

Volunteers For Springfield Park, Inc.
Souvenir Journal

Luncheon Celebration



VFSFP

Saturday, November 9, 2019

Come Volunteer With Us

fay23hill@yahoo.com

Springfield Lake Bluebelt



The **Springfield Lake Bluebelt** is a natural drainage system consisting of three constructed freshwater and tidal wetlands that collect, store, and filter stormwater from the neighborhood's storm sewers. As it flows over roofs, sidewalks, and streets, rain and melted snow pick up and carry along pollutants such as oils, chemicals, bacteria, and sediments. If the polluted stormwater is discharged directly into the city's waterways, it can damage water quality and the wildlife that lives in these habitats.

The Bluebelt captures the stormwater and slows its flow, directing it through a series of channels, weirs, wetlands, and pools. Because the wetlands temporarily store the stormwater, the Bluebelt helps reduce chronic street flooding in the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, as the stormwater moves through the Bluebelt, it is naturally filtered of pollutants that would otherwise flow directly into Jamaica Bay and endanger its water quality and wildlife.

What Can You Do to Protect the Bluebelt and Jamaica Bay?

- ✓ Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in garbage cans.
- ✓ Keep litter, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.
- ✓ Keep septic systems operational.
- ✓ Report illegal pipe connections that divert toilet water to storm sewers.
- ✓ Apply lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and according to directions.
- ✓ Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly—never pour them in storm drains!

For more information or to report a problem at the Springfield Lake Bluebelt, call 311.





Veronica Bessan

President's Message

"The gratification we feel after aiding anyone, whether they are less fortunate than us or not, is enough to encourage us to give back more."
- Gregory Nelson

Springfield Park has been a pivotal part of our village. Thanks to the City Parks Foundation and our esteemed City Councilman Donovan Richards for funds donated to the Parks Department.

From donations, volunteers of Springfield Park are able to purchase equipment, enjoy several concerts and family picnics, etc. More children are utilizing the park with their teachers for access to fresh air while learning a new lesson or observing wildlife. Seniors are also walking more, pausing for rest on our added benches, conversing with others, reading, or simply reveling in the beauty of the park.

Twice per year with the help of volunteers, there is a huge cleanup effort throughout the park, which includes planting flowers in our beautiful gardens.

The highlight of the year is our Christmas tree lighting. Neighbors come out with their children, taking part in decorating and enjoying a cup of hot cider or hot chocolate while singing carols.

About VFSP

Volunteers for Springfield Park, Inc., VFSP, was organized under the leaderships of Veronica Bellan, Fay D. Hill and Gennie Vann three dedicated women who saw the need to restore our park and they put their hands and heads together to the wheel.

Volunteers for Springfield Park, Inc., was then established in 2015 as a non-for-profit organization with their 501(c)(3) status.

VFSP have led the group to improve and maintain the conditions of Springfield Park by partnering with businesses, schools, churches and neighbors. They started a flower garden, attended Partnerships for Parks workshops, worked on grant applications for better equipment, and they all worked together for the importance and beautician of the park.

With the assistance of City Parks Foundation's Summer Stage and local elected officials, VFSP co-hosted several concerts in the park. VFSP also made an effort to recruit young residents to teach them about the importance of park stewardship and maintaining Springfield Park for years to come.

Throughout the year they organized several park clean ups (It's My Park Day) including planting daffodils, annuals as well as painting our park benches, overpass rails, light poles and raking leaves. VFSP's highlight for the year is the annual "Holiday Tree Lighting".

BOARD MEMBERS

Veronica Bellan

Fay D. Hill

Gregory Hudson

Curlene Nelson

Stacey Osbourne

Gennie Vann



Volunteers For Springfield Park INC. Program

Welcome and Introduction of Event Chair.....	Gregory Hudson
Greetings and Introduction of M.C.	Fay D. Hill
Mistress of Ceremony.....	Gail Lewis
Keynote Speaker.....	Mitchell Silver, <i>Commissioner for Parks</i>
National Anthem (U.S.A)	All
Negro National Anthem.....	All
Invocation.....	Larry Walker Sr.
Recognition of Distinguished Guest & Organizations.....	Veronica Bellan
Guest Speaker.....	Manual Silver, <i>Chief of Staff - Councilman Donavon Richards</i>
Violinist.....	Gabrielle Cayenne

DINNER IS SERVED

Slide Show
Curlene Nelson

A SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION

Vocal Tribute to Awardees.....	Jean Melvin
Recognition of Board Members and Volunteers.....	Fay D. Hill
Vote of Thanks and Presentation of Officers.....	Gregory Hudson

MENU

*Crisp Caesar Salad with Croutons &
Shaved Parmesan*

*Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
Rice Pilaf or Oven roasted potatoes*

*Penne a La Vodka
Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce
Boneless Breast of Chicken Francaise*

*NY Style Cheesecake with Strawberry Drizzle
Chocolate Cake*

*Freshly Brewed Starbucks Coffee
A Variety of Special Teas*

A Brief History



Springfield Park is named after the surrounding neighborhood of Springfield Gardens which was originally known as “Spring Fields” because

of its system of natural ponds and creeks. These resources proved attractive to Dutch settlers, who first arrived in the 1640s. The irrigation system they created was used initially to supply water for crops and later incorporated into the city’s water system, until the ponds became polluted. By 1700 Spring Fields was a small farm hamlet composed of a number of scattered homes assembled around dirt roads. In the mid-1800s all of southeastern Queens contained only about 2,000 residents, and because of its sparse population it suffered from a lack of basic services, such as sewers and utilities.

What had been a lack of community services for the residents of Spring Fields in the early 1900s was remedied when the Long Island Rail Road built a station here, causing an impressive real estate boom. By 1924 Spring Fields’ population of 5,000 was living in about 1,200 single family homes. Dozens of additional streets were built during the 1920s and 1930s, as were hundreds of houses, causing the population to increase to approximately 15,000 by the late 1930s. The Post Office renamed the area ‘Springfield Gardens’ in 1927, and the Long Island Railroad renamed their station accordingly shortly thereafter.

The New York City Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity acquired this land, enclosed by Springfield Boulevard to the east, 145th Road to the north and 183rd Street to the west, in the late 19th century. In 1932, the construction of the Springfield Boulevard sewer destroyed the pond, which the City filled in for use as the site of this park. In 1964 a resolution adopted by the City Board of Estimate assigned full rights to Parks over former water supply lands, including Springfield Park.

The park has survived changing attitudes of zoning and land use, including a proposal by the City in 1970 to convert the park into an industrial complex. Jamaica Assembly Member Guy R. Brewer and community associations successfully lobbied for the maintenance of the park as a recreational area.

In June 1999, an \$867,000 reconstruction of a playground within the park on the corner of 147th Avenue and 184th Street, sponsored by Councilmember Juanita E. Watkins, was completed. Springfield Park currently contains two full-size basketball courts, two baseball diamonds, two tennis courts, swings, a spray shower, play equipment with safety surfacing, benches, a flagpole with a yardarm, and a central pond with two bridges.



Curtis Simpson

Park Volunteer

Curtis Simpson is a resident of Springfield Gardens for several years. He is originally from the island of Jamaica. He works as a maintenance personnel at Martin De Porres School.

Mr. Simpson is a long time member of the Far Rockaway Church of Christ in Far Rockaway and is a member of the security ministry which secure the safety of the church and congregation.

Mr. Simpson lives across from Springfield Park with his wife often-times volunteers in the upkeep and beautification of the park. He waters the plants and make sure they are well taken care of. He retrieves water from his home across from the park to water the plants. Also cleans up the park that is left undone by the Park employees on a regular basis. With the help as one of our volunteers, Mr. Simpson is being awarded for community service.

Congratulations
to
Volunteers for Springfield Park
And this year's Honorees

From

New Style Entertainment, Inc.





Francisca Heyliger

Park Volunteer

Francisca Heyliger a graduate of Fashion Institute (FIT) as a fashion designer. She worked in the industry for many years. A retiree Ms. Heyliger uses her designer skills as well as doing gardening at home which brings her fulfillment.

A dedicated community volunteer she brings her gardening skills to the Volunteers for Springfield Park assisting them for several years planting at their yearly "Its My Park Day" which occurs two or three times per year. Ms. Heyliger comes with her skills in gardening that it brings charm and adoration along with her grandson and other children to Springfield Park. She is also a dedicated volunteer and member of Christ the King Church in Queens where her daughter Tiffany is the children's choir director.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

FRANCISCA HEYLIGER

ON YOUR

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

From

Hayneth Bellan

Community Awards

NCO officers - Sector A

Police Officer Luis Benzant

Police Officer Kurt Benjamin

*Congratulations
Volunteers For Springfield Park
and this year's Honorees
From*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with sincere gratitude that we the Board of Directors and Volunteers of VFSP Inc. extend our appreciation to you in your support of this journal.

We cannot continue to do the things we have done over the past year without your support. Your financial support continues to be of tremendous help as we expand the services we offer. The revitalization and maintenance of Springfield Park cannot continue without your support.

To all of our Patrons, Advertisers, Families and Businesses we extend our sincere appreciation.

Please remember to support the business and organizations advertised in this journal. When you do utilize their services, please let them know you saw their ad in VFSP journal.

Once more, we extend a big thank you to Mrs. Curlene Nelson for voluntarily availing to us your professional skills, expertise and dedication in the compilation of this journal. Your patience and resourcefulness are invaluable.

(Members of the Journal Committee)

Fay Hill

Gregory Hudson

Veronica Bellan

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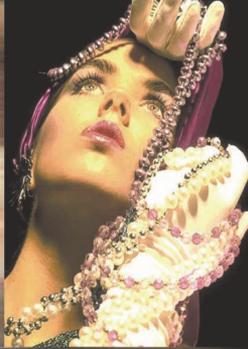


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***Congratulations to the
Volunteers For
Springfield Park
and your 2019 Honorees!***

Lou Di Rico



Volunteers For Springfield Park
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