

Third Ave. Host Ragamuffins,  
'Green Festival' and Pioneers

IF it's almost Fall in Bay Ridge, it's just about time for three of the community's most anticipated volunteer events to take place. For months now, community organizers emphasizing the volunteer spirit of the city's top volunteer neighborhood have been working on this trio of celebrations.

IN order of occurrence, they are: *The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual* Ragamuffin Parade on Third Avenue, Oct. 3; the *36<sup>th</sup> Annual—and first GREEN—*Third Avenue Festival, the next day, Oct. 4 and the *16<sup>th</sup> Annual* Pioneer Reception set for Oct. 26 at the Café Remy sponsored by the M.T.A.—which in Bay Ridge means the Merchants of Third Avenue. (We emphasize the *Annual* to underscore the special significance of such ongoing local efforts.)

THE Ragamuffin Parade Committee, headed by President **Colleen Golden**, is getting ready for the traditional procession down Third Avenue with a fund-raising reception September 26 at the Bay Ridge Manor.

PLANS and announcements about all three will be made at the big M.T.A. meeting September 29 at Chadwick's, according to President **Bob Howe**, which will be hosted by noted restaurateurs **Gerry Morris** and **Steve Oliver**.

“HOLDING Ragamuffin and the Festival on the same weekend has turned out to be a win-win situation for Bay Ridge,” said Pres. Howe. “While we all agree that the Fall season starts right after Labor Day, this special time of year around here unofficially kicks off along Third Avenue when thousands of 'Ragamuffins' display their costumes as proud parents, teachers and the neighbors look on.”

THE Chadwick's get-together will feature some delicious buffet dishes provided by Gerry and Steve and is to start promptly at 7:30 p.m. Topping the agenda will be a last minute commentary and review by Festival Guy **Chip Cafiero** who also warn of strict, new city regulations about sound and food-serving permits.

PRESENTATIONS will follow, we are reliably informed, on the Pioneer Reception, the Ragamuffin Parade—which always receives significant support by host Third Avenue—and then Board Ten District Manager . **Josephine Beckman** will talk about her important support role for all of the above.

IN ADDITION, highly-regarded D.M. Beckman will talk about possible cutbacks threatened by the NYC Sanitation Department which could interfere with the pick-up of already jam-packed street sanitation baskets along Third Avenue. These pick-ups were earlier reduced due to the municipal financial crisis.

THE problem is a recurring one along commercial thoroughfares. Over the years, since thousands of people reside in apartments on and adjacent to Third Ave., some of them have illegally been depositing their private trash in the wire baskets which are intended strictly to keep the avenue free of litter.

“MANY people aren't aware that it's against the law to deposit their home trash in these baskets,” said a Third Ave. spokesman. “That's one reason we've asked Ms. Beckman and Councilman **Vinnie Gentile** to talk about the sanitation situation and other matters as well.”

“WE believe that selective, intelligent enforcement of the rules regarding these baskets and the continuation of NYC Sanitation pick-ups is very much in order,” said the spokesman. “Our members do an excellent job of keeping their storefront areas free of litter,” he noted.” But

we all have to do a better job of making sure residents do their share as well which, in this case, means legally disposing of their garbage under current law.”

“THE baskets are for street litter only,” he said. “To back this up it might be time for sanitation inspectors to start examining the contents of the containers. It’s not a pleasant task, but it’s a sure way to send the proper message about their appropriate use.”

### Green Festival Stirs The Creative Juices

FESTIVAL Mgr. Cafiero says he is getting a “big hand from the M.T.A. officers and members who are really breaking into new territory by dedicating this festival to ‘going green’. All the merchants and vendors I’ve talked with are excited about the green concept,” says Chip. “It’s really a creative moment for all of us!”

“SINCE this is our first ‘green’ festival we’re looking at a lot of options,” he added. “Right now it’d be nice to get solar-powered hot tubs and cell phones along with energy-generating bicycles”

“ESPECIALLY important in any green gala is that selected vendors and sponsors come up with ways to distribute more fresh and locally grown produce.” says the newly minted environmentalist. Chip, who also manages a number of other festivals throughout Brooklyn, was guiding force along with Waterfront Alliance Leader **Heather McGown** in the recent and very well-received ‘Green Fest’ on the 69<sup>th</sup> St. pier..

THE top ‘green’ entry will qualify the ‘winner’ to be named a “Green Pioneer” when the Merchants of Third Ave. hold their 16<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Reception Oct. 26 at the popular Café Remy, hosted by **Eddie Batiz** and **Judy Gonzalez**.

HONOREES already selected to be feted that night include Civic Awardeess **Tom Edwards of Lutheran Medical Center** and **Joan Dalton of North field Bank** along with **Pioneers Tommy Casatelli**, the Kettle Black, **Peter Amsterdam**, Coscia & Amsterdam, and **Manny Saviolakis** of Anapoli Restaurant.

ACCOMPLISHED community organizer **Maureen Stramka** is handling Pioneer tickets and the Souvenir Menu for the MTA (She can be reached at [maureenstramka@aol.com](mailto:maureenstramka@aol.com) for details).

MTA Pres. Howe says that, as usual, the entire slate of officers is pitching in here including Vice Presidents **Jay Sessa** and **Wade Jabour**, Treasurer **Cathy DiTirro**, Secretary **Lloyd Berg**, Corr. Secy. **Rhea McCone**, Rec. Secy. **Kelli Kilbride** and a host of other leading Third Ave. entrepreneurs including. **Elena Solitario** of Pilo Arts, **Maria Ingardia**, **Sheila** and **Maureen Brody** of the Green Spa, Vanguard’s **Anthony Penacchio** and **Joe Massa** and those comely and charismatic co-owners of the Bookmark **Shopper—Christine Freglette** and **Bina Valenzano**.

THIS writer serves as festival chair and as mentioned here last week, Ms. Ingardia is planning a ‘green’ surprise which we’ll reveal in this space and on the M.T.A.’s web site, [thirdavenuebayridge](http://thirdavenuebayridge.com), administered by Vanguard Computers.

‘GREEN’ ideas are very welcome and you can send yours to any of the above or to this writer at [cotyesq@aol.com](mailto:cotyesq@aol.com)

