# Rise Up

**COMMUNITY NEWS** 

# ENY GARDENS

BY ASHLEY GOVAN

Living in a big and bustling city can certainly give the impression that going green is a far reach or nearly impossible mission. However, some of the smallest practices can make a big difference in our community.

Some simple practices such as recycling and reusing materials, conserving power in home and office spaces, and commuting through public transportation or riding a bike to reduce emissions in the environment are great ways to do your part!

Greater efforts can include picking up trash while you're outdoors or organizing a community cleanup, analyzing and adjusting your plastic consumption, asking the city for green power, composting to limit waste, pushing for plant-based options, supporting organic ingredients and buying local food.

YOU can inspire environmental change!

# Tenant Support Directory

#### **BOULEVARD TOGETHER**

- BELMONT SUTTER AREA
- BOULEVARD HOUSES
- FIORENTINO HOUSES

PROPERTY MANAGER - BARBARA CLARK P: (646)276-2196 E: BCLARK@BOULEVARDTOGETHER.COM

### STANLEY AVENUE PRESERVATION

- LINDEN HOUSES
- PENN WORTMAN HOUSES

PROPERTY MANAGER - ASTI ROSARIO
P: (347)707-0461
E: AROSARIO@CLINTONMANAGEMENT.COM

#### **EAST NEW YORK CITY LINE**

TENANT LEADER - DWAYNE FAISON P: (718)791-1402 E: DWAYNEFAISON@AOL.COM

TENANT LEADER - WANDY DELAROSA P: (347)322-2682 E: WDELAROSA90@HOTMAIL.COM

#### **LONG ISLAND BAPTIST**

TENANT LEADER - ARTHUR WARREN P: (917)749-6988 E: BEEPABARBER@YAHOO.COM

#### **CYPRESS HOUSES**

TENANT LEADER - DWAYNE FAISON P: (718)791-1402 E: DWAYNEFAISON@AOL.COM

#### PINK HOUSES

TENANT LEADER - KAREN CALDWELL P: (917)575-4285 E: KCALDWELL929@GMAIL.COM

#### **UNITY PLAZA HOUSES**

TENANT LEADER - CYNTHIA WHITAKER
P: (718)485-0578
E: C.WHITAKER580@GMAIL.COM



#### Highlighting Our Tenant Leaders: Jeanette Matthews

BY DAVID AMON

### How long have you been living at Unity Plaza Development?

My parents moved into Unity Plaza Development in 1971, where I entered the public school system. I attended P.S 174, from the third grade until middle school. I then attended Thomas Jefferson High School, until the 11th grade.

I became pregnant and had to leave high school. After having my first child, I returned to earn my GED in 1983. I then went on to attend The College of New Rochelle, transferring to Medgar Evers College, where I received my Associates Degree.

I started my career, working in childcare education. I excelled until the pandemic hit and changed many things. My Case was a bit different because my brother had become ill prior to the pandemic. I began caring for him and continue to do so. Beyond that, I have been at Unity Plaza for 51 years, and I am still striving to make a difference for my brother and the other residents.

### <u>Tell me how you got involved with the Tenant Association?</u>

Both my parents were active with the Tenant Patrol, during the 70's, 80's and early 90's. I attended the Tenant Patrol meetings with my parents. This sparked my interest in becoming involved in community safety. I joined the Tenant Patrol in the 90's and soon thereafter was voted in as Captain of the Patrol in my building. I still hold that title today. She states, "Today, the Patrol is not as active as in earlier years due to lack of participation by the residents." However, there are some residents that still determined to achieve a better quality of life for everyone. neighbors and themselves.

# What makes you most proud of your development?

The residents. I'm proud of the residents that have always come together to support one another and the community

# What's your first memory of something good that happened to your community - something it very much needed?

My first memories, growing up there was Halloween. The residents in each building would come together and supply candy and other goodies for the children. Each building would have a display in its lobby. The children were safe to enjoy activities in their respective buildings.

There was also another event. We would celebrate "Unity Day." The streets in our Development would be blocked off, and the families would all come out -- barbeque, music thumping, games, and a fun time. Very importantly, you knew you were safe.

## What would you like to see improved in your community?

What I would like to see brought back, is The Amphitheater, which was used in the past to bring the community together. For example, they had a movie night out, dance performances, and other fun events. The Amphitheater has been remodeled. However; it hasn't been put to use. The Amphitheater has had such a positive impact on our community in the past. Reopening the theater would bring renewed unity to our community in a positive way.



