

PRESS RELEASE

AS SEEN IN PATCH 4/10/17 AND FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

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What's the buzz around town about in Clarendon Hills this spring? In a village once known for its endless fields of daisies, the summer of 2018 will be remembered as the season of "Bees on Parade." Through an exciting partnership between the Clarendon Hills Park Foundation, the Clarendon Hills Park District and the Village of Clarendon Hills, a unique public art project will delight visitors to the downtown business district between June and September. Ten larger-than-life fiberglass bees will be hand-painted and decorated by members of the community this spring before finding temporary "hives" in the heart of the village. Each fiberglass bee rests on a carefully designed cast iron flower stem, with the size of each individual work of art being approximately 28" wide and 36" tall. Bees were selected for the community art exhibit as the Clarendon Hills Park Foundation was an early supporter of the local Richmond Education Gardens and Apiary. The Clarendon Hills Park Foundation has worked tirelessly for over three years to support projects which enhance local parks while highlighting the importance of arts in our parks and leisure time activities within the community. In the spring of 2016, through the efforts of the foundation, a sculpture of a Tyrannosaurus Rex was unveiled in Prospect Park. "Jurassic Jimmy," who was named by local students, remains a favorite of visitors to the Clarendon Hills Park District's 23-acre community park. The Clarendon Hills Park Foundation is currently seeking sponsors to support the "Bees on Parade" program. Individual, community and business sponsorship may include: signage with sponsor name at the exhibit; recognition in all communications associated with the display; and invitations to special events arranged for "Bees on Parade." Current plans call for the "September" bees to be auctioned at the Clarendon Hills Park District's annual Fall Festival held in Prospect Park each September. Several of the other creations will be placed in Clarendon Hills' parks so they may be enjoyed by the public for many years to come. Trustees of the Clarendon Hills Park Foundation include: John Steeves, Mary Williams, Mary Church Brown, Rosemary Grant, Mary Odwazny, Marsha Looney, Dr. Shetal Rao, Sandy Siakel and Paul Flood. Bruce Lithgow, a member of the Clarendon Hills Park District's Board of Commissioners, serves as the park district liaison to this group. For additional information on the Clarendon Hills Park Foundation or "Bees on Parade," please call 630-325-7427 or e-mail CHParkFoundation@gmail.com. The web site for this new group is: CHParkFoundation.org.

Written by Darcy Gans with updates by John Steeves.

