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Team **Up** to Clean **Up**



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Winner

St Anastasia School

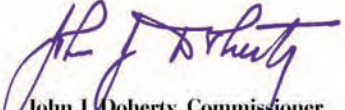
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION

2007 GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

This certificate is awarded with the sincere appreciation and esteem of a grateful Department and City in recognition of your school's efforts to help make New York City shine.



City of New York, Michael J. Bloomberg, Mayor
Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner


John J. Doherty, Commissioner
June, 2007

**St. Anastasia
Teams Up
to Clean up**

Introduction

The students of St. Anastasia are very lucky to live in the area of Douglaston and Little Neck. Here, they are surrounded by beautiful areas such as Alley Pond Park and the wetlands of Udall's Cove. To the north and west of their community are the waterways of Long Island Sound and Little Neck Bay. The homes found in their community are rich in history: the New York City Historical Society has designated Douglas Manor and the Douglaston Hill areas as Historic Districts.

For these reasons, along with their concern for the wild life that can be found around them, the students of St. Anastasia have devoted much time to learning about the environment and cleaning up the areas surrounding their school.

For example, the fifth grade has done extensive research on the importance of the wetlands in keeping our waterways viable. They also studied how daily activities such as getting gasoline for their cars, gardening and fertilizing their lawns, and even walking their dogs can affect the water in the bay and beyond.

The school has done several clean-ups; the most recent one on April 13th while they were on Easter vacation.

We, at St. Anastasia, are proud of our children's commitment to a cleaner environment and would like to share some of their accomplishments with you in the following document.

Let's clean up!!!

Let's clean up!!! Why you may ask??? Because I believe that if we do, our community could be a better place. Animal's habitats in our community could be cleaner. If this were to be successful it would be nice if people could volunteer to help clean up, and for there to be a garbage can on every corner. I would like to see if the Sanitation Department could do this for us. Maybe we could write a letter to them.

I would want our community to be a better place for example, have you seen Udall's Cove it's polluted. Now LETS CLEAN UP!!!



Why are we using so much paper? Why are we not recycling? I say save the trees. Stop using so much paper. Stop cutting down trees and start planting them.

We should have a day where everyone plant trees. That day will not use paper and it could be on a saturday so more people could help us save the trees.

I say we should once every month to plant trees. We'll save the trees but also we'll save the birds and every other animal that lives there. So lets save them.

By Ryan Heavey

Victoria Romano
St. Anastasia

3/28/07
Reading

Hi! I need your help. We need to save our city. Look around your neighborhood. Don't you think it needs cleaning up. Well we want help your neighborhood by cleaning the trash off the streets. Help us!

Sometimes people don't even care about the streets. They just throw trash on the floor like it's a garbage. I think the city should have more garbage bags on the sidewalks. Instead of people throwing rappers and all that other stuff on the floor. So I want you to help. If you do your community will be a better place.



UDALL'S COVE PROJECTS

***RESEARCH REPORTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
TAKING CARE OF OUR WETLANDS***

Newsday

A COMMUNITY FEATURE PRODUCED BY THE NEWSDAY MARKETING DEPARTMENT

FUTURECORPS

St. Anastasia Gives the Environment a Hand



Students at the St. Anastasia elementary school spearheaded an environmental clean-up in Douglaston. At top, right are project coordinators, Cleary Roma and Melanie Chong.

Little Neck Bay is part of an estuary that includes Long Island Sound and Aiky Creek. Recently, Daniel Smith was walking around Little Neck Bay during low tide.

"I noticed the beautiful crabs in the sand," he said. The fifth grader at St. Anastasia's School in Douglaston spoke in an estuary as a Marine Conservation Committee (MCC) member. "Then I saw all the garbage thrown from the highway. I felt bad for the creatures that have to live in this bay."

"MCC's Cove is a reserved area of land with wildlife and diverse types of plants, wet lands and forests," said chairman Anthony Santoro. "It also has many creeks that open into Little

Neck Bay."

"There are a lot of birds there and there is a pair of osprey that comes there every year," said Santoro Smith.

"They lay eggs on a platform (that) is UICPC and have been coming here for years," added Executive Director. "This garbage has in the summer and spring."

The students recently participated in an area-wide competition of schools hosted by UICPC to increase awareness of the preservation area and its impact on the environment.

Their work was recognized by FutureCorps, an initiative involving local students in community service.

"It gives students a chance to get into the community and teach people how they can preserve their community," Anthony said.

Wanting to do more than write about the problems of pollution, Joseph Chong organized a clean up of the area in January. "I wanted to have a clean up mostly because I was sick of seeing garbage around of 'Mall's Cove,'" he said.

Anthony added, "I think it's disgusting and people should think twice before they throw trash on the ground."

Newsday's FutureCorps
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THE WINNERS



DANIELA FAZIO

JOE CHONG

SOPHIA HUBER



**THE IMPORTANCE
OF
THE PRESERVATION
OF
UDALL'S COVE**

By Joseph Chong



The Importance of the Preservation of Udall's Cove

The preservation of Udall's Cove is important because it contains woodlands and wetlands. Udall's Cove consists of Aurora Pond, Udall's Wildlife Preserve and Udall's Cove Preserve. These are beautiful places to visit and should be treated with respect. I have researched the importance of wetlands and how pollutants are affecting our beautiful preserves.

Wetlands are very important to our environment because wetlands filter pollutants and fertilizers from our water. They also can help control flooding by soaking up rain water. Wetlands are important to the balance of rivers and bays. They are necessary for the future of animal and plant life.



Wetlands are a very important place for the life cycle of plant and animals. Many of the fish that I have researched including clams, oysters, mussels and horseshoe crabs filter the water from pollutants through their gills. Wetlands allow these fish to leave areas that their predators live so that they can lay their eggs.



Plant life is very important to keep the wetlands in existence. Cord grass is the most important plant in the marsh. Cord grass helps keep the land from eroding. It is resistant to salt water. When it decays it fills the marsh with nutrients. It can provide food and shelter to animals, plants and insects.



When I visited Aurora Pond I found a lot of garbage left by people there. I was very upset that people would treat such a beautiful place with such disrespect. This effects animals and plants because this is destroying there habitat. Pollution is making their lives very hard. I noticed that birds used some garbage to form their nests. This concerns me because this could lead to the death of the beautiful birds. I also noticed garbage in the water. This garbage will kill the fish life and destroy the important wetlands. Each animal and plant is important to the life cycle. If one of these plants or animals dies off it causes other plants and animals that rely on their existence to die as well. These pollutants can destroy the ecosystem in our area.



We know pollution affects everyone and every thing. We must take this into our own hands. "What can I do to stop this?" I asked myself. So, I organized a clean up. I decide to invite my class mates to clean up the woodlands on Northern Blvd. between 7/11 and the Mobile gas station. We are lucky to have a Preserve across the street from our school, so I thought we should start there. My mom and I notified the Parks Department and Sanitation Department about the clean up. They were kind enough to make sure that when the garbage was collected that they would remove it promptly from the area. I was afraid that if it stayed long, raccoons may open the bags and the area would have the problem all over again.



On January 12, 2007, my mother, my friend Danyal and his mom started to clean up the area. This caused a great effect. My other friends saw us cleaning the Preserve and came right over from the schoolyard to help. We started with four people and by the time we finished we had 14 people helping us. I was so happy to see that so many people were inspired to help clean up our environment. I think this was a very successful day. We had twelve bags of garbage by the time we finished. The entrance to the Preserve remained fairly clean for only three days. The garbage consisted of cigarettes, juice boxes, plastic containers glass, and snack wrappers. I believe this came from people littering the street. Even though there was a garbage can within feet of this rubbish, people still continue to pollute.

I have learned so much from this research and clean up. I think that if we educate the people of Douglaston about how important it is to keep Udall's Cove clean, they wouldn't make it a place to destroy. I also learned that if you set a good example people will follow.





I would like to thank all the people who helped me with the cleanup of Udalls Park Preserve. They are: my mom, Danyal and his mom, David, Morgan, and there Aunt Rosie, John, Matthew, and their mom, Mr. Palmer, and Sienna, and her grandfather.

Joseph Chong
St. Anastasia School
5th Grade Mrs. Roma

Samples of litter found at
Udall's Preserve

Paving Over a Watershed

Paving over a watershed creates problems. The pavement acts as drainage pathways. Many pollutants exist on paved areas. Fuel, oil, garbage, sewage, fertilizer and chemicals are some of them. During heavy rainfall the runoff collects these items. The runoff leads to our surrounding bodies of water. They are Little Neck Bay and Udall's Cove. It is the pavement that brings the runoff there. The runoffs are greatly increased due to paved surfaces. Natural areas with vegetation help to slow runoff, allowing water to seep into the ground. Storm drains and sewer overflows are a big problem in our neighborhood and these pollutants go directly into the sound.

We all live in a watershed and we have an effect on the water cycle. We need to take care of our neighborhood. Douglas Manor is a beautiful watershed and pollutants must be stopped.

Groundwater

Groundwater is any body of water that is contained in underground waterways known as Aquifers.

Groundwater flows through compressed gravel and soil. It flows very slowly. Groundwater is replenished through the soil from rain and snow melt. It is during this process that groundwater can get contaminated.

Groundwater contamination on Long Island and our neighborhood is a serious problem. It is caused by fuel spills, leaky sewage pipes, faulty septic systems, fertilizer, pesticides and negligence. Douglas Manor has many septic systems and large lawns. They contribute to contaminating the ground water. The fertilizer used on lawns and the overflowing septic systems seep into the groundwater through the soil.

Groundwater beneath the surface flows naturally to the earth's surface through springs. These springs feed the rivers, streams and ponds. This is how contamination groundwater in our neighborhood leads to Little Neck Bay and Udall's Cove.

MODEL ILLUSTRATION

As stated in this report, the watershed can cause contamination to surrounding bodies of water. It can cause it by the paved areas at the surface, and by the ground water below. The model illustrates a block in Douglas Manor on a hill. Our neighborhood blocks all lead to Udall's Cove or Little Neck Bay. The model shows septic systems that can overflow or seep into the ground. It shows the fertilizers on the lawn and how it can runoff onto the pavement or seep into the ground. The cars in the model are leaking fuel onto the pavement. It will runoff into the water. Douglas Manor is a unique spot and a very important watershed. The model shows how this watershed has changed due to homes, pavement and development. The Marshland, birds and fish are all affected by this watershed "Douglas Manor".

Septic System

A septic system is a highly efficient, self contained, underground wastewater treatment system. All the homes in Douglas Manor have septic systems. During heavy rainfall they overflow and leak. They overflow onto the pavement and into the ground. Either way the raw sewage is directed to the surrounding waters by our watershed.

Fuel and Oil

I watch many landscapers park their trucks on the streets of Douglas Manor. These vehicles leak fuel and oil onto the pavement. There are many other vehicles that also drive over the roads. When it rains, the runoff picks up these contaminants and leads them to the surrounding waters. Our neighborhood is very hilly and when it rains the runoff looks like rivers. Toxic chemicals like petroleum kill living organisms. Little Neck Bay and Udall's Cove are filled with natural wildlife and these pollutants kills them. People should be very careful not to destroy our ecosystem with unnecessary fuel spills.

Fertilizer and Pesticides

Fertilizer and Pesticides are used throughout our neighborhood by the landscapers. They are used directly on lawns and shrubs. When it rains they either seep into the ground or runoff onto the pavement. This type of pollution is considered Nonpoint Source Pollution. These are pollutants that are difficult to identify. All of our homes contribute to this type of pollution. Anything that is spread or spilled in our yards can end up in the Bay and Cove through groundwater or runoff. Conserving and protecting our watershed is very important to protect our surrounding waters.

FLOATABLE DEBRIS



JOHN ECKARTZ
ST. ANASTASIA SCHOOL
GRADE 5

Floatable Debris

Floatable debris is waste in the water that is buoyant. Examples include wood, beach litter, aquatic vegetation, and debris. Debris consists of litter (cans, bottles, polystyrene cups, sheet plastic, and paper products), sewage-related wastes (condoms, sanitary napkins, tampon applicators, diaper liners, grease balls, tar balls, and fecal material), fishing gear (nets, floats, traps, and lines), and medical waste (hypodermic needles, syringes, red bags, and enema bottles).

Floatable debris gets into the water because of us. A great number of animals and plants are dieing because of us. If you look around outside, people are littering in the oceans, beaches, forests, and fields.

There are numerous sources of floatable debris, including those coming from the ocean, land, and the atmosphere. Floatables can be washed into the ocean by heavy rainfall, or deposited in streams or oceans from the atmosphere (i.e. balloons). Floating debris can also travel

long distances over the ocean, and when these items get into the ocean, they can cause problems over a large area. The most buoyant types of floatable debris are plastics and some types of rubber. Paper, wood, and cloth items initially float, but tend to sink once they become saturated with water. Glass, metal, and some types of rubber sink unless air is trapped in pockets of the material.

Activities on land can also generate floatable debris. Such debris can be blown directly into the ocean or can be transported to the ocean, if blown into a river or stream that empties into the sea. Objects that can be easily blown around are a particular problem, because they can become floatable, even when originally disposed of in an appropriate manner. During storms and other periods of high winds or high waves, almost any kind of trash (including glass, metal, wood, and medical waste) can be deposited into the ocean.

There are numerous other ways for floatable debris to enter the ocean, beyond nature. The water that flows along streets or along the ground as a result of storm-derived runoffs, can carry litter into the storm drains. This action moves the water and debris to a nearby river or stream, or even directly to the ocean.

Pipes that carry a combination of sewage and storm water are known as combines sewers. In many areas, with older sewer systems, sewage is carried in the same pipe as storm water runoff. This sewage ends up in nearby waters, adding to the increased pollution of the local waterways.

Every year, thousands of people visit local beaches. Many of these beachgoers leave behind materials that become floatable debris—food packaging, beverage containers, cigarette butts, and toys like plastic shovels, pails, and frisbees. With the aide of nature, these items enter the waterways and become hazards to the environment.

Boats of all types are also sources of floatable debris. Fishing vessels are sources of fishing nets, lines, lures, rope, bait boxes, strapping bans, light sticks, salt bags, galley wastes, household trash, plastic bags and sheeting, beverage yokes, and other types of materials that are accidentally or not lost at sea.

Waste disposal activities can cause problems at sea. Waste disposal activities can cause problems when trash is lost during collection or transportation or when trash blows

or is washed away from disposal facilities. This floatable material can be of any type, but it is most commonly garbage.

Offshore oil and gas platforms are structures that are constructed in the ocean and form a base from which oil and gas drilling is conducted. Because offshore oil and gas platforms are surrounded by water, any items lost from these structures become floatable debris. Industrial facilities contribute to the floatable problem. When waste items generated by industrial processes are improperly disposed of on land, they too become part of the problem.

Littering and illegal dumping of waste are both sources of floatable debris. The land-based debris can blow or wash into water bodies. Careful collection, handling, and disposal of trash, as well as attempts to reduce the amount of trash, can help to reduce the floatable trash problem.

Floatable debris causes problems in coastal waterways, because it can easily come into contact with aquatic animals, people, boats, fishing nets, and other objects. Thousands of aquatic animals are caught in and strangled

by floatable debris each year. Coastal communities also lose money when littered beaches must be closed or cleaned up, and the fishing industry and recreational and commercial boaters must spend thousands of dollars every year to repair vessels damaged by floatable debris.

The animals are thinking garbage and plastics are food. They are eating them, getting tangled in them, and getting stuck in them. Animal will eat cigarette butts—the most littered item in America. They are composed of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that can exist in the environment for 10-12 years. Animals cannot digest them, which leads to their demise.

The most significant offender is floatable litter that contains polystyrene. When ingested by animals who mistake it for food, polystyrene can poison and/or clog stomachs, leading to death by either toxicity or starvation. Once released into the environment, polystyrene will NEVER decompose to a non-recognizable form.

Entanglement occurs when an animal becomes inextricably wrapped in or ensnared up by something. In

many cases, litter can entangle an animal swimming by. If the animal is unable to extricate itself, it can suffocate or drown. Six pack rings are estimated to cause 6 million sea birds' deaths a year and over 100,000 marine animal deaths. The plastic used to create the rings takes 450 years to decompose! Plastic shopping bags, which can cause both suffocation and drowning, take between 10-20 years to decompose.

In an effort to reduce, or possibly eliminate the floatable debris problem, the Trash Hunter was invented. The Trash Hunter is a heavy duty marine work boat for use in rivers, lakes, ports, harbors, marinas, or anywhere there is a need to collect floating trash and litter. It is designed to pick up a wide variety of flotsam and jetsam, including floating litter, garbage, logs, discarded tires, etc. The Trash Hunter has also proven instrumental in small scale oil recovery operations.

As unwanted debris is collected, it is conveyed on board and stowed in the generous storage hold area. Complete instrumentation and hydrostatic hydraulics enable a single operator to manage all functions of the Trash Hunter without coming into direct contact with the refuse. The Trash Hunter is powered by a twin hydraulic propeller system—the most efficient propulsion system available for

both speed and performance. The adjustable collection flares enable the operator to clean out even tight corners.

We still have the chance of making our community and the world cleaner. Do you look at beaches today and see that fish are dead on the shoreline? We are careless. We need to clean up the waters that we strive on. We need water to live.

There are many ways we can stop polluting water. We can make water storage in sewers bigger. We can stop dumping trash at sea. We can stop sinking ships and other vessels. We can make better decisions when disposing of our trash, both in public and at home. Let's get together and make our water clean!



WETLANDS
AND
WATERSHEDS

BY JULIA VENNITTI
ST. ANASTASIA

Wetlands and Watersheds

70% of our earth is made up of water. Without it we cannot survive. But yet we continue to pollute our wetlands, and our drinking water has been greatly affected by it.

A watershed is a network of streams, rivers, and lakes. Depending on its size, a watershed may be used for agricultural and logging projects, towns and cities, manufacturing or industry, natural areas, and recreational companies.

Everyone lives in a watershed, and everyone affects how healthy it is. Everyday activities that affect watersheds are: pouring used car oil down sewers, over-fertilizing, applying chemicals to walkways, and disposing of litter and pet waste improperly. All of these things affect our watershed. Over the course of time, our watersheds have been altered by these pollutants and other things such as the human desires for transportation, manufacturing, food, recreation, and other amenities.

When we pollute our watershed, we are affecting the organisms that live there, such as birds, fish, and crustaceans that live in our wetlands. By killing

these animals with our pollution, we are disrupting the natural food chains within the environment.

There are two types of pollutants. Point-source and non-point source. Point-source pollutants are things like cans and foam that are deposited in rivers and streams and are brought to wetlands through the watershed system. Non-point pollutants are things like leaks from septic tanks and improper disposal of pet waste, and makes wetlands unsafe for swimming and fishing. The most common pollutant is lawn fertilizer. Rain washes excess fertilizer from lawn into waterways causing algae to bloom, limiting the oxygen in lakes, rivers, and streams to the amount of which it becomes fatal to aquatic life.

Even with point and non-point improvements, there is still a decrease in watershed quality. From decisions we make at home, to forest logging, to urban development, our actions affect the very future of our wetlands and watersheds.



**JULIA VENNITTI (grade 5), GABBY VENNITTI (grade 3)
AND VINCENT VENNITTI (kindergarten)
HELP CLEAN UP UDALL'S COVE IN JANUARY**



ST ANASTASIA SCHOOL



The Home School Association along with the students of St. Anastasia School sponsored a cleanup of the shore area off Douglaston Dock on April 13, 2007. It was a blustery day, but the students did their best to clean as much of the beach as they could. They carried away many plastic bags caught in the grasses near the shore, as well as styrofoam, plastic and glass bottles, and many unknown items. The biggest things they found were rugs, tires, long metal pipes, and some large mooring balls.

Even though they worked for nearly three hours before high tide approached, there was still so much litter left on the beach.

Each child expressed interest in coming back to see if they could do more.





I felt good because I helped the environment.

Stefan

**Erin Pellegrino
St. Anastasia**

**4/16/07
Clean Up**

On the clean up on Friday, there were loads of plastic, glass and other trash that is polluting our air. There were many people there trying to help so we picked up a lot of trash. We probably filled up about 10 or more garbage bags. Bottles were more common but we found other things like wrappers and bottle caps were everywhere too. It was sad to see all that garbage ~~every~~ polluting our air. We were pulling out these green rug like material from the ground and it was almost everywhere. Many people had to go back by the large plants to find things. One person found a frisbee and another person I think found a stuff bear. I think we picked up a lot of trash. The End.



Dock Cleanup

On Friday the 13th of April, St. Anastasia participated in a cleanup to hopefully win some money. Many kids from the school and I helped cleanup. We cleaned up at least 35 bags of garbage! Some things we cleaned up were bottles, plastic bags, a tire, rugs and a lot of styrofoam. When I saw all the garbage, I was so surprised to see how many people don't care about the environment. Then I noticed how important it was that we were there to help. When I found plastic that held cans together that wasn't cut, I was so happy a fish or something else was not caught in it. It was awful weather because it was so cold and it was windy! When we finished, everyone was tired and muddy. As soon as I saw how much we cleaned up, I thought "We must have saved many fish, plants and the environment by doing this." I also had fun doing it, especially seeing David get stuck in the mud.

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
ST.ANASTASIA

4-16-07
S.S

On Friday, April 13, 2007, some of the St. A's students and I went on a clean up trip to the shore line of the Douglaston Manor Dock. When I got there it was filthy! There were bottles, chains, garbage, toys, and right next to where the water touches the land there was a clay like substance. I know because I got my boot stuck in it. Don't worry, I didn't leave it behind. It was really good to clean up the environment and the shore line. I think we should do these clean up trips more often because it helps the environment, the wetlands, the plant life and the animals who live there.

April 27, 2007

We, the students of St. Anastasia, pledge that we will always be aware of our environment. We declare that we will do our best to keep it beautiful for everyone, now and in the future.

KELLY BURKE
JOSEPH BARTBA
PATRICIA MATTMOO

JOSEPH ~~KEAS~~
MAGGIE CULLIMORE
CAMARHCAMPBELL
MANU VILINPELL
GIANNARAGONE

ALEX RAICAPOLI
HENRY SON
AMMORAM

JAMES HENG NICHOLAS VENNITTI
ISABELLA AZIO
MICHAEL BONICI
BROOKA STONES