



# Monthly Newsletter

## December 2010- January 2011

(This newsletter will be available online at [www.neighborhoodlink.com/brooklyn/bswa](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/brooklyn/bswa) by 12/31/10). 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, 1/3, 8 pm at 1030  
Beverley Road, Agenda on page 4. Come at 7:30  
for snacks and wine.-----**

*From Co-President Bob Pandolfo:*

**P.S. 139 Schoolyard:** Please see attached letter concerning the schoolyard hours.

**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 per year) or for any other questions, please call Glenn at 917-348-1704.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:robert.pandolfo@gmail.com).

**January.** Best wishes for a happy, healthy, productive new year for your garden, and for you. We are barely into winter, and already looking for signs of spring; branches glisten and dogwood buds are swelling. Hungry squirrels will, we hope, leave enough for a good show in April.

January's full moon, the wolf moon, is on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We gain about 50 minutes of daylight in the course of the month and the sun rides subtly higher day by day. Days lengthen steadily through the month in the evening, but we don't get earlier sunrises until the second week of the month. Venus and Saturn are visible in the SE before sunrise. Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune are high in the sky at sunset and set before sunrise.

January is the month of seed and plant catalogs, and of planning. Consider what worked this past year, and what didn't. What vegetables were successful? What varieties do you want to try out? Consider light and shade patterns. Order your seeds and plants early; popular varieties sell out. It is all right to order plants when your order seeds. Plants will be sent at the proper planting time. If you are ordering for planting in another climate zone, be sure to inform the nursery so the delivery date can be adjusted. Do not start seeds now! Read the back of the packet and work out the germination time, and the proper planting time and work back to a proper seed starting time. If you plant in a cold frame, you still need to consider plant size at setting-out time.

If we have bare, unfrozen ground at some time in January and you have bulbs, use your window of opportunity and get them in the ground.

Snow is a great mulch, especially over a layer of leaves, or fir tree branches. As our December blizzard melts, provided it is a slow melt, the moisture will filter down into the soil which is good. If later in the month we have a spell of dry weather with bare ground, try to give your plants some water because they need moisture all year around. For snow removal products, check the label for formulations which do not affect cement, or plant roots.

Sanitation has not yet sent information about holiday tree pickup. However, be sure that trees you put out have all lights, decorations, and tinsel removed.

Check your trees for broken limbs which may be caught up in the branches. They are dangerous; have them professionally removed. Also check for any signs of Asian Long-Horned Beetles; round egg patches, or round holes.

Houseplants need water, and half-rate fertilization. Check fertilizer labels; each brand is different. Don't let leaves touch cold windows; they can freeze to the glass, if the cold is extreme. A thin window curtain between plant and glass is a big help. Check for insects. If you have a poinsettia, keep it growing in sun.

If you are wintering over caladium corms, canna tubers, dahlia tubers, and amaryllis bulbs, check that they do not dry out. A spritz of water about once a month should be sufficient; don't get them wet because they will rot. When amaryllis show signs of growth, bring them to full light, water thoroughly with warm water and dilute fertilizer. Once they begin to grow, water regularly, as needed. If you buy another amaryllis, be sure it has not yet bloomed. If it has, ask for a price adjustment, and grow it on, to bloom in 2012.

If you put out bird food, place it near bushes so birds can shelter from predators.

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant-o-rama will be on January 25. It's a trade show and symposium. (There's a charge. Call 1-718-623-7220 for details.)

Dream garden dreams and enjoy your winter garden.

## **BSW Dues for 2011**

Thank you for your continued support of our community organization. Your dues support a variety of community organizations and activities.

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-----BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST ASSOCIATION DUES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011 (Jan-Dec) BSW membership dues are payable on a fiscal year basis. All 2011 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.

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Name (s)\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address\_\_\_\_\_

Comments\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Agenda** for January meeting:

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

**Open Letter** to the Ditmas Park Community by the Executive Board of the Beverley Square West Association (BSWA) Re: P.S.#139 Playground

**BEVERLEY SQUARE WEST ASSOCIATION DOES NOT HATE CHILDREN!**

This letter is a response from the Beverley Square West Association (BSWA) Executive Board to an article that appeared in the Daily News on Friday, December 10, 2010 entitled "Shut Those Kids Up!" by Michael McLaughlin.

The Board feels that the article was inflammatory and implied that the entire BSW neighborhood is against opening the P.S.#139 playground on Sundays and that the Association has hired a lawyer, Jack Lester, to initiate a lawsuit to close the playground on Sunday.

The playground issue has been on the agenda for discussion at BSWA's monthly meetings since February, 2010. A group of BSWA neighbors, most of whom live on Argyle Rd. across from the playground, have opposed opening the playground on Sundays. At the October 4, 2010 monthly meeting, it was suggested that a vote be taken at the next meeting, November 4, 2010, to approve a letter to be sent to the DOE Division of School Facilities suggesting that the playground be closed on Sundays. All BSWA neighbors were notified in advance regarding this important vote via the BSWA monthly newsletter prior to the November meeting.

At this meeting, the **majority** of BSW residents who attended voted against the playground being kept open on Sunday. BSWA prepared a letter which was mailed to the DOE Division of School Facilities. Unfortunately, BSWA did not follow its usual procedure of having the letter reviewed by the Board before submission. BSWA apologizes for this omission. The Board realizes that it did not accurately reflect the views of all of the BSW residents who attended the November meeting.

Michael McLaughlin informed BSWA that P.S.#139 playground was part of the Mayor's Schoolyards to Playgrounds Program and would stay open Sundays. BSWA will continue to support other playground issues: the custodian locking the schoolyard at the appropriate time (dusk) and the police responding to trespassers in a timely manner. Any lawsuits opposing Department of Education decisions must be initiated by a private individual, not the association. BSWA **never** hired Jack Lester.

The Board hopes this letter clarifies the situation.

BSWA Executive Board

Bob Pandolfo,

BSWA Co-President

Miriam Rubman

BSWA Treasurer

Jack Rubman

BSWA Co-President

Glenn Wolin

BSWA Member-at- Large