



MYRTLE AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

62-14 MYRTLE AVENUE • GLENDALE, NY 11385
718-381-7974 • 718-366-3806 • Fax: 718-381-7080
E-mail: MyrtleBID@gmail.com website: www.Ridgewood-NY.com

FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT 7-1-20 to 6-30-21



Sanitation & Safety Are #1

- The BID cleaning crew works 7 am - 3 pm daily
- Street benches, parking meters are sanitized for your safety
- DOS Corner basket pick-up is now done 4-7 days a week
- Power-Washing & Painting-Over Graffiti is a top priority
- The BID is always in contact with the NYPD & 104th Pct. to keep on top of problems & quality of life issues in the BID

Myrtle Ave. Businesses Are Back! *We Need Your Support!*

- Support all of our stores who survived COVID 19!
- New businesses are opening every day
- The BID is working with landlords & local real estate brokers to bring new stores to the BID



MYRTLE AVENUE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY RIDGEWOOD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION I -- REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2021

Supplemental Sanitation Services

The program service for supplemental sanitation began in December 1988. During the past year Streetplus Inc. has provided year-round service with two workers sweeping the sidewalks, curbside and plaza areas of the Myrtle Avenue BID. Sweeping services are provided on a continuous basis from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days a week. Litter baskets are lined with clear plastic liners. On snow days the crew clears a path on each of the four pedestrian plazas and all corner sidewalk ramps and then spread calcium chloride.

The NYC Dept. of Sanitation services the BID's custom litter baskets regularly 7 days a week with additional basket service on Friday and Saturday afternoon. The BID maintains a regular dialog with the local Community Board and the District Superintendent to ensure the best level of service delivery to the BID district especially conditions that need immediate attention

PLEASE NOTE: These supplemental sanitation services do not release the merchants/and or property owners from their responsibility regarding enforcement of the NYC Sanitation Code and in particular their responsibility for sweeping the sidewalk and 18" curbside.

The BID voluntarily participates in the NYC Mayor's Office of Operations Scorecard Program which monitors the cleanliness of sidewalk and curbside street conditions on a monthly basis and reports on them quarterly.

Graffiti Removal

During 2020-2021 the Myrtle Avenue BID retained the services of StreetPlus to clean off and/or paint over graffiti on roll-down gates, light poles, mail boxes and doors in the BID. The Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation, another local non-profit organization removed graffiti on unpainted surfaces with high pressure machines (and provided some additional painting).

Beautification

Venditti Square, 71st Avenue Plaza and the Catalpa Avenue planters are maintained by The Horticultural Society of New York with seasonal plantings. Street Plus waters and cleans the plazas daily. Street Plus also removes weeds in our 250 curbside street trees in the BID District.

Streetscape Improvements

Brick Repair

Subsequent to the District Plan amendment, approved by the City Council, Section 7-210 of the New York City Administrative Code of 2003, the law was changed to hold the abutting owner to the sidewalk responsible for maintaining the sidewalk “in a reasonably safe condition”. (Maintenance not only of the sidewalk but of the decorative brick pavers as well, is the sole responsibility of the abutting property owners).

Benches

In addition to the 44 benches already on the avenue in front of businesses, the BID installs new benches in front of businesses that have requested them (unless restrictions apply e.g. too close to a bus stop). The BID also replaces any broken benches in the BID.

Security Services

The Myrtle Avenue District Management Association maintains an ongoing dialog with the commander of the 104th Precinct, Community Affairs, Crime Prevention, Anti-Crime and all other units when the need arises and there are dedicated foot patrols in the BID. The DMA may hold special meetings to address issues and problems when necessary. Monitoring crime patterns and service delivery continues to be a primary priority of the Myrtle Avenue District Management Association. The DMA further maintains an ongoing dialog with the District Manager of Community Board #5 and has a relationship with Community Board # 4 in Brooklyn (Bushwick) since the Myrtle Avenue BID ends at the Brooklyn border.

Marketing & Promotion

The Myrtle Avenue BID sponsored special events, giveaways and coordinated advertising for promotional periods. Participants in the Marketing and Promotion Program distribute flyers, sale cards and surveys to Myrtle Avenue businesses and collect gift certificates for Lucky Shopper raffles. Participants also coordinate the Annual Meeting mailing as well as the Employee Discount Card Program.

During FY 2020-2021 there were no sale days, street festivals or Holiday events due to COVID 19.

The BID sent out postcards, Constant Contact e-notices, and placed ads in local papers, regarding the holiday music, open stores etc. Flyers were distributed to local civic organizations, libraries, social centers etc. Information about BID activities was also shared on Facebook and Twitter.

Holiday Entertainment

Instrumental holiday music provided by Sound on the Run was played from speakers on Myrtle Avenue light poles (from Fresh Pond Rd to Wyckoff Ave) from the day after Thanksgiving until Dec. 25th. Live holiday music was provided by the NYC Brass Entourage on three Saturdays during December.

Holiday Lighting

Holiday Lights were installed along Myrtle Avenue and side streets by Illuminations by Arnold, Inc. Decorations (evergreen trees, bells, menorahs) were placed on 26 light poles in addition to 25 arches with poinsettias, bells, and assorted designs. Two signs that read “Myrtle Avenue BID” in the form of our logo were put at both ends of the avenue. All of those decorations were created with ropelights.

Plaza Activities

Youthmarket

The Myrtle Avenue BID served the community by working with GrowNYC and Make the Road to hold the Youthmarket at the Ridgewood Veterans Triangle. The Youthmarket operated from July 25th to November 21st, 2020, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. rain or shine at Myrtle & Cypress Avenues. The Myrtle Avenue Youthmarket was the most successful Youthmarket in the city last year based on produce sold and revenue collected.

The BID is one of approx. thirty neighborhoods in the city that have Greenmarkets and Youthmarkets. Greenmarkets and Youthmarkets not only help small farmers but introduce a wide array of fresh produce, breads and other items to local residents. The Youthmarket is a collaborative effort of GrowNYC, the community partners, parents, teachers and volunteers providing the skills and experience to a small number of local students to work in a greenmarket environment.

Make Music NYC

On June 21, 2021 Make Music NY was presented in a virtual format for anyone interested in participating due to COVID 19.

Website

The BID's website www.Ridgewood-NY.com, is a joint venture of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District and the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation. It includes information about the BID, outlines all Sales, Events and Programs and provides a list of current businesses in the BID, new businesses and vacancies. The BID provides an updated list of the current Board of Directors, Annual Report, Budget, Financial Statements and more. In FY 2022 the BID website will be completed with new features added as well as additional social media.

Administration

The District Management Association continues to retain the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation, the officially designated economic development agency for Ridgewood, as its management agent. The RLDC houses the Myrtle Avenue BID and provides expertise in the areas of economic development, planning and project management as well as administrative services. The RLDC continued to provide technical and program support to the Myrtle Avenue DMA with regard to marketing and promotion programs. This will again include, but not be limited to, special events, coordinated advertising, holiday lighting and other projects.

Programs Goals in FY 2021

The Myrtle Avenue BID continued to enhance its programs and focused on the following top goals in FY 2021:

1. New York City Plaza Program

The BID continued to work with New York City Department of Transportation as we move forward with the 71st Ave Plaza. The 71st Avenue Plaza has reclaimed the underutilized slip road between Stephen Street and Myrtle Avenue to improve safety, maintain operations for adjacent businesses, and provide enhanced public open space for residents and shoppers. The Horticultural Society provided horticultural services and StreetPlus Company provided ongoing maintenance of our plazas to insure a clean and pleasant environment for our plazas and planting areas. Please note: there were no programs or entertainment at any plazas due to the pandemic.

2. Ridgewood Farmstand

The BID has been one of approx. thirty neighborhoods in the city that have Greenmarkets. The BID began a joint partnership with the Youthmarket, which is a collaborative effort of GrowNYC, the community partners, parents, teachers and volunteers providing the skills and experience to a small number of local students to work in a greenmarket environment. The greenmarket venture is located at the Ridgewood Veterans Triangle at Myrtle & Putnam Avenue.

The Myrtle Avenue BID program has been rated the top Youthmarket in the city for produce sold for the past eleven out of twelve years. Local students operated the stand once again when it returned in July 2020 at the same location. There were cooking demonstrations to promote cooking fresh & local. The BID will enhance the program by adding musical performances.

3. Business Attraction

The BID continued to develop its retail recruitment strategies. The ultimate goal will be a better retail mix to better serve the BID businesses and residents. The BID continued to outreach to local realtors and property owners and work with owners and stakeholders. It will also continue to update the information on its business database and website information regarding new properties and available properties in the BID. Currently, the BID vacancy rate is between 6-7%.

4. COVID-19 Outreach

The BID updated merchants, property owners and shoppers weekly with information about COVID-19, and e-mailing and posting on social media information from city and state agencies regarding testing sites, vaccines, city and state programs and financial assistance. Over 35,000 masks were distributed to businesses in the BID and surrounding areas. Thermometers were distributed to restaurants, hair/nail salons and various other businesses.

SECTION II -- LOOKING AHEAD

FISCAL YEAR 2022 GOALS

1. New York City Plaza Program

The BID will continue to work with New York City Department of Transportation as we move forward with this plaza. The 71st Avenue Plaza has reclaimed the underutilized slip road between Stephen Street and Myrtle Avenue to improve safety, maintain operations for adjacent businesses, and provide enhanced public open space for residents and shoppers. Horticultural Society will provide landscaping, horticultural and ongoing maintenance of our plazas. They work along with the BID's partner StreetPlus Company ensuring a clean and pleasant environment for our plazas and planting areas. The BID plans to continue to host a variety of events at the 71st Avenue Plaza (and the Ridgewood Veteran's Triangle) throughout the year. Venditti Square/Plaza will be closed until 2023 due to the Ridgewood Tower Project.

2. Ridgewood Farmstand

Since July 2008 the BID has been one of approx. thirty neighborhoods in the city that have Greenmarkets and Youthmarkets. The BID began a joint partnership with the Youthmarket which is a collaborative effort of GrowNYC, the community partners, parents, teachers and volunteers providing the skills and experience to a small number of local students to work in a greenmarket environment. The greenmarket venture has been located at the Ridgewood Veterans Triangle at Myrtle & Putnam Avenue.

The Myrtle Avenue BID program has been rated the top Youthmarket in the city for produce sold for the past twelve out of thirteen years. Local students will operate the stand once again when it returns in July 2021 at the same location. There will also be cooking demonstrations to promote cooking fresh & local. The BID will enhance the program by adding musical performances.

3. Business Attraction

The BID will continue to develop its retail recruitment strategies. The ultimate goal will be a better retail mix to better serve the BID businesses and residents. The BID will continue to outreach to local realtors and property owners and work with owners and stakeholders. It will also continue to update the information on its business database and website information regarding new properties and available properties in the BID.

4. Myrtle Avenue BID Expansion

Continue to look at the feasibility of expanding the Myrtle Avenue BID particularly along the Brooklyn/Queens border where much development is taking place. The BID will continue to foster dialog with property owners and other stakeholders. The BID will look at other adjacent blocks in the BID as well for possible expansion as well as expansion on Fresh Pond Rd from Myrtle Avenue to Metropolitan Avenue.

5. Façade Improvement

The BID will continue to outreach to other property owners and merchants to promote the importance of restoring commercial storefront facades and the upper stories including the cornices (if applicable). Historic restoration improves the general appearance and aesthetics of the district creating a more appealing shopping environment. The BID is working with the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Association and the Community Board to explore the benefits of creating a National Register Historic District for portions of the Myrtle Avenue BID.

Section III. Organizational Information

Board of Directors

Class A

Herman Hochberg
Chairman/President

Maurice Derzie

Peter J. Aigner
Treasurer

Nick Sciortino

Antonetta Binanti
Secretary

Giovanni Mistretta

Gary Protass
Sharyn Protass (Alternate)

Paola Asaro

Property Owners

59-03 71st Avenue
Ridgewood, N.Y. 11385
(718) 821-1500

4524 Jayson Avenue
Great Neck, NY 11020
516-448-6223
60-33/35 Myrtle Avenue

29 Viola Drive
Glen Cove, NY 11542
516-676-1922
60-41 Myrtle Avenue

Pants Pantry
57-22 Myrtle Avenue
Ridgewood, NY 11385
(718) 821-1243

Rudy's Bakery & Cafe
905 Seneca Avenue
Ridgewood, NY 11385
(718) 821-5890

87-38 79th Avenue
Glendale, NY 11385
(718) 849-8923
59-10 Myrtle Avenue

Sneaker Stadium/Royal Leather
60-73/75 Myrtle Avenue
718-456-5800

Agenzia Italian Travel
60-89 Myrtle Avenue
Ridgewood, NY 11385
718-821-4660 x 114

Stanley Epstein

79-22 215th Street
Hollis Hills, NY 11364
917-575-8989
57-20 Myrtle Avenue

Class B

Valarie Wornian
Alan Wornian (Alternate)

Commercial Tenant
E & J Cards & Gifts
56-22 Myrtle Avenue
Ridgewood, NY 11385
718-456-9156

John Contento

Ridgewood Eats
903 Seneca Avenue
Ridgewood, NY 11385
718-366-3287

Class C

Roman Barroso

Residential Tenant
905 Seneca Avenue
Ridgewood, NY 11385
718-386-3176

Class D

Office of the Mayor
NYC Dept of Small Business Services
Representative

Government Officials
Hon. Bill De Blasio
Hon. Jonnel Doris, Commissioner
Stephen Lee, Senior Development Manager
Morgan Geraghty, Project Manager

Office of the Comptroller
Representative

Hon. Scott Stringer
Haris Khan , Community Liaison

Office of the Borough President
Representative

Hon. Donovan Richards
Shurn Anderson, Director, Economic Development
John Perricone, Special Assistant for Economic
Development

City Council Member
Representative

Hon. Antonio Reynoso
Jennifer Gutierrez, Community Organizer
Asher Freeman, Community Organizer

Class E

Community Board #5

Non-Voting Members
Gary Giordano, District Manager
Vincent Arcuri, Chairman

City Council Member
Representative

Hon. Robert Holden
Daniel Kurzyna, Chief of Staff

BID SERVICES

SANITATION

\$155,350

Sidewalk & curbside sweeping 7 days a week,
One additional manual worker for weekends during
select months. Anti-Graffiti program as needed.

SECURITY

\$3,800

The BID will continue to work closely with the 104th
Precinct. Other program considerations may include
development of a crime prevention brochure for
merchants and property owners and a security
seminar with experts from the NYC Police Dept.
BID will investigate security cameras.

BEAUTIFICATION

\$10,000

Maintenance, landscaping, weeding & watering plaza
areas

STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

\$1,000

Benches, brick repairs in plaza areas only, benches
& other improvements throughout the BID

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

\$37,322

Illuminated decorations on 16 light poles, 24 lighted
arches along Myrtle Ave. at various locations & 2
Myrtle Avenue BID signs at Wyckoff and Myrtle &
Fresh Pond Road and Myrtle.

MARKETING & PROMOTION

\$110,250

Supports sales promotions, ad books & events
including Youth Farm Market, Street Fairs, Holiday
Events & other marketing & promotion strategies.

ADMINISTRATION

\$191,625

Staff, rent, utilities, supplies, insurance, audit and
other related OTPS (Liability Insurance costs approx.
\$23,492)

GROWNYC



RIDGEWOOD FARMSTAND

Cypress Ave btw Myrtle & Putnam Aves | Queens

At This Farmstand

Buy fresh,
locally-grown
vegetables,
fruits, eggs,
honey, bread,
and more.

SATURDAYS

8:30AM - 3:00PM

JUL 25 - NOV 21



EBT

Cash, SNAP/EBT, credit, debit, FMNP
checks and Health Bucks accepted.

SNAP/EBT Users — for every \$5 you spend, get a \$2 bonus.

Follow Us  

gownyc.org





BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

62-14 Myrtle Avenue
Ridgewood/Glendale NY 11385
718-381-7974

Myrtle Avenue

Holiday Savings

Every Day of the Week



Shop
Myrtle Avenue
from Wyckoff Ave. to
Fresh Pond Rd.
& Enjoy Our
Holiday Lights
& Music until
December 31st.

LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC BY NYC BRASS ENTOURAGE

STROLLING ON MYRTLE AVENUE
IN THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
DECEMBER 12 & DECEMBER 19
12 - 2 PM



*Have a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*



Visit our website: www.ridgewood-ny.com

For Latest Business List, New Stores,
Open Restaurant Program,
Open Storefront Program,
2021 Calendar of Events and More!



Use our Myrtle Avenue Store Directory
(see back) to find new stores or old favorites.





NYC Brass Entourage performed holiday music on Myrtle Avenue in December

MYRTLE AVE



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
SHOW YOUR LOVE SHOP LOCAL**



Take Advantage Of Special Values In All Myrtle Avenue Stores
And Adjacent Side Streets From Wyckoff Avenue to Fresh Pond Road

**Over
300 STORES**
FEATURING:
Quality Merchandise
Incredible Savings
Personal Service

**Support our Restaurants !
Featuring 25% Indoor Dining -
Starts Feb. 12th
Open Restaurants Outdoor Dining -
Weather Permitting**



**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
SHOP MYRTLE AVENUE AND**

\$AVE

SPONSORED BY:

MYRTLE AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
62-14 MYRTLE AVENUE, GLENDALE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1-718-366-3806 or 1-718-381-7974

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

THE RIDGEWOOD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP.





MYRTLE AVE. BID RIDGEWOOD

Take Advantage of Special Values in All Myrtle Avenue Stores!



FEBRUARY IS RESTAURANT MONTH!

SUPPORT OUR ALL MYRTLE AVENUE BID RESTAURANTS!

- 25% Indoor Dining capacity • Open Restaurants • Outdoor Dining (Weather permitting)

Open Restaurant Program Features: OUTDOOR DINING YEAR-ROUND

Restaurants/Cafes with an asterisk (*) serve alcohol

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| - Bamboo Tropical | - Cream Restaurant | - Listo el Chimi |
| - Burrito Republic | - El Dorado Restaurant | - L'tauha Restaurant |
| - Cantina 33 | - El Montanero Bakery & Café | - McDonald's |
| - Chiquita's Restaurant | - Fajitas Sunrise | - Mirch Mood |
| - Corato II Restaurant | - Gory's Place | - Rico Pollo |
| - Pizzeria | - International Coffee Shop | - Ridgewood Ale House |
| - Coyote Bohemio | - Joe & John's Pizzeria | - Rudy's Bakery & Café |
| - Craft Culture | | - San Remo Pizzeria |
| | | - Tasty Diner |

OVER 300 STORES!
FEATURING:
Quality Merchandise
Incredible Savings
Personal Service

Menu

ENJOY A
GREAT MEAL
AND SHOP
'TIL YOU DROP!
SUPPORT YOUR
COMMUNITY
AND
\$AVE!

SPONSORED BY:

62-14 MYRTLE AVENUE, RIDGEWOOD / GLENDALE, NY 11385

For more information Call: 718-366-3806 or 718-381-7974

Program support provided by The Ridgewood Local Development Corp.



MYRTLE AVENUE SAVINGS

EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK!

Shop the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District

(Myrtle Avenue & adjacent side streets from Wyckoff Avenue to Fresh Pond Road)

- FIND SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE FOR -

Mother's Day



May 9th

Celebrate National Small Business Week!

**Support all of our 300 Myrtle Avenue Retail Stores,
Restaurants and Service Establishments**

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE NURSES
for all the work they do to keep us healthy & safe!

FALL STREET FESTIVAL

**Sunday, September 26th,
12-6 pm**

Myrtle Ave from Wyckoff Ave to Forest Ave.

PENDING CITY APPROVAL

RIDGEWOOD FARM STAND

Every Saturday

**July 10th - Nov 20th,
8 am-3 pm**

Cypress & Myrtle Aves

Visit the Ridgewood website: www.ridgewood.ny.com

Myrtle Avenue BID Store Directory • About the BID • BID Sales & Events

For more information, call the Myrtle Avenue BID AT 718-381-7974

*Allied Veterans Memorial Committee of Ridgewood & Glendale NY
Inc.*



Cordially invites you to the

83rd Annual Memorial Day Ceremonies

Monday, May 31, 2021

*11am start at Glendale Veterans Triangle
Myrtle Avenue and Cooper Avenue*

Immediately following: Ceremony at

*Ridgewood Veterans Triangle
Myrtle Avenue and Cypress Avenue*

A year of taking care of BIDness

Biz organizations report vacancy rates have returned to normal

by Max Parrott
Associate Editor

The post-Covid business resurgence is underway in southwestern Queens.

Executives of business improvement districts in the north and south of Forest Park said that though many had expected catastrophic losses during the peak of the pandemic, their vacancy rates have stayed largely consistent a year later.

Myrtle Avenue BID Executive Ted Renz said that though between 65 and 70 percent of the businesses had to temporarily close down during the peak of lockdown, a year later the vacancy rate for the district has returned to 7 percent — almost exactly what it was prior to quarantine.

In the course of the pandemic, the BID lost 30 businesses, Renz said. And while the cultural loss of a familiar eatery or retailer is often incalculable, Renz said turnaround for the vacant properties was much faster than he would have imagined. In their place, 30 more have opened up over the past year.

“As a business closed, a new business came in.”

— Ted Renz, of the Myrtle Avenue BID

“It was throughout the pandemic here and there, as a business closed, a new business came in,” Renz said.

A similar narrative has played out along the Woodhaven BID area on Jamaica Avenue, where not only have many restaurants proven their hardiness, but new storefronts have sprouted in vacant properties at a fast clip.

The businesses are so incredibly resilient,” said Raquel Olivares, the Woodhaven BID’s executive director.

While the commercial strip’s elevated subway line and limited street and sidewalk space were not as conducive to outdoor dining over the summer as the environment of other neighborhoods was, most of the BID’s restaurants began relying predominantly on the takeout. With restaurant owners by far the most affected on the strip, Olivares described with pride how many were able to adapt and stay alive by completely changing their menus in order to cater to the new restrictions.

She added that about five restaurants that committed to outdoor dining and built up



Ted Renz and Raquel Olivares, executive directors of business improvement districts in Ridge-wood and Woodhaven, respectively, say new business openings have kept up with the rate of pandemic-related closures over the past year.

sidewalk structures have kept them in place, with no immediate plans to downsize the new seating arrangements.

“For them, it’s a win win,” Olivares said. The appearance of the new structures created a need for BIDs to act as a liaison between the Department of Transportation and restaurants.

“We walked the district and talked with businesses to prevent them from getting tickets — like what distance from the street do tables need to be?” said Olivares.

Last May, Olivares told the Chronicle that she had begun tallying reopenings in order to keep residents aware as businesses began to resume business during quarantine. As of May 2020, nearly two-thirds of businesses were still closed down, according to Olivares’ biweekly reporting. Though she did not have exact numbers to provide the Chronicle as of Monday, Olivares said the vacancy rate had returned to prepandemic levels.

Olivares and Renz said that their BIDs’ weekly newsletters began to see greater readership over the past year, for both lists of new businesses and reopenings as well as up-to-date information about the city and state’s phased-in approach to easing restrictions on restaurants, bars and other types of businesses.

Renz also described his role as an envoy between city agencies and the district’s businesses, but said he was focused on making sure that shops had a plentiful stock of personal protective equipment. In all, the BID coordinated with the Department of Small Business Services to hand out over 35,000 masks to businesses.

He and Olivares both described an uptick in graffiti within their districts, which raised concerns that for them that it would deter food traffic by giving off the perception of an increase in street crime.

“So we spent considerably more money on that because of that vandalism issue,” Renz said.



COURTESY PHOTO, LEFT: FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL SHAIN

In addition to vandalism, Olivares said that the BID had to make a concerted effort to fight a surge in illegal dumping along Jamaica Avenue. When the city cut \$106 million from the Sanitation Department’s budget last June, it reduced pickups for public litter baskets in neighborhoods around the city. Queens West 9 Sanitation garage, which covers Woodhaven, had to reduce its pickups along the Jamaica Avenue business corridor from seven days a week to around three, and the trash began piling up.

In response, the BID has regularly organized volunteer cleanups along Jamaica Avenue for the past year.

Overall Olivares expressed her gratitude for Woodhaven’s electeds and civic organizations like the Woodhaven Cultural and Historical Society and the Woodhaven Residents’ Block Association, which have continued to partner with the BID to promote cultural events like the Make Music New York concert it held on Monday, which brought dozens of patrons out to the strip’s central plaza.

“Having their support made it much easier,” she said.



FILE PHOTO BY MAX PARROTT
Two volunteers clean up Jamaica Avenue during an event the Woodhaven BID organized in August.

Italian Atmosphere **II PUNTO** RESTAURANT
in the Theatre District
Times Square Area

We're Open For Fine Dining!
Indoor and Outside Dining!

DINNER STARTS AT 4:00 PM

Closed Tuesdays
Major Credit Cards Accepted
Visit us on: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

CALL NOW FOR RESERVATIONS
212.244.0088
507 9th Ave. Corner of 38th Street
inquiries@ilpuntorestaurant.com