

Native American artifacts discovered

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A recent archeological discovery in a Bronx park has the potential to be one of the most important historical finds in the city's history.

The recent discovery in Pelham Bay Park occurred during the construction of the Pelham Bay Waterfront Development Project, a project to improve pedestrian waterfront access.

Over 100 pieces of Native American artifacts were found and it is believed that they could be 1,800 years old.

According to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the site was a multi-component Middle Woodland Native American semi-permanent encampment for resource gathering and processing, food preparation and stone tool refinement.

It is not yet known which Native American tribe or tribes are connected to the artifacts, which include ceramics, pottery and stone tools, among other findings.

However, according to Friends of Pelham Bay Park president Lizbeth Gonzalez, the belief is that the Algonquian, Unkechaug and Shinnecock tribes have a close relation to the tribe who used these archeological items.

"Since time immemorial and continuing to present day, the Algonquian peoples have lived along the coastline from the northernmost reaches of New England to south eastern New York, including Long Island," said Gonzalez, who was highly interested in the discovery.

"Closest to (the Bronx and Pelham Bay Park), the Unkechaug

Continued on Page 4

AMVETS NEED SANDY FUNDS FOR REPAIRS

Benedetto calls on state to release \$\$

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO
AND ROBERT WIRSING

A local elected official is demanding the state release much-needed funds to repair a waterfront veteran's post.

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto called a press conference on Wednesday, July 22 to call attention to a delay in \$50,000 in state funds through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York to the Corporal Walter J. Fufidio AMVETS Post #38.

At the news conference, surrounded by veterans who need to rebuild their post on 1440 Shore Drive which was damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Benedetto said that DASNY drags its heels on the money he allocated to AMVETS Post 38 and other projects

funded through DASNY.

"The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York systematically delays virtually all grants assigned to them to disperse," said Benedetto. "Under the guise of oversight DASNY continually will request more and more paperwork and more and more documentation before the grants begin to get awarded."

DASNY reported it notified the Assembly Ways and Means Committee on the same day as the press conference that it had concluded its review and the grant will move into the approval stage.

The post is currently a darkened facility lacking utilities, with a scarred staircase leading

Continued on Page 4



Big Catch At St. Theresa Feast

Olivia Gonzalez poses with her prizes at the St. Theresa Feast on Friday, July 24.

Photo by Laura Stone

World class aerosol artists create mural

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A group of world-renowned graffiti artists, many of whom are Bronx natives, painted a huge mural celebrating the best of the Soundview community recently.

Located at Morrison and Soundview avenues, the mural features images of notable people from the community like U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and hip-hop pioneer Afrika

Bambaataa, as well as scenes from the vibrant neighborhood like a shaved ice vendor in summer and the Whitlock Avenue train station.

Community Board 9 helped arrange a National Association of Relators® financial grant for the project, and Bronx-based graffiti artists turned professional muralists, TATS CRU, and other

Continued on Page 11

Vacca team cleans abandoned property

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A poorly maintained property which once served the Pelham Gardens community as a podiatrist office received some much needed grounds keeping this week.

According to Community Board 11, Dr. Robert Piccora once operated his practice from the location, 1515 Waring Avenue.

According to both CB 11 and published reports, Piccora passed away on February 28, 2010 at the age of 57. Since then, the property has been left unsightly.

The board brought this issue to Councilman James Vacca's attention who did some further investigation into the matter.

Councilman Vacca said he had contacted an attorney at Deutsche Bank who explained that the property is currently owned by the late doctor's wife and others, but it is in the process of foreclosure.

"When a property goes

through a foreclosure process, there is generally a lag in the process," Vacca noted.

Starting this Tuesday, July 28, Councilman Vacca and Fedcap workers converged upon 1515 Waring Avenue removing weeds, cutting the grass and cleaning the front of the property.

Vacca added that they would address the side and back yards the following day.

"We try to keep a high standard for properties in our communities," the councilman said. "The grounds at 1515 Waring Avenue were not being maintained at all and rather than wait, we decided to take action. Neighbors should not have to live next to an eyesore like this."

Fedcap is a non-profit organization located throughout the tri-state area providing jobs assistance to people with physical disabilities, conviction histories, veter-

ans and others who face employment obstacles.

Councilman Vacca said this is the second year he has providing funding for this group which works on general community cleanups such as graffiti removal and property maintenance.

The 2,850 square foot property is a residential and commercial 2-story building.

It was issued a notice of violation by the New York Department of Sanitation on Tuesday, July 21 after a sanitation inspector observed paper, litter, old leaves, high weeds on the sidewalk, front yard and the property's driveway.

According to a DSNY spokeswoman, there were no recent DSNY-related 311 complaints for 1515 Waring Avenue on file.

In the past six months, Senator Jeff Klein's office had put in numerous calls to DSNY regarding this location.



Councilman Vacca (c) and Fedcap workers helped clean up 1515 Waring Avenue this week.

Photo courtesy of Councilman James Vacca's Office

He used the property as a backdrop during an April press conference highlighting home foreclosures that have fallen into disrepair due to lack of maintenance.

"Cleaning up our neighborhoods and ensuring they remain a safe place to live and raise a family is critically important and that's why I sponsored legislation

in the state Senate aimed at stemming the tide of abandoned homes and holding lenders responsible for maintaining properties," Klein said.

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Chert projectile points were found.

Photos courtesy of Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

Native American artifacts discovered

from Page 1

and Shinnecock people continue to live on their traditional territories in eastern Long Island. These traits are very similar and closely match with the tribe or tribes who made this area their home and possessed these artifacts," she added.

Gonzalez also noted that the recent findings in the Bronx remind its residents that the land of the borough has a further history than when Swedish sea captain Jonas Bronck becoming the first settler in the Bronx in 1639 or when the Bronx was named one of NYC's five boroughs in 1898.

"The extraordinary archeological discovery at Pelham Bay Park, which is over 2,500 acres, is a reminder to (Bronx residents) that we are not the first people to live here. In present day, many of us seek to honor this Native American legacy."

The Landmarks Preservation Commission said that the artifacts recovered at the site will be stored in the New York City Archaeological Repository in midtown Manhattan, a central climate-controlled space that houses the city's archaeological collections which is overseen by the agency.

Construction of the Pelham Bay Waterfront Development Project has been formally placed on hold while the site is protected by the Parks Department.

Both Friends of Pelham Bay Park and the LPC did not disclose the exact location of the find to avoid looting.

They encourage everybody to join them in safeguarding the location by avoiding even well-intentioned viewing or exploration.

The artifacts have since been covered up.



(Above) Pieces of ceramics or pottery from the Pelham Bay Park find.

(Below) Pieces of ceramics or pottery from the Pelham Bay Park find.



Quartz tools were also discovered at the site.

AMVETS need Sandy repair money

from Page 1

up from the first floor to the second and a community room with missing ceiling tiles.

They veterans explained that the Category 3 major hurricane had torn through the building's rear northern wall, washing away into Eastchester Bay all of Post 38's files and documents as well as the first floor stove, refrigerator, freezer, tables and chairs, while crippling the boiler.

The monster storm also decimated their fence, undermined their patio and caused major structural damage to their seawall.

For safety reasons, the FDNY shut off the gas to the building which was left standing with only three full walls and rendered completely uninhabitable.

The storm's aftermath quickly depleted Post 38's savings.

A \$25,000 loan was offered to them by a sister veterans post to begin repairs.

Post 38 was able to repair the back wall of their building, install new ground floor windows, reconstruct the fence, establish temporary support for the seawall and have their electric service returned, but not their gas service.

According to Commander Walter Rau he said another \$75,000 would be needed for all repairs to be completed and was not asking that the government fund all of the restoration project.

"This is the least that you can do for a veterans organization for veterans who have served their country," the commander said.

Post 38 contacted their local elected officials and received assurances that a state grant could be obtained to repair the build-



Assemblyman Michael Benedetto meet with AMVETS Post #38 commander Walter Rau (c) and AMVETS post members on Wednesday, July 22 to call on the DASNY to release the \$50,000 state grant he allocated to help the post recover from the effects of Superstorm Sandy.

Community News Group / Photo by Patrick Rocchio



Corporal Walter J. Fufidio AMVETS Post 38's seawall still bears battle scars from Hurricane Sandy. Photo courtesy of Maria Sclafani

ing and rebuild the seawall.

The post completed the qualifying procedures through DASNY using the

New York Grants Gateway System, but as of press time no funds have been dispersed and the post has already spent about \$40,000 worth of the grant that they would like to 'draw down' or be reimbursed for.

Sclafani added, that through the help of Kenneth Kearns, district manager of Community Board 10 and Pat Simone of Hutchinson-Metro Center, an electrician was secured who will work with the post and Con Edison to have power restored as soon as possible.

On Sunday, July 26, Commander Rau completed a full Ironman triathlon in Lake Placid which included a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride followed by a 26.2 mile run to help raise funds to rebuild the post.

Approximately \$8,000 was raised through that effort.

Commander Rau and AnnMarie Bovino, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary president, said they received donations from local business such as Metro Optics Eyewear, Loretta's Pizza, Louie's Seafood, S & D Caterers, Crosstown Diner, Louie & Ernie's Pizza, Alex Beauty Bar and Salon and Modern Fruit, among others, and fellow veterans posts.

John Bonizio, Metro Optics owner and general manager, said both he and founder, Michael Ungaro, a Vietnam veteran who was in the Special Forces, were happy to help the post.

Rau said the post is not eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding because the facility is a non-profit and not a private entity.

If interested in making a donation contact Bovino at (914) 953-7556 or email Commander Rau at ny-post38@optonline.net.



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Books collected for young patients

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

The Jacobi Medical Center Auxiliary is working to make its young patient's stays a little easier.

Just over a year ago, the auxiliary began collecting books to distribute to kids during their time at the hospital, and with the help of local schools, they've collected more than 10,000 books so far.

Leading the effort is the vice president of Jacobi's Auxiliary, Peggy Vega, who said that getting kids reading has always been a pet cause for her.

"Jacobi sees thousands of kids a year," she said.

The hospital distributes the books to the patients, who in addition to reading them while waiting for a doctor or receiving treatment, are also able to take that book home with them.

The program has been well received, she said, and the books go very quickly.

To help with the project, Vega enlisted local schools, including the Catholic schools under the leadership of regional superintendent Roseann Carotenuto.

"She was very enthusiastic about it," Vega said about Carotenuto.

The superintendent reached out to her principals, who responded well to the idea.



Tyreem Gardner, a patient at Jacobi Medical Center, reads a book provided by Jacobi's Auxiliary book drive, which has already provided more than 10,000 books for children at the hospital to read and take home.

Photo courtesy of Jacobi Medical Center

"It took off," she said. "We all got on board."

The program was a win all around, she said allowing the principals and teachers to clean out their libraries to

make room for new books, while ensuring that the old ones were put to good use. Some schools also reached out to parents to donate the books their kids no longer read.

The books are an opportunity to soften the kids stay in the hospital, said Carotenuto, and also gets them reading outside of school.

She wants kids to learn to love reading, and the only way that will happen is if they're given the chance to read books that they find interesting and engaging.

"Once you capture their heart you capture their mind," said Carotenuto.

She's grateful to Jacobi for involving her schools in the program.

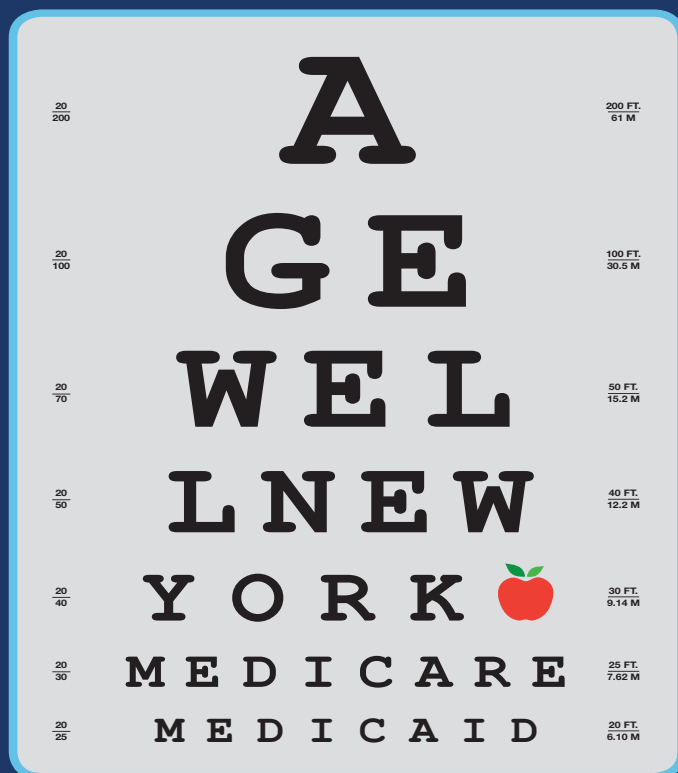
"Service to others is so much a part of what we try to teach our children," said Carotenuto.

The auxiliary will continue to work with local schools and partners in the coming year to collect books for patients, said Vega.

"We want to make this an ongoing project," she said.

Book donations have come from Holy Rosary School, St. Nicholas of Tolentine School, Santa Maria School, St. Francis of Assisi School, Our Lady of Grace School, St. Helena's School, Villa Maria Academy, P.S. 175, P.S. 71 and Assemblyman Mike Benedetto's Office, among other places.

Those interested in donating books can email the auxiliary at jmcauxiliary@nbhn.net.



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Vacca funds graffiti wash of MP building

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

After several years of trying to get graffiti power washed from their building, some Morris Park residents are finally realizing their wish.

Tenants at 1541-51 Williamsbridge Road had graffiti on the rear and side of their building power washed by Fedcaps', funded by Councilman James Vacca.

The cleanup took place on Tuesday, July 28.

Fedcap helps people with barriers to employment find work.

Councilman Vacca said he funds graffiti cleanups and beautification regularly through Fedcap and the Doe Fund in Morris Park and Van Nest.

The particular graffiti he personally helped clean had been on the building for too long, he said.

"Most landlords will remove graffiti," he said. "Most landlords we contact will work with my office or they will work with the tenant association; I am fortun-

nate in this case that I have resources that I can use to get this accomplished, even though the landlord didn't cooperate."

Grffiti is a frustrating issue, he said.

Paulette Sorg, the tenant association leader at the building concurred with the councilman on graffiti.

"It takes (the management) two to three years to get around to doing something, and when they do, they just paint over with any color that is available," she said, pointing out several paint jobs on the buildings with colors that do not match the color of the brick facade.

Sorg said that many nearby structures are the targets of graffiti vandals, including a bridge on Williamsbridge Road over a Metro North rail line directly across the street from the building, as well as structures along Sackett Avenue, not far from the building.

The people working on the graffiti



Councilman James Vacca powerwashes graffiti off of 1541-51 Williamsbridge Road.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

powerwashing project were part of Fedcaps' Wildcat division, a job-placement specialist company for people who have barriers to employment, such as being formerly incarcerated, homeless or being a child aging out of foster care.

Mario LaRosa, manager of operations, said that efforts like the graffiti cleanup provide not only a job, but also a

training experience.

"A lot of the people we have worked with have improved their lives," said LaRosa, adding that the goal of the program is to build enough job skills to make people self-sufficient.

The workers earn \$10.10 per hour, and many go on to find permanent housing and permanent jobs, said LaRosa.

Practice Makes Perfect ends 'summer slide'

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

One New York City non-profit is reinventing summer school.

Practice Makes Perfect uses a 'near-peer' model to pair low-achieving students with high-achieving older students from their neighborhood to aid them with their academic studies.

These 'near-peer' mentors are about four years older than their scholars and they assist in the summer school lessons run by college interns, who are coached by certified teachers at five partner schools throughout the city, including Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx.

Practice Makes Perfect was founded five years ago by Long Island City native Karim Abouelnaga as a result of his experiences with the public school system.

Education wasn't important to him as a child, he said, and in 7th grade he accumulated 60 absences be-

cause he wasn't engaged in school.

But a series of non-profit programs and mentors intervened, and when he graduated from his public high school that had a 55 percent graduation rate, he did so with five Advanced Placement exams, SAT scores in the 70th percentile, and an acceptance letter from Baruch College.

When Abouelnaga applied for a transfer to Cornell University in his sophomore year, a scholarship opportunity offered \$10,000 for proposed solutions to the achievement gap, and although he didn't get the scholarship, his research led him to his passion for education reform, and he launched Practice Makes Perfect while still at Cornell.

The summer program seeks to combat the well-documented effects of 'summer slide,' where low-income students without access to

programming lose months of academic achievement over the summer break in comparison to their more well-off peers.

"The obvious answer is summer school," said Abouelnaga.

But traditional summer school often has a stigma associated with it and attendance is notoriously low. Practice Makes Perfect is challenging that by making the academic experience fun for kids, said Abouelnaga.

Feedback from the students indicate that the 'near-peer' model and the relationships the students form with the older students is a big part of the program's success.

"The number one reason kids show up is the mentors," said Abouelnaga.

Students end up graduating the summer program with an average of 5 percent gains in math and 7 percent gains in reading instead



A class of scholars and mentors from the Practice Makes Perfect summer program at the Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx, with Practice Makes Perfect founder and CEO Karim Abouelnaga.

Community News Group / Jaime Williams

of the traditional summer slide, according to pre and post-assessments.

Jaylex Calderon, 7th grader in the program at the YWLS, said she's enjoyed the program, appreciates the support of her mentor, and is looking forward to being prepared for classes in the fall.

"When we go back to school we're going to be ahead," said Calderon.

But the students aren't the only one benefiting from the program.

The mentors, who are paid or receive a stipend depending on their age and receive high school admis-

sion test prep or SAT prep as part of the program, also gain valuable leadership experience.

Deja Bruton, a 12th grade mentor who plans to study education in college and return to her Bronx neighborhood as a teacher, said the program was an incredibly positive experience for her, and that it allowed her to learn about the students' different learning styles.

"Even though I'm teaching them, they're also teaching me things," said Bruton.

And the college interns, who receive 45 hours of training and further coach-

ing from a certified teacher, receive important classroom experiences and get to learn by doing.

"We very much built a model where everyone wins," said Abouelnaga.

He hopes that as the organization grows and develops, their model will become the framework for fixing summer school across the country. Abouelnaga feels his personal experiences in a struggling school give him the first hand perspective missing from a lot of education reform.

"My upbringing was a blessing in disguise," he said.



Berto Colon

Photo courtesy of Berto Colon

Netflix' hit 'Orange,' stars a Bronx native

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

An actor with ties to Throggs Neck is starring in one of Netflix's most popular series.

Throggs Neck native Berto Colon plays 'Ceasar' in *Orange is the New Black*, a drama about women in prison and the people in their lives.

Colon, a former football player at Lehman High School, and a graduate of Fordham University and I.S. 192, says that he continues to have close friends in the borough.

"Growing up in the Bronx, there was never a dull moment," he said, adding that it was a good place to grow up and that you had to grow up fast.

He migrated to the states in the 1980s as a child from his native Puerto Rico, settling in the Bronx in the mid-1980s after his mother landed a job at the Veterans Administration in New York City.

He said that some of the things he remembers about life in the borough were block parties; and a graduation party he had upon completing his high school education.

Playing football at Lehman was certainly an an-

chor of his time growing up in the borough, he indicated.

"Playing football at Lehman High School was probably the best memory," he said, adding that he also fondly recalls outings in Ferry Point Park, riding a mountain bike at Orchard Beach and his dirt bike as a teenager.

On *Orange is the New Black*, he plays a drug dealer who is involved with two of the prisoners

The first is Aleida, an inmate who deals drugs on his behalf and takes the rap for him.

After she is incarcerated, her daughter, a character named Daya, becomes his new flame.

In real life, Colon is married to his college sweetheart Lara and has two daughters, Sofia and Laila.

According to the film and television information site IMDb he has also starred in television shows like *Made in Jersey*, *NYC 22* and *Blue Bloods* on CBS and *Nurse Jackie* on Showtime. He has appeared in numerous films including, 2013's *Two Night Stand*.

"I have been very lucky," he said of his career. "I

have been out there (in the field) for a long time and the work has been steadily and progressively growing."

For people who have talent and want to break into acting, Colon recommends that they learn their craft by seeing live performances in the theater, as well as taking a look at both older and newer films.

"I think the main thing is to study and learn your craft, and to have a social awareness that is necessary to do this kind of work," said Colon. "It is a study of human behavior."

He urges aspiring actors to enrich their 'palates' by expanding their experiences, and said that there is no one direct path to being a success in the profession.

As for his role on *Orange is the New Black*, he said that he did not know what to expect when he started because producing original content for streaming video was a new thing when he auditioned.

Now he feels that the *Orange* ensemble have elevated issues faced by women in prison in an episodic drama, including issues facing lesbian and transgender characters.

Kickoff breakfast set for breast cancer awareness

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A national organization is holding a local breakfast for a great cause - to finish the fight against breast cancer.

On Wednesday, August 5, the American Cancer Society will hold the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Official Kickoff Breakfast at Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway, to raise awareness and funds to end breast cancer.

The breakfast and networking portion of the event will start at 7:30 a.m., followed by the event which will run from 8 to 9 a.m.

At this powerful get together, attendees will unite with others in their community who have been touched by breast cancer and want to make a difference.

They will also learn about ACS and find out how little time and effort it actually takes to join the organization and help fund groundbreaking research, provide comprehensive information and support and help people take steps to reduce their breast cancer risk or find it early when it's most treatable.

"The Kickoff Breakfast will see team leaders, fundraising organizations and others come together and pledge their commitment against a great cause in breast cancer," said Lizzette Dorado, senior market manager of ACS.

The Kickoff Breakfast will see team leaders, fundraising organizations and others come together and pledge their commitment against a great cause in breast cancer.

Lizzette Dorado

"This is one of the most inspirational events I've been to, where those in attendance who may not know a lot about breast cancer can receive first hand information directly from fundraisers and survivors, and where survivors can connect with other survivors about their experiences," she added.

"This is a very inspira-

tional and positive event, and it's an event that is very important to us," Dorado said.

At the one-hour breakfast, which kicks off the fundraising season, ACS will also announce its upcoming Making Strides

Against Breast Cancer Walk, an annual three-mile walk that takes place at Orchard Beach for breast cancer survivors, advocates and fundraisers.

The sponsors for this year's walk include Montefiore Medical Center, St. Barnabas Hospital, Jacobi Medical Center, North Central Bronx Hospital, United Federation of Teachers and Health and Hospital Corporation, among others.

The breakfast will also introduce the new ACS community manager, Marlene Medina, who will be organizing this year's walk.

This year, the walk will take place on Sunday, October 18, and will also include live entertainment.

Registration will take place at 8 a.m., followed by the walk kickoff at 10 a.m.

To RSVP to this event call (718) 547-5064 or BronxNYStrides@cancer.org.



Borough president Ruben Diaz, Jr. speaks at last year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Orchard Beach. This year's walk will be promoted at the ACS breakfast.

Photo courtesy of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

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CB 9, Kips Bay launch 'Operation Cleanup'

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A Bronx community board recently partnered with a local organization to clean up its neighborhood.

On Thursday, July 23, Community Board 9 and the Summer Youth Employment Program of the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club collaborated for 'Operation Cleanup', the first clean up initiative to take place within the boundaries of CB 9.

Members of the employment program, dressed in light blue shirts, amassed at Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club at the intersection of Randall Avenue and White Plains Road, where the 40 participants picked up rakes, shovels, dust pans and brooms.

From there, the youngsters fanned out into the neighborhood, cleaning



(l-r) Rivera presents Sepulveda with a Community Board 9 'Community Involvement' t-shirt before the cleanup.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

up portions of Randall Avenue, Stickball Boulevard, Lafayette Avenue and White Plains Road.

They also cleaned a local U.S. Post Office that had re-

cently received complaints from its customers.

Operation Cleanup continued across White Plains Road, as summer youth employees tidied up streets, sidewalks and parks along the way, picking up all types of debris.

The Department of Sanitation, who provided the cleaning supplies for the effort, distributed t-shirts as well green garbage bags to facilitate the cleanup.

The initiative, designed to keep youth off the streets by cleaning the streets, paid each worker \$8.75 per hour, the minimum wage.

"These kids are helping keep this neighborhood clean while setting an example of how a clean community should look," said newly appointed CB 9 chairman William Rivera, who also mentioned



Rivera, Sepulveda and members of the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

that the board is the most populated district in the Bronx with over 200,000 residents.

"This clean up initiative is the first to take place in its district and, hopefully, we can build on this experience and continue to keep our neighborhood beautiful while setting up other similar initiatives in the future."

"These kids are helping themselves as well as others in their community by cleaning their very own neighborhood - and that is a great thing," said Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda, who greeted the workers before the cleanup.

"The Bronx is one of the best places in the world and it is important that we keep it clean and take pride in

each neighborhood within the borough," he said.

"This initiative was a great idea towards keeping our neighborhood clean and I'm glad to be involved in it," said SYEP member Ariana Baez. "In the past, I have walked over bottles and garbage in this neighborhood, so it's a nice change to walk down a clean street."



Members of TATS CRU and other artists at the mural's site.

Photo courtesy of William Rivera/CB9



This is a sneak peek at the mural depicting facets of life in Soundview and the history of the commu

Photo courtesy of William Rivera/Community Board 9

World-renowned aerosol artists create mural

from Page 1

'aerosol artists' donated their creative services.

According to William Rivera, CB 9 district manager, the effort's leaders have reached out to Justice Sotomayor to see if she can be a part of a dedication ceremony for the mural.

Congressman Jose Serrano is providing assistance with the matter, he said.

"We would like to have a dedication sometime in the next month," said Rivera, adding that ideally he would like to see Justice Sotomayor unveil the mural the day of the Morrison Avenue Festival on Saturday, August 15.

"The street they close off is where the mural is located," the district manager said. "It would be perfect to have her come during the festival and do the unveiling...if not, we will have to

do it another day."

For Alfredo Oyague, one of the artists who participated in painting the mural and who goes by the name 'Per One,' said that he was proud to help arrange the donation by TATS CRU, whose murals can sometimes cost art lovers in the high six figures.

The mural features flags of different Latin-American countries whose descendants call the community that should be familiar to the people in the neighborhood, he explained.

"The mural represents Soundview and our community," said Oyague of the mural. "Instead of us doing a wall with our names, we decided to do something to give back."

Eliezer Rodriguez, executive officer of the Bronx-

Manhattan North Association of Realtors, said that he thought the \$2,200 Place-Making Micro-Grant would be a sound investment in Soundview.

"It is an area that is up and coming, and we want to make it vibrant for the people who live and work there," said Rodriguez, adding "It is going to make people look up and feel good about that community."

Among the TATS CRU artists who worked on different parts of the mural were: Tone 163, Bio, Nicer, BG 183 and Pretty Tone 163.

They were joined by Crash from Wallworks Gallery and CES, Per One and Dero from FX Crew.

The mural is part of ongoing efforts to beautify the Soundview community, said Rivera, and there might be more murals planned nearby.

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