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SEWING THROGS NEK WATERBURY CASALE PALM BAY COUNTRY CLUB SPANISH ESTATE EDGEWATER PARK SILVER BEACH FOCUS POINT

Vacca encourages women's health awareness

BY AMANDA MARRINACCIO

Continuing his bold effort for a healthier Bronx, Councilman Jimmy Vacca will sponsor a Mobile Mammogram Van visit.

On Monday, February 23, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the van will be providing no-cost or low-cost exams to women over 40, who have not had an exam in the last year.

"Women 40 and over must not forego their annual mammograms because early detection is the key to survival. Incidentally, I am a ten-month breast cancer survivor; early detection saved my life," said Addie Backlund,

executive director of the American Italian Cancer Foundation. "In this dismal economic climate where women are losing their jobs and, consequently, their health insurance, AICF's mobile mammography van is more important than ever."

For people attending who are uninsured there will be no cost, and for those with insurance, the insurance company will be billed, but the individual will have no co-pay, resulting in no out of pocket costs for anyone.

"Basically I understand many of these women will be uninsured, or have difficulty finding

a location to receive a Mammogram. We make it possible for people to get it done in their community with no wait time and state of the art equipment, and we accept almost anyone," said Thomas Herman, CEO of Multi-Diagnostic Services, Inc.

The van will be located outside of 3040 E. Tremont Avenue, and results will be mailed to the patients within 10 business days.

The mobile mammogram van is provided through the AICF, with medical services available through Multi-Diagnostic Services, Inc. The program is also funded through the Avon

Foundation Breast Care Fund, Helena Rubinstein Foundation, National Breast Cancer Foundation, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and NYS Department of Health.

On the day of the exam, women are encouraged to wear a two-piece outfit, refrain from the use of oil, powder, deodorant, or perfume, and must bring their Medicare, Medicaid, or health insurance card if they have one.

"Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed form of cancer for women in the United States, but study after study shows the

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Mammography Van visit on Monday, February 23.

Vacca encourages women's health

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early detection can save lives," said Vacca. "For women over 40, regular

mammograms are essential to healthy living. I am so pleased to be able to provide this service to the community at no cost to the individual patient." To schedule an appointment call (718) 931-1721.