Fort Totten Is Not Just Another Park — It’s “Our” Park!

The Friends of Fort Totten Parks

Annual Meeting
October 17, 2016—7 PM

The meeting will be held in the Parks Department Building.

Agenda
What’s new at the Fort? Committee reports
New & old business

4th of July Fireworks!
The 2nd Annual Fourth of July Fireworks will be held again this year. Sponsored by Paul Vallone details of the event can be found on the Councilman’s website. See you there! http://paulvallone.com/

Spring - It’s Here!
Finally! (Sort of—maybe)
Yes, it was by all accounts a mild winter and we haven’t had the classic ‘In like a Lion—out like a Lamb’ spring thus far, but LOOK there are things blooming!

Mystery Yacht Sinks Off Fort Totten
40.47 North x 73.46 West
Those driving back and forth on the Cross Island Parkway just to the south of Fort Totten probably noticed a lone, single sailboat at anchor during the Fall and early Winter months this past Fall.

Sadly, the vessel sunk in the latter part of last year but now more is known about the boat. Named “Celebration,” it was once owned by “Norwalk Sea Scouts Ship Six,” a Connecticut based educational program for teenagers. The boat was re-sold in again 2010 by the organization. With very little further information the answer to why she sunk there will remain a mystery.

Northeast Queens Comfort

April 17, 2016
7 PM
The meeting will be held in the Parks Department Building.

FAMILY FUN DAY—2016
Saturday—June 18, 2016
12 noon - 3 pm
Location: The Parade Grounds @ Fort Totten
Please join us for a fun afternoon of free activities including games, crafts, medical screening, pet microchipping, demonstrations and more!

Reminiscent of either a 1950’s diner or the bridge of a luxury ocean liner, the new comfort station dropped her anchor in Little Bay Park to the cheer of a handful of elected officials and onlookers. The (now) 10+ year project was sponsored by NY State Senator (then NYC Councilmember) Tony Avella. It is a welcome addition to the park and is located just as you enter the newly expanded parking lot (funded by former Rep. Gary Ackerman). We at the Friends of Fort Totten Parks have lobbied for this restroom for quite a while and thank the elected officials for seeing our request become a reality.
Tibbetts Brook Park

Is one of the first parks developed by Westchester County. This 161-acre park offers many recreational activities throughout the year and hosts ethnic celebrations, fairs and festivals during the summer months.

The first large-scale recreational development by the county, this property was named for George Tibbet, a local pioneer settler during the colonial period. Because his descendants were royalists during the Revolution, the property was confiscated and sold by the state. Tibbetts Brook, a stream that flows from the Park and then vanishes at the south end of a lake in Van Cortlandt, near 242nd Street. The brook flows into tunnels that carry New York City’s domestic wastewater, along with storm water that drains from the streets. Eventually, the brook water and sewage are pumped to a treatment plant on Wards Island. Just the clean water from Tibbetts Brook alone contributes close to two billion gallons of water per year. This arrangement is a century old; no one today would send billions of gallons of clean water into a treatment plant.

There is a proposal to “daylight” the brook back above ground—meaning to take it out of the culvert feeding into the sewer system, and instead send the brook along a newly created channel that would lead it directly into the Harlem River. In the 18th century, Tibbetts Brook was dammed up by the Van Cortlandt family to create a source of power for its millworks. After flowing over the dam, the brook then meandered south, eventually reaching the Spuyten Duyvil Creek, where the Harlem and Hudson Rivers met at the northern end of Manhattan island. The Spuyten Duyvil creek was replaced by the Harlem River Ship Canal, though the creek’s name survives on many maps. The original path of the brook has been built over, but it endures in street names like Tibbett Avenue.

The NYC Parks Department & the Environmental Protection Agency are studying how to bring more of the stream above ground through Van Cortlandt Park. Absurd as it seems to pump billions of gallons of clean water to a treatment plant miles away, the cost of doing anything else might also be prohibitive.

Sources,
The NY Times, Jim Dwyer—February 16, 2016
‘An Underground Brook, Gallons of Sewage and a Century-Old Problem’
Tibbetts Brook Park Website
http://parks.westchestergov.com/tibbetts-brook-park

Neither rain, nor snow nor shoes...

Will stop a retired New York City Detective (and our own Co President—Joe Branzetti) from apprehending a burglar after noticing him breaking into his neighbor’s back door.

Joe was at home when he noticed a suspicious man in the rear a neighbors house. Joe heard the house alarm sound and his Police instincts kicked in. Not having the time to don shoes or grab a cell phone, Joe raced out the back door of his house and gave pursuit. Running through the streets of his neighborhood, he eventually apprehended the bad guy with the help of a good Samaritan and used a cell phone from a passing Sanitation Truck to notify the local Police Precinct. Turns out the bad guy had a record of burglaries and was wanted by local authorities. Joe received an award from The New York Police Community Council for being the “Cop of the Month”. Our congratulations and thanks to Joe.

Photo credit is given when known. Other photos used are from the internet and believed to be in the public domain. Please notify us if otherwise and we will either attribute credit or remove the photo. - Ed.

This June 14th, make sure you proudly fly your American Flag at home, on your bicycle, your car, or a pin on your jacket. - Pat Riot
Seagulls

Commonly called “Gulls”, Seagulls are known and seen over most of the planet. There are dozens of varieties of gulls but they all share some common traits.

For the most part, gulls are scavengers who live along coastlines always in search of a free meal. In the summer, they cruise on air thermals looking for small crabs, starfish and food left behind by others. They are very good at spotting food. If you want to test this theory out, toss some bread up in the air near a coastline and see how long it takes for the gulls to show up!

The most common gull around our neck of the woods is the Herring Gull. A medium sized bird, they are usually gray with white trimmings. Gulls have the ability to drink either salt or fresh water as they possess a gland that allows them to excrete salt through their nostrils and maintain their electrolyte balance. They can & often are noisy birds, wailing or squawking, especially when arguing about food they try to steal from one another. Webbed feet help them swim on the surface quickly.

Most gulls breed once a year and are monogamous. Their breeding season lasts 3–5 months and usually lay 3 eggs per clutch. Incubation lasts between 22 & 26 days. When born, baby gulls are brown in color and change to the typical white within 2 years and reach maturity. Gulls can live to a ripe age and have been known to live up to 50 yrs. They are a resourceful and intelligent bird using complex means of communicating and have a highly developed social structure. Gulls have been known to regularly attack and mob a would-be intruder. Gulls have also exhibited ‘tool use behavior’, using a stick or piece of bread as bait to catch small fish. Feeding the gulls near the water can be a fun if not a hair raising pastime!
Lucille “Lu” Kernahan has served as the Friends of Fort Totten Parks’ Treasurer since we’ve been incorporated as a non profit organization back in 2006. Lu was instrumental in forming the group into a non profit organization. In addition to being one of the founding members of the Friends of Fort Totten Parks organization (FOFTP). She was also one of the founding members of the Bayside Terrace Community Alliance (BTCAL).

As a retired business executive and living in Bayside close to forty years, “Lu” (as her friends call her) was uniquely prepared to work and lead as a member of the board of The Friends of Fort Totten group. Lu is a regular participant at the Friends Group events as well as all of the meetings . Lu has been an avid tennis player for over sixty years and feels it’s been a signature part of her life. She was the President of her Tennis Club, served on her Co-Op board for over twenty years and presently volunteers with the Meals on Wheels program through Sacred Heart Church of Bayside. One busy Lady !

Over the last ten years plus “Lu” was responsible for handing the sizeable task of grant writing for the organization to New York City and State on behalf of The Friends of Fort Totten. In addition, as Treasurer, Lu handled all the grants, donations and payables that flowed in and out of the organization. Lu also prepared quarterly reports and reported on the financial status of the organization. She also lobbied for the original park charter when it was transferred from a Military Base to a public park. Lu was also part of the Master Plan in the park as well as various projects in the park. She was an outspoken board member for the parking lot and the comfort station. Lu also received recognition as the recipient of the Emerald Award by the NYC Partnership for Parks for her services to Fort Totten Parks.

Lu has decided to step down as our Treasurer but will continue as a Board Member. On behalf of The Friends of Fort Totten Parks , all the volunteers, The Parks Department Staff, the events, the kids and parents— Thank you Lu !

The Friends of Fort Totten Parks
Newsletter Committee

Contributing Writers & Editors
Lily Louis
Pat Riot

Corresponding Secretary
Phil Konigsberg

Advertising
Ari Danhi

Distribution
Joe Branzetti

Treasurer (emeritus)
Lu Kernahan

BAYSIDE ANIMAL CLINIC
36-43 Bell Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361
(718) 224-4451
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
24 hour Emergency / Critical Care Service Available
1 888-4 CVA PETS
COMPLIMENTARY OFFICE VIST ($72VALUE) Ad must be presented on appointment. Exp 1/15/17

NEW YORK PRESS 195
sandwich · beer · bar
40—11 Bell Boulevard
Bayside, NY 11361
718 281—1950

Sean R. Jordan (owner)
212—FF 26th Avenue
Bayside, New York 11360
(718) 224-8500 / M-F 10-9 / Sat & Sun 10-6

Save the Date
October 29 2016

The Friends of Fort Totten Parks
Annual Halloween Festival

Will take place in Fort Totten on the Parade Grounds on Saturday, October 29, 2016. A full day of free fun is in store. More details will be published in the Fall edition of our newsletter. Stay tuned!!

Fort Totten Fact

Although built as a defensive fort to protect the East River leading into New York Harbor, Fort Totten never fired a shot against a threat or enemy. Between Fort Totten and Fort Schuyler, no enemy would dare pass .
It seems that Europe has imitated The United States for a change. Regular readers of our newsletter will remember an article of how the United States Flag was a progression of the original United Kingdom Flag. The United Kingdom Flag is the “union” of England, Scotland And Ireland, each country having the other flag laid on top of each other and the final product became known as the “Union Jack”. The United States Flag was designed as the “union” of the original 13 states and eventually expanded to include all 50 states that we have today.

Originally conceived in the mid 1940’s the Maastricht Treaty ultimately created the European Union in 1991 and banded various independent European countries together. Known worldwide as the “EU” for short, this union essentially became the united states of Europe as other counties joined the EU. A common currency known as the “Euro” was adopted in 1999 in all EU nation countries and borders were reduced to a formality. England opted to retain its original currency (the British Pound) but adopted all the other aspects including laws passed by now the ‘capital of the EU’, Brussels. The people of Britain have long been at odds with the EU and it has risen to the level that on June 23, 2016 the people of England will vote to stay or leave the EU. The United Kingdom is divided on the subject but we wish our allied friends, the best of luck in their decision.

On January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under George Washington’s control. On that New Year’s Day the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill. It had 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: “Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”

Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

Source: http://www.usa-flag-site.org/history/

Cool Places to visit on the web

Mr. President & ‘The First Lady’
Bald Eagle nest cam
Two live cams aimed at a pair of Bald Eagles nestled in a tree within Washington DC. Exciting!
http://www.eagles.org/dceaglecam/

Waterwire
New stories about New York & New Jersey Waterfronts
www.waterfronalliance.org

Old Salt Blog
Anything to do with marine or maritime news, books, and ideas can be found here. Always full of current events and very interesting subjects.
www.OldSaltBlog.com

On January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under George Washington’s control. On that New Year’s Day the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill. It had 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: “Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”

Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

Source: http://www.usa-flag-site.org/history/

Cool Places to visit on the web

Mr. President & ‘The First Lady’
Bald Eagle nest cam
Two live cams aimed at a pair of Bald Eagles nestled in a tree within Washington DC. Exciting!
http://www.eagles.org/dceaglecam/

Waterwire
New stories about New York & New Jersey Waterfronts
www.waterfronalliance.org

Old Salt Blog
Anything to do with marine or maritime news, books, and ideas can be found here. Always full of current events and very interesting subjects.
www.OldSaltBlog.com

On January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under George Washington’s control. On that New Year’s Day the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill. It had 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: “Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”

Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

Source: http://www.usa-flag-site.org/history/

Cool Places to visit on the web

Mr. President & ‘The First Lady’
Bald Eagle nest cam
Two live cams aimed at a pair of Bald Eagles nestled in a tree within Washington DC. Exciting!
http://www.eagles.org/dceaglecam/

Waterwire
New stories about New York & New Jersey Waterfronts
www.waterfronalliance.org

Old Salt Blog
Anything to do with marine or maritime news, books, and ideas can be found here. Always full of current events and very interesting subjects.
www.OldSaltBlog.com
Fitness Activities _New!

Date: Fridays May 6th - June 24th, 2016 (8 sessions)
Event: Yoga in the park
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Little Bay Hockey Rink

Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays (May 3 - October 22)
Event: Guided Walks
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Fort Totten Park front gate.
Description: Individuals will meet at Fort Totten Park Gate at 9:00 a.m. for a self-guided walk from gate onto Joe Michaels Mile and back approximately 2 miles. For adults only.

Dates: Wednesdays, May 04 – July 27, 2016 (12 sessions)
(NO session on June 29th)
Wednesdays, September 02 – 30th, 2016 (5 Sessions)
Event: ZUMBA
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Little Bay Hockey Rink

Date: June 4 & 5, 2016
Event: American Cancer Center—Relay for Life/ Bayside
Time: Overnight event
Location: Fort Totten Parks
Description: A non-competitive overnight event where teams walk around a track, relay style, in honor and memory of those whose lives have been touched by cancer. Carol Palacio 631 3794924
Register www.Relay.acs.events.org

Stories, Email, comments and suggestions can be Emailed to
FriendsOfFortTottenParks@yahoo.com

---

2016 FRIENDS OF FORT TOTTEN PARKS DONOR

Please join us in shaping the future of Fort Totten Parks by making a donation. Thank you if you have in the past.

Name ___________________________ Address __________________________ City/State __________ Zip Code ________

E-Mail Address ___________________________ (for notices, updates and events)

Please make checks payable and mail to: Friends of Fort Totten Parks, PO Box 604984, Bayside, NY 11360

$5 $10 $25 Other

Are you interested in joining one of our many committees? __Yes __No
(We welcome your suggestions under separate note or via e-mail FriendsOfFortTottenParks@yahoo.com)