

Bensonhurst

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February Meeting Minutes

The usual crowd attended the last BNA meeting. Lt. Alberti was our guest speaker (more about him on page 2).

Officer Cannon gave us the crime stats for Sector 26 for January this year compared to last year at the same time.

	2013	2012
Murder	0	0
Rape	0	0
Robberies	6	1
Assault	1	5
Burglaries	17	22
Larcenies	9	26
Motor Vehicle	4	3

Keep in mind that these stats are for the entire Sector. For Bensonhurst, the only occurrences were a burglary on Salisbury St and a call for menacing on Pershing Dr.

There was little to update regarding the recent incident at the Everyday Convenience store at the corner of Culver and Merchants.

Just down the road at Clifford and Morton St, there was an incident where shots were fired into the store while

Proudly Serving the Streets of:

- Bedford
- Edgeland
- Clifford
- Culver
- Rocket
- Martinot
- Roseview
- Longview
- Salisbury
- Laurelton
- Lawndale
- Mapledale
- Pershing
- Westchester

customers were inside. Since an incident had occurred earlier in the day at the same location, nuisance points were assigned to the store.

We were told that some neighbors are calling BNA or their neighbors with suspicious activity which is great, but ONLY after you call 911 first!

Peg reported we have just shy of \$1300 in our treasury after paying the phone bill and sending a donation to the West Webster Fire Dept. Next month we should expect some income from newsletter ads.

There was discussion as to whether we wanted to get "Neighborhood Watch" signs for our

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streets. Gary will look into grants available for such a project as we don't have the funds to pay for this ourselves.

Gary is also going to put together a subcommittee to work on criteria for how to handle donations to other organizations should the need arise. Gary won the 50/50 raffle again this month and donated it back to BNA. Thanks Gary!

Ray Ray's Hispanic Menu

Ray Ray's Bar and Grill will soon be offering an authentic Spanish menu one day a week on a trial basis. They are still working on the menu but hope to have it ready very soon. If it is successful, they will expand their offerings. Sounds good already! We will keep you posted!

Johnny's Irish Pub is located at 1382 Culver Road in Rochester, NY. Plenty of Free Parking.

Our Mission

The Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association (BNA) is a group of dedicated neighbors working to improve quality of life through improved relationships and positive action. We welcome all residents in a spirit of friendship with respect for all individuals.

Our mission is:

- To continually improve the quality of life for ourselves and our neighbors.
- To foster communication, understanding and a sense of community in the area we serve.
- To ensure a safe and peaceful neighborhood.

We will accomplish this by:

- Building a strong association of neighbors with open communication providing opportunities to gather for social events and activities which enhance our area.
- Developing strong ties and effective working relationships with local government, police, officials and other agencies.
- Working in cooperation as a unified community to create a presence that is stronger and more influential than any one individual.

Call 911/311 first!

Although we really do want to hear about happenings in our neighborhood, good or bad, calling or leaving BNA a message will not produce the same results as calling 911 or 311! Depending on the circumstance PLEASE call 911 or 311 immediately and THEN let Bensonhurst know what is happening so we can alert neighbors. That way valuable time is not lost and the matter can be addressed in a timely fashion.

Call 911 if it is a life threatening event, there is a weapon involved or you feel you are in danger and in need of immediate assistance. If you are still unsure of which number to call, dial 911 and let them make the decision.

Lt. Alberti and our CPO's

Our guest speaker at February's meeting was Lt Alberti from the NSC office. He is a 27 year veteran of the City Police force, promoted to Lt three years ago and for the past year has been working at the NSC office for the SE quadrant.

He is in charge of the 5 CPO's working out of that building, three of which work in our Sector. Their job is to promote safety by working with the community, not only offering safety tips but following up on neighborhood crimes as well as complaints from neighbors.

He recognizes that many citizens do not want to call 911 because they don't want to give out their name for fear of retaliation. A valid concern, however you DO NOT have to give your name and if you do, that information will NOT be given to the offender. The reason for asking is in case they need to call back for more information.

RPD can not say it enough..... PLEASE call 911 with ANY suspicious activity. and call 311 with any non emergency, non life threatening concern or complaint.

He also mentioned the building at 2167 Clifford Ave could reopen in May/June if the landlord meets the requirements given him or the building could be sold.

Safety Info

This info was in our last newsletter but is important enough to include again.

Please be aware of your escape routes when entering any building in case you need to make a hasty



**Ray Ray's
Bar and Grill
2260 Clifford Ave.
Rochester NY 14609
585-413-1661**

exit to avoid a dangerous situation. This is useful not only in the event of a shooting but fire as well.

Yellow Dot Program

The NYS Sheriff's Dept has a "Yellow Dot" program designed to aid first responders in the event of a MVA resulting in a medical emergency.

Persons fill out a form with emergency contact information, MD phone numbers, allergies, health info and medications then place it in their glove compartment in their car. A yellow dot is placed in the rear window which alerts medical personnel to look in your glove compartment for information.

This can also be used in your home. The yellow dot is placed on your front door and the information card is put on the freezer door of your refrigerator.

For more info on this program contact www.nysheriffs.org/yellowdot

A graphic showing the silhouettes of a man, a woman, and a child walking together.

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Psychotherapy Services

2112 Empire Blvd. Suite 1B
Webster, NY 14580
585-506-8728

New Business

The new fitness center at 1720 Culver Rd called Body Maintenance is now open. Check them out sometime.

They offer physical therapy as well as workout sessions tailored to your needs. Groups are small (4-5 people per group) to allow for individualized attention.

They are open 7 days a week Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Friday 8am-5pm and limited hours on the weekends.

Being just down the street makes it convenient to get to, so no excuses there!

City Planning Meeting

The City Planning Commission will meet again on Mon, March 18 at 6:30pm. Once again the store owner of 2153 Clifford Ave will be lobbying for a permit to open a full line food store at that location.

This action was tabled at the last meeting so the committee could further look into the new zoning laws.

There are actually 5-6 petitions on the March agenda to open full line food stores in the City or to convert to such. The case for Bensonhurst is #3 on the agenda.

www.cityofrochester.govplanningcommission/

Several Bensonhurst residents plan on attending. Please join us.



New Eatery

A new restaurant opened on Merchants Rd where Luna Piena used to be.

Merchants Pasta House opened in February. It turns out the owner and the decor are the same. The only thing that has changed is the menu and their name.

We checked them out last week and the food was just as awesome as it was when it was Luna Piena. The meals are less pricey now with appetizers \$6 and all main entrees \$12 except the Veal Parmigiana and the "Special." All meals come with a salad and bread.

I had the Linguini and Calamari and had to bring half of it home. It was a huge portion loaded with several different size Calamari.

Brian had the Chicken Antonio (chicken breasts with asparagus, mushrooms and sun dried tomatoes). He managed to eat all of his.

We were not disappointed and even met one of our BNA neighbors there. We welcome them to the Neighborhood. Check them out. Support your local businesses.

Thanks Neighbors

During the last big snowstorm we noticed a lot of happy fire hydrants in Bensonhurst! Thanks to anyone that took the time to dig out a fire hydrant near their home.

If March holds true to previous years, we will still get at least one more major storm, so keep those fire hydrants as well as firemen happy. This saves the firefighters valuable time when responding to a working fire.



.....winter's not over yet!

BENSONHURST – A COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS!

Important Contact Information

BNA Voicemail:
585-234-1535

BNA Email:
bensonhurstNA@excite.com

BNA address:
PO Box 90411
Rochester, NY 14609

BNA website:
www.bensonhurst14609.org

Neighborhood Service Center
585-428-7640

City Hall services - 311
non emergency
www.cityofrochester.gov

NBN and PCIC website:
<http://sites.google.com/site/nbnsector8/Home>

Crime Reports Lists
www.crimereports.com

Sex Offender site:
www.familywatchdog.us

Do Not Call List:
www.donotcall.gov
1-888-382-1222

911- To report any suspicious activity
or emergency

Newsletter Submissions

Newsletters are published monthly and delivered prior to each meeting. The deadline for submissions is 2 weeks prior to each BNA meeting.

Send all newsletter materials to
bensonhurstNA@excite.com
Pictures are also welcome.

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Archived Newsletters

Past issues of the newsletters are archived on the BNA website.

Paid Ad Information

The Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association will gladly publish your business card sized ad for a donation of \$50 per year. That equals a total of 12 monthly issues delivered to 700 homes, business, and government agencies. The money collected is used to help cover printing expenses as the Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association is 100% organized by volunteers. Please use the contact information on this page for additional information. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Mar 12 – BNA meeting

Mar 13 – PCIC meeting

Apr 9– BNA meeting

Apr 10 – PCIC meeting

Why not join us on the second Tuesday of each month at our monthly meetings at 7pm at Johnny's Irish Pub 1382 Culver Road?

Meetings are located in the Red Room separate from the bar area.

There is a ramped entrance also separate from the bar.

All meetings are informal, positive & all are encouraged to participate.

BNA does not charge dues or membership fees.