

SBS IN THE NEWS



Staten Island Advance

Staten Island entrepreneur honored Vincent D'Antuono, Pastosa owner, among recipients of Neighborhood Achievement Award

By STEPHANNIA F. CLEATON
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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- For more than four decades, West Brighton entrepreneur Vincent D'Antuono has worked to make his community a better place in which to live, work and shop.

For all his work, D'Antuono was among 12 organizations, businesses and individuals honored last night with a New York City Neighborhood Achievement Award by Mayor Michael Bloomberg at Gracie Mansion.

D'Antuono, who has owned and operated Pastosa Ravioli on Forest Avenue for nearly 45 years, said the award came as a pleasant surprise.

"It's wonderful to receive such a wonderful award from the mayor," said D'Antuono, 68, who was a recipient of a Small Business of the Year Award. "It's real important to our neighborhood and especially my customers, whom I've been doing business with for almost 45 years. I am grateful."

D'Antuono's success in business was one of the reasons he was chosen to receive the award. Lines often stretch around the corner during the holiday season. But rather than simply focus on his own business, D'Antuono became an advocate for the West Brighton community, consistently finding ways to help other merchants succeed.

Not only was D'Antuono instrumental in the creation of Staten Island's first Business Improvement District -- The Forest Avenue Business Improvement District

(BID) -- and served as its first president, he also has taken the time to help local business owners find new ways to improve their bottom line.

"Vincent deserves the recognition," said JoAnn Regan, deputy director of the West Brighton Local Development Corp. (LDC), who attended last night's event. "He has been a wonderful, wonderful spokesperson for the Forest Avenue merchants and the BID."

Pastosa Ravioli launched in the mid-1960s, when Pastosa founder Anthony Ajello, father of D'Antuono's wife, Elizabeth, decided to expand his Brooklyn business to Staten Island. D'Antuono personally operates the Pastosa Ravioli store in West Brighton, which is one of five on Staten Island. There are 11 Pastosa stores in all, with locations in metropolitan New York, Long Island and New Jersey.

The New York City Neighborhood Achievement Awards, established in 2002, every year honor organizations, businesses and individuals that have demonstrated excellence in enhancing New York City neighborhoods by fostering economic opportunity.

"Tonight we recognize 12 outstanding small businesses, community leaders and organizations whose strong commitment to their neighborhoods and entrepreneurial spirit make our city a very special place," said NYC Small Business Services Commissioner Robert W. Walsh.

Mayor Bloomberg awards NYC small biz owners that go extra mile