

BEECHMONT BUGLE

Official Newsletter of the BEECHMONT ASSOCIATION

Editor: V. Stanionis

WINTER ISSUE

www.Beechmont.us

February 2021

New President of The Beechmont Association

Beechmont President Jane VanLare is a partner in the international law firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen, & Hamilton where she practices in corporate bankruptcy, restructuring, and bankruptcy litigation. She lives on Beechmont Drive with her husband, Jordan, their five children, the oldest 6, and two dogs. She received her undergraduate A.B. degree at Harvard University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.



Jane VanLare

Jane has been a proud resident of Beechmont since 2013 when she and her husband, Jordan, found the home of their dreams on Beechmont Drive and moved from Manhattan. They were attracted to New Rochelle because of its diversity and excellent public schools and as a wonderful community to raise a family. Jane has been serving on the Board of the Beechmont Association and is excited to take on a new role as President to help preserve the history of the neighborhood and serve and enhance the Beechmont community. Jordan received his MD from Columbia University and AB in biochemical science from Harvard University. Dr. Jordan VanLare is a Partner in McKinsey's Health Systems & Services practice, based in New Jersey.

On November 15, Phil Holmes, Beechmont President, since January 2019, resigned, sold his home on Montgomery Circle, and moved back to Connecticut to care for his aging parents.

He succeeded Victor Stanionis, who had served as president for over 31 years altogether,

Picketing Concerns on Overlook Circle

In May 2016 the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church elected by acclamation Bishop Irinej of Australia and New Zealand to the Throne of Bishops of Eastern America.

Pickers have been driving by the residence of Bishop Irinej of the Eastern Province of the Serbian Orthodox Church at 65 Overlook Circle in Beechmont, almost each Sunday.

They have driven there on several occasions from 7:00-8:00 PM and sounding their horns.

Apparently, he removed a clergyman from his position in Queens, NY, and some people did not approve. He is now being picketed by loud protestors from Queens. They have also been known to stop, attach posters to the home's fence, shout through a megaphone and place flyers on parked automobiles, and the neighbors are upset. An open-air assembly permit is required in New Rochelle for demonstrations.

Bishop Irinej was born in 1955 in Cleveland, Ohio. He spent most of his career in the field of education, lecturing at Loyola University in Chicago, and at the Theological Faculty of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Belgrade. For many years he was the co-editor of *The Path of Orthodoxy*, the official publication of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada.

On Facebook in The Serbian Community of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut section, there is a veiled

reference calling for his demise, in a manner similar to the action of a Serbian medieval hero, Milos Obilich, who gutted the Turkish Sultan at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS To Beechmont

On behalf of the Officers and Board members of The Beechmont Association, we would like to extend to you a sincere and hearty welcome to Beechmont.

We are hoping that as new residents you would support the various projects of the Association by joining **The Beechmont Association** as a member (\$50 dues) and participating actively in the various projects that support the mission of the Association.

Three booklets are available to new residents, free of charge, dealing with the history of Beechmont and its development since 1902. To obtain copies we need your name, address, and email. Contact Vstanionis@verizon.net for copies.

The centerpiece of our residential area is Beechmont Lake which is presently undergoing restoration by the City and should be completed by this spring. Beechmont Lake is designated by the City as being a passive recreation area with fishing and ice skating permitted. The Beechmont Association is now in the process of pursuing the building of Pinebrook Path, a long dormant project since 1971. In addition, residents and members have been active in traffic mitigation on Beechmont Drive and Pinebrook Boulevard.

THE BEECHMONT ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Beechmont Association was organized in 1904 for the purpose of improving and beautifying Beechmont and protecting the community interests of its residents.



Bishop Irinej

Pinebrook Path Proposal

One of the original drawings from the workshop of **Kaneji "Kan" Domoto**, landscape architect for the Pinebrook Path is shown below. He attended Stanford University and UC Berkeley, and was interned at the Granada War Relocation Center during World War II. He studied with Frank Lloyd Wright in Taliesin and had a 50+ year career. He realized multiple projects in Usonia, a cooperative in Pleasantville. Usonia was a historic community, that was planned by Frank Lloyd Wright. Domoto lived on Pinebrook Boulevard in New Rochelle and designed



Drawing from notebook of Kaneji Domoto the Pinebrook Path for the Beechmont Association. It was proposed several times to the City but until now the answer always has been "we have no money." In the April 1971 **BUGLE** the following article appeared:

"Landscape architect, Kaneji Domoto, has suggested to The Beechmont Association that a "path" be constructed along the center of Pinebrook Boulevard. He would design (and contribute his fee) a 4 ft. wide all-weather surface, winding "walk" from Beechmont Lake up to the end of the Pinebrook Mall (wooded center section). Children would use it walking home from Albert Leonard, dog-walkers would use it and in general, residents would find that it created a most attractive park-like atmosphere. The cost would have to be borne by the City, but a Beechmont member has suggested that the Association do its share." In a recent meeting the City Fathers spoke favorably of the plan.

Traffic Study

Provident Design Engineers conducted a study entitled "Iona College - Town and Gown Study" last year that recommended safety traffic improvements such as elimination of sight distance hazards, radar speed signs, warning signs, and speed enforcement. Pavement markings and delineators to narrow intersections and lower speeds of turning vehicles. It stated that any installation of crosswalks should include pedestrian landing areas and median islands which would require capital projects to design and construct.

Mayor Bramson, Council Member Kaye, and the City Manager Strome all agree with the Traffic Engineer's assessment. As a result, they will move forward with the recommendations of Patrick Sbano, Traffic Services Division, Director of Traffic Engineering.

New Men's Basketball Coach at Iona: Hall of Famer Rick Pitino

Rick Pitino, 68, who has taken four different programs to the NCAA basketball tournament and coached two national championship teams, takes over for Iona Coach Tim Cluess, who stepped down as head coach after ten years due to health concerns. Coach Cluess will serve as an advisor to the basketball program moving forward.

The Gaels were crowned MAAC Tournament Champions in 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and MAAC



Coach Cluess

Regular Season Champions in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2019. The Cluess-led program set a school record with 17 conference wins in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

During his 32 seasons as a collegiate head coach, coach Pitino has a 770-271 overall record. He was named head basketball coach of Iona College on March 14, 2020. He became the first coach to take three different schools to the NCAA Final Four and first coach to win an NCAA

Championship at two different schools. Pitino holds the third highest winning percentage in NCAA Tournament games (.740) among all active coaches.

Pitino, who has a stellar reputation for success on the court and a dedication to student-athlete academic success, has served as head coach of the University of Louisville (2001-2017, winning the 2013 NCAA Championship), University of Kentucky (1989-1997, winning the 1996 NCAA Championship), Providence College (1985-1987), Boston University (1978-1983) and Hawaii (last six games 1975-1976). While often choosing to do so anonymously, Rick has served as a charitable benefactor for a broad spectrum of worthy causes.

Pitino served as coach of the New York Knicks in 1987-1989. The year before he arrived, the team had only won 24 games and in just two years, Pitino led the Knicks to their first division title in nearly twenty years. He resigned from the Knicks in 1989. The Boston Celtics hired him as head coach in 1997 and he resigned in 2001. The two-time national championship winner at Kentucky (1996) and Louisville (2013), most recently coached powerhouse Panathinaikos in Greece in the EuroLeague (2018-2020).

He recruits people who have good potential to shoot the basketball with range, play hard, and have what he calls a "PhD Attitude" — a Passionate, Hungry, and Driven attitude to achieve their goals. **Rick Pitino**



So far, the 2020-2021 has been interrupted three times because of Covid-19 and quarantines. Iona basketball is scheduled to play a game on Wednesday, February 10 versus Saint Peter's or 49 days since its last game. Since December nine players, and three coaches, including Pitino, have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. In addition, two team managers and a staff member have also tested positive. To be eligible for the NCAA tournament, teams must play at least 13 games. Whoever wins the MAAC Tournament is automatically eligible. Games may be seen on ESPN3 or ESPN+.



Iona Plans to Purchase Concordia College Campus in Bronxville.

Iona President Carey announced on January 28, that Iona College has agreed to acquire the Concordia College campus in Bronxville, N.Y., a few miles from the Iona campus.

Concordia's Board made the painful decision to cease operations at the end of this academic semester and accept Iona's offer to purchase the campus. The purchase is contingent upon multiple regulatory approvals.

Iona plans to use the Bronxville campus as a traditional academic facility with the ordinary complement of extracurricular activities. The academic focus of the campus will be on health sciences.

Dues are Due

We ask you to consider investing in and supporting our **Beechmont**

Association as so many have done so generously in the past. We are not a political organization, a social organization, or a club but have a narrow mission to accomplish.

Most communications to residents in the past have been by email. It is important that we have your email to alert you to events and happenings in our neighborhood.

The **BEECHMONT BUGLE** is published each season and contains summaries of events that have taken place in the past. For notification of current events, we need your email.

We need volunteers to help our Association function. Remember we are only caretakers of our homes and neighborhood before we pass them on to the next generation.

We welcome and encourage any residents to participate actively in **The Beechmont Association**, whenever their schedule permits. To volunteer,

send us your name, address, email address, and telephone number, to either Janevanlare@gmail.com or Vstanionis@verizon.net. Be persistent and send us reminders. We have no staff.

Membership in the Iona athletic facility (Hynes Athletic Center) is also available to all **Association** members at **Iona alumni rates**. (Google: **Hynes Athletic Center Membership**). When applying for gym membership, present your Beechmont Association membership card for 2021. We shall also continue the services of a landscaper to care for all the traffic islands in Beechmont.

Please remit your check for \$50 dues for 2021, made out to **The Beechmont Association**. If you have not done so already, please mail it to our treasurer **Susan Schlecker at 55 Melrose Drive** in the enclosed envelope.

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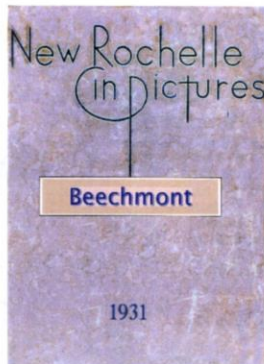
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Beechmont History **1902 – 2016**



As part of its dues raising effort in past years, over two hundred copies of the history booklets have been distributed free of charge. It is a 70 page booklet which includes development maps, color, black and white pictures, and historical images of

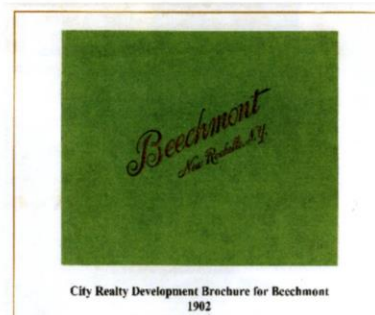


documents. The **History of Beechmont 1902 – 2016** was compiled from various sources and is by no means complete.

New Rochelle in Pictures, 1931 was first published by a local newspaper. The pictures of Beechmont homes alone were used in forming the new booklet **New Rochelle in Pictures, Beechmont, 1931**.

The third booklet was the **City Realty Development Brochure 1902** produced by City Realty the developers of Beechmont.

These booklets are available to all new residents and other members and can be obtained by sending your name and address by email to Vstanionis@verizon.net who authored and/or edited all three.



The Restoration of Beechmont Lake Is an Ongoing Project.

