Baby’s death sparks anger at driver bail

BY BILL PARRY

Safe streets advocates are outraged that the driver of a van that struck and killed an 8-month-old toddler in East Elmhurst Friday was released without bail later that evening.

Armando Morales-Rodriguez, 44, was arraigned before Queens Criminal Court Judge Ernest Hart and charged with driving without a license. He was released on his own recognizance and ordered to return to court Dec. 5, according to the Queens DA’s office.

“DAs need to be willing to apply existing criminally negligent/reckless laws to operation of a motor vehicle,” Transportation Alternatives’ Peter Beadle said. “If you walked down a sidewalk swinging a toaster by its power cord and accidently brained someone, you’d be facing charges. It should be no different if you are in a van.”

Prosecutors say Morales-Rodriguez was backing his van out of a driveway in front of 92-20 Astoria Blvd. when it struck baby Navraj Raju’s stroller as he was being pushed by his mother, who was not hurt. The little boy was rushed to Elmhurst Hospital.

Showdown at Queens polls Nov. 8

Amid the fanfare over the presidential election, Queens has mounted nearly 20 races for seats in Congress and the state Legislature for the election next Tuesday.

The Queens Republican Party, which has been rebuilt over the past year, fielded 17 candidates to face off against Democratic incumbents in the House, the state Senate and the Assembly. At stake is the eastern Queens House seat now held by retiring U.S. Rep. Steve Israel, the SE Queens Assembly seat left vacant by the death of Barbara Clark and the Assembly post Phil Goldfeder is leaving in Rockaway Beach.

The contest to replace Assemblywoman Margaret Markey after her stunning defeat in the Democratic primary will be a referendum on the Masphem homeless shelter.

Ramones fans gathered from far and wide to celebrate the renaming of the intersection of 67th Avenue and 110th Street outside of Forest Hills High School as “Ramones Way.” The school is the alma mater of the four original members of the band.

Family members and elected officials were on hand, including Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills). When she first made her introduc-
More Maspeth angst
City Hall statement riles civic leader after Stringer visit

**BY BILL PARRY**

The Juniper Park Civic Association is threatening to sue de Blasio administration for slander by one of its spokespersons, according to its president, Bob Holden. After City Comptroller Scott Stringer was invited to Middle Village last week speak to a town hall meeting addressing concerns with the city housing single men at the Holiday Inn Express, Aja Worthy-Davis released a statement saying, “Scott Stringer is courting a group advocating for kicking women and toddlers onto the street, using White Lives Matter as their protest song. He should be ashamed.”

The civic group hired attorneys who fired off a letter to City Hall asking for an apology and a retraction before taking the matter to the next level. They have not heard back, Holden said.

“It’s so slanderous and we’re going to take action on it because it’s so irresponsible,” he said. “Nobody connected with the Juniper Park Civic Association used that term during our rallies, only the mayor’s office heard it. It has no remote connection to our group. We invited Scott Stinger to speak to us. It’s the mayor’s office that made this political and racial. I don’t have words, but it reflects the kind of people this mayor has hired. It is false. It is slanderous.”

City Hall received the letter and spokesman Eric Phillips said, “The city’s lawyers will be responding to Mr. Holden.”

Special Counsel to the Mayor Henry Berger added, “We are entitled to present facts and to express our opinions. Neither provides a basis for legal action.”

The comptroller, who is viewed as a potential primary challenger of de Blasio’s next year, declined to comment, but his spokesman Tyrone Stevens said, “We meet with those whom we agree --and those with whom we disagree. Our city is facing record-high homelessness, and it’s only growing. This is a problem that has to be solved by working with communities across the five boroughs.”

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) attended the town hall meeting, and he was livid when he heard of Worthy-Davis’ comment.

“As made evident by his spokesperson’s statement, once again Mayor de Blasio has failed to see the real issue at hand when dealing with the city’s homeless crisis,” Addabbo said.

“Instead of looking at the facts and realizing that his shelter policies are failing all throughout the city, our mayor continues to hide behind an imaginary racial battle that has no place in this effort to find a solution to homelessness. The opposition to using hotels as shelters in any community, not just Maspeth, has never been racially motivated. In fact, the only time race has been used as the primary focus is when Mayor de Blasio’s administration uses it to attack and misrepresent the hard-working, taxpaying people I represent who simply want to improve a failed homeless policy and to assist those individuals in need of adequate, permanent housing.”

In late September, the city produced two videos of the Maspeth group protesting outside a Bellrose hotel, and released them to social media.

Holden and Addabbo believe the White Lives Matter chants were edited into one of the videos.

“Twice now, the mayor has wasted taxpayer dollars to record and produce inappropriate propaganda videos that wrongly make the public believe that those who oppose shelters in their neighborhoods are racist,” Addabbo said. “His rhetoric is doing nothing but continuing to divide our city and further delay the plausible solutions that homeless New Yorkers are counting on him to provide.”

Jamaica man accused in brutal deli attack

**BY PATRICK DONACHE**

A Jamaica man was charged with punching a 69-year-old woman outside a Jamaica deli, and community leaders gathered Tuesday at the scene of the crime to encourage community members to tell authorities about violent offenders hiding from police.

“It is sad that this man had to be safe harbored in our community,” Kevin Livingston, the head of 100 Suits for 100 Men, said during the news conference organized by Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica). “We cannot be comfortable with being comfortable. You have to be p...ed off when these things happen in our community.”

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Springer was awaiting arraignment on assault and harassment charges. On Oct. 16 at around 8 a.m., Springer entered King Deli and Grocery at 107-40 Sutphin Blvd. removed a beer from the cooler, and threw a dollar on the counter, according to a criminal complaint from the district attorney’s office. The complaint stated that Methaq Algabyali, an employee at the store, went to get the bill when Springer came back in the deli and punched him in the face.

Algabyali struggled with Springer, who eventually exited the deli, according to the complaint. Algabyali then saw Springer punch Eve Gentillon in the head. She fell to the ground and lost consciousness, the complaint stated.

Springer was still in the neighborhood where the attack occurred when he was apprehended by the Regional Fugitive Task Force, according to Kristel Johnson, the NYPD Deputy Chief of Queens Borough South.

Gentillon was taken to a local hospital after the attack, according to the complaint. She underwent emergency surgery and a piece of her skull needed to be removed because a cranial subdural hematoma, the complaint stated. Wills said it looked like the recovery time could be extensive.

During the conference, Wills thanked the NYPD for their work in finding the suspect and railed against community members who may have protected him from authorities. He noted 16 days

*Continued on Page 48*
BY BILL PARRY

The city Department of Homeless Services got some good news last week when its Library Pilot Project was recognized by the Library of Congress as one of 14 honorees from around the world implementing best practices in literacy promotion. Launched in March 2015, the collaboration between DHS, Queens Library and the city’s Department of Education, among others, works to bring literacy services and programs to children and their families in 30 newly created shelter-based libraries.

“We know that serving homeless New Yorkers is about more than ensuring families have a roof over their heads,” said Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks, who oversees DHS.

“The Library Pilot Project is a continuation of our commitment to connect homeless families to the support they need to increase access to education and to thrive.”

In addition to increasing access to reading material, the project’s shelter programming includes homework assistance for students, parent-child reading activities, and one-on-one reading enrichment sessions for children. It offers a college preparatory program for high school seniors in shelters to increase applications and enrollment. Skill-building games and arts-and-crafts sessions provide a forum for children to express their feelings on a wide range of subjects. The Library Pilot Project also offers library card drives, group visits to local public library branches, and book discussion groups for families.

“The Library Pilot Project brings families that live in shelter much more than age-appropriate books,” Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina said. “Developing a love of reading from the earliest age is essential, and having access to books is a necessary first step. We continue to work in close partnership with the Department of Homeless Services to support students and families who are living in shelter.”

The annual Library of Congress Literacy Awards recognize groups doing exemplary and innovative work, and they spotlight the need for the global community to unite in striving for universal literacy. The 13 other projects that will be honored alongside DHS include the Afghanistan Center at Kabul University, Ethiopia Reads in Addis Ababa and Sipar in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

“Queens Library is thrilled to be a part of this innovative project that supports literacy and the love of reading with children and parents experiencing homelessness,” Queens Library Director of Youth Programs and Services Vikki Terri tried. “We look forward to continuing and expanding our work with the Department of Homeless Services, our other project partners, and the families and staff in our Queens shelters.”

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260–4538.

The Department of Homeless Services is honored by the Library of Congress for its shelter literacy programs. Courtesy DHS

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Suozzi and Martins near end of race

Winner in next week’s general election will determine who succeeds Rep. Steve Israel

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

The race to replace outgoing U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Melville) in Congress will come to a close with next week’s general election, with former Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and state Sen. Jack Martins (D-Mineola) locked in a campaign that could determine if the Democrats can retake control of the House of Representatives.

Suozzi benefitted from the recent endorsement of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Israel, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Martins can tout the endorsements of Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), as well as former Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina.

Geographically, the overwhelming majority of the district is made up of parts of Suffolk and Nassau County in Long Island, with the district cutting into the borough to include parts of Bay Terrace, Whitestone, Glen Oaks and Floral Park. Newsway reported that Queens voters made up close to 14 percent of the district in terms of population.

In addition to his tenure as Nassau County executive, Suozzi was also a former mayor of Glen Cove, and ran for governor in 2006, losing to Eliot Spitzer in a Democratic primary. He faced four other competitors in a Democratic primary earlier this year. Suozzi spoke about his Queens support and the chief issues he heard during the campaign.

“I’ve been lucky to have brought them to Washington.”

Suozzi spoke about his Queens support and the chief issues he heard during the campaign.

“I’ve been lucky to have brought them to Washington.”

Meng has said part of her success in Congress is her bipartisanism.

“My constituency is the most diverse in the country.”

Meng up against newcomer in competition for House

BY GINA MARTINEZ

In the last four years Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) has sponsored multiple bills advocating for families and small businesses in her district. In her run for a third term she faces Republican Danniel Maio, a map maker.

In 2016 alone Meng has passed legislation into law that removes the term “Oriental” from federal law, legislation to protect public housing residents from living in insufficient heat, and legislation to assist veterans with several health care and disability-related benefits. Her district includes Forest Hills, Middle Village and Bayside.

Meng said she is not focusing too heavily on campaigning because she technically is always on the campaign trail.

“Congress members are up for election every two years because it’s so close in timing so there’s no start or end to campaigning,” she said. “Election year or not, we try the best to be accessible to constituents and hear their concerns and bring them to Washington.”

Meng has said part of her success in Congress is her bipartisanism.

“I’m really proud of my bipartisan record,” she said. “I promised when I first ran to try my best to work in a bipartisan manner, to reach across the aisle. My constituents don’t want me to just point fingers and place blame. I have been able to pass legislation because I’ve been able to work with Republican and Democratic leadership.”

Her mentor, Maio, studied politics at American University in Washington, D.C. and later started an identity maps company, where he has worked for the last 23 years.

“I have to do things very Continued on Page 48

Crowley challenged by Astoria bizman

BY BILL PARRY

U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) is seeking his 10th term in Congress representing Queens and the Bronx against Republican challenger Frank Spotorno, a first-time candidate and owner of the Park Avenue Elevator Cab Company in Astoria. Crowley is the leader of the Queens Democratic Party and vice chairman of the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives.

“I have been privileged to represent one of the most diverse districts in the country and I hope to earn that privilege once again to continue fighting on behalf of my constituents and on the matters most important to them,” Crowley said. “The issues facing American families across the country are not

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Pheffer Amato looks to replace Goldfeder

BY GINA MARTINEZ

In June Assemblyman Philip Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) surprised everyone when he announced that he would not seek re-election. Goldfeder announced that he was leaving the Assembly to work as a lobbyist for Yeshiva University and focus more of his time on his family. With an endorsement from both the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Goldfeder himself, Democratic candidate Stacey Pheffer Amato has become a front runner for the District 23 seat.

Amato has a long history of public service in the Rockaways. The married mother of two has served on the Scholars’ Academy Parent Association and was the female Democratic district leader for the 23rd Assembly District. Her mother, Audrey Pheffer Amato is on the ballot for the District 23 seat.

Amato is confident she is the most qualified for the position.

“I’m active in the community and a great listener,” she said. “I also have the patience necessary to lead. I have participated in fund-raising and I’ve loved getting to know people and what matters to them. I’ve been involved in district, associations, civic groups.”

This service she is most proud of is her part in helping the Rockaway community rebuild after Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Amato served on the governor’s Rockaway West NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program after Sandy.

“I was involved in the reconstruction of the Rockaways,” she said. “It’s been a slow recovery and so many families still don’t have homes, it’s all still up in the air. We’ve bought equipment for the community and volunteered. I really know the issues and the community. I’m devoted, I love it so much.”

As PA president Amato helped Scholars’ Academy high school students, teachers and administrators. Students were relocated to a school in Brooklyn while Scholars’ Academy was making initial fixes. She worked closely to orchestrate their transportation and made sure they were comfortable in the Brooklyn school and safe when their school reopened in March 2013.

Amato has also advocated working on or improving public transportation in her district, where it is lacking. She supports the plan to create a Rockaway Beach Rail line, which in her view would improve transportation and create jobs. Amato said she wants to expand the current proposed ferry schedule to Manhattan and include a free transfer to subway and bus.

“I’ve been one of the strong voices before and I want to continue great service,” she said. “I want to take it to the next level. Phil (Goldfeder) has done so much already and the individuals endorsing me have a fire in their stomach to continue his great work. I’m ready to take that baton.”

Reach Gina Martinez by email at gmartinez@anglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

GOP fields Miller rival

Miller, Republican opponent discuss SBS, shelters

BY MARK HALLUM

State Assemblyman Mike Miller (D-Dowhenhaven) has two major issues facing the constituents in his district: Select Bus Service and Mayor de Blasio’s controversial shelter plan to warehouse homeless in converted hotels across the city. Miller, like many other elected officials in Queens, is frustrated as he grapples with these problems and finds City Hall unresponsive to his complaints.

His district covers Glen-dale, Woodhaven and parts of Ozone Park and he is being challenged by Republican Joseph Maldonado, a retired snow superintendent with the city Sanitation Dept. in Manhattan.

Maldonado has recently been endorsed by from two different Sikh organizations.

Select Bus Service planned for the area has been the source of outrage for residents of Woodhaven who find the Dept. of Transportation indifferent to their criticism of what they call a dangerous and inconvenient solution to the public transportation issue. The controversial plan would eliminate lanes on Woodhaven Boulevard and put away left turns at major intersections while installing a bus stop in the median of an accident-prone thoroughfare, which residents contend the Sanitation Dept. neglects during snowstorms.

According to Miller, the intersection at Jamaica Avenue would have a bus stop installed on a median where accidents happen at least once a month. Miller is urging the DOT to utilize current bus stops, with the option for commuters to pay at the curb. He also wants bus routes diverted to service roads instead of displacing traffic on residential streets.

“They’re making people wait on the median for a bus. I just don’t think that’s smart,” Miller said. “I’m on Woodhaven Boulevard—my office and every month there’s an accident on the median between

Continued on Page 48

Zwirn eyes Rockaway spot

BY GINA MARTINEZ

Republican Alan Zwirn is going up against Democrat Stacey Pheffer Amato for the Assembly seat in the 23rd District covering Ozone Park, Rockaway and Howard Beach. Zwirn supports the plans to revive the Rockaway Beach rail, a line that was taken out of commission decades ago.

“I would cut travel time to Midtown in Queens,” he said. “It would reinvigorate the economy, bring people to restaurants and stores because of the different stops in South Queens. It would also potentially relieve traffic on Woodhaven and Crossbay. If commuters are going to the

Continued on Page 48

Republican Alan Zwirn is running for re-election against Republican Joseph Maldonado.
Kalief Browder saga caused mother’s guilt

BY BILL PARRY

Another sad chapter in the story of Kalief Browder, who committed suicide in 2015 after a harrowing ordeal on Rikers Island, was written during a City Council subcommittee hearing last week during testimony by his older brother, Akeem Browder, still grieving after his mother Venida’s death last month following several heart attacks, said she suffered immeasurable guilt and depression without any counseling or therapy.

“She let Kalief out that night to go to a birthday party and that was the first time my brother was allowed out,” the older Browder said. “We were once part of the streets, we weren’t allowed to run in the streets. She gave him an 11 o’clock curfew and that’s when he was stopped and that’s when this all began, so my mom blamed herself.”

The 16-year-old was arrested for stealing a backpack and spent the next three years on Rikers Island where he suffered frequent beatings by guards and inmates and spent nearly 300 days in solitary confinement, without ever being charged—all because his family couldn’t afford the $3,000 bail.

Mayor Bill de Blasio created Justice Reboot to reform Rikers Island after Kalief’s story received national attention. The program featured substantial overhauls to Rikers, including scheduling a trial or plea for all cases where the defendant was being held at Rikers and the case had been pending for longer than a year, within the first 45 days of the program’s April 2015 implementation.

“There’s no change, period,” Akeem Browder, 33, said. “My mother still hasn’t seen any justice. We’ve been given false dreams and promises that things would change.”

City Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest) chairs the Courts and Legal Services Committee and held hearings last week to put pressure on the de Blasio administration.

“The number of prisoners on Rikers who have been awaiting trial for over one year is currently between 1,300 and 1,400 people, marginally less than the 1,427 prisoners there for over one year as of April 2015,” Lancman said. “While it sounded wonderful at the time, it doesn’t appear there was any justice system and the single biggest driver of the jail population,” City Hall spokesman Austin Finan said. “This initiative is the first to tackle the problem of case delay across the entire system and the city—a problem that had been getting worse and worse over decades.”

The results failed to impress Browder family attorney Paul Prestia, who also testified at the hearing.

“While it sounded wonderful at the time, it doesn’t appear there was any substance behind this program, and that’s disappointing,” Prestia said. “I would have expected more, especially when the mayor patted himself on the back about this particular problem.”

Meanwhile, Akeem Browder will take on his mother’s fight for justice for his little brother by pushing to close Rikers Island, which he called a “gladiatorial” system.

“To know my mother didn’t see justice before Kalief passed and before she passed is really hard for me,” he said. “My mother did lose faith in what the government stood for, and that’s disappointing.”
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Conigliaro spells out his homeless solution
BY MARK HALLUM

Republican candidate Michael Conigliaro is facing down his 2014 opponent, state Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach), and says he is learning from the mistakes that lost him the seat with 47 percent of the vote.

The GOPer has a long-term plan to fix the homeless crisis in the city by adopting a three-pronged legislative goal at the state level over the next three years as well as addressing the issue of providing long-overdue Hurricane Sandy relief and repairing the education system.

As the president of the alumni association at Queensborough Community College and manager at a Floral Park law firm, Conigliaro says he has gained in name recognition after building a presence on social media, at civic meetings and being an outspoken voice for the community on the issue of homeless shelters.

He contends the best option for stemming the stream of homeless into shelters is by requiring residency from those checking in. Conigliaro said his plan is similar to regulations in the state of Florida, which require a drug test for those receiving welfare. Insisting that it would put more people on welfare, Addabbo has been critical of the de Blasio administration for shutting out residents and elected officials when it announced it would be implementing a homeless plan which would utilize hotels converted into shelters, causing a level of anger he had never seen from his constituents.

“We have a mayor who can’t call the governor for help, to look at state-owned properties or for financial assistance because they can’t get along,” Addabbo said.

Much of that anger erupted after the city proposed putting a homeless men’s shelter into a Holiday Inn Express in Maspeth without notifying the community. Faced with nightly protests at the hotel, City Hall then pivoted and began renting out rooms to the homeless rather than proceeding with the shelter plan.

There are better alternatives to converting hotels into shelters, according to Addabbo. The mayor, however, is not only unwilling to respond to pleas from local officials but is unable to call on Gov. Andrew Cuomo for help because of an ongoing feud between the two as the number of New Yorkers in shelters hits the 60,000 mark.

“They had to see this crisis coming. You can blame the prior administration, but you knew the numbers were rising,” Addabbo said. “I think they were just inept in handling this crisis, and so they panicked and shoved them into these hotels.”

Trailers could be used on city-owned properties for temporary shelters as shown to be effective for the people of Breezy Point after Hurricane Sandy forced them to take shelter elsewhere, Addabbo said.

The Select Bus Service plan for southeast Queens is also a contentious issue for the people of Woodhaven, and another case in which city administration has deaf ears for residents and elected officials, he said.

The controversial plan will reduce already clogged arteries to one lane at certain points and eliminate left turns at major intersections while installing a bus stop in the median of an accident-prone thoroughfare, which residents claim the Sanitation Dept. neglects during snowstorms.

In August, the senator was involved in a protest at the corner of Woodhaven Boulevard and Jamaica Avenue and is continuing trying to convince the DOT to back down from its plan.

“We are all in favor of improving public transportation. What we are differing on right now is with the city and DOT is the plan they chose,” Addabbo said, adding that the plan is unsafe.

Addabbo said his district is just part of the population in the pipeline for Build It Back relief from Sandy, but many have still not seen the relief needed from the program, which is running behind schedule. The senator works with his constituents to give them every advantage to see money flow from the program to the rebuilding they need. By employing the services of small insurance companies to help his constituents, Addabbo hopes to see greater progress than would usually come from Build It Back and major insurance companies.

Addabbo is currently facing his opponent from 2014, Republican Michael Conigliaro, whom he previously beat by 10 percent, in the Nov. 8 election.

Reach reporter Mark Hallum by e-mail at mhallum@cnnglobal.com or by phone at (718) 280-4564.

ELECTION 2016

Old foe challenges state senator over shelters, Sandy relief
BY MARK HALLUM


Conigliaro spells out his homeless solution
Continued on Page 26
HOLLIS — Police were seeking a man who robbed a livery cab driver on Oct. 6, and were asking the public for any information that might help the search.

Police said that a 50-year-old man was driving his livery cab at about 3:20 p.m. and picked up a man who hailed him near the corner of 195th Street and Jamaica Avenue. The man got inside the car and then punched the driver in the face, also punching the windshield, according to the NYPD. Police said he took about $200 in cash from the car before fleeing away from the scene east on Jamaica Avenue. The cab driver refused medical attention.

Police released a photo of the suspected attacker, saying he was between 23 and 27 years old, weighing about 140 to 155 pounds, and was about 6 feet tall with a thin build. He was last seen wearing a sport jacket with white trim and a Caesar haircut.

JAMAICA — Police were seeking information about the murder of a Jamaica man who was shot and killed.

At about 2:18 a.m. Sunday, police responded to a 911 call about a man shot at the corner of 109th Avenue and Merrick Boulevard. Police arrived and searched the area, and found Niheen Donigan, 36, near the corner of 109th Avenue and 171st Street with a gunshot wound to the head. Donigan lived a few blocks from the corner where he was found, according to information from police.

Donigan was transported to Jamaica Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. Donigan was arrested in 2001 for the April 14, 2001 homicide of Aswald Walker following a dispute over drugs, according to police sources at the time. Police said the investigation into Donigan’s murder was still ongoing. Anyone with information about the incident can call NYPD Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) 577-TIPS or submit tips online at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com.

FLUSHING — Police were looking for a man suspected of robbing a bank in Flushing.

On Monday at 12:05 p.m. a man entered a Flushing Bank on 44-43 Kissena Blvd., approached the bank teller and passed a note demanding money, police said.

According to the police, the teller complied and the suspect fled the scene with an undetermined amount of money.

Police described the suspect as a white male between 30 and 35 years old, between 5-foot-7 and 5-foot-9 inches tall, with a beard and a mustache. The suspect was last seen wearing a green and gray plaid jacket, black sneakers, a gray hooded sweatshirt and a black knitted hat.
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UP FOR THE COUNT

If you’re not in it, you can’t win it, which should be the mantra for Queens voters in this unruly presidential election. Polls have come to the voting booth with the odds shifting almost daily as new polls are released and October Surprises rock the race.

Donald Trump’s warning that the election might be rigged adds another element of uncertainty, however unfounded his claims. But raising the specter of a conspiracy to deny voters their rights sends a disturbing message to Queens, where half the population is foreign-born.

Some of these immigrants have fled countries where totalitarian governments have suppressed fair elections and kept their citizens locked in an oppressive society. They have come here to escape the power of the state.

The danger is that suggestions of voter fraud may discourage some immigrant voters from casting their ballots. Just the opposite should be the case.

This is the most unconventional, unprecedented presidential contest in recent memory and every eligible voter in Queens should vote. Trump, Queens’ native son, and Hillary Clinton represent opposing views on many issues and this is the chance to take a stand on immigration, free trade and climate change. Whoever ends up in the White House will listen.

America prides itself on being the greatest democracy in the world, yet voter turnout in presidential elections had been dropping since 1972 until President Obama won his first term with 61.6 percent of eligible voters casting ballots in 2008. In the 2012 presidential race turnout slipped to 58.2 percent, but it still remained above the 40-year level.

In the three primaries in Queens this year turnout was very low, possibly reflecting voter fatigue.

But with the presidential election days away talk about voter fraud is an unsettling reminder in the borough’s minority communities of voter intimidation in other parts of the nation. Obstacles to voter registration, ID requirements at the polls and the Supreme Court’s decision to dismantle part of the Voting Rights Act have imperiled the minority vote in some states.

New York City is making every effort to give its citizens the chance to vote. Poll workers speak an astounding number of languages, the mainstream parties will provide transportation to the polls for those who need it and 18-year-olds will be marking ballots in their first election.

The best way to fight fraudulent accusations of a rigged election and voter fraud is to go to the polls. You owe it to yourself and to the country. It’s about time more of us showed up to be counted.

Queens High Line

Quietly, proponents for turning 3.5 miles of abandoned LIRR track into a park similar to Manhattan’s High Line are taking groups to tour the site, including this spot under the rail bridge on Yellowstone Boulevard—a potential entrance spot.

Photo by Michael Shain

OTHER VOICES

Give veterans the respect they deserve

As our nation prepares to celebrate Veterans Day Nov. 11, let us remember all of our veterans who have served in all branches of the armed forces from the American Revolution right down through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many of these brave men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice of their own lives as they fought to keep our country free so that we could enjoy the many freedoms we have today. Our veterans deserve the highest respect, as well as the best financial compensation that can and must be accorded to them and their families. Every effort should and must be made to give 200 percent support to the brave men and women of the armed forces—Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, Army and Navy. Our country owes all of them an eternal debt of gratitude.

The Veterans Administration needs to get its act together and speed up the thousands of claims that have been filed by our veterans for medical and financial compensation. There should not be any bureaucratic red tape that has to be cut through in order to help these fine men and women. Any delays are inexcusable and intolerable.

John Amato
Fresh Meadows

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How a president from Queens should be

Think about it...a president from Queens. It’s never happened, but it would be so cool! The closest we came was First Lady Nancy Reagan, who spent her toddler years in Flushing before relocating to Maryland.

I’m thinking of what a president from Queens would be like. As the most the diverse county in the world, he or she would probably be open-minded and comfortable with people from all over the globe. This elected official would be at ease with those who speak different languages and eat all types of foods, not just Americanized taco bowls from up-scale restaurants in Midtown Manhattan. He or she would be honest, too. I guess because when you grow up in the Big Apple, you have to remember so much. And as Mark Twain said: “If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything.”

Sure the president would have academic and street smarts. Attending public school and figuring out the MTA system (especially on weekends) at an early age take a certain kind of urban intelligence. I suspect he or she would be tough but fair and not take advantage of others because New Yorkers know “whatever goes around comes around.”

Of course, New Yorkers have empathy, especially for those who are disadvantaged economically and/or physically. And we help each other. Sure on the subway a poor tourist might get five different sets of directions to Carnegie Hall—one of them will inevitably be the wisenheimer shouting “Practice!” because we have senses of humor. But the bottom line is that we intuitively help those less fortunate, a good quality for anyone seeking the presidency.

Building bridges is a key trait for a president. Sure, we don’t all sit around the campfire and sing “Kumbaya,” but we know how to get along as we have to share the same sidewalks, schools, neighborhoods, and parks. Plus, we all root for the Mets!

If our locally born president is a man, he has a mother and possibly a wife, sister or daughter. And like any Gotham gent, if another guy harassed a woman he cares about, he’d give him more than a piece of his mind—possibly a well-deserved split lip. But most importantly, a real New Yorker is comfortable in his or her skin. Yes, we can be a little in-your-face and get prickly, but hey, that toughness usually protects warm and caring hearts within and make us proud to be New Yorkers whether by birth or immigration.

I’m told one of next week’s presidential contenders is actually from Queens! Although based on what I read and what I know of my fellow New Yorkers, I have my doubts. I want to see his birth certificate.

Seth Bornstein
Executive Director
Queens Economic Development Corp.

Second Ave. shortfall

If Phase One of the Second Avenue subway opens by the end of December, or some time in early 2017, it is still a glass only one quarter full. (“Second Ave. Subway On Schedule,” Philip Newman, Oct. 28).

There is only $1.035 billion in funding contained within the Metropolitan Transportation Authority $27 Billion Five Year 2015 - 2019 Capital Program to support preliminary work for Phase Two north from 96th Street on to 125th Street. There is still the need of $4.965 billion for funding actual construction of Phase 2. These dollars will have to come from the next MTA Five Year 2020-2024 Capital Program.

Will Phase 2 incorporate the stretch of tunnel previously built in the 1970’s between 99th Street and 105th Street? Based upon the master grant agreement between the MTA and USDOT PTA, if these portions of work do not go into transit use, Uncle Sam has the legal right to ask for its money back.

There are conflicting priorities and limited available funding. Regardless of the funding source, Second Avenue Subway Phase 2 will end up competing against many worthy projects in the next MTA Five Year 2020 - 2024 Capital Plan. Second Avenue Subway Phase 2 will be the largest single project proposed for funding in the plan, and could potentially consume almost 20% of the program’s money.

Going back decades, the city, state and MTA have consistently kicked the can down the road every five years. As a result, coming to a consensus on what to fund in the next Five Year Capital Program Plan will become even more difficult.

Larry Penner
Great Neck

(Larry Penner is a transportation historian and advocate who previously worked 31 years for the US Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration Region 2 NY Office)

Gardens have much to teach kids

As a student of Environmental Studies, I would like to draw the readers’ attention to the need for nature-based experiential learning in children’s curriculum. In an urban setting such as New York City, it is critical that children’s learning experience extends beyond classroom walls and the limited number of field trips outside the city. One good way to make sure of this is to incorporate garden-based learning programs in schools. Gardens make a great learning resource for the children of today as well as in their academic learning goals and help them to develop a holistic perspective of the world.

In the light of growing concerns for childhood obesity and food insecurity, especially in inner city schools, garden-based learning provides the children with a good exposure to healthy and local food systems. Also, there are several research findings that show garden-based learning supports students’ academic achievement and improves their interpersonal and cooperative skills. Garden-based learning is a form of place-based-education that promotes learning through experience and helps in building social capital in the community. It also fits within the broader framework of environmental education, equipping the children of today with knowledge and concepts that will help them become informed and active citizens.

Contrary to the notion of lack of green space in urban settings, there is ample space for the growth of urban gardens in New York City. Nationwide campaigns such as Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move initiative and the USDA’s Farm-to-School initiative are further promoting school garden projects. Moreover, New York City’s own initiative—NYC Grow to Learn—provides funds, resources and technical assistance that are specific to each city public school and the community’s needs.

School gardens, such as the one in Brooklyn Arbor Elementary School or in PS 55 in the Bronx (which works in conjunction with a non-profit, Green Bronx Machine) are already at work in changing the urban landscape in Brooklyn and Bronx and preparing the next generation of dynamic citizens.

Therefore, as stakeholders of Queens, we definitely need to champion for more school gardens.

Tsering Choden
Woodside

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LETTERS POLICY

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We have met the robots and they are us

Lenore Skenazy
Rhymes with Crazy

We don’t kill off our retirees just because they’re not working anymore, so don’t worry about our future robot overlords killing off us humans when we’re no longer working, either—which we won’t be since robots will be doing everything faster and better than us, just as machines have been taking jobs from us since the invention of the saw mill.

And in that future, robot-rulled time, we might have the choice to actually become one of the superbots by donating our brain after we die, then coming back (sort of) as the brain of a computer just like us, down to our likes, dislikes, sense of humor—and maybe even our looks.

That, my friends, was just part of the trippy argument going on at a monthly event called The Soho Forum in Manhattan, where free, open-to-the-public debates examine issues of interest to free-thinking Libertarians. I’m not quite sure how robots and Libertarians find common cause, but in any event the question to answer was: “Will robots eventually dominate the world and eliminate humans’ abilities to earn wages.”

One professor—Robin Hanson, an associate professor of economics at George Mason University—briskly insisted that in the future, we will see the ascendancy of “Ems”—remarkably human robots that emulate us, because they’re modeled on our own brains. Or at least they’re modeled on the people who would make the very best worker-robots, claimed the author of “The Age of Em: Work, Love and Life when Robots Rule the Earth.”

But that’s not who will choose, said the “Robots will not take over” debater, Bryan Caplan, also an author and econ professor at George Mason. When we get around to creating worker robots from human brain scans, we will scan only the most docile, efficient workers, to create docile, non-human-killing Ems.

And this is where it started getting weird(ery): Hanson believes the company chiefs will still want to hire the most brilliant workers, which means they’ll end up cloning (or replicating, or whatever the word is) jerks.

“We expect the highest productivity workers will be chosen,” said Hanson.

In the end, the Ems will be clones of the cutthroats people most of us hate. And, being cutthroats, eventually they’ll cut ours throats.

“Although it may well be that the first five generations of robots will keep humans around because they feel some vestigial warmth toward our species,” Hanson said.

How comforting.

Caplan was having none of it. Why on earth would we clone the cutthroats who want to kill us? he asked.

Well, over the eons we’ve had quite a lot of experience breeding new beings to do our bidding: Our pets and farm animals. We’ll do the same with humans—cloning the absolutely sweetest ones who also have a fierce work ethic.

“We’ve got 7 billion people to choose from,” he pointed out. “A normal employer has five.”

The moderator, Gene Epstein, economics editor at Barron’s magazine, tried to make peace.

“You’ll tweak it,” he nodded to both.

Caplan was not convinced that the day of the Ems will ever come, because who would volunteer to become one?

“First thing, you’re actually dead. They have to slice your brain in pieces. Very few people would want their biological death in order to have a computer simulation,” he said.

“Today we can’t conceive of it,” agreed Hanson. But when humans in the future see that the Ems talk and look and act like “real” people—except they never die—then the prospect might become attractive.

Hanson made it sound as normal as wearing glasses, another biological enhancement people eons ago could not have conceived.

And that was Hanson’s big point: Of course, this stuff sounds bizarre to us. But think back 1,000 years to the subsistence farmers. If you’d told them that someday we’d be able to talk to someone an ocean away, there’s no way they would have understood much less believed you.

And now we have Skype and FaceTime.

Would the Ems own property? Would they eventually fight? Or would the earth become a paradise with Ems doing all our work? Those issues were not resolved.

In fact, nothing really was. A before-and-after poll of the audience found that the exact same number had changed their minds from negative to positive, and vice versa.

It was the least strange moment of a very strange night.

Is a green solution turning into a boondoggle?

Bob Harris
The Civic Scene

A couple of months ago green letters with green lines started appearing at the curbs of some houses in Fresh Meadows. It took weeks of inquiry for us to discover that these green letters meant the DEP wanted to build bioswales, or rain gardens, in this location.

No one was formerly advised that there was such a plan. Many civic leaders, including Vice President Elaine Young of the West Cunningham Park Civic Association, spent weeks finding out what those green letters mean.

Queens Civic Congress Vice Presidents Henry Euler and Tyler Cassell attended a meeting which state Sen. Tony Avella and Assemblyman Mike Simanowitz held for civic leaders in eastern Queens where officials from the DEP spoke and were questioned. Other legislators such as Assemblyman David Weprin, Councilmen Barry Grodenchik and Peter Koo and representatives of other elected officials attended.

Bioswales are depressed pits which can measure from 4 feet by 10 feet up to 5 feet by 20 feet. The ground is dug up and loosened and special soil and rocks are usually place at the surface with plants, grasses and trees added for decoration. A low metal fence is placed around the bioswale except on the gutter side. These are built so that rainwater can drain into the bioswale and not into our basements, cause flooding or overwhelm our storm drains. They cost about $26,000 each to install.

Euler reported back to the QCC about the meeting with DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza and members of his staff. I received my own report from my wife Edna, who also attended this meeting. Euler reported that many homeowners were unhappy with the lack of information and wanted to “opt-out” of the project. There was concern about how people could get into and out of their cars with the bioswales right next to the curb especially if a child was being put into a car seat or an elderly person was involved. There were suggestions that homes with the bioswales in front of them receive a rebate on their water bills to make them more palatable.

People were concerned about who would maintain the rain gardens. The DEP said it would maintain them and not the Parks Department. People were worried that pedestrians might fall into the bioswales and sue the homeowner. Should dog walkers respect them?

There was the suggestion that these things be placed in parks or open areas and not in front of homes. A group of shopkeepers came to complain that the sidewalks in front of their store was placed in front of a store, then the sidewalk would not be wide enough as required by the DOB.

Edna thought the DEP did not know what it was doing, especially about the entering and exiting from cars at curbs and the sidewalk width in front of stores. People complained that the DOB has not been enforcing the paving over of lawns so rainwater does not have enough lawns to drain into. One can see that many tree beds have paving stones in them, which if removed would free up more areas to absorb rainwater.

Many tree pits became packed down and can’t absorb water and many are full of weeds. People just don’t trust the city to maintain the bioswales because they see how the city has failed to maintain the tree pits after the million trees were planted.

Questions thought up by the QCC and me were: Where would the $1.5 billion over the next 25 years come from to pay for these bioswales? Has the city planned for water and gas lines and the sprinkler heads which are at some curbs? How many of these things will be needed to alleviate the flooding problem? How will the city deal with sidewalks which are above curb level or curbs which are only an inch or so high? Are the bioswales far enough from homes to not contribute to basement flooding? How will shopkeepers or homeowners who just replaced sidewalks feel if a bioswale is placed there? Is this just a boondoggle?
With a contentious election just days away, some Americans are increasingly concerned about the integrity of the voting process as well as their access to the ballot box. Although for supporters of Republican nominee Donald Trump, this presents an unfounded and nihilistic belief in a “rigged election,” for some Americans there are concerns that they may face discrimination or intimidation at polling places. For others, a basic right of access – a ballot they can understand, is not guaranteed.

The American Community Survey, a data collection effort that branched off from the U.S. Census in 2005, is administered to 3.5 million households a year and tracks ancestry, education, language spoken at home, employment and other vital statistics. The data provides insight on a number of public and private organizations and in theory helps policy makers formulate decisions. One of the uses of the ACS data is to visualize communities of color through native languages.

A data visualization project by Brooklyn web developer Jill Hubley utilized the 2014 ACS data to map languages spoken most frequently at home in New York City. Though English is the language of the vast majority of households in New York City, with Spanish a distinct second, removing those two languages reveals a fascinating look at the ethnic makeup of the city, from pockets of Italian in Howard Beach and the Rockaways, to broad stretches of Chinese and Korean-speaking households in eastern Queens.

A lack of specificity in the survey questions is the likely reason why Richmond Hill and Jackson Heights are categorized by “Other Indic Languages,” rather than Bengali or Punjabi. The visualization went on display at the Queens Museum the weekend of Oct. 29-30, in the Geospatial Information Systems exhibit entitled Map Mosaic: From Queens to the World. The map can be viewed online at jillhubley.com/project/nyclanguages.

What does this mean for the elections? The city Board of Elections has struggled thus far with a mandate to provide ballot translation and access to interpreters for elections. Pursuant to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a municipality must provide translation when 10,000 persons or 5 percent of voting age persons constitute a single-language minority or are Limited English Proficient. Though the U.S. Supreme Court struck down provisions of the act in 2013, the city has continued to administer this access requirement, particularly for Russian, Bengali, Punjabi and Hindi. The city has also made recent efforts to increase access to translated voter registration forms. Though serious incidents have largely been avoided, there are recorded cases of voters being sent home from polling places, improperly asked for identification and faced with depleted supplies of translated ballots.

Some organizations, such as the APA VOICE coalition, made up of civic engagement groups in the borough, attempted to raise turnout, particularly in Asian-American communities, where in 2014, according to the organization, just 14.9 percent of registered Asian American voters cast ballots. The organization also notes that in addition to having the lowest turnout by racial group, nearly a third of these voters are unaffiliated and therefore unable to participate in the party primaries. Nationally, civil rights groups such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice have set up voter hot lines to assist voters seeking information in eight languages.

An April 2016 report from the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General’s office also recommends a voter language hot line to assist voters, based on an existing model in Philadelphia. The report set out 16 points to improve voter reform in New York City.

There have been recorded cases of voter fraud in the United States this year. However, the most egregious violations involve improper marking of ballots by election workers, as well as individuals attempting to vote twice, by absentee and then at polling sites. As is the case each year, alleged talking points about non-citizens (or the deceased) voting in elections fail to materialize, consigned to innuendo and the talking points of the far right.

These claims have no place when it comes to protecting the rights of the newest American citizens to participate in elections. Voters who do face barriers to language assistance or are intimidated at the polls may file a complaint with the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General’s Office, which handles violations of the Voting Rights Act.

Early voting is a process whose time has come

William Lewis
Political Action

Early voting seems to have caught on with the electorate. At least 37 states have some form of early voting. Millions of registered voters are taking advantage of the opportunity to vote early. The states for the most part have different times for voting early. Those who voted early will not have to vote on Election Day, Nov. 8. Here in New York state the concept of one-day voting remains in effect. We also continue to require that a person voting in a party primary has to be a registered member of that party.

Early voting could lead to several problems, including a person voting one way on the early ballot and then changing his mind and wanting to vote in the general election for a different candidate.

There is a possibility that early voting trends will become known to some political leaders who will pass the information on to various candidates. That would have an effect on the final election results.

It could be said that this form of voting will at times lead to confusion at the polling places. The main reason for early voting is to make it easier for the voters. However, keeping control of the system and having a well-organized procedure is more important. To handle the large number of people voting, perhaps it could be held on two days instead of one, such as on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Having early votes cast and waiting for weeks until the main general election, could lead to votes being lost or misplaced.

Here in New York we do have absentee voting in which voters can send in their votes to the Board of Elections. Again the idea is to make it easier for the voters. The Board of Elections cannot be absolutely sure that the absentee vote came from the person who signed it.

In New York City when there is a close election the result is usually decided by counting absentee ballots. This procedure sometimes takes weeks. Having absentee ballots decide the outcome of elections is not the best way to achieve election results.

It is time for the state legislatures to improve their state election systems. We want to make voting easy and to do it in a timely manner. But the integrity of our democratic values must be maintained.

Voter registration has become another problem, in terms of removing inactive voters from the registration list to make sure that all those who are registered are valid. Hopefully, our democratic voting procedure will improve as voting technology advances.

Our democratic voting system has brought our government some great leaders as we can see in reviewing our national history. These leaders have made our country the leading superpower of the world.
BY BILL PARRY

Students and teachers at PS 85 will finally enjoy some peace and quiet, and some cool air, too, thanks to a $125,000 grant from the New York State Assembly. All classrooms with windows facing the elevated subway tracks over 31st Street are getting air conditioners, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) announced last week.

“For far too long, teachers and students have been forced to choose between stifling heat if they keep windows closed or interrupted lessons from the noise of passing subway trains, when they open the windows,” Simotas said. “The choice between these two atrocious conditions was an impediment to learning. I’m proud I was able to secure funding through the Assembly to finally end the long-running battle that parents and teachers have waged to end the noise pollution at PS 85 in Astoria.”

When the school was built in 1907 there was no subway line along 31st Street. The elevated line went into service in 1917 so for nearly 100 years the teachers and students had to choose between heat and noise.

“The noise pollution endured by our children has always been a major concern to families and the school community, and we all worked in unison to get where we are today,” PS 85 Principal Ann Gordon-Chang said. “I am extremely elated that classrooms are being equipped with air conditioners.”

The Department of Education installed sound-absorbing acoustic tiles on the school walls and two years ago the MTA installed noise dampeners and other measures, but the problem persisted. Last moth 31 air conditioners were installed and the remaining 10 will be in place by the end of the year, ensuring a better learning environment this spring.

“There is incredibly good news for students and teachers who will no longer have to choose between the lesser of two equal evils,” PS 85 Parent’s Association President Lisa Tapper said. “With air conditioners, students’ focus will increase, they’ll learn better and will no longer stumble out of stifling hot classrooms like a pile of goo.”

Arlene L. Bronzaft, Ph.D, an environmental psychologist who has been studying the effects of noise on behavior and health for more than 30 years, published a ground breaking study in 1975 of students at a Manhattan school near the elevated No. 1 line that found students in classrooms that faced subway tracks performed measurably worse on reading tests than students on the quiet side of the building.

“With my early research and other academic studies demonstrating that noise can intrude on classroom learning, I am pleased that PS 85, which is situated so close to the elevated train tracks, will now have air conditioners,” Bronzaft said. “Teaching and learning will be far less impacted by passing train noise during the warm months with windows that can now remain closed.”

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260–4538.
Suozzi has an “impressive record fighting corruption” and “would be a strong, articulate advocate for his district.”

“...has a clear plan on how to combat the status quo ...”

“Tom Suozzi is a fighter who will take on entrenched special interests...”

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VOTE FOR TOM SUOZZI FOR CONGRESS ON NOVEMBER 8TH
A rebuilt GOP gets competitive

BY THE TIMESLEDGER STAFF

The high-stakes drama of the presidential election this year should not overshadow the fact that Queens has 19 contested races Nov. 8 at the congressional and state levels.

For the first time in recent memory Republicans are challenging Democratic incumbents in 17 matches for seats in the state Senate and the Assembly. Two Assembly spots are open: Democrat Barbara Clark, who represented District 33, died in February and Democrat Philip Goldfinger of the 23rd District is leaving for a job in the private sector.

Under former Congressman Bob Turner, the Queens Republican Party has been rebuilt following years of infighting that reduced the clout of the GOP flag bearer and its ability to field candidates. Turner was appointed chairman in March 2013 and given a mandate to reunite the fractured party.

The race between Hillary Clinton and Queens-born Donald Trump for the White House is expected to draw significant numbers of borough voters to the polls after abysmal turnout levels in the three primaries earlier this year.

Among the most closely watched contests is the bout between Democrat Tom Suozzi and Republican Jack Martins for the 3rd Congressional District, which covers part of eastern Queens. The two Nassau politicians are vying to fill the seat held by U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Oakland Gardens), who is leaving government.

In September a Republican challenger to Martins was knocked off the primary ballot after a protracted legal battle, clearing the way for the two-man race to proceed.

Several other members of the Queens congressional delegation - U.S. Reps. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) and Grace Meng (D-Flushing) - face nominal challenges from their Republican opponents.

The race is on in western Queens to fill the seat lost by Assemblywoman Marge Markey (D-Maspeth), who suffered a stunning defeat at the hands of political newcomer Brian Barnwell in the Democratic primary. The main factor was her slow response in opposing the city’s unpopular decision to put a homeless shelter in Maspeth.

Barnwell is facing Republican Tony Nunziato, who has led the protests nightly against the shelter which Barnwell has joined, too. The political rivals have become friends.

Nunziato had tried unsuccessfully to unseat Markey twice before.

In southeast Queens Clyde Vanel won the five-way Democratic primary for Clark’s Assembly seat and now has two GOP rivals — Golby-Francois Wellington and Leroy Gadesen — with jobs as a key issue.

Over in Ozone Park Stacey Pheffer Amato is running on the Democratic ticket against Republican Alan Zwirn for the Assembly seat to be vacated by Goldfinger. Both first-time candidates are Rockaway residents and concerned about the pace of repairs on the peninsula after Superstorm Sandy.

Assembly members David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows), Nily Rozic (D-Flushing), Michael Miller (D-Woodhaven) and Rod Kim (D-Flushing) are facing a slate of Republican opponents.

In the state Senate, where control hangs in the balance between the Republicans and the Democrats.

Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) is up against Republican Michael Conigliaro, who challenged him in the last election. The Maspeth shelter is also an issue in this contest as well as the delays in the Build It Back program to repair Sandy damage.

In other Senate races, Sens. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) and Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing) each face Republican contenders.

In northeast Queens, incumbents face challenges

BY MARK HALLUM

The state Senate races in northeast Queens have candidates from both parties competing for control over long-held Democratic territory. On the ballot is Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and his opponent, Republican Mark Cipolla, as well as Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing) and her GOP challenger and Woodside resident, Carlos Giron.

Avella’s district stretches from College Point to Little Neck and south as far as Oak-land Gardens, while Stavisky’s territory runs from Flushing up to Glen Oaks in the east over to Forest Hills, Woodside and Elmhurst.

Avella’s top issues in his re-election campaign are the recession, public safety and ethics reform in government and improving the quality of life for his constituents. He has led the discussion on airplane noise, an invasive bioswale program and zombie homes in his district, but has stepped beyond to confront the ironies of de Blasio’s full shelter plan.

“‘You have to be in the shelter to get the program. So if you’re on the street, you’re not eligible. But, meanwhile, they don’t want to go to the shelter because it’s not safe,” Avella said.

Progress has been seen at two hotel conversions in Bellrose, where the homeless inhabitants are expected to be out by December.

Avella estimated there are about 200 abandoned properties in his district and he has led a crusade against the “zombie house” epidemic, which poses health and safety hazards for neighboring homeowners who have spoken out about mosquitoes and other vermin attracted to unattended properties.

Cipolla is a former prosecutor for the Brooklyn district attorney’s office and one of about 20 candidates put forward by the Queens Republican Party to challenge Democratic incumbent in a Democrat-controlled borough. He said he had never considered running for office before two years ago when he was first approached by party leaders but declined that time. He said he believes it is important for citizens to have a choice when election time comes and that “getting new blood in is good for the system.”

While many ethics reform advocates argue that pensions must be forfeited on top of the prison time and fines which are standard fare for officials convicted of corruption, that is not enough for Cipolla. He thinks heavier penalties are in order to discourage shady practice.

“Last I looked, Sen. Avella’s proposal was that you lose your pension from the act that you’re convicted for from that time forward. I don’t think that’s severe enough,” Cipolla said. “You should lose that entire pension from the time you were elected.”

Seven-term incumbent Stavisky defeated her Democratic opponent S.J. Jung in September’s acrimonious primary and is looking to make affordable housing more accessible, bring campaign ethics reform to the state, make higher education more attainable and alleviate congestion along the No. 7 train.

The affordable housing shortage is an issue Stavisky believes will see action soon. Gov. Andrew Cuomo put $2 billion in the state budget for affordable housing and the Senate approved the motion, Stavisky said.

“I think there’s enough pressure now with the homeless to decide what they’re going to do with the money,” she said.

Stavisky is teaming up with state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to clean up Albany by closing the LLC loophole, a gray area which regards LLCs as individuals, allowing contributors to set up multiple business entities to channel funds from the same source to a candidate.

She is also determined to pass the DREAM Act to al-
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2016

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### PRESIDENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Libertarian</th>
<th>Green</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HILLARY CLINTON</td>
<td>DONALD TRUMP</td>
<td>GARY JOHNSON</td>
<td>JILL STEIN</td>
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### U.S. SENATE

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<tr>
<td>CHARLES SCHUMER</td>
<td>WENDY LONG</td>
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### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### 3RD DISTRICT

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>JACK MARTINS</td>
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#### 5TH DISTRICT

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<tr>
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<td>MICHAEL O’REILLY</td>
<td>GRACE MENG</td>
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#### 6TH DISTRICT

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<td>DANIEL MAIO</td>
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#### 12TH DISTRICT

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAROLYN MALONEY</td>
<td>ROBERT ARDINI</td>
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#### 14TH DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Republican</th>
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<tr>
<td>JOSEPH CROWLEY</td>
<td>FRANK SPOTORNO</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Barnwell vs Nunziato fight for Markay’s seat

BY BILL PARRY

For the first time in nearly 20 years, Margaret Markay’s name will not appear on the ballot for the State Assembly and now voters in Woodside, Maspeth and Middle Village are choosing between a first time candidate and a longtime civic leader to replace her. Brian Barnwell, a 30-year-old attorney from Woodside who stunned the Democratic party when he upset Markay in the primary, is facing Republican nominee Tony Nunziato, 59, a self-described “man of commitment” and small business owner in Maspeth.

“I feel good, but no one should ever think aboutイル was granted,” Barnwell said of his campaign that has built up an impressive dossier of union endorsements, from the building trade councils to the Unions of Officers Unions, including the PBA.

“I am proud to have the support of these unions,” he said. “As somebody who comes from a family of union members, the endorsements mean a lot to me personally.”

The endorsements failed to impress Nunziato, who has been performing a balancing act by juggling his campaign with his duties as chairman of the Maspeth-Middle Village Task Force, which organizes the protests against the city’s homeless shelter policies each night at the Maspeth Holiday Inn Express.

“It sounds crazy but I’ve been so focused on the rallies each night I didn’t have the time to reach out for endorsements.” Nunziato said. “I know that all of the civic leaders of the community are endorsing me and I feel good about that. I don’t need some labor leader from Long Island endorsing me when I have the backing of the local civic.”

In other western Queens races, state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) is running against Republican Marvin Jeffcoat, a U.S. Army veteran and facilities manager from Woodside.

“Western Queens is more than just a neighborhood, it is like a family that comes together to improve each other’s lives and look out for each other’s well-being.” Gianaris said.

“I have the honor of representing so many of my neighbors in Astoria, Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, Ridgewood and Woodhaven, and working alongside them on the important issues about which we care passionately. I hope the people of our community have faith in my record fighting for better schools, improving transit and housing opportunities and achieving historic progress to ensure environmental protection.”

Jeffcoat said he is “sick and tired” of the one party rule in western Queens.

“They haven’t done anything for us. Instead they’re leading us into a welfare state that will bankrupt us all,” he said. “I want to give my kids a chance at the American Dream. These politicians are great at making laws, but they never check to see if they’re working. That’s where my military training with after-action reports will help. We’ll see what worked and what didn’t.”

Jeffcoat would make education his primary focus as a champion of charter schools and private school vouchers.

State Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) is running against Republican nominee Jesus Gonzalez, to keep his seat.

“Since my election to the state Senate, we have opened more than 7,000 individual constituent cases on a variety of issues, ranging from quality of life and safety to immigration, housing and transportation,” Peralta said. “I will continue to fight for affordable housing, to build more schools upon the eight new schools we already built, to give our kids a quality education.”

Yet overcrowding continues to plague every school in the district, which includes Jackson Heights, Corona and East Elmhurst, according to Gonzalez. The first-time candidate works at a Jackson Heights travel agency and has lived in each of the neighborhoods in the last eight years since moving from Puerto Rico, where he was a firefighter.

“As a community activist I’ve been talking to the people and learning of the concerns — not enough schools, not enough teachers,” Gonzalez said. “We need more English as Second Language classes for all of the immigrants and we don’t have a lot of parks so the kids are always sitting at home. There is a high crime rate in each of these neighborhoods and the current senator is not doing anything to address that.”

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260–4538.

General election includes race to fill Clark seat

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

On Election Day, voters will choose to fill the New York State Assembly seat left vacant by the death of Assemblywoman Barbara Clark. The race is one of several in the southeast Queens area.

Clyde Vanel, an attorney and community advocate, won a hard-fought Democratic primary campaign in September against four other challenges to win the nomination from the party.

Clark died in February after serving in the State Legislature since 1986. The district serving in the State Legislature since 1986.

Vanel will face Republican challenger Goldy-Francois Wellington, who is also running on the Conservative Party ticket. Leroy Gadsden, the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s Jamaica branch, is also on the ballot for the seat, under the “NIP-New Ideas” party. Gadsden briefly considered running for the seat in the Democratic primary, but opted against a run.

State Sen. Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) is facing a general election challenge for his seat in the 14th District, which includes parts of Jamaica, Hollis, Cambria Heights, St. Albans and Queens Village. Comrie ran unopposed in the Democratic primary but will be facing a challenger in the general election. Comrie served as a New York City councilman for 11 years before running for the state senate in 2013 and winning the election.

Comrie is facing Republican challenger Jarret Freeman, who currently works as a representative at the United Nations Pathway for Peace, and stresses maintaining infrastructure, keeping streets safe and expanding funding for early childhood education. Freeman said he had heard concerns about hotels in the area being used by the city to house homeless individuals, and pledged to created a bipartisan commission on the issue.

“I think that we really have to be cognizant of who we’re putting in office, not just at the presidential level but at the local level,” he said. “A lot of Democrats came up to me and were impressed with the things I want to do here in southeast Queens.”

State Sen. James Sanders (D-South Ozone Park) is in a general election primary, though it is against the same challenger he faced during the Democratic primary. Adrienne Adams, who is the chairwoman of Community Board 12, which includes much of Jamaica, is running on the Women’s Equality party line.

The general election will be held on Nov. 8. To find out if you are registered and to find your proper polling place, visit https://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search, which has been set up by the New York City Board of Elections.
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Support The Police
Lower Taxes And Regulations
Expand Transportation Options

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State Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) has company in his mission to clean up Roosevelt Avenue of its decades-old crime and quality-of-life issues.

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) and state Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (D-East Elmhurst) joined Peralta in Woodside Tuesday to announce his multi-pronged legislation to crack down on “bad actor” businesses. The corridor from 48th Street to 114th Street was amended to include the entire corridor from 48th Street to 114th Street.

“Roosevelt Avenue is in a state of disarray. After years of abandonment, this commercial corridor, unfortunately, has become the old Times Square of the 21st century,” Peralta said. “Criminal activity is far too common, and bad actors blend in with thousands and thousands of hardworking New Yorkers.”

The three lawmakers are now pushing legislation that would establish a Roosevelt Avenue Commission that would bring together community boards, the NYPD, the FDNY and city state agencies such as the State Liquor Authority to develop a plan of action within a year. Another measure calls for the City Council to increase the Department of Consumer Affairs budget on enforcement and for the SLA to raise fines for operating without a cabaret license from $1,000 to $10,000 increasing funds for investigations of $2 dance bars that attract drug use, prostitution and other crimes.

“Time and time again, local residents and good businesses have coped with acts of violence and criminal activity along Roosevelt Avenue,” Gianaris said. “These recurring problems continue to negatively affect our quality of life. It is important we have a neighborhood where people feel safe and unscrupulous operators are held accountable for their violations.”

DenDekker said many new businesses and restaurants had opened along Roosevelt Avenue in recent years only to find people staying away from the corridor after dark.

“They feel they’ve made a bad investment,” he said. “Creating a safer Roosevelt Avenue is a high priority for myself and my colleagues, but it will require hard work and cooperation.”

Meanwhile, DenDekker’s legislation recognizing garbage trucks as “hazard vehicles,” the same as police cars and fire trucks, became state law Tuesday regulating how motorists behave when driving near them. Garbage collection is the fifth most dangerous job in the country, with 35 fatal injuries per 100,000 people, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“This law will help protect both public and private sector sanitation workers as they do their jobs,” DenDekker said. “As a former member of the Department of Sanitation, I know firsthand how dangerous this work can be. By passing this law, we are asking New Yorkers to be mindful of those who are working in the streets every day and ensuring that sanitation workers have the safest work environments that they can.”

For more hyper-local Queens news on your computer, smartphone, or iPad, visit TimesLedger.com.
### The Benefits You Care About...

**Fidelis Care’s Medicare Advantage Plans for 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Original Medicare*</th>
<th>Fidelis Medicare Advantage Flex (HMO-POS)</th>
<th>Fidelis Medicare $0 Premium (HMO)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Outpatient Surgery in an Ambulatory Surgical Center</td>
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<td>Yes, with $0 copay for preferred generics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventive Dental</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*These are 2016 amounts and may change for 2017. **You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium.

Premiums, copays, coinsurance, and deductibles may vary based on the level of Extra Help you receive. Please contact the plan for further details. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact our Member Services number at 1-800-860-8707 (TTY: 1-800-558-1125). Fidelis Care is a Coordinated Care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the New York State Department of Health Medicaid program. Enrollment in Fidelis Care depends on contract renewal.

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B) A nominating letter from your school’s guidance counselor and instructors describing the student’s abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.

C) Please make sure that the student’s bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

D) Categories are:
   1) Middle School  2) High School  3) College

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If you have any questions, you may contact me at: 718-260-4522

NE Queens

Continued from Page 18

low undocumented immigrants to get financial aid through New York State Tuition Assistance Program.

A former sports journalist, Giron decided to pursue public affairs and run for office, which he said is as much his obligation to the community as voting.

Giron is running for the first time to advocate for small business owners; give young immigrants access to education by passing the DREAM Act; electoral reform, such as term limits and providing public financing to candidates for office at the state level; and support charter and Catholic schools in the district to give parents education options while taking the pressure off overcrowded schools.

“I am not any anti-government Republican. I highly value and respect all of the government services that are provided by New York state and New York City, and the federal government as well. The government provides essential services that New Yorkers need. From infrastructure to government assistance for the elderly, to funding for students,” Giron said, “I am identical to the Democrats in that regard.”

Conigliaro

Continued from Page 9

many homeless shelter regulations.

“I would look to do a full-scale audit of DHS and find out all the money that’s being spent and wasted that could be allocated to [passing homeless legislation and funding Section 8],” Conigliaro said.

The Republican candidate volunteered at the Sacred Heart Parish in Glendale for a decade, and would like to see faith-based shelters replace homeless shelters as a low-cost option during the three years he said it will take him to implement his intentions for homeless reform.

Conigliaro said Build it Back is not only broken and in need of auditing, but it is also a bureaucratic nightmare from the ground up. Many people who should have received funds from the Hurricane Sandy relief were forced to put months rent and security down on housing before they could be reimbursed by Build it Back, all the while paying mortgage on their homes which are uninhabitable.

Many constituents in the district have experienced trouble contacting case workers from Build it Back and their problems often remained unresolved years later.

Assembly

Continued from Page 5

nearly a year and a half. If I’m elected I’ll make sure that if taxpayers want to pay for education, the City, State and the Department of Education will need to spend it on education instead of wasting it on projects like Citi Bikes, or extending select bus service or so-called “transit projects”

Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) is running against Republican businessman Ira Harris. He said his constituents frequently come to him with quality-of-life complaints.

“There are a lot of quality-of-life issues we deal with on a regular basis,” he said. “We have two storefront offices, one off of Union Turnpike, and one in Richmond Hill. We constantly get people walking in off the street and help them deal with issues. People have water and sewer problems, traffic conditions in certain streets aren’t up to par, we get street lights, stop signs safely concerns.

He went on to say that he gets involved in city issues since he served as a city councilman for a number of years.

“I know who to call, how to deal with city agencies as much as state agencies. I always told my staff if someone calls my office, we handle it. I feel that as a local elected official, it’s my responsibility.”

Harris, who owns a signs and awning company, said his business experience will make him an effective leader.

“I’m a businessman,” he said, “so I get results on a weekly basis. I have to meet deadlines and be responsible. I get things done. That’s what I could do for the state, for the people. I’m a candidate for the people, not for Albany. The people are frustrated, I’m running on lowering taxes because people want lower taxes, they want to do more with less money, and as a business owner that’s what sometimes I have to do. When the economy is bad and business isn’t coming in, I have to figure things out, I can’t just raise my prices. Politicians just tax more to bring in more money.”

Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Flushing) represents New York’s 49th District, covering areas of Flushing, Queensboro Hill and Murray Hill. is running against the GOP’s Miriam Rodriguez, who could not be located. His focus is helping small businesses.

“I represent the most number of mom-and-pop business in the state,” he said “These small businesses generate so much revenue for the city and state, but they are ignored. New York City ranks at the bottom of the list in the country for being pro small business. Sooner or later we’re going to lose these mom-and-pops and we’re going to suffer. We need to reverse this trend. What we’ve done is give all these big corporations endless breaks to stay in the state, yet we’re overburdening small businesses with taxes and over-regulation.”

Reach Gina Martínez by e-mail at gmartinez@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

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- Michael W. Conway

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Forest Hills remembers the Ramones

Tommy Ramone's senior yearbook picture, circa 1967, notes the drummer and producer-to-be was already into electronics.

The City Council member for Forest Hills, Karen Koslowitz, worked for years to get the street in the front of the high school named for the band, though she admits it's not exactly her music.

Mickey Leigh, brother of Joey Ramone, points to the street and notes that Forest Hills High School's other famous musical grads, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, don't have a street named for them. (P.S. City rules stipulate the honoree must be dead before it considers a renaming.)

The Ramones fans at last Sunday's street renaming came in all ages and ethnicities.

Captain Sensible of legendary British punk rock band The Damned (l) and a Swedish woman representing The Ramones International Fan Club speak about what it was like growing up with their music.

Songwriter George David Weiss wrote "What a Wonderful World" for Louis Armstrong but Joey Ramone in 2002 also made it into an unforgettable single. "It was actually my favorite version," says Weiss' son, Bobby, who attended the street renaming with daughter Olivia.
Using mobile phones
Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

Daydreaming
Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Perhaps they’re checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

Eating
Those who haven’t quite mastered walking and chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person’s hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting. Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

Reading
Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.
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The Holocaust In American Film With Film Clips from the Speaker
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November 6, Sunday, 3–5 pm | Goldstein Theatre | Free and open to the public.

Annette Insdorf, an internationally renowned educator and author, is a professor in the Graduate Film Program of Columbia University’s School of the Arts. She served as Director of Undergraduate Film Studies for 27 years. From 1990 to 1995, she was Chair of the Graduate Film Division, and is the recipient of the 2008 Award for Excellence in Teaching from Columbia’s School of General Studies. She taught film history and criticism at Yale University from 1975 to 1998.

Dr. Insdorf is the author of Double Lives, Second Chances: The Cinema of Krzysztof Kieslowski; Francois Truffaut, a study of the French director’s work; and the landmark study, Indelible Shadows: Film and the Holocaust (with a foreword by the late Elie Wiesel). For the updated third edition she received the National Board of Review’s William K. Everson Award in Film History in 2003. Her most recent book is Philip Kaufman, which film critic Leonard Maltin called “a thoughtful, scholarly study of one of America’s most underrated filmmakers.”

Prof. Insdorf has served as a juror at international film festivals, including Berlin, Galway, Locarno, and Jerusalem, and is the panel moderator at the annual Telluride Film Festival in Colorado. In her popular “Reel Pieces” series at the Manhattan 92nd Street Y, she has interviewed over 200 film celebrities. Her commentaries on prominent filmmakers can be heard on DVD.

She was born in Paris to Holocaust Survivors and is an alumna of Queens College, where she earned her BA; she later received her PhD from Yale University as a Danforth Fellow.

The program will include a candle-lighting ceremony with Holocaust survivors and subsequent generations, including the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, who will carry the torch for remembrance and commitment to combat Anti-Semitism and Hatred. In addition there will be a multicultural invocation and musical interludes.

Presented by the Resnick Family and Sinai Chapels, Fresh Meadows, Queens, NY. Organized by Queens College’s Center for Jewish Studies and the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, the Queens Jewish Community Council, Kupferberg Holocaust Research Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College, and others.

For additional information on this series or other programs sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies, please call 718-997-5730 or 718-997-4530.
For LeFrak Concert Hall, there is free parking in Lot 15 on Reeves Avenue (behind the Music Building) and easy elevator access to the concert hall.
www.qc.cuny.edu/centerforjewishstudies | 718-997-5730/4530
Suozzi/Martins

Continued from Page 4

sues. He said he wanted to work on a middle-class tax cut if elected.

“That includes cutting red tape and getting government out of the way, allowing our businesses to do what they do best,” he said. “People make too many sacrifices everyday, and everyday the government steps in and creates one more sacrifice, and it’s time it stopped.”

The attacks between the candidates accelerated in recent weeks, with Martens’ camp accusing Suozzi of closing Nassau County’s only inpatient addiction treatment facility during his tenure as executive, while The Island Now reported that Suozzi’s campaign was questioning how the Martins campaign paid for top campaign strategists and attorneys, saying it indicated a lack of transparency.

A Newsday/Siena College poll released on Oct. 8, showed Suozzi in the lead, 50 to 34 percent, with 15 percent undecided. The Martins campaign has indicated that internal polling indicates a tighter race.

Crowley

Continued from Page 4

needs at the forefront of our agenda as we work to make a real difference in people’s lives.”

Spotorno is the co-founder of the Bring Our Jobs Home organization that advocates for returning some of the millions of lost manufacturing and call center jobs back to the United States, and supports American companies that are doing the right thing and still making it in America.

“ Millions of Americans no longer have a chance at the American Dream, because they can’t find a good paying job with benefits,” Spotorno said. “I’m running because the people of Queens and the Bronx need a congressman who will work to pass legislation in Washington that will encourage corporations to bring their jobs home, and help keep the existing jobs we still have here in the district.

Spotorno worked with the owners of the ISIS Cafe to change their name. It is now called the Rose Cafe. He has also worked to rebuild a bocce court in Astoria Park.

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) has served in Congress since 1992 and built a reputation as one of the most prolific lawmakers on Capitol Hill, improving infrastructure, fighting for health care, and women’s and children’s rights.

“I have passed more than 70 measures including landmark legislation like the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which provides health coverage for 9/11 victims and first responders,” Maloney said. “When I first ran for Congress, I did it because I wanted to improve the lives of my constituents. I am running for re-election because I want to continue to work for my constituents.”

Maloney is facing Republican Robert Ardini, a former marketing executive who has operated a small publishing business for nearly a decade. Ardini’s primary campaign issue is the national debt. And if we don’t get a handle on it, it will just grow. We have to start balancing the budget. It’s that simple.

Ardini’s secondary campaign issues are congressional gridlock and term limits.

“My Democrat opponent has been a member of the House for 23 consecutive years,” he said. “That can’t be what our founders intended.”

In southeast Queens, U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) has been challenged for his congressional seat by Michael O’Reilly, a Marine Corps veteran and airline pilot. The district includes the Rockaway peninsula as well as parts of Broad Channel, Hollis, Jamaica, Laurelton, Saint Albans, Springfield Gardens and South Ozone Park.

Meeks worked as an assistant district attorney and was a legislator in the state Assembly prior to his successful run for Congress in 1998, and he has been representing the 5th District since that time. He currently sits on the committees of financial services and foreign affairs in Congress, and said he intended to continue working to entice industry and jobs to areas like downtown Jamaica and the Rockaways, as well as help craft a transportation infrastructure bill.

“I’ll continue to focus on some sensible gun control laws,” Meeks said, pledging to try to close loopholes that allow criminals to bring guns in from out-of-state. He said he could not imagine Donald Trump winning the presidency, and said it would be important for Democrats in Congress to balance the power in Washington if he won.

“The Democratic role would be to save our republic,” he said. “We want to make sure that we’re a body that puts a check on the executive branch of government and make sure that democracy is preserved.”

O’Reilly, in addition to his Marine Corps stint, is also a practicing attorney and in the past has been a pilot for Delta Airlines Express. On his website, O’Reilly asserts that he supports discontinuing Common Core, and advocates for setting Congressional term limits.

“If you are not happy with the way our politicians are handling the major problems that we all face every day in Queens, our neighborhood and in our country, then go out and vote this November - vote with your own heart and your own mind,” he wrote on his website.

The attacks between the candidates accelerated in recent weeks, with Martens’ camp accusing Suozzi of closing Nassau County’s only inpatient addiction treatment facility during his tenure as executive, while The Island Now reported that Suozzi’s campaign was questioning how the Martins campaign paid for top campaign strategists and attorneys, saying it indicated a lack of transparency.

A Newsday/Siena College poll released on Oct. 8, showed Suozzi in the lead, 50 to 34 percent, with 15 percent undecided. The Martins campaign has indicated that internal polling indicates a tighter race.
Managing the costs of assisted living

As individuals age, various circumstances have to be reassessed. A current living situation may not be meeting the needs of a senior who may be having difficulty caring properly for himself. Families often consider senior residences to provide welcoming and safe environments for their loved ones during the golden years of their lives. These facilities may range from independent living homes with minimal care offered to nursing homes that provide more intensive care when needed. Somewhere in the middle lies assisted living facilities, which blend the independence of personal residences with other amenities, such as the housekeeping, medication reminders, or meal services.

Assisted living can be a viable option when a person can no longer live alone, but such facilities come with a price. According to a Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs conducted by MetLife, the national average for assisted living base rates was $3,550 per month in 2012. In the 2015 Cost of Care Survey conducted by Genworth Financial, the assisted living, national- median monthly rate was now $3,600 — it’s only expected to grow. Affording these homes and apartments can be challenging for those with fixed incomes, but there are some strategies that can help.

The payment method that serves you best will depend on your unique circumstances, but there are options available:

**Long-term care insurance:** Long-term care insurance is specialized insurance that is paid into and may cover the cost of assisted living facilities and other medical care, depending on the policy.

**Personal savings:** Some people have the means to pay for assisted living with their own savings and retirement nest eggs. However, it’s easy for savings to become depleted when facing a $40,000+ bill per year.

**Life insurance:** A financial advisor may advocate to pay for assisted living with a life insurance policy. Some companies enable you to cash out for “accelerated” or “living” benefits, which usually is a buy-back of the policy for 50 to 75 percent of the face value. Other third parties may purchase the policy for a settlement of a lump sum, again roughly 50 to 75 percent of the policy’s face value, according to Caring.com, an online source for support and information about the needs of aging people.

**Location:** Costs of assisted living facilities vary depending on location. It’s possible to get a lower monthly rate simply by choosing a facility in a different state.

**Negotiation:** Not all prices are set in stone. Speak with a manager at the facility and see if there is any price flexibility or move-in incentives. You also may be able to get a lower rate by negotiating certain a-la-carte costs against all-inclusive pricing. Perhaps you do not need laundry or shopping services, and family members can fill in the gaps, reducing your bill.

**Veteran’s benefits:** Many veterans are eligible for care benefits that can offset the cost of assisted living care.

**Rooms:** Opting for a smaller room or sharing a space can keep costs down as well. See if shared rooms are a possibility.

Assisted living is a necessity for thousands of people. Explore the ways to finance this purchase.

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**Nutrition and aging**

Nutrition is important for people of all ages, but it’s especially important for men and women over the age of 50, who can dramatically improve their quality of life by eating a well-balanced diet filled with vitamins and nutrients. Though that may seem like common sense, research has shown that men and women in this age group, who are often referred to as baby boomers, are not necessarily as healthy as they may seem.

While the baby boomer generation, which is generally regarded as those people born between 1946 and 1964, boasts longer life expectancies than any generation that came before them, some of that longevity is due to advancements that came before them, some of that may be chalked up to advancements in medical care, including a booming pharmaceutical industry that seemingly has an antidote to every ailment. But a 2013 study from researchers at the West Virginia University School of Medicine found that baby boomers are less healthy than the generation that immediately preceded them, tending to be more likely to have higher levels of hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol. While that news might be sobering, it’s never too late for men and women over 50 to start eating healthier diets, which can reduce their risk of a wide range of ailments, including heart disease, stroke and osteoporosis.

The following are a few ways men and women over 50 can alter their diets so their bodies are getting what they need to live long and healthy lives well into their golden years. As is always the case, men and women should discuss any potential changes to their diets with their physicians to ensure the changes will be both effective and healthy.

**Balance your diet.** Kids hear of the benefits of a balanced diet seemingly from the moment they enter a classroom for the first time, but many adults fail to heed that basic advice as they get further and further away from kindergarten. When changing your diet, be sure to include plenty of protein and carbohydrates. Protein maintains and rebuilds muscles, which is especially important for aging men and women who might find themselves unable to keep up with the physical demands of everyday life as well as they used to. Including ample low-fat protein, which can be found in fish, eggs and low-fat dairy among other foods, will aid in muscle recovery, benefitting aging athletes as well as those men and women over 50 who recently started exercising as a means to regaining their physical fitness. A diet lacking in sufficient protein can contribute to muscle deterioration, arthritis and even organ failure, so it’s important for men and women to prioritize including protein in their diets.
Mom arrived for dinner at midnight

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The fifth anniversary of Resorts World Casino in Ozone Park is a four-day extravaganza with every type of performer from a Van Halen tribute group to a classical pianist. Between sets, the casino's staff rushed out for a group picture in the lobby.  Courtesy of Resorts World

The annual 5k Trot in the Ft Totten Park doesn't require runners to wear a costume to compete—but few show up without one, if you notice.  Courtesy of the Bayside Historical Society

At the Halloween Party in Socrates Sculpture Park, Saul Vazquez (l) and brother Roman Vazquez are horsing around with one of the figures in the park.  Photo by Steve Vazquez

At the Bayside BID's Halloween on Bell party, it wasn't just the kids who dressed up for trick-or-treating. The annual fest in front of the LIRR station on 41st Street included three bounce houses, a pumpkin decorating booth and costume contest—age-appropriate, of course.  Photoby Michael Shain

Assemblyman Mike Miller (far r), Chancellor Carmen Farina (behind the check) and U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez present an $11.5 million check from the federal government to Queens School Districts 27 and District 29—including a prestigious magnet grant for PS 254 in Richmond Hill.  Courtesy of Assemblyman Miller

That's Inspector Jefffrey Schiff, head of the 105th Precinct, on a motor scooter and tweeting this photo of a Sikh parade in southeast Queens for the birthday of Guru Nana, the 15th century guru who founded Sikhism.  Twitter

The folks at the 106th Precinct tweeted this photo of their community affairs officers at the Howard Beach Kiwanis' Halloween Parade last weekend. Twitter

Just a reminder that some things never change: a view of the platform at Grand Central Station from 1965—50 years ago!—tweeted by a city historical group. Twitter
Two years ago, a young, spirited entrepreneur from Corona started her own line of custom-made, handcrafted riding boots and Oxfords for stylish women and men. While it may have been a shot in the dark, the gamble turned out to be well worth any risks involved.

Now that J.J. Gray Founder and CEO Jessica Perdomo has found success with her online startup, she hopes to make some sneaker magic happen, once her special program takes off. Perdomo would like to jumpstart a team effort (if she can find larger footwear companies to team up with), that would provide truckloads of cool sneakers to underprivileged kids in the five boroughs.

“My family was so hard-working and always wanted to provide for me, so I started thinking about all the families who want to provide for their kids and give them what other kids have, but just can’t,” she said. “I thought about how important footwear is and how it really matters to young people. I can relate to them. I know their struggles.”

During a recent phone interview from her downtown Manhattan apartment, which also serves as her work studio, Perdomo, 32, said she was extremely proud of her unique line of weather-resistant and artisan-crafted styles. She pointed out that it takes about eight weeks to make each hand-stitched pair of boots or shoes, and that no two are alike.

Continued on Page 42
Thalia Hispanic Theatre — Two productions are running: “The History of Salsa,” a musical that features the award-winning Colombian dance company Cali Salsa Pal’ Mundo, and “We Women Do It Better Than Men,” for which the theater says “Come to find out WHAT and you’ll have a great time.”

When: “The History of Salsa” — Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4 and 5, Nov. 11 and 12 at 8 pm; Sunday, Nov. 6 at 4 pm.
“We Women Do It Better Than Men” — In Spanish: Wednesday, Nov. 9 and Friday, Nov. 11 at 8 pm; Thursday, Nov. 10 at 8 pm and Saturday, Nov. 12 at 3 pm

Where: Thalia Hispanic Theater, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside

Cost: “The History of Salsa” — $40; students and seniors, $37. “We Women Do It Better Than Men,” $25

Contact: (718) 729-3880
Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

The LIC One-Act Festival — In this festival, programs of short plays are presented and at the end of the evening the audience votes for their favorites. Eight plays will make it to the finals on Nov. 13, and the winner is chosen by a panel of judges and the audience. Winners will be announced and awarded on the last night of the festival.

When: Through Nov. 13
Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St. Long Island City

Cost: $18 in advance, $20 at door
Contact: (718) 392-0722
Website: secrettheatre.com

Blithe Spirit — Douglaston Community Theatre presents Noel Coward’s classic comedy of a clairvoyant and a man caught between his current wife and her deceased predecessor.

When: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4 and 5, Nov. 11 and 12 at 8 pm
Where: Zion Church Parish Hall, Church Street off of Douglaston Parkway, 243-01 Northern Blvd., Douglaston

Cost: Adults, $22; seniors (62+) and children (under 13), $20
Contact: (718) 483-3332
Website: www.facebook.com/Douglaston-Community-Theatre-172148022797897/

My Fair Lady — This Lerner and Loewe musical, based on George Bernard Shaw’s 1913 play “Pygmalion,” tells the story of how Professor Henry Higgins takes on the task of teaching an uneducated, rough mannered cockney flower seller, Eliza Doolittle.

When: Saturday, Nov. 5 and 12 at 8 pm; Sundays, Nov. 6 and 13 at 3 pm
Where: Theatre By The Bay, Bay Terrace Garden Jewish Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside
Cost: Adults, $22; seniors (62+) and children (under 13), $20
Contact: (718) 428-6363
Website: theatrebythebay.com

Two Trains Running — The seventh play in August Wilson’s Pittsburgh Cycle looks at changing attitudes toward race from the perspective of urban blacks.

When: Friday, Nov. 4 and 11, Saturday, Nov. 5 and 12 at 8 pm
Where: Thalia Hispanic Theater, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside

Cost: “The History of Salsa” — $40; students and seniors, $37. “We Women Do It Better Than Men,” $25
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When: Friday, Nov. 4 and 11, Saturday, Nov. 5 and 12 at 8 pm
Where: Black Spectrum Theatre, 177th Street and Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica
Cost: $25
Contact: (718) 723-1800
Website: blackspectrum.com

Answers in Sports

Tips at www.sudoku.com © Puzzles by Pappocom
Making Bell Boulevard Bayside’s Theater Row

Neighborhood resident brings family story to life in encore performance of one-man show

BY MARK HALLUM

Lon Blais is bringing live performance back to Bayside with encore performances of his one-man show “The Boy on the Bureau,” an autobiographical drama about the playwright’s experience as the “white sheep” of his family in Danvers, Mass. The Bayside resident took over a vacant shop at 41-23 Bell Blvd. for the premiere of the show in September and will be returning to the same location on Nov. 4, 5 and 6 at 8 p.m.

“The Boy on the Bureau” was a bucket-list item for Blais who aspired to bring his story to a broader audience. “I come from a family—by my family—as the white sheep,” he said, adding that the nickname was an indication of his normality in the household. “I come from a family that has a lot of interesting background... most of the time, it’s that one kid in a family of doctors who wants to be a piano player,” Blais said. “For me, it was being a family of highly dysfunctional people, wanting to be normal.”

Blais’ hometown of Danvers was known 350 years ago as Salem Village, the location of the hysteria that led to serial executions of suspected witches. The playwright grew up across the street from the house once occupied by Rev. Samuel Parris, the father of two of the first girls accused during the Salem Witch Trials. According to the playwright, growing up in a haunted town had less to do with whether or not you believed in ghosts than with what the ghosts where you live did last night.

A recent performance of “The Crucible” forced Blais to reclaim the Massachusetts accent he had worked to ditch years ago. Blais has already received positive recognition for “The Boy on the Bureau.” His performance was described by the Bayside Times’ Ron Hellman as “reminiscent of the narrative skills of a Spalding Gray.” Hellman also said that “Blais held his audience’s rapt attention. He plans to take the play on the road.”

Blais, who describes himself as an actor, writer, director, teacher, life coach and long distance cyclist, is not only coming back to Bell Boulevard, but is also in negotiations for taking his show to a playhouse in Manhattan and a tour of various cities across the United States.

According to Blais, there are three different kinds of actor: a shy person who lets loose on stage, an extrovert who needs no help dominating the atmosphere, and an introvert who behaves like an extrovert to dominate the room. Blais perceives himself to be the latter of the three.

“James Joyce once said that ‘the more specific you write something the more universal it becomes.’” Blais said of the reaction to his first performance in September, where the positive reaction from the audience encouraged him to bring his story to a broader audience.

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

*TimesLedger Newspapers*

**Nov. 4-10, 2016**

**By Ed Canty**

**Old Glory**

**Across**

1. Links rental 
5. AOL activities 
10. Shiny on top? 
14. Defendant’s part of the bargain? 
15. Place for a fast buck 
16. Apple spray 
17. Colorful entre`e 
20. “Sesame Street” character, with “The” 
21. Deadly meetings? 
22. Blacken, in a way 
25. Saxophonist’s supply 
26. New Zealand tribesman 
30. Paul and Carly 
33. Pertaining to base 8 
34. Store safely 
35. Fordham mascot 
36. Valarie Jarrett & others 
42. “Hold on a ____!” 
43. Smell — (be suspicious) 
44. “Horrible” Viking 
45. Apothecary tool 
47. Rehab candidates 
48. Picture book? 
51. Bed board 
53. Mexican menu choice 
56. I.V. league member? 
59. Reenactment 
60. High level investigation group 
64. “I cannot tell ____” 
65. One who cries “Uncle!”? 
66. Game piece 
67. 1040 I.Ds 
68. Alcohol burners 
69. Religious statue 
70. “The Brady Bunch” housekeeper 
72. Added punch to the punch? 
73. Shift, e.g. 
74. Advil target 
75. Applies blades 
76. Ceremonial acts 
77. Applying to ears 
78. Housekeeper 
79. Mend socks 
80. Merriment 
81. “The Producers” star Zero 
82. “The Producers” star Zero 
83. Stock certificate 
84. Temple 
85. “The Producers” star Zero 
86. Muzzle 
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122. “The Producers” star Zero 

**Down**

1. E.M.T.’s skill 
2. Baldwin or Guinness 
3. Start all over 
4. No-no 
5. Box 
6. Babe 
7. Infomercials, e.g. 
8. Boston party drinks? 
9. Loudness measure 
10. Noble partner 
11. “The Brady Bunch” housekeeper 
12. Added punch to the punch? 
13. Shift, e.g. 
14. Store, as corn 
15. Mends socks 
16. Arrange 
17. Ceremonial acts 
18. Applies blades 
19. Applying to ears 
20. A mazing animal? 
21. Added punch to the punch? 
22. Advil target 
23. Apply to blades 
24. Applies blades 
25. Advil target 
26. Applies blades 
27. Advil target 
28. Applying to ears 
29. A mazing animal? 
30. Paul and Carly 
31. Apothecary tool 
32. Apothecary tool 
33. Pertaining to base 8 
34. Store safely 
35. Fordham mascot 
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39. “The Producers” star Zero 
40. “The Producers” star Zero 
41. “The Producers” star Zero 
42. “The Producers” star Zero 
43. Smell — (be suspicious) 
44. “Horrible” Viking 
45. Apothecary tool 
47. Rehab candidates 
48. Picture book? 
49. Bed board 
50. Mexican menu choice 
51. I.V. league member? 
52. Queen ____ lace 
53. “The Producers” star Zero 
54. Food sticker 
55. “The Producers” star Zero 
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For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger’s website at www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar
Marlene Tseng Yu’s distinctive paintings are well-known throughout the world. Born in 1937 in Taiwan, she came to the United States in 1963, receiving a Master in Fine Arts from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1967 and teaching art at Denver University in Colorado from 1967 to 1968 before heading to Queens.

“My husband, James, and I moved to Jackson Heights in 1968,” Marlene said. “Except for a couple of years in New Jersey, I had kept a studio in SoHo until 2008 when we moved to Long Island City, where the third floor became my studio, with its high ceiling and eight skylights.”

It was there that she began a series of large-scale paintings.

“In Taiwan, I began painting by copying famous traditional-style Chinese paintings. The subject matter included landscapes, animals, birds, flowers and figurines,” she said. “At the University of Colorado, where I studied under Eugene Matthews, I began the transition to lyrical abstract expressionistic paintings of nature.”

The themes in her paintings deal with various aspects of natural phenomenon, focusing on nature’s movements, colors and forms. “For larger paintings, I would first do a small compositional sketch before doing any paintings over eight feet.” Acrylic paints are Tseng Yu’s preferred media, due to their being water soluble and able to maintain their colors “better than oil and watercolors.”

In addition to having shown her work in museums and galleries ranging from the National Art Museum of China to the ACA Galleries in Chelsea, Tseng Yu has frequently exhibited her paintings at cultural institutions across Queens. The Queensborough Community College Art Gallery and the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College have both presented shows devoted to her work. Over 600 of her paintings are in private collections in the New York area.

An interest in the relationship between mankind and nature is a constant thread in her work. In 2014, Tseng Yu was one of the featured artists in the Queens Museum exhibit “Raising the Temperature: Art in Environmental Reactions.” The show, curated by Luchia Meihu Lee, was a collaboration with the Rainforest Art Foundation, an organization founded by Tseng Yu “to increase appreciation of nature through art.”

She said glacial melting is her favorite topic to paint, and that she didn’t realize when she began depicting the subject many years ago how it would become such a global issue today. “Water is a resource we don’t often think about on a daily basis in a country like America where many of us live in homes with endless sources of water with the turn of a knob,” she said.

There is also an entire museum, the Marlene Yu Museum in Shreveport, La., devoted to the artist and her vision. Her daughter, Stephanie Lusk, is director of both the museum and the Rainforest Art Foundation.

If you’d like a closer look at Marlene Tseng Yu’s unique work, she has a studio in Long Island City where you can find limited edition prints and posters, as well as works on paper and canvas. To visit the studio, call her at (917) 681-3308, or James at (917) 682-3630.
Perdomo

Continued from Page 37

Perdomo’s path to success has taken her from Corona to the south of Spain and back to New York. Along the way, both a chance encounter and a generous dose of hard work helped move her toward her goal.

That chance encounter took place in Spain, where Perdomo met a family of third-generation artisans, who had been creating custom-made shoes for over 100 years. She said they perfected a last that is used to build all J.J. Gray styles. In addition, the supple calfskin they used to make their shoes, sourced from local tanneries in the region that don’t use harsh chemicals to treat their hides, made their work distinctive.

When visiting the factory, Perdomo recalled asking them: “If I sketch something, could you make it?” She said the sketch wasn’t at a professional level, so she was thankful for Google. “I showed them the heel of this boot and the toe of that one…and they were able to translate my vision.”

Luckily, her creativity and business savvy made up for her lack of formal fashion training. “I have no design background, which is why this is a real miracle. But I have great taste and I knew everybody liked Spanish leather,” she said.

Her exposure to high fashion was also a big part of J.J. Gray’s inspiration. Perdomo’s retail career started in luxury brands, when she was working on Fifth Avenue for Salvatore Ferragamo. Eventually, she worked on the sales floor at Ralph Lauren.

After her trip to Spain, Perdomo said she had no intention of starting a company. “But after discovering that incredible leather, I decided to make boots for myself that I would really be in love with,” she said, and designed three styles that are available on her company’s website (www.jj-gray.com): An Oxford (shoe) to wear every day, and two kinds of riding boots. She called the Oxford “Arthur,” the plain riding boot “Edgar” and the riding boot with laces “Luther.”

“Then we finally made them. And they were great, and they were beautiful. People were stopping me on the street,” Perdomo recalled. “I could never have imagined that two years later, they’d be so popular.

“And I really didn’t know what I was doing. Where I come from, we don’t talk much about entrepreneurship. It’s go to school, find a good job, find a good match…”

Jessica was raised by her hard working immigrant grandparents—a home health aide and a tailor. She grew up to appreciate the importance of family values, as well as the value of a dollar, but never realized her family was poor until she needed new sneakers. An embarrassing hole had ripped through her only pair and there was no money to buy new ones.

Because of her innate entrepreneurial spirit, she set off to find work so she could afford cool kicks, like her friends were wearing. But what mattered most, was helping her family out.

That experience shaped the person she would become, and taught her compassion. And in time, Perdomo would see her torn sneaker as a kind of symbol of the journey that brought her to where she is now. And to a place of giving back.

Surprisingly, that life lesson would also awaken her fashion mojo.

Perdomo recalled how it felt to be made fun of when she wore those worn-out sneakers. She quickly learned that dressing nice meant you were treated differently, especially if you wore something designer. “When I did, I felt really cool,” she said, and remembered how special she felt back in high school, when she wore her Versace bomber jacket—bought for cheap at a sample sale. “When you come from humble beginnings, you also become a very smart shopper and learn how to make things work.”

And you get tougher, as well. Perdomo didn’t know it then, but her grit and resilience would pay off.

“We’ve come a long way and have an amazing group of supporters,” she said. “Our brand is out there and moving. We have clients across the country, and in London, Dubai—all over the world. And our top clients are all in New York.”

J.J. Gray’s first-ever fashion week was something to talk about. About 100-150 people were there from all over, to shop and support the brand during its mid-September trunk show presentation, hosted by a top client in her Flatiron District law office. Several celebs stopped by as well, including Miss J. Alexander, one of the judges on America’s Next Top Model.

Perdomo said she is still trying to figure things out, but insisted, “It’s all about making sure I make comfortable, versatile styles that go with everything, and that everyone loves.”
Remember Ragabop — The guitarist Prasanna plays a blend of Indian Raga and bebop-influenced jazz. When his composition “Ragabop” influenced jazz. When his latest album “All Terrain Guitar.”

When: Saturday, Nov. 5, 7 pm
Where: Terraza 7, 40-19 Gleane St., Elmhurst
Cost: $15, free for children 12 and under
Contact: (718) 803-9602
Website: terraza7.com

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

Intuitive Progression — This show, filled with works by such major artists as Agnes Martin, Edward Ruscha, Susan Rothenberg and Jasper Johns, is up through the end of this month. In works that cover a variety of media, they explore the power of basic elements including straight lines, grids, basic shapes and written language. But each of them takes those elements and turns them into highly personal individual statements. An equally compelling show, “Language as Representation,” is also up through Nov. 28.

When: Thursday through Monday, 12 pm - 5 pm
Where: Fisher Landau Center for Art, 38-27 30th Street, Long Island City
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 937-0727
Website: flcart.org

Norma Talmadge, one of the early cinema’s biggest stars, lived in Bayside. Courtesy Bayside Historical Society

Back in the earliest days of the movies, Queens was one of the capitals of filmmaking, and Bayside was a place where many of the industry’s biggest stars could regularly be seen. The story of that community of celebrities will be told in an exhibit opening Thursday at the Bayside Historical Society. “Bayside: The Actors’ Enclave” includes photographs, newspapers and many other artifacts that document a glamorous side of life in the neighborhood in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

From silent-film star Pearl White, who would drive down Bell Boulevard with her pet pig, to Oscar-winning actress Marie Dressler and W.C. Fields, the cast of characters who populate the exhibit could fill a DeMille spectacular—with the proverbial cast of thousands to spare.

With the nearby Vitagraph Studios going full steam, “there were rumors that a studio would be built in Bayside,” says Eileen Cotoggio of the Bayside Historical Society. “Bayside: The Actors’ Enclave” will be able to see more than memorabilia about the stars. The BHS is in the process of putting together a map showing the homes and hangouts of such notables as Gloria Swanson and Theda Bara, giving a rare glimpse of both movie history and the past of Bayside itself.

The Bayside Historical Society is open from Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 352-1548 or go to baysidehistorical.org
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ASK FOR CHRISTOPHER
The Christ the King girls’ soccer team rallied to notch a 6-5 victory over Mary Louis Academy and clinch the BOCHSAA championship.

Photo by Benjamin Leibowitz

CK girls’ soccer team snags championship

BY BENJAMIN LEIBOWITZ

The Christ the King girls’ soccer team wasn’t going to give up their crown without a fight.

The Royals notched another BOCHSAA championship Sunday afternoon, taking down Mary Louis Academy 6-5 in overtime at Aviator Sports Complex. It wasn’t an easy game, but the squad found its rhythm when it mattered most.

“It was one of our goals for this year to win the division title,” said Christ the King coach John Fayad. “I have to give Mary Louis credit for fighting hard. This is the fifth time we’ve won this [the Brooklyn-Queens division title], so we are used to this. It took overtime to get there, but I am really proud of our team.”

The Royals jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, but couldn’t maintain the cushion as Mary Louis fought back to take a 5-4 lead late in the game. Despite some miscues, Christ the King never lost its focus and, most importantly, the squad knew it had a weapon on the Hilltoppers didn’t—Kiana Leger.

The co-captain not only connected on the game-tying goal in the waning minutes of regulation, but also secured the championship with the game-winning goal less than a minute into overtime. It was her third goal of the game, but Leger was quick to point out that the early lead helped set the tone for the entire matchup.

“It was very important to score those early goals,” she said. “We had to show the other team that it was going to be tough to keep up with us.”

Christ the King’s team chemistry proved the difference-maker down the stretch—clawing back after giving up the early lead and, most importantly, out-hustling the Hilltoppers in the first few minutes of overtime.

“Our team chemistry is really good. We don’t even need to speak to know where we are on the field,” said co-captain Paulina Ambrus, who scored the first goal of the game. “Towards the end [of the match] we picked up our intensity. We knew we had history against this team, and knew what had to be done [to come away with the win].”

Continued on Page 45

Royals rout Fordham

Siddiq Muhammad takes control in 41-7 victory

BY LAURA AMATO

Christ the King senior running back Siddiq Muhammad saw the ball fall out of his hands and had to bite back a groan.

He has battled fumble issues all season and turning the ball over on the Royals’ first play of the night was not exactly how he had hoped to start the final game of the regular season Saturday night.

So, as Muhammad jogged back to the sidelines after the turnover, he promised himself something. He wouldn’t turn the ball over again—and he didn’t.

Instead, he settled into a rhythm in the backfield and the end zone, leading Christ the King’s football team to a 41-7 victory over Fordham Prep.

“I was holding it high and tight, but it was one of those plays where it was a good hit to the ball and it just came out,” Muhammad said. “So I came back to the sideline, kept calm and we did our thing and got back in the game.”

Muhammad racked up a whopping 128 rushing yards in the first half, sparking a Royals (7-1) offense that hit its stride in the waning minutes of the second half.

Fordham Prep seemed to seize a bit of momentum midway through the second quarter when Matt Conlon recovered a Demetrius Wilson fumble and returned it 35 yards for a Rams touchdown, but Christ the King responded on its ensuing drive with a three-yard touchdown with 1:21 left in the first half. He followed up just moments later with a three-yard touchdown run on the final play of the second quarter, giving the Royals a 20-point cushion and erasing memories of that early-game fumble.

“I saw green,” Muhammad said. “And my coach told me when you see green, just take it. So that’s what I did.

From there on out, the Royals simply settled into their lead and their defense. Christ the King senior running back Siddiq Muhammad changed the course of the game when he rushed for a pair of touchdowns in the final minute and a half of the second quarter, sparking the Royals to a 41-7 victory over Fordham Prep.

Photo by Laura Amato

“This week, compared to last week, there was more of an urgency,” said Christ the King coach Jason Brown. “My main issue with these guys is they’re trying to do a lot of short plays. We’ve got a lot of talent and we’ve got to bring it early and stay consistent with it.”

And then Muhammad went to work.

“The Marshall commit ripped off a 60-yard touchdown sprint, breaking through the Fordham Prep defensive line with ease, and notch his first touchdown of the night with 1:21 left in the first half. He followed up just moments later with a three-yard touchdown run on the final play of the second quarter, giving the Royals a 20-point cushion and erasing memories of that early-game fumble.

“I saw green,” Muhammad said. “And my coach told me when you see green, just take it. So that’s what I did.

From there on out, the Royals simply settled into their lead and their defense. Christ the King picked off Fordham Prep quarterback Matt Va- leccc on back-to-back passes in the opening minutes of the third and forced an incomplete pass in the end zone late in the quarter.

“We were able to get a lot of pressure on him,” Brown said. “We have very good athletes back there and he had to make some quick decisions and it got him in trouble.”

The Royals padded their lead with a pair of second-half touchdowns—including an 80-yard fumble recovery and return by Nicholas Hunter—but Christ the King isn’t satisfied with this win. The squad will face Xavier in the first round of the CHSFL playoffs—a rematch of last year’s title game—and the Royals aren’t willing to settle for anything less than a championship.

“Everybody was like you’re getting lucky and stuff and then we worked hard and now we’re on,” Muhammad said. “And we’re going to continue to win every time we work hard.”

TIMESLEDGER.COM

Photo by Laura Amato
Red Storm starts strong

Storm cruised to a 99-49 victory over Baruch in an exhibition matchup.

St. John’s forward Bashir Ahmed sparked the squad early on as the Red center, settled into a rhythm bit of a microcosm of the sea-champs and this game was an easy year for the reigning city champs and this game was a

“I like to play with them,” said junior guard Federico Mussini of his new backcourt teammates. “They’re great players and shooters, ball hand-ers and they pass the ball. So I really feel good with them back there.”

At first I was like, ‘Yo, we should do it,’ Mullin said. “Not only are they gifted offensively, they can score the ball, but they’re unselfish, so that’s good.”

While Ahmed was the spark in the first half, his fellow first-year players stepped up down the stretch as well. Big East Preseason Rookie of the Year Shamarie Ponds shook off his first-half nerves in the final 20, finishing with 12 points, while Richard Freudenberg showed off his keen shooting touch, racking up 12 points.

“Coming in, we had a lot of guys who this was their first game,” Mullin said. “I kind of anticipated them being anx-iou-s and some nervous energy. But it was good to get out and go play against somebody else instead of just them practicing against each other.”

Perhaps the most heralded debut, however, came from redshirt freshman Marcus LoVett, finally getting his start in Queens after he was ruled a partial qualifier by the NCAA last season. The 6-foot guard finished with 14 points and five assists, but it was his rhythm with Ponds in the backcourt that proved most impres-sive.

“It was really surprising,” Ahmed said. “I wanted to try it one time and see how it would be to play. So, finally, this year I was like, alright, I’ll take it seriously this year because it’s my senior year.”

Shnae is the first to admit that she had her doubts when her older sister sug-gested they take up tennis this fall. After all, they’ve been focused on handball for so long—leading Bayside to another PSAL champion-ship last season—that the idea of playing another sport just seemed like too much to handle. They didn’t even have their own racquets, and played with old Bayside physical education equipment.

“Sometimes coaches say that, that we’re going to be OK offensively, but I really believe that’s the case with this team,” Mullin said. “Not only are they gifted offensively, they can score the ball, but they’re unselfish, so that’s good.”

and focused on their goal. It’s a philosophy the squad hopes to take into the future as well.

“We’re resilient. This year we lost our goalie to an ACL injury, so the early part of the year was tough,” Fayad said. “It’s a very young team, we only have a few seniors so the future looks bright.”

Christ the King advanced to the city championship, fac-ing off against Kennedy Catho-lic, but after this latest on-field performance, the Royals are nothing short of confident with the ball at their collective feet.

“We just have to give every-thing we have,” Ambrus said. “And I think we are ready to do it.”

BY LAURA AMATO

It was more treat than trick for the St. John’s men’s basket-ball team as the Red Storm cruised to a 99-49 victory over Baruch in an exhibition game Monday night.

Of course, the Johnnies are in the running with a grain of salt—it is an exhibition against a Division III squad, after all—but the lopsided showing is a boost of confidence for a young squad that still had plenty of question marks heading into the regular season.

“We did OK I thought, and we can be better,” said head coach Chris Mullin. “Not only are they gifted offensively, they can score the ball, but they’re unselfish, so that’s good.”

While Ahmed was the spark in the first half, his fellow first-year players stepped up down the stretch as well. Big East Preseason Rookie of the Year Shamarie Ponds shook off his first-half nerves in the final 20, finishing with 12 points, while Richard Freudenberg showed off his keen shooting touch, racking up 12 points.

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Those nerves, however, disappeared after the first tennis practice.

“At first I was like, ‘Yo, we don’t know how to play ten-nis, what are you doing?’” Shnae said. “But then after practicing with the team, we got better and they taught us the rules and they were very friendly.”

Of course, it also helped that handball and tennis have some basic moves in common—particularly ones that require quick hands and fast reflexes. And the Cummings sisters have both of those.

“Handball has the wall and you’re hitting it back to yourself with just one bounce—just like tennis,” Shkysi said. “The big difference is tennis has a net. But our reaction times are there and it helps our re-

Sisters win big on tennis court

Shkysi Cummings al-ways wanted to play tennis, watched the sport on TV and dreamed of one day competing on the court. But the Bay-side senior wasn’t a tennis player—she played handball.

Still, she couldn’t quite shake the idea of tennis, and a few months ago she ap-proached her sister, Shnae, with the idea of joining the Commodores squad. Fast for-ward to the afternoon of Oct. 27 and the Cummings sisters weren’t just tennis players—they wrapped up their season with just one loss and a third-place finish in the PSAL fi-nals.

“I couldn’t believe we got this far. It was really surpris-ing,” Shkysi said. “I wanted to try it one time and see how it would be to play. So, finally, this year I was like, alright, I’ll take it seriously this year because it’s my senior year.”

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BY LAURA AMATO

The biggest challenge for both of the sisters came on the serve—something hand-ball doesn’t have—and the two spent most of their prac-tice time this year fine-tun-ing their approach.

“I can’t get the serves in ever, so I just do the little taps and it actually goes in,” Shnae said. “But I can’t do a hard serve like professionals do.”

The sisters notched a perfect regular season on the court and came into the PSAL tournament practically burst with confidence before falling to Beacon in the semifinals. The duo turned things around in the third place match, however, cruising to a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Cardozo.

Now, the Cummings turn their attention back towards handball, but they’re not quite done with tennis. Shnae plans to compete as a junior next year and Shkysi hopes to continue playing for fun. This journey—as well as the trophy that will sit in the Bayside case from now on—is simply a testament to what they’re both capable of doing.

They’re also going to keep the racquets.

“This just shows that whatever you try and whatever you want to do, you can do,” Shkysi said. “You just have to go out and do it.”

CK champs

Continued from Page 46

It hasn’t always been an easy year for the reigning city champs and this game was a bit of a microcosm of the sea-

St. John’s Athletics

As the Red Storm cruised to a 99-49 victory over Baruch in an exhibition matchup, St. John’s forward Bashir Ahmed sparked the squad early on.

Bayside sophomore Shnae Cummings (left) and her sister, senior Shkysi, decided to join the Commodores tennis team just a few months ago and found success on the court, placing third in the PSAL tournament.

Photo by Laura Amato
The Springfield Gardens football team continued to spread the ball out on Saturday afternoon as five different players found the end zone in the Golden Eagles’ 34-6 victory over George Washington.

Senai Haywood led the charge with 98 rushing yards and a touchdown, while Joshua Alphonso also chipped in a touchdown run and hauled in 79 receiving yards. Justin Mercure, Jalanni Springer and Neko Morris also each chipped in a touchdown.

Steve Cadesti finished with 98 rushing yards in his squad’s second straight victory. Tyrese Schultz sparked the defensive effort with five tackles.

Springfield Gardens wraps up the regular season Sunday, looking to stay in the mix at the top of the PSAL Bowl Conference, with a matchup against Eagle Academy II.

James Madison 38, Jamaica 12: Malik Lawrence did his best to lead the Beavers, completing eight passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns, but it wasn’t for lack of trying.

The Golden Knights pulled away late on the combined rushing efforts of Elijah Walcott and Tequan Evans, throwing for 205 yards and two touchdowns. Henry Jean Michel sparked the defense with eight tackles and an interception, while Jaylen Teasley racked up eight tackles of his own.

Eagle Academy III 44, Bryant 6: Gary Newman was unstoppable for the Eagles in a shutout. The junior threw for 164 yards and three touchdowns, and two touchdowns. Henry Jean Michel sparked the defense with eight tackles and an interception, while Jaylen Teasley racked up eight tackles of his own.

Beach Channel 34, John Adams 6: The Dolphins scored 12 points in the fourth quarter to wrap up the victory, shutting John Adams out in the second half. Joshua Timmer was unstoppable on the ground, racking up 263 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

Other Scores:
- Flushing 32, FDR 0: Long Island City 38, East Harlem 22
- Alfred E. Smith 12, Far Rockaway 6
- Boys & Girls 28, Campus Magnet 12
- Frederick Douglass 36, Cardozo 6
- Iona Prep 49, St. Francis Prep 0

St. John’s senior Jade Walker has always been one of the guys. She grew up playing basketball with a boys’ team and the challenges of being the only girl on the court has turned her into one of the most fierce competitors around.

She’s used to having to constantly prove herself and the chip on her shoulder has taken permanent residence.

This year—with one final season of college hoops ahead of her—Walker is hoping to use that determination to her advantage, leading the Red Storm back to a Big East championship and the NCAA Tournament.

“When I started getting into football, it was all because someone told me I couldn’t,” Walker said. “But once I started feeling like I could do something with this, I just really love it. When you really love something, you put all your into it and that’s what you’ll see on the court.”

Walker grew up in New Jersey and while she’d always been drawn to basketball, there simply wasn’t an opportunity for her to play—at least with other girls. So, she and her father got creative.

“My dad wanted to get me to start playing for real, like organized games and I just had to play on the boys’ team,” Walker said. “I was the only girl on the team and it was like a group of people that nobody wanted and I ended up winning the championship.”

Walker’s experience on the boys’ team shaped her as a player and she’s the first to admit that she might be a bit more aggressive than her current on-court counterparts.

“They grew up in one. I feel like this year I can really show a lot more of what I can do,” Walker said. “But it’s me and Aaliyah [Lewis] running the show right now and we’re trying to give everything we can in our last year.”

Walker still has that chip on her shoulder, that determination to prove herself, but this year there’s also something else—the determination to prove this team can still contend. And she’s going to do whatever it takes to prove that point.

“We always have a chip on our shoulder, we just want to live up to the tradition here at St. John’s and it’s more than just a preseason poll,” Walker said. “We just have to work hard and prove everybody wrong.”
Navraj Raju
Continued from Page 1

Hospital Center, where he died from his injuries.

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) was not surprised Morales-Rodriguez was re-released. This past May, his bill to crack down on drivers who kill or seriously injure others while driving with a revoked, suspended or otherwise invalid license, passed in the Senate but not the Assembly.

Unfortunately, the law doesn’t give law enforcement the tools necessary to treat these people as seriously as they should be,” Gianaris said. “We said the last time that we hoped there wouldn’t be another tragedy before we fix it and now there has been. We’re going to redouble our efforts in the next session.”

Ramones
Continued from Page 1

she said to chuckles from the crowd, teachers could respond by saying “that four giants of the entertainment world did what you do now - walked through the doors of Forest Hills High School.”

David Farrer learned about the renaming through the band’s official site. He said he had been a fan for about 30 years and seen the group play live about 15 times.

“They’re so relatable. They seem like guys I would hang out with, friends of mine,” he said, detailing why he was attracted to the band. “It’s why so many bands are influenced by them.”

The Ramones was formed in 1974 in Forest Hills by a group of friends who all took the name “Ramone” as a stage surname. They regularly frequented CBGBs in New York City and wrote a dizzying number of classic songs, including “Blitzkrieg Bop,” “Beat on the Brat” and “Teenage Lobotomy.”

Robert Yeno came to the festivities with a giant papier-mâché rendering of Joey’s head that he could wear on top of his own. He said he commissioned an artist to prepare the piece so he could wear it for the annual Joey Ramone birthday celebration in Manhattan, but that he felt the street renaming was cause to break it out again.

“As a teenager, I knew there was something different to them,” he said. “But all these years later, I still hear something I haven’t heard before.”

At the end of the event, a crowd gathered beneath a white cloth covering a street sign. Spectators spanning generation from grandparents to infants surrounded the sign, many wearing shirts emblazoned with the band’s signature crest.

“OK, on a count of three!” an organizer yelled to the crowd, giving them a cue for when they would pull the sheet. Someone yelled that it needed to be a four-count, in honor of the rapid-fire way Dee Dee Ramone would count in a song live with a “1-2-3-4” yelp.

The crowd obliged, and on the fourth count, the sheet was pulled away to unveil a brand new sign that said “Ramones Way.” The crowd cheered in approval.

“Take it, Dee Dee!” someone yelled.

Meng
Continued from Page 4

comprehensively,” he said. “When you look at a map, whatever angle you look at it the information should be consistent, comprehensive, accurate and trustworthy. And that’s basically what I’m going to bring to the office.”

Malo said his top priority is the development of an app that collects citizens’ reports and citations to establish community relations.

“What I am proposing is very simple,” he said. “A phone app. All you have to do, whatever problem you have, instead of calling the police, take a picture of it, send any information and it will come straight to my office. I will work with the police department, I will work with the proper agencies. You can use it to report crimes anonymously so you don’t have to be involved. The way the current system is eventually someone will come out and check, but when they check, they only check the documented problem. If the problem is solved in order, it won’t be looked at. I will go out and have my people check other spots within that area and ask what else is wrong and then work with the city to have them help comprehensively.”

Meng said she is the more qualified candidate because of her close ties to the community.

“I applaud Dannel for running,” she said. “It’s a democracy and everyone is entitled to run, but he’s new to Queens. I believe he just moved to the Forest Hills area. I never met him before a forum two weeks ago. I have closer ties to our community and our community leaders. We have worked closely together to make Washington, D.C. more relevant to Queens, securing funding to make sure that my constituents lives are improved.”

Miller
Continued from Page 5

both lanes. Cars go over the median. What happens when people are waiting for a bus?”

Miller was involved in an August rally in Woodhaven to protest SBS with many residents and transit activists making appearances. He pointed out that Community Board 9 rejected the DOT’s plan and the city agency responded by saying it would put off the SBS plan only to begin building a bus stop two days later.

Maldonado said his first order of business for getting into office would be to address the issue of homeless shelters in Queens by circulating people out of shelters and helping those with Section 8 vouchers find housing. He said the reason why people stay in shelters is because there are no programs to get people out, while shelter owners are benefitting financially from city taxpayer money.

“When you start warehousing people, and you don’t have anything for them to do to get out of that building, then you’re doing nothing,” he said.

Miller is currently pushing back at the city, which is trying to put a shelter in Ozone Park, but

“There are so many closed homes, and you’re spending $3,000 a month per family and you have $8,000 that you can’t imagine the price tag each month to house the homeless, just buy up the foreclosures from the banks. They can’t be that bad, fix them up if you have to. It’ll cost you nothing after that…” I’d rather pay $1,000 to help someone get back on their feet than pay $3,000 to warehouse them.”

Punching
Continued from Page 2

had passed between the attack and the arrest.

“To our community, 16 days is 16 days too many,” he said. “That is sending a message that this is OK time and time again.”

Wills also said if suspects sought by the police were worried about turning themselves into the NYPD

safely, they could contact his office to ensure a peaceful apprehension. He expressed thanks that Springer was taken into custody without incident and praised the new community policing officers in the 103rd Precinct. He expressed hope that their work could build stronger bridges between community and the NYPD.

If convicted, Springer faces up to seven years in prison.

Zwirn
Continued from Page 5

Queens Midtown Tunnel, they could take the train.”

The MTA is studying the possibility of reviving the line, but there is also a strong push by some residents in southern Queens to convert the abandoned track into a park similar to the High Line in Manhattan.

Zwirn said as assemblyman he plans to improve community and police relations.

“The brave men and women of our nation’s police departments put their lives on the line everyday in order to protect and serve their communities,” he said. “I have become disgusted with career politicians turning their back on our hardworking men and women in blue. We need to bring peace and security back to our communities and we can only do that by standing behind our police

— not degrading them. This can be done by implementing more beat policing efforts to establish a stronger rapport between the community and local law enforcement.

Zwirn is also firmly against the way Mayor Bill de Blasio has dealt with the homeless crisis in the city. The Department of Homeless Services has begun renting out rooms to the homeless at the Playland hotel in Rockaway Beach. The Playland should not be a shelter because it doesn’t meet the qualifications,” he said. “There are no bathrooms, all communal, and the kids don’t go to school. The system in place now enforces families. The system is making it tougher. We need to put families in city housing with empty apartments. Those apartments are not suited to deal with families and meet the requirements, with beds and kitchens. The homeless are not the problem, the mayor is the problem.”

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The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by serving a copy of the summons upon the attorney for the plaintiff at the address of the office of the counsel of the plaintiff, in the County of Queens, New York. The basis of the venue is the location of the plaintiff’s place of business in the County of Queens.

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serve a notice of appearance, on the plaintiff’s attorneys within 20 days after the service of this supplemental summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE TO YOU.

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