



# Black Rock Gardens Cooperative Community Newsletter

Autumn Edition: October 2020

---

*"The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well." - Alfred Adler*

---

 You Are Here  

Autumn has finally arrived in the Northern Hemisphere and frankly there are days when it's hard to tell whether it's taken ten months or ten years to get here.

As we careen toward the close of a precarious year for which the final chapter has yet to be written, we're also approaching a holiday season that customarily sees us gathered at home with family and friends. Predicting how any of this will look this year would require a crystal ball, but being able to reflect on what we're thankful for is a ritual as accessible as ever.

For many, having a home would be at the top of their gratitude list. At BRGC "home" is a cocoon of private space nestled in a larger shared space situated on the outskirts of the picturesque Bridgeport neighborhood of Black Rock. In this edition, Paul Baudner gives us a look back at this neighborhood from over 80 years ago, specifically the section of Fairfield Avenue outside our doors. Alison Boteler provides a DIY blueprint for refinishing your kitchen cabinets and we check in with BRGC residents to see how they're coping with the changes brought by COVID. Finally, there's updated information from the Bridgeport Town Clerk about voting in the coming election.



November 30th marks the official end of hurricane season in the northeast. Even though things have been relatively quiet since Isaia blew through in August, we might do well to batten down the hatches just in case. In three short months the new year will come sailing in either with flying colors or three sheets to the wind. At this point, it's anybody's guess. Whatever shape 2021 arrives in, we look forward to seeing you all safely anchored at home on the other side.

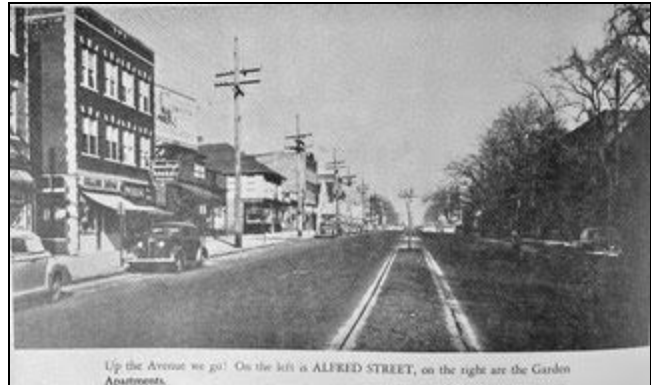


Neighborhood Notes

Historical Perspectives: *Fairfield Avenue*

*Now and Then, Part 1 - by Paul Baudner*

The Bridgeport Centennial celebration was in 1936. It was also the year that Fairfield Avenue removed the trolley tracks and put in the esplanades that make the Avenue look like it does today. The trolley ran down Fairfield Avenue from 1894 to 1936. It connected downtown Fairfield with downtown Bridgeport. The intersection at Brewster Street and Fairfield Avenue was so dangerous that in 1930 the Bridgeport police installed an "isle of safety" for pedestrians which had a blinking yellow light. I have taken a small section of Fairfield Avenue and listed the businesses that are there now and what they were in 1936. Due to expansions, subdivisions, and demolition's the numbers are confusing but I did the best I could.



1. Start at Brewster Street and head west (toward Fairfield)

<i>Fairfield Ave.</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Now</i>
2835	In 1936 it was Lyons drugstore. The store had Western Union service. It was also a stop for the Short-Line bus. There was hourly service to New York City. The fare was 90 cents one-way and \$1.65 round-trip.	Subway restaurant was located here for many years. It will soon be Crab 101 restaurant.
2839	Vacant in 1936 but a small store for decades known as Pete's and also Paul's	Roescal Deli
2847	Gringlun Grocery Store	Service Master
2855	Weisenbacker Barber shop	JB Mia Bellas Nail Salon
2857	Dentist Office	Physical Graffiti Tattoo
2861	Doly's Tavern	Black Rock Insurance
2863	Beacon Flower Shop	Black Rock Insurance
2871	Master Electric Company	Breket Turkish Restaurant

2. Now cross to the other side of Fairfield Ave. & turn east (toward downtown)

<i>Fairfield Ave.</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Now</i>
2886	Apartments	Apartments
2872	Farwell Antiques	Apartments
2870	Dr. Andrew Feketg, Dentist	Apartments
2856	Open Kitchen Restaurant	Tres Marias Florist
2852	Public Market	Boost Mobile & Botanica



2838	Black Rock Bank and Trust Company, Black Rock Land and Improvement Company, Park City Banking and Loan Association	15 market rate apartments
2836	Black Rock Bank and Trust Company	Allstate Insurance

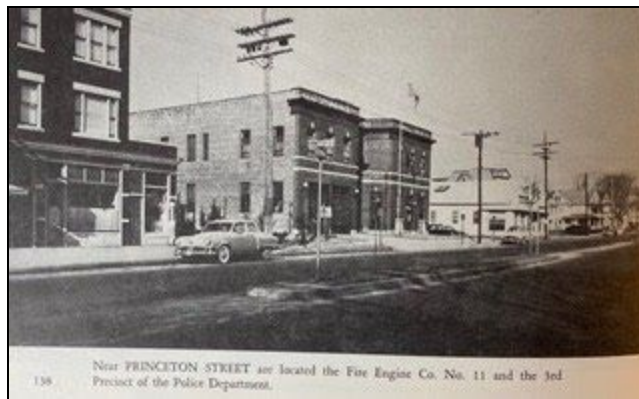
3. Now cross Brewster St.

<i>Fairfield Ave.</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Now</i>
2816	G. Nomion's candy store - S. Nomion's Taylor - Toth's Barber Shop	Matty's Corner Bar
2810	A&P Tea Company	Antojitos Restaurant
2808	Apartments	Mikes Deli
2806	Staglawn Apartments (22 apartments)	Wanis Apartments
2804	Collins Pharmacy	Paramount Pizza
2802	Zwerdling Bakery	H&H Bakery
2790	J. Jacobs Fruit Store and J. Weiner Taylor	Cuban Club

4. Now cross Alfred Street

<i>Fairfield Ave.</i>	<i>Then</i>	<i>Now</i>
2770	Park's Tavern	LA Bar
2768	Black Rock Photography Studio and Dr. Riddell Dentist	Apartments upstairs
2766	First National Store	La Patrona Bar
2764	Coyne Brothers Meat Market	La Patrona Bar
2754	Chorpenier Meats and Logan Brothers Groceries	Mi Rancho

I'll leave you at the Mi Rancho Restaurant because of their good food. Tune in for Part 2. Stay safe and buy local!





Autumn Edition: October 2020

Hi Neighbors!

My name is Leah, the founder of Black Market Bread. I started my company in 2018 to share my love of sourdough bread; the way bread was naturally intended. Sourdough is a long fermented bread with a complex flavor profile that has been enjoyed by humans for 6,000 years. Bread is the foundation of food culture and can be found at almost every table. I believe it deserves to be celebrated and I am excited to share my recipes with you. Since sourdough takes time to mature, please contact me for a weekly delivery schedule.

Local Homemade Sourdough delivered right to your door

\$8 per loaf  
\$1 of profits will be donated to the Black Lives Matter movement. see back for details.



BLACK MARKET BREAD  
providing better bread for better change

follow: @blackmarket.bread

about us

Black Market Bread started as a way to reintroduce the traditional way of making bread. The way they did 6,000 years ago. Bread around the world is the foundation of every meal and holds importance to every culture. With only 4 ingredients and long fermentation time, you are left with a bread full of flavor and complexity.



our products

\*Classic Sourdough\*

Since sourdough takes time to mature, please contact for a weekly delivery schedule



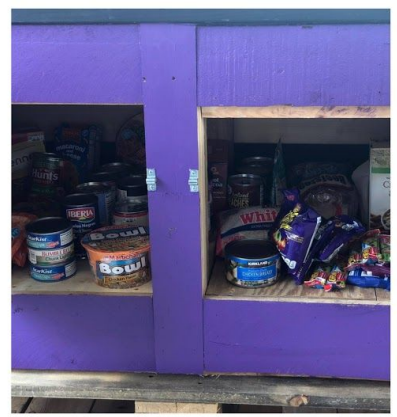
BLACK MARKET BREAD  
providing better bread for better change

contact: 203-241-0523

I look forward to hearing from you!




Neighbors, the first Purple Pantry Box in Bridgeport opened recently in front of the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club entrance (2414 Fairfield Avenue). This community food pantry box is open to all community members. "Take what you need, donate what you can" is the motto of the box. Come visit anytime of day as the pantry box is always open!  
www.purplepantryboxes.com





## Get To Know A Neighbor: *The COVID Chronicle*

The necessity for social distancing due to COVID-19 has altered the way many of us are interacting with friends, family, coworkers, doctors, religious organizations, and even the judicial system. Life has changed in ways both challenging and surprising. It made us wonder about all the unexpected ways this pandemic is touching our lives. We reached out to the BRGC community and here's what they had to say.

<p><i>I have a couple of people in my 'bubble' that I can hug, but I miss casual handshakes and hugs. It took me a while to get used to not being able to touch anyone.</i></p>	<p><b>I never imagined I would describe video platforms by reciting lyrics by the Rolling Stones; "I'll be your savior, steadfast and true, I'll come to your emotional rescue..."</b> FaceTime, Skype, Duo, WhatsApp, Facebook and Zoom!!! Without them I would be in a million pieces.</p>	<p><b>This has brought me much closer to family and friends. It's highlighted the importance of these people in my life. You can't take them for granted.</b></p>
<p><b>I gained "anxiety weight" in the early days of lockdown. Eating a lot of comfort food. I'm now forcing myself to exercise every day to try and lose it and keep it off.</b></p>		<p>I'm thinking about all the outside activities I can plan for the coming months to keep sane. There's just so much cooking and baking and TV binging you can do.</p>
<p><b>It was interesting to see the rise of social unrest and how the pandemic didn't deter people from hitting the streets in masks to protest.</b></p>	<p><b>During lockdown I was amazed at the sounds of birds. When we got quiet, they got loud! It was delightful to hear them. Like most people, I miss human contact. We are so separate, which is the point I know, but it's a little lonely.</b></p>	<p><b>I used to just talk to my cat all the time. Now I talk to my plants, too. I think they like it.</b></p>

**If you need a COVID test, contact the City of Bridgeport's Dept. of Health & Human Services at 203-576-7416, or visit their website at <https://www.bridgeportct.gov/covid19testing> for info on**  
**DAILY TEST SITES:** When you are exhibiting symptoms (may require calling ahead for an appointment);  
**COMMUNITY POP-UP TEST CALENDAR:** When you have no symptoms (no referral or appointment necessary; requires ID as proof of residency.)



## What's Happening



**November 3, 2020: Presidential Election:** The polls at Black Rock School will be open from 6am to 8pm. ***If voting in person at the polls, remember to bring your mask.***

**If you're a registered CT voter but prefer not to vote in person due to COVID-19, you can vote by absentee ballot in the general election pursuant to Public Act 20-03 July Special Session.** The Bridgeport Town Clerk advises that you should have been mailed an application for the

absentee ballot along with a postage paid return envelope by the Secretary of State, Denise Merrill. The completed application as well as the completed ballot can be mailed back in the postage paid return envelope, or it can be dropped off at one the ballot boxes around the city. (See locations below.) **All ballots must be cast and received prior to the 8:00 pm deadline on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.**

**For more information about this process:** Contact the City of Bridgeport, Town Clerk's Office, Room 122, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, CT 06604 @ 203-576-7208 <https://www.bridgeportct.gov/content/341307/341431/343124.aspx>

**If you're not registered to vote or want to check on your voting status:** Contact the Bridgeport Registrar of Voters located at the Margaret Morton Annex, 999 Broad St., 1st floor, Bridgeport, CT 06604 @ 203-576-7281 <https://www.bridgeportct.gov/content/341307/341427/default.aspx>

✓ To report problems on Election Day, the Secretary of State provides a hotline at **1-866-733-2463** or email address at [elections@ct.gov](mailto:elections@ct.gov)

✓ For a more detailed Voter Fact Sheet, visit the CT Secretary of State's website <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voter-Fact-Sheet>

**BALLOT BOXES:** (1) in front of the Margaret Morton Government Center at 999 Broad Street; (2) in front of City Hall 45 Lyon Terrace; (3) in front of firehouse on 950 Boston Avenue; and (4) adjacent the firehouse on the corner of Ocean Terrace & Osborne Street. Voters may submit their ballots in the drop box at any time before the November 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline.





The Greenfield Hill Grange in Fairfield is hosting drive-in family movie nights. Opens 7pm; Film starts at 7:30pm @ 1873 Hillside Rd.

- Oct 3: Addams Family, 2019, PG
- Oct 17: Goosebumps, 2015, PG
- Oct 25: Casper, 1995, PG



REMINDERS

The board has hired Mike Bernard from Bix Exterminating to avoid any potential mouse problems this winter. He has baited the perimeter of each building (which we have never done before), the trash can area and the basement of each building. He has also been hired to monthly inspect and re-bait each building, September through March. While he is treating the common areas, he has offered his services for any leaseholder that would want their apartment treated. He usually charges \$125 and is offering to treat any unit here at BRGC for \$25. Please call him if you have any concerns beyond the common areas of your building 203-940-0707.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ends at 2am on November 1st.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour!



black rock food pantry



Now more than ever we need to remember our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. If you're able, please consider making an online tax-deductible donation to [The Black Rock Food Pantry](#) located at 15 Princeton Street, or call and ask about other ways to contribute, 203-610-1222.

BRGC Real Estate Updates (as of 9/30/2020)

For Sale	Recently Sold
<p><b>3 Room</b> 2825 Fairfield Ave. #4 - \$65,000</p> <p><b>4 Room</b> 568 Brewster St. #4 - \$129,900 23 Rowsley St. #1 - \$139,000</p>	<p><b>3 Room</b> 44 Haddon St. #4 - \$99,900</p> <p><b>4 Room</b> 2811 Fairfield Ave. #1 - \$79,900 55 Haddon St. #6 - \$130,000 21 Haddon #3 - \$65,000 21 Haddon St. #5 - \$127,000 62 Rowsley St. #1 - \$139,500 81 Nash St. #2 - \$95,000</p> <p><b>5 Room</b> 91 Rowsley St. #4 - \$133,000 606 Brewster St. #4 - \$120,000</p>



## *Let's Get Cooking!* Kitchen Cabinet Rehab - Alison Boteler



---

Chances are you are living in a gray apartment right now. Gray has reigned supreme for almost a decade because it looks clean, cool and fresh like everything in a black and white photo. Gray has had the longest run of any "it" color since the 60's avocado green or harvest gold but we all know what happens next.

Rather than follow or predict trends in my 32 Rowsley kitchen, I just avoided it all and stepped back in time. I've always been nostalgic for the pastel kitchens of the 40's and 50's. I decided to recreate my own in jadeite green with reproduction appliances of the same color. I was even able to find marble remnants for my countertops that had green sea-glass colored flecks in the stone. I finally have my dream kitchen and I hope you'll be getting started on yours!

---





---

## Kitchen Cabinet Painting 101: REMOVE YOUR CABINET DOORS!

---

Nothing looks more like a disappointing DIY project than painted-over hinges. Save your hinges for when you reinstall them. Now is the time you might also want to think about upgrading your hardware. On-trend right now are brushed brass, black or oil rubbed bronze but the possibilities are endless. Want a more Bohemian look? Think Anthropologie or search the web all sorts of whimsical ceramic and glass knobs.

Next consider what you are painting over. Stained cabinets or previously painted doors and boxes will need some light sanding and priming. After sanding, I vacuum off and dust and then go over them with a Swiffer or dust pad. Metal cabinets may need sanding too if there's any rust or texture from previous paint. (Yes you can even paint melamine cabinets if you use the correct primer and I'll get to that.)

Now here's the most important advice I'm going to share with you: **DON'T USE LATEX PAINT ON CABINETS!** It peels, it shows brush strokes, it gets dirty and rubs off when you try to wash it. Latex paint simply doesn't hold up on cabinets. Since I first began doing my own kitchen rehabs, some amazing paint products have come on the market making life so much easier.

These are water based, easy to clean up, acrylic enamel paints. My two go-to products are INSL-Y Cabinet Coat or Benjamin Moore's Advance. With either, I use Benjamin Moore's Advance primer as it encourages the self leveling properties of both paints. Remember, you want your finish to have that smooth, brush stroke free, sprayed-on effect. To achieve that result, I never use a brush. Instead, I apply the paint with foam rollers and keep a paint sponge on a stick waiting in the wings for hard to reach spots. Always roll or stroke in the same direction



so as not to drag the paint or overwork it as it starts to get tacky. It's better to apply two or three thin coats than to try and cover it with one. Back to the subject of metal cabinets- there are great products for that too: Sherwin Williams makes a good DTM (direct to metal) paint. Got melamine or some kind of composition or foil covered cabinets? Use Sherwin Williams Extreme Bond Primer. This is also water based and designed to make paint adhere to slick, glossy surfaces.

Here's another color tip: It can be frustrating if you try matching white cabinets to standard white appliances because white is a very subjective color in infinite shades. Put two whites together and one will almost always make the other look dingy. There are some great color matching computers out there and I recommend going to Ring's End where they've been able to copy the color of any object I've ever brought in. Problem is, I can't drag a white refrigerator door over there! After years of trial and error, I've discovered that Behr's "Vibrant White" is as close a match as you can get. This goes a long way in making the most basic appliances look more sophisticated when they perfectly blend-in to a wall of cabinets.



## *Bloom 'n Grow*

### Autumn Gardens

A reminder to clear out your summer garden growth before the first frost.

***See you back in the dirt next spring!***



*Special thanks to John Tallmadge  
for answering the call to build  
a new birdhouse for the Rowsley Quad.  
We appreciate your skill and effort, John!*





## *BRGC Club and Committee Announcements*

### **Social Club:** *Chairperson Gemma Tummolo*

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the Social Club has postponed events since the statewide lockdown in March. It's been a challenging summer when we would normally have picnics and movie nights. I would love to entertain new ideas for socially appropriate events moving forward and would love to hear from those residents who may have some ideas and time that they wish to contribute. Please contact me at [gemmarose@aol.com](mailto:gemmarose@aol.com) or call 212-982-9318.

---

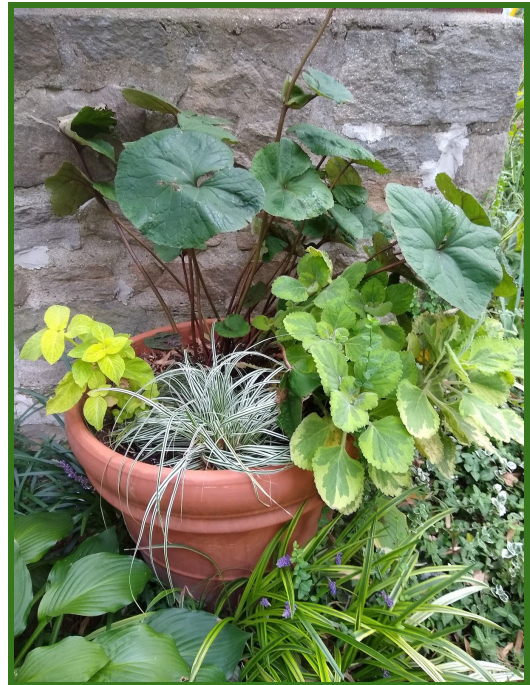
### **Newsletter Club:** *Chairperson Nelson Johnson*

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions about what you read here, or have ideas for submissions, please contact us at [brgcnl@yahoo.com](mailto:brgcnl@yahoo.com).

---

“In my own worst seasons I've come back from the colorless world of despair by forcing myself to look hard, for a long time, at a single glorious thing: a flame of red geranium outside my bedroom window. And then another: my daughter in a yellow dress. And another: the perfect outline of a full, dark sphere behind the crescent moon. Until I learned to be in love with my life again. Like a stroke victim retraining new parts of the brain to grasp lost skills, I have taught myself joy, over and over again.”

*Barbara Kingsolver, High Tide in Tucson*





## Board Notes



As our board reaches the end of our two year term together, we want to thank each of you. Thank you for your patience waiting through the early months of COVID for our September board meeting and thank you all for coming out. It was a great meeting and all of your messages of appreciation make the job worthwhile.

For a community of over 400 people, you have been amazing to work with and for. Working on the board is manageable because of the support we receive from you. We have heard that “this place has never looked so good.” We love that and we agree. In addition, we feel it has also never been worked on so diligently. We hope we have set a footprint for future boards to follow.

We are lucky to be living at BRGC during COVID. We are living in a beautiful, affordable, friendly and supportive community. We are not dealing with jumbo mortgages and overwhelming overhead. Most of the basics here are taken care of.

Many of us have been able to spend our unexpected time at home growing a flower or vegetable garden. We have had the beauty of walks and bike rides around St. Mary’s. Many of us have driven our neighbors to doctor appointments or to the grocery store. We have exchanged loaves of our own sourdough bread for home brewed kombucha. We have exchanged books and newspapers. We have watered each other’s gardens and walked each other’s dogs. We have communed together in the afternoons under the shade of the evergreens. We have been here for each other. Mostly, we have been lucky that our community has remained healthy.

We want to encourage each of you to consider joining the Board of Directors of this amazing community. You will learn so much. You will meet so many of our neighbors. It will be an incredible experience, and most importantly, you will be helping each of us. It is a two year commitment that you will not regret.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve. Your faith in our ability to manage BRGC has kept us going.



*Nancy WorriLOW - President*

*Colin Neenan -Treasurer*

*Ginny Kelly*

*Wanda Weber - Vice President*

*Jen Dayton- Secretary*

*Margi Tallman*

*Dave Krobot*

*This Newsletter has been approved by the Black Rock Gardens Cooperative Board of Directors and the content herein is provided solely at the discretion of the Board and the Newsletter Club.*