

## Mercy hires former Chamber CEO

BY ROBERT WIRSING  
AND PATRICK ROCCHIO

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce's former president has stepped down after its board changed his title.

After 13 years of service to the chamber, most of them as president and CEO, but recently as its events director, Lenny Caro was recently hired by Mercy College to serve as its chief of Government and Community Relations.

The new position, according to the college, will help strengthen the college's existing relationships while also building new ones with businesses, elected officials and educational organizations in the borough.

Caro officially began his new position at the college's Bronx campus on Tuesday, September 8, according to Catherine Cioffi, a Mercy College spokesperson.

The campus is located at the Hutchinson Metro Center, in the same office complex where he performed his chamber duties.

Caro will be in charge of fundraising, finding business partners that could enhance internship and employment opportunities for Mercy College students.

He will also be tasked with driving enrollment at their borough campus located at 1200 Waters Place

Cioffi spoke of Mercy College's involvement with the Bronx Chamber of Commerce serving as a member of the chamber's board.

The college has been familiar with Caro for years, she said.

When looking to fill the position, Caro came to mind after some searching, she added.

Caro's educational background

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# NEW PEDESTRIAN ISLANDS OF SAFETY

## Enhancements improve crossing options

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A busy portion of the Bronx will soon include pedestrian islands and other safety enhancements to improve both traffic and pedestrian safety.

A DOT spokesperson recently confirmed the current installation of five pedestrian islands and other safety enhancements in Westchester Square as part of the East Tremont Avenue Traffic Study, years after numerous complaints from community members and political leaders.

The installations, which will take place on East Tremont Avenue between Ericson Place and Westchester Avenue, will provide a multitude of benefits to an area of the Bronx that has previously suffered from a lack of safe

crossing options and sees over 25,000 bus riders from the Bx40 and Bx42 daily.

The existing issues in that southern portion of Westchester Square includes wide, undefined moving and parking lanes, speeding, long diagonal crosswalks and lack of crosswalks at various locations.

According to the NYS DOT, 218 motor vehicles injuries, 59 pedestrian injuries and 10 bike injuries took place on the stretch of East Tremont Avenue between 2009 and 2013.

Pending installation, the new pedestrian islands and safety enhancements should assist the current travel problems in the area.

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## Cheers For The Winner

Labor Day activities for the whole family were held in Edgewater Park. The three-day weekend was filled with athletic competitions, awards presentations, and a baby float parade.

(Above) Mallory Wessels, talent show and cheerleading winner, poses with her trophies during the awards ceremony.

Photo by Laura Stone

## Bronx Columbus parade grand marshal named

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A labor leader who grew up in Morris Park has been selected as the grand marshal for the 2015 Bronx Columbus Day Parade.

Mario Cilento, president of the New York State AFL-CIO, was selected as the grand marshal of the parade, which will make its way on Morris Park Avenue from White Plains Road to Williamsbridge Road on Sunday, October 11 at noon.

Parade coordinator Tony Signorile said that Cilento was selected because he is an important voice statewide as president of New York's largest labor federation, representing some 2.5 million members.

"He was not selected because he lived and was raised in Morris Park," said Signorile. "He was selected for what he does for families."

For many years, the parade dignitary lived in a building at

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# CEC 11 member named new president

BY JAIME WILLIAMS

Meet Steve Miller, the newest president of Community Education Council 11.

Elected over the summer by fellow council members, Miller is in his third two-year term with CEC 11.

Miller first got involved with school leadership about six years ago when his youngest of four children entered kindergarten at the new P.S. 169, the Baychester Academy.

Both he and his wife helped form the school's Parent Teacher Association, which he became president of the following year.

The experience showed him how important strong parental involvement is in the success of a school.

"It's a night and day difference, where PTAs are involved," said Miller.

He was PTA president for five years, as well as president of the President's Council, where PTA lead-

ers come together to share best practices.

Strong leadership groups create stronger school communities and improve relationships between parents, teachers and administration, said Miller.

"You're going to get a better flow of information back and forth," said Miller.

On the advice of his daughter's principal, Miller ran for the CEC several years ago, and has since worked to elevate school leadership across the district.

The CEC is an advisory board akin to the old school boards, and is comprised of 11 elected parent members and two community leaders appointed by the Bronx borough president.

There is currently a vacant seat for a parent of an English Language Learner on the council, said Miller.

Each school in the district has a dedicated CEC

member as a liaison to ensure their needs are being heard, he said.

District 11 includes the neighborhoods of Van Nest, Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Allerton, Pelham Gardens, Baychester, Williamsbridge, Wakefield and Co-op City.

Miller himself is a product of District 11 public schools, attending Michelangelo Middle School and Truman High School, before going to Hunter College and then working in civil service.

"I've been public school raised, and I think it's important," said Miller.

While the CEC deals with a myriad of subjects including school zoning, two issues have emerged in recent years as hot topics.

The district is underserved in middle school seats, said Miller, and each year pushes for more as elementary schools keep opening.

And the CEC also has found itself fighting the collocation of charter schools in buildings where it feels the placement is not appropriate or the space could be better used by public schools, an issue the CEC confronted most recently at the Michelangelo Middle School building.

But the disagreements with the Department of Education are all done with the kids in mind, said Miller.

"We want the best education for the students of the district," he said.

The CEC meets twice a month throughout the district, and all meetings are open to the public. Miller urged parents and guardians to attend and contribute to the discussion.

"Come out and get involved."

For more information about CEC 11 and the meeting calendar, visit [www.BronxNewsSD11.org](http://www.BronxNewsSD11.org).



Steve Miller, president of Community Education Council 11.  
Community News Group / Jaime Williams



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# Mercy College hires former Bronx Chamber of Commerce CEO

from Page 1

was not an important factor in filling the position, the spokesperson said.

The number one requirement for someone to be hired for Caro's new position is a strong passion for the borough as someone who wants to see it succeed and thrive, she said.

"Lenny is a perfect fit for this position and we are so thrilled to have him on board," said Cioffi. "Lenny is the epitome of the Bronx having served on the Bronx Chamber of Commerce for 13 years, and we're excited to see what wonderful opportunities he has to offer our college and our students."

Joseph Kelleher, Bronx Chamber of Commerce chairman, confirmed Caro's passion for working with and supporting youth and young adults throughout his years at the chamber.

This included bringing New York Yankee baseball players to visit pediatric can-

cer patients at Montefiore, and visiting local schools with Ray Negrón, who is part of the New York Yankees front office and author of a children's books.

"He's very passionate about helping the youth and in spreading a message that they can become whatever it is that they dream," said Kelleher. "Lenny is now doing what he is so passionate about."

"I'm very happy for Lenny and I believe this position was made for someone with his same dynamic personality. This is going to be a wonderful time for Mercy College," said Geri Sciorino, a Bronx Chamber of Commerce board member and owner of Bronx Design Group president.

"At the time he was hired, the chamber was in dire need of bringing itself back out and reestablishing itself," she said. "We needed a person who could market that on a large scale, and make the Bronx and the city

aware that the Bronx Chamber existed and was getting its footings."

During Caro's tenure at the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, the chamber had difficulty maintaining membership, according to John Collazzi, Bronx Chamber founder and current board member.

"I believe our new executive director, Michelle Dolgow Cristofaro, will be able to correct the situation and bring the Chamber along so that its members receive the benefits they expect," he added.

"With Michelle's superior academic background, the issues of the past will be rectified," Collazzi concluded.

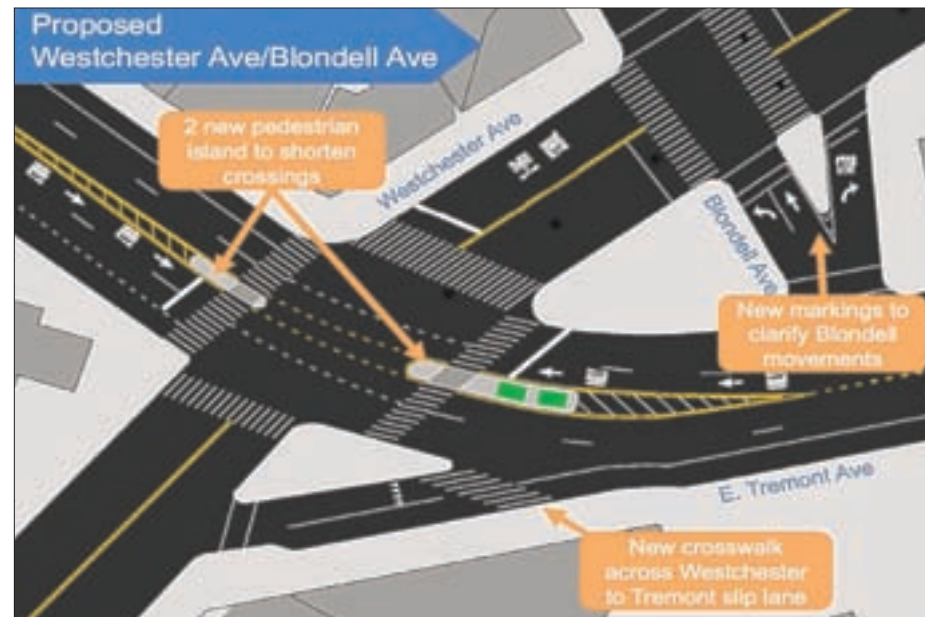
"Under Dolgow Cristofaro, Lisa Sorin, also a board member, indicated that she is confident the chamber will continue to grow.

Sorin said that Cristofaro has been working behind the scenes and this will be an opportunity for all to see the quality of her work.



Lenny Caro was recently hired by Mercy College to serve as chief community relations officer, Bronx.

Photo courtesy of Mercy College



(Right) Two of the five pedestrian islands to be installed in Westchester Square will be located just off of Westchester Avenue. Photo courtesy of NYC DOT

## Pedestrian safety improvements coming to Westchester Square

from Page 1

Specifically, the pedestrian island installations will take place just past Frisby Avenue, just before Ponton Avenue and just before Ericson Place.

Two pedestrian islands will also be installed at the intersection of East Tremont Avenue and Westchester Avenue.

This particular project, which also includes the installation of two neck-downs, two large island expansions, crosswalks and pedestrian ramps, should alleviate and relieve traffic while creating better traveling situations for pedestrians.

"Having pedestrian islands in Westchester Square will eliminate traffic because the pedestrians who will stand on the islands waiting to cross would have otherwise been in the street and blocking traffic, creating a dangerous scenario and increasing traffic backup," said Ken Kearns, district manager for Community Board 10. "CB 10 supported this portion of the (East Tremont Avenue Traffic Study) plan and, in that particular area, it should help both sides - drivers and pedestrians."

The installation of these safety enhancements

in Westchester Square was originally part of the larger planned project that included the narrowing of lanes on East Tremont Avenue from Ericson Place to Bruckner Boulevard for wider parking spaces on the street and to improve traffic flow.

Another part of the original plan also included the installation of a turning lane and turning East Tremont Avenue from two lanes to one lane each way.

Both parts of this plan never came to fruition because of community concern, the majority of which strongly opposed the project.



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# New ambulatory surgery center to open Sept. 16th

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Bronxites will have a new choice for quality healthcare services starting next Wednesday.

Fifteen of the area's top surgeons collaborated with New York Eye and Eye Infirmary of Mt. Sinai and Ambulatory Surgical Centers of America to form the Empire State Ambulatory Surgery Center, a state-of-the-art freestanding outpatient surgery center located at 3170 Webster Avenue.

Empire State Ambulatory Surgery Center will host a 6 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 16 at the new facility.

Prior to this ceremony, the center will also host an open house for community leaders, healthcare professionals and business associates from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. that same evening.

In addition to a promise of providing outstanding surgical services, the new center will create over 40 new job opportunities for professionals within the local community.

Completed at the end of 2014, the ambulatory surgery center is an 11,000 square foot facility comprised of four operating rooms, pre-operative and recovery areas, sterilizing rooms, business office, reception area and 31 complimentary underground parking spots.

Empire State Ambulatory Surgery Center will be operated by the local physician partners with ASCOA providing administrative services.

The facility's physicians are experienced professionals from major New York metropolitan area academic institutions and perform outpatient surgical procedures in orthopedics, ophthalmology and podiatry.

The first surgical case at Empire State Surgery Center was an orthopedics surgery performed this past March 11.

"We are committed to providing the finest healthcare services at Empire State Ambula-

tory Surgery Center and offer a minimally invasive approach to complex problems," stated Dr. Arnold Wilson, ESASC medical director.

"For example, in orthopedics we offer arthroscopic procedures to the shoulders and knee which allow professional athletes or weekend warriors a quick return to sports," he added.

Dr. Wilson explained that many of ESASC's patients are accustomed to receiving their medical care from larger medical institutions such as Montefiore and Jacobi, but they can expect that same level of healthcare at this smaller facility.

"Patients here have the advantage of receiving care from well-trained doctors with university backgrounds working at this conveniently located center that's accessible by public transportation," he said.

Tyler Merrill, ASCOA Business Development executive vice president describes this new facility as being "conveniently located right off of the Bronx River Parkway and equipped with today's most advanced surgical equipment."

According to Barry Finkelstein, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Fellowship of American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeon, the new Empire Surgery Center set to open soon will specialize in ambulatory surgery including bunion and hammertoe corrections.

Finkelstein, one of the partners at this surgery center, added treatment methods for these deformities may include anti-inflammatory medication, physical therapy and/or shoe wear modification and surgery by a podiatric surgeon is frequently recommended to correct the problem should conservative treatment not alleviate the pain.

He said ESASC will provide patients with a friendly, professional staff in addition to expert surgeons and nurses for all of their needs.



Cindy Vogler, ESASC administrator (front row, l); BK Moon, DON; Doyle Hemphill, CST (backrow, l); Elisa Schreiber, CSPD; Shirley Infante, RN; Jamie Lee, RN and Aileen Urban, RN.

Photo courtesy of Empire State Ambulatory Surgery Center

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Albert Einstein College of Medicine could not be reached for comment.



Sister Jean Thomas (c) with the group of St. Helena Business School Alumni during a reunion at Monsignor Scanlan High School in May. Photo courtesy of Monsignor Scanlan High School

# St. Helena Alums Donate stone marker

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Alumni of a shuttered Bronx high school have come together to remember the learning center that shaped their futures.

Graduates of St. Helena Business High School, which from 1957 to 2002 was co-located on the campus of St. Helena/Monsignor Scanlan High School, have reactivated their alumni association.

They have a memorial stone dedication planned at the location on the grounds where their school once stood.

The monument to the school, known first as St. Helena Business and later as St. Helena Commercial, will be dedicated at Msgr. Scanlan at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 3.

The group of dedicated alums from 1964 to 1966 raised funds for the marker and contacted their fellow classmates, in the process adding contact information for roughly 250 graduates of St. Helena Business from the school to the Msgr. Scanlan High School development office.

Karen Gennarelli, Scanlan's director of development, said she had long sought to add graduates from the St. Helena Business/Commercial High School to the alumni database, but few were ever added because during most of its existence it was really considered a separate entity.

"For whatever reason, the business school students...were treated differently from other students," she said, explaining that the students were not given the respect they deserve by being included as Scanlan alumni after the school closed.

They were kept mostly separate from students in the boys and girls high schools, which later became the coeducational Msgr. Scanlan, who were on a college prep track.

The business school was seen mostly as a work force ready curriculum, and in the 1960s, they were not expected to attend college, though many eventually did.

"The work that these gentlemen have done added 250 names to our (alumni) database," said Gennarelli, adding "They have been most successful in their endeavors, and we are now getting phone calls every day about the business school."

The effort was spearheaded by Bob Louittit, who lamented the loss of regular reunions after 2002.

He put together a team that came to included business school alumni James Appollo, Roy Casse, Fred Driehl, Jerry Kroner, Kevin O'Kane and Bob Spinichia.

"When I called them up and told them what I wanted to do, they didn't need to be convinced," said Louittit. "Everybody had the same

reaction -- 'let's do this,' --because everybody loved the place."

Driehl recalled his experience at the business school as a formative one, and credited a teacher and principal, Sister Jean Thomas.

"Sister Jean Thomas was a unique person," said Driehl. "She was a young nun at the time who was the original tough love practitioner, and held everyone to a high standard, but at the same time pushed everyone to achieve at higher levels than we had set (as goals) for ourselves."

The group chose to honor Sister Jean Thomas with a holiday dinner recently and again at a school function in May.

The dedication of the memorial should mark a rebirth of the St. Helena Business/Commercial High School's alumni effort.

It will be situated near a group of buildings that once housed the former high school on the Msgr. Scanlan campus in Throggs Neck. It will be made of granite.

"We felt that there should be some memorial at the location that states that the school was there," said Louittit.

Anyone who is interested in attending the dedication should visit the Scanlan website, [www.scanlanhs.edu](http://www.scanlanhs.edu). Click on 'Alumni Events' and then 'Business/Commercial School Dedication.'

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Residents would like to see deer crossing signs installed along City Island Road, among other areas in Pelham Bay Park.  
Steven Goodstein / Community News Group

## Push for deer crossing signs in Pel Bay Park

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

The borough of the Bronx is deer country, or at least a proposed sign installation would suggest that.

For almost a decade, Bronx residents have been pushing for the installation of deer crossing signs on roads in Pelham Bay Park to protect the safety of both motorists and wildlife.

The deer crossing signs would provide a level of caution after two car crashes involving deer took place this past summer, according to local residents.

A NYC Department of Parks and Recreation study on the wildlife of Pelham Bay Park, conducted as recently as last December, seems to support the idea.

These studies have concluded that the deer population in the Bronx, or at least Pelham Bay Park, is increasing.

With the deer population on the rise, along with this past summer's incidents, it would seem that deer crossing signs on these roads would increase safety for everybody.

"I'm sure there were more than two incidents," said John Doyle, corresponding secretary for the City Island Civic Association, referring to the car crashes involving deer

this past summer. "When you have drivers, especially drivers not familiar with these surroundings at night, traveling well over the speed limit (35 mph), the situation can turn dangerous and deadly very quickly."

Doyle, who has been pushing for the installation of these signs since 2007, also said that Pelham Bay Park has seen an increase in coyotes.

He added that the CICA offered to pay for permanent signage on the park's roads after the DOT considered temporary signage in past years.

"When these incidents occur, the drivers won't go through their insurance or report the incident because their rates will be raised," Doyle said. "We need to get these signs installed before a fatal or serious accident occurs again."

Doyle added that it would be helpful if the signs were also stationed at the entrance of Pelham Bay Park, the Pelham Bridge and the on and off ramps of the Hutchinson River Parkway, along with City Island and Shore roads.

"The Bronx is very different from the movie stereotypes with which we are associated," said Lizbeth Gonzalez, president of the Friends of Pelham Bay Park. "Striking a deer

while driving can result in a fatality or serious injury so signage that reminds drivers to slow down is good for both the deer and drivers."

"These signs are needed, due to the increase of the deer population in Pelham Bay Park over the years," said Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. "The results of these incidents are obviously tragic for the deer but also for the driver. If signs are installed, they should be permanent - why temporary? If the deer population decreases in the next decade, then adjustments can be made."

There are currently no plans for installation of temporary or permanent deer crossing signs.

"Various studies have shown that signs that alert drivers to infrequent encounters or possible situation, such as deer crossing, do not have a consistent impact on driver behavior," a DOT spokesperson said. "In addition, support research has shown that deer crossing warning signs do not reduce deer vehicle crashes. DOT is aware of community concerns regarding deer in the area and have reminded the general public that driving at the posted speed limit gives them sufficient time to manage any wildlife interactions on the road."

## Danielle Raia named newest commander of the 45th Pct.

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The new commanding officer of the 45th Precinct always admired the strength and the helpful nature of police officers, and it drove her to join the NYPD.

Now Captain Danielle Raia, who has served in a variety of capacities in the NYPD including assisting commanding officers, narcotics and intelligence, took over command at the 45th Precinct from outgoing Deputy Inspector James McGee, who went to Bronx Borough Command.

Joining the NYPD before the 9/11 attacks, Raia has steadily risen through the ranks, being promoted to a captain in 2014 and serving as an executive officer, the second in command at a precinct, before taking over the reins several weeks ago.

"It is definitely a transition; there is a lot more to be concerned about, to handle and supervise," she said of being the 45th Precinct's commanding officer. "But it is definitely rewarding, and I am having a good time and enjoying it."

She has yet to have a bad experience, she said in an interview shortly before her first 45th Precinct Community Council meeting on Thursday, September 3, adding that working with the community was also making the experience what it is.

"It is a great community; they are very involved, which is important," said the captain. "If they need me, they can call on me at any time."

She added of her reception: "It is just a really good vibe."

Raia started as a beat cop and subsequently worked narcotics in Brooklyn's 90th Precinct in Williamburg, and was a sergeant in Richmond Hill, Queens 102nd Precinct when she was assigned to the Intelligence Division in 2006. As part of that assignment, she ran search warrants, spoke to prisoners and had confidential informants.

She was promoted to lieutenant in 2011, and served on a boroughwide anti-crime task force based in East New York, Brooklyn's 75th Precinct.

Raia is the first in her family to become a police officer, and said that she wanted to do something different than many in her family.

"I am the first in my family," said Raia, who added that as 45th Precinct com-

mander she would focus on quality-of-life complaints, including noise complaints and traffic concerns.

Then, of course, Captain Raia said that she would be focused on keeping the precinct safe and deploying resources where they are needed.

"It is definitely one of the best places in the Bronx for sure," she said, adding that one of the strengths of the command is that the public works together and contributes to their safety.

The captain appears to want to engage with the community, highlighting an open-door policy.

When asked about her philosophy of policing, she cited what many people refer to as the 'Golden Rule,' an ethic of reciprocity.

"Treat others how you would like to be treated," she said, adding "no one is above anyone else."

At her first council meeting, Raia seemed to have been well prepared, said council board member John Doyle.

"It seemed like her responses were very detailed oriented," he said of questions asked during the meeting, adding that she used 911 data and other detailed factual information.



Captain Danielle Raia is the new commanding officer of the 45th Precinct.

Community News Group / Patrick Rocchio

# Annual Orchard Beach classic car show

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A time honored Bronx classic car and motorcycle show is bound to have more than a few hearts and engines racing this year.

The 15th Annual Orchard Beach Classic Car and Motorcycle Show 2015 set for Sunday, September 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. inside the beach's parking lot.

The rain date for this show is set for Sunday, September 27.

Hosted by the East-coast Classic Car Association, this dynamic car show usually attracts thousands of people, classic cars and motorcycles, according to John Monsolino, ECCA president.

He added, there is a \$10 entry fee for each spectator, \$20 per classic car with one person and \$10 each passenger.

In addition, there is a police-escorted motorcycle run to the World Trade

Center site which is \$30 plus \$10 extra for any passenger and this price includes re-entry into the car show.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Widows and Orphans Fund and St. Jude Children's Hospital.

In addition, proceeds will also be donated to St. Mary's Children's Hospital and Little People of America, said Monsolino.

"Last year, we added a new charity, St. Jude's Children Research Hospital which we donated \$5,000 to and we will be donating to them once again this year," said Monsolino.

Sports and entertainment celebrities expected to attend this year include WCBS-FM DJ Joe Causi serving as Master of Ceremonies; the heavy metal



Spectators at last year's classic car and motorcycle show gather around to get a closer look at various eye catching cars.

Photo courtesy of John Monsolino

tribute band Kiss Alive; Showtime Dance Band performing Doo Wop and Motown hits; 'Sons of Anarchy' star Chuck Zito; comedian Victor Dibitto; cast members of the re-

ality television show, 'Jerseylicious' and other celebrities yet to be announced.

Celebrities are expected to sign autographs on one stage, with the

other stage reserved for comedic and live musical performances.

However, the real stars are the vintage autos ranging from the Ford Model T to muscle cars.

Those who attend will have the chance to fully check out and appreciate these horsepower marvels and enjoy a meet and greet with their owners.

Most notable at this year's show will be all of the Batmobiles spanning from the classic 1960s 'Batman' television show starring Adam West to those most recently featured in the top grossing 'Dark Knight' film trilogy starring Christian Bale.

This annual classic car and motorcycle show was first started in November 2001 at Orchard Beach.

The show was founded by former NYPD Highway patrol officer Joe Caldwell who worked at Ground Zero following the terrorist attacks, partnering

with Monsolino in 2005 to continue the annual show.

The Orchard Beach Classic Car and Motorcycle Show has since then become one of the most successful shows of its kind.

"It's one of the biggest one-day car shows here on the east coast and it's a great family outing which helps benefit those who are in need," said Monsolino.

"If you want to have a great day at the beach, come to the Orchard Beach Classic Car and Motorcycle Show," he added.

Disciples of the roadway beasts of yesteryear travel from New Jersey, Connecticut, New Hampshire and in some cases in trailers as far as the south to visit the annual Bronx event, shared Monsolino.

For more information, visit [www.orchardbeach-carshow.com](http://www.orchardbeach-carshow.com).

## Lt. Clesse Memorial Run/Walk set

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Community and law enforcement members will be honoring the memories of 9/11 victims and a late 49th Precinct lieutenant this Saturday.

The 49th Precinct's 14th annual Lieutenant Thomas Clesse 5K Run/Walk Commemorating 9/11 will make tracks this Saturday, September 12 at 10 a.m. from Eastchester Road to White Plains Road and back on Pelham Parkway with all proceeds to be donated to the Widows and Orphans of Fallen Police Officers Fund.

This annual event honors the memories of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks as well as the late Lieutenant Clesse who served and protected the community while working at the 49th Precinct for over 35 years before passing away from cancer in 2000.

This yearly event was created in 2001 to honor both victims of the terrorist

attacks and of the late Lieutenant Clesse who was considered by many in the precinct to be an exceptional example of a dedicated police officer willing to give his time to help others.

Sponsored by the 49th Precinct's Captain Keith Walton, 49th Precinct Community Council president Joseph Thompson and Simone Development at Hutchinson Metro Center president Joseph Kelleher, the 5K race includes under 50/over 50 male and female categories, trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, a free T-shirt as well as a free lunch provided at Gleason's Cafe located at 2040 Eastchester Road after the race for all runners and walkers.

Tickets for the 5K run/walk cost \$20 for all participants over age 13 and registration will take place this Saturday at 9 a.m. in front of the precinct's 2121 Eastchester Road location.

Those who wish to pay the entry fee using a check

are asked to make them out to '49th Precinct Club'.

As a safety precaution, the roads will be closed to everyone excluding the event's runners and walkers.

Thompson said a 5K run for children under age 13 is planned for Saturday's event.

Children under 13-years old involved in the 5K Run/Walk will receive medals for their participation and a dinner for two raffle drawing for Frankie and Johnnie's Pine Restaurant will be held during this event.

"We were all taken by surprise on 9/11 and this event helps people stay alert and remember the sacrifices these people made to save others that day," explained Thompson. "This race pays tribute to real heroes who died to save others during this tragedy and to honor those who ultimately gave their own lives so others may live."

"We've sponsored this yearly event for the past



Lieutenant Clesse (far right) with Sgt. Roger Alequin (l), Officer Charlie Ortiz, Officer Mickey Boyle, Officer Ralph Pena, Officer Mary Anne Dolphin, Officer Dean Manfredonia and Officer Patrick Durkin taken on July 1992 at the 49th Precinct's Training Room.

Photo courtesy of Mickey Boyle

few years and the Hutchinson Metro Center has a very strong, ongoing relationship with the 49th Precinct which provides great policing for the entire community," said Kelleher. "We feel it's a very worthy cause to support both 9/11 victims and our local law enforcement."

Retired 49th Club president Mickey Boyle worked alongside the late lieutenant who served as a community policing supervisor.

"He was a very selfless

guy and we used to call him a 'real cop's cop' because of how exceptional he was," said Boyle. "Clesse was all about the community and naming this race after him is a well deserved honor for him. He was a great boss and exceptional leader and we all miss him very much."

Betsy Aleman worked at the 49th Precinct's Community Affairs and was Lieutenant Clesse's partner.

"He started his ca-

reer as a cop walking the beat on the streets of Fort Apache before moving to the 32nd Precinct and eventually the 49th Precinct," said Aleman. "He never forgot where he was from and loved working in the Bronx. He was my confidant and best friend and when I met his family, I felt like I was a part of it, too."

For more information, contact the 49th Precinct Community Affairs Office at either (718) 918-2025 or (718) 918-2032.

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# Backpacks for Hope at the Bronx YMCA

On Sunday, August 30, the Children's Hope Chest partnered with the Bronx YMCA for a back-to-school event called, Backpacks for Hope.

Over the last ten years the Children's Hope Chest has been donating backpacks and supplies to Bronx YMCA Summer Camp kids, and this year, backpacks were also given to the New

York Foundation.

As a way to engage all members of the family, the kids also read aloud and signed a "Backpacks for Hope" pledge, which read:

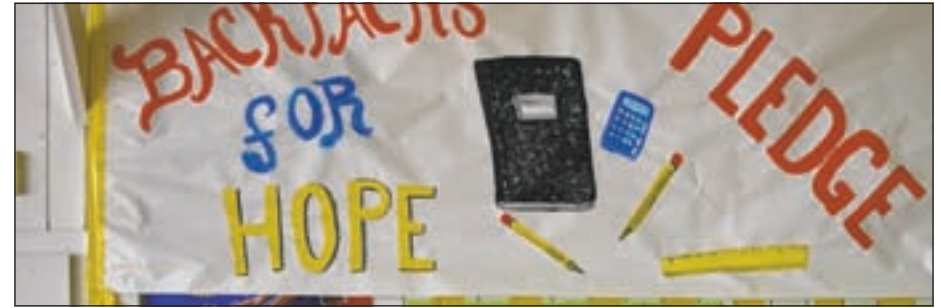
With these supplies, I pledge to do my best, in reading, math and all the rest.

I pledge to obey the rules, in my class and in my school.

I pledge to respect myself and others too.

I'll expect the best in all I do, I am here to learn all I can, to try my best and be all I am!

With distributing over 200 backpacks and supplies, it was a successful and fun event with the Children's Hope Chest as they wished the children good luck in the new school year!



Pledges were signed and pasted on to the pledge wall



Families read, discussed, and signed the pledge.



Children received folders and notebooks.

## Bronx Columbus parade grand marshal named

from Page 1

the corner of Williamsbridge Road and Lydig Avenue, said Cilento.

Being named grand marshal was a surreal moment, and a chance to show his pride in being an Italian American and that the labor movement is part of the larger community, he said.

"I am honored as an Italian American, a labor leader, and as someone who marched in that parade when I was 10 years old," said Cilento, adding "To lead this parade, all of those years later, is a remarkable honor."

Being an Italian American plays an important role in his life, said Cilento, explaining that it was important in shaping his thinking, and on placing an emphasis on family and

encouraging close communal bonds.

Cilento attended local schools: P.S. 108, I.S. 144, Christopher Columbus High School and Fordham University.

His father, Ray Cilento, was involved in his community and was a long time little league volunteer, the grand marshal said.

The elder Cilento has a street corner near where the family lived at 1144 Lydig Avenue named after him.

The parade committee selected two honorees in addition to Cilento, said Signorile.

It selected Josephine Fanelli, St. Theresa School principal, as its honorary grand marshal. The award usually goes to an educator.

She was selected for her dedication to young



Mario Cilento, president of the New York State AFL-CIO, has been selected as the grand marshal of the 2015 Bronx Columbus Parade.

Photo courtesy of the New York State AFL-CIO

people, and also because she helped judge the Miss Columbus entrants for last year's parade, the coordinator said.

"Josephine goes



Josephine Fanelli

Photo courtesy of St. Theresa School

above and beyond," said Signorile, adding that many educators are not fully appreciated for all they do on a daily basis to educate and protect children.

Fanelli is the recently-elected president of the Forum of Italian American Educators.

She has 28 years of

experience with Archdiocese of New York schools.

"I was delighted and honored to be the honorary grand marshal," said Fanelli. "I am following the footsteps of my former superintendent, Roseann Carotenuto, who was my mentor and role model for the past eight years that I have been principal."

For the parade's business award, Signorile said it would go to Joseph Lucchese of Joseph A. Lucchese Funeral Home at 726 Morris Park Avenue.

"He was chosen because he is a professional and a community-oriented person," said Signorile of Lucchese. "When I need something, he is always the person who steps forward."

Signorile added that the parade's annual dinner dance would be on Sunday, September 27 from 3 to 9 p.m. at Maestro's Caterers. Tickets for the event are \$85.



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