



Bayside Historical Society

May 2025 Newsletter

Dermody Triangle in the News

On **May 16, 1935**, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle published an article about new memorial trees being planted at Bayside's Dermody Square (as it was then called). The original trees were planted in 1866: a maple tree to represent the North and a sycamore to represent the South, symbolizing the hope for a better Union. After those trees eventually failed to flourish, a group of Baysiders rededicated the nearly forgotten site and planted new trees in 1935. The tradition of uniting our community and honoring our history lives on as we gather to pay tribute to Civil War veteran Captain William C. Dermody — and all who have served — at Dermody Triangle. This longstanding Bayside Historical Society tradition, celebrated since 1973, continues on May 22nd. We invite you to join us in remembrance and reflection.— details below.

Bayside to Plant Memorial Trees

Civil War veterans have been invited to participate in the Memorial Day pageant to be held in Dermody Square, 218th St. and Rocky Hill Road, Bayside.

The committee on arrangements, under the direction of Maj. Daniel Kennedy of William A. Leonard Post, American Legion, has a dress rehearsal of the pageant early next week. As planned the pageant will re-enact scenes of the Civil War, when two trees were planted, one for the South and one for the North, as a mark of everlasting peace among the States.

Mrs. Charles B. Williams, director of Borough President Harvey's landscape division, has set aside two trees in the Borough Nursery, one a maple and the other an Oriental pine. These two plants will take the place of the trees originally planted in 1865, both of which are said to be decaying.

Coming Up in May 2025



Afternoon Tea & Music at The



Dermody Triangle Memorial Day

Castle

Saturday, May 17th | 2:00pm
BHS Castle

You're invited to an elegant afternoon tea hosted by the Bayside Historical Society and the Center for the Women of New York. Celebrate this charming British tradition in the beautiful setting of the Castle ballroom.

Unfortunately, this event is sold out. We appreciate the enthusiastic response and are considering hosting another Afternoon Tea in the fall or winter — stay tuned for future updates!

[Learn More](#)

Ceremony

Thursday, May 22nd | 7:30pm
Dermody Triangle

Join the Bayside Historical Society and the Bayside Hills Civic Association—along with Boy Scout Troop 49 and Co. K, 67th NY, First Long Island Volunteers—as we honor Memorial Day at the historic Captain Dermody Triangle. We will lay a wreath in memory of Captain William C. Dermody, who gave his life in the Civil War, and pay tribute to all the brave veterans who have served our nation with honor and sacrifice.

[Learn More](#)

Coming Up in June 2025



Independence Day Celebration at Fort Totten Park Wednesday, June 18th | 5pm Fort Totten Parade Grounds

Bayside Historical Society is hosting the 8th Annual Independence Day Celebration on Wednesday, June 18th, with a free concert and fireworks display by Grucci in Fort Totten Park. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics for an evening of community fun!

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES* | 6:00-9:00PM
Chicken Head Rocks
Phil Costa & The Something Special Band

FIREWORKS DISPLAY | 9:15PM
On the parade grounds of the park

Generously sponsored by Council Member Vickie Paladino. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Queens Chamber of Commerce and NYC Parks.

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More**

Coming This Spring/Summer



New Exhibit coming to the Castle!

Our upcoming exhibition offers an engaging exploration of the rich history of Bayside, Queens. Discover how our neighborhood has evolved over the years, shaped by the contributions of the Bell family and other early settlers. Stay tuned for the opening date!

Take a Look Back...

Legendary Hollywood star W. C. Fields lived in Bayside, Queens, from 1919 to 1921. Fields returned to Bayside as Professor Eustance McGargle for the filming of "Sally of the Sawdust" in 1925. Directed by D. W. Griffith, the movie featured Bayside and particularly 42nd Avenue and Bell Boulevard as the backdrop for the fictional town, Green Meadow.



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