

New election districts anger some lawmakers

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City's restaurant grades bad for biz: Uncle Jack's

BY PHIL CORSO

After more than a year of striving for an A grade, one Bay-side restaurant owner is giving bad marks to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's efforts to regulate health standards in eateries.

The city-imposed grading system has seen some backlash from restaurant owners, with businesses saying it has cost them to make the grade.

William Degel owns Uncle Jack's Steakhouse on Bell Boulevard and said he created entirely new positions for health liaisons at all three of his eateries in the metropolitan area to oversee standards and ensure A grades during city Department of Health inspections.

"It's very costly and you have to always be on top of it," Degel said.

Degel said that though it is good to oversee restaurants' eating and cooking conditions, the Bloomberg administration was using the system as a revenue stream, with consistently new regulations that are impossible to keep up with.

According to Degel, what may have passed during one inspection might later on become unacceptable, lowering a restaurant's grade.

"It's not easy for stores to find
Continued on Page 17

Halloran kicks off Congress run

Whitestone GOP councilman joins three Dems in heated race for Ackerman seat

BY JOE ANUTA

City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) announced his bid for the congressional seat currently held by U.S. Rep. Gary

Ackerman (D-Bayside) as three Democrats began petitioning to get on the ballot for a primary scheduled for June 26.

Halloran marched his two Great Danes into Bowne Park in



Flushing Monday afternoon and declared his run to for the congressional seat after receiving the endorsement of the

Queens Republicans days earlier. "I am very glad to be here to-

day and make my announcement just two blocks from where I live, and just 15 blocks from where I grew up," he said.

Ackerman unexpectedly announced his retirement March

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TECH TEAM TRIUMPH



RoboGBots team members Jessica Balam of Jamaica (l.-r.); Alexis Chen of Fresh Meadows; Peze Wong of Flushing; and Courtney Chiu of Bayside demonstrate their robot's programs. The all-girl team came in first in the First Lego League's competition. **See story on Page 3.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

Avella loses voice on ICCC

Senator calls foul on plan to cut disputed center out of his district

BY PHIL CORSO

Removing a controversial piece of land from his redrawn 11th District won't silence state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), who called for an investigation over what he suspects might be foul play.

In the redistricting plan as it stands, Avella's district loses the roughly 4.5 acres of land on the Creedmoor psychiatric hospital campus in what the senator said could be a deliberate attempt to muzzle him from sounding off over a disputed land deal.

Last year, he called on the attorney general and inspector general to investigate the state Dormitory Authority's sale of the land to the Indian Cultural and Community Center for \$1.8 million, a fraction of its assessed value of \$7.3 million, in a no-bid deal. The center wants to put up two nine-story towers of senior housing and a community center.

"When I look at the proposed new district lines, it is blatantly obvious that some inappropriate and possibly unlawful conduct was involved," Avella said. "It appears that somebody involved in the redistricting process had to have been influenced by interested parties for there to have been such a flagrant attempt to remove the loudest voice of opposition to



State Sen. Tony Avella (r.) is joined by civic leaders Bob Friedrich, Jerry Wind and Mike O'Keeffe to protest the recently redrawn district lines.
Photo by Christina Santucci

this shady land grab."

After the land was sold, Avella went on record to repeatedly question the transaction and said he was shocked to learn the property had been "inexplicably and surgically carved" from his proposed new district.

Leaders of more than a half dozen civic organizations joined the senator at the Sunday news conference outside Creedmoor on Winchester Boulevard and area residents to protest what he called a murky redistricting process.

"There is no legitimate reason why this area, which has nearly no voters at all, would be removed from Sen. Avella's district," said Richard Hellenbrecht, chairman of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic. "It is absolutely outrageous that

the state Legislature would do this. Sen. Avella has been at the forefront of this issue and has been actively ensuring that this curious land sale continues to get investigated."

Bob Friedrich, a civic leader who organized Eastern Queens United to fight unfair redistricting, said there was apparent malpractice getting in the way, echoing Hellenbrecht's sentiments.

"This is a manifestation of the corruption of redistricting," Friedrich said. "What happens on this Creedmoor campus directly affects the communities in the senator's district. There is no reason this area should be singled out and removed."

Friedrich said although Gov. Andrew Cuomo had celebrated state

redistricting reform as a victory, the changes were a "sham masquerading as reform."

Avella said it was important that the Creedmoor property remained in his district because it might end up in the wrong hands, making it difficult for him to continue to look into the land deal.

"Having to overcome another senator's opinion might give us a significant disadvantage in this discussion," Avella said. "But it's not going to work. It just gives us more cause to fight."

Nonetheless, the senator said he would still run in the district the way it stands.

"We have no choice but to run," Avella said.

Reach reporter Phil

Bayside's Beacon could be shuttered

BY PHIL CORSO

Bayside's Beacon Program through the Samuel Field Y in Little Neck could be one of seven citywide programs to close this summer, according to an announcement from the city Department of Youth and Community Development.

The programs were cut in response to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's \$2.1 million in proposed budget reductions. The reductions would need final approval by the City Council before the new fiscal year begins July 1.

Samuel Field Y Executive Vice President and CEO Dr. Steve Goodman said axing his MS 158 Beacon Program would disregard nearly 20 years of hard work.

"We kept kids off the streets, reduced crime and basically raised the academic performance of the kids and created a wonderful resource for the community," Goodman said. "We feel we've driven the

economic engine of the community."

The Beacon programs are academically driven community centers that operate after school, during summer vacation and on weekends and holidays to provide activities for children and families. Programs include basketball, Tae Kwon Do, counseling, vocational training, dance, drama and more.

Out of 81 Beacon programs currently running in New York City, MS 158, at 46-35 Oceania St. in Bayside, was chosen based upon the area's socio-economic needs. Goodman said the program was being cut because of its success, not its failure.

"We are very deeply concerned that we will see kids on the street unsupervised or at risk," Goodman said. "The community is losing this service that's been critically important in bringing it to this level of success. It wasn't always like that."

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The cutting of the Beacon program at the Samuel Field Y could end nearly 20 years of academics-based community service in the area.
Photo courtesy Samuel Field Y

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All-girl team from Queens wins robotic Lego contest

Foursome ranging from 9 to 13 years old will advance to St. Louis for international tournament

BY PHIL CORSO

Piece by piece, they're building toward an academic experience their friends at school are not getting and after winning top honors at the New York City First Lego League Regional Tournament in Manhattan, the first all-girl Lego team in Fresh Meadows has a lot to be excited about.

"It was mind-blowing when we heard we won," said Bayside 12-year-old Courtney Chiu, who joined with three others to make up the first girls' team at RoboMindTech, at 185-10 S. Union TnPk. "It didn't sink in right away."

Chiu and her teammates Peye Wong, 13, of Flushing; Jessica Balam, 13, of Jamaica; and Alexis Chen, 9, of Fresh Meadows celebrated their victory as the first girl's team to win

out of their Fresh Meadows community center.

The team competed and placed first in a regional tournament held at the Javits Center in Manhattan the weekend of March 17. They are preparing to go on to an international tournament that includes 57 countries in St. Louis April 26-27.

The girls were sought after and coached in Lego robotics by Veryl Greene, a retired teacher from South Jamaica. After years of working with mostly boys, Greene said she wanted an all-girls team to learn and grow together.

"I thought, 'It's about time we get some girls into this because we need some female future scientists,'" Greene said.

As a self-proclaimed "adult fan of Legos," Greene said it was a task she was



RoboGBot team members (l-r.) Peye Wong, Courtney Chiu, Jessica Balam and Alexis Chen hold their trophy with Coach Veryl Greene (c.).

Photo by Christina Santucci

more than happy to take on.

"I love this stuff," Greene said. "It's not just playing with a toy. It's what the kids get out of it in preparing for the future."

The RoboGbots team

was assembled in September at RoboMindTech in Fresh Meadows, a robotic academy community science and technology center geared toward introducing children to academic subjects in a fun and engag-

ing way. Program Director Dennis Chan said it took the center two months to find the four girls and just as many months for them to bond into a team.

"Their experiences here can carry on into so many other things in school and life," Chan said. "This team is exceptional and it goes beyond robots. They've excelled in technical design, project research and performance."

Wong's mother, Leona, said she was glad to see her daughter spend after-school hours in such a positive way. She said she was shocked to see how quickly they achieved championship status.

"We didn't expect a victory. We were actually ready to console them on the car ride home," Leona Wong said. "But they competed and won against

schools with more resources and money. We were very shocked. There was a lot of crying."

The team built and programmed a Lego robot, which navigated its way through a pre-designated course.

"The kids can learn while feeling like they're accomplishing something," Greene said. "As a coach, I've seen a total attitude change in the girls."

In another aspect of the tournament, the girls had to follow a theme provided by the league and conduct research and innovation on the subject. This year's topic on food was tackled by the team's research on the expiration dates of milk and they had to build a Lego device that could scan QR codes on milk containers to check its status.

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Redistricting dust settles

Legislative shift will have big effect on NE Queens residents

BY JOE ANUTA

Northeast Queens will see significant changes in how the area is represented in state and federal government now that the dust has settled on the redistricting process.

Every 10 years, legislative district lines are redrawn to account for shifts in population. This time around, New York state lost two congressional seats after new lines were drawn by a federal judge. On the state level, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed off on state Assembly and the highly controversial state Senate lines earlier this month.

The most significant change will come on the congressional level.

Before the redistricting process, the majority of northeast Queens was represented by U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside), whose district also included a large portion of Long Island. Parts of Flushing and Bayside were represented by Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village), while



U.S. Reps. Bob Turner (l.) and Gary Ackerman are not seeking re-election in Queens, where the political landscape has changed drastically.

College Point was represented by Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights).

But Turner's district was eliminated — it was one of two lost by the state — and the other districts shifted to fill the vacuum.

After Ackerman unexpectedly announced he will not seek re-election, the 6th Congressional seat where he was expected to run will take up most of Flushing,

Auburndale, Fresh Meadows, Bayside, Hollis Hills, Briarwood, Jamaica Hills and Kew Gardens Hills.

Currently, City Council members Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) and Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone), along with Assembly members Grace Meng (D-Flushing) and Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows), have all announced bids to replace Ackerman.

Portions of Whitestone, along with Bay Terrace, Douglaston, Little Neck, Glen Oaks, Floral Park, New Hyde Park and Bellerose, are included in a Long Island-based seat where Rep. Steve Israel (D-Hauppauge) is thought to be running.

College Point will replace Ackerman.



Peninsula Hospital to close its doors

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Borough President Helen Marshall said there is a health-care crisis on the Rockaway peninsula, one she narrowly avoided being a part of herself.

After Peninsula Hospital management announced plans to close the Far Rockaway facility, Marshall embarked on a tour of nearby St. John's Episcopal Hospital Tuesday to make sure it could sustain the influx of new patients.

En route from St. John's to Peninsula, at 51-15 Beach Channel Drive, the car carrying the borough president and members of her staff was struck from



Peninsula Hospital in Far Rockaway will be closing its doors permanently.

behind by an NBC news van while waiting at a stoplight, a representative from her office said.

"It was just a little fender-bender. Everybody's fine," said Chief of Staff Alexandra Rosa. "She's fine."

Her main concern is that she said there is indeed a medical health-care crisis on the Rockaway peninsula.

Marshall released a statement Monday expressing her concern upon hear-

ing reports that St. John's, the sole hospital soon to be responsible for the care of more than 100,000 residents on the peninsula, was turning patients away.

Peninsula filed for bankruptcy protection last year when it was faced with \$13 million in debt. A judge in the case appointed bankruptcy trustee Lori Lapin Jones, who eventually made the call to pull the plug.

Last month the state Department of Health ordered the hospital to stop admitting patients after inspectors noted 66 "serious deficiencies" in the administration and operation of the clinical lab.

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Judge set to hear suit on extra Senate seat

BY JOE ANUTA

Queens politicians expect a lawsuit challenging the creation of a 63rd state Senate seat to be decided next month, and state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) will then decide in which district she will run.

The suit was filed in January by a group of citizens and state Sen. Martin Dilan (D-Brooklyn), and if State Supreme Court Judge Richard Braun rules next month that creating an extra seat violates the state Constitution, then the lines might have to be redrawn.

"We hope we get a final crack at doing this right," said state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), who has led the charge for independent redistricting in Albany.

"A victory in this case would reset the entire process and give us one last change to give us a fair and transparent product."

Ultimately, Senate Democrats hope a court-appointed special master will draw the lines. A master drew widely praised congressional lines after the state Legislature failed to find a solution.

The lawsuit goes into detail about how Republicans calculated the population changes to justify creating the additional seat.

Originally in 1894,

New York state had 50 seats. The state Constitution laid out a specific formula to determine when a new Senate seat should be added in response to population growth.

But the Constitution was also written before both Queens and Nassau counties and Richmond and Suffolk counties were separated.

To compensate for the extra counties, the lawsuit refers to the two solutions used by the state Legislature — Method A and Method B, calculations that make the current number of counties applicable to the old formula. Typically, the Senate had used Method A to calculate the number of seats until 2002, when Republican lawmakers switched to Method B because it was deemed more "faithful to the constitution," the suit said.

If Method A were used to calculate the current number of seats, the Senate would have come up with 62 seats, according to the suit. The same goes for Method B.

But in 2012, Senate Republicans used a combination of the two, applying one method to Nassau and Queens counties and another to Richmond and Suffolk counties — a move the suit called "blatantly unconstitutional."

But Senate Republicans

Continued on Page 56



State Sen. Toby Stavisky stands over the Cross Island Parkway, a portion of her district. She will not decide which district she will run in until a lawsuit challenging the creation of a 63rd Senate seat upstate is ruled on by a judge.

NYPD cuts ties with cops in Bell shooting

Victim's family, SE Queens supporters contend Kelly let some detectives off easy in 2006 case

BY RICH BOCKMANN

It has been nearly 5 1/2 years since the killing of Sean Bell threw a spotlight on the tensions between the NYPD and the communities it serves, but voices from southeast Queens said the relationship still is strained after the firing of the detective who fired the first of 50 shots and the forced resignations of three other officers.

Detectives Michael Oliver and Marc Cooper resigned from the department Monday after the NYPD announced last week they would be asked to retire with their pensions and benefits.

Lt. Gary Napoli, who was on the scene the night of Nov. 25, 2006, but did not fire a shot, was also asked to retire with his pension and benefits.

Detective Gescard Isnora, another member of

the undercover operation who fired the first round of shots, was dismissed without his pension.

Speaking on the phone from the Sean Elijah Bell Community Center, which opened almost a year ago in Jamaica, William Bell said he disagreed with the NYPD's decision on the future of the men who killed his son.

"I'm not really satisfied, but I have to deal with it," he said, adding he did not sympathize with some people who said the cops should have been able to stay on the force.

"They said they shouldn't have lost their jobs. The way I see it, I shouldn't have lost my son," he said.

Bell had been celebrating his bachelor party with friends Joseph Guzman and Trent Benefield at the Kalua Cabaret the night he was killed.



Detectives Michael Oliver (second from l.), Gescard Isnora (fifth from l.) and Marc Cooper (r.) appear in Queens Criminal Court in the shooting of Sean Bell. Isnora was eventually fired, and Oliver and Cooper were forced to retire with their pensions and benefits.

Pool Photo

In his October 2011 testimony at the internal NYPD trial, Isnora said that though Bell and his friends were unarmed, he

believed Guzman was going to the car to retrieve a gun.

After Isnora opened fire, Oliver and Cooper

followed with 31 and four shots, respectively. Napoli had been the commanding officer of the undercover team that was investigat-

ing suspected drug and prostitution operations at the strip club the night of the shooting.

Isnora, Oliver and Cooper were found not guilty in a 2008 criminal trial by a judge, and the city later settled with Bell's relatives and friends for \$7.15 million in a civil trial.

William Bell said that while he recognized and appreciated the role police play in his community, he believed there exists a systemic disconnect between the department and the people they are sworn to protect.

"It's a 50-50 situation. We need law and order," he said.

"I think it's the way they train them. It seems like there's no communication between them and the public. They forget they're human, too. They don't look at it that way. It seems like

Continued on Page 58

Aqueduct horse deaths prompt inner track panel investigation

BY STEVE MOSCO

An elevated number of horse deaths at Aqueduct has prompted an investigation into equine safety at the South Ozone Park racetrack.

The state Racing and Wagering Board said four industry experts will review the deaths of close to 20 horses — including seven in March — at Aqueduct over the past four months. This comes after Gov. Andrew Cuomo sent a letter to the New York Racing Association calling for an inquiry.

The four-person panel will examine the condition of Aqueduct's inner track and policies on necropsies, horse examination, veterinary procedures, equine drug use, as well as the procedures for selling available horses to the public. The panel, dubbed the New York Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety, includes retired jockey Jerry Bailey, Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations Chairman Alan Foreman and equine veterinarians Scott



Horse deaths are on the rise at Aqueduct Racetrack, and now the governor is launching an investigation to find out why.

Palmer and Mary Scollay.

"This team of renowned experts has the knowledge, experience and objectivity to shine a light on the causes behind these tragic breakdowns," said John Sabini, chairman of the Racing and Wagering Board. "I'm confident that their findings will help improve the safety and well-being of equine athletes racing in New York."

Wayne Johnson, a Brooklyn-based

Continued on Page 58

Flushing Armenians recall genocide in home country

BY PHIL CORSO

Keeping the story alive has always been most important, according to Dr. Dennis Papazian, national grand commander of the Armenian fraternal service Knights of Vartan and founding director of the Armenian Research Center.

Four survivors of the Armenian genocide of the early 1900s gathered Sunday to recollect their experiences and share them with the public at the New York Armenian Home in Flushing.

"Despite the evidence, the Turkish government continues to deny that there ever was a genocide," Papazian said, reflecting



Azniv Guiragossian fights back tears while describing her memories of surviving the Armenian genocide of the early 20th century.

Photo by Phil Corso

on the importance of telling and sharing survivors' stories. "We wanted to present living witnesses. There's nothing like meeting someone who actually lived through it."

Papazian was present to provide background and

to assist in recollecting the womens' stories as he has been active in documenting historical accounts of the genocide.

The Armenian genocide was carried out by the Ottoman Empire in 1915

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Liu defends his indicted Flushing campaign treasurer

BY JOE ANUTA

City Comptroller John Liu defended his campaign treasurer and described his political future in hazy terms in a recent interview, even as he kept on producing audits on city agencies.

Liu strongly defended Jia "Jenny" Hou, the 25-year-old Flushing trea-

surer of his campaign who was arrested on charges of wire fraud and could face 60 years in prison.

"My campaign has and continues to act appropriately. We follow the rules," he said in an interview with the Associated Press last week. "I believe in my campaign treasurer, and I believe in my campaign

staff."

Liu told the Associated Press that he did not micromanage Hou's activities, but ultimately takes responsibility for his staff's actions.

The comptroller also said he was aware of questionable fund-raising tactics in Asian-American communities in the past

and sought to prevent any problems in his campaign.

Hou was indicted and charged with wire fraud in connection with allegedly instructing a campaign worker to forge signatures and offering to reimburse another donor.

But Liu also acknowledged that federal investigators were likely not sat-

isfied with Hou, who has remained loyal to him, and may look to work their way up the food chain and make a more high-level indictment, according to the AP.

A spokesman for Liu had indicated that the comptroller would find a new treasurer for his campaign, but according to the city Campaign Finance Board, as of Tuesday afternoon he had not filed any paperwork to make the change.

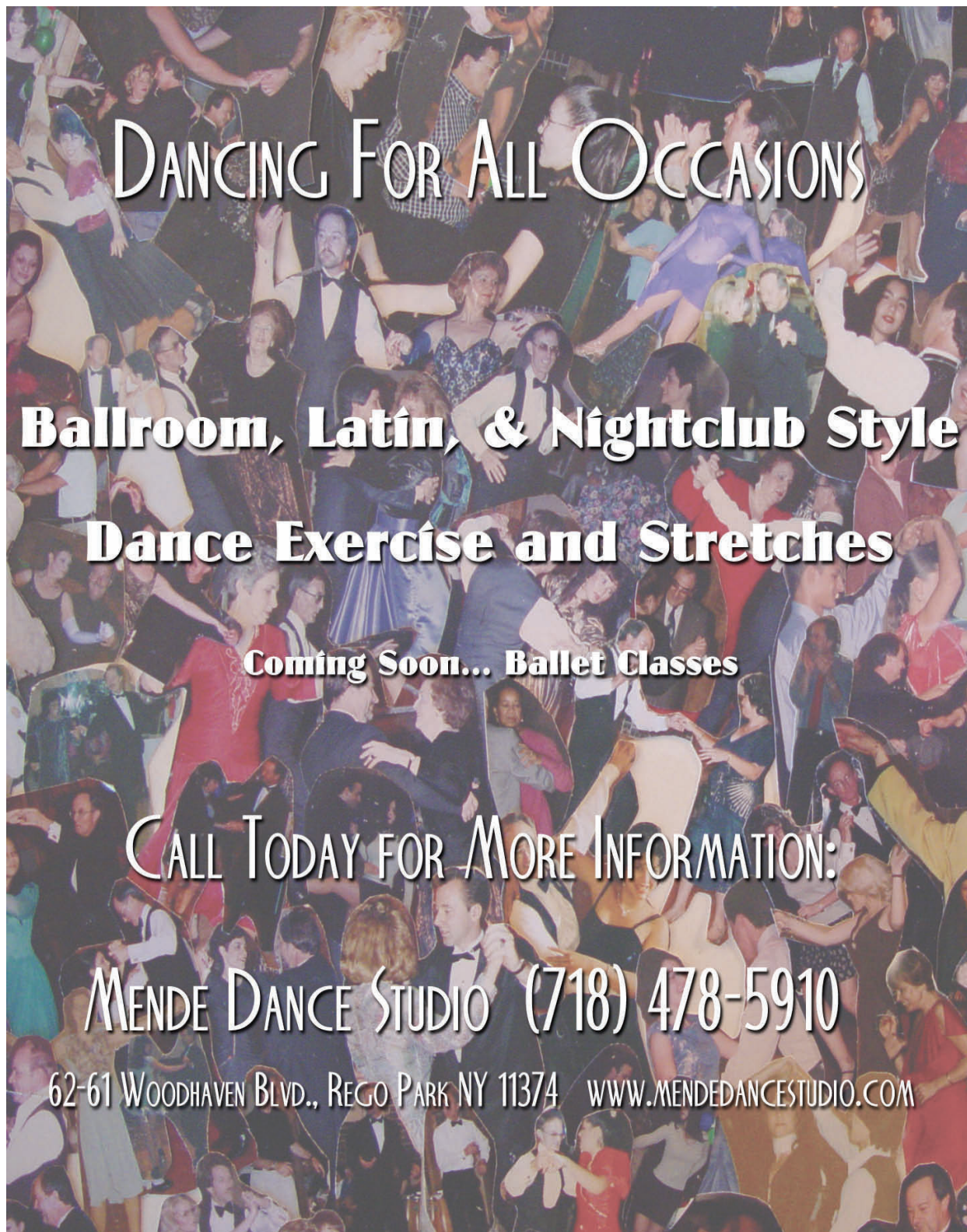
Liu also did not rule out a mayoral run in the AP interview, but did say he understood why people questioned his political viability.

The comptroller has not shied away from public appearances since the earlier indictment of Xing Wu

"Oliver" Pan on wire fraud charges. Pan was arrested after an FBI agent posed as a wealthy donor who wanted to funnel more money than is allowed by law into Liu's war chest by using a group of fake donors.

Liu has also not stopped putting out audits of city agencies, recently taking the city Economic Development Corp. to task for mishandling contracts, the city Parks Department for not making repairs in a timely manner and the management of a 911 call center for an inflated budget and growing timeline.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.



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City Comptroller John Liu has been discussing issues surrounding his campaign for mayor.

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MTA names depot for Tuskegee heroes

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

World War II was over. The Tuskegee Airmen had finished their mission of shooting down Nazi planes and now they, like most of the 16 million Americans who took up arms, needed jobs.

But coming home meant not only plaudits from a grateful nation, but the reality of an all-too-familiar adversary for these African-American war heroes: racial bigotry from many employers.

But in New York City, a dozen of the Tuskegee Airmen were eventually hired by the New York transit system.

These 12 African Americans were honored Friday by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which renamed the 100th Street Bus Depot on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan the Tuskegee Airmen Bus Depot.

A newly installed bronze commemorative plaque in the depot's entryway lists the names of the 12 Tuskegee Airmen who joined the transit system. The emblem also includes a rendering of the red-tail fighter planes they flew.

"The Tuskegee Airmen overcame so much to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of the war, thanks to the numerous civil rights organizations that convinced the Army to create this iconic African-American pursuit squadron," said MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota. "These heroes included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff."

Those honored were Reginald Brewster, Victor Collymore, Conrad DeSandies, Harry Dickenson, John Freeman, Noel Harris, Oscar Hawkins, Austin McKenzie, Maury Reid Jr., Percy Sutton, Victor Terrlonge and Fred Wilson.

Only Brewster and Harris survive. An MTA

official sounded a bell for each of the deceased.

Sutton was a subway conductor, among other transit jobs, and was elected Manhattan borough president.

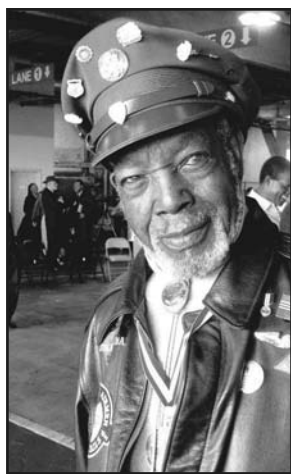
Brewster asked that "each and every one of you to be proud that you are able to live in a country of freedom, where the ability to forge ahead is limited only by your determination to forge ahead."

He got a standing ovation from the crowd.

The only other surviving Tuskegee Airman transit worker, Noel Harris, was ill and could not attend the ceremony.

Roscoe Brown Jr., 90, who was not a transit employee, was among the speakers at the rededication. Brown, who arrived with his daughter Doris Bodine, of Cambria Heights, was commander of the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group.

Brown was one of 15 pilots who, on March 25, 1945,



Julius Freeman, of Springfield Gardens, wore his Tuskegee Airmen uniform to the rededication of a Metropolitan Transportation Authority bus depot. Photo by Philip Newman

shot down German Messerschmidt 262s, the only jet planes of World War II.

Speaking of conditions just after the war, Brown said, "You can't understand how segregated this coun-

Continued on Page 58

Queens Goes Green yet again

Boro groups gather to share message of environmental stewardship

BY PHIL CORSO

Claire Doyle smiled when a group of children approached her table to learn more about Rubie, a stuffed King Charles spaniel, which helps youngsters learn how to recycle in western Queens.

It was a microcosm of what Saturday's Going Green in Queens 2012 conference was all about.

"It's important to educate the kids," Doyle, Rubie's human assistant, said. "They're the next generation of recyclers."

Tables similar to Doyle's lined the inside of the Al Oerter Recreational Center in Flushing last weekend so various groups could gather and network for the betterment of their environment. The seventh annual event aimed to share ideas and inspire Queens residents to help live a greener lifestyle, according to organizer and Queens Coalition for Parks President Fred Kress.

"It's like a trade show to get people to meet, network and maybe even copy each other," Kress said. "We hope people get the message to take care of their area and be part of a greater effort."

Kress said nearly 500 Queens residents responded to invitations for the networking event, sponsored by TimesLedger Newspapers and various Queens environmental groups, and the crowd inside the Al Oerter Recreational Center was as diverse as the county it resides in.

Laurie Kaufman, from Forest Hills, scoped out the different tables with her three children and said she hoped an environmental message would resonate.

"We like to be green as a family," Kaufman said. "I think everyone can make a difference and it's important to have events like this to educate people."

Kaufman said she



Going Green organizer Fred Kress (l.) stands with city Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe (c.) and Ralph D'Onofrio, vice president of advertising for Community Newspaper Group, which includes TimesLedger Newspapers, a sponsor of the event. Photo by Phil Corso

launched her own environmentally focused Earth Day Fair, scheduled for April 28 at PS 101, at 2 Russell Place in Forest Hills, at noon.

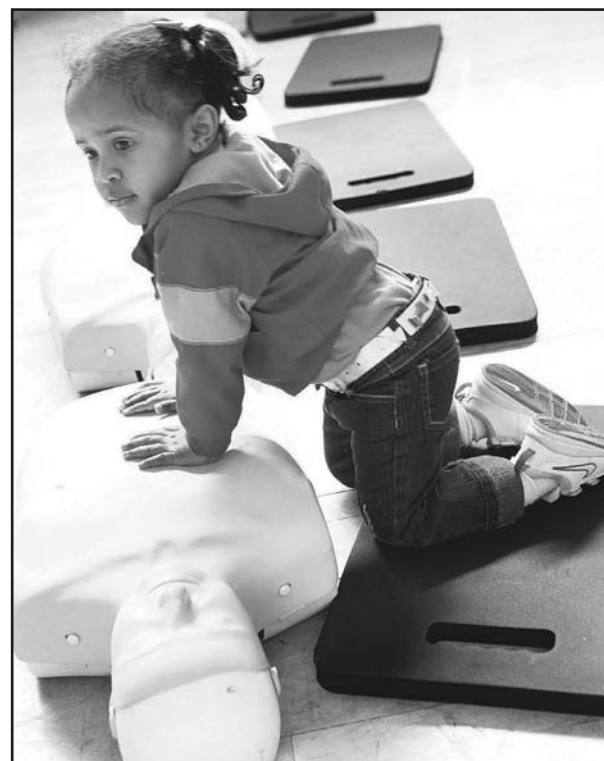
City Parks Commissioner Adriane Benepe patrolled the room, visiting different environmental organizations throughout. He said he wanted to help residents get involved with their local parks and the annual event was a more ceremonial experience to mark the beginning of spring.

"It's like a gathering of a tribe of park lovers," Benepe said. "These are the people who make parks as good as they are. Their work is more important now than ever."

Dan Hendrick sat at the New York League of Conservation Voters table and said the response was encouraging throughout the afternoon.

"This is one of the best events of the year," Hendrick said. "Queens grows a little bit every year and something like this can bring together a strong community on environmental issues."

Across the room, Jules Corkery, of the Astoria Park Alliance, invited residents to evaluate the event while



Maspeth resident Anihya Miranda, 2, tries chest compressions during a workshop for adults to learn resuscitation techniques.

Photo by Christina Santucci

putting their own green ideas on a map of Queens, such as more community-based recycling centers.

And from a solar light bulb display to a conversation on conservation, event organizers said they were happy with the turnout.

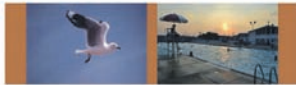
"Hopefully, we can inspire people to join groups

or donate," Kress said. "It's a win-win for everybody because we all can learn while maybe motivating others to do something on their part of the planet."

Next year's Going Green event has already been set, according to Kress, with a scheduled date of March 23.

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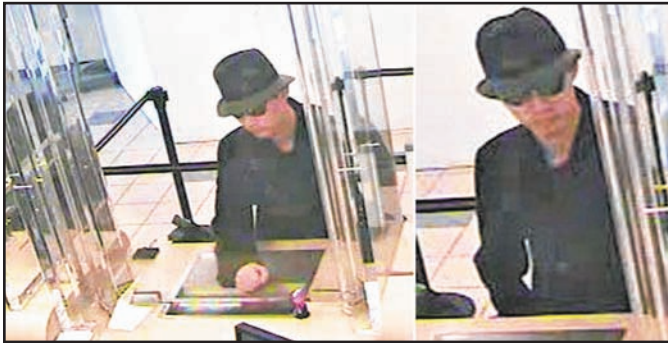
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POLICE Blotter

Cops seek man in boro, Manhattan robberies



The NYPD was looking for a man suspected of robbing two banks, including one in downtown Flushing.
Image courtesy NYPD

FLUSHING — The NYPD was seeking the public's assistance in locating a man suspected of robbing two banks in the 7th and 109th precincts last week.

Police said the Asian, 180-pound, 30-to-35-year-old man was last seen wearing a black coat, black fedora hat and black sunglasses.

According to police records, the man passed a note demanding money to the teller at both the Chase Bank, at 109 Delancey St. in Manhattan, and the Capitol

One Bank, at 41-60 Main St. Police said he received an undetermined amount of U.S. money only at the Capitol One location.

No injuries were reported, police said.

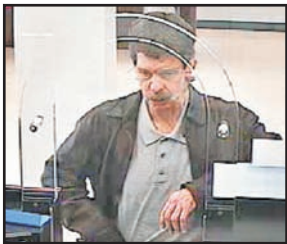
Anyone with information is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS. The public can also submit their tips by logging on to the Crime Stoppers website at nypdcrimestoppers.com or texting their tips to 274637 (CRIMES) then enter TIP577.

Cops seek suspect in Hillcrest bank robbery

HILLCREST — The NYPD was looking for help in identifying a suspect wanted in a bank robbery, which occurred last Thursday around 11 p.m.

According to reports, a white male in his 30s entered the Dime Back, at 176-47 Union Tnpk. and simulated a weapon while demanding money. He fled the location without any money, police said, and there were no injuries reported in the incident.

Police described the suspect as a 6-foot, 170-pound man with a mustache, dark



The NYPD was seeking information about a suspected bank robber, who allegedly struck a bank in Hillcrest, according to police.
Image courtesy NYPD

brown hair and a bump on the left side of his nose. Police also described him with a pockmarked face and overlapping teeth while wearing a brown leather jacket, gray T-shirt and blue jeans.

Anyone with information about either of the robberies is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS. The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers Website at crimestoppers.com or texting their tips to 274637 (CRIMES) then enter TIP577.

Man critical after car accident in Oakland Gdns

OAKLAND GARDENS — A 56-year-old man was listed in critical condition after he was hit by a car in Oakland Gardens Monday night, police said.

According to the NYPD, officers responded to a call for a pedestrian who was struck by a car at about 9:30 p.m. Monday near the intersection of Cloverdale Boulevard and 64th Avenue in Oakland Gardens.

The pedestrian had been trying to cross the street when he was hit by a vehicle driven by a 89-year-old man, police said.

The driver of the car remained at the



The windshield of the vehicle involved in the accident appears smashed.

Photo by Christina Santucci
scene and no criminality was suspected, according to the NYPD. The pedestrian was taken to North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System and was initially listed in critical condition, according to police.

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RKO GRIEF

The RKO Keith's Theatre was once the pride of Flushing.

The theater opened on Christmas Day 1928. In 1986, after nearly 60 years of showing movies, it was closed and the property was sold.

The building was purchased by developer Tommy Huang. With no respect for the role the theater played in Flushing history, in the dark of night he gutted the landmarked lobby of RKO Keith's so he could tear the building down. He was caught before the demolition was complete and was eventually forced to forfeit the building.

Since the theater closed, more than a quarter century has passed and the boarded-up building is now nothing but an eyesore bringing down the entire neighborhood on the northern border of downtown Flushing.

Developer Patrick Thompson now owns RKO Keith's and he plans to restore the theater's lobby and incorporate it into a 17-story tower with stores and apartments.

Last year, Thompson's plans were challenged when activists argued that the tallest building in the area would endanger planes attempting to land at LaGuardia Airport. Thompson negotiated with the Federal Aviation Administration and got its approval. Construction was supposed to begin this year.

But now the future of this building appears uncertain once again in the face of another FAA challenge.

As we reported last week, Thompson owes the city nearly \$400,000 in unpaid taxes and faces a possible tax lien from the city. Unless he is able to negotiate a repayment plan, the city could sell that lien in May and put it up for sale.

Thompson says he has enough money to begin construction and will be able to resolve the tax problem on time. But in a "confidential memorandum" obtained by TimesLedger Newspapers, Thompson solicits developers to buy the property outright or enter into a joint partnership.

The memorandum goes on to say, "As of July 20, 2011, this is available for sale or a joint venture equity partnership."

While much of Flushing has been flourishing, the area around the RKO has been in lockdown. For the sake of the neighbors of RKO Keith's, the city Economic Development Corp. should do everything possible to expedite the property's development.



OTHER VOICES

Find solution to LaGuardia's geese

As we all remember, back on Jan. 15, 2009, US Airways Flight 1549 bound for Charlotte, N.C., was forced to make an emergency landing on the Hudson River. About three minutes into the flight, the aircraft encountered a flight of Canada geese, which were sucked into both engines, resulting in a total loss of thrust.

The pilot, Capt. Chesley Sullenberger, was able to glide the plane down and ditch safely on the river near the USS Intrepid mu-

seum. Thank God and the flying skills of this pilot that a catastrophe was avoided and all 155 people aboard were saved.

Could it happen again? The answer is yes. If it does, will we be as lucky? The answer is maybe, but I doubt it. I think the odds are against another Miracle on the Hudson.

I live in Whitestone not that far from LaGuardia Airport, where Flight 1549 originated. I often shop at a supermarket in College Point. On the way to that store, I pass Frank Golden

Park. One day a few weeks ago, I saw a large group of these same geese on the grass there.

The group numbered at least a hundred. They are large and their numbers seem to be growing. It would only take minutes for them to reach the airport runways.

I love animals as much as anyone. I am not advocating a mass extermination of these birds, but we must find a solution to this problem before another airliner is forced down. There are women and children on

board most flights.

Are we willing to risk their lives? If Flight 1549 had crashed into the George Washington Bridge and there had been a tremendous loss of life, would we be more diligent today regarding the numbers of these birds? I think so.

Remember, it only took a small number of these geese to force Flight 1549 down.

It is time for us to find answers.

Tom Ferraris
Whitestone

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Council program puts people to work in 8 weeks

New York is not a big city. We are a patchwork of small towns woven into neighborhoods, stitched together to form boroughs, creating the fabric of what we call the city of New York.

Last month, the City Council put forth a series of proposals that will tap into the power of those neighborhoods and create greater opportunity for every New Yorker. We focused on some of the city's biggest challenges, like chronic unemployment.

Many New Yorkers have discovered that the longer you are out of work, the harder it gets to find a job. So we are launching a new pilot program called New Skills, New Jobs. Participants will spend up to

eight weeks in a paid training program at a company that has a full-time job opening, and upon completion of the program they will be hired on a permanent basis.

We also hear stories from people who have been turned down for a job just because they have been unemployed for too long. Some companies say it is their policy; we say it is discrimination. And just like we have done with other kinds of discrimination, we are going to make it illegal.

At the same time, we are going to empower people to invest in neighborhoods with high unemployment. There is a Lower East Side tech startup called Kickstarter that helps people raise money for community

projects or business ventures. We are going to work with Kickstarter to help raise funds for projects in neighborhoods with high unemployment.

We will also create a \$10 million, small business loan fund exclusively for businesses in high unemployment neighborhoods. And we will pay for it with federal tax credits, so it will not cost the city a dime.

Now it is impossible to talk about the challenges facing New Yorkers without talking about the rising costs of housing. One of the problems is that when the city negotiates affordable housing deals with developers, that affordability has a built in expiration date — usually 30 years.

So, working with the

Council, the city Department of Housing is going to start requiring 60-year affordability in many of our biggest developments. And we will not stop there. Our goal will be permanent affordability, which means a new kind of deal with developers. As long as the city keeps renewing your benefits, you have to keep your housing truly affordable. We will make sure the people who built a community get to stay in that community.

Finally, the Council focused on ways to improve education around the city.

Every year nearly 3,000 5-year-olds in New York City do not enroll in kindergarten, and many of them have a hard time catching up with their

classmates when they get to first-grade. You may be as surprised as we were to learn that kindergarten is not required in New York.

What kind of message do we send parents when we as a city tell them it is not necessary to enroll their kids in kindergarten? We are working with the state to pass a bill allowing New York City to make kindergarten mandatory so all our kids have the best possible start.

We are also rolling out a program called the Student Empowerment Partnership. Here is how it works: First we look at all the specific challenges facing students and their families in a particular community at every stage of their development. Then

we bring together community groups, city agencies, parents, teachers, CUNY and the city Department of Education and see what everyone can contribute to help these kids succeed.

We will work together to strengthen every aspect of a child's life, all with a focus on improving academic results and their long-term success.

To learn more about these and other initiatives, visit council.nyc.gov. Working together, we can harness the strength of our communities to build an even better city.

*Christine Quinn
City Council Speaker
(D-Manhattan)*

Bring back Glass-Steagall Act

Where is the Glass-Steagall Act when we need it? In 1933, U.S. Sens. Carter Glass (D-Vt.) and Henry Steagall (D-Ala.) introduced the legislation which bears their name. Due largely to unregulated bank market speculation, we suffered the Great Crash of 1929.

The GSA legislation limited the conflicts of interest created when banks are permitted to underwrite stocks or bonds and it established the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. In 1956, the act was further strengthened in order to prosecute banks engaging in non-banking activity. It also disallowed them to buy banks in another state.

From that time on, it has been the lobbyists' field day and their efforts were not in vain, for they had begun the dilution of the Glass-Steagall. In the 1960s, banks were allowed to enter the municipal bond

market and in the '70s they were allowed money market accounts, allowed check writing and offered credit and debit cards.

The '80s, with the help of Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve board, allowed banks to underwrite businesses' mortgage-backed securities and allowed, beginning with Travelers and Citibank, the merging of banks, security firms and insurance companies, creating the huge financial conglomerates which we have today, bringing about the "too big to fail" dilemma.

There are other neuterings of the GSA, but the death knell came Oct. 22, 1999. After 12 tries in 25 years of a non-stop lobbying blitz spending hundreds of million of dollars, Glass-Steagall was repealed, placing our trusted banks in the same position they were in precipitating the Great Crash of 1929. Cliches such

as "history repeating itself" and "the more things change, the more they stay the same" are apt.

Although it was two Democrats with foresight back in 1933 who realized the danger in allowing banks to set the rules by which they play, the repeal was jointly agreed upon by both parties, as well as then-President Bill Clinton. On Nov. 4, 1999, the final version of the bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives (362-57) and the Senate (90-8) and was signed into law by Clinton Nov. 12 as the toothless Graham-Lesch-Billey Financial Modernization Act of 1999, named after Phil Graham (R-Texas) and Jim Lesch (R-Iowa).

If we do not regulate and control the banks, they will control us.

*Nicholas Zizelis
Bayside*

Queens Library needs more funds

For 2013, Mayor Michael Bloomberg proposes to slash \$26.7 million from the Queens Public Library budget. This dramatic reduction in funding is disheartening and borders on outrageous.

Since 1994, the Queens Library has not just been New York City's busiest library, but the busiest in the country. Daily, 45,000 patrons visit 62 branches, seven adult learning centers and two family literacy centers.

And yet Queens Library receives the least amount of funding from the city. Where is the logic in such budgeting?

The Queens Library provides vital community services, not only by bringing books, music and movies to the world's most diverse neighborhoods, but also by sponsoring cultural events, job training, English language lessons and

after-school programs, to name just a few.

All of this despite recent years' devastating reductions in funding, which have severely reduced services, library staff and hours of operation. Year after year, the Queens Library pulls off miracles in community service, but its only reward is another cut to its already-strained budget. Unbelievable.

To speak to my own experience, due to consistent budget reductions, I cannot enjoy my own local Queens Library branch — Steinway in Astoria — which I walk past daily to and from work. The library opens too late in the morning — 10 a.m. — and closes too early in the evening — usually 6 p.m. — for me to enjoy it.

On the weekends, I am free only on Sundays, when the library is closed. Because the Steinway branch cannot serve my needs, I rely heavily on the Manhat-

tan library system, which has more amenable hours for working people.

Effectively, my "local" library branch has been relocated to 58th Street and Lexington Avenue in Manhattan — a 20-minute subway ride from the Steinway branch.

In these lean economic times, more citizens rely on the Queens Library for education, training and entertainment. More budget cuts to the Queens Library system will further diminish our necessary community resources.

I urge Bloomberg and the City Council to not only reject budget cuts to Queens Library, but to increase funding for this vital institution.

*Shaun Randol
Astoria*

Northeast GOP Club holds mock presidential panel



Dee Richard
■
Dishing with Dee

Another anything-but-dull week. Last week, the Northeast Queens Republican Club held its March monthly meeting at its new place, the Clearview Golf Club House in Bayside. That is a great location for any group needing a meeting place and is convenient as well.

At this meeting, the club used a different format. It consisted of a panel of four young men, each of whom was supporting a different Republican presiden-

tial candidate.

Elio Forcina's man was **Rick Santorum**, Paul Neydavood was supporting **Newt Gingrich**, **Eric Ulrich** was solidly behind **Mitt Romney** and **Dan Halloran's** choice was **Ron Paul**.

Each person spoke for about five minutes, extolling the virtues of his candidate and why, in his opinion, you should vote for him. Afterward, they took questions from the floor. It was a lively and informative meeting.

John Watch, you did an excellent job providing everyone with a most interesting meeting. You are giving the club a much-needed shot in the arm. Keep up the good work. I couldn't help but notice that the at-

tendance is getting larger at each successive meeting.

Last Thursday evening was another fun affair. It was Halloran's Mardi Gras birthday party at Bayside's Bourbon Street. It's a great place for a small party. They had more than 100 people in attendance during the course of the evening.

If we didn't name drop, it wouldn't be gossipy fun, so here goes. You had Queens Conservative Party Chairman **Tom Long**; Queens Republican Party Chairman **Phil Ragusa** and crew; **Grant Lally**, a Republican with Libertarian and Constitutional party connections; **Dan Peterson** from the Young Republican Group; and everyone's favorite longtime Republican senator, **Frank**

Padavan. It turned out to be a nice mix and everyone had a fine time and didn't want to go home. Happy birthday, Dan!

At the end of his party, Halloran confided in me that March 26 at 5 p.m., in front of the flag pole in Bowne Park, he was scheduled to publicly announce his candidacy for **Gary Ackerman's** congressional seat. Lots of Luck!

George Maragos stopped by Dan's party later in the evening for a short visit and to wish Dan a happy birthday. When asked, George said that no matter what, he plans to stay in the race for **Kirsten Gillibrand's** U.S. Senate seat. To quote George, "I'm in it to win it." George's opponents will be **Wendy Long**,

Bob Turner and, of course, Gillibrand. An interesting line-up. Good luck, George!

On the other hand, let's check out who Halloran is facing in his race for Ackerman's seat. So far, it seems to have narrowed down to **Grace Meng**, **Elizabeth Crowley** and **Rory Lancman**. Apparently, there will be no lackluster political season this year.

The political races where people have to compete and work hard to get elected are always more interesting than when there is no opponent and the incumbent automatically gets re-elected. In a real race, the public likes to think they have some input, but do they really?

Most of the time your choice is limited to which-

ever candidates the parties approve of and are willing to help. The average voter has no idea how much time, work and money is involved in trying to run a respectable campaign.

No matter how many flaws our system has, this is still the best country in the world to live in and the most democratic one. That's democratic with a small "d," not the Democratic Party itself. In spite of our many trials and tribulations, who would want to live anywhere else?

I look forward to your voice mails at 718-767-6484, faxes at 718-746-0066 and e-mails at deerrichard@aol.com.

Be sure to check out the Focus on Queens page.

Till next week, Dee.

New redistricting lines reflect Albany's sham reform



Bob Friedrich
■
On Point

The pattern emerging has become transparently clear. The governor pushes for reform, in this case the once-a-decade redistricting of legislative lines, and threatens a veto if the state Legislature fails to act. The Legislature's public face supports the governor's call for reform and avoids publicly challenging him.

The Democrat and Republican leaders scuttle real reform and quietly craft their own version of Albany reform. They call the governor's bluff, he ca-

pitulates, the bill passes, the governor signs it and all spin it as a victory for reform.

The only problem is it's a sham.

This scenario recently played out during the redistricting battle in which former Mayor Ed Koch, good government groups and numerous civic organizations, such as Eastern Queens United, called on the governor to veto the gerrymandered, incumbent-protected legislative lines.

Hundreds of civic activists, including myself, attended meetings and waited for hours at public hearings for the chance to say a few words in support of keeping our communities united and intact within compact legislative districts. The legislative maps we opposed sliced and diced our neighborhoods and

communities into blobs on a map.

The public hearings held by the Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment, the legislative committee empowered to draw the district lines, proved to be a dog-and-pony show. With scores of civic associations in attendance, maps in hand and community leaders providing persuasive testimony, one would have thought that these voices would have had some impact on the committee.

Quite the contrary.

Up until the last moment, the governor threatened to veto these community-busting lines if they were not drawn by an independent, nonpartisan commission. That was until the three men in a room — state Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver

(D-Manhattan), state Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre) and Cuomo — crafted their secret deal.

Instead of a veto, the governor punted.

To now hear the governor spin this as a victory for reform by claiming he has forged an agreement that permanently fixes the process by which politically driven legislative district lines are drawn is preposterous. What he actually agreed to was a proposed amendment to the state constitution that replaces the LATFOR committee, of currently serving incumbent hacks, with a new panel of non-serving, politically appointed hacks to draw the new district lines.

Yes, the new panel will comprise of non-sitting legislators appointed by legis-

lative leaders — the same ones who got us into this mess in the first place. And if the Legislature dislikes the lines its own panel creates, it can vote them down and draw the new lines themselves. Isn't that what the governor's fix is supposed to prevent?

This is politics as usual, a sham masquerading as reform that will not take place until 2022, after the next census. The new process is as corrupt as the old one and is a slap in the face to every civic organization and activist who has served the interests of the community rather than the interests of the politicians. The contempt shown by these legislators to the communities they serve is stunning.

Gerrymandered, community-busting lines were drawn by both chambers, one controlled by Demo-

crats and the other by Republicans. Both parties share the blame. The governor could have refused to buckle. He could have vetoed the lines as he said he would do. He could have advocated for an independent judicial panel to draw nonpartisan lines.

Instead, he chose the path of political expediency and threw us under the bus en route to his declaration of victory.

But not so fast, Cuomo. Eastern Queens United and other civic groups recently met and will soon announce a public rally at the governor's office in Manhattan calling for real, not sham, reform.

Be there and be heard.

Feds send dad home to family instead of back to Bangladesh

BY REBECCA HENELY

A Sunnyside man who was being held in a detention center in New Jersey since February and set to be deported back to Bangladesh was released to his family Friday.

Mohammad Anwarul Islam, who fled to the United States in 1991 due to political reasons, lives at 42nd Street and 43rd Avenue in Sunnyside with his wife, Lipiara Begum, and three daughters: 5-year-old Afnan Fazia and 20-month-old twins Afrina Anwar Farah and Afsa Anwar Zarah.

Islam had tried to get political asylum in 2010, but it was denied and he did not follow up properly.

As a result, Islam was arrested Feb. 10 and held in the Delaney Detention Center in Essex County, N.J. While he was held for more than a month, community activists advocated for him to be released while neighbors helped Begum,



Lipiara Begum (r.) had been miserable before her husband was released from a New Jersey detention center. She had been taking care of an older daughter and her twins, Afrina Anwar Farah and Afsa Anwar Zarah (both l.).

who took care of the three young children by herself.

"It's a great feeling," said Islam's wife, Lipiara Begum. "We are so happy and I am also happy about my daughters because they're happy."

Begum said her husband has a meeting with immigration officials at Federal Plaza in Manhattan next month.

Islam's wife is a permanent resident and passed her citizenship test April 7, 2011, but had not yet taken her oath. Advocates for the family hope Islam will be able to become a citizen after his wife takes the oath.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhensly@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

L.I. farmer talks produce to Flushing group

The Flushing Community Supported Agriculture Group hosted a green thumb from Long Island last Saturday who might be making the trek to Queens on a regular basis.

Farmer Matthew Kurek, who runs Golden Earthworm Organic Farms, will participate in a crop share program with members of the group, who pay about \$20 a week to get a fresh delivery of fruits and vegetables from the farm, about 60 miles east of Queens.

The program lasts for 26 weeks in the summer and fall, and 30 families have already signed up to receive in-season produce every Thursday night at a designated

pickup point.

Buying from Kurek's farm is a way to get fresh produce while promoting the local economy and keeping money in New York state, according to Emily Griffin, a founding member of the CSA.

"Many people are turning away from conventional grocery shopping and looking for more local, low-carbon impact, organic food sources," she said. "Foodies, locavores, vegetarians and those just trying to be a bit healthier are encouraged to join our group."

— Joe Anuta

Whitestone civic offers discount biz cards

The Welcome to Whitestone Commercial and Residential Civic Association partnered with a host of businesses around northeast Queens to offer a discount card to its members.

Card-carrying civic members can then get deals when they patronize the mom-and-pop shops that populate the area.

According to the civic's founder, Devon O'Connor, it is a way for local businesses to give back to the community.

But to obtain a card, one must be a member of the civic association.

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Auburndale firehouse work worries northeast Queens

BY JOE ANUTA

Civicleadersexpressed concern after learning that an Auburndale firehouse will be full of construction workers for nine months but empty of the city's Bravest.

The FDNY is performing renovations to a firehouse at 36-18 Francis Lewis Blvd., where Engine 320 and Ladder 167 are located.

Construction crews will be renovating the first floor of the building, which is set to take about nine months, according to FDNY spokesman Frank Dwyer.

During those nine months, the two trucks normally stationed at the house will be moved to separate locations in northeast Queens, Dwyer said.

Engine 320 will be relocated to the quarters of Engine 274, at 41-20 Murray St. in Flushing. Ladder 167 will be relocated to the



A group of the city's Bravest enter the firehouse on Francis Lewis Boulevard.

quarters of Engine 306, at 40-18 214th Place in Bayside. An engine carries water to a fire, while a ladder carries a ladder — along with all the firefighters who en-

ter flaming buildings.

"These are the next closest firehouses. We do not anticipate an impact to service in the area," Dwyer said. "We have procedures

and redundancies in place to ensure that we are in a position to respond to the emergencies that arise."

But Community Board 7 Chairman Gene Kelty,

who is also an FDNY battalion chief, expressed concern at a recent meeting that the empty house might indirectly affect fire service to the area.

Kelty's concerns center around a complex algorithm FDNY computers use to assign engines to an emergency.

Typically, the closest fire trucks are dispatched to deal with any emergency, but if the trucks are occupied with another job, the computer will reroute trucks from the next nearest location.

Since Auburndale will already be missing engines from its firehouse, Kelty wanted to make sure the FDNY does not reroute any trucks from Flushing, Bayside or College Point outside the area unless it is an emergency.

His concerns are rooted in the fact that an engine at a Whitestone firehouse

was rerouted about 15 times in a matter of weeks, and another truck in Flushing is often called off to other emergencies outside the area.

If those trucks leave and something happens in the Auburndale area, residents could be hung out to dry, he said.

In addition, Kelty wants the FDNY to provide protection if trucks go out on a job from, for example, the Bayside quarters. In that instance, other trucks should be rerouted from outside the neighborhood to take the Baysiders' place and ensure somebody is covering the area, Kelty said.

Kelty and City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) have been working with the FDNY to make ensure the area is adequately serviced and were set to meet with members of the department this week.

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Catholics slam Ackerman on birth control mandate

BY JOE ANUTA

A group of religious residents from churches across Queens picketed outside the office of U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside) Friday afternoon to protest a controversial federal health care mandate that would require all employers to cover birth control as part of any insurance plan.

The protest was coordinated as part of a national day of protest at locations all around the country on behalf of the Pro-Life Action League.

Ray Mooney, a Flushing resident, helped to organize the picket, which drew about 80 people holding up signs bearing sayings such as "NOBamacare" and "Religious freedom."

"A line has been drawn in the sand," Mooney said. "What we have seen is the U.S. government say to the

Catholic Church, 'We don't care.'"

The protesters outside Ackerman's office were mainly Catholics from parishes from around the borough, including St. Josaphat in Bayside and Our Lady of Mercy in Forest Hills.

Mooney said the Catholic faith does not believe in using contraceptives, especially birth control medication that the Pro-Life Action League refers to as "abortion-inducing drugs." The federal government forcing any Catholic organization to do so, according to Mooney, constitutes an assault on religious freedom.

The issue rose to hot-button status late last year, and the city's ecclesiastical heavyweights — Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn — eventually



Terrance Bolger and his wife Susan hold up signs in opposition to a federal health care mandate along Northern Boulevard.

Photo by Joe Anuta

weighed in.

Dolan has roundly criticized the mandate, which is part of President Barack Obama's Affordable Health Care Act, and scoffed at a recent compromise offered by the administration whereby an insurance company would cover the contraceptives instead of the organization.

DiMarzio, on the other hand, explained his objections to the mandate with a hypothetical situation.

"If an enzyme was found in pork that had great curative powers of cancer, would the government force observant Jews and Muslims to eat pork in order to prevent cancer?" he asked, according to a spokeswoman.

But groups like the National Women's Law Center have said the issue is instead about a woman's right to have access to preventative health care,

which might be too costly to purchase without help from an insurer.

On its website, the center outlined several reasons why access to contraception and planning pregnancies keeps women healthier.

Ackerman drew the ire of the protesters for both his failure to send down a representative to the picket line and for his voting record supporting abortion rights as well as women's access to contraceptives.

Some of the protesters hoped to see a Republican in Ackerman's place after he retires Jan. 2, 2013. And Joint Parish Respect for Life Committee chairwoman Florence Maloney said a GOP upset by Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village) could portend good things for pro-life groups like the committee, which is also opposed to same-sex marriage, according to Maloney.

Bayside environmentalist honored by United Nations group

BY PHIL CORSO

Teaching has been a major part of her life for decades, and when it comes to children, there's one topic Dr. Aline Euler said was critical to the future.

"It's important to make sure that the young generation understands nature so they can protect and preserve it," Euler said to a packed theater inside the Queens Museum of Art in Flushing. "We need to take care of our resources and not plunder them."

Euler is the director of education for Little Neck's Alley Pond Environmental Center and lives in Bayside, which explains why she drew a large crowd when honored by the United Nations Association's Queens chapter Saturday afternoon. The ceremony was part of an Earth Day ceremony, marking the beginning of spring and raising environmental awareness.

UNA President John Tandana said Euler was being honored for "helping make APEC



Dr. Aline Euler (c.), of Little Neck's Alley Pond Environmental Center, accepts her Earth Day award from the United Nations Association's Queens chapter.

Photo by Phil Corso

what it is today," through decades of dedication and teaching children about their environment.

"Aline became involved early on with APEC and she never left," Tandana said. "She believes

young people can maintain the right attitude for life if taught at an early age."

Margaret Shannon, of the UNA, introduced Euler before she accepted her recognition and said her work with APEC was invaluable.

"We hope she continues to change the world one student at a time," Shannon said. "We all benefit from her work."

The Alley Pond Environmental Center is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to teaching children and adults in the New York area. In doing so, the group also works to preserve Little Neck's roughly 65-acre Alley Pond Park.

"When you're there, you don't feel like you're in New York City," Tandana said.

Euler accepted her award in the company of various APEC members as well as former state Sen. Frank Padavan. She said the former senator was the first to provide APEC with significant funding and was critical to the

group's growth in recent years.

The Earth Day ceremony also included a minute of silence for peace accompanied by a bell ringing, from which the group marked the beginning of spring. There were various performances, including a Wianek Polish folk dance, a piano recital by Anh Nguyen, a cello performance from Jacob Cohen and a children's choir.

Upon receiving her award of recognition, Euler spoke of APEC's growing reach through various educational programs, which included thousands of children.

"It's our young children who will have to fight to save the planet," Euler said, speaking of a planet that has grown to almost 7 billion people, depleting natural resources. "We all could do something to help."

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

Restaurants

Continued from Page 1

out about these new rules and regulations," Degel said. "The only way to learn about them is by receiving fines."

Since implementing the letter grade system, Degel said he has received more than \$5,000 in fines between his three locations.

"There's no question that the letter grade system has had a negative impact on the restaurant business," said Andrew Rigie, executive vice president of the New York State Restaurant Association. "It created a very shameful and tense environment in which to run a restaurant."

Rigie said that while almost all business owners support health and safety inspections, the goal could be achieved through a more cooperative and educational inspection process.

He testified in a letter to City Hall that the city should revise the grading system if it does not wish to abolish it. Suggestions included removing the C letter grade because, though it is still safe and sanitary, the grade might connote to the public that



Even with an A displayed on the Bell Boulevard steakhouse's front door, Uncle Jack's management still calls for reforms to the health inspection system.

By Phil Corso

the restaurant is unsafe, translating into a loss of business.

Rigie also said the city should consider amending the points system used during inspections to better reflect the nature of differing violations.

Bloomberg defended the grading system, which his administration imposed, at a news conference earlier this month.

"They think it's OK to have mice and roaches and dirt and not have people wash their hands before they come back from the bathroom," Bloomberg

said. "That's just simply unacceptable, and their complaints are going to fall on deaf ears, I can tell you that. We're not going to change."

Rigie said the mayor's assessments were inaccurate.

"For a mayor who often touts his efforts to make New York City more business-friendly, these comments appear completely out of touch with the reality facing 99 percent of the small business owners we represent."

In trying to earn the A grades all three of his eateries display in their front windows, Degel said the Department of Health was not doing enough to educate restaurant owners on how to sustain sanitary conditions.

It creates an atmosphere that Rigie said is difficult to thrive in.

"Right now you have a model where the industry feels under attack and no matter what they do to ensure high safety standards, they will be issued fines," Rigie said. "They run their businesses under constant fear of posting a scarlet letter."



BLUE BAUBLES

Bayside resident Madeline Wagner shows off her bracelet during a jewelry-making workshop at the Douglaston branch of Queens Library. Owners of SD Bijoux Jewelry showed participants how to make various accessories.

Photo by Nykeema Williams

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Halloran

Continued from Page 1

15, which means that the seat will be empty as of Jan. 2, 2013.

As of Monday evening, Halloran was the only Republican candidate running for the seat and did not have a primary challenger, which was not the case for the Democratic hopefuls.

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) and state Assembly members Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) and Grace Meng (D-Flushing) all put in bids for the seat as well.

Each will need to collect hundreds of signatures by April 16 in order to get on the ballot, a process known as petitioning.

But along with signatures, the petitions also contain insight into who is supporting the candidate.

In the case of emergencies that would prohibit a candidate from running, each congressional hopeful lists people who would pick

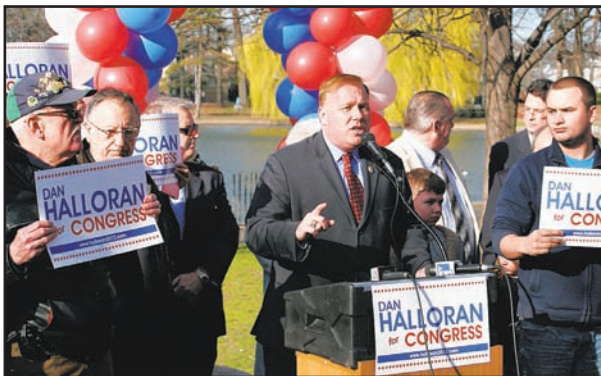
a successor. The group is called the committee to fill vacancies.

Meng's committee includes all members of the Queens Democratic Party, since she snagged the party endorsement. First on her list is Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), chairman of the party. Also included is fellow Assemblymen Michael Simanowitz (D-Flushing) and Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights).

Lancman's list includes Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Ridgewood), his chief of staff Dominic Panakal and his friend Stephanie Goldstone.

Crowley's committee, on the other hand, does not have overt support from the Democratic Party. Her list includes the father of Assemblyman Michael Miller (D-Woodhaven), along with her sister Alice Crowley, two members of her campaign staff and community leaders.

The primary had been moved from September to June 26 to comply with federal election laws stipulating that members of the



City Councilman Dan Halloran (c.) announces he will run for Congress amid supporters, including former state Sen. Frank Padavan (second from l.).

Photo by Joe Anuta

military had to be given enough time to send in their ballots. The election will be held Nov. 6.

That means the primary season will be shorter than normal, and the race between Democrats and Republicans longer.

None of the candidates in the race have filed with the Federal Election Commission, but their next filing date will show how well they will stack up financially against each other.

The race kicked off earlier this month after Ackerman shocked the political world by announc-

ing his retirement. He will serve out the remaining 10 months of his term before leaving office Jan. 2.

Although only one of the three Democrats will face off against Halloran — provided he receives enough signatures to get on the ballot — all three blasted the Republican's bid for the seat, with Meng saying, "I'm particularly interested to hear Dan's take on recent partisan attacks on women's access to health care."

Beacon

Continued from Page 2

The seven Beacon programs to be shut down included Queens' Samuel Field Y, at MS 158 in Bayside, and Forest Hills' Queens Community House, at JHS 190, along with the Tottenville High School Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, the Phipps Community Development at IS 192 in the Bronx, Heart Share Human Services at IS 259 in Brooklyn, Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center at PS 198 in Manhattan and Hudson Guild at MS 414 in Manhattan.

The news disturbed City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone), who said residents of Bayside and Little Neck were losing an invaluable resource.

"Once again, northeast Queens gets the short

end of the stick," Halloran said. "Parents rely on the Beacon programs to provide a safe and nurturing environment after school."

Halloran said that although each Beacon Program costs about \$334,000 to operate annually, it is a necessary cost in servicing the local community.

"City Hall bureaucrats must think we're flush with services here in Bayside. They are wrong," Halloran said. "If they came out to see what is happening in our schools in northeast Queens, they would realize that we need Beacon programs."

The councilman said the city should reconsider its plan and instead trim costs from each program to avoid closures.

The Y's Goodman said cutting Beacon programs to save the city \$2.1 million was the wrong way to go about saving money.

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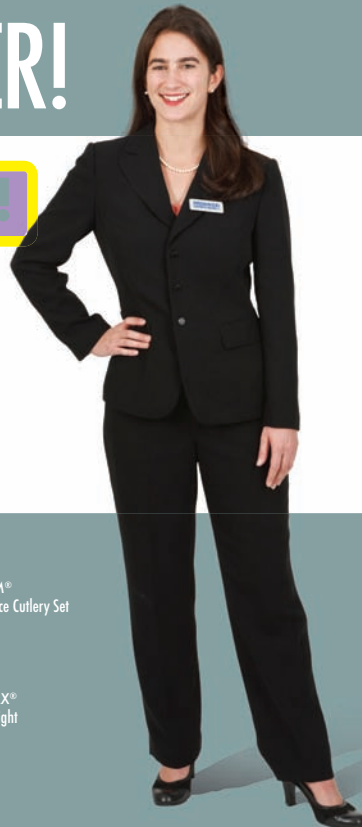


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Photo courtesy Sean McKenna

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Quinn comes to Queens promoting heart health

BY REBECCA HENELY

Diet Coke and City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) teamed up with ElmcOR last week, turning the Corona nonprofit's gym into a red-tinted runway to celebrate women and raise awareness of heart disease.

"It's up to us to take care of our hearts," said Borough President Helen Marshall, who was given a proclamation at the event.

Annie Meredith, legislative director for Ferreras, said the councilwoman had met with representatives from the soda company and department store J.C. Penney earlier this year, and they had conceived of holding an event that would not only do something special for the community, but complement Diet Coke's The Heart Truth campaign, centered around the dangers of heart disease in women.



City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (third from l.) gave Borough President Helen Marshall (third from r.) a proclamation at an event to honor women and raise awareness of women's heart disease. The event was held in conjunction with Diet Coke and ELMCOR.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

The result was a health and fashion extravaganza March 21 held in the gym of ElmcOR, at 107-20 Northern Blvd. Redecorated to look like what Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) called a "Manhat-

tan disco," with red flashing lights, red balloons, a DJ and a runway, the event featured a fashion show, a Zumba lesson, a raffle, arts and crafts for children, food and various health and nutrition presentations.

"We're very thankful that all of you have joined us in this effort," Dayra Azcona, of Coca-Cola Refreshments, told the 300 people who attended the event.

The councilwoman

said part of the reason why she wanted to hold the Women's Heart Health celebration, now planned as an annual event, was a personal dedication to making herself healthier. She said she had lost 15 pounds because she loved working for the community and said if she were to suffer a heart attack, she would not be able to do so anymore.

"It's time to eat healthier because my heart deserves better," Ferreras said.

Sandra Bennett-Pagan, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said heart disease is preventable with good habits: Do not smoke, watch your weight and diet, watch your blood pressure and be vigilant if you have diabetes.

Quinn said heart disease is often thought of as a man's disease, but women can spread the message

that they need to take care of their own hearts.

"When we take care of ourselves, our families get better taken care of," Quinn said. "When we take care of ourselves, girls have good role models."

Rayna James, a Women, Infants and Children employee, was one of the presenters at the event.

WIC is a federal program that provides checks to women and their children in need that can be redeemed for specific food items like milk, cereal and cheese.

James was demonstrating healthy meals that can be made with those WIC-approved items.

She said she enjoyed the event and the opportunity to promote good nutrition.

"It's such a wonderful thing for the community to see," James said.



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Going Green in Queens

Al Oerter Recreation Center served as the site for the annual Going Green in Queens Saturday. (Clockwise from top l.) Linda Gordon (l.) and Rebecca Kern, both from The Small Craft Association, try to recruit volunteers as Luca Stone (r.) signs up; Rego Park Ellis Rubin pets a bearded dragon from Alley Pond Environmental Center; FDNY instructor Keira Betty (r.) from the department's Mobile CPR Unit leads a demonstration; Gina Baldwin, project coordinator for NYC compost Project in Queens, holds worms; Mabel Castillo (c.) and her sons Christopher and Alex Pisfil look at animal skins; tables are set up in a grid; and Jon Klar, (l.) from the Office of Recycling Outreach & Education, describes recyclable items.

Photos by Christina Santucci



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Photos by Dee Richard

N.E. QUEENS REPUBLICAN CLUB MARCH MEETING AT CLEARVIEW CLUB HOUSE



1 Frank Padavan, Elio Forcina and Justin Alick



2 Elio Forcina, Paul Neydavid, Eric Ulrich and Dan Halloran (the speakers panel)



3 John Watch, the N.E.Q.R.C. President



4 John Haggerty, John Watch, Tony Nunziato and Justin Alick

JIM WYRNN'S RECEPTION AT HARBOR LIGHTS AT SOUTH STREET SEAPORT



1 Jim Wyrnn with Kiristina and Gary Arabian



2 Michael Carrol, Maura Wyrnn and John Kelly



3 Peter O'Donohue, Maureen Healy and Steven Paynter



4 Ted Tobias, Donna Furey, Chris Downes, guest and Sean Downes

DAN HALLORAN'S MARDI GRAS BIRTHDAY PARTY AT BORBON STREET IN BAYSIDE



1 Dan Halloran, Frank Padavan, Vito Palmieri and Tom Long



2 Tim Furey, Grant Lally, Halloran, Vito Palmieri



3 Tom Long and Dee Richard



4 Greg Sullivan and Dan Halloran, two lads from the old sod



5 Halloran and loyal supporter, Simon Cheung



6 George Maragos, Halloran and Vinny Tabone



7 Dan and his birthday cake



8 Vinny Tabone, Joe Kasper, Halloran, Bob Hornak, Phil Ragusa, Kimon Thermos and Tim Furey



9 Chrissy Voskerichian and Halloran



10 Tim Furey and Dan Peterson



11 Vito Palmieri, Dan Peterson and George Maragos



12 George Maragos and Robert Beltrani

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Dromm seals deal on Garden School playground

BY REBECCA HENELY

Although the plan was almost derailed more than a year ago, City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) celebrated with government officials and civic leaders last Thursday the sale of the Garden School's playground to the city.

"Finally, after a long process, we have a new park for Jackson Heights," Dromm said.

The councilman had been instrumental in ensuring that the playground was sold to the city and not to a developer.

He announced the \$6 million sale at the site of the playground, at 79th Street between 34th Avenue and Northern Boulevard, with Deputy Mayor Howard Wolfson, Borough President Helen Marshall and members of the Garden School's board, Jackson

Heights Green Alliance and the Jackson Heights Beautification Group, among others.

"This was a wonderful collaboration between the city, community members and our private school," said Garden School Headmaster Dr. Richard Marotta in a statement about the process.

The Garden School, a private K-12 institution at 33-16 79th St., had been planning to sell its playground to stave off revenue losses. Dromm secured \$4 million and Marshall secured \$1 million for the purpose, but the land needed to go through the months-long Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, and in December 2010 the school put the land up on the market for \$5.5 million.

In response, community members mobilized through a fund set up by the Jackson Heights Green



Garden School Headmaster Richard Marotta (c.) shakes hands with Councilman Daniel Dromm (second from r.) and Borough President Helen Marshall (r.) over the city's purchase of the Garden School's playground. Deputy Mayor Howard Wolfson (third from l.) was also instrumental in the sale.

Photo courtesy Dromm

Alliance to pay the school's immediate expenses. The alliance raised \$500,000 in three months and received \$1 million from a private foundation.

At the same time, Wolfson worked to negotiate the sale with the Garden

School's leaders. The mayor's office also contributed the final \$1 million to the purchase of the parkland.

"We are ecstatic to be getting more parkland in our neighborhood," Will Sweeney, of the alliance, said in a statement. "This

cherished space will be enjoyed by generations of Jackson Heights residents and families to come."

As a city-owned park space, the playground will be used exclusively by Garden School students from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. while school

is in session. Dromm said the city plans to make improvements to the playground, but he needs to secure more capital and that it will not happen until at least a year.

The councilman said 78th Street between 34th Avenue and Northern Boulevard is set to be closed to become a permanent play street. The closure combined with the purchase of the playground would double the park space in his congested district, which is currently 50th out of 51 districts in terms of park acreage.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us, but what's so wonderful is that we have now signed on the dotted line and this is a done deal," Dromm said.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by the e-mail at rhenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.



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People IN THE NEWS

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Academics

Up2Us, a national nonprofit leading the movement to advance youth sports, has announced that **Andrea Slavin** of Floral Park will serve as an Up2Us Coach Across America coach at America SCORES NY in summer 2012.

Ciara Sidell of Fresh Meadows has been named to the fall 2011 Wheaton College dean's list.

Nabila Taj of Flushing, **Jennifer Jimenez** of Corona, **Shanice Hinckson** of St. Albans, **Lorenzo Sewanan** of Hollis and **Richie Khan** of Jamaica have received fall 2011 faculty honors at Trinity College.

Jonathan L. Pierre of East Elmhurst has been named to the fall 2011 Western New England University dean's list.

Stephanie Windland of Holliswood, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University, is spending the spring 2012 semester studying at Wroxton College.

Yarong Lin of Flushing was named a presidential scholar for the fall 2011 semester at Clarkson University.

Parwinder Singh of South

Richmond Hill was named to the Clarkson University fall 2011 dean's list.

James Stout of College Point, **Susan Garrett** of Queens Village and **Andrea Palma** of Flushing were named to the SUNY Potsdam fall 2011 dean's list.

Abeje Leslie of Jamaica has graduated from SUNY Potsdam.

Krystal Quero of Corona, **Brabim Baral** and **Zelina Santiago** of Ridgewood and **Lyndsey Creed** of Flushing were named to the fall 2011 SUNY Potsdam president's list.

Shanique Jiles of Jamaica, **Yanique Teape** of Cambria Heights and **Anjali Khanna** of Flushing were named to the fall 2011 University of Hartford dean's list.

Krupa Patel of Jamaica and **Elizabeth Pence** of Maspeth were named to the fall 2011 Gettysburg College dean's list.

Songjia Zhang of Flushing has graduated from the University of Toledo.

Hawa Omar of Jamaica was named to the fall 2011 Mary Bald-

win College dean's list.

Emma A. Ahern of Whitestone was named to the fall 2011 Lock Haven University dean's list.

Shelley Park of Flushing was named to the fall 2011 Alfred University dean's list.

Helena Mannarino of Ridgewood and **David Kam** of Flushing were named to the fall 2011 The College of New Jersey dean's list.

Charles Russell, son of **Charles** and **Josephine Russell** of Ozone Park, was named to the fall 2011 Saint Michael's College dean's list.

Thomas P. Connolly was named to the fall 2011 Stonehill College dean's list.

Michael Giaccio of Malba, **Melissa Wolf** of Richmond Hill, **Kristina Valentino** of Maspeth, **Christina Smolanick** of Middle Village, **Meaghan Kennedy** of Glendale and **Jennifer McCabe** of Douglaston were named to the fall 2011 Sacred Heart University dean's list.

George Adams of College



ANDREA SLAVIN

Point and **James Kikel** of Glendale were named to the fall 2011 Springfield College dean's list.

Praneeth Galipalli of South Ozone Park has graduated from Missouri State University.

Avery Jones and **Larrica Porter** of Hollis; **Christopher Laieta** of Howard Beach; **Otis Brumfield**, **Sufian Chowdhury**, **Felix Martinez** and **Peta-Gay Pearce-Simpson** of Jamaica; **Lissette Rodriguez** of Kew Gardens; **David Santana** of Ozone Park; **Bethshyna Brue** of Rosedale; **Anitrea Montgomery**, **Deanett Watson-Gayle** and **Kecia Williams** of St. Albans; and **Jacinth Gabriel** of Springfield Gardens were named to the Berkeley College fall 2011 president's list.

Nia A. Albert of Forest Hills has passed the Certified Patient Care Technician exam at Dover Business College.

Li Liang of Fresh Meadows, **Charissa Ng** of Forest Hills, **Danielle Teutonico** of Jackson Heights and **Carlos Medina** of Glendale have been named to the fall 2011 Tufts University dean's list.

Jaida Triblet of Jamaica and **Anthony Langone** of Flushing have been named to the fall 2011 DePaul University dean's list.

Fang Wang of Richmond Hill has earned high honors for the fall 2011 semester at the University of New Hampshire.

Andrew Nunez of East Elmhurst and **Shannon Browne**

of Middle Village were named to the fall 2011 Caldwell College dean's list.

The following have been named to the fall 2011 Marist College dean's list: **Megan Warne** of Whitestone, **Cristina Giappone** of Howard Beach, **Kelly Velasco** of Ozone Park, **John Lu** of Jamaica, **Nicolas Fedus** of Briarwood, **Alex Gobright** and **John Sowulski** of Woodhaven, **Thomas Murphy** of Maspeth, **Michelle Cuttonaro** and **Courtney Klopfer** of Glendale, **Nicolas Davis** and **Robert Schule** of Flushing and **Laura Matelsky** of Little Neck.

Aaron Huang of Little Neck has been named to the fall 2011 Berklee College of Music dean's list.

Stephanie Windland of Holliswood and **Laquanique Lake** of Jamaica have been named to the Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham fall 2011 honor's list.

Natasha A. Bennett of Jamaica and **Jamie M. Caroccio** of East Elmhurst have been named to the St. Lawrence University fall 2011 dean's list.

Suchao Li of Flushing has graduated from the University of New Haven.

Ruby Benn, daughter of **Beatrice Benn** of Corona; **Gary Chin**, son of **Michael Chin** and **Mei Yim Chin** of East Elmhurst; **Lillie Fleshler**, daughter of **Daniel Fleshler** and **Lisa Reswick** of Jackson Heights; **Yeimmy Torrez**, daughter of **Virginia Torres** of Jamaica; **Jessica Blanca**, daughter of **Rosalba Blanca** of Flushing; and **Chris Chae**, son of **Hun** and **Kyong Chae** of Little Neck, have been named to the Ithaca College School of Humanities and Sciences fall 2011 dean's list.

Meagan Maclaren of College Point was named to the SUNY Brockport fall 2011 president's list.

Karina Cruz of Maspeth, **Amanda Williams** of South Ozone Park, **Tabbitha Martinez-Reyes** of Jamaica, **Tysha Llewellyn** of St. Albans and **Steven Robinson** of Rosedale were named to the SUNY Brockport fall 2011 dean's list.



GUARDING THE COAST

The U.S. Coast Guard presented District Attorney Richard Brown (third from l.) with its Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Patriot Award in recognition of his outstanding support of QDA Detective and Coast Guard reserve John J. Keeley (second from r.). The award was created to recognize employers who support their Guard and Reserve employees.

Simotas, Maloney hold women's history event



Anna Kril (c.) accepted awards given to civic leader Martha Washington by state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (l.) and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney for Women's History Month.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

BY REBECCA HENELY

State Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) honored three women Friday for Women's History Month and talked about what needs to be done for women to achieve true equality with men.

"In my view, we need much more than a month," Maloney said. "We need a museum on the Mall in Washington."

Simotas and Maloney held the ceremony at the Museum of the Moving Image, at 36-01 35th Ave. in Astoria. They presented awards to Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan (D-Ridgewood), civic leader Eartha Washington and Taryn Sacramone, executive director of the Astoria Performing Arts Center, for their contributions to western Queens.

Anna Kril, of the breast cancer support group SHAREing and CAREing, accepted the award on behalf of Washington.

Nolan said she was honored to receive her award, which was named after the late County Clerk Gloria D'Amico. She said

she felt humbled to receive recognition from her peers in government.

"I really don't feel like I've done half as much as they've done," she said.

Washington received the Community Service Award and Sacramone the Artistic Achievement Award.

"It is incredible to be included in the company of these women," Sacramone said, "to be honored by these women."

Simotas said when she became a part of the Assembly in 2011, female members like Nolan helped her. Simotas said she is the first woman to be elected in her district and, as an expectant mother, is working to extend the New York Family Leave Act from three months to six.

"We are very poorly represented in the state government and federal government," Simotas said of women.

Maloney spoke at the ceremony about the growth of Women's History Month, and said women's achievements are often overlooked. She said only 5 percent of the United State's monuments document women's successes and that she

struggled for three years to get a statue of suffragettes Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott moved out of the Capitol building's basement and into the rotunda.

Maloney added that since the nation's capital has museums for everything from spies to textiles, one must be made for women.

"There is no central place that exposes our sons and daughters to the role of women in building our great nation," she said.

The congresswoman also said more needs to happen before women have equality. Women's wage rates are still 77 cents to every man's dollar, women are not represented in leadership positions and the Equal Rights Amendment remains unpassed, although it was almost ratified 40 years ago.

"Although we've made great strides, we still have a long way to go," Maloney said.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rehenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

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Nursing home myths

The elder care facilities of today are not the scary, isolated environs of yesterday

BY JOANNA LEEFER

Nursing home. The very words strike fear in the minds of the elderly and their families. We hear the words and imagine residents languishing in beds or wheelchairs, forgotten and alone.

The good news is that picture is false. In the past, many nursing homes were substandard. Today, however, nursing homes are government-regulated and, as a result, much better and safer. There may still be a few bad nursing homes out there, but they're the exceptions, not the rule.

Below are some commonly held beliefs about nursing homes. Test your knowledge by checking which statements are true or false:

True or false? The average nursing home is dingy and poorly maintained.

False. In 1987, the Federal Government passed the Nursing Home Reform Act, which set strict operating guidelines for nursing homes across the United States. Every 12 to 15 months, a state-appointed inspection team visits and evaluates each nursing home, using a checklist of more than 150 regulatory issues. The list covers everything from food preparation standards and general cleanliness, to signs of physical and mental abuse. If the team identifies a violation, it issues a deficiency citation that records its severity, and requests a report from the facility describing how the problem will be solved.

True or false? Nursing homes are only for people who are terminally ill.

False. Although nursing homes do offer long-term care for the chronically ill, they also offer short-term care for people who are convalescing after a hospital stay. These rehabilitation, or rehab patients, receive physical, occupational, and speech therapy as needed, along with other kinds of restorative care. Rehab patients usually stay in a nursing home for 100 days or less, and then return to the community.

Continued on Page 38



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Caring for the needs of long-distance family

Today's families are more geographically diverse than ever before. Whereas it was once common for families to remain in the same city or state for generations, nowadays families routinely spread out across the country, if not the world. Thanks to technological advancements that make it easier than ever before to stay in touch, families today can still thrive and stay close even if they live hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away from one another.

One issue facing many families that have chosen to spread out is how to help Mom and Dad when they reach the age where they need their adult children's help. While this wasn't a problem for the families of yesteryear, it is a genuine concern for adults who live far away from their parents. Fortunately, there are ways to be there for your elderly parents even when you can't physically be there for them.

•**Speak to your parents about what they need.** While some parents might not be able to realistically assess their needs, children should speak to their parents when making decisions about their care. Adults who live far away from their parents might not know exactly what their parents need,



so discuss the problems they might be having on a day-to-day basis to determine the level of care or assistance they will need.

•**Examine finances.** Managing money is often difficult for seniors who have had an accident or are dealing with a serious medical condition. Seniors might forget to pay bills or be struggling to manage money with the escalating costs of prescription

medications and health care in general.

To help avoid missed bills, adult children can utilize online bill paying offered by many banks, wherein bills are automatically paid each month on their due date by simply being deducted from a given account. Adult children can also consult a financial adviser to develop a plan that gives seniors access to their money while ensur-

ing it will still be there when they need it.

•**Research community resources.** Many communities provide adequate resources for the elderly who might be incapacitated or otherwise need assistance. Programs such as Meals on Wheels can be a great assistance to long-distance caregivers concerned about their elderly parents. People can consult with the Department of Health and Human Services or visit www.Eldercare.gov and use their eldercare locator to find local agencies designed to help older persons and their families access community-based services including transportation, meal delivery and homecare.

•**Stay in touch with seniors' physicians.** One way to monitor elderly parents from far away is to keep in frequent contact with their physicians. Discuss the situation with your parents' physicians in person, and ask to be kept abreast of any changes in their health that might require altering their daily routines or homecare schedules.

For additional tips or information on helping elderly parents from afar, visit the U.S. Administration on Aging website at www.aoa.gov.

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Plan ahead for health recovery in the home

At some point in a person's life, he probably will spend time in a hospital and have to transition home after recovery. For seniors this is a common occurrence and one that can be particularly troublesome. A little planning can make the process easier on the patient and the caregiver.

•**Plan early.** Learn when the discharge date will be and find out what will be needed at home. Talk with hospital staff about what equipment can make recovery at home easier. A caregiver may get recommendations on nearby medical supply stores and other vendors that can provide what's needed, such as visiting nurses.

•**Rearrange the home.** Certain things at home may need to be changed depending on why the person was hospitalized. Individuals with crutches or in a wheelchair may need extra space made

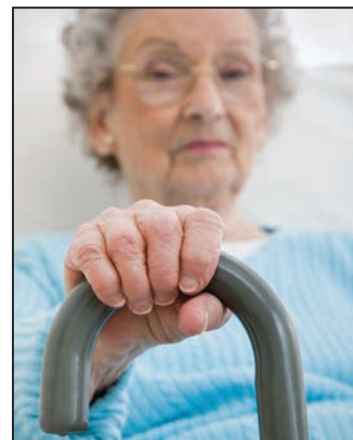


in the home to travel safely. If the patient normally sleeps upstairs, a bed may need to be set up downstairs instead. Ramps may need to be installed over stairs as well.

•**Make a list.** Keep a list of important phone numbers, including the doctor and the local pharmacy, on a central list so that it is easy to contact the person in case of an emergency.

•**Expect extra costs.** Some procedures may be covered by health insurance, others may not. Family members may have to rally together to offset costs for medical care outside the realm of insurance.

•**Get help.** Many family members want to be the sole caregiver for a parent or spouse who has left the hospital. But the demands of around-the-clock care can sometimes be overwhelming. Caregivers should not be embarrassed to



ask for help, even if that means hiring a professional. Providing the best care for the patient should be the priority.

•**Patient support.** The newly discharged patient may have mixed feelings about being at home and fawned over. Therefore, caregivers should tread lightly to develop a strategy that works well for everyone.

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- Lonnie Weigle

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Managing medication can be a challenge

Turn on the television and you're likely to be inundated with commercials for the latest prescription medications that should be discussed with a doctor. According to "Generation Rx: How Prescription Drugs Are Altering American Lives, Minds, and Bodies," by Greg Crister, the average number of prescriptions drugs taken per person, annually, in 2004 was 12. It is estimated that people will spend more than \$400 billion on prescription drugs by the end of 2011. Individuals who take multiple medications may find it difficult to manage them all.

The challenge of managing medications can be difficult for anyone, but particularly for seniors. Some organizational strategies and a little help from others may be the keys to getting meds straight.

First and foremost, it's important that doctors and pharmacists know of all the medications that are being taken. It's a good idea to use one pharmacy to fill prescriptions. This way it will have a record of medication use and can alert to drug interactions that may be dangerous, which could otherwise go undetected. And remember, over-the-counter supplements, vitamins and medicines count, too. They should be mentioned at the doctor's office or, at the very least, when getting a new prescription filled at the pharmacy. Herbal remedies and other items — even foods — can interact with certain drugs. For example, it's best to avoid grapefruit juice while taking many of the cholesterol-lowering st-



atins available.

Purchasing a medication organizer can be the next step to getting drugs in check. There are a number of different styles and sizes available. Seniors may want to enlist the help of a family member to sort through pills at the beginning of each week and place the right pills in each compartment.

Knowing which days to take each medication is sometimes not enough. Certain medications must be taken at different intervals each day, often inviting confusion. A chart listing the times of each medication posted next to where the prescriptions are kept



can help. A watch with a timer or an alarm clock can be programmed to chime as a reminder. Tech-savvy people can program smartphones or PDAs with reminders to alert when it's time to take a pill. There are even advanced pill dispensing systems that can be programmed to dispense medication according to a set schedule.

Those who are worried about an elderly relative can enlist the help of medication reminder services that can call or message a person to keep track of pills. They also may provide reminders about doctors' appointments.

There are a number of options available to help make organizing care a little easier. Safety should be the top priority when there are many different medications that need to be taken.

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Conquering the signs and symptoms of aging Lesson their impact on your life

They're the signs and symptoms of getting older no one likes to admit or talk about: the indignities that are often a normal part of aging, such as problems with balance or sleeping, memory lapses, frequent urination, or incontinence. They may not be as debilitating as a chronic illness, but they can take a profound toll on those afflicted, as well as their caregivers and family members.

The symptoms of aging might not be curable, but with certain strategies you can lessen their impact on your life, says Registered Nurse Xiomara Almanzar, a nurse care manager with VNSNY CHOICE Health Plans. VNSNY CHOICE, a special plan from the not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Service of New York, was created especially for New York seniors who are eligible for Medicaid or Medicare and want to live independently in their own homes as they face the challenges of getting older instead of moving to a nursing home.

"The first step is to rule out a medical issue," says Almanzar. "Some of these problems may be symptoms of diseases." For example, if you find yourself in need of a bathroom more often than before, sched-

ule an appointment with your physician to rule out diabetes or a prostate condition. While you're with your physician, ask about coping strategies.

As you handle these conditions, remember also to address the emotional issues. You may feel shame or embarrassment,

The symptoms of aging might not be curable, but with certain strategies you can lessen their impact on your life,

fear, or even anger. Let your caregivers or family members know when you're struggling. If you're patient with yourself and with each other, you're less likely to snap.

Here are some of the more common inconveniences of aging and solutions for managing them:

MEMORY PROBLEMS

Some cognitive decline is normal, but if you're often overwhelmed trying to follow

instructions or when faced with making decisions, or if you forget important events or get disoriented in familiar surroundings, see your physician. Some forms of cognitive impairment are linked to high blood pressure or sleep disorders.

BLURRY VISION

Trouble focusing may simply mean that you need new glasses — or it may be a symptom of any number of disorders and diseases. See an ophthalmologist to rule out a serious problem, and be sure to mention any optical changes to your primary physician to determine if it could be a sign of diabetes, a side effect of medication, or pituitary adenoma, a tumor of the pituitary gland that occurs in one of six persons.

BALANCE ISSUES

Have you added or changed medications recently? Some drugs can affect balance. You may also need to rethink your footwear, especially if you wear shoes with a heel or open backs.

SLEEP PROBLEMS

Before you ask for a prescription to help with sleeping, be sure you're practicing good sleep habits, and remember that as

we age, we need less sleep. If you're having trouble falling asleep, relax your facial muscles, particularly the jaw and eye areas.

"If you feel like you're focusing your eyes on something, even though they're closed, you're using facial muscles," says Almanzar.

ACHY OR STIFF JOINTS (ARTHRITIS)

The pain might make you want to sit as still as possible, but exercise can help to keep joints flexible. Stretching and range-of-motion exercises can also build strength.

"If you have arthritis in your hands, try making a fist and then stretching out your fingers," recommends Almanzar. "If your feet ache, pointing and flexing toes and rotating ankles can provide relief." Analgesics can help with pain, as can heating pads or ice packs.

DIFFICULTY HEARING OR RINGING IN THE EARS

Tinnitus affects one in five people, and it's usually a sign of an ear injury, a circulatory disorder, or age-related hearing loss, so see your doctor to rule out another issue. To reduce the effects, avoid irritants like loud noises, as well as nicotine and alcohol, which affect circulation. Soft noises — like a fan, gentle music, or a white-noise machine — can help mask the ringing.

FREQUENT URINATION

Consider "scheduling" restroom breaks so you don't wait too long. Limit beverages and diuretics when you know a restroom might be inconvenient. Kegel exercises strengthen the muscles in the pelvic floor and can help to increase bladder control.

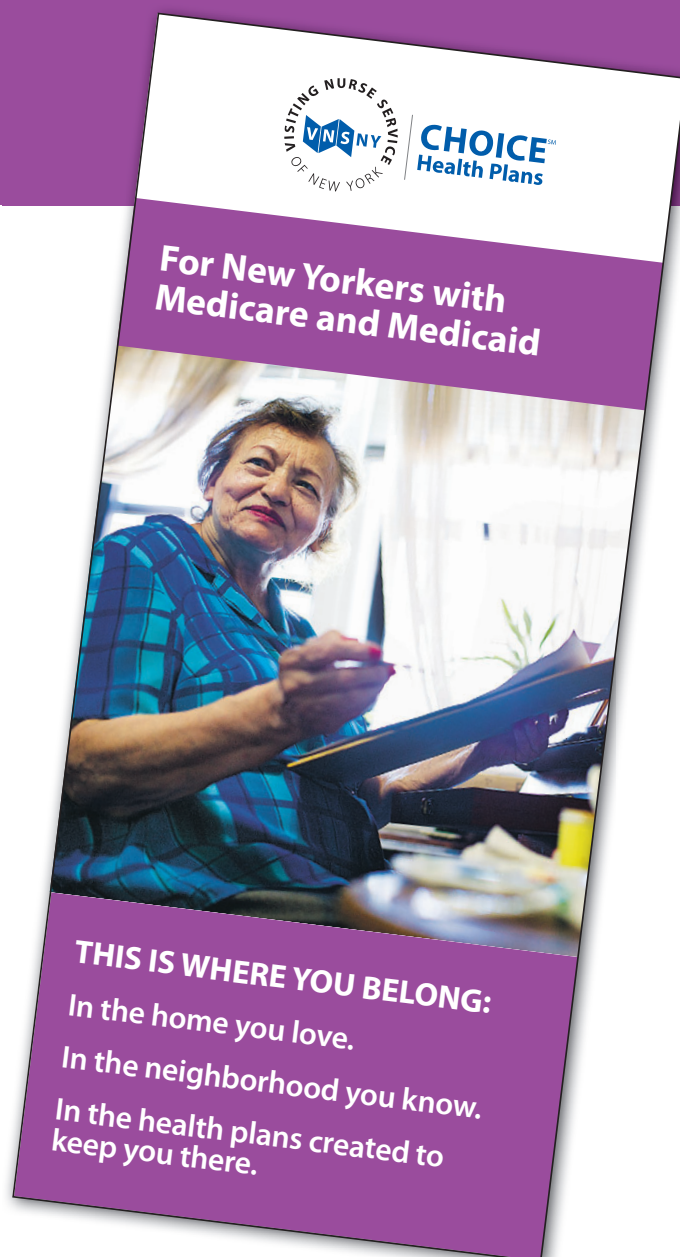
INCONTINENCE

Bowel incontinence can sometimes be managed with diet. Keep track of everything you eat for a week or so to identify possible trigger foods, and eat frequent, smaller meals.

"Be sure you're getting enough fiber and water," advises Almanzar. "Avoiding constipation is important. Use the bathroom before you leave home, and carry a change of clothing and a small package of wipes in case of accidents."

For more information about VNSNY CHOICE Health Plans from the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, please call (855) AT-CHOICE, (855) 282-4642, or visit www.VNSNYCHOICE.org. For a library of caregiver resources, including helpful videos, please visit www.VNSNY.org/caregiver.

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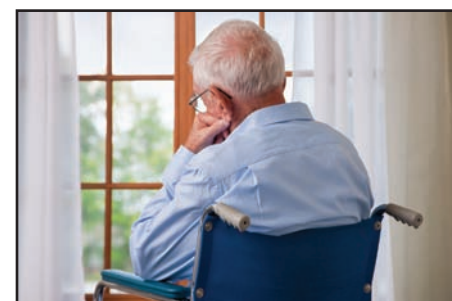
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Don't forget the many forms of abuse suffered by elders

Each year, thousands of senior citizens are exploited, abused, or neglected. This behavior is classified as elder abuse and can occur by way of strangers or even family members. In many cases, trusted friends and members of the family are the perpetrators of the abuse. Elder abuse is something widely recognized by courts, and there is legislature passed in all 50 states to protect against elder abuse.



In terms of what constitutes elder abuse, here are offenses that are broadly defined as abuse and may be punishable.

- Sexual abuse:** Nonconsensual sexual contact.
- Physical abuse:** Pain or injury caused to a senior, including injury from restraining by physical or chemical means.
- Exploitation:** Illegal use or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a senior used for someone else's benefit.
- Neglect:** The failure to provide neces-

sary resources, such as food, shelter, health care, etc. for an elder.

- Abandonment:** Failure to perform assumed responsibilities by a person who promised care or custody of a vulnerable elder.
- Emotional abuse:** Causing mental pain, anguish or distress to a senior through various acts.
- Self-neglect:** The failure to perform self-care tasks that can threaten one's own health or safety.

Nursing home myth

Continued from Page 31

True or false? Nursing homes mainly serve the financially destitute.

False. Nursing homes can be very expensive, with costs ranging from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per month in New York. However, most residents are eligible for Medicaid and therefore do not have to pay out of their own pockets. To qualify for Medicaid, a person must meet maximum asset and income criteria. People with higher incomes or asset levels must plan ahead to shelter their assets. It is important to consult a good eldercare attorney to find out how to proceed.

True or false? Most nursing home residents are wheelchair- or bed-bound.

False. Some nursing home residents require intensive care, but others



may only need some supervision and assistance performing specific daily tasks like dressing, walking, or eating. Nursing homes can offer many people a much higher quality of life than they would have at home. Residents receive three nutritious meals a day, round-the-clock oversight, and housekeeping and access to

an active social life, if they want it.

Joanna Leefer is an eldercare expert. Concerned about an aging parent or loved one? For a free report, "Four helpful tips for researching home care", visit www.joannaleefer.com. Leefer's book, "Empowered Caregiving," will be available Spring, 2013.

Budgeting tips for seniors on a tight, fixed income

Difficult financial times have forced many people young and old to alter their lifestyles in order to stay afloat financially. Though unemployment has garnered most of the headlines as the economy has struggled the last several years, it's not just men and women of working age who have felt the pinch.

In a 2010 study from the University of Michigan Law School, researchers found that people age 65 and older are the fastest-growing segment of the United States population seeking bankruptcy protection. While there's no single culprit for the rise in bankruptcy filings among seniors, the state of Florida could offer valuable insight as to why the nation's older citizens are increasingly filing for bankruptcy.

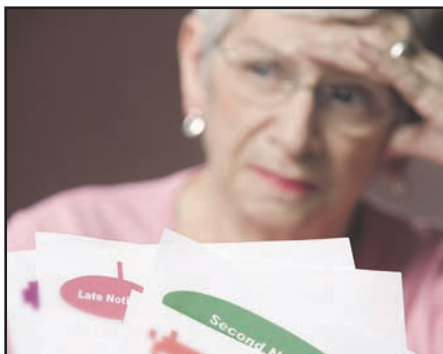
Many retirees call Florida home, and in the past such retirees could tap into their home equity whenever they began to struggle financially. However, like most of the country, Florida's housing market is depressed, making it less viable for seniors to tap into their home equity to solve their financial problems. In fact, according to a study by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, bankruptcy filings increased by 118 percent in states where the home price index decreased.

For many seniors fearful of financial struggles, living on a fixed income can be a helpful way of ensuring their future does not involve filing for bankruptcy. Though living on a fixed income is a definite challenge and certainly offers no guarantee that bankruptcy can be avoided, it does provide a framework seniors can rely on to keep their heads above water during difficult economic times.

•**Make an honest assessment.** Living on a fixed income involves being honest with yourself and admitting what your resources truly are. Write down any sources of income, including Social Security payments, pension payouts, investments, etc. Then write down how much money you have in savings or print out a statement of all savings accounts.

Once you have an accurate figure of both income and savings, write down all your monthly expenses, including all expenses, no matter how minute they may seem. From here you can determine just how much you can spend each month.

•**Prioritize spending habits.** Some ex-



penses, including medications and monthly utility bills, will always remain a top priority. However, seniors who must begin living on a fixed income need to prioritize how they spend their discretionary funds. For instance, a membership at the local country club can cost several thousands of dollars per year, whereas the local public golf course only charges players each time they play. While the country club might have a better course, it could be more prudent to choose the public course and save the cost of a private membership instead.

•**Find it for free.** Seniors pay for many services each month that they could very well find for free. For example, in addition to books, many local libraries now allow members to check out CDs and DVDs at no cost. The same also goes for magazines. Instead of paying a monthly subscription cost, visit the local library and read the magazines there for free. If the local library does not have your favorite periodical, the content could very well be available for free online.

•**Expect the unexpected.** One of the worst things that can happen to a person on a fixed income is to encounter an unexpected cost. This can include an unforeseen hospital visit, a costly auto repair, or even inflation that wasn't factored into your initial fixed income budget. Seniors on fixed incomes should expect such emergencies and save accordingly each month. Saving money should never go out of style, and those on fixed incomes should still attempt to save money each month. Coming in under budget and making the most of it can make the difference between capably handling an emergency or being forced to consider unattractive alternatives such as filing for bankruptcy.

For more information on living on a fixed income, visit the AARP at www.aarp.org.

Participate in a Clinical Trial for Parkinson's Disease



Beth Israel Medical Center is currently conducting a research study of an investigational medication to treat patients with Parkinson's disease and low blood pressure upon standing or after standing also known as Orthostatic Hypotension. Symptoms may include **DIZZINESS, LIGHT HEADEDNESS, FEELING FAINT, or FAINTING** upon standing or after standing.

Participants should be 18 years or older, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and suffer from symptoms resulting from low blood pressure upon standing or after standing. Do these symptoms severely limit you or a loved-one's daily activities? Be a part of our efforts to investigate a medication that may help people with Orthostatic Hypotension get back on their feet.

Those who qualify for this clinical research study may receive:

- Study-related materials and procedures at no cost
- Compensation for participation and travel.

For More Information about this study, call Beth Israel Medical Center at 212-844-6571.

40 TL What to do when your insurance claim is denied

BY CHELLE CORDERO

You faced your fears, went to the doctor, followed all the treatments, and took all of the pills — and now you're feeling better. But when the bills start to trickle in, your insurance company denies coverage. Suddenly, you're feeling sick again.

Suffering an illness can fill you with angst — facing the high cost of medical treatments, doctor bills, and hospitalizations can be staggering. It's reassuring to have health insurance; you expect the basics, after co-pays, to be covered. But what if they're not? What kind of recourse do you have when your insurance company says no?

In order to maximize insurance benefits, read through your policy and follow the plan language; explore discount drug options with large retailers, supermarkets, or pharmacy chains; and discuss drug replacement programs with the physician. Become familiar



with any pre-authorizations that may be necessary, and make sure you get the appropriate referrals.

Many plans will permit you to notify your doctor after seeking emergency care, but non-emergency procedures require doctor approval first. Do your research about in-plan doctors and providers and determine whether you have any provisions for out-

of-plan services. Be aware of required waiting periods for pre-existing conditions.

"A non-covered service or insurance denial can result from a pre-existing benefit exclusion or pre-authorization issue such as previous medical advice or treatment before the effective date of the health insurance plan," according to the Patient Advocate

Foundation. If this happens to you, you should carefully review the specific reason for denial and see whether you have other coverage options through personal or alternatively sponsored plans (i.e., employer or spousal coverage). Speak to the doctor's office, hospital advocacy, or case manager to find out whether they are willing to intercede in your behalf.

"Sometimes it's just a matter of reprocessing the claim," says Erin Moaratty, chief of external communications for the Patient Advocate Foundation.

If you're denied coverage, read the determination letter carefully for the exact reason that you've been turned down. Sometimes the answer is as simple as a clerical error, your doctor's office listing the wrong code, or missing documentation. Billing issues, duplicate claims, and absent information can trigger a denial. Contact your insurance company directly for the proper procedure to follow

to rectify an error. If the desired procedure is to be scheduled for the future and you're looking to pre-certify, you may need an affirmation from your doctor that proves it's a necessary treatment and not just an elective or cosmetic procedure.

If you need to file a formal appeal, make sure that you have all of your information and records handy. Be prepared to answer what type of service was, or is, needed. What was the reason the insurance company gave for denying coverage? What is the anticipated cost? Is the procedure past any pre-existing waiting periods? Is pre-authorization required or were pre-authorization procedures followed? According to a March 2011 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, 39 to 59 percent of denied claims were overturned after appeal. Your appeal has to be factual, informed, firm, and polite.

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Don't let scam artists fool you



Seniors are too often victimized by telemarketing fraud. Studies from the American Association of Retired Persons have shown that many elderly fraud victims simply don't suspect the person soliciting money on the phone could be a criminal.

The FBI reports that there are as many as 14,000 illegal telemarketing operations going on at any given time. These illegal operations generate as much as \$40 billion a year. Relatives of seniors are understandably concerned, particularly if those seniors live alone and no one is around to monitor how many calls they're receiving from telemarketers. Concerned relatives can share the following information with seniors to reduce their loved ones' risks of being victimized by telemarketing fraud.

- Legitimate marketers are not in a rush to sell products or secure donations. A legitimate marketer or charity will not try to pressure prospective buyers into making a purchase over the phone or prospective donors into making immediate contributions. Explain to seniors that a legitimate marketer will accept a person's desire for written information about the products or charity and will gladly send such information to a prospective buyer or donor's home.

- Payments are typically not picked up by a courier service. Telemarketing fraudsters often employ couriers to pick up payments. This is not the action of a reputable charity or business, and seniors should never agree

to buy a product or donate money to any telemarketer who offers to send a courier to their home to pick up payment.

- Sweepstakes cannot legally require payment to win a prize. It is not legal for contests or sweepstakes to require "winners" to pay a fee before they can enter a contest or claim a prize. Seniors should be made aware that this is the law and that any contest or sweepstakes demanding payment is bogus.

- Be especially wary of companies offering to recover money paid to fraudulent telemarketers in the past. Companies offering to recover past money lost to fraud are often fraudulent themselves. These companies will offer their fraudulent services for a fee.

- Money lost to a fraudulent telemarketer is likely lost forever. Men and women concerned about elderly friends or relatives being victimized by telemarketing fraud should explain to their loved ones that money lost in a telemarketing scam is not likely to be recovered. This should help highlight the importance of receiving official documentation from any telemarketers before buying a product or making a donation. If seniors are aware their money isn't likely to be recovered should it be going to a criminal, they are much less likely to make hasty decisions over the phone.

To learn more about fraud, visit the National Consumer League's Fraud Center at www.fraud.org.

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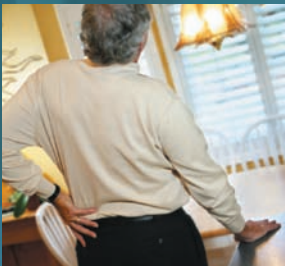
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Pols blast new district lines dividing Astoria

BY REBECCA HENELY

Astoria lawmakers said they were disappointed by the new congressional and state Senate district lines, which splits the neighborhood across two districts.

"The maps are horrible," said Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria). "They divide communities that should not be divided, including Astoria."

Both of the new maps slice off part of the north section of Astoria above Ditmars Boulevard.

Under the current congressional districts, most of Astoria, Long Island City, parts of Sunnyside and Woodside, Roosevelt Island and a big section of Manhattan's East Side are currently in U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney's (D-Astoria) district.

The only part of the neighborhood not in Astoria

is an unpopulated area owned by the Con Edison complex, which is in the district of Rep. Charles Rangel (D-Astoria).

The new maps place Astoria below Ditmars Boulevard, Long Island City, most of Sunnyside and a part of Maspeth into the district where Maloney plans to run next year. In exchange, the district also takes in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, as well as a big chunk of the East Side.

Meanwhile, all of north Astoria — including the small section in Rangel's district — is now in the district that most closely aligns with Rep. Joseph Crowley's (D-Jackson Heights) current one.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people in the new district, but my heart will always be in Astoria," Maloney said of the change.

Crowley's current



U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (c.) greets Gianna Cerbone-Teoli, the chef and owner of Manducatis Rustica, during a kickoff in Long Island City for a campaign for her recently-redrawn district.

Photo by Christina Santucci

district includes Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, East Elmhurst, College Point, most of Woodside and parts of Sunnyside, Maspeth, Corona and the southeast Bronx. The Queens section of the new district now encompasses Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst, northern Astoria, all of

Woodside, much of Sunnyside and a larger section of Maspeth.

Willets Point and parts of Corona, which were once in Rep. Gary Ackerman's (D-Bayside) district, will become part of Crowley's area, which will lose a big section of Elmhurst.

Crowley said in a state-

ment he was excited about representing Astoria.

"It is a vibrant community, parts of which I represented in the late '90s, and it will be great to have the area back in the district I represent," he said.

On the state level, the new Senate lines were originally drawn so that Sens. Gianaris and Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) were in the same district. While the new maps have changed that, Peralta's district, which once stayed mostly within the confines of the eastbound Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and the Grand Central Parkway, taking in parts of Woodside and Elmhurst, now loses most of Elmhurst in exchange for chunks of northern Astoria and Woodside.

Gianaris' district currently encompasses most of Astoria, Long Island City, Sunnyside, most of Wood-

side and parts of Maspeth and Ridgewood. The new district eliminates parts of Astoria and Woodside now in Peralta's district in exchange for parts of Elmhurst, Glendale, Woodhaven and Ozone Park.

Gianaris said he will work with his friend Peralta to serve Astoria residents, but he hopes a lawsuit in the New York Supreme Court brought by state Sen. Martin Dilan (D-Brooklyn) and other Democrats against LATFOR will overturn the lines.

"I'm optimistic that that will succeed, and that will give us one more crack at doing this the right way," he said.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

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Cross Isle Y begins policy for smoke-free outdoors



Children at the Cross Island YMCA congregate on "Kick Butts Day" to pledge against cigarette smoking.
Photo courtesy North Shore-LIJ

BY PHIL CORSO

Anyone looking to light up near Bellerose's Cross Island YMCA better think twice.

Funded by a grant from the Queens Smoke-Free Partnership, the Cross Island YMCA established a smoke-free outdoor air policy with help from the North Shore-LIJ Health System to clean up its air.

"The Cross Island YMCA is committed to improving the health of our youth, members and the community by implementing a Smoke-Free Outdoor Air Policy for our facility and grounds," said Dana Feinberg, executive director of the Cross Island YMCA. "All of our entrances, parking lots, playgrounds and tennis courts will be free from the 250 chemicals found in tobacco smoke."

A special educational program Friday announced the new initiative in conjunction with "National Kick Butts Day," an event that urges local children to say no to tobacco usage.

Children who were part of the Cross Island YMCA's after-school pro-

Smoke-free outdoor spaces protect children and adults from second-hand smoke.

Nancy Coperman

gram, at 238-10 Hillside Ave., were among more than 2,000 schools and organizations nationwide to implement anti-smoking educational activities. The events included a poster session where students created artwork to illustrate the hazards of smoking and also performed a song, pledging not to smoke.

"Smoke-free outdoor spaces protect children and adults from inhaling dangerous second-hand smoke," said Nancy Coperman, director of public health initiatives at North Shore-LIJ. "Children are especially vulnerable to second-hand smoke because their lungs are still developing and the smoke can cause worsening of symptoms of children with

asthma."

The Cross Island YMCA said it hoped to help curb younger students from picking up smoking because it would make them more susceptible to health problems such as asthma and heart disease. With help from the Queens Smoke-Free Partnership, the facility officially banned smoking in the area surrounding the building.

"I am proud of the Cross Island YMCA for helping to increase awareness and provide education to protect our children from the dangers of smoking," said Yvette Jackson-Buckner, borough manager for the Queens Smoke-Free Partnership. "As the U.S. surgeon general's report demonstrates, there are far too many young people still using tobacco and smoking early in life has substantial health risks that begin almost immediately. We must do all we can to help our youth from becoming the next generation of smokers."

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

GUIDE

ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

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Dutch Kills designer taps into fond memories when creating pieces for her LIC studio, 24Karas

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Many artists have made Queens their home, enjoying its cultural attractions, interesting communities, close proximity to Manhattan and reasonable rents.

In tune with spring, Elizabeth Karas' creative energy is in full bloom. A hopeless romantic, the jewelry designer and artisan dreams up delicate heirloom-style pieces, fashioned from silver, gold and antique brass, and occasionally accented with sapphires, garnets and diamonds. Her jewelry line, aptly named 24Karas, was born in her home studio, located in the Dutch Kills section of Long Island City.

"My jewelry has a natural, organic feel to it," said 32-year-old Karas. "It's soft and feminine, not over-complicated and heavy like a lot of jewelry out there. My goal is to make it appear softer — almost more of a textile feel; I try to make metal look like lace."

Just starting another chapter in her career, the creative entrepreneur last week opened her new Long Island City jewelry studio and showroom — one of the few in the area. It's located in an old building at 10-10 44th Ave., right near bustling, artsy Vernon Boulevard — not far from One Court Square (formerly the Citigroup Building) and close to The Foundry, a beautiful landmark building that serves as an event venue.

"One day, I would love to have a storefront studio here," said Karas, whose business partner and significant other works closely with her on the graphic design for her website, 24karas.com.

Karas takes her inspiration from a surprising mix of sources. "When I'm in the city, I long for nature, and I think that comes out a lot in the jewelry I make." Her design reflects her love of the beach and old, avant-garde French films — among other things. She even captures her Eastern European heritage: "I feel there's an old-world inspiration in my jewelry — my grandparents came over here through Ellis Island, in the '50s," said Karas.

Some of the designer's lovely pieces include antique flower and lace cuff bracelets, a Victoria chandelier's lace fleur ring with emeralds and diamonds, hand-stamped pendants

Elizabeth Karas uses silver, gold and antique brass to create jewelry for her Long Island City studio.

Photo by Elizabeth Karas

Jewels of Inspiration

Continued on Page 49

Astoria historical society remembers the Titanic

BY ALEX PALMER

The story of the RMS Titanic is getting a closer look next week.

To honor the centennial of the ship's sinking, the Greater Astoria Historical Society is hosting a lecture and film screening by Gary Vollo of the Titanic Historical Society, Monday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

The film being screened is original footage of the Titanic leaving port.

"It might be the only film of it," said Vollo. "It was found by this woman in England who had found it buried in the back of her shed — her husband was a cinematographer and just happened to have made a video of the ship and stored it."

Vollo plans to tell the story of the Titanic's sinking, which took place on April 15, 1912, but will also discuss aspects of the familiar tale that many may not have known. For example, the Titanic was one of three identical ships, it was never claimed that the ship was "unsinkable" and it actually made several stops in Europe be-



The RMS Titanic is pictured pulling into port. April 15 will mark 100 years since the ship sank in the Atlantic Ocean on its maiden voyage to New York.
Photo courtesy Greater Astoria Historical Society/Joe Colletti Collection

fore departing for America.

"I'll show photos from a priest who got on the Titanic at Southampton in England and got off at Queenstown," said Vol-

lo. "Most of the photos we have of the people on the ship were taken by that priest."

He also plans to tell stories and anecdotes about individuals

on the ship and the survivors. Vollo gave the example of one survivor who could not attend baseball games after the event, because the crowd's cheers sounded like

the chilling screams he had heard from the ship as he sat aboard a life raft watching it sink.

These personal experiences will get a special focus from another guest speaker, "Titanic Joe" Colletti, who will share personal interviews he conducted with a number of Titanic survivors. The first-hand accounts will add human voices to the now mythical event.

For years, Colletti had made his Long Island City home a tribute to the tragedy, including signs, models, and photos of those who lost their lives on the ship. The memorabilia exhibited on the inside and outside of Colletti's "Titanic House" were donated to the society in 2010 and will be part of the event.

Also in attendance will be Lindsay Gibbs, the author of "Titanic: The Tennis Story," a historical novel based on a true story of two Hall of Fame tennis players who survived the sinking and went on to play each other in the U.S. Open quarterfinals two years later.

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #6								
6					8		1	7
5						4		
	3			6	4			
4		9		5				
		5	6	3	2	9		
				4		7		1
			7	1			8	
		7						9
2	4		9					6

Hard #6								
					3			
3				7		8		
		4	9	6	1		2	
5			4			7		
		8				5		
		1			6			4
	2		7	8	9	6		
		9		4				7
			6					

Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There should be no repeats; which means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

Tips at www.sudoku.com
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Guys and Dolls Jr – The cast from JHS 189 will perform this Broadway classic set in a New York mission populated by do-gooders and gamblers competing for local hearts and souls.
When: March 29 and 30, 7 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: (718) 463-7700
Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Tlen Huicani – Tlen-Huicani (pronounced wee-KAH-ne) – which means “the singers” in the indigenous Indian language of Nahuatl – is one of the most faithful interpreters of the traditional folk music of Mexico and Latin America. Tlen-Huicani has taken the beautiful “harpa jarocho” or folk harp, and has made it the centerpiece of their music.
When: March 31, 8 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona
Contact: Box Office (718) 760-0064; Administration (718) 760-0686
Website: queenstheatre.org

Ramona Quimby – The exasperating but lovable

third-grader, Ramona Quimby, has delighted young readers for over 50 years through the books of Newbery Medal-winning writer Beverly Cleary.
When: April 1, 1 pm and 3 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona
Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686
Website: queenstheatre.org

In Laws from Tirana – Directed by Ioanna Katsarou. Wealthy couple of central Greece look to find a good, wealthy husband for their daughter Liza, who is studying in London. When Liza brings her boyfriend Alfrent home to visit with his parents, a series of comical incidents begins to unfold as new surprises turn every corner.
When: Through May 6; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 pm; Sundays, 4 pm
Where: Greek Cultural Center, 26-80 30th St., Astoria
Contact: (718) 726-7329; reservations@greekculturalcenter.org
Website: greekculturalcenter.org

Rapunzel in the Library – Contributors to “Rapunzel in

the Library,” a site-specific installation at the Queens College Art Center, will let their hair down at a groundbreaking group show. Performance and reception.
When: April 4, 6 pm
Where: Queens College Arts Center, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: 718-997-3770
Website: qc.cuny.edu/Art_Library/artcenter.html

Drama Class – For ages 8-13. Recital in June. Pre-registration and payment required. Beginners and intermediate two separate classes.
When: Saturdays, April 7 to Saturday, June 30, 10 am-11 am
Where: Poppenhusen Institute, 114-04 14th Rd., College Point
Contact: (718) 358-0067

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting – Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.
When: Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck
Contact: Robin Gorman Newman; robin@lovecoach.com (516) 732-0911

Monthly Jazz Jam – The Flushing Town Hall Jazz Jam Series is a unique free jam session right here in Queens. No need to travel into Manhattan, share the stage with our Jazz Jam house band at monthly jams curated by internationally acclaimed trumpeter and Queens College Professor, Michael Mossman. All levels are welcome; just drop by and sign in! (btw, we got the baby grand, drum kit and the house band.)
When: April 4, May 2 and June 6, 7 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: (718) 463-7700
Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

EVENTS

International Night – This

Continued on Page 48

A Lost Treasure Now On Stage

China was once known as the Celestial Empire. For 5,000 years, the Middle Kingdom was home to an unparalleled legacy of heroes, legends, and virtues that still resonate in the present. But in recent decades, under campaigns like the Cultural Revolution, this rich heritage has been almost completely eradicated in China. Where can you find authentic Chinese arts and culture today?

The answer is New York, because the world's premier classical Chinese music and dance company, Shen Yun Performing Arts, is returning to Lincoln Center next month.

Shen Yun is the first company to present classical Chinese dance to the world on a large scale. It also features the only orchestra to combine both Western and Chinese instruments as its permanent members. Shen Yun has taken the globe by storm, performing in over 100 cities. Its January shows at Lincoln Center were sold out.

The show is a celebration of traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be experienced—a study in grace, wisdom, and virtues distilled from millennia of civilization. It is a glimpse into a long-lost world that exists nowhere else—not even in China today.

With mesmerizing choreography, colorful costumes, stunning animated backdrops, and tremendous athleticism, Shen Yun takes the audience on a jour-



Shen Yun Performing Arts, Recalling the Great China, 2011.

ney through time and space to ancient lands, mountain peaks, and even heavenly paradises.

“If heaven is the way we saw it tonight, count me in,” said Academy Award-nominated producer Nathaniel Kahn after seeing Shen Yun.

Ancient Chinese artists cultivated virtue, believing that to create true art worthy of the heavens, there must first be inner purity. Today, Shen Yun's artists follow this noble tradition. The result is a performance of consummate beauty and goodness. It is a show that nourishes the soul.

Shen Yun will perform at Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater April 18-22. For more, visit: ShenYun2012.com/NYC or call 1-800-818-2393.

Photo Credit: © 2011 Shen Yun Performing Arts

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<div><div><div>CHOICE A</div><div>\$23.⁹⁵</div><div>Any 5 Items</div><div>Stuffed Shells</div><div>Tortellini w/Meat Sauce</div><div>Ravioli</div><div>Baked Ziti</div><div>Eggplant Parmigiana</div><div>Sausage & Peppers</div><div>Broiled Chicken</div><div>Small Meatballs</div><div>Linguini, w/Clam Sauce</div><div>Pasta w/Broccoli,</div><div>Garlic & Oil</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>CHOICE B</div><div>\$25.⁹⁵</div><div>Any 3 Choices From A</div><div>Any 2 Choices From B</div><div>Chicken Pizzaiola</div><div>Chicken Francaise</div><div>Chicken Marsala</div><div>Veal Cutlet Parmigiana</div><div>Veal Marsala</div><div>Tortellini Alfredo</div><div>Penne Vodka</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>CHOICE C</div><div>\$26.⁹⁵</div><div>Sit Down Dinner - 1 of 3 Choices</div><div>VEAL CUTLET</div><div>Marsala, Picatta Parmigiana</div></div><div><div><div>CHICKEN</div><div>Marsala, Parmigiana</div><div>Francaise</div></div><div><div>FISH</div><div>Filet of Sole</div><div>Broiled, Parmigiana</div><div>Tilapia Oregonata</div></div></div><div><div><div>PASTA COURSE</div><div>Tomato, Marinara, Vodka</div></div><div>Minimum of 25 People • Above served with either Antipasto, Garden Salad or Caesar Salad, Unlimited Wine, Beer, with Soda. Coffee & Tea Joreum wines \$2.50 extra)</div></div></div>
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THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

Folk Songs from Around the World – In solo, duo and trio arrangements.
When: March 29, 2 pm
Where: Windsor Park Public Library, 79-50 Bell Blvd. at 73rd Avenue, Oakland Gardens
Contact: (718) 468-8300
Website: www.queenslibrary.org

Queens College Chamber Music concert series – Two operas will premiere this spring: “The Image Maker” (world premiere) and “My Kinsman, Major Molineux” (New York premiere). Other highlights include performances by Rebel: A Baroque Chamber Ensemble, Trio 101, Queens College Chamber Orchestra (with Charles Neidich), Phillips-O'Connor-Han Trio, Claremont Trio, and the Phillips-Frampton-Rosen Trio. Check full schedule online.

When: March 30, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 5, May 6, May 11
Where: LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 793-8080; jane.cho@qc.cuny.edu;
Website: www.kupferbergcenterarts.org

Lhevinne Classical Concert Quintet – A Supernova Production. Features the dynamic international ensemble of some of the finest musicians in New York, The Lautreamont String Quintet, formed in 2005 by violinist Steven Zynsajn. The musicians include some of his closest colleagues from The Julliard School. They have performed over 40 programs throughout the New York area, of the sort encountered in the golden age of classical music.
When: March 31, 7:30 pm
Where: Center at Maple Grove, 127-15 Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens

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THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from Page 47

week St. Francis Prep is celebrating International week. There will be all kinds of events presented by the clubs during the week. Food tasting, National displays and performances by our International Clubs.

When: March 30

Where: St. Francis Preparatory School, 6100 Francis Lewis Blvd., Fresh Meadows

Contact: (718) 423-8810

Astoria Comedy All Stars

— Ben Rosenfeld hosts five different comics each week. Comics range from underground NYC acts to nationally touring headliners. The show is absolutely free, no cover charge and no drink minimum.

When: Tuesdays, 8 pm

Where: On the Rox Lounge, 43-03 Broadway, Astoria

Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@bigbencomedy.com

Website: www.bigbencomedy.com/blog/archives/astoria_comedy_all_stars/

First Sundays for Families

— The Queens Museum of

Art and MetLife Foundation invite families of all ages to an exciting array of interactive dance, art and music workshops.

When: First Sunday of each month, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Cost: Free

Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Contact: (718) 592-9700

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

Black History Art Show —

Collage work by Edwin G. Cadiz.

When: Through March 30

Where: Long Island City Public Library, 37-44 21 St. at 43rd Avenue, Long Island City

Contact: www.queenslibrary.org

Art Exhibit and Opening Sale —

Featuring the work of Lee Guest. Wine and cheese reception.

When: March 31, 6 pm

Where: APT Cafe, 176-09 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica

Animation — Cartoons come to life at the New York Hall of Science during Animation, a 6,000-square-foot exhibition featuring characters from the Cartoon Network. The exhibition explores animation from concept to finished product — from storyboarding, character design, and drawing techniques to movement, timing, filming and sound.
When: Through March 31
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353
Website: www.nyscience.org

A Fascinator Workshop —

For ages 8 and up.

When: April 1, 2 pm

Where: Fort Totten, Fort Totten, Bayside

Contact: (718) 352-1769

Lee Guest — Art exhibition and sale. Wine and cheese reception.

When: April 1, 6 pm

Where: Afrikan Poetry Theatre, 176-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica

Contact: (718) 523-3312

Website: www.afrikanpoetrytheatre.org

Open House and Painting Demo —

Painting instructor
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24Karats

Continued from Page 45

and floral earrings, La Fleur antique brass ring with gems, silver nautical-style men's cuff links and the Queen of Hearts ring. Her popular lace 14-carat crown ring has sold as a wedding band for brides. "A lot of pieces we're doing now are mostly metalwork," said Karas.

Using her imagination, Karas sometimes sketches a new design, but explains that "many pieces just happen organically, on their own, while I'm working with metal or a piece of fabric — shaping it, designing it." As she works on her new collection, which she expects to complete by August, Karas hopes to get her line into retail stores one day.

Realizing her dream

Growing up in Hartford, Conn., Karas said her dream was always to come to New York.

"You have so many resources here," she said. "I don't think I'd be doing this if I was still living in Connecticut."

"When I came to New York in 2005, I worked as associate art director for Victoria's Secret. In my



Elizabeth Karas started 24 Karas after attending a Brooklyn jewelry school. Photo by Steve Lawrence



Jewelry by 24 Karas is available at 24karas.com.



Photos by Elizabeth Karas

free time, I would walk around the jewelry district and get inspired by what I saw around me. So, I began making jewelry for friends and family, and was enjoying it. I wanted to learn how to design. I loved working with metal and the whole process of working with your hands."

That led to a whole new chapter in her life. She decided to free-

lance, doing graphic design part-time while attending a jewelry school in Brooklyn. But it was at a jewelry manufacturing company on 47th Street, where Karas learned her craft hands-on sitting alongside seasoned jewelers, who shared their expertise with the budding designer, whose very first pieces were created here. "I learned how to make a collection

and what it takes to put together a jewelry line. After that, I started my own business and website: 24Karats."

Karas has been renting a bench and making her pieces at the jewelry company on 47th Street for several years. Her line is manufactured there.

Eventually, Karas said she would like to offer beginner jew-

elry classes in her new studio.

As a part-time poet, Karas said she would "like to think that the pieces have a story, a bit of mystery. I hope people see that when they look at them."

Her pieces are available through 24karas.com. Shoppers are welcome to come in, browse and place an order at the studio. Custom designs can be ordered.



EVERYDAY SPECIALS

PASTA NIGHT
Every Wednesday is pasta night at DiMaria's! That's right. All pastas marked as lunch specials are continued all the way through dinner. Valid for Dine-in only. 4pm-9:30pm

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Continued from Page 48

Shawn Sullivan will host.
When: April 5, 7 pm
Where: National Art League, 44-21 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston
Contact: (718) 428-1859
Website: www.nationalartleague.org

Collage in Context – Edwin G. Cadiz, a native New Yorker with roots in Puerto Rico, presents colorful canvases and intricate

collages. This exhibition shows the visual memory of multiple influences.
When: Daily, until Monday, April 30
Where: Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, 100-01 Northern Boulevard, Corona
Contact: (718) 651-1100
Website: artist-unlimited.com

Ralph Weiss Photographs –

Working only in black and white, Weiss uses vintage camera and darkroom equipment that is painstakingly maintained. Weiss' images test the edges of light and most of his prints require hours in the darkroom. The exhibition of works produced since the 1990s, drawn from a private collection, focuses on images of ice, water and sea plants. Reception March 24 from 2-4 pm.
When: Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays through April 22, 1 pm
Where: Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing

Contact: (718) 359-6227
Website: www.vomuseum.org

In Perpetuum/Forever II – The second of a free two-part exhibition on the evolution of art will be on view. "In Perpetuum/Forever II" will show how one artist's work – that of Anne Sherwood Pundyk – influences the creations of other artists, writers, musicians and dancers. This collaborative residency will culminate on April 4 with a performance and presentation of the artists' works.
When: Through April 24
Where: Queens College Arts Center, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 997-3770
Website: qc.cuny.edu/art_library/artcenter.html

Rapunzel in the Library – Exhibitions of Anne Sherwood Pundyk and others.
When: Daily, until Wednesday, April 25
Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 997-5000

Vignettes from The Queens Project – The photography of Audrey Gottlieb will be on exhibit in the Visitor &

Administration Building Gallery of the Queens Botanical Garden. Artist's Talk May 19.
When: Through May 19
Where: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing
Contact: (718) 539-5296
Website: www.queensbotanical.org

FILM

Speedsuit – An independent film with a fresh take on teen bullying. Discussion to follow.
When: March 30, 7:30 pm
Where: Afrikan Poetry Theatre, 176-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica
Contact: (718) 523-3312
Website: www.afrikapoetrytheatre.org

Persona Performa Panorama – A 50-foot-long video panorama featuring 24 actors playing 24 "personas" fused together in action and image, inspired by Ingmar Bergman's film "Persona."
When: Through April 1
Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria
Contact: (718) 777-6888
Website: www.movingimage.us

DANCE

Free Line Dance Lessons – Free line dance lessons given by professional dance instructor, Bernardo, every Monday.
When: Mondays, 1 pm
Cost: Free
Where: Pomonok Senior Center, 67-09 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: Jennifer Buljan (718) 591-3377

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Interwoven Worlds – Explores Turkey's domestic and nomadic lives.
When: April 1, 2 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: (718) 463-7700
Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

POETRY

Poetry Group
When: Wednesdays, 1 pm
Where: Queens Community House, 80-02 Kew Gardens

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Mar. 29-Apr. 4, 2012

By Ed Canty (Ed@gfrpuzzles.com)

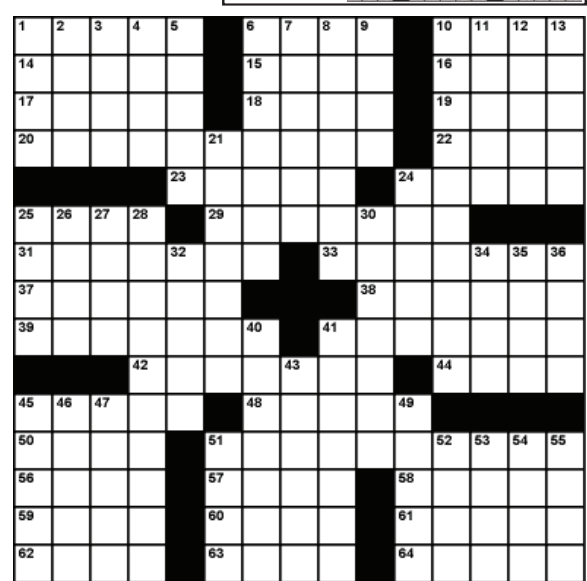
All About Winning

Across

- 1. Radio-active travelers?
- 6. Stare
- 10. Lady's escort
- 14. Townie
- 15. Get an ___ effort
- 16. Stick in the fridge
- 17. Ball-hiking cue
- 18. Job moves: Abbr.
- 19. Actor Neeson
- 20. San Francisco landmark
- 22. Ford's running mate
- 23. Baseball's Hunter
- 24. Many times
- 25. Den ___ (The Hague, to the Dutch)
- 29. Radio pioneer
- 31. Tough guy of filmdom
- 33. Porthole view
- 37. Served the soup
- 38. Detroit baseball players
- 39. Ushers
- 41. Odometer reading
- 42. Proper manners
- 44. Tin Man's worry
- 45. Like some agreements
- 48. "Peanuts" character
- 50. Cherry variety
- 51. Top Olympic honors: 2 wds.
- 56. Urban haze
- 57. ___ land
- 58. Krone spenders
- 59. Spread
- 60. First family's home
- 61. John of rock
- 62. Suffix with gang
- 63. Spanish direction
- 64. Holds one's horses?

Down

- 1. Thick-soled shoe
- 2. Pro ___
- 3. Environmental sci.
- 4. Big name in mapmaking
- 5. Winter driving hazard
- 6. Show signs of aging



HEARD IN COURT

C	L	A	R	A	R	E	B	E	L	P	T	A
L	O	M	A	N	E	N	O	L	A	A	T	L
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H	R	S		E	L	I	T	E		E	A	T

- 7. Fling
- 8. White House feature
- 9. Scottish Gaelic
- 10. James Bond foe
- 11. Poet T. S. ___
- 12. Football Hall-of-Famer Greasy ___
- 13. "...Good will ___"
- 21. Always on the move
- 24. Buck of baseball
- 25. Place for a lecture
- 26. Wings: Lat.
- 27. ___ dash of salt
- 28. Prospecting woman?
- 30. Ideal
- 32. Change, as a clock
- 34. Junior of the NFL
- 35. Units of work
- 36. Words before "of rules"
- 40. Type of mutual funds: 2 wds
- 41. Ordinary
- 43. Small stream
- 45. Recipe amts.
- 46. Draw a bead on
- 47. 100 smackers

- 49. Passover meal
- 51. Kind of club
- 52. Broad valley
- 53. Against
- 54. Boxer Spinks
- 55. Tax IDs

Quotable Quote

Dig where the gold is...unless you just need some exercise.

... John Capozzi

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Seafood Salad -	\$12.95

Pasta	
Lobster Ravioli w/Shrimp in Pink Sauce -	\$18.95
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Cheese Ravioli -	\$12.95
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Where: Jamaica Center for

Arts and Learning, 153 St. and Jamaica Ave., Jamaica

Contact: (718) 658-7400 ext. 152;

Website: www.jcal.org or www.myspace.com/gimmeseries

First Tuesdays – Open to all who have a passion for poetry. Organized by the Jackson Heights Poetry Festival

When: First Tuesdays of the month

Cost: \$5

Where: Terraza Cafe, 40-19 Gleane St., Jackson Heights
Website: www.jhpfest.org/v2/readings.php

Open Mic Night

When: Last Friday of every other month. Doors open at 9 pm

Where: The Afrikan Poetry Theatre, Inc., 176-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica

Cost: \$10

Contact: (718) 523-3312

Poet Society – The Forest Hills senior center presents.

When: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Where: 108-25 62nd Drive, Forest Hills

Contact: (718) 699-1010

Literary Art, Poetry, Spoken Words Workshop – Create poems using poetic techniques, meter similes and more.

When: Fridays, 4 pm

Where: LeFrak City Public Library, 98-30 57 Ave., Corona

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 592-7677

Poetry Group

When: Every Saturday evening, 7:15 pm

Where: Genesis Tree of Life Center, 102-19 Metropolitan Ave., Forest Hills

Contact: (718) 544-5997

TOURS

King Manor

When: Thursday and Friday, noon to 2 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm Groups of 10 or more must call ahead.

Where: Rufus King Park, 150th

to 153rd Streets, Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica

Contact: (718) 206-0545

CLUBS

The Flushing Camera Club

When: First and third Wednesdays of each month (as well as on a fifth Wednesday when there is one), 7:30 pm

Where: First floor auditorium of the Flushing Hospital Admin. Bldg., corner of 45th Avenue and Burling Street, Flushing

Contact: (718) 441-6210

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Business

Middle East experience in Auburndale

Silk Hookah Lounge offers a nightlife alternative to the run-of-the-mill neighborhood sports bar

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The ancient practice of smoking hookah is believed to have begun in 16th-century India, from where it migrated to the Middle East, eventually exploding up and down the sidewalks of Astoria's Steinway Street, and has now crossed great distances to take hold in Auburndale.

Farrukh Pakal said he and his wife, Kirn, decided to open the Silk Hookah Lounge, at 192-08 Northern Blvd., as an alternative to those popular on Steinway, which he said often get the hookah part right but not the lounge.

"Any lounge you walk into is more like a restaurant with tables and chairs," said Farrukh Pakal, a Pakistani native. "People smoke

hookah to relax. If you're not sitting comfortably, you can't relax."

Hidden behind a wall of near black tinted windows, the interior of Silk is certainly atmospheric, with dark cherry wood walls and plenty of places to sit along a wall of sanguine, upholstered benches and a few plush couches — though not so much seating as to stack customers on top of one another.

The hookahs themselves are packed and served by an employee after customers order an extensive list of more than 60 varieties of natural herbs, which include standards like honey, peach and cherry for \$10.99 or Silk special blends such as silk chocolate and Pan Masala — a potent flavor derived from



Silk owner Jimmy Pakel enjoys one of the lounge's hookahs.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

the betel nut — for \$13.99. Farrukh Pakal said Silk's hookahs use coconut charcoals, which are less harsh than traditional ones.

Lest one should picture a room full of burning hookahs choked by a thick cloud, the herbal hookah

smoke does not hang in the air the way cigarette smoke does, and Silk has a state-of-the-art "smoke eater" that can quickly clear the room if needed.

Farrukh Pakal said that in the Muslim world, where alcohol is verboten,

hookah lounges are where people go to socialize, akin to sports bars where fans go to watch cricket and soccer matches. The owner, who lives in Fresh Meadows, said Auburndale seemed like an ideal fit for his business because of its proximity to the borough's Indian and Pakistani populations.

Silk is open for 12 hours starting at 3 p.m., and Kirn Pakal said she imagines the lounge will be filled early in the afternoon with a college crowd taking advantage of the free Wi-Fi, and later by those looking for an alternative to the bar scene.

"Usually, the night is 'this restaurant followed by this bar.' Now it's 'this restaurant followed by this hookah lounge,'" she said.

City regulations re-

quire patrons of hookah bars be 18 or older, Kirn Pakal said.

Hookah herbs can range in intensity. Some, like mints, are strong, but most of the herbs on Silk's menu are mellow, fruity flavors, and to make them even softer a customer can order a fresh-fruit hookah for \$19.99, where the herb is actually smoked through a piece of fresh fruit.

The lounge also offers fresh juices and smoothies, teas and hot drinks and in the future will serve light bar food.

For more information, call 718-CAL-SILK.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Women's History Month — To celebrate Women's History Month, the Queens Economic Development Corp. and Flushing's Deluge Restaurant invite the public to a free networking event honoring women from the borough and their successes as entrepreneurs. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet start-up business owners and discuss partnership opportunities. Cash bar.
When: March 29, 6 pm
Where: Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Ave., Flushing

Entrepreneur Workshops — The first class will focus on what lenders look for and preparing to make a loan request. Participants will get a one-on-one review of their credit reports, find out if they qualify, and/or learn how to improve their credit to qualify for a loan. In the second class, a loan officer will review participants' financial documents and loan purposes and determine how a loan will help them grow their business.
When: April 4, 6 pm
Where: Entrepreneur Space, 36-46 37th St., Long Island City

Youth Tech Initiative Program — Increase your employability. Free advanced training

in Microsoft Word for anyone ages 16-24. Participants will have the opportunity to take the Microsoft Office Specialist exam at the end of training to become Microsoft Certified.
When: Tuesdays, April 3 to Tuesday, May 22, 6 pm-8 pm
Where: The Daughters of Isis Foundation Office, 148-14 Liberty Ave., Jamaica
Contact: (917) 292-5176; loliver24@verizon.net
Website: luecorp.tripod.com

IMTI Open House — Learn about evening training certification classes in electrical technician, HVAC technician, plumbing technician and electronics systems technician careers, including solar. School tours, financial aid information will be available.
When: April 3, 7 pm; April 10, 7 pm; April 17, 7 pm and April 24, 7 pm
Where: Con Edison Learning Center, 43-82 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City

Powerful You! Women's Network — A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.
When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm
Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston
Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009
Website: www.powerfullyou.com

Power Networking Group — Led by Harvey G. Beringer
When: Every Wednesday, 7 am
Cost: \$10 for breakfast
Where: Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside
Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or (718) 423-0427

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly Meeting — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.
When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside
Contact: Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

FUND-RAISERS

Garden Gala 2012 — Garden School, an independent, coeducational institution in Jackson Heights, will honor William Vogel, lower division head who has been with the school since 1997, at this year's gala. Live and silent auctions with dinner and dancing.
When: March 30
Where: Terrace on the Park, 52-11 111th St., Corona
Contact: (718) 335-6363; gala@gardenschool.org;
Website: gardenschool.org

Talent Show — Surprise celebrity guest appearances and performances.
When: March 31, 4 pm
Where: Campus Magnet Complex, 207-01 116th Ave., Cambria Heights

Lucky Draw — a one of a kind art raffle guarantees that each and every ticket holder walks home with a work of art! This fast-paced one night event offers first time and seasoned collectors access to artworks by top emerging and established talent. All proceeds benefit SculptureCenter.
When: April 4
Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Astoria
Contact: (718) 956-1819
Website: www.socratessculpturepark.org

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- String Bean Almondine
- Roasted Potatoes
- Sweet Potato Pudding
- Vegetable Medley

PACKAGE INCLUDES

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Redistricting

Continued from Page 4

main in the district where Crowley will seek re-election.

On the state level, the Senate lines were highly contentious, and the subject of two lawsuits — one of which may be resolved in early April. Those lines were drawn by Senate Republicans while Assembly Democrats drew their lines.

The 11th District, represented by Sens. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), and the 16th District, now held by Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone), stayed basically the same in their overall bizarre shapes, but their edges became more jagged as lawmakers saw fit to draw in specific blocks but not others. This prompted Avella to call for an investigation.

But in general, the neighborhood of Bay Terrace will switch to Avella's current seat as will Latimer Gardens, the Bland Houses and the housing complex

of Mitchell-Linden.

On the other hand, portions of Flushing just east of downtown will move to the 16th District seat.

That seat in the majority Asian district will be centered around downtown Flushing, with two long arms reaching out to the east and west.

To the west, the arm centers over the Long Island Expressway and encompasses Pomonok, Electchester and portions of Fresh Meadows and Bayside. To the east, the arm encompasses large portions of Forest Hills, Rego Park and Elmhurst.

The Assembly districts saw a major shake-up as well between District 25, currently represented by Lancman, and District 24, currently represented by Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Little Neck).

District 25 used to run north

to south and encompass Whitestone, Flushing, Fresh Meadows, Kew Gardens Hills, Briarwood and portions of Richmond Hill, but now it is a majority Asian seat that will run east to west and include more of southern Flushing and portions of Fresh Meadows and Bayside.

The district currently represented by Weprin includes Jamaica Estates and Auburndale to the west and runs through Fresh Meadows, Douglaston, Little Neck, Glen Oaks and Floral Park in the east.

But the new district starts at Richmond Hill in the east and then follows the Grand Central Parkway west through Jamaica Hills, Jamaica Estates, Holliswood and Fresh Meadows before ending up again in Oakland Gardens.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Extra seat

Continued from Page 4

cans dismissed the suit, saying not only does constitutional formula require them to add another seat, but the lines were already signed by the governor and they expect them to be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice within two months.

Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) will be watching the case for a different reason.

She is waiting for the court decision before deciding whether to run in the majority Asian district in Queens, which most closely resembles her current district, or in the seat currently held by Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside).

"I am running for re-election to the state Senate. Because of the hyper-partisan, political nature of the redistricting process and the uncertainty surrounding the litigation, I have not decided in which district

I will run," she said in a statement.

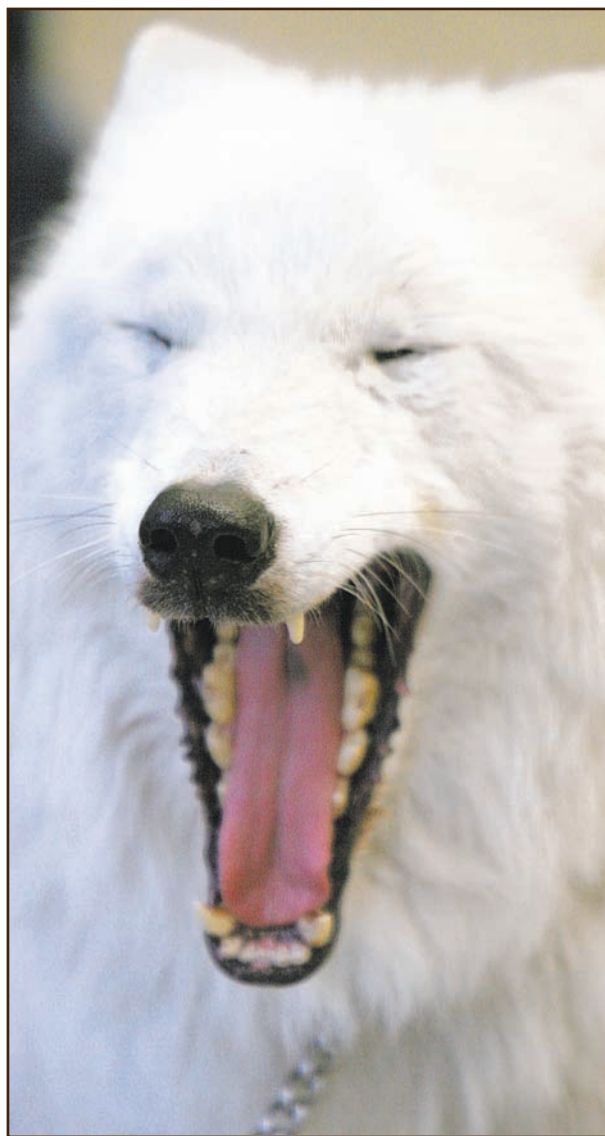
During the redistricting process, Stavisky's home was redrawn into the same district as Avella's.

If Stavisky decides to run in that race, she will face a primary with Avella, her former aide, who won his seat by defeating Republican Sen. Frank Padavan in late 2010. The winner of that race might face Padavan, as the former senator has not ruled out a run for that seat, he said Monday.

Stavisky could also run in the majority Asian district, since she has a year to move there under election rules, but she will also face a primary there.

A lawyer named John Messer is running as a Democrat in the 16th District. Messer ran for the same seat against Stavisky in 2010.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.



Wolf visits Alley Pond

Representatives from the Wolf Conservation Center of South Salem, N.Y. visited the Alley Pond Environmental Center in Douglaston Saturday with Artic gray wolf, Atka. The Wolf Conservation Center, founded in 1999, promotes conservation by teaching about wolves and encouraging people to become involved in protecting their future. (Clockwise from l.) Atka shows off her teeth with a large yawn; one youngster listens to the presentation; Atka circles the room at APEC with Rebecca Bose; and a little lotion on the floor causes the wolf to roll onto her back.

Photos by Christina Santucci



Pilot has meltdown aboard flight from JFK to Vegas

BY JOE ANUTA

A JetBlue flight leaving John F. Kennedy International Airport for Las Vegas Tuesday had to be rerouted to Texas after eyewitness accounts and video evidence revealed the captain had to be restrained in the aisle by his own crew and passengers.

A JetBlue spokeswoman would only confirm that "the pilot in command elected to divert to Amarillo, Texas, for a medical situation involving the captain."

The plane took off from JFK at 7:38 a.m., but was diverted to Texas at about 10 a.m., JetBlue said.

Passengers on the plane said a man acting erratically ran up to the locked cockpit door and began banging on it and saying, "We've got to get this plane down."

Two flight crew mem-



Officials remove baggage from JetBlue Flight 191 and begin searching for explosives at Amarillo Rick Husband International Airport in Amarillo, Texas.

AP Photo/The Amarillo Globe News Michael Schumacher

bers began trying to subdue the man, who passengers later found out was the captain of the flight, while an off-duty captain hopped into the cockpit and helped land the plane safely.

In footage captured by a passenger's camera, a group of large men can be seen at the front of the plane, where eyewitnesses said they rushed to assist

crew members trying to subdue the pilot.

Law enforcement officials, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, met the plane at the gate and took the pilot into custody.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by email at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Accord will give MTA \$13B for use on its capital projects

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Work will continue on such major transportation projects as the Second Avenue subway and the East Side Access under an agreement involving Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state Legislature.

The accord would provide \$13.1 billion and make possible the purchase of new subway and commuter train cars along with elevators and escalators and subway station repairs and improvements for the last three years of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's 2010-14 construc-

tion projects.

The agreed-on money will relieve a shortage in the MTA's \$22 billion Capital Program.

Construction projects resulting from the money infusion are expected to create more than 100,000 jobs, officials said.

The MTA hailed the Albany agreement.

"The MTA is grateful for Gov. Cuomo's leadership and commitment in recognizing the critical importance of funding mass transit and in particular fully funding our current Capital Program," the agency said. "The MTA Capital

Program not only provides for continued investment in our network, but also creates tens of thousands of jobs and generates economic activity across the entire state.

"With this funding, the MTA will continue to enhance our riders' experience by investing in the future of our transportation network, as well as bringing our assets up to a state of good repair."

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by email at timesledgernews@cnglocal.com or phone at 718-260-4536.

Bayside diner's boxing event benefits St. Mary's kids

The Terrace Diner of Bayside hosted a boxing-themed charity event last week in conjunction with Winner Take All Productions to benefit St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children.

The event included food, prizes and the opportunity to meet boxing legends, all to benefit children with special needs and medically complex conditions at St. Mary's.

"The children of St. Mary's present a cause that we just had to get involved with, and we're excited to continue this relationship with St. Mary's kids," said Jimmy Papageorgiou, co-owner of the Terrace Diner.

For the event, the diner served a five-course dinner with prizes and drawings throughout the evening to raise money for the hospital.

Winner Take All Productions also presented a lineup of boxers, including two former welterweight champion and Olympic gold medalist Mark Brenland, former world champions Juan Laporte and Michael Bentt and Bayside's own Fred Liberatore — all of whom share the same concern for the welfare of St. Mary's Kids.

"As a business in the Bayside and Bay



The Terrace Diner of Bayside hosts a boxing-themed charity event to benefit St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children.

Photo courtesy St. Mary's Hospital.

Terrace area, we feel it is essential to support great projects like St. Mary's and help the community in whatever capacity that we can," said Peter Kaouris, co-owner of the Terrace Diner.

St. Mary's Hospital works with children who are battling complex medical and life-limiting conditions due to serious illness, injury and complications of premature birth.

— Phil Corso

Flushing groups to revive neighborhood chamber

A new Flushing Chamber of Commerce is in the works after an older iteration was officially disbanded in February following a long period of inactivity.

Several community organizations and Queens lawmakers were set to announce the initial steps that will form the chamber this week.

The organizations that will make up the host committee include the Flushing Chinese Business Association, the Kore-

an American Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Flushing Indian Merchants Association, the Union Street Merchants Association and One Flushing.

The advisory board will include politicians and the heads of Flushing businesses.

— Joe Anuta

Lancman backs law to protect construction workers on the road

A new law requires motorists who drive past construction crews to move over a lane and allow them room to work.

The previous law only required motorists to move over for law enforcement or emergency vehicles, according to state Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows), who said the expended scope of the "Move Over" law could help cut back on roadside injuries and death. Between

2003 and 2010, 1,000 workers have died in roadside accidents.

"Anyone whose job requires them to be exposed on the side of a highway deserves the potentially life-saving consideration that this law provides," Lancman said at a Friday news conference.

— Joe Anuta

Hospital

Continued from Page 4

“The trustee gave a preview of the plan of correction and we told them it would take substantial work and substantial time — a period of several weeks, perhaps months,” DOH spokesman Michael Moran said.

Jones could not be reached and Peninsula representatives declined to comment.

Moran said the DOH was expecting Peninsula to submit a closure plan and would work to ensure medical records are available to patients and are transferred to appropriate providers at their request.

“The department will monitor operations at Peninsula to ensure an orderly closure,” he added. “The department will work with other providers to make sure patients have access to services that will be closing.”

Hospital employees

said Peninsula was expected to shut its doors Friday in a move that would cost about 1,000 people their jobs. Health care workers union 1199/SEIU said it was disappointed with the outcome, especially since employees had worked so hard to keep the hospital open.

“This is an incredibly sad day for our workers, whose sole priority was saving Peninsula so it could continue its vital services to the Rockaway community,” the union said.

The entire borough of Queens has had to deal with hospital closures in the last few years. Since 2007, four hospitals in the borough have closed: St. Joseph’s Hospital in Flushing, Parkway Hospital in Forest Hills, Mary Immaculate in Jamaica and St. John’s Queens Hospital in Elmhurst.

North Shore-LIJ Health System, which operates hospitals in Forest Hills and New Hyde Park, released a statement saying it could help pick up some

of the slack.

“As the region’s largest health care provider, North Shore-LIJ has been serving the very same communities served by Peninsula for many years,” it read. “As we did following the closure of St. John’s and Mary Immaculate hospitals in Queens, we’re prepared to help in any way we can.”

State Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-St. Albans) said he spoke with the commissioner of the DOH, and the two would be working together to ensure health care options would exist for the affected communities.

“I don’t know what that would be, but we believe we can sit down with a group of shareholders and create a brain trust that can provide options,” he said. “We are 100 percent committed to providing something as a substitute.”

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.

Bell

Continued from Page 5

they’re above the law,” he said. “Some of them, not all of them.”

The Detectives Endowment Association could not be reached for comment.

Leroy Gadsden, president of the Jamaica branch of the NAACP, said he thought Police Commissioner Ray Kelly and Mayor Michael Bloomberg missed an opportunity to mend the relationship between the NYPD and the public.

“How do we reward conduct that resulted in the killing of a citizen? That left children behind without a father, a lady without

a husband, parents without a son?” he asked. “It begins with the mayor and the commissioner. They are the power holders in this tension relationship.”

He said that in order to move forward, it is essential for those in the highest positions of power to initiate moves that foster cooperation, respect and trust between communities and police.

“I’m afraid this might cause a hostile reaction to the police, and that’s not a good thing,” he said. “We need the police to protect our communities.”

City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) said the relationship between law enforcement and

citizens has always been a tenuous one, and added he felt NYPD Chief of Community Affairs Philip Banks is genuinely trying to ease the tension.

“I know the police are trying harder to do outreach and reach out to the community,” he said. “It’s always an evolving and difficult issue.”

William Bell said that while police matters were out of his hands, he would continue to help his neighbors through the community center bearing his son’s name, at 107-52 Sutphin Blvd.

“I’m trying to keep his name alive as long as I can,” he said. “I’m trying to help the community.”

Armenian

Continued from Page 5

and 1916 and included the killing of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians.

Papazian said groups around the world commemorate the genocide annually on April 24, or the nearest Sunday, to mark the 1915 date when nearly 300 Armenian leaders were deported and killed. On the same day, near 5,000 Armenians were slain in the streets of Constantinople.

The survivors were gathered Sunday afternoon as part of an annual effort by the Armenian home, at 137-31 45th Ave. in Flushing, to keep their stories alive.

Charlette Kechejian, 99, was born in Nikhda and spoke of how she traveled through the desert as an 8-year-old with her mother to escape persecution by the ruling Young Turks.

“It’s something I hope you never see,” Kechejian said. “I went through a lot,

but I knew that it would one day be different.”

Kechejian said she remembered her mother continuously promising her that if she walked a little longer, she would find “comfort and happiness.” She went on to have three children in New York, who have provided her with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Perouz Kalousdinian, 102, said she was 6 years old when Turks barged into her home in Harput and forced her family out. From what she could remember, she said Turks had taken all the men over 15 years old, including her uncles, tied them up two by two and threw them over a bridge into the Euphrates River.

“We suffered and we suffered,” Kalousdinian said. “We had nothing.”

Kalousdinian and her mother were taken in as slaves by the wife of a Turkish leader and worked as maids in their house before fleeing to Syria. Her father, who fled to America, was later reunited with his fam-

ily when Kalousdinian and her mother traveled to the United States to escape the genocide.

Azniv Guiragossian, 101, was born in Urfa and fought back tears when asked about her memories of fleeing the Armenian genocide. She said she was moved around through different orphanages and lost all her personal possessions.

Papain said the Armenian home had recordings of the survivors telling their stories because preserving them was essential to the history.

“Remembering their stories shows that it’s a reality and now just an issue,” Papazian said. “There was a tremendous amount of suffering. It’s important because it hasn’t yet been resolved.”

He said the ultimate goal was to resolve all cases of the genocide, which included recognition from the Turkish government and compensation in the form of money or property taken by the Turks.

Horse

Continued from Page 5

animal rights activist, said he plans to launch a Facebook page and a website to protest all future races at Aqueduct until a root cause for the deaths is identified.

Last year, Aqueduct averaged 5.5 injury incidents per 1,000 stats, but that number jumped to 6.4 in 2011, according to a report in The New York Times. The nationwide average is 5.2, according to the newspaper.

A representative for NYRA said horse racing officials welcome the inquiry as a safe racing environment is its “highest prior-

ity.” The next major race at Aqueduct is the 88th running of the Wood Memorial, scheduled for April 7.

“They [the panel] possess the knowledge and expertise needed to perform a comprehensive review of NYRA’s procedures and recommend changes to improve safety at all our racetracks,” said NYRA spokesman Dan Silver, adding that he had no reason to suspect the Wood Memorial would be delayed.

Aqueduct operates on the grounds of Resorts World Casino New York City, which opened its doors last October after a complete overhaul of the facility. While the gaming company remains sepa-

rate from the racetrack activities, spokesman Stefan Friedman acknowledged that the company has a vested interest in the safety of the animals racing at Aqueduct.

“While we have no say in any decisions, rules or actions regarding racing, we fully share the concerns that New Yorkers have expressed over revelations of tragic outcomes at horse racing facilities both here and across the country,” he said.

Equine safety has recently become national news after HBO announced the cancellation of the horse racing-themed show “Luck” after a rash of horse deaths and poor ratings.

Tuskegee

Continued from Page 7

try was. People would look you in the face and say, ‘We don’t hire Negroes here.’”

Brown later was a professor at New York University and president of Bronx Community

College.

Some former Tuskegee Airmen wore their military uniforms, including Julius Freeman, of Springfield Gardens. He handed out cards bearing his phone number in his capacity of keeping track of surviving members.

During World War II, the armed forces were racially segregated, with most black personnel

sent to labor battalions and other support units and kitchen personnel in the Navy.

President Harry Truman abolished segregation in the military in 1948.

A visit to Tuskegee, Ala., by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1941 is believed to have heavily influenced a decision by President Franklin Roosevelt to or-

der the formation of an African-American unit in the Army Air Corps. The college provided flight training in a contract with the Tuskegee Institute.

By war’s end, the training program produced 996 pilots, 450 of whom served in combat and more than 15,000 ground crewmembers for the Tuskegee Airmen, who were awarded 150

Distinguished Flying Crosses for valor.

The Tuskegee Airmen lost 66 of its members killed in action and 33 become prisoners of war. The organization’s main function was flying North American P-51 Mustang fighter planes to escort U.S. bombers, such as B-17s, in raids on German cities.

Sports



John Adams baseball Coach Glenn Beyer has high spring hopes.
Photo by Christina Santucci

John Adams, LIC revv up for spring

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Glenn Beyer won't make a prediction about the regular season for one simple reason: The long-time John Adams baseball coach isn't concerned about it. His only focus — the focus he's always had in 18 years at the Ozone Park school — is on late May.

The playoffs are the real season; everything else is merely a warm-up. When it comes to the post-season, his goal is always the same.

"There's only one hope I have every year: to win a championship," he said. "That's the only reason to go out and play. It's not arrogant or cocky. Our goal is to win a championship because that's all we know. Is it realistic? We have a puncher's chance because of our talent and our two pitchers."

Beyer has high hopes because of how much he returns. It starts with power-hitting middle infielder Jeffrey Valera, who is hearing from a host of top junior colleges, a player he says

compares favorably at this age to New York Mets farm-hand Carlos Guzman.

"Jeffrey was a better player than Carlos at this age," Beyer said of the 6-foot, 190-pound Valera, who hit four home runs, batted .474, drove in 36 runs and scored 21 times a year ago. "It's very hard to get your number retired by me, but he'll get his number retired at the end of the year. He's one of my all-time players."

Fellow infielder Jorge Barahona, who had 29 RBIs and hit .490 last season, returns and so is catcher Adonis Castillo. Beyer thinks he has a solid pitching half. Right-hander Braylin Abreu, the staff ace, is back after going 7-1 last season, and will be followed in the rotation by junior varsity call-up Anderson Deleon and Tames Vargas.

Vargas can hardly break a pane of glass with his fastball, but the soft-tossing left-hander mixes up his pitches well and hits the corners. Deleon is hard

Continued on Page 62

Judges: The team to beat

Cardozo baseball has consecutive boro titles coming into season

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Ron Gorecki started talking about his team and couldn't stop, raving about one impact player after another, all his pitchers, the deep lineup, even a few reserves.

The fourth-year Cardozo coach has known nothing but success in his three previous seasons — consecutive Queens A East division titles and a second-round finish in last year's city playoffs — and he expects that to continue this spring.

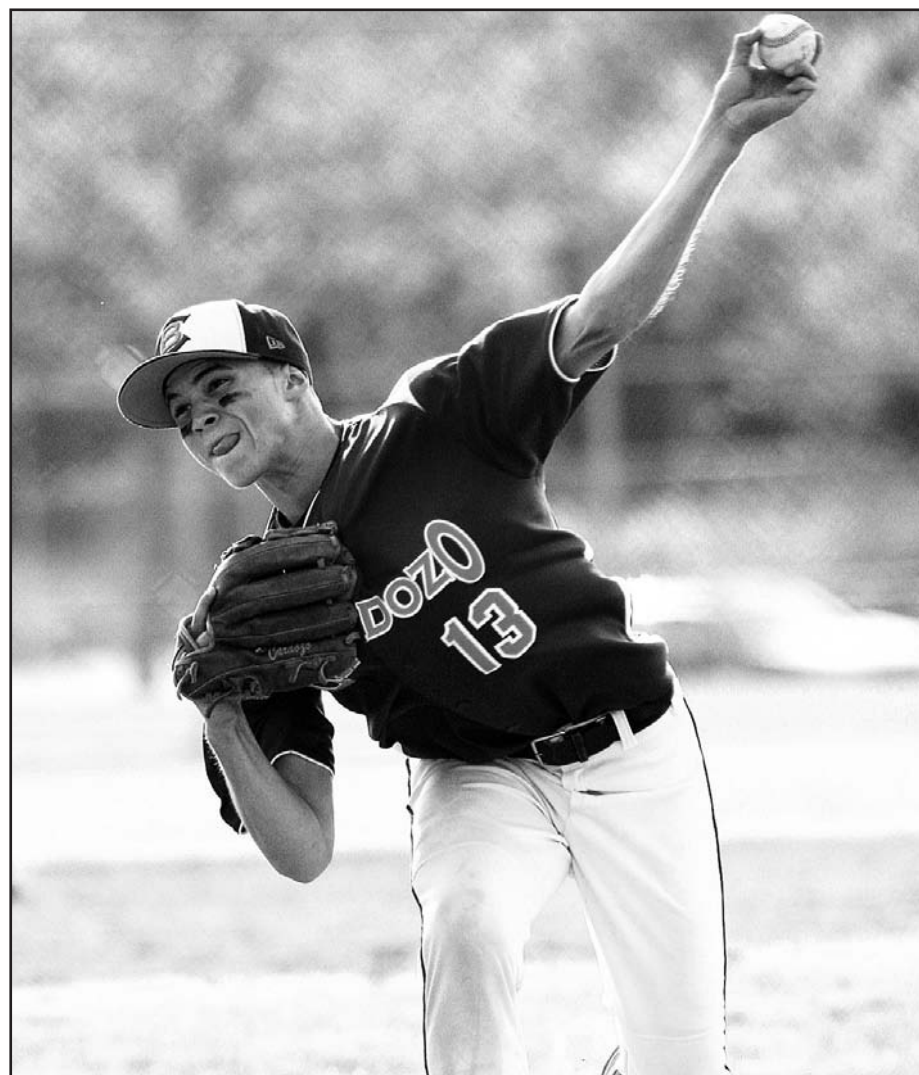
"If we play our game, there isn't anybody in the city we can't beat," he said.

The Judges return virtually their entire team from last spring, which went undefeated in league before falling to Taft by a run in the second round. The group has been fortified by three difference-making transfers in hard-throwing right-hander Connor Doyle (Townsend Harris), power-hitting second baseman Chris Campbell (Monsignor McClancy) and outfielder Daniel Beizer (St. Francis Prep).

"It seems like people are catching onto the program we're building at Cardozo," Gorecki said.

The top of the rotation is set with sensational junior left-hander Adrian Castano, Doyle and senior Calvin Luk. As a sophomore at Townsend Harris, Doyle went 4-2 and struck out an astounding 89 in 41 innings pitched in addition to hitting .558 and driving in 21 runs.

Castano and Doyle can



Adrian Castano is one of the city's top PSAL two-way talents.

Photo by Christina Santucci

both be overpowering with fastballs reaching into the high 80s while Luk "is like a Greg Maddux," Gorecki said, who went 4-1 on the mound a year ago.

Consistent offensively a year ago, Gorecki can see his offense taking a step forward. First baseman Nelson Santiago, shortstop Nicanor Luna, catcher Sean Karol, Castano and

third baseman Diego Gonzalez are all a year older, stronger and more experienced and Campbell adds a potent bat to an already fierce middle of the order.

"This kid is like a little Ricky Henderson," Gorecki said. "He's 5-7, 180, but when he hits the ball, he just destroys the ball."

Despite all the additions, Castano remains the

face of the program. He had a breakout sophomore season, going 6-0 on the mound with 69 strikeouts in 49 innings pitched and .373 with 25 runs scored and 15 RBIs. Gorecki lamented losing that contest to Taft because he would've loved to see what Castano could've done against Bronx dynamo Lehighman in the quarterfinals.

Continued on Page 62

Strong pitching will lead Molloy, SFP baseball

BY MARC RAIMONDI

It's all about the arms this year for Archbishop Molloy.

The expectations are high in Briarwood, mostly because of the depth of pitching the Stanners have coming off a trip to the CHSAA's final eight.

"I think if our pitchers throw strikes," legendary Coach Jack Curran said, "we'll be pretty good."

Jonathan Ramon, the team's Evansville-bound star, will be a key cog in the rotation and split time at third base and first. Ramon, though, hasn't pitched enough to be relied on as the team's ace, Curran says. Luckily for Molloy, he'll have plenty of support from Rosario DiLorenzo, Donovan Armas, Greg Boyle, Thomas Ashton and Chris Piteo. Charles Alvarez, who was impressive in a scrimmage Monday against Archbishop Stepinac, will also get a shot.



Evansville-bound pitcher/third baseman Jonathan Ramon will be a key cog for a Molloy team.

Photo by Robert Cole

"Charlie is gonna get in there," Curran said. "I think overall we'll be good. We have enough pitchers."

The coach joked that he didn't think Molloy would score any runs against Stepinac in the scrimmage,

but the Stanners won 9-4. The offense, he said, might surpass his expectations. Ramon and first baseman Mike O'Dwyer will provide pop in the middle of the order, while it'll be center fielder Frank Peperone, left

fielder Kevin Cregan, second baseman Mike Lipovac and utility guy Piteo setting the table.

Tom Hackimer, brother of former Molloy star Ed who played at Iona, will be at shortstop and John

Sideris is behind the plate. When he's not pitching, Armas will be in right field.

Molloy fell to eventual champion Xaverian and Xavier in the CHSAA Class AA double-elimination inter-sectional tournament last year. Those losses came only after Ramon pitched a six-hit shutout against eventual runner-up All Hallows, striking out five batters.

It'll be pitching again that defines Molloy in 2012. Curran, in his 54th year at the helm, thinks his team could be in the mix.

"I hope so," Curran said. "We always like to be there. We've been in a lot of them. Hopefully, they'll do well. We'll see as things go on."

St. Francis Prep Coach Bro. Robert Kent thinks his Terriers could be in a similar position, returning a decent core from a final eight squad.

"I think we're gonna surprise a lot of people,"

Kent said.

He'll be looking to ace Taso Stathopoulos after gaining some valuable experience in 2011 postseason. Against Moore Catholic in a CHSAA Class AA best-of-three third round qualifying series, he threw a complete-game four-hitter in Game 1, won Game 2 in relief and tossed a complete-game three-hitter to seal a series victory for St. Francis Prep.

Stathopoulos will be supported by a solid lineup, led by first baseman/pitcher Nick LoPrinzi, second baseman Gabe Gonzalez, shortstop Danny Pellegrino, third baseman Arron Acosta and center fielder Steve Pelan. Jeremy Fernandez will slide in behind the plate for graduated star Chris Cannon, who is starting at Navy as a freshman.

Kent says the key, though, is in the field. The goal is to return to the double-elimination final eight.

Mary Louis softball facing strong Molloy, Prep clubs

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Mary Louis' motto for this season is "respect all, fear none." The Hilltoppers have been one of the city's most talented squads, but have struggled against CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens leaders and rivals Archbishop Molloy and St. Francis Prep.

"We get into that big game with Prep and Molloy, you see the name on the shirt and they are just different," Hilltoppers softball Coach Ginny Peiser said of her team's play.

She believes this group has the ability to get over the hump, saying it will need to get the keys hits to go along with strong defense and pitching. Mary Louis will get three cracks at each this year in the new five-team top division with Bishop Kearney and St. Edmund moving down.

Sophomore Nicole Hu-

bert will need to be a big part of that success. She burst onto the scene last season with a lively arm and a clutch bat. Hubert takes over for Rebecca Warne as the team's ace, has added pitches and worked on her control to limit walks. She went 3-for-3 with two doubles and three RBIs during a win over Christ the King in the Brooklyn/Queens quarterfinals. JV call-up Kristen Freile will be the team's No. 2 starter.

"She is more mature on the mound," Peiser said of Hubert. "She is throwing a lot harder and cutting down on the walks. It's nice to see. She knows going into it that she's No. 1. Her confidence is really high right now."

Hubert will also hit fourth in a lineup loaded with quality bats. Senior third baseman and No. 3 batter Shannon Minihane is one of the city's



TMLA Coach Ginny Peiser believes her team has a deep lineup.

Photo by An Rong Xu

best line drive hitters and is extremely difficult to strike out. Veteran catcher Stephanie Barbaro brings a strong bat and ability to call a superb game. Deirdre Munday brings her power bat and experience back to center field and Julie Canova, who has impressed at the plate early, returns at

first.

"I'm playing with it to see what combination works, but from top to bottom we really don't have a weak batting order anywhere," Peiser said. "It's going to be strong."

Alyssa Paolicelli is back at second base and could be in the leadoff spot

depending on the development of super speedy sophomore Gabby Malave, who will see time in the outfield. Sam Rossi will be in left and JV call-up Kim Myers should see time in right. The speedy Louisa Conway and Brittany Nicoll, a line-drive type hitter, will split time at shortstop depending on who is hitting best.

"They play well together and our defense is awesome," Peiser said. "We just got to get the hits to go with it. Getting over that hump I think is going to be the key."

Bobby Suarez is of the belief that you can't let Christ the King's youth fool you. The Royals' roster boasts just three seniors this season.

"I think we are going to surprise a lot of people and I like that feeling right now," the second-year coach said.

These three seniors

have all been some of the league's best players during their careers. Catcher Erica Eddy has a strong arm behind the plate and a steady bat. Shortstop Kim Velez has good range and is impossible to get out when she gets going. Josephine Phillips will be the team's No. 2 starter.

"I think she can carry this team a long way," Suarez said of Velez.

A lot of the Royals success will have to do with lefty windmill Amanda Gauthier. The hard-throwing junior has been gritty in the circle since coming up as a freshman. The majority of the club is made up of a talented group of sophomores, starting with athletic centerfielder Destiny Marino. Jessica Vietez will see time at catcher and in left field.

Boys and Girls star shines at MSG debut

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

In early November, Rashad Andrews was focused on helping St. Anthony repeat as mythical national basketball champion.

By mid-March, he was at Madison Square Garden, shooting the lights out and leading Boys & Girls to its third-straight PSAL Class AA title.

When reminded of the rollercoaster ride during the last four months of life, Andrews shook his head in disbelief.

"I never imagined anything like this," he said.

The 6-foot-5 wing left St. Anthony after a disagreement with the school, which he said was non-basketball related and declined to go into the specifics.

The Queens native, who verbally committed to Adelphi in the fall, landed at Boys High and got off to a quick start, scoring 12 points and adding eight rebounds in his debut, a rout



Boys & Girls' Rashad Andrews scored 26 points to lead the Kangaroos to their third-straight city title Saturday.

Photo by Christina Santucci

of Westinghouse. He had his ups and downs, averaging 10 points and five rebounds per game, but provided the Kangaroos with a tough perimeter defender, one of the team's calling cards.

His postseason was following a similar path until Saturday afternoon at the Garden, when Andrews exploded for 26 points and earned MVP honors.

He almost single-handedly gave Boys High a cushion, scoring 21 points in the first half, and made all five of his three-point attempts. Shooting at the Garden is usually tough for players in their debut; Andrews felt at home.

"I felt comfortable on that court," he said. "It felt like I was in the NBA."

Jefferson Coach Lawrence "Bud" Pollard said he was the difference in the title game. Andrews expected to have opportunities, thinking the Orange Wave would look to take away Leroy "Truck" Fludd and Wesley Myers.

He took advantage of every chance, sinking the three-pointers and also getting to the free throw line and creating off the dribble.

"We were going to have to go to Rashad and he was prepared," Myers said.

After the contest, when asked about Adelphi, Andrews said he wasn't sure about his immediate plans.

During the week, he said he might consider opening up his recruitment, but that he had yet to decommit from the Division II school.

Glaz gives it her all in loss

Scholars Academy sophomore plays through pain in semifinal

BY MARC RAIMONDI AND JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

ALBANY — Jessica Glaz was fouled and landed hard hip first on the ball in the fourth quarter. She was on the ground for a minute, writhing in pain. But the Scholars Academy sophomore refused to come out of the game. Never mind that her team was facing an insurmountable deficit.

"You're not gonna be able to keep her out of the game," Scholars basketball Coach Janet Kleiner said after a 72-44 loss to Long Island Lutheran in the New York State Federation Class B semifinals Friday morning. "She is as mentally and physically tough as they come."

Kleiner said the trainer looked at Glaz while she was on the ground and gave the coach the option to remove her from the game. Kleiner gave one look to Glaz and she refused to come off the Times Union Center court.

"I wanted to keep the motivation up," Glaz said. "It doesn't matter that we're not gonna come back. We at least wanted to make the lead less."

She finished with 21 points, including a 5-of-7 clip from three-point range. Kayla Nolan added nine points. It was Scholars Academy's second-straight trip here in just its third varsity season. The two-time PSAL Class B champion did it this year with a vastly different group. Taylor Gallagher was the only



Scholars Academy's Jessica Glaz had 21 points and five three-pointers against Long Island Lutheran.

Photo by Denis Gostev

returning starter.

"It was not expected at all this season," Kleiner said.

After winning two in a row in the 'B' league, Kleiner said the Seawolves will petition the PSAL to move up to Class A next year. Glaz couldn't be more excited about that opportunity.

"In the 'B,' we proved

ourselves," she said.

So did Glaz. Kleiner called her performance against one of the area's top teams a "typically Jessie game. She's always able to find a way." Long Island Lutheran Coach Rich Slater was impressed by the Rockaway school's star 10th-grader.

"She played hard, she competed," Slater said.

"She looked like she was having fun out there. She was one of the best shooters we saw this year."

Loughlin seniors in search of college destination: Kasim Alston believes his two star seniors have shown they deserve better when it comes to recruiting. His daughter Nyree Alston and fellow guard Ayana Ratliff are still without a college scholarship offer as their Bishop Loughlin team is a victory away from winning the program's first state Federation Class A crown.

"Somebody's missing out," the coach said.

He said the two know how to handle the ball and the pressure, play tough defense and make big shots when needed. The 5-foot-6 Ratliff is an athletic slasher and Alston, who is 5-foot-5, is a sure-handed point guard, who can knock down the 3. Ratliff scored 25 points in the Lions' 70-58 state Federation Class A semifinal win over Rochester East Friday. She also had 30 points to help Loughlin beat Mary Louis for the CHSAA city title. Alston tallied 13 points, including four three-pointers versus Rochester East.

"We play against the toughest competition," Kasim Alston said. "Other kids who are signed don't play against this level and are signed to mid-majors or majors and can't even compete and can't even walk in those girls' shoes."

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to get a read on because he's only 5-foot-5 and throws harder than many might expect.

"The ball comes on you quickly," Beyer said. "He has tremendous command, a good change-up."

Tom Lehman is thrilled star center fielder Josh Almonte has emerged as a pro prospect. The Long Island City coach always

saw such potential in Almonte, but he's pleased not just for Almonte, but the effect it's having on his entire team.

"Sometimes we have Division II, Division III schools come down, but this is a first for our program," Lehman said after three Major League scouts attended his team's scrimmage against Grand Street Campus earlier in the week. "I always tell my guys you have to play like someone's watching you. They see who's watching and they're

like, 'You're right.'"

It also helps that Long Island City's hardest working player is also Almonte, its best player, Lehman said. Not that Almonte is the Bulldogs' lone threat. Cleanup hitter Leo Soto will bat behind Almonte, sophomore shortstop Christian Guerrero will also hit somewhere in the middle of the order and right-hander Charlie Mendes will be the staff ace.

"We have a very young team, but I think we can be very competitive," Leh-

man said. "We have some talent."

Newtown's inexperience will be in the dugout, not on the field. With 11 seniors and 10 juniors, the Pioneers are loaded with upperclassmen — but they will be playing for a new coach. Junior varsity head man Ramon Canela will take over for longtime head man Neil Rosenblatt.

"For me this is a dream true," the Newtown graduate said. "I'm very happy for the opportunity to do this."

Canela will be relying on veterans such as senior catcher Luis Estevez, junior third baseman Chris Moreno and pitchers Naveed Asif (senior) and Alex Cruz (junior). Canela is high on Asif, a 6-foot-5, 240-pound hard-thrower he hopes can be an intimidating presence on the mound. He's also looking for big things out of Cruz, who sat out last year after transferring into Newtown from Queens Vocational Tech.

Judges

Continued from Page 59

"Adrian is probably one of the top 10 players in the city," Gorecki said. "I think at this stage of the game he's a mini five-tool player."

Gorecki is excited about this group, as much for all the talent at his disposal as the caliber of kid. Before talking about his kids' skill set, he raved about this group's chemistry and how close the team seems to have gotten already.

"There is a synergy, everybody on the team makes everybody else better," he said. "We have an enthusiasm that just started spreading."

The talent certainly seems to be there for a long playoff run. Gorecki said

he sees the potential to get to "the last game." Cardozo has fared well against a difficult preseason schedule and nearly topped defending champion George Washington after falling into an early hole. The coach said he scheduled the game as an early test, to see how kids would respond against a powerhouse foe it could see sometime in late May or early June.

"I wanted to play George Washington the first week of the season because I wanted to show the kids the intimidation factor up there. It's a different atmosphere our kids aren't accustomed to," Gorecki said. "That's over. We are no longer intimidated."

In fact, Cardozo may be the team intimidating others this spring.

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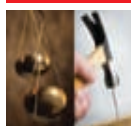
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ANTONIS LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/19/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Maria Spentzouris, 34-20 31 Street, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

FAST BOX, LLC App. for Auth. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/24/2012. LLC was organized in CA on 4/12/2011. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to 2245 Colorado Blvd., #104, Pasadena, CA 91107, Which is also the required office in CA. Cert. of Org. filed with SSCA, 1500 11TH St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

FENESTRA CONSTRUCTION LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/11/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 6017 68th St., Ridgewood, NY 11385. General Purposes.

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► LEGAL

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NOTICE of Formation of 34-24 Collins Place, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 2/16/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O WALTER QUINTEROS 99-31 64 AVE. REGO PARK, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: HDK REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 40-19 154th Street, Flushing, New York 11354. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 5 LEAP LIFE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/07/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O WALTER QUINTEROS 99-31 64 AVE. REGO PARK, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: YONDAR 1, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/01/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 58-32 217th Street, Bay-side, New York 11364. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SAU Ho, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/12/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC 8604 104 St. Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ARTISOUND, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/27/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it

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may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 44-02 23rd ST, SUITE 414 LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Nine Ten LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 12/29/11. Office location:

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Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 231-09 87th Ave., Bellerose Manor, NY 11427. Purpose: any lawful activities.

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Notice of Formation of NJT Properties, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 1/11/11. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of

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process to Michael Lagudis, 45-59 196th Pl., Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of RO-ZABURANA TAXI LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/27/12. Off. loc.: Queens County. SSNY

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designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 101-03 80th St., 1st Fl., Ozone Park, NY 11416. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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Notice of Qualification of SECAC Tunnel Co., LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 2/15/12. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in DE on 2/14/12. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served

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and shall mail process to the principal business addr.: c/o Michael A. Capasso, 54-08 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101. DE addr. of LLC: c/o The Corporation Trust Co., 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801.

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Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

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Last week, we discussed how to take notes. This week we'll focus on listening.

No matter what method of note-taking is used, adequate listening skills are necessary to take effective notes. This helps students transfer what the professor is saying into ideas that can be put down on paper. Staring off into space or having your mind drift can cause a student to miss out on key parts of a lecture. To improve note-taking skills, a student must first improve listening skills.

• **Sit up closer to the teacher or professor:** This enables eye-to-eye contact that may help a student focus. It may also trigger visual clues to a professor to gauge whether the class is catching on or missing what's being taught. It's also advantageous from a practical standpoint. It enables students to better hear what's going on. If the professor is garbled or inaudible when sitting far away, moving closer is essential, especially in a large lecture hall.

• **Remove distractions:** When a student enters the classroom, he or she should be ready to learn. That means silencing mobile devices and gearing the mind toward the lessons. Not every lecture will be exhilarating, so students should make a conscious effort to pay attention. Limiting distractions can help.

• **Use an assistance device:** Students who are prone to "zoning out" may want to ask permission to use a voice recorder. This way if key elements of the lesson are missed, they can be played back. This method also helps students fill in gaps when taking or studying notes. Keys To Note-taking Once listening skills have improved, students can go onto to other note-taking pointers.

Continued next week.



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