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## New Trees Grow In Brooklyn...

Carroll Gardens/Cobble Hill Courier

The Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation (SBIDC) celebrated the one year birthday of 13 trees planted in front of the Kentile building, which extends along 2nd Avenue between 7th and 9th streets in Gowanus.

Last fall, Architectural Grille and Regal Home, two industrial business owners and owners of the Kentile building, in partnership with SBIDC, planted trees along this industrial corridor, thanks in part to a matching grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the donation of two trees by the New York City Parks Department.

After purchasing the Kentile building and investing millions of dollars to rehab the deteriorating industrial complex, the Kentile once again supports several businesses, including Regal Home, an import-distribution company of linens and garments, and Architectural Grille, a manufacturer of custom grilles. Tenants and owners together employ well over 300 men and women. "We were happy to help plant and then take care of these trees", said Anthony Giumenta, Sr., owner of Architectural Grille. "It's good for our employees, our neighbors and it makes the place look a little nicer."



Members of the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation (SBIDC) celebrate the one year birthday of the 13 trees planted in front of the Kentile building on 2nd Avenue in Gowanus.

The Kentile property is included in the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone, an industrial rich area that the Mayor has promised not to rezone. The IBZ initiative was introduced by the Mayor's Office of Industrial and Manufacturing Businesses in January of 2005 and ratified this past March.

The tree planting project is SBIDC's first step in what the organization hopes to be a larger campaign to help its industrial business constituents be more environmentally friendly. SBIDC recently received a \$10,000 grant from New York Community Trust to develop its Green Industries program, which allowed the organization to help court Tri-State Biodiesel to Red Hook and assist them in growing their business in the community.

In the upcoming months, Tri-State will build a refinery where they will process vegetable grease refuse, collected from local restaurants, into eco-friendly fuel for trucks, buses, boats, and homes.

On her organizations efforts on behalf of the environment, Phaedra Thomas, executive director of SBIDC said, "when people think about industrial businesses, they envision a dirty community, but this is not necessarily the case. Industrial areas can and should be green, both in their operations and their physical environment."

As part of its environmental initiative, SBIDC will continue to advocate for the City to maintain its

working waterfront as water-borne transportation is the cleanest way to move goods. The organization will also work with businesses and property owners to plant more trees, and to find customers in Southwest Brooklyn to take advantage of Tri-State Biodiesel's product.