

Western Queens Deadline

Needles Found On Queens Beach

By CRAIG McGUIRE

Hundreds of beachgoers at Riis Park received a scare Aug. 13 when exposed medical waste along the shoreline forced park officials to temporarily close down the beach.

According to Gateway National Park spokesperson Marcy Davidson, at 1:15 p.m. a visitor informed a park officer that she had found a needle in the sand, which she discarded in a trash can.

"The officer then followed the visitor and retrieved the needle from the garbage while lifeguards pulled bathers out of the water back to the high tide water mark," said Davidson.

At 1:30 p.m., 15 park rangers and U.S. park police conducted a sweep of the entire beach from Bay 1 through Bay 16 (each section of beach is called a bay).

"The sweep uncovered one hypodermic needle, five insulin needles," said Davidson, "as well as various other medical waste materials, including vials, hoses and tubes."

While the sweep was con-

ducted, Gateway officials notified surrounding beaches.

Parke Spencer, spokesman for the New York City Parks Department said, "We found one needle on the beach, two miles west of Riis."

"Whether it floated in or was used by a drug user on the beach, we don't know," said Spencer. "To the best of our knowledge, this was an isolated incident."

There were no injuries reported at either location, and the Riis Park beach was reopened at approximately 3:30 p.m.

"Based on the close proximity of the material, all found on Bay 13 and Bay 14, we are considering this an isolated incident," said Davidson, "but we are continuing an investigation."

Informed that the water was safe, scores of eager bathers charged into the surf, while other more cautious beach bathers packed up and headed home.

"I don't care what they say, I'm taking my family home," said Flushing resident Billy

Donnelly. "The entire beach should be closed off so, God forbid, nobody steps on any needles they could have missed."

"It's terrible, you bring your children out for a day at the beach and you have to deal with this," said Howard Beach resident Josephine Toscano. "I'm not going home, but there is no way I'm going anywhere near that water."

"I want to go in the water, but my mom says I can't cause there's needles in it," said nine-year-old John Tomaselli, who lives in Ozone Park. "It's not fair. Why can't they just clean it all up."

A similar incident, though larger in scope, occurred at Riis Park beach on Labor Day in 1991.

According to Davidson, illegal dumpers discarding medical waste are subject to federal, state and city charges.

A federal conviction carries maximum fine of \$500 or six months in prison, a state conviction carries a fine between \$1,000 and \$2,500. Also, New York City sanitation police are empowered to levy a fine of up to \$10,000.

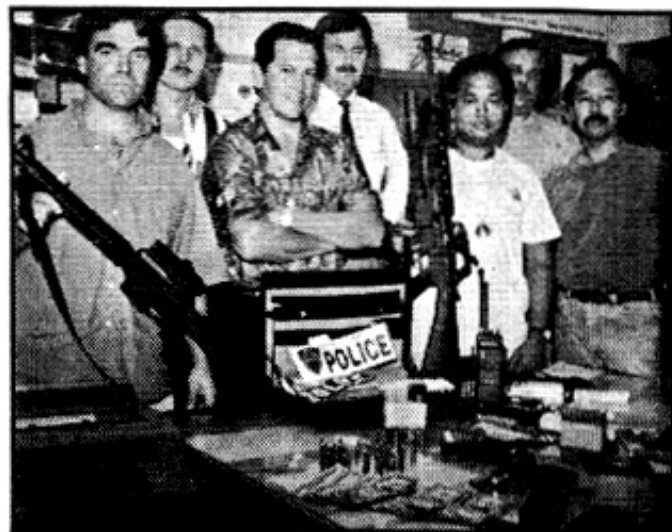
Jenkins Continues As Independent

By CRAIG McGUIRE

Despite removing herself from the Democratic primary for the 29th Assembly District amidst allegations of election fraud, Assemblywoman Cynthia Jenkins plans to resurrect her campaign and run as an independent.

"These charges are just not true," insisted Jenkins. "By the time this case is over, I could already have had enough signatures to be placed on (the ballot) as an independent. I'm not rich, and continuing this case would just be throwing good money after bad. I

The removal of Jenkins from the Democratic primary narrows the field in the 29th A.D. to two: Community Board 12 District Manager William Scarborough, who is backed by the Queens County Democratic Organization and James Blake, president of the



Tribune Photo by Liz Goff

Detectives assigned to the Queens Robbery Squad display weapons and paraphernalia seized from the Woodside apartment of a man suspected of at least 40 robberies in Queens.

Local 'Rambo' Caught

By LIZ GOFF

Julio Borrell lost track of his surroundings Friday, Aug. 12 during a heated argument with his girlfriend, police said, and ended up driving in the midst of a team of Queens detectives and NYPD Emergency Service cops.

Police said that when Borrell, 41, of 32-12 60th St., in Woodside realized his predicament, he grabbed for a 9-mm handgun he had stashed inside a briefcase on the seat next to him. But it was too late. Sergeant William Nevins, a supervisor at the Queens Robbery Squad, soon had his hands

frequencies throughout the city, a Drug Enforcement Agency cap, and a large number of NYPD and military gear and paraphernalia, Nevins said. Police also recovered a "full-head" ski mask and a red Pontiac Grand Prix allegedly used by Borrell during the robberies.

In a series of commercial robberies, "the suspect would come in wearing the mask, gun in hand, and order everybody to get behind a counter," Nevins said. "He would make them lay down and he then would empty the register." He would also rob patrons who hap-