Local Community Leaders Recognized at Los Sures® Annual Reception

LÍDERES LOCALES RECONOCIDOS EN LA RECEPCIÓN ANUAL DE LOS SURES®

Construction as Harassment Displaces Families in North Brooklyn

CONSTRUCCIÓN ILEGAL DESPLAZA FAMILIAS EN EL NORTE DE BROOKLYN


Beloved longtime South Side resident Patricia Serrano passes away. Estimada residente de Los Sures Patricia Serrano fallece. Photo: Foto: Thomas Servello. Read the article on page 5. Lea el articulo en la pagina 8.

Los Sures® Food Pantry Gives Away Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

LA DESPENSA DE COMIDA EN LOS SURES® REGALA FRUTAS Y VEGETALES

In collaboration with the Food Bank for New York City, Los Sures® Food Pantry is giving away produce every Friday. En colaboración con el Banco de Comida de Nueva York, la despensa de comida de Los Sures® está regalando vegetales y frutas todos los viernes. Photo: Foto: Rafael Rivas. Read the article on page 3. Lea el artículo en la pagina 9.

Najary Torres holds a sign that reads “274 Days Without a Home” to protest her landlord’s use of construction as harassment to displace her and her three daughters. Najary Torres protesta el uso de construcción para desplazar a ella y sus tres hijas. Photos: Fotos: Rafael Rivas. Read the article on page 2. Lea el articulo en la pagina 8.
Construction as Harassment Displaces Families in North Brooklyn

For over 12 years, Najary Torres has called her apartment on Franklin Avenue in Williamsburg, Brooklyn home. Her three daughters were born there, and she works just blocks away. All of that changed last year when she saw strangers accessing the backyard. The landlord initially told them she was building a playground. Later, tenants learned that the playground that the landlord said she was building turned out to be illegal construction on an entire permit-less building.

It’s been almost a year since the City issued a vacate order after they discovered the illegal construction, displacing several families. Before the City got involved, the tenants experienced shattered windows from the excavation and were exposed to unknown construction dust. According to Brooklyn Legal Services, “The tenants have been homeless and in limbo. Meanwhile, their landlord continued to build the unlawful structure into a fully-formed building, defying the city’s stop work order, and allowed the tenants’ building to decay - with flooding on several floors, caved in ceilings, widespread mold, and other severe issues of disrepair. The landlord also threatened the tenants who spoke out, amounting to harassment and discrimination.”

Torres and the rest of the displaced tenants cannot believe how the landlord continues to flout the City’s laws. “We just want someone to listen to our voices,” said Torres. Torres and her two of daughters are currently in a homeless shelter. She said that being homeless has taken a toll on her daughters, who accompany her in search of a new place to live while also trying to balance their schoolwork and being children.

Torres says her search for a new home has been fruitless. Trying to stay in Williamsburg means she would have to come up with $2,800 to $3,000 a month in rent, something that is completely out of her reach given her financial circumstances.

Last month, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A., along with the group Stand for Tenant Safety organized a press conference where leaders like Assemblyman Joseph Lentol and Councilmember Antonio Reynoso came to support the displaced tenants. “Time and time again, it is the landlords who fail to comply with the law but yet it is the tenants who suffer. This trend is unacceptable,” said Southside United’s Chelsea Blocklin.

Torres says that she would like to return to her home, and if this is not possible, she asks for a dignified place in Williamsburg to raise her children. “I know we are not the first to go through this... but they should know that they have stripped our worlds from us. Our homes. Our community,” said Torres.

Los Sures® Food Pantry Gives Away Produce

Last month, the Los Sures® Food Pantry distributed close to 19 loading pallets of fresh fruits and vegetables. Residents of Williamsburg and Bushwick lined up early to receive potatoes, carrots, apples and cabbage. Over 500 people received fresh produce for their families.

“I think the produce giveaway proved how much the community needs fresh produce,” said Talticia Holguin of Los Sures. “Every time we’ve had it for the past couple of weeks, hundreds of people have come out and received a variety of produce that hits all their nutritional needs. But best of all, they get to choose what they want – most places just give you a bag.”

In addition, the food bank has a program called the Just Say Yes project, which has been operating for over 15 years. The program is also committed to improving the health and nutrition of low-income families in New York.

The giveaway was part of collaboration with the Food Bank for New York City’s Just in Time Fruit & Vegetable Distribution Program. The program will continue every Friday until June 3 at the Los Sures® Food Pantry on 145 South 3rd Street, and begins at 9:00 a.m. All you need is your identification and a bag!
Get to Know North Brooklyn’s Community Leaders: Juan Ramos

Born and raised in North Brooklyn, Juan Ramos has seen the changes in the community from various vantage points and has changed with the times. As a leader of a street gang in his youth, a dynamic social justice activist and as the newly appointed Chairman of Southside United, Ramos is leading a young generation by example.

As founder of Community Driven Solutions, a domestic violence compliance program for men, Ramos strongly believes in social justice. Growing up, he escaped the domestic violence his mother faced at home by retreating to the streets, where at one point he became the leader of a gang. Today, his organization CDS has grown to serve those who are dealing with gang violence and street violence as he once was. In addition, he also works with those involved in street violence as a deputy director at Crown Heights Community Mediation Center full time.

For Ramos, this is a way of paying it forward. In his youth, a local activist urged Ramos to channel his leadership skills to build his community instead of becoming an oppressive figure. Soon, Ramos started to change his life around by getting involved with various organizations in North Brooklyn.

“What made me gravitate towards Southside United was the rich history that it has and in many ways it’s community-driven,” said Juan Ramos on why he joined Southside United back in the early 2000s. Ramos was interested in the housing issues that many of his neighbors faced, and was impressed by the way Southside United was helping the community with more than just housing issues.

“Whatever there is a shooting, we make sure that the community doesn’t just see it as just another shooting. Whenever there is a shooting, within two days, I rally the community, I bring them out and we go to wherever the situation took place and we call for an end to gun violence in our community,” said Ramos.

As the newly appointed Chairman of Southside United, Ramos sees it as another opportunity to have a tangible impact in the community. “I will say that it was an opportunity that I embrace because of the level of support that my fellow board members had in me to unanimously select me and believe that I have the motivation to move the organization forward; to me it’s very meaningful. To me, Southside United is not just a housing organization, it’s much more than that.”

May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month

For over 42 years, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has spearheaded a campaign to bring awareness to hypertension.

Hypertension, more commonly known as high blood pressure, is a medical condition that affects about 70 million Americans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Under a treatment plan from a doctor, living with high blood pressure is common for many Americans. Still, allowing high blood pressure to go uncontrolled can cause kidney failure, heart attacks, and even death.

High blood pressure is characterized by blood forcefully flowing through artery walls, causing damage. It causes the heart to work much harder, which leads to many health issues.

Health experts say there are no symptoms or warning signs, and many individuals living with high blood pressure do not know it. Still, individuals living with hypertension can take several steps to live a healthier life. According to the CDC, keeping a diet rich in vegetables and fruits, staying active and regularly checking your blood pressure can help in controlling hypertension.

Americans spend about $51 billion a year in high blood pressure related care – about $47 billion of this total is for pharmaceutical drugs.

In part, the NHLBI’s goal is to encourage individuals to talk to their doctors about high blood pressure and to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

To learn more about the national awareness campaign visit http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/
**Finnish Artists Bring Flowers to Los Sures**

The seventh collaboration between El Museo de Los Sures and International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) took a distinct tone. Artist Ilona Valkonen, curator Satu Oksanen and various other guest artists created one-of-a-kind flower pieces from reclaimed materials of found objects in their exhibition, “Vieno Motors: How to Prepare 2.0.”

How the Finnish exhibition came to Los Sures is as unique as the artwork itself.

“Maija Tanninen-Mattila, Director of the Helsinki Art Museum who is a powerhouse in the Finnish art scene invited me to her city for the opening of the newly renovated museum. Vieno Motors was part of the inaugural exhibitions, and immediately struck me as an incredibly engaging and innovative project that was perfect for ISCP’s collaboration with Los Sures,” said Kari Conte, Director of Programs and Exhibitions at ISCP.

“Knowing that such perfect elements rarely collide, we decided to bring the project to Brooklyn, in a locally adapted form and hundreds of visitors have enthusiastically worn their Vieno Motors 2.0 sculptures on the streets of South Williamsburg for the past six weeks,” continued Conte.

During April, community members had the opportunity to meet the artists and walk away with their own flowery designs, which used items found outdoor to add texture.

“The community has been very welcoming, and sharing this project with the community has been rewarding and inspiring. We have had such a big variety of visitors coming to see and experience Vieno Motors. The success of this kind of project depends on the visitors as they play such an important role,” said Oksanen.

The project was made possible by the generous donations of Consulate General of Finland, New York; The Finnish Cultural Institute in New York; Frame Visual Art Finland; and in part, by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Antonio Reynoso, Council Member, 34th District; and the Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation. This curatorial residency is made possible by the Fulbright Center Finland.

**New Tool Unveiled to Help Understand Succession Rights**

During last month’s Tenants’ Rights Workshop, the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, and Everyday We unveiled a new tool that will help many to unravel the complicated succession laws.

The poster, printed in Spanish and English, helps families understand their rights and stay in their apartment after a family member passes away or relocates. The poster contains city-wide tenant resources, and clarifications that help better understand the housing rules.

“This should be on everyone’s refrigerator!” said Evelyn Cruz from the office of the Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez.

These posters are available at Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Councilmember Antonio Reynoso’s office and Southside United – Los Sures®.

---

**Williamsburg Now**

Staff Writer
Rafael Rivas

Contributing Writers
Talticia Holguin
Iraida Cortes
Sheri Sankner

Williamsburg Now covers news and events related to North Brooklyn. Please send media advisories/press releases to rrivas@lossures.org

Would you like to Advertise?
If you would like to advertise on Williamsburg Now, please contact the Communications Department at Southside United HDFC - Los Sures® at 718-387-3600. The department can also design your ad.
Remembering Los Sures’ Patricia Serrano

Beloved longtime South Side resident Patricia Serrano passed away on March 29. She will always be remembered as convivial and wearing a permanent smile. Serrano lived in North Brooklyn for over 20 years, raising her two sons in the South Side. She symbolized the spirit of the South Side, always open to helping others and participating in community events. During the week, she volunteered at the Southside United food pantry and the Los Sures “David Santiago” Senior Center, where she was also a member.

“I help others whether they like me or not,” Serrano told Williamsburg Now in 2013. Serrano became a vital part of Southside United after one of its employees helped her one day. Walking home from work, Serrano became paralyzed and a food pantry employee came to assist her, calling the paramedics and comforting her while they arrived. Serrano never forgot the random act of kindness, which became her motivation to join the organization.

“In some ways, she was the ‘face’ of the pantry as her role was to sign people in as they came for their food,” said Robin Sirota-Bassin, the Director of Social Services. “Patricia had such a powerful spirit and was a force to be reckoned with. She was always helping others and getting involved in the community. She was so proud of her family and the community.”

That sense of community led her to participate in a collaborative project between NYU and El Museo de Los Sures where local residents were paired up with a student to memorialize their oral history and experience in Los Sures. She was unable to see the project’s fulfillment.

Family and friends celebrated her life at the First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Los Sures—the community that she called home. Community members expressed that Patricia has left an immense void in the community and will be greatly missed.

FREE GIFTS, FREE CHECKING!
(Yeah, it’s that simple.)

We thank new checking customers with a gift, free personalized checks, great mobile banking capability, and the quality one-on-one service they expect of an established community bank.

Visit us for more details.

WILLIAMSBURG BRANCH
209 Havemeyer St.
Brooklyn, NY 11211
718.782.6200
dime.com

We reserve the right to substitute a gift of similar value. Free gift provided at time of account opening. Free gift may be reported on a 1099-INT or 1099-MISC. Limit 3 new checking accounts opened per household receiving a new gift.

©2016 The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburgh

Longtime South Side resident and Los Sures® volunteer Patricia Serrano passed away in March. Photo: Rafael Rivas.

remembering los sures' patricia serrano

Beloved longtime South Side resident Patricia Serrano passed away on March 29. She will always be remembered as convivial and wearing a permanent smile. Serrano lived in North Brooklyn for over 20 years, raising her two sons in the South Side. She symbolized the spirit of the South Side, always open to helping others and participating in community events. During the week, she volunteered at the Southside United food pantry and the Los Sures “David Santiago” Senior Center, where she was also a member.

“I help others whether they like me or not,” Serrano told Williamsburg Now in 2013. Serrano became a vital part of Southside United after one of its employees helped her one day. Walking home from work, Serrano became paralyzed and a food pantry employee came to assist her, calling the paramedics and comforting her while they arrived. Serrano never forgot the random act of kindness, which became her motivation to join the organization.

“In some ways, she was the ‘face’ of the pantry as her role was to sign people in as they came for their food,” said Robin Sirota-Bassin, the Director of Social Services. “Patricia had such a powerful spirit and was a force to be reckoned with. She was always helping others and getting involved in the community. She was so proud of her family and the community.”

That sense of community led her to participate in a collaborative project between NYU and El Museo de Los Sures where local residents were paired up with a student to memorialize their oral history and experience in Los Sures. She was unable to see the project’s fulfillment.

Family and friends celebrated her life at the First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Los Sures—the community that she called home. Community members expressed that Patricia has left an immense void in the community and will be greatly missed.

FREE GIFTS, FREE CHECKING!
(Yeah, it’s that simple.)

We thank new checking customers with a gift, free personalized checks, great mobile banking capability, and the quality one-on-one service they expect of an established community bank.

Visit us for more details.

WILLIAMSBURG BRANCH
209 Havemeyer St.
Brooklyn, NY 11211
718.782.6200
dime.com

We reserve the right to substitute a gift of similar value. Free gift provided at time of account opening. Free gift may be reported on a 1099-INT or 1099-MISC. Limit 3 new checking accounts opened per household receiving a new gift.

©2016 The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburgh
Parents, students, and staff enjoyed the third annual Easter Egg Hunt at P.S. 16 Leonard Dunkly. Every year parents, staff and the community donate thousands of Easter eggs filled with candy and prizes. There is also one golden egg to be found.

That egg entitles the finder to a huge egg filled with treats. The Easter bunny hops on by for photos. This year’s event was a huge success.

That egg entitles the finder to a huge egg filled with treats. The Easter bunny hops on by for photos. This year’s event was a huge success.

Chimu: Peruvian Gem in Williamsburg

My taste buds have been captivated! Last weekend a friend and I visited Chimu Peruvian Restaurant. We were greeted by Mario, the owner, who greeted us as though we were close friends who he had personally invited for dinner. For my appetizer I had the Tamal Criollo. It was beautifully presented and must have been appetizer I had the Tamal Criollo. It was beautifully presented and must have been.

That egg entitles the finder to a huge egg filled with treats. The Easter bunny hops on by for photos. This year’s event was a huge success.

That egg entitles the finder to a huge egg filled with treats. The Easter bunny hops on by for photos. This year’s event was a huge success.

Southside United’s Executive Director Joins Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Board

Since the 1800s, the Brooklyn Navy Yard has played a central role in the city’s economy, most recently through a $700 million investment that is poised to develop a state-of-the-art industrial green manufacturing facility and multiple commercial projects that have already attracted established retail tenants.

The Navy Yard has transformed over the centuries from building some famous ships to employing more than 7,000 New Yorkers and creating an economic impact in the billions of dollars each year under the guidance of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC), a not-for-profit organization.

Last month, Ramon Peguero, the Executive Director of Southside United – Los Sures®, joined the BNYDC Board of Directors. The Board, which includes prominent community leaders, developers and businesspeople, aims to bolster the economic impact of the region through jobs and the preservation of various industries in Brooklyn, with a focus on the possibilities of the Navy Yard.

(Dis)Placed Urban Histories: Los Sures

Gallatin’s exhibit on gentrification in Williamsburg’s. The exhibit will highlight stories of residents, past and present, of varying ages and backgrounds who have experienced gentrification firsthand in the neighborhood.

The exhibit will continue be open on Saturdays and Sundays from May 8th to June 4th, from 12pm to 4pm.

P.S. 16 - Leonard Dunkly's Celebrates Easter

Parents, students, and staff enjoyed the third annual Easter Egg Hunt at P.S. 16 Leonard Dunkly. Every year parents, staff and the community donate thousands of Easter eggs filled with candy and prizes. There is also one golden egg to be found.

That egg entitles the finder to a huge egg filled with treats. The Easter bunny hops on by for photos. This year’s event was a huge success.

Chimu: Peruvian Gem in Williamsburg

My taste buds have been captivated! Last weekend a friend and I visited Chimu Peruvian Restaurant. We were greeted by Mario, the owner, who greeted us as though we were close friends who he had personally invited for dinner. For my appetizer I had the Tamal Criollo. It was beautifully presented and must have been appetizer I had the Tamal Criollo. It was beautifully presented and must have been.

That egg entitles the finder to a huge egg filled with treats. The Easter bunny hops on by for photos. This year’s event was a huge success.

Southside United’s Executive Director Joins Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Board

Since the 1800s, the Brooklyn Navy Yard has played a central role in the city’s economy, most recently through a $700 million investment that is poised to develop a state-of-the-art industrial green manufacturing facility and multiple commercial projects that have already attracted established retail tenants.

The Navy Yard has transformed over the centuries from building some famous ships to employing more than 7,000 New Yorkers and creating an economic impact in the billions of dollars each year under the guidance of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC), a not-for-profit organization.

Last month, Ramon Peguero, the Executive Director of Southside United – Los Sures®, joined the BNYDC Board of Directors. The Board, which includes prominent community leaders, developers and businesspeople, aims to bolster the economic impact of the region through jobs and the preservation of various industries in Brooklyn, with a focus on the possibilities of the Navy Yard.

(Dis)Placed Urban Histories: Los Sures

Gallatin’s exhibit on gentrification in Williamsburg’s. The exhibit will highlight stories of residents, past and present, of varying ages and backgrounds who have experienced gentrification firsthand in the neighborhood.

The exhibit will continue be open on Saturdays and Sundays from May 8th to June 4th, from 12pm to 4pm.

P.S. 31 Waste Warriors Reduce School’s Waste

P.S. 31 Samuel F. Dupont Elementary is a Greenpoint Eco-School – these schools assist the children to connect to the environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it – that is by tackling major environmental challenges in the school community, such as recycling. In addition to participating in the Greenpoint Eco-school program, which is funded by the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, P.S. 31 was selected by the New York City Department of Sanitation to be a “Zero Waste” school. By adopting various superhero roles, including Waste Warriors, Water Sorcerers, Energy Monitors, Guardians of the Garden, and Healthy Heroes, P.S. 31 students have already reached the goals in reducing waste and consumption by over 25 percent.

Prior to October 2015, P.S. 31’s waste, an average of 450 pounds a day, was going entirely to landfills. Their new waste management system consists of a three-bin recycling station in every classroom and organics collection in the cafeterias and Pre-K and Kindergarten classes that serve snacks. For educational support, their partner Recycling Champions, a program that develops recycling programs at over 100 public schools each year, facilitated a Student Assembly and provided materials for in-class presentations about how to reduce environmental impacts. With the facilitation of the National Wildlife Federation Sustainability Coach and Department of Education Sustainability Coordinator, the Waste Warriors stand behind the throw-away station in the cafeteria during lunch periods and assist in the educational support for proper recycling after meals. They are also responsible for picking up food scraps containers in the Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms at dismissal and disposing of them in the larger organics bin in the cafeteria. As a result, P.S. 31 diverted 94 percent of the cafeteria waste in just two months. In just 36 days from October 19 through December 11, the school diverted over 11,340 pounds of waste from landfills. The school then received $1 for every pound diverted, with a maximum of $10,000 a year. These School Action funds will go to support a legacy project at P.S. 31.

The school has also recycled books, is donating unused furniture and is obtaining E-Waste pickup for old computers and printers. Students are also actively involved in craft projects using found and reclaimed materials. The students use pages of unused books to make paper beads for jewelry, and melt and sew plastic bags into fashionable wallets.

P.S. 16 student Sarayah Mazzeo was the winner of the golden egg. Photo: Maria Aviles.

Chimú: Peruvian Gem in Williamsburg

My taste buds have been captivated! Last weekend a friend and I visited Chimu Peruvian Restaurant. We were greeted by Mario, the owner, who greeted us as though we were close friends who he had personally invited for dinner. For my appetizer I had the Tamal Criollo. It was beautifully presented and must have been made by tamale Gods! It is a rectangular corn pie topped with rings of red onions in lime juice. It is garnished with yellow pepper and cilantro and filled with fatty chicken, hard boiled eggs, and warm tasty olives. Heavenly is the only word to describe the flavor and texture combination. For my entrée, I had Tallerrin Verde, also out of this world delicious! It consists of a perfectly seasoned, juicy skirt steak over spaghetti in Peruvian basil sauce and is garnished with roasted potatoes. The food was well prepared, flavorful, and beautifully presented.

Chimu opened their doors in 2002. Changes in the neighborhood and the process of gentrification caused many surrounding restaurants to close their doors, but Chimu has stood strong. “Our delicious food and excellent service has saved us,” says Mario. He stated that they only cook using original Peruvian ingredients for traditional flavors.

Chimu has been featured on various television shows including “Boy Meets Grill” in 2007. It is frequented by celebrities like Matthew McConaughey and Kevin James.

I am now a huge fan and know that anytime I crave exquisite truly enjoyable cuisine I will be heading over to Chimu.

P.S. 31 Samuel F. Dupont Elementary is a Greenpoint Eco-School – these schools assist the children to connect to the environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it – that is by tackling major environmental challenges in the school community, such as recycling. In addition to participating in the Greenpoint Eco-school program, which is funded by the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, P.S. 31 was selected by the New York City Department of Sanitation to be a “Zero Waste” school. By adopting various superhero roles, including Waste Warriors, Water Sorcerers, Energy Monitors, Guardians of the Garden, and Healthy Heroes, P.S. 31 students have already reached the goals in reducing waste and consumption by over 25 percent.

Prior to October 2015, P.S. 31’s waste, an average of 450 pounds a day, was going entirely to landfills. Their new waste management system consists of a three-bin recycling station in every classroom and organics collection in the cafeterias and Pre-K and Kindergarten classes that serve snacks. For educational support, their partner Recycling Champions, a program that develops recycling programs at over 100 public schools each year, facilitated a Student Assembly and provided materials for in-class presentations about how to reduce environmental impacts. With the facilitation of the National Wildlife Federation Sustainability Coach and Department of Education Sustainability Coordinator, the Waste Warriors stand behind the throw-away station in the cafeteria during lunch periods and assist in the educational support for proper recycling after meals. They are also responsible for picking up food scraps containers in the Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms at dismissal and disposing of them in the larger organics bin in the cafeteria. As a result, P.S. 31 diverted 94 percent of the cafeteria waste in just two months. In just 36 days from October 19 through December 11, the school diverted over 11,340 pounds of waste from landfills. The school then received $1 for every pound diverted, with a maximum of $10,000 a year. These School Action funds will go to support a legacy project at P.S. 31.

The school has also recycled books, is donating unused furniture and is obtaining E-Waste pickup for old computers and printers. Students are also actively involved in craft projects using found and reclaimed materials. The students use pages of unused books to make paper beads for jewelry, and melt and sew plastic bags into fashionable wallets.

P.S. 16 student Sarayah Mazzeo was the winner of the golden egg. Photo: Maria Aviles.

Chimú: Peruvian Gem in Williamsburg

Peruvian dish, Tallerrin Verde at Chimu in Williamsburg. Photo: Talticia Holguin.

Waste Warrior from P.S. 31’s Samuel F. Dupont Elementary. Photo: Alison Schuettinger.
Last month, Southside United held its annual reception at the Brooklyn Winery in Williamsburg. The event brought together members of the community and local leaders, including keynote speaker Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, to celebrate the work the organization has sustained for over many years.

The newly appointed Southside United Chairman Juan Ramos introduced the organization’s Executive Director Ramon Peguero, who expressed how far the organization has come since its inception in the early 1970s, noting that the organization’s commitment and success stems from the dedications of many individuals in the community. Southside United honored Anne-Marie Hendrickson with the Community Recognition Award.

“I have become family, I have been working with Los Sures for over 20 years on affordable housing,” said Anne-Marie Hendrickson, “I want to say it’s a real honor to be recognized by my partner.”

Kenneth J. Mahon, the President and Chief Operating Officer of Dime Community Bancshares and its subsidiary, The Dime Savings Bank of Williamsburg, was recognized with the organization’s Corporate Award. Reminiscing on how long he’s been in the community, Mahon quipped, “I came to Williamsburg in 1980, when Ramon was 13 years old.”

FG-PH Corporation was the recipient of the Friend of Los Sures® Award. The company was originally formed in the late 1980s as a plumbing company, and has grown into a full service general construction company.

Among those in attendance were Councilmember Antonio Reynoso and Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna, who spoke about the importance of supporting organizations like Los Sures®.
**Construcción Como Acoso Desplaza Familias en el Norte de Brooklyn**

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A., junto con el grupo de soporte Stand for Tenant Safety organizaron una conferencia de prensa para protestar por el desplazamiento de inquilinos. Foto: Rafael Rivas.

Por más de 12 años, Nairy Torres ha llamado a su apartamento en la Avenida Franklin su hogar. Sus tres hijas nacieron allí, y ella trabaja a pocas cuadras. Todo cambió el año pasado cuando vio extraños con acceso al patio. Más tarde, los inquilinos se enteraron de que no era un área de recreo si no que estaban construyendo un edificio sin permiso. El área de recreo para niños que la casera dijo que estaba construyendo, había un edificio construido sin permiso. Ha pasado casi un año desde que la ciudad emitió una orden de desalojo después de que descubrieron la construcción ilegal, desplazando a los inquilinos. Antes de que la ciudad se involucrara, los inquilinos fueron expuestos a polvo de construcción desconocidos y venas quebradas por el constante movimiento de las excavaciones.

“Sólo queremos que alguien escuche nuestras voces”, dijo Torres. Ella dijo que quedarse sin hogar ha afectado a sus hijas en muchas maneras negativas ya que la acompañan en busca de un nuevo hogar, mientras que tratan de disfrutar su niñez y hacer sus tareas en lugares desconocidos.

**Chimú: Una Joya Peruana en Williamsburg**

La semana pasada un amigo y yo visitamos Chimú restaurante peruano. Fui mos recibidos por Mario, el dueño, que nos recibió como si fuéramos amigos. Para mí aterrador, tuve el Tamal Criollo. Bien moje, muchos, pero ellos deben saber que han desplazado nuestro hogar. Nuestros hogares. Nuestra comunidad dijo, dijo Torres.

Torres dice que su búsqueda de un nuevo hogar ha sido difícil. Tratar de quedarse en Williamsburg significa que tendría que pagar acerca de $2,800 a $3,000 por mes en alquiler, algo que está completamente fuera de su alcance. Por ahora, han estado viviendo en un refugio para personas sin hogar.

**Nueva Herramienta Ayudará a Inquilinos a Entender los Derechos de Sucesión**

Durante el taller de derechos de los inquilinos del mes pasado, el Centro de Pedagogía Urbana (CUP), Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation, y Everyday We dieron a conocer una nueva herramienta que ayudará a muchos a entender los derechos de sucesión. El cartel, en español e Inglés, ayuda a las familias a entender sus derechos y cómo quedarse en su apartamento después de que un miembro de la familia muere o se muda. El cartel contiene recursos para los inquilinos de toda la ciudad, y tiene aclaraciones que ayudan a entender mejor las reglas de vivienda.

“Esto debería estar en la nevera de todo el mundo!” Dijo Evelyn Cruz de la oficina de la congresista Nydia M. Velázquez. Estos carteles están disponibles en Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation, la oficina del Concejal Antonio Reynoso y Southside United - Los Su res.

**Los Sures® Regala Frutas y Vegetales Los Viernes**

Más de 500 personas recibieron frutas y verduras frescas en la primera repartición de Los Sures®. Foto: Rafael Rivas=/Rivas.

El mes pasado, la despensa de alimentos de Los Su res entregó cerca de 19 paletas de frutas y verduras frescas. Los residentes de Williamsburg y Bushwick se pusieron en fila temprano para recibir patatas, zanahorias, manzanas y repollo. Más de 500 personas recibieron suficientes productos para sus familias.

“Creo que esto demuestra lo mucho que la comunidad necesita productos frescos”, dijo Talticia Holguín de Los Su res. “Cada vez que hemos distribuido frutas y verduras en las últimas semanas, cientos de personas han venido y han recibido una gran variedad de productos nutritivos. Lo mejor de todo, es que pueden escoger lo que quieren - la mayoría de los lugares sólo te dan una bolsa ya empaquetada”.

El programa de frutas y verduras gratis es parte de una colaboración con el Banco de Alimentos de Nueva York y una iniciativa que se en foca en alimentos más saludables.

El programa continuará todos los viernes hasta el 3 de junio en la despensa de alimentos en 145 S 3rd St, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Todo lo que necesita es su identificación y una bolsa!

**Director Ejecutivo de Southside United Nombrado a la Junta Directiva de Brooklyn Navy Yard**

Desde la década de 1800, el Navy Yard de Brooklyn ha jugado un papel central en la economía de la ciudad. El área se ha transformado de una zona de construcción de veleros de combate muy famosos a un área que ha experimentado un impacto económico en los miles de millones cada año, bajo la dirección de Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, una organización sin fines de lucro.

El mes pasado, Ramón Peguero, el director ejecutivo de Southside United - Los Su res se unió a la junta directiva. La junta, que incluye líderes de la comunidad prominentes, desarrolladores y empresas, tienen la misión de reforzar el impacto económico de la región a través de proyectos de trabajo y la preservación de diversas industrias en Brooklyn.
El mes pasado, Southside United celebró su recepción anual en el local Brooklyn Winery en Williamsburg. El evento reunió a miembros de la comunidad y líderes locales, incluyendo al Contralor Scott M. Stringer como altavoz especial, para celebrar el trabajo de la organización durante tantos años.

El recién nombrado Presidente de la junta directiva de Southside United Juan Ramos introdusco al Director Ejecutivo Ramón Peguero de la organización, que expresó como la organización ha llegado tan lejos desde su creación en la década de 1970, y señaló que el compromiso y el éxito de la organización se deben a la dedicación de muchas personas de la comunidad.

Southside United honró a Anne-Marie Hendrickson con el reconocimiento de la Comunidad. “Me he convertido en familia, he estado trabajando con Los Sures® por más de 20 años para más viviendas asequibles”, dijo Anne-Marie Hendrickson, “quiero decir que es un verdadero honor ser reconocida por esta organización”.


FG-PH Corporation fue el destinatario del Premio Amigo de Los Sures®. La compañía se formó originalmente en la década de 80s, y se ha convertido en una empresa de construcción general de servicio completo.

Entre los asistentes estaban el concejal Antonio Reynoso y la vicepresidente del condado de Brooklyn Diana Reyna, quien habló sobre la importancia de apoyar a organizaciones con Los Sures®.
### Mes Nacional de Educación Presión Arterial

La hipertensión es una condición médica que afecta a unos 70 millones de estadounidenses. Foto: Steve Buissinne.

Por más de 42 años, el Instituto Nacional del Corazón, Pulmón y la Sangre (NHLBI) ha encabezado una campaña para hacer tomar conciencia de la hipertensión. Más comúnmente conocida como presión alta, esta enfermedad afecta a unos 70 millones de estadounidenses, de acuerdo con los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC). Vivir con la presión alta es común y las personas bajo tratamiento de un médico pueden controlarla. Aún así, permitiendo que la presión alta no sea controlada puede causar un problema renal, ataques al corazón e incluso la muerte.

La presión alta se caracteriza por la fuerza en que la sangre fluye a través de las paredes de las arterias, causando daños. También hace que el corazón trabaje mucho más duro.

Los expertos en salud dicen que no hay síntomas o señales de advertencia, y muchas personas que viven con presión alta no lo saben. Aún así, las personas que viven con hipertensión pueden tomar varias medidas para vivir una vida más saludable. Según los CDC, una dieta rica en vegetales y frutas, mantenerse activo y comprobando periódicamente su presión arterial puede ayudar en el control de la hipertensión.

### Recordando a Patricia Serrano de Los Sures

La querida residente de Los Sures Patricia Serrano falleció el 29 de marzo. Serrano vivió en el norte de Brooklyn por más de 20 años, criando a sus dos hijos en Los Sures. Ella simboliza el espíritu de Los Sures, siempre lista para ayudar a los demás y participar en eventos de la comunidad. Durante la semana, ofrecía su tiempo en la despensa de alimentos y la de Los Sures “David Santiago” Senior Center, donde también era miembro.

“Ayudar a los demás aunque yo no caiga bien o no”, dijo Serrano a Williamsburg Now, en 2013. Serrano se convirtió en una parte vital de Southside United después de que uno de los empleados la ayudado a un día. Caminando a casa del trabajo, Serrano se paralizo y un empleado de la despensa de alimentos la asistió, llamando a los paramédicos y consolándola hasta que llegaron. Serrano nunca se olvidó del acto de bondad, que se convirtió en su motivación para unirse a la organización.

“De alguna manera, ella era la “cara” de la despensa como su papel era registrar a las personas”, dijo Robin Sirota-Bassin, la directora de los servicios sociales. “Patricia tenía un espíritu tan poderoso y era una gran fuerza. Ella siempre estaba ayudando a los demás y participando en la comunidad. Estaba tan orgullosa de su familia y la comunidad”. Ese sentido de comunidad la llevó a participar en un proyecto de colaboración entre la Universidad de Nueva York y el Museo de Los Sures en donde los residentes locales contaron sus historias a los estudiantes para grabar sus historias orales y su experiencia en Los Sures. Láctima, Serrano no pudo ver la realización del proyecto.

La familia y amigos celebraron su vida en la Iglesia First Spanish Presbyterian Church en Los Sures - la comunidad que ella llamó a su comunidad. Miembros de la comunidad expresaron que Patricia ha dejado un vacío inmenso en la comunidad y será recordada por mucho tiempo.
Juan Ramos recientemente fue nombrado Presidente de la junta directiva de Southside United. Foto: Rafael Rivas.

Nativo del Norte de Brooklyn, Juan Ramos ha visto los cambios en la comunidad desde varios puntos de vista. Como líder de una pandilla en su juventud, un activista social dinámico y como el rector nombrado presidente de la junta directiva de Southside United, Ramos es un líder que guía por ejemplo.

Como fundador de Community Driven Solutions, un programa de cumplimiento de violencia doméstica para hombres, estar activo en cosas de justicia social tiene un significado para Ramos. Al crecer, el escapo de la violencia doméstica que enfrentó su madre lo enfrentó con ira a las calles, que lo vieron convertirse en el líder de una pandilla. Hoy en día, su organización ha crecido para servir a los niños que están involucrados con violencia en su zona de residencia.

Para Ramos, esto es una manera de ayudar como alguien lo ayudó a él. En su juventud, un activista local habló con Ramos para que usara sus habilidades de liderazgo para construir su comunidad, en lugar de convertirse en una figura opresiva.

Juan Ramos ha visto los cambios en la comunidad desde varios puntos de vista. Como líder de una pandilla en su juventud, un activista social dinámico y como el rector nombrado presidente de la junta directiva de Southside United, Ramos es un líder que guía por ejemplo.

Como fundador de Community Driven Solutions, un programa de cumplimiento de violencia doméstica para hombres, estar activo en cosas de justicia social tiene un significado para Ramos. Al crecer, el escapo de la violencia doméstica que enfrentó su madre lo enfrentó con ira a las calles, que lo vieron convertirse en el líder de una pandilla. Hoy en día, su organización ha crecido para servir a los niños que están involucrados con violencia en su zona de residencia.

Para Ramos, esto es una manera de ayudar como alguien lo ayudó a él. En su juventud, un activista local habló con Ramos para que usara sus habilidades de liderazgo para construir su comunidad, en lugar de convertirse en una figura opresiva.

P.S.16 Celebro Las Pascuas en Grande

Sra. Renny y Sra. Van Gunten con el conejo de pascuas. Foto: Maria Aviles.

Los padres, estudiantes y el personal disfrutaron de nuestra 3ª búsqueda anual de huevos de Pascua en la escuela P.S. 16 Leonard Dunkly. Cada año, los padres, el personal de la escuela y la comunidad donan miles de huevos de Pascua llenos de dulces y premios. También hay un huevo de oro que le da derecho al estudiante a obtener un huevo enorme lleno de dulces y premios. El conejo de Pascua puso a tomar fotos con los que atendieron. El evento de este año fue un gran éxito gracias a los padres, maestros y estudiantes.

Los Guerreros de Reciclaje de P.S. 13

La escuela P.S. 31 Samuel F. DuPont es una Eco-school, una escuela consistente del medio ambiente. P.S. 31 fue seleccionada por el Departamento de Sanidad de la ciudad de Nueva York para ser una escuela que participa en la iniciativa "Cero Basura" de la ciudad. Los estudiantes ya han alcanzado los objetivos en la reducción de residuos y el consumo en más del 25 por ciento.

Antes de octubre de 2015, los residuos de P. S. 31 eran de un prome-}

rio de 450 libras al día. El nuevo sistema consiste en una estación de reciclaje y compuestos orgánicos en las cafeterías.

Como resultado, P.S. 31 desvió el 94 por ciento de los residuos de la cafetería en tan sólo dos meses. Luego, la escuela recibió $ 1 por cada libra desviada, con un máximo de $ 10.000 al año. Estos fondos de acción escolar irán a apoyar un proyecto de legado en P. S. 31.