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Green & Clean Festival 2018: A sustainable Staten Island

by COURTNEY BROGLE

The Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC) hosted its eighth annual Green & Clean Festival this week at the Staten Island Zoo, West Brighton.

“The Green & Clean Festival is a lively and spirited day-long marketplace where sustainable businesses and organizations showcase their services and where environmentally conscious individuals gather to learn how to incorporate sustainability into their lives,” said festival ambassador Adam Zellner of Greener by Design.

Each year, the forum aims to connect local businesses, non-profits associated with sustainability, industry, manufacturing and emerging industries with potential consumers.

The event was presented this year by National Grid and Pratt Industries.

KEYNOTE BREAKFAST

Thursday’s festival began with a breakfast that focused on “New Frontiers in a Sustainable Staten Island,” in which a panel of academics and other industry professionals discussed local initiatives to address resiliency.

Speakers included: Dr. Robert Fanuzzi, St. John’s University; Dr. Abraham Unger, Wagner College; Dr. Alan Benimoff, College of Staten Island; Mario Bruno, Department of Environmental Protection; Aleena Farishta, NYC Department of City Planning; and Melissa Herlitz, NYC Department of City Planning.

The Green & Clean Festival consisted of presentations on various topics, including: minority- and women-owned businesses, environmental protection and innovation.

STUDENT EVENTS

There were also events geared toward students.

National Grid gave a presentation for students on gas safety. Participants were taught to use their senses at home or school to detect a potentially dangerous situation.

Students were also given the opportunity to tour the Zoo to learn about environmental science, ecosystems, and the importance of a sustainable planet for all species.

In addition, the SIEDC showcased over 50 vendors, ranging from local green and industrial businesses to non-profit organizations.

‘IT’S ORGANIC BASH’

The event drew to a close with the “It’s Organic Bash” cocktail reception.

Marcello Sciarrino, a partner in Island Auto Group, presented \$2,500 to the Staten Island Zoo to show support of the organization’s projects and the Staten Island community.

The Felix T. Gilroy Green Genesis Awards Ceremony also took place during the reception. The SIEDC acknowledged five organizations for projects that are helping Staten Island become a more sustainable borough.

Award recipients included: BioGas Corp for its Biodigester Project; Freshkills Alliance for Freshkills Park; CetraRuddy for the Corporate Commons 3 Project; Kinder Morgan and EnterSolar for their solar installation project, and NYCEDC for the West Shore Marshes Project.

Corporate sponsors of the Green & Clean Festival included Con Edison, Staten Island University Hospital and Williams Transco. Island Auto Group was the Exclusive Auto Group of the festival.

Support for the conference’s youth education initiative was provided by ADCO Electric, Borough President James Oddo, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Puddin’ Kids First and United Activities Unlimited.

Media partners for the event were the Staten Island Advance and AM 970.