

# Oyster Bay

## Main Street Association News

Volume 3

Winter 2015/2016

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### *Townsend Park Renovations Complete*

A once great focal point of our downtown, Townsend Park was originally designated a public park in 1906, after the Townsend Family subdivided their lot and created Audrey Avenue. The triangle was largely used as a public gathering space and in 1909 a bandstand was erected on the site to suit this purpose. However, the bandstand and historic canons began to get lost as overgrown trees began to hinder sightlines and limit the usable space of the park.

Intending to make the park a focal point of our downtown once again, the Main Street Association spearheaded the revitalization campaign and coordinated with local merchant Main Street Nursery, who generously offered to donate their time and expertise to the project. The final plans, which were put together with input from other local community groups, sought to create a uniform and attractive design, while providing the public with increased seating, better lighting, and overall improved functionality.

On December 4th, after receiving the go-ahead from the Town of Oyster Bay, work began on the park.

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## Townsend Park Renovations Complete

Over the course of the next week, Townsend Park would be completely transformed. The renovation, funded by OBMSA with significant donations of labor and materials by Main Street Nursery, called for:



- The removal of the six existing, mismatched, overgrown trees to be replaced with six matching Zelkova Green Vase trees suited for the size of the park and spaced around the green to optimize sightlines;
- The removal of the raised beds on the corners of the green;
- Electrical was laid and outlets installed on every corner of the green and up lighting was installed at the base of the trees to better highlight the park at night;
- The underground sprinkler system was replaced;
- The brick walkway was pulled up, a concrete base was poured and the bricks were re-laid creating an even surface intended to minimize tripping hazards;
- New annuals were planted in the new gardens placed at the corners of the triangle;
- New hedges were placed around the base of the bandstand to create a cohesive band;
- New sod was laid and mulch placed around the bases of the trees; and
- New benches were installed along the walkway to provide previously non-existent seating in the park

Moving forward, Main Street Nursery has also pledged to maintain the annual plantings in the park for the next few years to ensure the beauty of this renovation will not fade!

## *Decorations Delight for the Holidays!*

All renovation work was completed by December 11<sup>th</sup>, just in time for the Holiday Market and Christmas Tree Lighting hosted by the Oyster Bay – East Norwich Chamber of Commerce held in the park on December 12<sup>th</sup>!

Despite the fact that the existing Christmas tree had to come down due to its deteriorating condition, the lighting went off without a hitch! The Oyster Bay Main Street Association sponsored the holiday decorations for the park, including garland for the bandstand and securing a 20' fresh cut Balsam Tree to be placed on the green and lit at the ceremony.



## *Dressing Up the Downtown Year 'Round!*

Beyond sponsoring the holiday decorations for the park, OBMSA also continued its tradition of placing wreaths on every lamppost, creating a unified look while fostering the spirit of the holiday season, throughout the downtown.



This is a sentiment we are looking forward to carrying on this spring when OBMSA once again takes over the hanging baskets that the Chamber of Commerce has done such a great job executing for the past several years. As we prep for the spring, we are looking for sponsors and donors to help with the cost of purchasing and maintaining the 180 hanging baskets needed to fill the downtown. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact Meredith Maus, Executive Director, at 516.922.6982 or by email at [mamaus@oysterbaymainstreet.org](mailto:mamaus@oysterbaymainstreet.org).

# Fifth Season of Dancing in the Street Event Bigger & Better than Ever!

By Diane J. Meltzer

Starting with a full moon on July 3rd, and ending with the full “blue” moon on July 31st, DANCING IN THE STREET lit up downtown Oyster Bay for five Friday evenings. Perfect weather on all five dates enticed almost 800 people to “come on down,” with over 200 on the final night.

BMW of Oyster Bay was once again the sponsor for this fifth season, and brought a shiny new car every week to display. And everyone’s favorite DJs—Louis del Prete and Mark James—took turns returning to play a variety of music and give free dance instructions to the crowds.

**Our 6<sup>th</sup> Season will begin this July with another 5 dates: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7pm!**



## Clean Sweep Initiative



In response to numerous calls, letters, and editorials written about the state of our downtown the Oyster Bay Main Street Association hired local high school junior, Michael Todisco, to clean the downtown twice a week during our peak visitor season under our Clean Sweep Initiative. Michael was hired the first week of July and continued to clean throughout the summer and fall until the first week of December.

Due to the success of the initiative and the positive feedback we received, we are hoping to have Michael start again in May and work throughout the season until he leaves for college in the fall. We are looking to increase his hours to three days a week to better keep up with the loose debris that accumulates throughout the summer months.

Simultaneously, we are also still working with other community groups and the Town of Oyster Bay to address issues surrounding garbage disposal in the downtown.

## National Trust for Historic Preservation Awards OBMSA a Preservation Grant

The Oyster Bay Main Street Association was awarded a grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation from the John E. Streb Fund for New York. These grant funds will be used to secure the services of Historic Architect John Collins during the initial planning phases of an intended larger renovation of 49 Audrey Avenue by the owner.



"Organizations like the Oyster Bay Main Street Association, help to ensure that communities and towns all across America retain their unique sense of place," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "We are honored to provide a grant to the Oyster Bay Main Street Association, which will use the funds to help preserve an important piece of our shared national heritage."

49 Audrey Avenue is a large, high-visibility building on the main thoroughfare of Oyster Bay. The five apartments on the second and third floors have been vacant and out of compliance for over ten years and the commercial spaces have been vacant since the former tenant, The Chocolate Lady, relocated in 2012. The renovation of this high profile building will help two-fold by combating blight in the downtown, as well as, increasing the number of residential units available in the downtown - giving a boost to the base available to better support local commerce.

# Events!

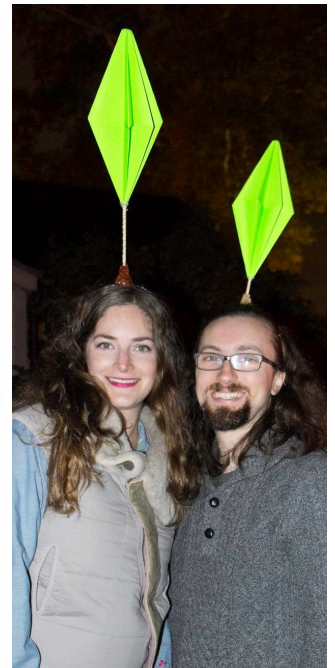
## *Third Annual End of the Season Benefit*



The Oyster Bay Main Street Association would like to thank everyone who attended our third End of the Season Benefit at the Creek Club this past September. Although storm clouds threatened, the weather held and the event went on to be a great success due in large part to our generous supporters and sponsors! Thank you all!

## *Specters & Spectacles at the Halloween Bash hosted by Raynham Hall & OBMSA*

We were fortunate to host a Halloween Bash with the lovely staff at Raynham Hall at Oyster Bay's legendary haunted homestead! Such a unique venue for a scary good event! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend!



## Fourth Funding Cycle of the Oyster Bay Main Street Association's Façade & Sign Grant

In 2013, we began this small grant as a means to help business and building owners in the downtown with small improvements while keeping true to our design guidelines. In the three years since, we have helped 15 new and existing businesses with improvements. Through the grant, we have invested over \$21,000 into the downtown and these grant funds have successfully leveraged an additional private investment of over \$13,000 from grant recipients.

We are optimistic that this positive trend will continue as we are in the midst of raising funds for our fourth grant cycle. As of January, we have successfully raised \$5,300 of our projected \$10,000 goal. As interest in the grant continues to rise, we hope you will consider donating so that we may reach our goal by Spring 2016.



# Oyster Bay Main Street Association's Membership Honor Roll FY 2015

## **Founding Contributor**

Bahnik Foundation  
Frederic R. Coudert  
Foundation  
Hunt & Betsy Lawrence  
Main Street Nursery  
George & Abby O'Neill  
Open 4 Business  
Productions LLC  
Oyster Bay Community  
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## **Commodore Level**

BMW of Oyster Bay  
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Tracy Dellomo  
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Sumner Gerard  
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Frances Mortati  
Rob O'Brien & Tina  
Lewis  
Danielle Olesen  
Frank J. Olt, Jr.  
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Oyster Bay Civic  
Association  
Oyster Bay Senior  
Residence  
Susan Peterson  
Karen Purcell  
Dawn Riley  
Ellen Roche  
Elizabeth Roosevelt  
Patricia Sands  
John & Theresa Skvarla  
David & Elizabeth  
Townsend  
Stanley S. Trotman, Jr.

Avery & Russell  
Wasoleck  
Townsend Weekes, Jr.  
Thomas & Kathryn Zoller

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