



April Guest Speaker

Councilwoman Loretta Scott will be our guest speaker at the April BNA meeting. She will discuss Rochester's plans for the future as well as answer any questions we have about City related topics.

You can find more information about her on the City website. She also posts a monthly online newsletter, however the current issue did not seem to be on her web page.

March Meeting Minutes

There were 14 neighbors at our last BNA meeting.

Officer Cannon did not have monthly crime stats for Sector 26 this time due to a new computer system being installed at RPD. The new program will allow them to get computerized crime reports instantly and not have to wait for them to be filed and then try to decipher handwriting or read carbon copies.

Officer Cannon said nothing has been happening in Bensonhurst! Nothing is

Proudly Serving the Streets of:

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Pershing
Westchester

good! He also said 2 new people recently joined PACTAC, one is interested in patrolling the Parsells Ave area, a much needed area to be monitored. PACTAC reports that they have not seen any suspicious activity in our neighborhood.

Peg reported we have just over \$1300 in the treasury thanks to our business neighbors renewing their ads. We thank them. Please do business with them.

Since we no longer have someone to print our full length newsletter and have been printing flyers to distribute, we are in need of toner and paper. Peg will shop around for paper and Karen already found a local distributor for refurbished toner

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cartridges at competitive prices but donations will be gladly accepted for toner and/or paper.

There was a rather lengthy discussion regarding the property at 2153 Clifford Ave. Gary brought everyone up to date on what has been happening so far and then opened it up for discussion as to what we would like him to present at the upcoming City Planning Meeting.

After much discussion, the neighbors in attendance voted unanimously against the store. There were no abstentions. Gary will tell the Council of our concerns and ultimate decision. Several other neighbors will also be at the meeting and address the committee.

Peter won the 50/50 raffle.



Crime Prevention Bulletin

Last summer/fall, Officer Bannerman, CPO for RPD sent out a notice to the community offering tips on how to avoid having property stolen while out in public. The focus was on phones and other electronic devices which are in hot demand right now.

He just sent the notice out again since these thefts continue to be a problem.

In summary,

- Don't carry excess cash if you don't need it and if asked, toss your wallet/money away from the criminal rather than hand it to him, then run!
- Conceal electronic devices when out in public, this keeps you from being an easy target.
- Consider installing tracking apps on your electronic devices so it is easier to find your stolen property.
- Stay alert to your surroundings! While you are distracted on your phone, someone can grab it and run before you even have a chance to see who it was, making it harder to identify the criminal.
- Report suspicious activity to 911 immediately, it could prevent a future crime.
- **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS**, they are usually right!
- If you are a victim, don't fight, give them what they ask for, your life is more valuable than your possessions!

If you have any questions about how to stay safe on the street, contact your CPO at the NSC office.

Criminals Nabbed

A neighbor reported 2 suspicious persons on the property at a house on Goodman St and called 911.

Because of that call, the police arrived and arrested a man standing in the driveway with a backpack full of stolen equipment from the property. They also arrested another person sometime later.

Thanks to the neighbor who called 911! PLEASE call with any suspicious activity. These victims were able to get their stolen property back!

Star Program

It was recently on the news that the STAR program has been defrauded. Because of this, all participants now have to reregister in order to continue in the program. We know a number of our neighbors participate in the STAR program.

Homeowners have until April 1, 2014 to reapply for the program. STAR exempts the first \$30,000 of the full value of the home from school tax and is open to homeowners making less than \$500,000 and live in the property. Persons over the age of 65 may qualify for the enhanced benefits.

For more information or to apply for the exemption, forms can be found at: <http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/index.htm>

Clean Sweep

It's spring time and that means it is time for the City Clean Sweep. Time to clean up all that trash that has accumulated over the winter.

A different section of the City will be targeted each Saturday in May, (actually beginning with the last one in April).

9am meeting places;
April 27- Edgerton Park
May 4- Cobbs Hill
May 11- Genesee Valley Park
May 18- NE NSC (Norton St)

Participants receive a free T-shirt, coffee, donuts and lunch!

Call 311 to sign up or visit the City website. You can volunteer for one or all of the days. Our area will be targeted on Saturday, May 4. Hope to see you there!



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

Did you know?

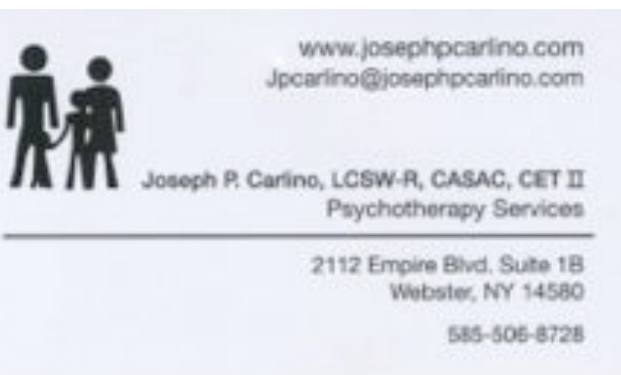
Did you know the people that make up the City Planning Committee are all volunteers? They do not get paid.

We found this out when we attended the deliberations last month. They meet once a month at City Hall to hear applicants petition for permits and zoning variances. Depending on the case load, some nights they are there until very late, after which they have to deliberate and decide whether or not to grant the permit which could mean they are there until after midnight.

They all have full time jobs elsewhere, so we thank them for their time.

Lovely Warren for Mayor?

Councilwoman Lovely Warren formally announced she was running against Tom Richards for City Mayor. Did you know she lives just a few doors away from Bensonhurst?



How Can I Help?

If you would like to help us but are unable to hold a position on the Board or volunteer to help in other ways, how about a donation toward paper and toner? It would be greatly appreciated. Toner cartridges, even refurbished ones are NOT cheap, so we could use donations toward the purchase of them. Contact BNA if you can help us out. Thanks!

City Planning Meeting

Several BNA neighbors attended the City Planning Commission meeting on March 18 at City Hall.

The building at 2153 Clifford Ave was again on the agenda having been tabled after the January meeting so the board could look into the new zoning laws and regulations.

This time our case was number 3 on a long list of items so we didn't have to spend the whole night waiting our turn.

We again voiced concerns about the sporadic nature of the work being done, how trash would be handled, parking and safety concerns as well as the fact that the applicant has still not reached out to BNA despite being openly invited to do so. Another invitation was sent out to him again at this hearing. Gary told the Committee of our unanimous vote at our March BNA meeting against the store.



Due to the large number of cases being presented that evening which meant the Committee would be there until midnight, the moderator said all cases would be deliberated on Wednesday instead of immediately after the Monday meeting. The general public was invited to attend, would be allowed to listen but would not be able to comment.

Having never been to a deliberation before, a few of us decided to attend which we found quite interesting. After reviewing the new laws and regulations, the Committee decided NOT to grant the permit because the building did not meet the requirements for a full line grocery store.

A minimum of 2500 sq ft of floor space with a given percentage of space for meats and vegetables is required. This building is only 1400 square ft which is well below the new criteria.

With a full line grocery store out of the picture, the applicant can still apply for a permit for either a convenience store or a "specialty store" where he could sell one item such as T-shirts, neither of which need to meet the strict requirements of the full line grocery store.

The likelihood of being granted a permit for a convenience store is slim given that there is already one almost next door at 2179 Clifford and the new City code to limit the number of stores in close proximity states they need to be at least 500 ft from each other.

Thanks to all of our neighbors who attended the meetings to speak against the store. As it turned out, it was the new code rules that had the greatest impact on the Board's decision to deny the permit. Still a victory for us.

Suspicious Person

A few weeks ago a teenage girl was approached by a man in a red subcompact car as she walked home from a bus stop near Falstaff and Shelford Rd. He asked her how old she was and where she was going. The girl made it home safely.

Although this incident is not in Bensonhurst, it is close enough. Please be aware if you are out walking.



Trash

Have you noticed how much trash is in people's yards lately? Now that the snow has melted all the trash that has been buried since last fall has been exposed.

April 22 is Earth Day! So how about cleaning up some of this litter this month, and next month and the next month.....? Help keep our neighborhood looking like we care because WE DO!

Voice of the Citizen

The Police Chief ran another series of the "Voice of the Citizen" in March. Unfortunately the meeting for our sector occurred before the newsletter so we were unable to get the notice out to most of our neighbors.

They held it in a larger venue this time, so it sounds like the last series must have been a success!

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 and current 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

Apr 9– BNA meeting

Apr 10 – PCIC meeting

May 8 – PCIC meeting

May 14 – BNA 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.