



Monthly Newsletter

November-December 2010

(This newsletter will be available online at www.neighborhoodlink.com/brooklyn/bswa by 12/08/10). Everyone is invited to attend the Beverley Square West monthly meeting, which is held early in the month, except no meeting in July and August.

A Victorian Flatbush community

-----*BSW Meeting, Monday, 12/13, 8 pm at 330 Westminster Road, Agenda on page 4. Come at 7:30 for snacks and wine.-----

From Co-President Bob Pandolfo:

Private Security: The fiscal year for private security ended on June 30. Not enough households have signed up for 2010-2011. Your support is critical for this service to continue. Please renew or sign up this month. To arrange payment (\$475) or for any other questions, please call Glenn at 917-348-1704.

Street Cleaning: At this "end of leaf season" time of year, homeowners are reminded that, according to city regulations, they are responsible for the area from the curb to 18 inches into the street. Moving leaves toward the middle of the street is not encouraged.

Landmarking: Since Chris resigned, we need a new committee chairperson to keep this effort moving. Please contact me with any suggestions at 347-578-4146 or e-mail robert.pandolfo@gmail.com.

New Street Trees: If you want a tree planted, call 311 or on the web at <http://www.nyc.gov/freetree>. You can even request a tree for your neighbor.

Newsletter by e-mail/ web: If you currently receive a paper copy of this newsletter, and wish to receive only the electronic version, please send me an e-mail at robert.pandolfo@gmail.com and include your name and street address. For those already receiving the newsletter and other info electronically, please keep Bob informed of any change in your e-mail address.

Suggestions: If you have any ideas for BSW's newsletter or meetings, please call Bob at 347-578-4146 or e-mail robert.pandolfo@gmail.com.

December – the month of the shortest days. The Winter Solstice (when the “sun stands still”) is December 21 which thus marks the beginning of winter. This year it is also the day of the full moon – the Cold Moon – and the night of a total eclipse of the moon, visible throughout North America. In our area it begins about 12:30 in the morning and ends at about 6:00 a.m. so you need to stay up late/ get up early to see it. In December the days shorten slowly. We lose about fifteen minutes of daylight from the beginning of the month until the solstice, but then, slowly, the days lengthen so by the end of the month we have picked up about three minutes of daylight.

As to the planets: Venus and Saturn are low in the south east before sunrise, and Mars and Mercury are low in the south west after sunset for the first half of the month; look for the new crescent moon near them on December 6 and 7 (Sorry this info is late!- Ed.). All month Jupiter is high overhead at sunset and sets several hours later, before sunrise.

This mild fall has led to the delaying of many basic fall tasks because the grass is still green and growing and asters and chrysanthemums are blooming. There's still time to plant bulbs. Hosta leaves are yellowing or dead so it's time to pull or cut off the leaves to compost them. Gather leaves of roses, zinnias, lilacs for Dept. of Sanitation – not your compost pile, - because you don't want mildew spores in your soil. Turn your compost pile occasionally while it's still unfrozen.

Outside water faucets need to be turned off before we have any freezing weather. First, turn off the inside water control; then open up the outside faucet and leave it open. Disconnect hoses from faucet or tap. Hoses can be stored in garage or basement or left in place but open at both ends because water expands when it freezes and the force can rip open metal or plastic. If you need to water on a mild day in winter, be careful to turn off the outside faucets before turning on the inside!

Now is a good time to clean shovels, picks, trowels etc. Then coat them with a thin layer of oil to inhibit rust and store them for the winter.

Sweep lawns free of leaves because leaves will mat down and smother the grass. If you have the equipment, chop the leaves for compost, mulching, or if the pieces are small enough, leave on the lawn. After the ground has frozen, put down about three inches of mulch (leaves, pine bark, buckwheat hulls, etc.) but leave about a six inch circle around trees' and bushes' trunks. Mulch is not to keep soil warm, but to keep it evenly cold to prevent root kill and frost heaving of small plants.

If you are cutting branches for indoor interest, try to wait for freezing weather to occur so the bush is forced into dormancy and will not try to put out new growth.

If you have a holiday tree, remember it was probably harvested in mid-November so buy early to get a shapely tree but then store it in a bucket of water in a sheltered, cold area like an unheated garage or porch until you are ready to bring it inside to decorate it. When you do, use a tree holder that holds a generous supply of water, and keep it filled. Of course, keep the tree away from heat to slow its drying out and be sure it does not block entrances/ exits. Tree lights should be on only when people are in the room for safety and also to keep the tree moist. If you want it visible from outside, consider a spotlight to show it off.

Keep up with your indoor plants' need for water, and light.

When the plant catalogs come – it used to be January – but now it's November and December – give them a very quick check for items to **give** as holiday gifts, or to **get** as presents. Plants, bulbs, garden gloves, equipment all make good gifts. Drop hints and ask pointed questions. Check your inventory. Do you need to update, replace, experiment? Then put the catalogs aside for January reading.

Enjoy your holiday with thoughts of garden accomplishments and plans for next year.

CY 2010 LIST OF BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST DUES PAYING MEMBERS (JANUARY 1, 2010 – DECEMBER 31, 2010) AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2010

ARGYLE ROAD: Johnson-Hunt; Hittman; Rubman; Gordon; Tyroler/Clemens; Epstein/Hefferen; Soffian; Prather; Bonadonna; Wong; Pessio/Shapiro; Eiss; Zagare/Smith; Rosenberg/Siegel; Wahrman; Henry; Zirowsky; Shaw; Lozada; Berman; Fischman; Willerman; McPherson; Carver/Ryland; Salgo

BEVERLEY ROAD: Aranda; Gross; Woolever/Krainin; Ver Eecke; Curtis; Joseph; Cherkis; El Noel; Popkin; Intrater

MARLBOROUGH ROAD: Bilanow; Blaine; Borbolla; Mallay; Bowman; Troy/Iozzio; Taylor/Boucaud; Addington; McGowan; Garfinkel; Wendroff; Mitchell

RUGBY ROAD: Herman/Neumann; Del Quaglio; Rosenberg; Hertzog/Jabinsky; Turoff; Andreana; Cahn; Gross/Kaczmarczyk; Hannigan/Whelan; Fallon/Hunter; Moed/Nelson; Bellivan; Wertheimer; Tishcoff; T. Smith; Whelan; Landberg; DeFreitas/Walters; Schomer/Wolk; Moore/Fredericson; Bryan; DelQuaglio; Fishkin/Hurwitz

STRATFORD ROAD: Wolin; Pandolfo; Landy/Colen; Speranza; Bell/McKinley; Wilde; Kennedy/Shain; Grady; Parella; Rosenberg; Sexton; McVicker; Kreussling/Magasano; Angus; Dubensky/Segal

WESTMINSTER ROAD: Rickets/Taylor; Trachtman/Dassinger; La Marita; Mintz; Corvington; Ellis; Mangiacapre; Cheung; Jaffee/Warshawsky; Trachtman/Dassinger; Campbell; Hodge; Hohman/Silverman

SLOCUM PLACE: Varon

TOTAL –95 (out of 305 houses, est.)

I apologize for any misspellings of names. If you think that I made a mistake in omitting your name, please call me at (718) 469-6633. Thank you for your continued support of our community organization. Your dues support a variety of community organizations and activities.

-----BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST ASSOCIATION DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010 (Jan-Dec) BSW membership dues are payable on a fiscal year basis. All 2010 dues are due now. Dues are \$20.00. 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 me at 718-469-6633.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Comments _____

Private Security: Glenn Wolin stated that BSW is in serious jeopardy of losing our security service. We have only 67 paid members; we need approximately 28 more. Merging our security with Beverley Square East was discussed. The decrease in members was said to be due to economics and residents moving.

Landmarking: Only 26 of the individual house info forms were received as of 11/1. These forms, with photos, can be processed by interns. If it is still needed, I will document houses mentioned on Ron's walk of 10/16. Chris recommended providing as much documentation as possible, including photos. We are still seeking a committee chairperson. Landmarking will be a joint effort with Ditmas Park West, Beverley Square East, Caton Park, West Midwood, and South Midwood.

P.S. 139 Playground Issues: An Argyle resident gave the history of the schoolyard's hours, reaching back to the 90s. Opening on Sunday would be a change of policy. Signs are still needed, it was mentioned that the old PA President had a key. Ellen reported that the Argyle yard is now part of the Schoolyard to Playgrounds program, which normally means it will be open 8 am to sundown 7 days a week. This was a surprise. As reported in the last newsletter, a vote was taken to write a letter requesting Sunday closing, a majority was in favor. The PA will assist in getting the higher fence at the library end, monetarily and otherwise.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was given. If you want information, contact Miriam Rubman at 718-469-6633.

Other Business: A vote on the disposition of the money contributed for Luis Rodriguez was postponed to the December meeting. Chris distributed daffodils, to be planted around our houses in public view. A champagne toast to the new Argyle/Beverley traffic light was offered, regards to Martha Cherkis.

Agenda for December meeting:

- 1- Discussion with 70th Precinct – 20 minutes.
- 2- Info on energy-saving credits from Sustainable Flatbush -- 15 minutes.
- 3- Private Security -- 10 minutes.
- 4- Vote on Luis's funds -- 10 minutes.
- 5- Landmarking – 10 minutes.
- 6- PS 139 Schoolyard – 30 minutes.
- 7- Treasurer's report – 5 minutes.
- 8- Other business – 5 minutes.

Here is a list of our **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.