

FRIENDS OF FORT TOTTEN PARKS

NEWSLETTER



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Spring/Summer 2013

COMFORT STATION CONSTRUCTION BEGINS



The answer to the age old question, "where will they go?" is a step closer to being answered with the ground breaking for the new comfort station in Little Bay Park. Along with the expansion of the parking lot, the renovations will make the park a more user friendly place. Unfortunately, a few of the FOFP

events will be moved to Crocheron Park this year.

Although there wasn't a formal ribbon cutting, local residents knew something was afoot when chain link fences were installed and bulldozers arrived on scene. A down side to the construction is the lack of parking for this upcoming summer season, but all agreed that the end results will justify the inconvenience of the construction. Funding was secured by Senator Avella (Thanks Tony!) and funded partially through the Federal Highway Administration SETEA-LU transportation bill. Stay tuned for updates.

PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL INDICTED!

Punxsutawny Phil (or "Phil" by family and locals), famous for his yearly weather predictions, was indicted by Butler County Prosecutor Mike Gmoser for his "prediction" of an early spring this year.

Rushing to Phil's defense Bill Deeley, President of the Punxsutawny Groundhog Club stated that Phil had actually predicted six more weeks of winter but a miscommunication led to the incorrect statement to the press. Deeley stated that Phil was feeling more like a scapegoat rather than a groundhog after the incident.

After careful review, the Prosecutor decided to drop the charges after a plea deal was reached with Deeley. Calls to the County's office of a pending case against the Easter Bunny went unanswered.

New NE Queens Park

Administrator announced

Mike Agnello has been named the new NE Queens Park administrator, taking the position over from Janice Melnick.

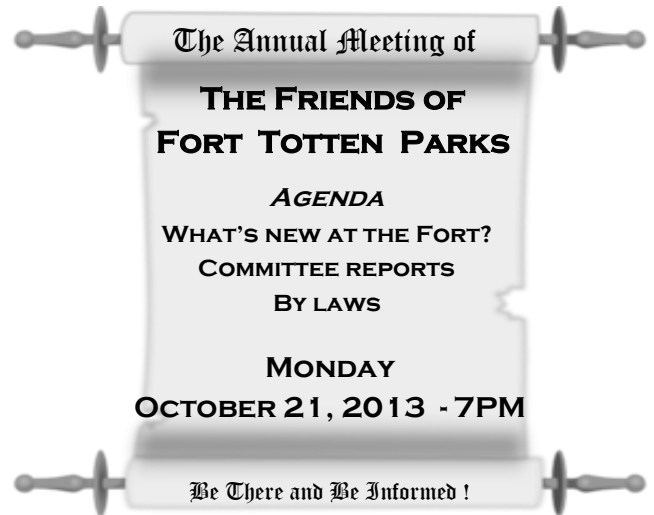
Mike brings a wealth of experience to his position, lives in Queens, has a BA in Management and a MA in Finance. He is a real friend of Fort Totten Parks and has been instrumental in planning and working for our events. Welcome aboard Mike!

WOMEN'S CENTER

The Center for the Women of New York (CWNY) has received the green light and funding from the NY State Dormitory Authority to renovate #207 building in Fort Totten.

The resource center will have a cultural center and will offer career, legal and financial assistance.

Founded in 1987 the CWNY is a volunteer based non profit organization. Ann Jawin is their President.



The Annual Meeting of

**THE FRIENDS OF
FORT TOTTEN PARKS**

AGENDA

WHAT'S NEW AT THE FORT?

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BY LAWS

MONDAY

OCTOBER 21, 2013 - 7PM

Be There and Be Informed!

**MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT BUILDING
(PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MAP) PARKING WILL BE ALLOWED ON
THE FORT GROUNDS ADJACENT TO THE PARKS BLDG.)**

Carol Rupp Memorial Bench Dedication

Family and friends gathered on April 20, to commemorate a park bench for fellow FOFTP member, Carol Rupp. Donations from family member, individuals, and local organizations funded the bench with the intent to have place to remember Carol. Carol was a very active member of the FOFTP who succumbed to cancer in 2011.



Family fun day

One of our signature events will be here soon again. The 9th annual Friends of Fort Totten Family Fun Day. Due to the parking lot expansion, it will be held at Crocheron Park this year.

A variety of arts & crafts tables, along with story telling, free books and inflatable rides will entertain the crowds. Members of the Flushing & Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps as well as the FDNY will be on hand.

SPRING!

Spring has finally sprung!

Put on your walking shoes and take a hike through the park!

Friends of Fort Totten Halloween Festival!

Was a scream! Get your ghoul on next time!!



Fort Totten Is Not Just Another Park — It's "Our" Park!

WANTED-EDITOR

We at the Friends of Fort Totten Parks are seeking a new editor. If you enjoy writing stories and reporting on local events this could be a rewarding opportunity for you. Students seeking credit are also welcomed. You should have a good working knowledge of computers and a creative mind. If you're interested, please Email

FriendsOfFortTottenParks@yahoo.com

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

The concept of participatory budgeting started in Brazil in 1989 as a way for citizens to vote on capital projects within their community. The idea is embraced by some and controversial with others. It's estimated that metropolitan New York has over twenty million residents yet in the first proprietary budget vote last year, only eight thousand voted. Here in NYC, City Council members are assigned a capital budget and local residents decide how its spent. Voting is held locally and informally.

New York City held its second such vote recently in the Bayside area. More than half of the people in the area voted to restore Poppenhusen at 114-04 14th Road, home to a range community events and educational programs. Queens residents also voted to rehabilitate Herman A. Macneil Park, a few blocks away from the Poppenhusen Institute, install police cameras within the 109th and 111th precincts. In Fort Totten Park - special needs equipment for the playground & repairs to the kayak launch, The district plans to spend \$995,000 on the results from its first year in the participatory budget.

Stories, Email, comments and suggestions can be Emailed to

FriendsOfFortTottenParks@yahoo.com

Friends of Fort Totten — Corporate Sponsors

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Events Calendar - Summer / Fall 2013

Event: **Friends of Fort Totten Parks' Family Fun Day**

Date: Saturday June 15, 2013

Time: 12 noon – 3 pm

Location: Crocheron Park (33 road & 215 place)

Description: Please join us for a fun afternoon of free activities including games, crafts, medical screening, pet micro chipping and more.

Event: **Back to School Festival**

Date: Saturday, September 7, 2013

Time: 12 pm – 3 pm

Location: Alley Pond Park

Description: Summer's not over. Beat the stress of returning to school with an afternoon of fun activities including games, rides, craft projects, and free giveaways.

Event: **Halloween Festival (rain date Sunday October 27, 2013)**

Date: Saturday, October 26 2013

Time: 12 noon – 3:00 pm

Location: Crocheron Park

Description: Join us for a free day of spooky family fun. Games, rides, craft projects, costume contest, hay rides, pumpkin patch and goodie bags.

Event: **Haunted Lantern Tours**

Date: October 25 & 26 , 2013

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Fort Totten

Description: Join the Urban Park Rangers and FOFT Volunteers as they mix history with Halloween on a lantern tour of the historic Water Battery at Fort Totten. You must be on line by 8:15 pm to be guaranteed admittance.

2013 FRIENDS OF FORT TOTTEN PARKS DONOR

Please join us in shaping the future of Fort Totten Parks by making a donation.

Name _____ Address _____ City/State _____ Zipcode _____

E-Mail Address _____ (for notices, updates & events)

Are you interested in volunteering with the Friends of Fort Totten? Yes ___ No ___

www.FortTottenParks.org