice must be removed from the sidewalk within four hours after the snow has stopped falling or by 11 a.m. if the snow stopped falling after 9 p.m. the previous evening? Snow may not be thrown into the street. If the snow becomes ice because people have walked on it and it is so hard that it cannot be removed, the sidewalk may be strewn with

ashes, sand, sawdust, or similar suitable material within the same time limits. The sidewalk must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as the weather permits. The fine for the first offense is \$100-\$150, the second offense \$150-\$350, and the third offense \$250-\$350 and subsequent offenses.

The reason you should not shovel into the street during the early time after a storm is because a snow plow may come through and plow it back against your car or driveway. It also may freeze in the street, causing dangerous ice.

Do not let anyone into your home who claims to be a utility worker without an I.D. In fact, unless you called the utility company and asked them to come, you should not let them in.

Open a faucet now and again to make sure water is flowing and not frozen in a pipe. If you are away for several days during freezing weather, have someone come in to make sure the water in your pipes is flowing.

BIOSWALES UPDATE:

Senator Tony Avella will hold a press conference in front of 200-15 36th Ave. on Feb. 17 at 11am to ask the DEP to cease soil drilling until a decision about the bioswales has been made and homeowners can opt out. Please attend if you can.

BFHA is now on Facebook. Join our group, share photos of BFHA and stay informed.

Visit our WEBSITE at www.broadwayflushing.org

Queens Quiet Skies needs your help! www.queensquietskies.org or e-mail: queensquietskies@aol.com

Would you like a tree planted in front of your house? Contact <https://www.nycgovparks.org/trees/street-tree-planting/request>