

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 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

7-1-22 to 6-30-23





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

ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION I -- REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2023

Supplemental Sanitation Services

The program service for supplemental sanitation began in December 1988. During the past year, StreetPlus Company 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 custom gray 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 Tuesday and Friday afternoons 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. 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.

Graffiti Removal

During 2022-2023 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 additional painting on gates and walls that were previously painted.

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 plantings and cleans the plazas daily. Street Plus also removes weeds in more than 250 curbside street trees in the BID District.

Streetscape Improvements

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 2022-2023 there were ten sale days and three street festivals held within the BID. The BID sent out postcards, Constant Contact e-notices, and placed ads in local papers, regarding the holiday and other events. Flyers/posters were distributed to local civic organizations, libraries, social centers etc. Information about BID activities was also shared on Facebook and Twitter.

Holiday Entertainment

Live holiday music was provided by the NYC Brass Entourage on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26th. BID staff and volunteers distributed Holiday Savings flyers, Myrtle Ave BID store directories and givea-a-ways (BID pens, memo pads, jar openers, clips etc.). Stuffed animals and free art balloons were given out to children as part of the festivities.

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 17 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

Ridgewood Farmstand

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 Ridgewood Farmstand operated from July 16th to November 19th, 2022, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. rain or shine at Myrtle & Cypress Avenues. Once again, the Myrtle Avenue Youthmarket was one of the most successful Youthmarkets in the city last year based on produce sold and revenue collected.

The BID is one of many 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 with GrowNYC, community partners, parents, teachers and volunteers providing the skills and experience to a small number of local students to work in a greenmarket environment.

Street Festivals

Joe Fuoco Music Center performed at the 71st Ave Plaza during the two Myrtle Avenue Street Festivals on September 25th and April 23rd.

Other Entertainment

Tribute Artist Lamar Peters performed Elvis hits and everyone's favorite oldies at the 71st Ave Plaza on September 18th and was back by popular demand on May 21st. A Dia de los Muertos event was hosted by Burrito Republic and the Academia de Mariachi Nuevo Amanecer performed mariachi music at the 71st Plaza on October 29th. They also recently performed for Cinco de Mayo. The Bindlestiff Cirkus put on a show at the 71st Ave Plaza on October 28th courtesy of the NYC Department of Transportation. Due to the construction of the Ridgewood Tower no events were held at Venditti Square in FY23.

Make Music NY

Make Music NY was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at the 71st Avenue Plaza. There were music performances by Ken Voisin, the Traveling Jewburys, Velo de Oza and Joe Fuoco's Music Center, The event promotes free music performances throughout NYC to celebrate the summer solstice every year on June 21st.

Website

The BID website was created by Brooklyn, Queens Tech Services. It includes information about the BID, all Sale Events and Programs, a list of current businesses in the BID, new businesses and vacancies. The BID site also has an updated list of the current Board of Directors, Annual Report, Budget, Financial Statements and more.

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 2023

The Myrtle Avenue BID continued to enhance its programs and focused on the following top goals in FY 2023:

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 Street Plus Company provided ongoing maintenance of our plazas to insure a clean and pleasant environment for our plazas and planting areas.

2. Ridgewood Farmstand

The BID has been one of many neighborhoods in the city that have Greenmarkets. In 2008 the BID began a joint partnership with the Youthmarket, 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 Youthmarket is located at the Ridgewood Veterans Triangle at Myrtle & Cypress Avenue every Saturday from July through November

The Myrtle Avenue BID program has been rated one of the top Youthmarkets in the city for produce sold for the past fourteen years. Local students will operate the stand once again when it returns in July 2023 at the same location. There are cooking demonstrations to promote cooking fresh & local. The BID will enhance the program by adding musical performances and/or other vendors.

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. Myrtle Avenue Expansion

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 also begin a dialog with merchants and property owners along the Fresh Pond Road commercial corridor who have expressed an interest in exploring the formation of a BID.

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. Eligible properties along Myrtle Ave in Ridgewood and Fresh Pond Road were recently added to the state and national Register of Historic Places. This designation makes owners of these properties eligible to apply for Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit programs. For the last few years the BID has been working with the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation (GRRC) the group that spearheaded this recent designation.

SECTION II -- LOOKING AHEAD FISCAL YEAR 2024 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 many 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 one of the top Youthmarkets in the city for produce sold for the past fourteen years. Local students will operate the stand once again when it returns in July 2023 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 and other events.

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.

Section III. Organizational Information

FY 23 Board of Directors

Class A

Property Owners

Herman Hochberg

Chairman/President

150 E. 69th Street

New York City, N.Y. 10021

917-701-6677

59-03 Myrtle Avenue

Peter J. Aigner

Treasurer

7 Pine Park Avenue Bayville, NY 11709

516-676-1922

60-41 Myrtle Avenue

Nick Sciortino

Pants Pantry

57-22 Myrtle Avenue Ridgewood, NY 11385

(718) 821-1243

Antonetta Binanti

Secretary

Rudy's Bakery & Cafe 905 Seneca Avenue

Ridgewood, NY 11385

(718) 821-5890

Giovanni Mistretta

87-38 79th Avenue Glendale, NY 11385

(718) 849-8923

59-10 Myrtle Avenue

Gary Protass

Sharyn Protass (Alternate)

Sneaker Stadium/Royal Leather

60-73/75 Myrtle Avenue

718-456-5800

Paola Asaro

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

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. Eric Adams

Hon. Kevin D. Kim, Commissioner

Julio J. Martinez, Senior Program Manager

Morgan Geraghty, Project Manager

Office of the Comptroller

Representative

Hon. Brad Lander

James Mongeluzo, Queens Borough Director

Bureau of Public Affairs

Office of the Borough President

Representative

Hon. Donovan Richards, Jr.

Shurn Anderson, Director, Economic Development

John Perricone, Special Assistant for Economic

Development

City Council Member

Representative

Hon. Jennifer Gutierrez

Juan Mayancela, BID Representative

Ridewood & Bushwick 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



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Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Approved Budget

Income	
BID Assessment	\$507,676
NYC DOT Equity Grant	40,000
NYS Legislative Grant*	25,000
Interest	<u>350</u>
	\$573,026

Expenses	
Sanitation	\$160,380
Security	3,800
Beautification	15,000
Streetscape Improvements	2,000
Holiday Lights	52,850
Marketing & Promotion	100,775
Administration/OTPS	<u>201,736</u>
	\$536,541

^{*}Funding from former Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan. FY23 (\$25,412) & FY24 (\$36,485)) surplus funds will cover any additional expenses and/or new programs.



BID SERVICES

SANITATION

\$160,380

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.

BEAUTIFICATION

\$15,000

Maintenance, landscaping, weeding & watering plaza areas. Pest control for the 71st Ave Plaza & the Catalpa Ave planter. Venditti Square is closed until The Ridgewood Tower Project is completed. It is expected to be open to the public sometime in August.

STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

\$2,000

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

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

\$52,850

Illuminated decorations on 17 light poles, 25 lighted arches along Myrtle Ave. at various locations & 2 Myrtle Avenue BID signs at Wyckoff and Myrtle & Fresh Pond Road and Myrtle.

MARKETING & PROMOTION

\$100.775

Supports sales promotions & events including the Ridgewood Farmstand, Street Fairs, Holiday Events & other marketing & promotion strategies.

ADMINISTRATION

\$201,736

Staff, rent, utilities, supplies, insurance, audit and other related OTPS. Insurance costs approx. \$25,166.

Funding Received in FY 2023

Multi-Modal Funding from New York State \$450,000

The Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District was a recipient of a \$450,000 grant sourced by Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan to add historic M-poles to areas within the BID which now have silver cobra head light poles. These funds will be administered through the NYC Department of Transportation on behalf of the BID. It will bring more uniformity to the district and match the black M-poles that DOT already installed on Myrtle Avenue between Wykcoff Avenue and Fresh Pond Road.

Small BID Support Grant Program NYC Department of Small Business Services \$50,000

In 2008 the NYC Economic Development Corporation completed a Streetscape Improvement Project in the Myrtle Avenue BID which included 22 historic marker signs placed on NYC historic M-poles.

Over the years they have faded from the sunlight, started peeling and/or have been damaged in other ways. These historic marker signs are a reminder of the historic flavor of Ridgewood and Myrtle Avenue which straddles one of the largest Federal, State and NYC landmarked districts. Last year, the Myrtle Avenue properties within the Myrtle Avenue BID were added to the Federal Historic Register as well.

Also, as part of this Streetscape Improvement Project 5 historic information signs were installed in four plazas and at the Myrtle/Wyckoff Transit Hub. Three of these signs were vandalized. With this grant we were able to replace all of these signs.

We also used these funds to place banners within the BID district, also promoting a historic theme with the message to Shop, Dine and Stroll in the Myrtle Avenue BID.

Additionally, we also utilized these funds to add more music entertainment at the 71st Ave. Plaza and pay for the All City Marching Band in the Annual Ridgewood/Glendale Memorial Day Parade.

All signs and banners will be installed by June 30, 2023

Ridgewood Farmstand returns to Myrtle



Runs every Saturday until Nov. 19

BY JESSICA MEDITZ

jmeditz@queensledger.com

munities often visit Myrtle
Avenue for its fashion boutiques,
discount stores, or unique food
and beverage shops.
However, the Myrtle Avenue
BID, Ridgewood LDC, and
GrowNYC are once again providing locals with accessible,
affordable fresh produce and
groceries right in their backyard

Residents of Ridgewood, Glen-

dale and the surrounding com-

Formerly known as the Ridgewood Youthmarket, the Ridgewood Farmstand operates at the Ridgewood Veterans Triangle at Myrtle and Cypress Avenues. It runs every Saturday through Nov. 19, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 3

through the annual Ridgewood

p.m., rain or shine.

Farmstand.

The BID is one of approximately 30 neighborhoods in the city that have greenmarkets or farmstands. Greenmarkets and farmstands not only help small farmers, but introduce a wide array of fresh produce, breads, and other items to local residents," Theodore M. Renz, executive director of Myrtle Avenue BID said. "The Ridgewood Farmstand founded in 2008 is a collaborative effort of GrowNYC, community partners, parents, teachers, and volunteers providing the skills and experience to local students to work in a greenmarket environment."

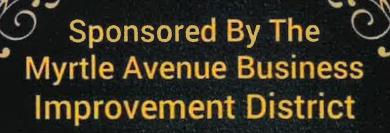
According to GrowNYC's website, the Farmstand sources all of its food from GrowNYC's wholesale program, designed to bring the freshest, highest-quality regionally grown farm products to the New York City community. The products come from farms across New York State, as well as other locations in states such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

"Fresh fruits and vegetables are important for everybody, so it's good that we have a place in this community," Winnifred Lee, regional greenmarket coordinator at GrowNYC said. "I worked here last year and there's also high food access needs here... So folks get to use their EBT cards here, and buy fresh fruits and vegetables that are culturally appropriate as well."

Cash, SNAP/EBT, debit/credit, Healthfirst OTC cards, WIC & Senior FMNP coupons, and Greenmarket Bucks are accepted methods of payment at the Ridgewood Farmstand. Customers who spend \$2 in SNAP/EBT/P-EBT receive a bonus \$2 Health Buck, up to \$10 per day.

In addition to the market, GrowNYC also offers their composting program at the Ridgewood Farmstand, between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each Saturday, folks can bring their food scraps to the location to make compost.





LAMAR PETERS

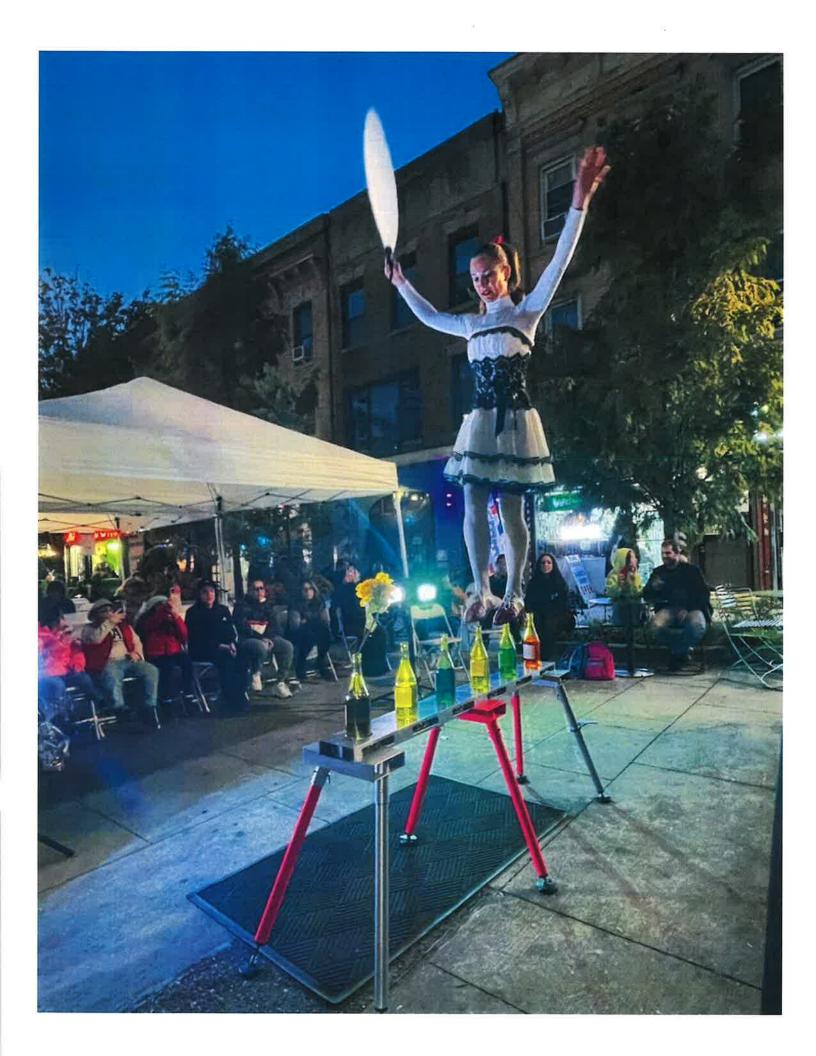


71st Avenue Plaza
(just off Forest Avenue)
Ridgewood, Queens
Sunday, September 18th
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm



CLEARVIEW FESTIVAL PRODUCTIONS - (646) 230-0489
"QUEENS LARGEST STREET FESTIVAL PRODUCTION COMPANY"
Program Support Provided by Ridgewood Local Development Corporation





Academia de Mariachi Nuevo Amanecer





Come and Enjoy
a Special Mariachi Performance
at the 71st Avenue Plaza
(just off Myrtle & Forest Aves)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Please Support our over 300 Myrtle Avenue merchants during our Fall & Holiday event season!



Sponsored by the

Myrtle Ave. Business Improvement District

62-14 Myrtle Avenue,
Ridgewood/Glendale, NY 11385





Myrtle Avenue HOLIDAY SAVINGS During Fall Sidewalk Sale Days November 23rd - 27th On Myrtle Avenue

Shop Myrtle Avenue (and side streets between Wyckoff Ave. & Fresh Pond Rd.)

Enjoy Our Holiday Lights!



Many stores will be open late during the holiday season. Check individual stores for hours.



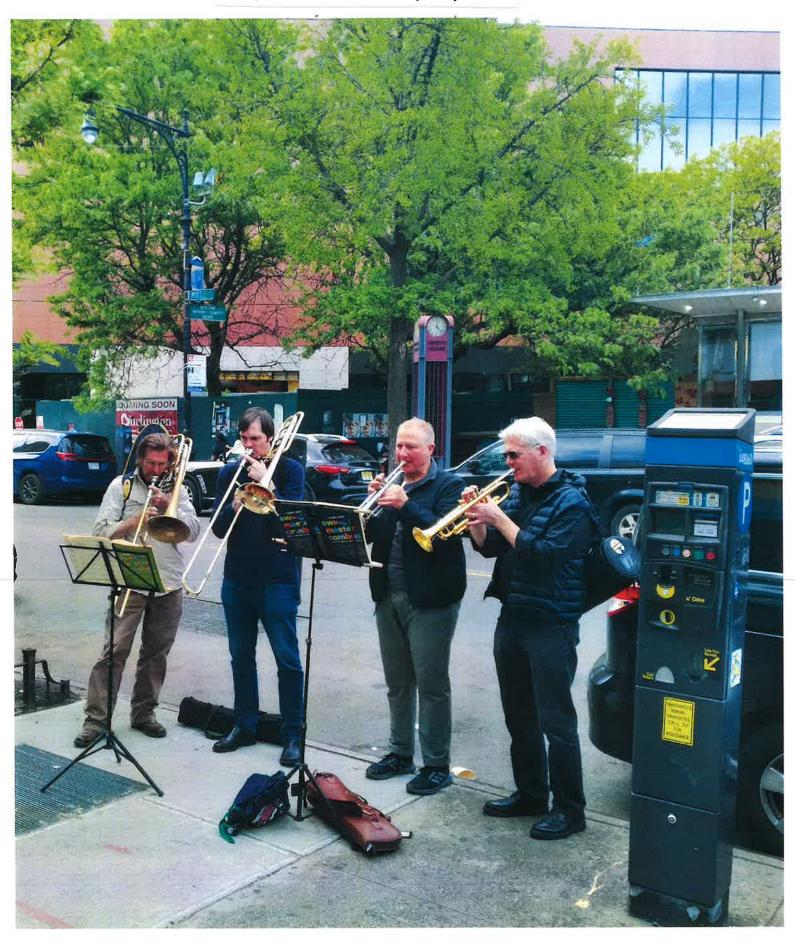
Sponsored by the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District 62-14 Myrtle Ave., Ridgewood/Glendale, NY 11385 (718) 381-7974 Project support provided by Ridgewood Local Development Corp.



Facebook! www.Ridgewood-NY.com



NYC Brass Entourage Performing on Myrtle Avenue for BID Day, May 9th





Come and Enjoy a Special Performance from

Mariachi Nuevo Amanecer

May 5th | 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the 71st Avenue Plaza

(Just off Myrtle and Forest Avenues)



Sponsored by the

Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District

62-14 MYRTLE AVENUE • GLENDALE, NY 11385 website: www.Ridgewood-NY.com



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MYRA-082028

Sponsored by
The Myrtle Avenue Business
Improvement District

Lamar Peters

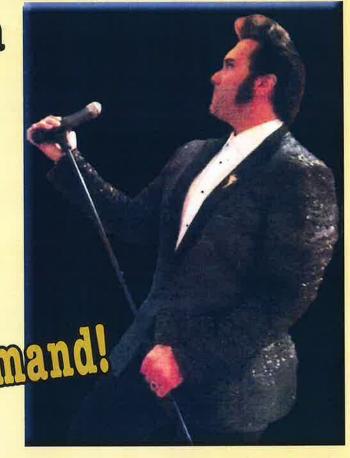
Music from Elvis, Oldies, Motown and more...

71st Avenue Plaza

Ridgewood, Queens

Sunday, May 21st 3:00 - 6:00pm

Back By Ropular Demand!







Myrtle Ave BID Graffiti Removal Program





ALLIED VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE OF RIDGEWOOD & GLENDALE NY INC.



Cordially invites you to the

^{85th} Annual Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 29, 2023

11am start at Glendale Veterans Triangle

Myrtle Avenue and Cooper Avenue









