

Charity Car Show Zooms Into Glen Cove

BY RECORD PILOT STAFF

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The annual Gold Coast Concours/Bimmerstock car show benefiting diabetes research never disappoints. But this year's array of high performance eye candy was more spectacular than ever. More than 5,000 spectators came for a close-up look at 500 spectacular cars, listening to great music performed by Matt Grabowski and The Lazy Dogs, trying their luck with dozens of great raffle prizes and sampling offerings from a great array of food trucks.

Held in Glen Cove's downtown on Sept. 18, the event's greatest showcase was the cause for which it was created. County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton has been very involved with the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) for more than 15 years, after one of her daughters was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

DeRiggi-Whitton and Joe LaPadula, owner of Martino Auto Concepts, created the car show in 2008 to attract visitors to view these spectacular

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cars and increase awareness about diabetes, with the ultimate goal of raising money to help fund research towards a cure. After this year's event,

donations raised for diabetes research total nearly half a million dollars.

"This is such a fabulous event for such an important cause," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "Type 1 diabetes, which is usually diagnosed in children and young adults, can't be controlled simply through diet or prescription pills. So finding a cure is the only thing that will enable these patients to lead normal lives."

In Type 1 diabetes patients, the pancreas doesn't properly secrete insulin to regulate blood sugar. The DRI is currently conducting Phase I/II clinical trials with their BioHub, which is a "mini organ" that mimics the function of the pancreas. It contains thousands of insulin-producing cells that sense blood sugar levels and releases the right amount of insulin. Test results to date of the BioHub have been extremely promising.

DeRiggi-Whitton expressed gratitude to the department of public works, EMS, Glen Cove Police Department and Auxiliary Police, Mayor Reggie Spinello, the City Council and everyone who donated and volunteered to help.

For more information about the DRI, including making a donation to help further its research, visit www.diabetesresearch.org.





Mayor Reggie Spinello, event organizers Joe LaPadula and Joe Holzer, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, Arianna Mae Whitton, Richard Valicenti and Tony Jimenez. (Photo by Tony Gallego, Gill Associates Photography)



City Council members Roderick Watson, Nick DiLeo, Pam Panzenbeck and Mayor Reggie Spinello, DRI LI Director Anthony Childs, NYS Assemblyman Chuck Lavine and Leg. DeRiggi-Whitton with Oyster Bay Boy Scout Troop #253 and Scoutmaster John Tabako. The Scouts raised \$350 for the DRI by selling water bottles. (Phot by Tony Gallego, Gill Associates Photography)