

Brooklyn Blue: NYPD's Own 'Epcot' Is a Hit With Many

It was as if someone cracked the "great American melting pot" and let its contents drip all over Marine Park.

NYPD precincts as culturally diverse as the neighborhoods they serve stood shoulder to shoulder in Marine Park Sunday during Patrol Borough Brooklyn South's second annual Showcase Festival.

Visitors to the park went from table to table packed with photos, artwork and literature about the precinct and the community they represent so onlookers can get a taste of what it is like to walk on the beaches of Coney Island, visit the trendy shops and restaurants along Smith Street in Carroll Gardens, feel the hustle and bustle of Park Slope and Bay Ridge as well as learn about the Sheepshead Bay fishing fleet and the deeply religious people that helped make Borough Park.

There were games for adults and children throughout the day, which was filled with giveaways and vendors selling items that make each community unique.

There was also an antique police car show where onlookers found out what cops cruised in ten to fifty years ago.

As always, police officers were on hand with crime pre-



Members of the 60th Precinct Community Council gather around Captain John Nikas, Police Officer Charlie Barbiero, Sergeant Lorraine Meyer and Captain Frank Cangiarella of the 62nd Precinct.

vention literature to help residents keep everything from their bikes, to car to home, safe from thieves and burglars.

Assistant Chief Joseph Fox, the commanding officer of Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, said that the inspiration for the showcase came from the Epcot Center, but has quickly grown into its own.

"When you go to the Epcot World Showcase, you start at one point of the circle and go from country to country," Fox said. "We believe that each precinct represents a different community in this borough which can all be enjoyed in our showcase."

"Not only were community members able to bond with the police who protect their own community, but they were able to interact with the people that make up the heart of their neighboring communities," Fox added. "Each person that walks along the circle was able to get a view of each neighborhood in Brooklyn South."

There are 13 precincts that make up Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, which stretches from Carroll Gardens to Coney Island and from Bensonhurst all the way to Canarsie.

—Tom Tracy



PBBS Lieutenant James Woods poses for a picture with his mother Yolanda and member of the Chui family, who run the Dynasty Restaurant.

Photos by Steve Solomonson