



# Monthly Newsletter

## January-February 2011

(This newsletter will be available online at [www.neighborhoodlink.com/brooklyn/bswa](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/brooklyn/bswa) by 02/02/11). 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, 2/7, 8 pm at 238  
Argyle Road, Agenda on page 4. Come at 7:30 for  
snacks and wine.-----**

*From Co-President Bob Pandolfo:*

**Sidewalk Clearing:** Our neighborhood residents are generally doing a good job keeping the sidewalks clear of snow. There is nothing in the law (nyc.gov) that I can find, but sometimes a wider path would be appreciated.

**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, prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year) or for any other questions, please call Glenn at 917-348-1704.

**Landmarking:** Christine Schomer and Jocelyn Rosenberg, of Rugby Road, have volunteered to manage our landmarking effort. We hope to hear from them soon.

**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).

**February.** This has certainly been a memorable winter, and we have yet to reach its midpoint! However, snow is a great mulch, keeping the soil evenly cool, and moist. There has been no real “January thaw” as the nights have been below freezing, even when the days do get to the upper 30s. However, there **are** signs of sprint: the willow bark is a brighter yellow-green and the tree branches, as you look along the streets, glisten more and are thicker with the swelling buds. Consider putting out bird food. There is at least one mockingbird in the area, as well as bluejays, a pair of cardinals, crows, and also starlings, English sparrows, pigeons. There are also the usual squirrels, and at least one raccoon which left paw prints in my back yard. According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac this is their mating season. I haven’t heard of any recent opossum sightings, but I have seen a red-tailed hawk. All this in Beverley Square West.

Every snowstorm presents a different configuration of accumulated snow on plants and buildings. It all depends on the rate of snowfall, how much falls, temperature when it is snowing (which determines snow texture) and the wind speed and direction. Falling of snow from branches and buildings is affected by ambient air temperature, sunshine, wind, and the configuration of the surface on which the snow has built up: how easily can it slide off. Just as a flat roof can break under the weight of snow, so can branches, especially of evergreens. They may be photogenic, but they can break. If you can, whack the snow off branches with a rake to speed their return to their normal position. Also, check your gutters and drainpipes for later repair. They often separate in snowstorms.

In the skies, the new moon is February 2- Groundhog Day, and Asian New Year is February 3. The full moon (the snow moon!) occurs on February 18. We gain over an hour of daylight, even within this shortest month, and the gain is evenly distributed between morning and evening.

Jupiter is now lower in the western sky after sunset, but still obvious. It is near the crescent moon on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Saturn rises in the east about 10:30 pm at the beginning of the month and at about 8:30 by the end of the month. It is to the left of the moon on the 20<sup>th</sup>, when the moon is just past full, and it is visible in the southwest at sunrise. Venus is visible in the southeastern sky just before dawn and near the waning crescent moon on the last day of the month.

It is still catalog, planning, and ordering time. That includes planning toward your garden for the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest. If you feel the urge to hasten spring by starting some plants, consider forcing some bulbs: narcissus, crocus, or hyacinths do well. You can also start marigolds for indoor bloom or created a windowsill herb garden. Basically, it is still too early to start seeds for plants you will be setting out later; they will grow, yes, but they will be gangling by the time to set them out. Study the seed packets: they provide a wealth of information in concise form as to when to start seeds, when or if to transplant to pots, and when to set out plants, and whether they should be hardened off first. A reference to cool season plants, or warm season, is not about air temperatures, but to the temperature of the soil and to the length of daylight. Radishes, lettuce, cabbage can be started outside in April, but tomatoes should not be planted out until mid-May, when the soil has really warmed. Set them out too early and the roots are shocked, which affects growth, and the plant just does not flourish. Sometimes gardeners put down black plastic three weeks in advance of when they wish to plant so that the soil’s warming will be hastened. We are in plant zone 6. Some very sheltered spots may mimic zone 7, but really are not. Whenever you start any seed, water the planting medium first, provide plenty of light, use bottom heat but only until the seeds germinate, and do not let them get chilled at night, or on a cloudy day.

Enjoy your snowy winter garden and begin the Think Spring.

## ***CY 2011 List of Beverley Square West Dues-paying members***

(January 1, 2011-December 31, 2011) as of January 28, 2011

**Argyle** Road- Rubman, Bonadonna, Clemens/Tyroler, Gordon, Wahrman, Zagare/Smith.

**Beverley** Road- VerEecke, Popkin.

**Marlborough** Road- Bilanow, Taylor/Boucaud, Troy/Iozzio.

**Rugby** Road- Wertheimer/Goldstein, Whalen, DelQuaglio, Andreana.

**Stratford** Road- Feldhusen, Wolin, Landy/Colen, Hardy, Parella.

**Westminster** Road- Corvington, Ricketts/Taylor, Silverman/Hohman, Trachtman/Dazinger.

**Total**- 24, out of 305 (estimated).

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### ***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\_\_\_\_\_

**BSW Minutes :January 3, 2011 Meeting** (prepared by Miriam Rubman, edited by Bob Pandolfo)

**70<sup>th</sup> Precinct Report:** Officers Rivera and Lang stated that there were three incidents in our area: 257 Westminster - electronics and a bike from garage stolen; 241 Stratford - bike stolen; and 262 Marlborough - mugging. Any suspicious activity qualifies as a 911 call. If you call the precinct at 718-851-5511, police will come to your house and give you a free crime prevention survey.

**Private Security:** Glenn Wolin stated that the service is in trouble. As of now, the fund has only enough money to pay through the first week in May. We need about ten more subscribers to finish out the year. Jan Rosenberg volunteered to send out e-mails explaining the benefits of the service and a summary of the services currently provided. Current coverage is Tues - Friday 2:00 - midnight and Sat - 5-1 A.M.

**Landmarking:** Glenn stated that we need someone to replace Chris Kreussling (see page 1). Glenn has received about 40 completed landmark surveys, but he needs more. These surveys with pictures will be assembled into a book which will include the other Victorian neighborhoods for presentation to the Landmarks Commission. Jan suggested that BSW hire an intern for this job and she will speak to FDC.

**Sustainable Flatbush:** Ann Pope (718-208-2575) stated that Sustainable Flatbush has several programs, funded by the city, state and federal governments, to make our homes greener and more energy efficient. The cost varies from zero to a nominal amount and some funding is based on income. She suggests that you contact her for more information since the instructions can be very confusing.

**PS 139 Schoolyard Issues:** Bob Pandolfo read the response from the School Facilities in response to BSW's letter requesting that the schoolyard be closed on Sundays. John Shea, the director, stated that the schoolyard would remain open on Sundays since it was part of the Mayor's Schoolyards to Playgrounds Program. After a lengthy and vigorous discussion, it was decided that the Sunday closing was a dead issue. However, the current BSW Playground subcommittee would continue to work on the issues of closing at dusk by the school custodian, trespassing which will be reported to the police, and raising the height of the fence adjacent to the library to prevent trespassing. Updates on these issues will be reported as warranted.

**Luis Fund:** Three suggestions were made for how to spend the money from the Luis Fund (\$2,175): help pay for raising the height of the fence; set up a yearly scholarship fund at PS 139; and help make up our security deficit. Voting was tabled until a future meeting.

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

**Agenda** for February meeting:

- 1- Vote on Luis's funds -- 10 minutes.
- 2- Private Security—10 minutes.
- 3- Landmarking – 15 minutes.
- 4- Treasurer's report – 5 minutes.
- 5- Other business – 10 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.