



Bayside Historical Society

June 2025 Newsletter

Celebrating Independence Day Bayside Style!

Since 2015, Bayside Historical Society has hosted the Fort Totten Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks Show with a little help from many friends - NYC Parks, FDNY, NYPD, and Queens Chamber of Commerce.



Now in its eighth year, and made possible by the generous support of Council Member Vickie Paladino, this event has become a beloved neighborhood tradition that brings together family and friends.



Join us on Wednesday, June 18th.
Park opens for the event at 5:00PM.
6:00-9:00PM - Musical performances with Chicken Head Rocks and Phil Costa & The Something Special Band, followed by fireworks on the parade ground at 9:15PM.
See below for more detail.

Coming Up in June 2025





Second Sunday Castle Tours

Sunday, June 8th | 1:00pm
BHS Castle

Reserve your spot for the June guided tour of The Castle and its exhibitions, conducted by the Bayside Historical Society staff and volunteers. Tours are approximately 45 minutes long; there will be two tours offered, the first beginning at 1pm and the second at 2pm. The cost is free, but reservations are required.

[Learn More](#)



Open Sew at The Castle

Sunday, June 8th | 1:00pm
BHS Castle

Do you quilt, sew or embroider? Join fellow sewing enthusiasts for an afternoon of creativity and socializing. Bring a project you're currently working on and enjoy the camaraderie of community sewing! Seamstresses and quilters of all levels are welcome.

[Learn More](#)

Happening on June 18th



Image by Dominic Totino

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!

Admittance to the park will begin at 5:00PM

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

Hosted by Bayside Historical Society and generously sponsored by Council Member Vickie Paladino. Additional sponsorship from Ridgewood Savings Bank and ENT and Allergy Associates. 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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Coming This Summer



Queensboro Dance Festival: Performances at Fort Totten Park

**Sunday, July 20th | 3:00pm
BHS Castle**

Bayside Historical Society is proud to be a venue partner of the Queensboro Dance Festival again this year! Enjoy a diverse lineup of dance performances featuring Queens-based professional dance companies. Free to all!

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New Exhibit Coming To The Castle: The Bell Family Legacy

**TBA, Summer 2025
BHS Castle**

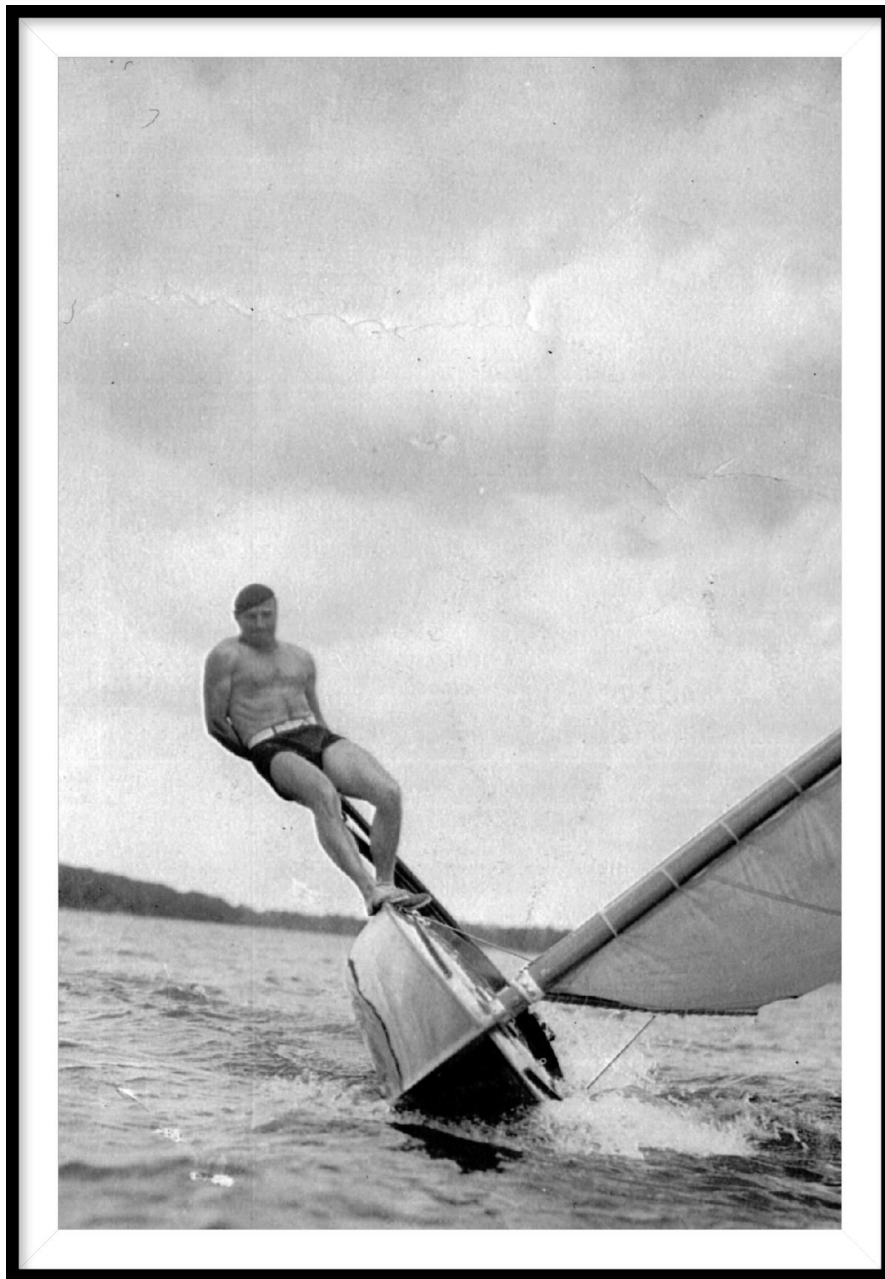
Our soon-to-launch exhibition offers an engaging exploration of the rich history of Bayside, Queens. Discover how our neighborhood has evolved over the years, shaped by the contributions of the Bell family and other early settlers.

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Take a Look Back...

Artist Rolf Armstrong (1889-1960) is best known for his magazine covers and glamorous depictions of female subjects. His beautiful paintings graced movie magazines, advertisements, and calendars in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Immensely successful as a commercial artist, Armstrong had the opportunity to fully enjoy the recreational aspects of Bayside and became an avid sailor with membership to the Bayside Yacht Club.

Armstrong shows off his sailing technique in the photograph below taken on Little Neck Bay in 1934. Armstrong was an accomplished sailor having won the American Canoe Sailing Championship in both 1934 and 1935 with his favorite canoe, the Mannikin, held in Thousand Islands, New York.



Bayside Historical Society | 208 Totten Avenue - Fort Totten | Bayside, NY 11359 US

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