

Digging out from the blizzard of '16

By Viola Brown

Posted 1/28/16

After the first major storm of the season brought over two feet of snow to the city over the weekend, northwest Bronxites spent Monday digging cars out of parking spots and trudging to bus stops while trying to get back to normal.

"This is way more than I expected," Riverdale Avenue resident Susie Gallow said. "I was looking forward to riding my bike today."

She said after about 27 inches of snow from Winter Storm Jonas hit the Bronx on Saturday, passing plows piled another two feet around her vehicle. A tow truck helped her remove the car, only for her to wake up on Monday and find a fresh mountain of snow.

Menissa Martinez, an employee at Larry's Lucky Lotto on Riverdale Avenue, shared a similar experience. She said it took three hours to extricate her car, only to have it covered again.

Commuting to work on Sunday was difficult, as she experienced price gouging from taxi drivers who usually charge \$15 from White Plains Road; her driver raised rates by \$10 due to the storm.

"It's disgusting outside and they aren't cleaning the streets right," said Ms. Martinez, "They move the snow to the middle of the road instead of piling it up to the side."

Both Ms. Gallow and Ms. Martinez applauded the city for closing down streets and cleaning main roads.

"They did a good job with the main roads, but not that much on the side streets," said Ms. Martinez, "all the bus stops are covered."

Ms. Martinez, who is moving to Miami at the end of the week, is happy that she will not have to deal with snow any longer. Her children, on the other hand, were excited to finally have snow to play in.

Local business owner Patricia Cassiere of Cora Houseware experienced little difficulty maneuvering in the snow.

"We sold lots of shovels and sleds," she said, "so it was a good weekend for some and a bad weekend for others."

Ms. Cassiere longed for the unseasonably warm temperature of December, but acknowledged that precipitation is typical for this time of year.

“This is a big one, but it’s not the most difficult one,” she said. “Plowers have been helping people out, so Riverdale is good compared to other parts of the city.”