

# WEST SIDE THE SPIRIT

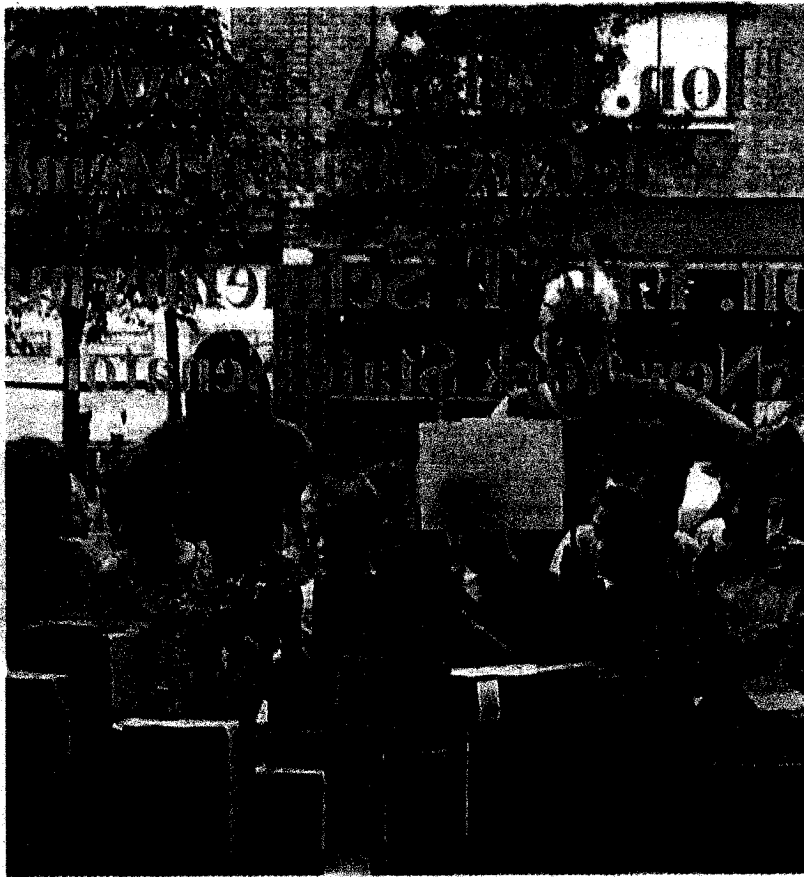
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Your Neighborhood Is Our Business

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## Brewer, Kids Team Up To Celebrate Neighborhood

*Students unveil their colorful model*



Students got a look at their handiwork at Council Member Gale A. Brewer's storefront office.

By Carla Zanoni

Like a bowl of Mexican jumping beans, more than twenty excited P.S. 166 second graders hopped, bounced and danced last week in Council Member Gale Brewer's Columbus Avenue storefront office.

The lively class and second-term council member were together to celebrate the unveiling of a new window display: a detailed and colorful model of the Upper West Side neighborhood in which the children live and play.

Students from the school on West 89th Street fashioned the neighborhood as they see it, replete with police stations, a synagogue, grocery stores, brownstones and subway stations. The model, created from cardboard cereal and pasta boxes and colorful construction paper, now sits in the window. The ornate cut-outs reflect the intricate facades that dot 59th to 110th streets.

The student's project came together under the guidance of two P.S. 166 second grade teachers, Julie Stone and Kathleen Mainhart, and Landmark West!, a non-profit dedicated to preserving the Upper West Side's architectural heritage.

The curriculum, provided by Landmark West! was entitled "Keeping the Past for the Future." Each child studied the buildings and environment of his or her neighborhood.

On Friday, Landmark West! education coordinator Rena Sichel Rosen and sum-

mer intern Elyse Newman stood with the students, reminding them of the key points they studied throughout the curriculum.

The children listed the different architectural and structural elements of their neighborhoods, including doctor's offices, office buildings and parks.

One child screamed out that skyscrapers and parks are a big part of life on the Upper West Side.

"You can't live without them," said Brewer of the parks. "And you definitely can't live without them" she said emphatically of the skyscrapers.

The Landmark West! curriculum includes very specific lessons about architecture—one child spoke about the drainage function of a building's cornices—as well as civics lessons. Brewer spoke to children about the role of the City Council in zoning and keeping the buildings of New York uniform and in good physical shape for the city's citizens.

She then asked the children about their experience in creating the neighborhood model. One of the children said it was difficult to build. She said it took a lot of teamwork.

"The role of the City Council is all about what you've studied," said Brewer, smiling. "There are 51 City Council members and, just like building that model, getting the job done is all about teamwork." ■