

SOME SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS OF VAN CORTLANDT VILLAGE:

- The **bridge over the Deegan ON 238TH Street** between Broadway and Bailey is one of the ugliest stretches in the area. We would like to see raised planting boxes, benches—really anything that would clean up and beautify that section. It's especially needed because so many businesses—Bronx Ale House, the new Mon Amour Café, and the BJs mall—have begun to flourish there, potentially transforming that block. We believe that BJ's, Petco, or even the owner of the new BJs-anchored mall could be approached to donate large planting boxes, ideally with **dwarf evergreen trees**, so that the planting is visible four seasons. Why not have the big box stores fund some of these efforts?
- Walking up Broadway along the stretch across from Stop and Shop and in the areas of the police precinct, neighbors were dismayed at the **frightening and unsightly collection of wrecked vehicles, police vehicles, and illegally parked personal cars** of employees of the 50th Precinct. We feel that it is inappropriate for the police to be creating the effect of a junkyard in the heart of our neighborhood. They should not treat our streets as places they can do whatever they please with and they should seek to do no harm to the appearance of the neighborhood. Any serious discussion of improving Broadway can't ignore this problem, which also is part of the reason traffic bottlenecks in this area. One of our neighbors notes that the 50th precinct needs a staff parking lot.
- We would like to see the Community Board take a more active role in **trying to bring desirable tenants to the new mall buildings** at the BJs-anchored plaza, which still has vacancies, and the Cube Smart, which has several vacant stores. Residents are interested in cafes like Panera bread, bookstores, or movie theaters. Barnes and Noble was mentioned, and residents of the neighborhood would especially like to see an active effort from CC member Cohen to attract **B&N or a large bookstore to the neighborhood**. Possible locations mentioned include the large space adjacent to Williams Funeral Home; and the former carpet store by BJs.
(see <http://www.bxtimes.com/stories/2016/46/46-barnes-2016-11-11-bx.html>)
- Neighbors are extremely upset about the appearance of the Cubesmart, which brings nothing of use to the neighborhood, since we already have a massive UHaul storage facility. To reiterate, the community board should try to bring tenants that will increase **pedestrian traffic and low-density street life**, rather than drive-through type warehouses that achieve the antithesis of that.
- Our area relies heavily on the 1 train, and because of bus connections, the 242nd street stop is by far the most heavily used. Yet the **242nd stop has no elevator or disability access** (there is one at 231st). We believe MTA should consider installing an elevator at that stop.
- The community board should work with NYC Parks to try to cut down on the massive number of trees being killed by long-term scaffolding on buildings. While the Million Tree planting initiative recently concluded amidst much fanfare, the most recent tree census revealed only 680,000 trees remain in all NYC boroughs even despite these heroic efforts. This suggests that rather than planting trees, we need to focus on **enforcement against individuals and buildings whose anti-tree actions are killing our trees**.