

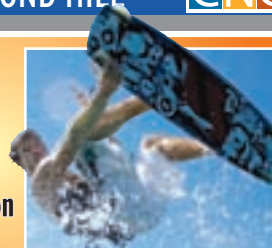
## SE Queens protests frequent stop-frisks

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A TimesLedger Special Section  
Pages 23-27



## Walcott visits city's stand-out HS for Sciences

BY RICH BOCKMANN

City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott took a victory lap around the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College Monday morning after the Jamaica school was recognized as one of the best in the country by U.S. News & World Report last week.

"This is good news and we want to sing about it," Walcott said as he toured several classrooms early in the morning with Principal David Marmor.

Citing near-perfect proficiency levels on math and English exams, the magazine awarded the school a gold medal, ranking it the fourth best in the city, seventh best in the state and 52nd best in the nation, out of nearly 22,000 evaluated.

Some 87 percent of the school's 415 students, 90 percent of whom are minorities, graduate college-ready, according to the report.

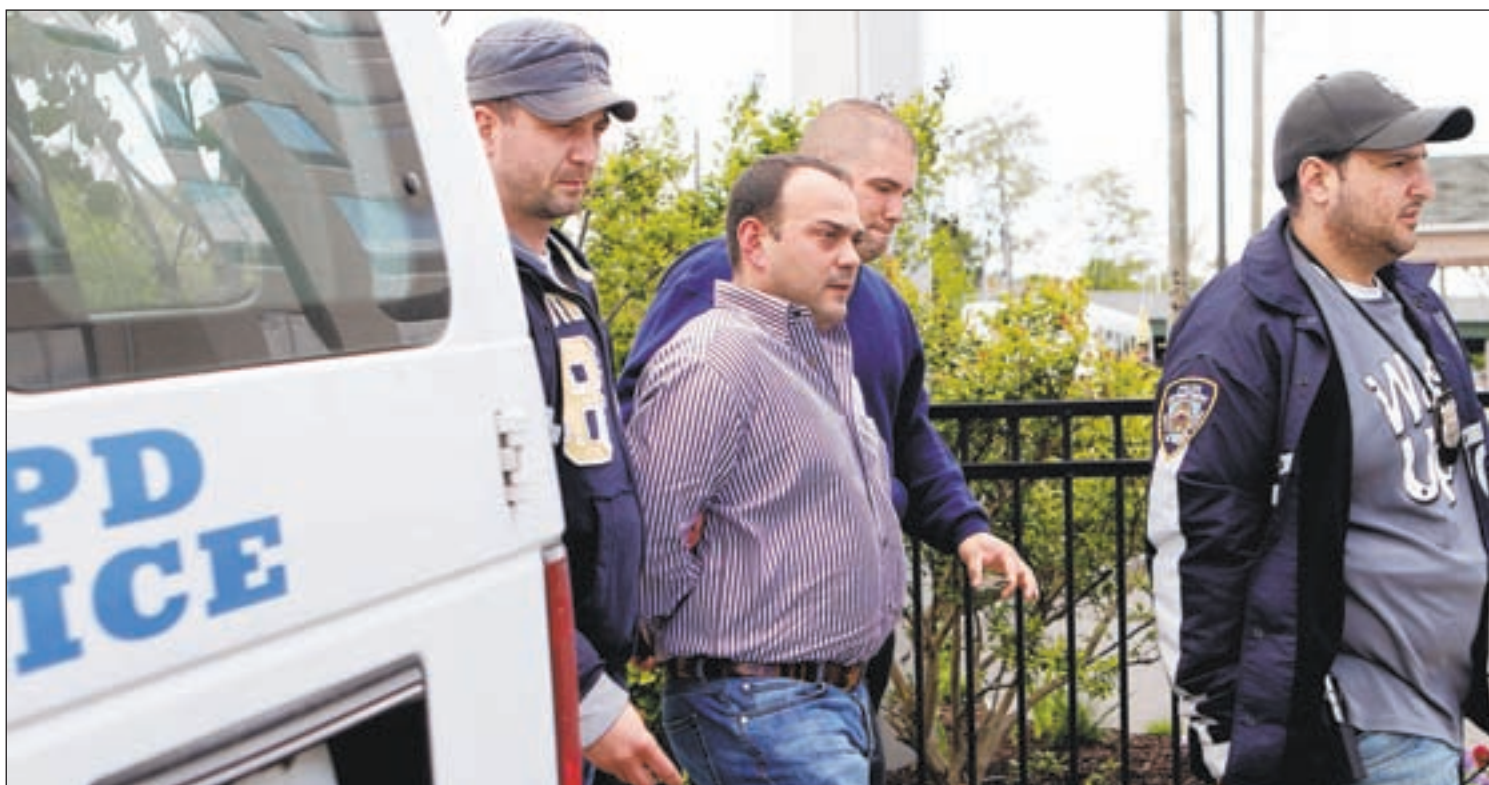
On state English Regents Exams, 99 percent of students tested proficient — a figure that was bested by students on Math Regents Exams with 100 percent testing proficient.

The school, at 94-50 159th St., is a specialized high school that requires applicants to take an entrance exam and draws students from across the city.

Continued on Page 14

## Two men killed at hotel near JFK

Police investigating cause of apparent murder-suicide outside airport



Police remove a man in handcuffs from the hotel. All four men taken into custody were later released and not charged in the murder-suicide.

Photo by Christina Santucci

BY PHIL CORSO

A business meeting turned deadly last week when one man opened fire on another before turning the weapon on himself in an apparent murder-suicide at a hotel near John F. Kennedy International Airport, authorities said.

According to police, Gary Za-

levsky, 47, of Sunny Isles Beach, Fla., was sitting in a private room with five other men last Thursday near the Hilton Garden Inn lobby, at 148-18 134th St., before he stood up and fired five shots into the head of Brian Weiss, 31, of Davie, Fla.

He then turned the stolen .380-caliber Beretta pistol on himself, police said.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said authorities were investigating what may have led to the dispute between the men, but Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told The New York Times they may have been linked by an Internet vitamin or food supplement business project.

Police said they have not

found any relation between Weiss' shooting and his professional standing. Weiss worked as a top officer for FWM Laboratories, a southern Florida company that marketed health supplements online, The Times reported.

The state's Better Business Bureau collected more than 4,000 complaints against Weiss' compa-

Continued on Page 14

# Police probe Rich Hill death

Driver of sedan kills immigrant from Guyana, 47, in hit-and-run

BY JOE ANUTA

The family of a Guyanese immigrant was making funeral arrangements this week after police said a car slammed into the 47-year-old father of two while he was crossing Liberty Avenue in Richmond Hill Sunday morning and then fled the scene.

Police could not confirm the make or model of the car, but surveillance footage from a nearby store shows a two-door, dark sedan hitting Rohan Singh so hard that the Woodhaven man flew into the air and landed in a heap on the sidewalk near the corner of 108th Street.

According to witnesses, Singh was walking from a nearby bar to a corner store when he was struck.

Police received the call at about 3:15 a.m. Emergency personnel took Singh to Jamaica Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to the NYPD.

Later Sunday, Singh's family came to the scene of the accident and put up a small memorial.

"It's not right. They hit him and leave him to die in the street," said Chateram Singh one of the man's seven siblings. "I can cope with it, but for my mother it is very hard."

Singh has a wife and two teenage children living in Guyana, his brother said.

According to shop owner Mike Ficco, Singh



Chateram Singh weeps while kneeling near a makeshift memorial for his brother Rohan.

Photo by Joe Anuta



Runa Singh holds a photo of her brother Rohan, who was killed in a hit-and-run accident in Richmond Hill.

Photo by Joe Anuta

often came into his store to buy a beer.

"He was a nice guy," Ficco said as he fielded questions and accommodated a crowd of reporters and neighbors. "I wouldn't be doing all this if he wasn't."

Ficco played surveillance footage of the accidents for horrified family members and neighbors.

Singh's family is currently attempting to get a visa for the slain man's wife to come to the country.

His brother asked anyone with information to contact the police.

# Sanders to challenge Huntley for Senate

BY RICH BOCKMANN

City Councilman James Sanders Jr. (D-Laurelton) has announced his intention to challenge state Sen. Shirley Huntley (D-Jamaica) as she seeks a third term for the 10th District seat in southeast Queens.

Sanders was unavailable for comment earlier this week, but his office confirmed the councilman announced his plan over the weekend just before a Mother's Day concert he hosted in Springfield Gardens.

The Democratic primary is scheduled for Sept. 11.

In the Council, Sanders is the chairman of the Civil Service and Labor Committee. He has authored bills restricting sales of guns to people under 21 and enhancing opportunities for women- and minority-owned businesses.

Huntley is chairwoman of the Senate committee on city school governance and has sponsored a

number of bills enhancing rights for those with developmental disabilities.

Sanders will be term-limited out of his Council seat, which covers Laurelton, Rosedale and parts of Springfield Gardens and the Rockaways, at the end of his tenure in 2013, and a source close to his campaign said state redistricting lines affected his decision to challenge Huntley.

"The councilman sees this as an opportunity that came about from favorable redistricting lines," the source said. "Huntley lost a portion of her district that knew her very well and picked up a new portion where people don't necessarily know her well, but they do know Sanders Jr."

The 10th Senate District lost parts of Springfield Gardens, St. Albans, Jamaica and Kew Gardens, but picked up parts of Ozone

*Continued on Page 14*



City Councilman James Sanders Jr. will challenge state Sen. Shirley Huntley for her District 10 seat.

Photos by Christina Santucci

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# St. John's coach shares inspiring story with new grads

Cancer survivor Steve Lavin tells nearly 3,000 to never stop learning or be afraid to seek advice

BY JOE ANUTA

Jumping into the job pool is all about overcoming challenges, St. John's University head basketball Coach Steve Lavin told graduates at the university's commencement speech Sunday, and tackling adversity is something he knows a thing or two about.

Lavin was diagnosed with prostate cancer last year and went under the knife in October before battling his way back to the bench early this year.

As he stood before about 3,000 graduates Sunday, he imparted some life lessons he brought back from his fight with the deadly disease.

"Now I stand here, May 13, cancer-free and able to share some thoughts with you as you move forward

on your journey and your path," Lavin said to cheers from the audience. "But the takeaway is that life is precious. Life is fragile."

Lavin initially returned to coaching a little more than a month after his surgery, bucking the advice of his doctors.

The stress proved too much, Lavin said in several reports, and he instead took a behind-the-scenes role for a few months. The season was his first year coaching at St. John's, where the men's team went to its first NCAA tournament since 2002. Lavin previously coached at UCLA before getting the ax and ending up at ESPN, where he was a broadcaster and commentator.

Lavin's journey to St. John's and his eventual acquiescence to his doctors



Claudia Sbrissa (l.), a professor of fine arts, hugs her student Tyler Guthrie, a Jamaica resident who graduated with a degree in photography. **More photos on Page 36.** Photo by Christina Santucci

exemplified a central piece of advice he imparted to the students gathered on the lawn: Always be willing to learn.

"Seek out mentors, surround yourself with what I call your own Mr. Miyagis

— some wise old owls who blazed a trail with wisdom from a long life," Lavin said, referring to the martial art master from the "Karate Kid" movies.

Lavin also told the students to develop a resiliency

that allows for a quick rebound from unexpected setbacks.

But a group of 20 graduates would not have been sweating in the sun along with the sea of students clad in red and black polyester gowns without already possessing a little bit of resolve.

Members of The Advantage Academy were homeless when they started the St. John's program, according to program director Kim Toro.

"The program allows individuals who are homeless or formerly homeless to attend St. John's for free," she said.

The goal is to keep the students out of shelters, and so far it has been successful, she said.

Last year the first group who graduated from

the program all went on to either find jobs or take further schooling, but either way they got the jump-start needed to make a new life for themselves, according to Toro.

Sabrina Garcia plans to go back to school at CUNY now that she earned a business associate degree and was ready to walk across the stage.

"I'm super excited," she said. "I didn't expect to be in college at 35 getting my degree."

Garcia, like most students in the program, was homeless and had a family to take care of before joining the program.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at [januta@cnglocal.com](mailto:januta@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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# Peninsula rally cries fall on city's deaf ears

## Health honcho makes early exit at hearing as residents air health concerns over hospital closure

BY STEVE MOSCO

Hundreds of Rockaway residents sickened by the closure of Peninsula Hospital aimed their ire directly at the city Department of Health at a public hearing last week.

"This is a human being issue. People are going to die," said Linda Rusillo, a Rockaway resident at the hearing, at a packed Knights of Columbus Hall, at 333 Beach 90th St.

Residents expressed concern that lives will be in danger as an influx of visitors flood the Rockaways during the summer months.

Bernie Feuer, who operates a parking lot during the summer in Jacob Riis Park, said bridge gridlock will block any ambulances that are diverted to other hospitals.

"What will happen when time is of the es-

sence?" he asked. "If an ambulance is diverted off the peninsula during a traffic jam, they are not going to get out of Rockaway. Now is the time for leaders to step up and do what is right."

Peninsula Hospital in Far Rockaway closed its doors in April, close to 104 years after it first opened in the beach community. The shuttering of the 173-bed facility, which employed about 1,000 people, leaves one hospital on the peninsula: St. John's Episcopal in Far Rockaway.

City Health Commissioner Nirav Shah was on the receiving end of much of the criticism from both residents and elected officials last Thursday, many of whom said the public hearing should have been held before the hospital shut its doors in April.

Before abruptly leaving at 5 p.m. — a full two hours before the scheduled



City Health Commissioner Dr. Nirav Shah (standing) and the Department of Health panel listened to many concerned residents before Shah abruptly left two hours before the hearing was scheduled to end.

Photo by Steve Mosco

end of the hearing — Shah said the peninsula has suffered from a lack of health

care for too long.

"I wish there was a silver bullet that could solve

the health care issues of this peninsula," he said. "We are doing all that we

can to ensure proper health care for this community."

Shah's comments were not well-received — especially when attendees realized the commissioner slipped out of the hearing without making his exit public.

"I'm disappointed that Mr. Shah did not see fit to stay past 5 p.m. In my opinion, four hours is not too much to ask when you are a public servant," said City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park). "He is the commissioner, he is a public servant. He works for us, we do not work for him."

Ulrich said many of his constituents used Peninsula Hospital as their primary care facility. He said he fears many will not make it to other area hospitals when their lives are on the line in an emergency situation.

"Closing Peninsula  
*Continued on Page 38*

## Queens' gay community praises Obama same-sex marriage shift

BY REBECCA HENELY

The western Queens LGBT community and their allies sent a giant postcard to the White House last Thursday, thanking President Barack Obama for coming out in support of same-sex marriage.

"I never thought in my life that I would have ever see a sitting president support marriage equality," said City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), who is openly gay.

Coming on the heels of a proposed amendment to North Carolina's constitution which passed with 61 percent of the vote and decreed a marriage between



LGBT advocates and allies sign a giant postcard to be sent to President Barack Obama after his support for marriage equality last week. Openly gay City Councilman Daniel Dromm (r.) arranged the event.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

one man and one woman to be the only domestic legal union recognized in the state, Obama announced in an interview with ABC

that he was in support of same-sex marriage.

Previously, the president had said he was per-

*Continued on Page 38*

## Leaders in Jamaica want reforms to stop-and-frisk

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Southeast Queens community leaders are planning a number of town-hall meetings after a report released last week found the overwhelming majority of people stopped by the NYPD in the 103rd Precinct last year were innocent blacks and Latinos.

According to a New York Civil Liberties Union report, of the more than 17,000 individuals who were counted in the NYPD's stop-and-frisk program in the 103rd Precinct in 2011, nearly 91 percent were blacks and Latinos and 88.7 percent of people stopped were neither issued a summons nor arrested.



Jamaica community leaders are planning several town hall meetings in response to a recent report on the NYPD's stop-and-frisk program.

The 103rd, which covers Hollis and downtown Jamaica, ranked eighth in the city in terms of the to-

tal number of stops and the number of those who were innocent, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union report.

Leroy Gadsden, president of the Jamaica branch of the NAACP, said the Police Department has failed to provide evidence that the increase in stop-and-frisk numbers have caused a decrease in crime.

"If you stop me, not because you have a reasonable suspicion, but because I'm a black man, that's illegal and discriminatory and does not lead to a stop in crime," he said. "In order to have a reduced crime rate, you need a positive relationship between the police

*Continued on Page 38*

# Officials hold rally to halt budget cuts

BY STEVE MOSCO

Queens Library supporters rallied to close the book on budget cuts for good.

Elected officials, along with staff and community members, stood on the steps of Queens Library in Flushing to fight against proposed budget cuts that would slash \$26.7 million from the learning institutions.

According to those who attended the May 8 rally, the cuts proposed in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's executive budget would threaten library service and dissolve hundreds of jobs in the borough.

"The mayor's executive budget, if enacted, would cut \$26.7 million in funding to vital services provided by the Queens Library," said City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), chairman of the Council Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee. "These cuts would put over 600 librarians out of a job, close 18 libraries altogether, eliminate Sunday services at all branches and potentially keep 30 libraries closed four or five days a week.

"This cannot happen," Van Bramer said. "Queens residents deserve a budget — one that preserves all of their services as well as the free educational, cul-

tural and informational programming that make this prestigious institution the strong cultural hub it is in over 60 neighborhoods throughout the borough."

Thomas Galante, the Queens Library president and CEO, called funds directed toward libraries "money well spent."

He said the free information, Internet access, homework help, health care information and job search services are essential to the well-being of any community.

"Libraries provide a great return on investment," said Galante, who directed those concerned with the libraries' plight to [savequeenslibrary.org](http://savequeenslibrary.org). "Libraries make a huge impact on the educational and economic landscape."

The makeup of the new executive budget is \$68.7 billion, with \$49.2 billion funded by city dollars. Bloomberg said \$6.2 billion already has been saved through 11 rounds of cuts made across all of the city's agencies since 2007. When he released his budget earlier this month, Bloomberg said numerous cost-cutting measures were implemented in the budget to stave off a \$2 billion gap. He said while tax revenues have grown, they have risen at a weaker rate than expected.

Borough President  
*Continued on Page 38*



Library advocates rallied in front of Queens Library in Flushing to keep budget cuts from slashing hours of operation at libraries across the borough. Photo courtesy Dominick Totino Photography

# Ads advise against absence

Mayor Bloomberg launches campaign to keep city kids in school

BY PHIL CORSO

The newest advertisements showed children with clocks covering their eyes below the slogan, "It's 9 a.m. Do you know where your kids are?"

Keeping kids in school was the primary message last week when Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg launched a new \$9 million city ad campaign at PS 91 Richard Arkwright School, at 68-10 Central Ave. in Glendale to fight what he called chronic absenteeism and truancy in schools.

It was the start of the largest effort in the nation to inform parents that students who routinely miss school are more likely to fail, the mayor said.

"When the students miss school, it jeopardizes their ability to keep up in school," Bloomberg said. "It is a child's first step down the wrong path in life."

The campaign was introduced last Thursday with support from AT&T and the private, nonprofit Ad Council to target parents and guardians to rein-



Quinn Corcino (c.) is congratulated for his change in attitude, which reduced the amount of days he missed school. Photo by Christina Santucci

force the consequences of missing school to students. New advertisements will be seen on city subways, newsstands, buses, bus stations and MetroCards, Bloomberg said.

It was a campaign that John Feinblatt, the mayor's chief policy adviser, said is aimed at reminding New Yorkers about the cam-

aign's simple message: Every Student, Every Day.

"National research tells us that three out of four sixth-graders who are chronically absent will not graduate," Feinblatt said. "Of juveniles arrested in New York City, 79 percent had been chronically absent prior to their arrest. This campaign will help

amplify the message that getting our kids to school every day is critical to their success."

The ads will encourage New Yorkers to call 311 or text "school" to 30364 for prompts on how to log on to the new Truancy and Absenteeism Help Center through [schooleveryday.org](http://schooleveryday.org).  
*Continued on Page 38*

# Hero pilot warns against trash center

BY STEVE MOSCO

Opponents of a waste station near LaGuardia Airport have taken to the airwaves with a hero pilot at the helm.

Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the US Airways pilot who safely guided a passenger plane into the Hudson River following a bird strike in 2009, has lent his voice to a radio ad campaign denouncing the construction of the North Shore Marine Transfer Station.

Critics say the waste station, which will be close to a LaGuardia runway near College Point, will attract birds by the thousands and put passenger planes at an increased risk of potentially disastrous bird strikes.

In the radio ads, Sullenberger says the station "will attract birds



Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger speaks out against a waste transfer station near LaGuardia Airport in a new radio ad.

into the path of oncoming flights, putting thousands of lives at risk, including passengers in the sky and citizens on the ground."

Ken Paskar, president of Friends of LaGuardia Airport, said Sullenberger lends credibility to the cause.

"This is a world-renowned hero with personal experience dealing with bird strikes," said Paskar, whose organization was formed last year to oppose the transfer station. "I suspect this is an issue that is very important to Capt. Sully."

According to Paskar, whose organization sued the city in 2011 to prevent the station from opening, the facility is expected to handle an estimated 3,000 tons of garbage every day — providing a dangerous attraction for hungry birds.

*Continued on Page 38*

# Laurelton man gets 15 yrs for bodega killing: DA

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The 29-year-old man who pleaded guilty last month to shooting and killing a Laurelton bodega co-owner who came to his brother's aid during a botched 2010 robbery was sentenced to 15 years in prison last week, according to Queens District Attorney Richard Brown.

Shawn Forde, of 137-50 229th St. in Laurelton, received the sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree manslaughter before Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard Buchter in April. Forde lived only a few blocks away from the Lucky Deli, at 220-06 Merrick Blvd., and was recognized as a regular customer of the bodega after he shot and killed 54-year old Juan Torres.

According to the criminal charges, Forde entered the Lucky Deli just before 10 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2010. He grabbed co-owner Felix Torres, Juan's brother, who was working behind the counter, brandished a .45-caliber pistol and slammed the man's head on



The Torres family leaves Queens criminal court, where Shawn Forde was sentenced on manslaughter charges.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

the counter, demanding money, the DA said.

After Torres handed Forde money from the register, brother

Juan came running out of the back of the store in an attempt to help Felix and was fatally shot in the head by Forde, who quick-

ly fled the scene, according to Brown.

When a family member was shown a photo of Forde, she iden-

tified him as a regular customer of the Lucky Deli, and he was later picked out of a police line-up, the NYPD said.

The store had been the site of previous armed robberies, including one that was fatal, and after Torres' killing community members called for bodega owners to arm themselves, although the Torres family said there is no gun in the store.

The DA said he hoped the 15-year sentence would be a comfort to the Torres family.

"This is a sad and tragic case in which a hardworking family man was killed in a senseless manner," he said. "With his guilty plea, the defendant has taken responsibility for his actions and thus spared the victim's family the anguish of a trial. Today's sentence is a significant one and will hopefully bring solace to the victim's family."

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at [rbockmann@cnglocal.com](mailto:rbockmann@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4574.

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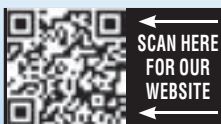


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# POLICE Blotter

## Dad busted with kids, drugs in car: NYPD

JAMAICA — A random stop by two NYPD officers ended with a substantial drug bust Sunday and an irresponsible father in cuffs.

At about 2 p.m., two officers were walking near the corner of Jamaica Avenue and 165th Street when they motioned for a 2007 Honda Accord with excessively dark tinted windows to pull over, the NYPD said.

Police Officers Vincent Siraco and Michael Sardone smelled marijuana and asked the driver to step out of the vehicle, police said.

Inside, the duo observed not only a gravity knife and alleged bags of crack cocaine and marijuana, but also a 13-year-old boy, the NYPD said.

In the trunk, the officers discovered 2 kilograms of cocaine.

Silvestre Mahon, 34, of Connecticut, was arrested and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance,



Police said they recovered a gravity knife and bags of crack cocaine and marijuana during the random stop. Photo courtesy NYPD

criminal possession of a weapon, acting in a manner injurious to a child less than 17 years old, unlawful possession of marijuana and improper window tinting.

The boy was Mahon's son, who was released into the custody of his mother.



Firefighters respond to a car fire on Hillside Avenue and the intersection with the Clearview Expressway in Hollis at about 8:45 a.m. Monday morning. Officials at the scene said no one was injured in the fire.

Photo by Christina Santucci

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## Woman gets 10 years for throwing away baby

KEW GARDENS — A Queens Criminal Court judge sentenced a 24-year-old Woodside woman to 10 years in prison Monday for throwing her newborn daughter in a bathroom trash can in Elmhurst Hospital Center, the Queens district attorney's office said.

Dawa Lama, who lived on 65th Street, pleaded guilty last month to manslaughter before Judge Elisa Koenderman handed down the sentence, the DA said. Lama had gone to the hospital, at 79-01 Broadway, May 10, 2011, for prenatal care and, after registering at the desk, felt a pain in her stomach, the DA said.

She went to the bathroom, where she then went into labor and delivered a baby, the DA said.

Instead of bringing the baby, later named Mingmar Gurung, to a doctor,

Lama broke the umbilical cord, threw the infant in the garbage bin and took back her ID from the front desk and left, the DA said.

Because of her crime, Lama was arrested later that day, the DA said.

Mingmar was placed on life support, but died seven days later, the DA said.

"Today's sentence brings to a close a troubling case of a mother senselessly and needlessly killing her newborn infant," District Attorney Richard Brown said in a statement. "This case should serve as a reminder that under New York's Safe Haven law a parent may anonymously surrender an unwanted newborn infant to personnel in a safe place — such as a hospital, a police station or a fire station — without repercussions."



# Shot to head kills man in St. Albans

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Police identified a 23-year-old man who died after he was shot in the head near Addisleigh Park as Ariel Edwards.

As of Tuesday, there had not been any arrests in connection with the shooting last Thursday, according to the NYPD.

Police said when they responded at about 2 p.m. to 175th Place near Linden Boulevard just outside the Addisleigh Park section of St. Albans, they found Edwards with a single gunshot wound in the head.

He was taken to Jamaica Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to the NYPD.

Before he died, a witness said Edwards sought help from the house next door to where he lived.

"I pulled up and as I'm trying to get out of the car, he's banging on the door of the group home," said Keith Hutson.

Hutson, who has been doing work on the street, had become acquainted with the 23-year-old, and when Hutson called to him

to see what was wrong, Edwards began to walk toward him.

"Then he came out into the street and collapsed eventually," Hutson said.

Hutson said he called 911 and rushed over to Edwards.

"By then he couldn't speak, and by the time the ambulance came ..., " Hutson said, trailing off.

Several of Edwards' loved ones briefly gathered on Linden Boulevard, and one woman could be heard sobbing before the group abruptly left.

Another man, who only identified himself by the initial C., said Edwards was a longtime resident of 175th Place.

"He was just one of the guys on the block," he said. "He was a good kid."

Hutson said he was shocked by the shooting.

"It seems very surprising. It's a very quiet block," he said.

*Reach photo editor Christina Santucci by e-mail at csantucci@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4589.*



A police officer removes crime scene tape from a car on 175th Place. Photo by Christina Santucci

# Tenants rally against super

Manger intimidates residents with gay slurs, violence: Jamaica man



Sergio Gonzalez (c.) speaks of the harassment he has allegedly received at the hands of his Jamaica apartment's super. Councilmen James Gennaro (l.) and Daniel Dromm (fourth from r.) and advocates from Make the Road New York and other groups joined him.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

BY REBECCA HENELY

City Councilmen James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) and Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) visited a Jamaica apartment complex Friday in an effort to help two longtime tenants who say their superintendent has made violent and homophobic threats to them.

"They want Amy [Anderson] and myself out of the building," said Sergio Gonzalez, who is openly gay and has lived at 88-22 Parsons Blvd. for 39 years.

Gonzalez and Anderson, the tenant representative, had formerly had their landlords sued by the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development, alleging the owners have allowed intolerable living conditions to continue in the building. Gonzalez and Anderson said in response to the complaints the landlords hired John Alba to be super at the end of 2010.

The tenants claim Alba has continuously harassed them, pushed them and damaged their property out of revenge on behalf of the landlords. Gonzalez said Alba has also used anti-gay slurs and spit at him.

"This is not a friendly, happy building," Gennaro said. "This is their home. Their home should be a place of peace and repose."

Gennaro, whose district encompasses the building, held a rally Friday with Dromm, who is openly gay, as well as groups that advocate for LGBTs and other minorities. While they condemned the alleged harassment, Alba recorded and took pictures of the rally from his window.

When reporters approached Alba after the rally was over, he closed the curtains, making an obscene hand gesture as he did so.

The landlords, known as either New York Affordable Housing Association III LLC Parsons or Colonial Management LLC, said

they had no comment on the dispute.

But Alba did have a defender in Thornton Hubbard, who claimed to be the vice president of a tenant association for the building. Hubbard said before Alba was hired, the building never had a super living on the premises and people used to smoke crack in the halls.

He said Alba installed cameras on every floor and the building has been safer.

"He's slandering the super's name," Hubbard said of Gonzalez.

In response, Gonzalez said Hubbard was lying and was not the vice president of any tenant association.

Some of Gonzalez and Anderson's complaints include leaky roofs, loss of heat and sewer lines backing up. Gonzalez said he had to use a wastebasket to relieve himself after his toilet was broken and backed up with dirty water for days.

Gonzalez showed

pictures with evidence of Alba's alleged harassment. These included cracks in Gonzalez's door after Alba allegedly kicked it and tore off pictures of Gonzalez's dog. Another photo showed a pink lawn chair pressed up against the window, which Gonzalez said Alba or a compatriot of his used to spy on him.

Other photos showed pictures posted up on the walls that said "Perjure-Perjury. To deliberately [sic] testify falsely under oath spell's [sic] jail time."

Gonzalez and Anderson have a case charging the landlords with harassment and have representation from HPD.

Dromm said the situation seemed to smack of discrimination and prejudice.

"Councilman Gennaro and I will not tolerate a bully landlord," he said.

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

# CREDIT REPAIR VULTURES

It takes a special kind of crook to take advantage of people when they are down and out. We saw this when the mortgage crisis hit and con artists offered to help people save their homes from foreclosure. The victims paid the crooks thousands of dollars and still lost their homes.

Credit repair con artists are cut from the same cloth. District Attorney Richard Brown recently charged the owner of a Richmond Hill company with bilking desperate customers out of thousands of dollars.

According to Brown, B.J. Cardova, of Valley Stream, L.I., promised at least four customers he would repair their credit scores, but instead scammed them out of a total of \$7,700 between 2008 and 2010.

If Cardova was scamming the four known victims, it is likely there were others. We trust the DA will keep digging until all of the victims are found and made whole.

"Instead of throwing them a lifeline, in reality he is alleged to have exposed businesses to bad debtors who were financially drowning and assisted his customers in burying themselves deeper in debt," said Brown.

The police found evidence of broader criminal activity, including Georgia name-change and divorce decrees, rubber stamps with the names of a judge and clerk from the Peach State and a raised seal of Fulton County Superior Court.

If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. When good people find their backs to the wall, their judgment gets clouded.

We applaud the DA's office for its work on this case and hope the courts will bring the hammer down on everyone involved.

## MELANOMA MACHINES

New Jersey's "tanning mom" is proof of just how dangerous tanning machines can be. Whether or not she ever allowed her daughter to use tanning beds, she did damage to her own skin.

It happens that May is Melanoma Awareness Month. The biggest danger for contracting melanoma is too much exposure to sunlight, but the tanning beds can also cause skin cancer. The city should make it clear to the owners of tanning salons that they cannot allow customers to misuse their machines.

The tanning mom should have been stopped long before she became front-page news.



## OTHER VOICES

# St. Mary's should be source of Bayside pride

**B**ayside is fortunate to have St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children in the community. Over the years, it has built a reputation for quality service to children and been recognized for such on a national level.

For example, U.S. News & World Report recently included it in its 2012 Honor Roll for Best Nursing Homes.

Its Patient Pavilion renovation will be done later this year. While any

construction project can be noisy and generate traffic, look at some of the things that renovation will add for a long time to come:

1. The child patients will have right-sized patient rooms, instead of cramped rooms with four or five beds within.
2. There will be some family suites for overnight visitations by parents of the patients, which will aide the recovery of children.
3. The addition of 58 new parking spots on the

grounds will alleviate street parking.

4. There will be a permanent home established for PS 23, the on-site public school.

A year ago, the state Department of Health granted final approval for St. Mary's Extraordinary Home Care program. That program provides short-term, intermittent-skilled nursing and therapeutic and personal care services to special-needs patients after they leave St. Mary's.

The work by St. Mary's goes way beyond its Bayside facility.

Going further, the 10 "Stories of Inspiration" at its website, stmaryskids.org/stories-of-inspiration/patient-stories/ demonstrate what St. Mary's is all about.

All Baysiders should be proud of St. Mary's and the good work it will continue to do.

*Daniel P. Doyle  
Bayside*

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# Co-name Jamaica Bay refuge after James Buckley

The Jamaica Bay area has a number of public works named for notable New Yorkers who merit our remembrance. There is the bridge named for former U.S. Rep. Joseph Addabbo Sr., the Marine Parkway Bridge named for New York Mets and Brooklyn Dodgers hero Gil Hodges and Floyd Bennett Field, which honors the famous Brooklyn aviator. And, of course, there is John F. Kennedy International Airport.

But there is a longstanding major omission in recognizing someone who has helped to change Jamaica Bay and the Rockaways for the better, and we

urge that this be corrected.

The individual we are writing about is former U.S. Sen. James L. Buckley.

Buckley was a co-sponsor of S. 1192, creating the Gateway National Recreation Area. The senator spoke on behalf of the bill on the Senate floor Oct. 14, 1972, and specifically mentioned the "wildlife preserve in Jamaica Bay" during the floor debate.

Jamaica Bay is the only wildlife refuge within the U.S. National Parks System. We propose renaming the area the "James L. Buckley-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge."

The bay and its wetlands, marshes and islands

also represent "one of the most significant bird sanctuaries in the northeast United States," according to the refuge's website. Buckley continues his love and observation of birds at age 89.

As a Senate candidate in 1970, Buckley questioned the wisdom of a proposed extension of an airport runway into Jamaica Bay, supporting local community groups. Although Buckley was known for conservative views on most issues, many liberals and Democrats acknowledged his expertise in and support for environmental issues.

Buckley is the only living American to have

served at the top levels of all three branches of the U.S. government. Aside from his election to the Senate, Buckley was undersecretary of state, after which he served as president of Radio Free Europe. He was then nominated by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the second-highest court in our judicial system.

Consider that New York's former senators have had major public works or other facilities named for them:

1. Daniel Patrick Moynihan has the Manhattan federal office build-

ing named for him, with the new Penn Station to be called "Moynihan Station."

2. Jacob K. Javits has the other immense federal building named for him, along with the city's primary convention center.

3. Alphonse D'Amato has the federal courthouse on Long Island named for him.

4. The federal building in upstate Rochester is named for Kenneth Keating.

5. There are a number of schools bearing the name of Robert F. Kennedy, along with the recent renaming of the Triborough Bridge.

Clearly, it is time to honor and recognize the

contributions of Buckley to his nation.

Because of Buckley's advocacy for the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and the Gateway National Recreation Area, this would be an ideal opportunity to recognize Buckley by renaming the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for him.

*Thomas Long*

*Member  
Community Board 14  
Far Rockaway*

*Herbert Stupp  
Former Commissioner  
City Department for the*

*Aging  
Manhattan*

## Don't abuse eminent domain use

For about 200 years since the founding of this Republic, everybody — Republicans, Democrats, independents, rich, middle class and poor — were in agreement that government could exercise eminent domain and take private property for just compensation for a public purpose, to wit: a school, a road, transportation facilities, a public building.

All were in agreement there could be no taking for a private commercial business enterprise. The time-honored concept that eminent domain should not be used for a private real estate development came to an end several years ago, when the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*, ruled a municipality could take private property and turn it over to a private real estate developer.

Parenthetically, that development never came to pass, the property remains empty to date and the municipality passed a resolution apologizing to the ho-

meowners it threw off their properties.

The Kelo case caused a furor throughout this country, with the result being that 44 states enacted legislation prohibiting such a taking. Not surprisingly, New York state was not one of those states, given the fact that too many politicians are bedded with real estate interests.

For example, several years ago Daniel Doctoroff, then a high official in the Bloomberg administration, bragged before a group of real estate moguls that under its administration more than 90 percent of variances sought were granted.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently enacted a bill, H.R. 1433, called The Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2012, which would take a significant step to correct the results of the Kelo case. That bill is now pending before the U.S. Senate.

Predictably, the Bloomberg administration opposes the bill with the same sort of a lack of

transparency and misinformation it pursues in its ill-advised Willets Point proposal, to wit: Lisa Bova-Hiatt, deputy chief of the city Law Department, claims that if H.R. 1433 is passed, "important revitalization projects would not be possible" ("Bill could nix Willets project," Times Ledger Newspapers, April 19-25).

With all due respect, Bova-Hiatt must be working on another planet because she fails to understand the issue. For hundreds of years, urban expansion has taken place with builders buying property from private owners without governmental eminent domain.

It is called free enterprise, the foundation of the capitalist system. Has anything changed? The answer is yes: It is called sordid politics and the little people be damned.

*Benjamin M. Haber  
Flushing*

## Question boro Dems, not Lancman

Find Bob Friedrich's column about state Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) misleading ("Lancman attack on Queens Dem machine rings hollow," May 3-9). Lancman's criticism of the Queens Democratic Party is based upon the previous

action of the party.

When Barry Grodenchik ran for re-election as assemblyman, Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) and Ben Singer ran against him. He lost.

Does this sound familiar? Did Judaism have anything to do with it?

Friedrich ought to look more carefully into the past actions of the Democratic Party.

There seems to be a lot missing when it comes to politics.

*David Copell  
Flushing*

## Church must allow priests to marry

The recent criticism by Pope Benedict XVI that priests should not question celibacy is typical for an institution that refuses to accept that there must be change in this area.

The Catholic Church

continues to bury its head in the sand regarding this issue. Other Christian denominations allow their ministers to marry, as well as the Jewish faith. It is high time for the Catholic Church to come down off its throne and be willing to ac-

cept change and to be able to change.

It is the real world and the church needs to get its act together.

*John Amato  
Fresh Meadows*

### CORRECTION

The article on the upcoming Queens Pride Parade in the May 10-16 edition of TimesLedger Newspapers should have listed its website as queenspride.org and the parade's co-chair as Hank Krumholz.

# Bronx beep speaks at monthly meet of boro Dem club



Dee Richard  
Dishing  
with Dee

We hope everyone fortunate enough to still have their mothers enjoyed the day by celebrating in some way with their mom. For those among us who are not that fortunate, we hope you took some time out to say a little prayer and reminisce about the good times you had with your mother while she was with us.

They say you never really die until there is no one

left who remembers you. A happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there and to all their children who love them.

Congratulations to TimesLedge Newspapers account executive **Victor Clavie**. Victor won the Community Service Award at the VISIONS 28th annual luncheon at Terrace on the Park May 6. It was a lovely luncheon with a large number of honorees, including four Holy Cross High School boys — **Charles D'Oria**, **Evan Munoz**, **Salvatore Graci** and **Spyros Panagiotopoulos** — as well one of their instructors, **Michael Genovese**.

The boys were honored for their dedication to help-

ing those less fortunate. Their services were dedicated to the blind. Longtime friend **Joel Miele** was also an honoree. Friends **Daniel Leone**, of QPTV, and **Linda Marr**, of New York Community Bank, served on the luncheon committee.

On May 9, the Rockaway Development and Revitalization Corp. held its 26th annual tribute and gala dinner at Russo's on the Bay. One of our favorite buddies, **Jack Friedman**, executive director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, was singled out to receive the 2012 Joseph W. Stehn Community Builders Award. Of course, all the QCC's employees made the trip to Howard Beach to

show their support. There were also two other honorees: **Julia Blair** and **Rhonda Bair**.

The RDRC would like interested folks to adopt senior high school students, as some have hardships trying to pay graduation expenses. If you would like to help, call **Renee McWilliams** for additional information at 718-327-5300. Any help, however small, will be appreciated. Please help if you can, as education is the key to these children's future.

Last Thursday, the Jefferson Democratic Club held its May meeting at the Clearview Golf Club. The guest speaker was **Ruben Diaz Jr.**, the Bronx bor-

ough president. He became the borough president in 2009 after serving 12 years in the state Assembly.

I had never met Diaz before but was impressed by how intelligent and well-versed he was. He also had a great sense of humor. There was no doubt he was devoted to helping his constituents and serving the needs of his community. He wants the Bronx to be the best it can possibly be. I'm sure we'll hear a lot more about that young man in the future.

Some bits and pieces of information:

- The American Cancer Society will once again be holding its Relay for Life" at Fort Totten June 2

and 3. That's another event you might consider contributing to. Try and attend the Luminaria Ceremony, as it is most impressive.

- **Mary Conaty** tells us there is a free camp for children ages 6-18 with cancer and their siblings. They will all get a free week at a sleep-away camp on Shelter Island, L.I. Parents do not have to worry as there is 24-hour medical service at the camp. The American Cancer Society number is 718-261-1092.

That's it for this week.

I look forward to your voice mails at 718-767-6484, faxes at 718-746-0066 and e-mails at [deerrichard@aol.com](mailto:deerrichard@aol.com).

Till next week, Dee.

# Stark parallels exist between careers of Romney and Reagan



William Lewis  
Political  
Action

Both Ronald Reagan and Mitt Romney began their political careers in elective office by serving as governors of large industrial states. Reagan served two terms as governor of California and Romney served one term as governor of Massachusetts.

It can be said they also started in politics with mostly liberal ideas. Romney began as a liberal Republican and Reagan was a liberal Democrat before becoming a conservative Republican.

Reagan never lost an election, having been successful in his two races for governor and his two campaigns for the presidency. Romney lost a bid for the U.S. Senate when he ran against U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy before running successfully for governor.

Both men, however, were defeated in their first try for the Republican presidential nomination. Reagan, after completing his second terms as governor in 1974, entered the presidential primaries in 1976 against President Gerald Ford and lost his first attempt to become the Republican presidential nominee by 117 votes at the party convention. Romney in 2008 lost his first presidential bid to U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) in the primaries.

They spent the next four-year period, after 1976 and 2008, preparing for a second attempt at the presidency. They traveled around the country making speeches and setting up local campaign organizations, besides engaging in fund-raising.

In 1980, Reagan, after winning the New Hampshire primary by a decisive margin, went on to win the Republican nomination. This year Romney, after winning most of the primaries, will most likely capture the presidential nomination. Reagan in 1980 ran against an incumbent, President Jimmy Carter, as Romney this year is also running against an incumbent, President Barack Obama.

At the conclusion of the 1980 presidential cam-

paign, Reagan defeated Carter in a landslide, with Carter only carrying five states. It remains to be seen how Romney will do against Obama this fall.

In the case of these candidates, unemployment and inflation were and are key issues in their campaigns. It is fair to say Reagan and Romney had or have little or no foreign policy experience, but it was during the Reagan administration that Communism became less of a threat to the western world.

It was also during and immediately before Reagan's presidency that Iran and Islamic extremism became a serious foreign policy problem, with the American embassy being taken over by Iranian revolutionaries and the embassy personnel being held as

prisoners.

Today, the main problem with the Iranian government is its possible development of nuclear weapons, aside from its negative attitude toward the western world.

Both Reagan and Romney seem to exemplify faith and optimism in America. In the case of Carter, he seemed to criticize our nation for not having faith in the future. He called it a "crisis of confidence." Obama in some cases has seemed to apologize for past American foreign policy initiatives.

Reagan and Romney want respect for our nation throughout the world. Reagan and Romney look and act presidential. Both of them by the time they were governors had achieved a degree of financial wealth.

The wives of these men have and are playing a major role in their husbands' campaigns. That was true of Nancy Reagan and it is now true of Ann Romney.

Reagan and Romney were both over 60 when they launched their quest for the presidency after successful lifetime careers.

The question this year is can Romney duplicate the political success of Reagan. He seems to have the ability and determination to do so, but Obama is a more formidable candidate than Carter was. Obama's campaign fund-raising will be a big help to him.

Some of the similarities in Reagan and Romney are striking but will not necessarily lead to the same results. History repeats itself, but not always in the same way.

# Farmers first settled Flushing



Joan  
Brown  
Wettingfeld  
Our History

ing their farming and had not approved of using the rocky New England soil.

The Dutch already had the land they were allowed to settle on called "Vlissingen." Perhaps, it is suggested, Flushing is a name of Dutch origin.

Farming was the first occupation of the new settlers in the area, which came to be known as Flushing. Nurseries followed, beginning with that of Prince's in 1787. Bloodgood Nurseries was established in 1798, followed by Parsons and Co. in 1838.

Beginning early in the 19th century, those who preferred the comforts and quiet of home, like prominent businessmen and professionals, began to move to Flushing as traveling facilities improved. The original route at that time appears to have been by way of Ja-

maica to a ferry leaving from Brooklyn.

It was William Prince, son of the founder of the famous Prince Nurseries, who originated a company in 1800 to charter and erect a bridge over Flushing Creek and a route was opened through Newtown and Brooklyn for a fare of 50 cents.

A better road became necessary and was built on the meadows by the Newtown Turnpike Co.

By 1822, travel to New York was by steamboat rather than a sailing packet. For a 10-year period a new steamboat was used, commanded by Capt. Jonathan Peck and named the "Linnaeus."

*Joan Brown Wettingfeld is a historian and freelance writer.*

The town of Flushing was first incorporated Oct. 10, 1645, by the order of the governor of New Netherlands, William Kieft.

A group of English men and women were among the first settlers of Flushing. They were granted a patent which allowed them to settle in an area along the north shore of western Long Island in 1645.

Some of those settlers had not come right from England but had already been settled in New England. They were among those interested in better-



## TASTE OF THE TROPICS

Vidya Visva enjoys coconut water on Liberty Avenue in Richmond Hill during the warm weather on Sunday afternoon.

Photo by Christina Santucci

## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW SITE?

The TimesLedger Newspapers has launched a website about murders in SE Queens.

The site includes audio slide-shows, an interactive map and stories about the victims.

For more information visit us online.



[www.timesledger.com/shots-in-the-dark](http://www.timesledger.com/shots-in-the-dark)

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# Murder

Continued from Page 1

ny in 2009, according to the Florida attorney general's office.

One hotel worker said he noticed several suspicious, European-looking men meeting in a cafe near the lobby and speaking another language before hearing the shots. The worker said one of the men had asked where the bathroom was and left the room seconds before the shots were fired.

"It was as if he knew," the worker said. "Something suspicious was going on."

A photo of the scene showed what appeared to be Weiss lying face-up in a pool of blood with what looked like Zalevsky hunched over a nearby chair after the DA said he used the gun to shoot himself.

Police said the other four men at the table immediately fled the room when the shots were fired, but were apprehended soon after.

Ramon Sterling, 42, was

on his way home after working his shift at the nearby Do & Co. catering, at 149-32 132nd St., when he saw officers from the 106th Precinct put the four men on the ground in handcuffs. He said they appeared to be in their mid-30s and European.

"The cops had them all on their stomachs," Sterling said. "It didn't look like they cooperated too much."

Although police have not arrested the other men sitting at the table, NYPD chief spokesman Paul J. Browne said their attempts to flee raised skepticism among investigators.

According to police, the four men asked for lawyers and were not cooperative upon their questioning.

When asked about the possibility of the men's connection to Russian organized crime, Kelly said it was unclear, but police were not ruling anything out. Brown would also not comment on any potential links.

"That is only a matter of speculation at this point," Brown said.

# Walcott

Continued from Page 1

It outranked prestigious high schools such as Stuyvesant in Manhattan and Bronx Science, although Marmor said it was still a struggle to compete with those schools when attracting the city's brightest.

"I'm trying my best to make us more well-known, he said.

Assistant Principal Leneen Gibson, who worked as a teacher when the school opened 10 years ago, credited the school's recognition to its "rigorous curriculum," with most students taking college-level and AP classes. U.S. News & World Report cited the AP participation rate at 97 percent.

As he popped in and out of early morning classrooms, Walcott said he observed "great leadership, committed teachers and students who are engaged and expressing themselves."

Teacher Pamela Aucoin was a bit surprised when the city Department of Education head stepped into her 10th-grade history classroom as she

and her pupils discussed the causes leading up to China's Tiananmen Square student protests.

When asked why the country's one-party system would seem so unfair to some 100,000 students who were protesting for governmental reform, sophomore Joseph DeRege recited the adage that "absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Walcott leaned in and offered a few words of encouragement.

"That's impressive," he told the young man.

Located on the York College campus, the high school shares a gym, cafeteria and performing arts center with the CUNY school, and students can take college classes and collaborate with undergraduates in research labs, programs York Dean Panayiotis Meleties said he hopes to expand next year.

The CUNY college wants to place a pharmacy school in the high school's current location in the next three to five years, and Walcott said the DOE is "involved in that discussion" about relocating the high school somewhere else on the campus.

# Sanders

Continued from Page 2

Park, the Rockaways and Rosedale.

Huntley said they were "not the worst lines" and that the new district still maintains much of her political base. Despite the new competition, Huntley said she was not yet in campaign mode.

"I'm in Albany right now, and my main concern is the living wage and the women's rights bill," she said. "I'm not concentrating on the campaign at this time."

Huntley may have suffered a political hit late last year, when state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced that an aide to the senator and a woman who shares her residence were indicted on charges of scamming member-item funds from a nonprofit Huntley had set up.

Huntley herself was not charged, although aide Patricia Savage and Lynn Smith, who shares a residence with the senator, were both charged with pocketing close to \$30,000 set aside for Parent Workshop Inc.

Huntley said she did not think the allegations would hurt her chances for re-election.

"I'm not under investigation," she said.

A representative for the Southeast Queens County Young Democrats said the consensus among the group's members was that Huntley would be the heavyweight contender in the race, based on her office's responsiveness to constituents' issues.



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# Work on Moynihan station set to begin later this year

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The first phase of the long-delayed Moynihan railroad station is in sight with a \$270 million project to provide greater access to railroad passenger platforms and passageways.

The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey said it will provide two new entrances to the Farley Post Office on 8th Avenue in Manhattan with new stairways, elevators and escalators.

And the project will make it easier for Long Island Rail Road commuters to get to their trains.

"There's going to be more access points, there's going to be less crowding on the subways and Long Island Rail Road and other platforms and, frankly, it will be a safer experience," said Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye.

Work was scheduled to begin later this year and be completed within four years. The complete Moynihan station, costing more than \$1 billion, is to be finished in 2016.

The plan is to convert the Farley Post Office, which somewhat resembles the



Farley Post Office, the future site of the Moynihan railroad station, is slated to receive two new entrances.

original Pennsylvania Station, into the new Moynihan station a block away.

It was the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan who came up with the idea of converting the Farley Post Office into a new rail station. He died in 2003.

The original Pennsylvania Station, which opened in 1911, was a magnificent structure designed by the renowned architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White. Parts of it resembled the Roman Baths of Caracalla. It was demolished in 1964, with Penn Station moved underground.

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# Ridgewood cabbie admits guilt in chase at JFK

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

A Ridgewood livery cab driver has pleaded guilty to charges of imprisoning a Panamanian family in his speeding taxi while trying to elude police in a terrifying chase at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Queens District Attor-

ney Richard Brown said Bhupinder Singh, 38, of 17-08 Himrod St. in Ridgewood, entered a guilty plea May 7 to a charge of first-degree unlawful imprisonment.

Queens Criminal Court Judge Dorothy Chin-Brandt indicated she would sentence Singh to six months in jail and five

years probation June 4.

Brown said Singh approached the Panamanian family of four after they arrived at JFK Airport Feb. 21 and illegally offered ground transportation.

Port Authority Police Officer Dante Castro-Recio observed Singh escorting the unsuspecting family: Maria Maurelle Sosa,

Tomas Sosa and their children Aldo Sosa, 17, and Andres Sosa, 12.

When Castro-Recio stepped from his car and identified himself as a police officer, Singh locked his car doors, put the car in reverse and drove around the policeman, speeding away with the officer in hot pursuit.

At one point in the chase, Aldo Sosa grabbed the steering wheel and jerked it to the right, sending the Lincoln Town Car crashing into a guard rail and causing minor injuries to his parents.

Singh abandoned his car and fled on foot, but was soon captured by police.

Brown said it was an-

other instance of unregulated taxis and unscrupulous drivers who are not properly licensed and do not carry appropriate insurance.

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by e-mail at [timesledgernews@cnglocal.com](mailto:timesledgernews@cnglocal.com) or phone at 718-260-4536.



BHUPINDER SINGH

Photo courtesy NYPD

## Queens-Midtown Tunnel's 37th Street entrance reopened

In an effort to help ease traffic congestion along 2nd Avenue, MTA Bridges and Tunnels is reopening the 37th Street entrance to the Queens-Midtown Tunnel to cars weekdays between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m.

"Second Avenue is one of the city's most heavily traveled thoroughfares and traffic frequently backs up for blocks with cars trying to access the Queens-bound tunnel," said tunnel General Manager Renee Shepherd. "We believe this change will ultimately save motorists time while alleviating congestion along the avenue."

This means that during the week between 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., cars driving south along 2nd Avenue can make a right turn on East 40th Street or East 38th Street, another quick right onto Tunnel Approach Street and continue straight through the traffic light and into the tunnel.

From 1st Avenue, drivers who turn left onto East 37th Street will be able to use the 37th Street entrance instead of having to drive further to Second Avenue and merge into traffic there. Motorists can also choose to make a left turn onto East 39th Street and another quick left onto Tunnel Approach Street, then go through the traffic light and into the tunnel.

New signs will be in place to direct motorists. Use of the East 37th Street entrance is limited to cars only. Trucks and buses must continue to use the East 36th Street entrance to the tunnel from 2nd Avenue.

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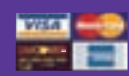
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Written by: Steven J DiMare  
Chief Executive Officer  
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# Qns pols pen bill to protect abused immigrants

BY JOE ANUTA

There are currently two competing versions of a women's rights bill extension on the federal level, but Queens lawmakers are not waiting for a resolution and have introduced state legislation to protect the anonymity of victims' immigration status when they report domestic violence.

State Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) and state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) announced The New York State Violence Against Women Act at Queens Borough Hall last Thursday.

Both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have legislative proposals that would extend the federal Violence Against Women Act, first passed in 1994 and renewed twice with bipartisan support. The federal law protects women against violence, sexual or otherwise,

and increases penalties for certain types of rapes.

But Congress and the U.S. Senate differ on what should be included in the latest iteration.

A House subcommittee passed a version that took out provisions protecting illegal immigrants, which is what prompted the outcry from the Queens lawmakers.

"For Congress to even consider tweaking this law is really ridiculous and offensive to women," said Meng, who is running for Congress, but insists the bill has nothing to do with her bid.

To compensate should the bill pass the full House and Senate, Meng and Stavisky's legislation would ensure an extra protection on the state level.

Their bill would ensure law enforcement officials handling cases of domestic violence could not ask about the immigration



State Sen. Toby Stavisky (l.-r.); Ann Jawin, of the Center for the Women of New York; and state Assemblywoman Grace Meng discuss the lawmakers' proposed bill to protect immigrant victims of domestic violence.

Photo by Joe Anuta

status of the victim nor report that status if he or she became aware of it.

The legislation would also allow a judge to consider if an abuser attempted to silence a victim by threatening to reveal that victim's immigration status.

But the proposed state bill could not remedy two aspects of the federal ver-

sion.

First, the federal bill up for renewal provided temporary visas to illegal immigrants who were being abused by the same people sponsoring their quest for citizenship. The bill also opened up a different path to citizenship for some victims.

But the act has been

tweaked as well by Democrats.

The U.S. Senate's version has also come under fire for what some have called political additions designed to create controversy in an election year.

Along with protecting the immigration status of victims of domestic violence, the U.S. Senate ver-

sion would hand out more temporary visas. In previous years, 10,000 visas were given out. This year, the U.S. Senate bill would add 5,000 more.

The bill would also extend protection to victims of domestic violence on Indian reservations and to same-sex couples, which rankled Republicans, who said the obvious partisan issues will allow Democrats to conveniently declare a "war on women" in an election cycle.

But Stavisky disputed that claim in a statement.

"There are some on the other side of the aisle who say that Democrats have manufactured a phoney 'war on women.' There's nothing phony about federal legislatures trying to remove critically important rights and protections," she said. "We should be making it easier for women who need police help to seek it."

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According to Alan Alford,

proprietor of Divorce.com, some of the divorces offered require travel to the court, while some can be done without any travel or court appearance. Some require both parties to sign the court petition for divorce, while others can be achieved with only one party signing. All of the divorces happen very quickly and with a minimum amount of paperwork.

The divorces are valid and recognized everywhere, and Alford reports that he processes several thousand of them every year, particularly for New Yorkers. The total cost for fast divorces starts

at \$895, with other options raising the price to as high as \$1,500. All of the divorces, Alford says, are completed within a few days and the clients are then free to remarry or otherwise continue with their lives as single persons. Anyone interested in more details about the Divorcefast offerings should access the company website: [www.divorcefast.com](http://www.divorcefast.com) The forms and instructions are printed out from there and submitted to the company. For those lacking Internet access Alford and his staff are prepared to discuss foreign divorces on the phone, or by mail.

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# Contaminated soil at NYPD site needs to go: CB 7

BY JOE ANUTA

Construction crews are currently working on the College Point Police Academy project near the Whitestone Expressway, but civic leaders said the city has not lived up to promises about handling contaminated soil on the site.

The NYPD's new digs will eventually consolidate many training facilities from around the city into an 1.8-million-square-foot academy in the College Point Corporate Park.

A consultant for the city has determined that the soil at the project site is made up of contaminated fill material further tainted by petroleum spills.

The city and its contractors are following state regulations to reuse some of that contaminated soil as fill material on the site, but members of Community Board 7 contend they were

told all the contaminated soil would be removed.

The NYPD disputed that claim, saying that no specific measures were discussed prior to CB 7 giving the green light.

In a 2009 environmental impact study on the site, a consulting firm hired by the city confirmed the widespread presence of metals, including arsenic, incinerator waste and semi-volatile compounds. Lead, PCBs and other toxic compounds were found in isolated areas along with contaminants accumulated from nearly 100 years of dumping leftover construction debris on the site, which is roughly between College Point Boulevard, Ulmer Street and 28th Avenue.

CB 7 unanimously approved the project in 2009, but according to board members they were told by the NYPD that all excavated contaminated



CB7 is concerned about contaminated soil excavated from the College Point Police Academy that's being stored for reuse on the site.

Photo by Christina Santucci

material would be taken away.

"They promised the community that all contaminated material would be removed," said James Cervino, an environmental expert and board member, who spoke on behalf of CB 7. "They told us at the meet-

ings that they were going to remove the material."

But a 2010 plan drawn up by the city Department of Design and Construction indicates that much of the soil dug up at the site will instead be stored in large piles and then reused on the site, unless it exceeds a certain level of toxicity.

Eventually, the entire site will be capped with 2 feet of clean soil or an impervious medium like asphalt or concrete, according to the plan.

Inspector Terrence Riley, of the NYPD, said he was at all the meetings and never heard mention that all contaminated material

would be removed from the site.

"It was never specifically discussed and we are certainly doing whatever is necessary for the safety of the community as well as the employees," said Riley, who added that he had reached out to CB 7 after hearing from TimesLedger Newspapers.

Contaminated soil removed from construction sites in New York state may be subject to regulations surrounding solid waste, but the soils can be exempt from those regulations if they have a beneficial use on site, according to state regulations.

In this case, that beneficial use is to reuse the fill by putting it back into foundation holes, which would minimize truck traffic and in a sense recycle the soil, which is what Turner/STV, the contractor hired by the city, is planning to do, according to the DDC plan.

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Guide To

A TimesLedger Special Section May 17-23, 2012

# Summer Fun

## Enjoy Queens this season

BY TATYANA SOUTHERLAND

As gas prices rise and airline tickets soar, some families are opting to stay home for the summer on what are now commonly called “staycations.” They are an alternative to traditional summer vacations and they are becoming more and more popular, especially for those who are concerned about their finances.

Many people have never even heard of the term “staycation,” but they have taken them. “Staycation? I don’t even know what that is,” said Rebecca Laghezza of Bayside. Although Leghezza revealed that she had never heard of a staycation, she admits to having stayed local during her summer vacations with her

family. “We usually stay because there is so much to do here. We go to the Queens Zoo, Botanical Garden, visit Ellis Island, all the tourist stuff,” said Laghezza.

Matt Wixon author of “The Great American Staycation,” an all-inclusive guide to making staying at home during a vacation enjoyable, said that living within one of New York City’s boroughs can be beneficial for Queens residents who are looking for things to do over the summer months.

“There are so many things you can take advantage of here,” said Wixon. “During the work weeks we are all really busy, but there are tons of things available that we just don’t have the time for that are possible to do during a staycation.”

He said exploring your local neighborhood sur-

roundings can lead to new discoveries. He suggested that staycationers look for adventures and learning opportunities in their everyday surroundings. Visiting local restaurants, shops, theaters, firehouses and other municipal buildings or museums and asking for tours or a history of their business can be a unique learning experience for children. Wixon said he was inspired to write “The Great American Staycation” when he decided not to travel one summer because he thought it would be less of a hassle to stay home for vacation rather than travel with his two young sons.

“Air travel and long drives aren’t always kid-friendly,” said Wixon. As an alternative, Wixon engaged his two sons by taking them on scenic train

*Continued on Page 27*

# Have fun in the sun at relaxing area beaches

BY TREVINA NICHOLSON

From Times Square to Coney Island, New York has plenty of attractions when the sun gets warmer. Though many may think New Yorkers tend to head out for the summer, many stay local because of the beaches that are open all summer long.

The two main beach attractions in Queens are Rockaway Beach and Jacob Riis Beach. Beaches frequented by Queensites, though not in the borough, include Jones Beach, Sunken Meadow Beach and Long Beach. If you haven't been in a while, check out what's happening at your borough's beaches:

**Rockaway Beach** – Includes a boardwalk open free to the public. It is one of the most popular beaches that receives thousands of visitors every summer. With seven playgrounds also on site, plenty of entertainment is provided for young ones, while volleyball and skating keep the adults occupied. The beach features a surfing area with high waves for the adventurous types. People can also come to catch a bluefish or a striped snapper. Bicycling, swimming, and sunbathing are welcomed. Concession stands serve up burgers and fries.

**Getting there:** Visitors can take the A train to Broad Channel and transfer to the S train heading to Rockaway Park-Beach 116th Street.

**Jacob Riis Beach** – Nicknamed "The People's Beach," it is known for its famous Art Deco bathhouse. The park features a courtyard that attracts visitors who love a good workout on the basketball court. Tennis, baseball, and volleyball courts are also on hand. An open area at the beach provides for picnicking. A public golf course and the boardwalk are focal points of the beach. The beach is located in Rockaway, Queens.

**Getting there:** Take the 2 or 5 trains to Flatbush Avenue and then transfer to the Q35, or drive on the Belt Parkway to exit 11N Flatbush Avenue.

**Jones Beach** – Located in southern Nassau County, the beach is the most popular in the greater New York area with a staggering 8 million people visiting each year. Nikon at Jones Beach Theater is an outdoor amphitheater known for hosting the world's premier musicians. With multiple choices of concession stands, visitors can get a chance to enjoy the outdoors and a variety of cuisine. Unlike other beaches, Jones Beach has two swimming pools: the east bathhouse, open only on weekends, and the west bathhouse, open all week. Other attractions include a playground, a recreational center, gift shops, fishing, a marina, and much more. In 2006, Donald Trump planned to build a luxurious restaurant and catering facility, titled "Trump on the Ocean," which has not yet



been completed.

**Getting there:** Take the LIRR to Freeport, then transfer to any bus heading to Jones Beach. Parking is also available for those that take the car.

**Long Beach** – On the borderline of Nassau and Queens counties and just west of Jones Beach, Long Beach is a historic community with a pristine beach. At \$12 a day, the beach features a boardwalk, beach volleyball courts, surfing and fishing. The beach is open to all those with seasonal passes and daily passes from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Starting weekends only from May 26 to June 17 and daily June 23 to Sept. 3. The beach offers an indoor pool, playgrounds, summer concerts and crafts festivals. Located at the east end of the beach is the home to all surfers, while the young vibrant beach-goers are attracted to Park avenue, for the long strip of bars and restaurants.

**Getting there:** LIRR Long Beach line from Penn Station or Jamaica offers a roundtrip Beach Getaway package with beach passes

**Sunken Meadow State Park Beach** – Sitting at 1,266 acres of land, the park along the Long Island Sound resides in Suffolk County in the town of Smithtown. The beach offers a picnic area with umbrella rentals, playgrounds, softball fields, soccer fields, also fishing, which requires a permit for night-time fishing, and a numerous amount of other outdoor events. It is recommended that visitors wear flip-flops for the North Shore's coarser sand.

**Getting there:** Drive to the Sunken Meadow/Sagtikus Parkway, Long Island Expressway to exit 53.

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Directions: From Main Street in Port Washington, turn north on Shore Road. Make first left onto Manhasset Ave. (across from King Kullen Shopping Center). Make first left onto Sintsink Drive. La Motta's is at the end, on the left.



## Queens County

On the web at [www.queensbp.org/content\\_web/tourism/tourism\\_orgs.shtml](http://www.queensbp.org/content_web/tourism/tourism_orgs.shtml)

There are all kinds of activities and fun to be found right around the corner here in Queens. The following are some places that offer great programs throughout the summer. For more detailed listings of arts and community events in Queens, see our calendar listings every week in the QGuide.

## New York Hall of Science

47-01 111 St., Corona  
718-699-0005  
[www.nysci.org](http://www.nysci.org)

## Queens Theatre in the Park

Flushing Meadows Corona Park,  
Corona  
718-760-0064  
[queentheatre.org](http://queentheatre.org)  
[info@queentheatre.org](mailto:info@queentheatre.org)

## Queens Botanical Garden

43-50 Main St., Flushing  
718-886-3800  
[www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org)

## Queens Zoo

53-51 111th St., Flushing  
718-271-1500  
[www.queenszoo.com](http://www.queenszoo.com)

## Forest Park

In central Queens, Forest Park is the third largest park in the borough and a gorgeous place to stay in the shade on a hot summer day. Games to be played include bocce, horseshoes, shuffleboard, golf, track and field, horseback riding and skateboarding in a skate park. 718-235-0815  
[www.nycgovparks.org/sub\\_your\\_park/vt\\_forest\\_park/vt\\_forest\\_park.html](http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/vt_forest_park/vt_forest_park.html)

## Events & Festivals

### Memorial Day Weekend, May 26, 27, 28

A Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Queens Borough Hall on May 22 at 11 a.m. Borough President Helen Marshall will preside over the ceremony in the Veterans Memorial Garden of Queens, 120-55 Blvd. in Kew Gardens. A reception will follow in Room 200.

**Sunnyside Gardens Park** Annual Memorial Day Fair has rides, arts and crafts, an all-day barbecue and more events that are appropriate for all ages. The park can be found at 48-21 39th Ave., between 48th and 50th streets, in Sunnyside.

# Queens SUMMER CALENDAR



The fair is scheduled for May 26, rain date May 27. More details can be found at [www.sunnysidegardenspark.org](http://www.sunnysidegardenspark.org)

**College Point** Citizens for Memorial Day, Inc. hosts their Memorial Day parade May 27 at 2 p.m. This year's parade will feature entertainment from nine marching bands, three drill

teams and two dance crews. Servicemen from the Marines, Navy and Coast Guard will be honored. The parade will begin at the intersection of 28th Avenue and College Point and end at 5th Avenue and 119th Street. For more information call (718) 762-0506.

The **Little Neck/Douglaston**

Memorial Day Parade on May 28 has been credited with being one of the largest Memorial Day parades in the nation. The parade starts on Jayson Street in Great Neck, L.I., by the firehouse and runs west to Douglaston Parkway in Douglaston. Several events have been planned for the day, including a grand marshal honoring of the U.S. Army Reserve's 77th Sustainment Brigade's return from Iraq and an interfaith service at 10 a.m. at the Community Church of Little Neck at 46-16 Little Neck Pkwy. The parade step off starts May 28 at 2 p.m. See [www.memorialdayparade.org](http://www.memorialdayparade.org) or call (718) 279-3200 for more details.

The **Whitestone** Veterans Memorial Day Association conducts its Memorial Day event at noon May 28 at the field on 149th Street and 15th Road. Several other parades have been planned for Memorial Day weekend. These include the **Forest Hills** Memorial Day Parade, **Maspeth** Memorial Day Parade, **Laurelton** Memorial Day Parade, **Glendale** and **Ridgewood** Veterans Memorial Day Parade and **Rockaways-Queens** American Legion Memorial Day Parade. More details can be found at [www.queens.about.com/od/holidays/a/memorial\\_day.htm](http://www.queens.about.com/od/holidays/a/memorial_day.htm)

## Flushing Meadow Soap Box Derby

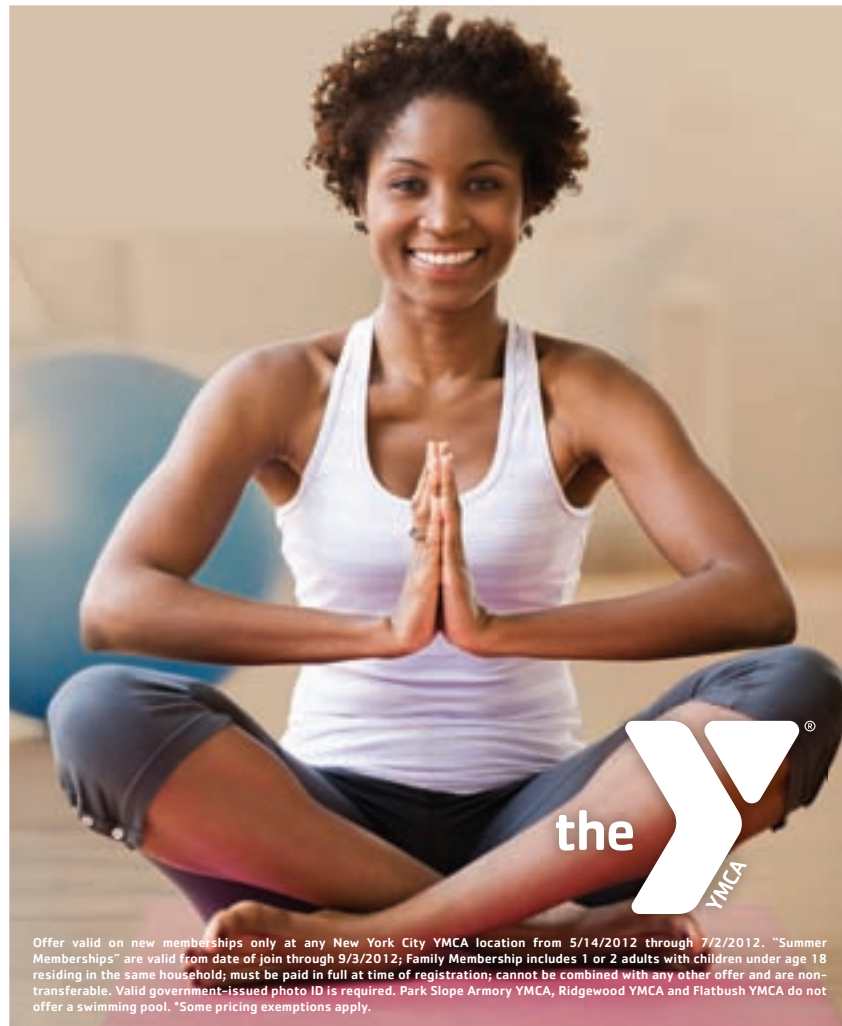
June 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
23 Ave, between 90th St and 94th St, East Elmhurst  
Boys and Girls aged 8 to 17 from all over Queens compete in derby races. All participants race in their own cars made from scratch or kits. For all inquiries e-mail Henry at [hmf3@aol.com](mailto:hmf3@aol.com)

## State Parks Summer Run Series

June 11-Aug. 6  
The Summer Run series is eight weeks long, Long Island state parks running competition featuring prizes and refreshments. Runners can register for the Heckscher, Sunken Meadow, Robert Mosses and Jones Beach State Park events May 17 thru May 31. Costs are \$45 per registrant. To register online visit [www.flrrt.com](http://www.flrrt.com) or [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or call (631) 321-3510 for more information.

## Summer Solstice Celebration

June 20, 5 p.m.-Dusk  
Socrates Sculpture Park's annual  
*Continued on Page 26*



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Flushing Y	(718) 961-6880
Jamaica Y	(718) 739-6600
Long Island City Y	(718) 392-7932
Ridgewood Y	(212) 912-2180



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# Queens

## SUMMER CALENDAR

*Continued from Page 25*  
Summer Solstice Celebration, welcomes the arrival of summer with art workshops, face painting, picnics, and a solstice ritual performed by Urban Shaman Mama Donna. The celebration will also feature Silent Storm Sound Systems' silent disco, an interactive dance party where party goers listen to music played by a DJ on a set of wireless headphones. Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd. Long Island City

### 4th of July Celebrations

See the spectacular New York City fireworks show over the Hudson River from Gantry Plaza State Park in Long Island City. This small park is on the river banks, at the west end of 49th Avenue off Jackson Avenue. More: <http://queens.about.com/od/holidays/p/july4.htm>

### Outdoor Cinema 2012

July 4 - Aug. 22 7 p.m. Wednesdays (weather permitting)  
The annual international film festival focuses on a different

country or culture each Wednesday evening. Visitors can picnic on the grass, enjoy the waterfront or watch musicals, dance performances and international films on an outdoor screen with the backdrop of the Manhattan Skyline. Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd. Long Island City

### JAMS - Jamaica Arts and Music Summer Festival

This year's JAMS festival will feature a special tribute to Whitney Houston, Michael Jackson, Don Cornelius and Heavy D. The evening concert kick-off will take place August 3 with more live music and street fairs to follow the next day on Aug. 4. Jamaica Avenue between Parsons Boulevard and 169th Street  
Aug. 3, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. and Aug. 4th 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### Dragon Boat Festival

Aug. 4 and 5  
The 21st annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival treats people to the Dragon Boat

races, cultural performances, demonstrations and a selection of international food for your eating pleasure. The event is free. See [www.hkdbf-nyc.org/](http://www.hkdbf-nyc.org/) for details.

Flushing Meadows Corona Park,

### The Metropolitan Opera Summer Recital Series

Aug. 9, 7-8 p.m.  
The Met's Summer Recital Series will feature three talented young Met singers performing arias and duets from a variety of operas. Following the recital series a troupe of actors will perform a Shakespeare play. Both performances are free. Bring a blanket or a low folding chair and picnic fare. Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd. Long Island City

### US Open Tennis Championships

The annual US Open is one of the premier sporting events in the world. Book your tickets early for the best seats. Tickets go on sale to the general public June 11. The qualifying tournament is free and features some excellent tennis. Arthur Ashe Kids' Day is another free, excellent event. US Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
See [usopen.org](http://usopen.org) and [www.aakd.com](http://www.aakd.com) for details.  
Aug. 27 - Sept. 9

# Queens

## PARKS

### Federal Parks

#### Breezy Point

Part of the Gateway National Recreation Area, this park covers the extreme western end of the Rockaway Peninsula and is home to nesting colonies of a variety of endangered and threatened birds. Recreation in this area is limited to fishing. For more information, call 718-318-4340 or use the National Park Service or Friends of Gateway Recreation Area Web sites at [www.nps.gov/](http://www.nps.gov/) or [treebranch.org/](http://treebranch.org/).

#### Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Part of the Gateway National Recreation Area, the refuge covers over 9,000 acres and offers more than 5 miles of trails. The park, on the eastern flyway of migrating birds, is a favorite of birdwatchers. For more info, call chief ranger, Gateway NRA 718-318-4340  
Visit the National Park Service or Friends of Gateway Recreation Area Web sites.

#### Jacob Riis Park

Part of the Gateway National Recreation Area, this park on the Rockaway peninsula features a mile of beach and boardwalk, a pitch-and-putt course and a public pool. The park also offers facilities for softball, baseball, football, rugby, paddle ball and handball. The park's bathhouse and outdoor clock have been city landmarks since the 1930s and the entire park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Parking is available; a fee is charged in the summer.

### State Parks

#### Bayswater Point State Park

Mott Avenue and Jamaica Bay. This 14-acre park is a remnant of the estate of banker Louis A. Heinsheimer. The 175-foot-long mansion on the site, Breezy Point, was demolished in 1987, although a conservatory which was attached to the house remains. The land has been

a state park since 1988 and is managed by the Audubon Society as part of its Buffer the Bay project. The site now offers nature walks. The park juts out into the Mott Basin on the eastern shore of Jamaica Bay. The terrain is varied and includes beachfront, wetlands and woodlands, making it an ideal habitat for migrating and nesting birds. The goal of this park is to preserve the existing natural systems and, if feasible, restore what has been lost. Passive recreation, such as hiking and nature study, are encouraged. Fishing is permitted, but no pets. Open daily year round.

Contact: c/o Gantry Plaza State Park, 50-50 2nd St., Long Island City, NY 11101 or 718-471-2212.

#### Gantry Plaza State Park

Gantry Plaza State Park is a 12-acre riverside oasis that boasts views of the midtown Manhattan skyline, including the Empire State Building and the United Nations. Enjoy a relaxing stroll along the park's four

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**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**  
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# Queens PARKS

piers or through its manicured gardens and unique mist fountain. Along the way, admire the rugged beauty of the park's centerpieces: restored gantries. These industrial monuments were once used to load and unload rail car floats and barges. Today they are reminders of the waterfront's past. With the city skyline as a backdrop and the gantries as a stage, the park's plaza is a wonderful place to enjoy a spring or summer concert or the Macy's Fourth of July fireworks display.

Recreational facilities include basketball courts, playgrounds, handball courts and a fishing pier with its own cleaning table. Open daily and year-round, but no pets.

Contact: 409 47th St., Long Island City, NY 11101 or 718-786-6385.

## City Parks

For more information about any of these or other city parks, call the city Parks Department at 1-800-360-8111 or visit the Parks Department Web site at [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org) or [www.partnershipsforparks.org](http://www.partnershipsforparks.org).

### Alley Pond Park

This 657-acre park follows the course of Alley Creek, which leads into Little Neck Bay. It includes nature centers, hiking trails, barbecuing areas, baseball fields, tennis courts and handball courts, playgrounds,

golf courses and a soccer field. Attractions:

- Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston, NY 11363. Phone: 718-229-4000; e-mail: [info@alleypond.com](mailto:info@alleypond.com).
- Alley Pond Tennis Center, 79-20 Winchester Blvd., Queens Village, NY 11427. Phone: 718-264-2600; e-mail: [info@alleypondtenniscenter.com](mailto:info@alleypondtenniscenter.com).

### Astoria Park

This 66-acre park is on the East



River between the Hell Gate and Robert F. Kennedy bridges and has a view of the Manhattan skyline. The park contains bocce courts, a pool, dog runs, a tennis court, and playgrounds.

Location: bounded by Ditmars Boulevard, 21st Street, Astoria Park South and the East River.

### Baisley Pond Park

With 109 acres and a 30-acre pond, the park is located at North Conduit Avenue, Baisley

Boulevard South and Lake View Boulevard East in Jamaica. Fishing allowed. Free tennis.

### Brookville Park

In Rosedale, the entrance is at Brookville Boulevard and 149th Avenue. At 90 acres, the park features a baseball field and a bocce court.

### Crocheron Park

At 45.8 acres, the park is at 33rd to 35th avenues at Little Neck Bay and south of John Golden Park.

### Cunningham Park

With 358 acres, it is located at the Horace Harding Expressway and Grand Central Parkway and

has extensive facilities, including tennis courts, a ballfield, a soccer field, five playgrounds and the Long Island Motor Parkway. Visit <http://friendsofcunninghampark.org/>. Activities include barbecuing, bicycling, bocce, cricket, volleyball and 3 miles of hiking trails.

Contact the Cunningham Sports Center at 196-00 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows, NY 11366 or 718-740-6800.

## Staycations

*Continued from Page 23*

rides in their area, making trips to movie theaters to tour the projection rooms after watching a film, and even going bowling and learning how the mechanical pin setters worked. The trips proved to be a fun and educational experience for his two sons.

According to Wixon, older children can use the Internet as a learning tool by taking what he calls "virtual vacations," an activity that involves researching a foreign country, learning about their land, food culture and language and sharing what they have learned.

For those who prefer the outdoors, there are many recreational activities to get involved in throughout the borough. "There are plenty of things you can enjoy here for free," said John Warren, spokesman for the

Gateway National Recreation Area.

Though Queens is not the first place that comes to mind when it comes to wildlife, you might be surprised. One of the premier places to go bird watching is Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge," said Warren. "One thing New Yorkers don't take advantage of are the beaches — they are much cleaner than they were 30 years ago. I go and I enjoy them."

Rockaway Beach, Jacob Riis Beach, Fort Tilden Beach and Breezy Point beaches are some options in Queens. There are beach clubs in Breezy Point where families can register for a day or rent a cabana for the summer. Whether you choose to stay in or go outdoors during your staycation, remember a successful staycation requires you to "be creative and open to new things," said Wixon. "Think outside the box."

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**JUNE 18-JUNE 27**  
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Programs described subject to change. Grades listed are for September 2012.

**Puppetry & Toy Theater** • Grades K-1  
**Let's Dance!** • Grades K-1  
**Young Actor Prepares** • Grades 2-4  
**In & Out of the Pool Camp!** • Grades 3-5

**NEW THIS SUMMER**  
**Yogi Kids** • Grades 2-3  
**Berkeley Carroll Kitchen** • Grades 3-4  
**Summer Math Mania** • Grades 3-5  
**Music Guild** • Grades 3-5

June 18 - July 19, 2012  
Grades PreK-5

**JUNE 18-JULY 6**  
**CLASSIC DAY CAMP**  
GRADES 1-3 • 3 WEEKS

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8:30am-3:30pm all sessions\*  
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Young Campers' Full 8:30am-3:00 pm  
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WEEK 3: AUGUST 6 - 10

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WEEK 4: AUGUST 13 - 17  
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# Borough Beat

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARGIULO



## PASSING THE TEST

Principal Jose M. Cruz (c.), of the Mathematics, Science Research & Technology High School in Cambria Heights, participated in a quality review debriefing in March.

Photo by Bob Harris



## PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Hillcrest High School's Leadership classes and student government participated in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program.

Photo by Areefa Subrati



## LAB RATS

A group of freshmen from the Campus Magnet Complex in Cambria Heights stand outside a laboratory at St. John's University. The students were given a tour of the facility.

Photo by Wayne Gibson



## ON THE AIR

Grace Ali's English class in the Teachers of Tomorrow Institute at Hillcrest High School in Jamaica visited ABC studios as part of their junior Achievement activities. They met TV commentator John Quinones (c.).

Photo by Grace Ali



## VIRTUAL REALITY

Some students and staff from the virtual enterprise class at the Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School in Cambria Heights attended the 2012 Virtual Enterprise International Trade Fair in Manhattan.

Photo by Bob Harris



## WELCOME BACK, RAVEN

Abbe Raven, president and CEO of the A&E TV network, came back to Cambria Heights as a Principal for a Day. Her alma mater is Andrew Jackson High School.

Photo courtesy Humanities and the Arts High School



## BY THE BOOK

Zan-E Promee (c.), a student in the BizTek Institute of Hillcrest High School, is the boroughwide winner of this year's Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition. The contest combines storytelling, art-making and book-binding.

Photo courtesy Hillcrest



## SERVICING PEOPLE FOR 38 YEARS

The Robert Couche Adult Center celebrated 38 years of service to seniors with its annual awards dinner in March at Antun's. Andrea Scarborough (second from l.) was honored with the Humanitarian Award for her service to humanity.



## BLACK TIE ONLY

PS 15 in Springfield Gardens held its first Gala Black Tie Affair in March to celebrate children and school parental and community involvement. The school gymnasium was transformed with the use of tablecloths and ribbon-tied cloth chair covers. More than 60 PS 15 students were in attendance, dressed in special occasion dresses and dark suits. Entertainment was provided by talented student dancers.

Photo by Juliet Kaye

**ROCKAWAY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION CORP.'S 26TH ANNUAL DINNER AT RUSSO'S ON THE BAY**



**1** Audrey Pheffer, honoree Jack Friedman and Laurence Loue



**2** James Sanders Jr. and Helen and Don Marshall



**3** Linda Plummer and Cesar Aviles



**4** Sofia Ganosis, Jack Friedman and Myra D'Rico and employees of the Queens Chamber of Commerce



**5** Gian A. Jones, Rosie Paga, Linda Marr, Victor Clavie and Martha Taylor Butler



**6** Audrey Pheffer and Glenn DiResto



**7** Nelson E. Toebbe CEO of St. John's Episcopal Hospital Far Rockaway



**8** Jack Friedman, honoree

**VISIONS 28TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON AT TERRACE ON THE PARK**



**1** Jeff Miller, Edward Horn, Linda Marr, Victor Clavie and Ralph D'Onofrio



**2** Mary Ann McAleer, Daniel Leone and Roslyn Nieves



**3** Ruth Schlossman and Helen Marshall



**4** Ruth Schlossman, honoree Victor Clavie and Sandy Delson

**JEFFERSON DEMOCRATIC CLUB'S MAY MEETING AT CLEARVIEW GOLF CLUB**



**1** Guest speaker Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx borough president



**2** Matt Silverstein, Ed Braunstein, Carol Gresser, Ruben Diaz Jr. and David Fischer



**3** Jerry Iannece



**4** Ruben Diaz answers a question for David Fischer

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Martin H. H. Leff-Cinthus

*Orpheus in the Forest*, (4' by 6'), oil



# GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT



Most often a background instrument, the harp has been a mainstay for international musician Edmar Castaneda. Photo courtesy Edmar Castaneda

# A Change of Harp

BY ALEX PALMER

The harp is often relegated to the position of backup instrument, more likely set off to the side of a concert stage than at its center. But jazz harpist Edmar Castaneda has worked to change that, with recordings and performances that put the instrument front and center.

Castaneda, a resident of Whitestone for the past 10 years, is one of the most celebrated harpists in the jazz world and in March released his third album, "Double Portion." Unlike his previous works, which have most often featured a quartet, this new one showcases Castaneda as a solo performer.

"It's great—you have more space to create stuff," he says.

While Castaneda may have gone it alone on the new album, he continues to tour as part of a trio or quartet, adapting the solo pieces to work for the group. He will be playing several shows around New York City with a trio in the coming months, including a pair of shows on June 19 and June 21 as part of the Make Music New York citywide festival ([makemusicny.org](http://makemusicny.org)), as well as a trio performance at the American Harp Society on June 30.

Born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, Castaneda first picked up the harp at 13 years old. He became immediately intoxicated with the arpa llanera folk harp, or

harp of the plains.

But Castaneda sees his interest in music beginning well before receiving the harp. As the son of harpist Pavelid Castaneda and with a mother who encouraged him to dance to the Colombian joropo folk music, similar to a waltz and accompanied by the harp, his interest started practically at birth.

"The roots of my music are a traditional folk music from one part of Colombia," says Castaneda. "I mix those roots with the jazz of New York and with the city."

Through a number of collaborations and a pair of critically acclaimed albums that feature both his original compositions as well as renditions of native Colombian

Whitestone musician travels the world showing the power and majesty of his Colombian roots

pieces, Castaneda has carved a niche for himself in the international jazz scene and helped to establish the harp as a viable lead instrument.

His playing has been praised by critics for demonstrating how versatile the harp can be as an instrument, creating rhythms like that of a drummer, with hints of bebop, or emotive flourishes reminiscent of flamenco.

Castaneda first moved to New York in 1994, living in Long Island, but about 10 years ago he moved to Whitestone, which has proved to be an ideal location for his musical development.

"I don't perform too much in Queens,

*Continued on Page 33*

# Queens College exhibit explores evil eye mysticism



BY ARLENE MCKANIC

Often when a tourist visits Turkey they'll see an eye drawn on a door or knocker in the shape of a hand. This is the Nazar, a talisman against the evil eye, a curse directed at a person or thing the spell caster dislikes or envies. Now the evil eye is the subject of a fascinating art exhibit at Queens College Art Center.

Called "Amulets, Nazars & Evil Eyes: Artists Looking Forward," it's part of Queens College's "Year of Turkey: Exploring Past, Present, Future." The exhibit features the works of more than a dozen artists, not all of Turkish descent, including Jonas Angelet, Adam Cooper-Terán, Asya Dodina & Slava Polishchuk, Rehab El-Sadek, Anujan Ezhikode, Roya Farassat, Julia Forrest, Becky Franco, Flore Gardner, Reineke

Reineke Hollander's "Dead Fetishes Waiting for a Ceremony," a mixed-media installation, is part of Queens College's exhibit Amulets, Nazars and Evil Eyes on display through June 29.

Photo courtesy Queens College

Hollander, Beth Krensky, Batya Kuncman, Howard Lerner, Anush Mirbegian, Zac Monday, Shervone Neckles, Yasemin Ozsavasci Nehan, Carin Riley Shelton Walsmith and others.

Not all of the artworks were made specifically for this exhibit, though they were all chosen as a response to the theme. The works are in different media and range from spooky to quirky to humorous. In Walsmith's "The White Album No. 66," a digital photograph shows the sort of toy eyeball a person might get from Archie McPhee's joke store clipped to something that looks like a key ring.

On the other hand, the Dutch artist Reineke Hollander's "Dead Fetishes Waiting for a Ceremony" is by turns playful and unsettling. It's a mixed media collection of brightly colored, unnamable, vaguely African objects. Some are fixed in neat rows to a wall, while the rest lie in a jumble on the floor. Many are covered in what looks like fish netting. On some of the objects, the viewer can see a hint of a Nazar talisman.

Tara Mathison, the exhibit's

assistant curator, spoke to the TimesLedger via e-mail about the new exhibit.

Why was it being put up? And why now?

"Recently Turkey has received more global attention, due to the current political climate, as well as being a haven for artists, writers and musicians," wrote Mathison. "We wanted to do a show responding to Turkey's cultural resurgence on the global art world."

The exhibit took about a year from conception to fruition, she added. As for the artists, "We selected artists from an international call, based on how the work fit into the overall thematic structure of the exhibition."

Amulets, Nazars & Evil Eyes: Artists Looking Forward will be at the Queens College Art Center, Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing through June 29. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and May 29 through June 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed weekends and holidays. Free and open to the public.

## sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #12

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

Medium #8

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

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](http://www.sudoku.com)  
© Puzzles by Pappocom



# Edmar Castaneda

Continued from Page 31

but the part of Whitestone where I live is really nice," says Castaneda. "It's quiet, and everything is really close to other areas I need to get to, whether Manhattan or Long Island or elsewhere."

He finds Queens to be an ideal place to work on his compositions, practicing the harp almost every day.

"But when I tour, when I play, that's like a practice for me so I play a little less," says Castaneda. "I have to rest my hands, you know?"

Castaneda jokes that he is slightly "obsessed" with keeping his hands protected and loose by playing scales and other exercises, comparing it to any other sport.

He also finds Whitestone a good place for his



Edmar Castaneda, a Whitestone resident, makes a living putting the harp in the musical forefront. Photo courtesy Edmar Castaneda

family. Andrea Tierra, the vocalist in his quartet, also happens to be Castaneda's wife. They have been married for seven years, after meeting in a jam session in New York City.

"Twenty days after we met, we got married," says Castaneda.

They have two children: Zeubi, their daughter who is almost 3 years old, and a 1-year-old son, Zamir, who have both lived their lives in Queens.

Castaneda keeps a

busy tour schedule that has him globe-hopping to everywhere from Poland to Chile to Hungary just in the next few months, and he makes sure to get back to Colombia once or twice a year to perform or visit friends and family. All of this makes getting back to Queens that much sweeter.

"For me, home is New York, but my roots are from Colombia," says Castaneda. "Now I'm home. It's great to see my two kids."

## THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### CONCERTS

**Bill Popp and The Tapes** – Performing 1960s chart busters and originals. No cover, no excuses.

**When:** May 18, 10 pm  
**Where:** The End Zone, 149-44 14th Ave., Whitestone  
**Contact:**

**Brahms' Requiem** – A choir of 200 voices will perform the beloved masterwork.

**When:** May 19, 8 pm  
**Where:** Queens College Arts Center, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing  
**Contact:** (718) 997-3770  
**Website:** [kupferbergcenter.org/qcchoralspring.htm](http://kupferbergcenter.org/qcchoralspring.htm)

**April Lynn James** – A program of music for the 125th anniversary of St. Gabriel's Church.

**When:** May 20, 1 pm  
**Where:** St. Gabriel's Church, 196th Street and Jamaica Avenue, Hollis  
**Contact:** (718) 46502876

**Spring Concert** – The Bayside Men's Glee Club will hold its

Spring Concert featuring a variety of music in the grand tradition of men's singing.  
**When:** May 20, 3 pm  
**Where:** Church on the Hill, 168th Street and 35th Avenue, Flushing

**Mass in C, Op. 86** – The Oratorio Society of Queens celebrates its 85th anniversary! To celebrate this historic landmark in community music-making, the chorus presents Beethoven's "Mass in C, Op. 86" as well as a special Armed Forces Salute, African-American Spirituals and Opera highlights.  
**When:** May 20, 4 pm  
**Where:** Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside  
**Contact:** (718) 631-6311  
**Website:** [www.visitqpac.org](http://www.visitqpac.org)

**Queens Jazz Orchestra** – Music director Jimmy Heath. This year's concert will showcase female jazz artists on the Queens Jazz Trail: Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne and Billie Holiday.  
**When:** May 25, 8 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard,

Flushing  
**Contact:** (718) 463-7700;  
[boxoffice@flushingtowhall.org](mailto:boxoffice@flushingtowhall.org)  
**Website:** [www.flushingtowhall.org](http://www.flushingtowhall.org)

**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:** June 6, 7 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing  
**Contact:** (718) 463-7700  
**Website:** [www.flushingtowhall.org](http://www.flushingtowhall.org)

### KIDS & FAMILY

**Big Apple Circus** – It's stupendous, it's amazing, it's the Dream Big circus! Come and see jugglers, balancing acts, spirited horses and Grandma the clown.

Continued on Page 34

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(Closed Monday)

# THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from Page 33

**When:** Daily, check for times and tickets, from Tuesday, May 22 to Sunday, June 17

**Where:** Cunningham Park, 196-22 Union Turnpike at Francis Lewis Blvd., Fresh Meadows  
**Contact:** (800) 922-3772  
**Website:** bigapplecircus.org

**Cartoon exhibit** – Animation: A 6,000 square exhibit features characters from the Cartoon Network, including larger than life graphics, animation from concept to finished product, storyboarding, character design and drawing.

**When:** Weekdays, 9:30 am-5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-6 pm, until Sunday, Sept. 2  
**Where:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona  
**Contact:** (718) 699-0005 X353  
**Website:** www.nyscience.org

**Theater and Dance Children's Workshop** – Thalia Spanish Theatre is proud to announce its biligual theatre movement and dance for children workshop taught by Yloy

Ybarra, incorporating Flamenco and Mexican folkloric styles. It will accommodate both Spanish and English-speaking children. The age group is from 5-12 years old.

**When:** Saturdays through June 23, 10 am  
**Where:** Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside  
**Contact:** (718) 729-3880  
**Website:** www.thaliatheatre.org

## EVENTS

### 38th Annual Greek Festival

– The festival will feature a DJ playing modern and traditional Greek music for listening and dancing. Students from the parish parochial school will perform Greek folk dances in traditional costume all four days. Greek delicacies will be served. A market and carnival rides for children and games of skill and chance for kids and adults will featured.

**When:** May 17-20; Thursday and Friday, 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday, 1 pm  
**Where:** Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 30-11 30th

Drive, Astoria

**Spellbound: Masters of Magic** – World class magician Peter Samelson and sleight of hand wizard Dennis Kyriakos. Amateur magicians are welcome to perform for prizes.  
**When:** May 19, 2 pm  
**Where:** Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens  
**Contact:** (718) 544-3600  
**Website:** www.friendsofmaplegrove.org

### 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

### 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

**LIC Arts Open** – The LIC Arts Open is back for more. Putting Queens on the cultural map for a second year in a row, the festival takes over Long Island City and brings with it the new and noteworthy. We've got the cultural fix you've been looking

for.  
**When:** Through May 20  
**Where:** Long Island City  
**Contact:** (347) 670-9024

**Terra-fic Garden** – Yegam Art Space is pleased to present Eco Friendly Art Project : Terra-fic Garden, new and recent workst of three artists, Jongil Ma, Youngmi Kim and Sisun Song. The show focuses on the social functions of art and how art should take a role in a social and cultural way for the public.  
**When:** Through May 27  
**Where:** 196-50 Northern Blvd., Flushing

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers  
May 17-23, 2012

By Bill Deasy

Cobbler's Creations

### Across

- Waffle expert?
- 'Inc.' cousin
- Cold war news name
- All-purpose lyrics
- Hollywood Squares victory
- "Give it \_\_\_!" (try)
- Boots
- A fresh start?
- Biography
- Anti
- Soccer star Freddy
- Anger
- "Be a \_\_\_!"
- Ark unit
- Bygone despot
- Secret target?
- "Green" prefix
- Pumps
- \_\_\_ Diego
- Imagine
- Maine river
- "Arrivederci!"
- WWII VIP
- Ending for Pam
- "... lovely \_\_\_ tree"
- "It's on me!"
- Permitted
- M.I.T. degrees
- Spikes
- An OK city?
- 1969 Super Bowl number
- Pub choices
- Actress Russo
- "Nightline" host Koppel
- African menace

### Down

- Chi-town trains
- Big tub
- M\*A\*S\*H star
- "Is it too risky?"
- "Rocket Man" John
- Coll. dorm figures
- Centers of attention
- Wrong way to go?
- Like St. Peter's
- Drawn tight
- Stella \_\_\_ (Belgian beer)
- Bogart film, *High* \_\_\_
- More agile
- Hitching posts?
- Big Ten sch.
- The Simpsons Squishee seller
- West Side Story faction
- 1992 Olympics host
- Louvre architect
- Ballerina's assets
- "Put a tiger in your tank" company
- Amt. needed daily
- Diplomat
- CBS debut of 10/6/2000
- Paint choice
- Weathers
- Canada Dry product
- A fine mesh
- "Tom Terrific"
- "It's \_\_\_ and the same"
- Kind of radio show



- Like St. Peter's
- Drawn tight
- Stella \_\_\_ (Belgian beer)
- Bogart film, *High* \_\_\_
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- Big Ten sch.
- The Simpsons Squishee seller
- West Side Story faction
- 1992 Olympics host
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- Ballerina's assets
- "Put a tiger in your tank" company
- Amt. needed daily
- Diplomat
- CBS debut of 10/6/2000
- Paint choice
- Weathers
- Canada Dry product
- A fine mesh
- "Tom Terrific"
- "It's \_\_\_ and the same"
- Kind of radio show
- Fare-minded worker?
- Amaze
- "Don't hold back!"
- Tempts, in a way
- Prep the soil again
- "Ye \_\_\_ Shoppe"
- "The best \_\_\_ plans..."
- Saving Private Ryan carrier
- Fax machine ancestor: abbr.
- Atlanta-to-Tampa dir.

### Quotable Quote

You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.

... George Burns

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- Sausage & Peppers
- Broiled Chicken
- Small Meatballs
- Linguini w/Red or White Clams
- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

- Chicken Parmigiana
- Chicken Francaise
- Chicken Marsala
- Chicken Pizzaiola
- Veal Cutlet Parmigiana
- Penne Vodka
- Tortellini Alfredo

**CHOICE B**  
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Any 3 Choices from A  
Any 2 Choices from B

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Ravioli  
Baked Ziti  
Eggplant Parmigiana  
Sausage & Peppers  
Broiled Chicken  
Small Meatballs  
Linguini, w/Clam Sauce  
Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

**CHOICE B**  
\$25.<sup>95</sup>

- Any 3 Choices From A  
Any 2 Choices From B  
Chicken Pizzaiola  
Chicken Francaise  
Chicken Marsala  
Veal Cutlet Parmigiana  
Veal Marsala  
Tortellini Alfredo  
Penne Vodka

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**CHOICE C**  
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Sit Down Dinner - 1 of 3 Choices  
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**CHICKEN**  
Marsala, Parmigiana  
Francaise

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# THEATER CALENDAR

**The Jack Cole Project** – A world dance premiere musical.

**When:** Through May 20

**Where:** Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona

**Contact:** Box Office (718) 760-0064; Administration (718) 760-0686

**Website:** www.queenstheatre.org

**The Secret Garden** – Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Marsha Norman, in collaboration with composer Lucy Simon, achieved Broadway success with the moving book and lyrics adapted

from Frances Hodgson Burnett's beloved 1911 novel. Using the classic form of the traditional American musical, they have fashioned a faithful rendition of the novel, equally appealing to children and adults, to devotees of the novel and to Secret Garden newcomers as well.

**When:** Thursdays and Fridays 8 pm, Saturdays 2 pm and 8 pm, through May 19

**Where:** Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 30-44 Crescent St, Astoria

**Pirate Pete's Parrot** – The play revolves around Pirate Pete, a lovable rogue on a mission to find his beloved runaway parrot, Polly (who prefers pancakes to boring old birdseed). Armed with an endearing crew of misfits like Jolly Roger (the insufferably happy second mate) and Miroslav,

the Czech mate (get it?), Pete embarks on a journey complete with songs, sword fights, and plenty of audience interaction.

**When:** May 26 and June 2, 16, 2 pm

**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City

**Contact:** (718) 392-0722

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**The Mermaids' Tale** – Following the success of the Wizard of Oz, L. Frank Baum would go on to write the charming underwater adventure The Sea Fairies, published in 1911. Though one of Baum's more obscure titles, it came to the attention of playwright and director Jack Dyville and writing partner John Stutte, who were inspired to adapt the novel into a children's

musical.

**When:** May 19 and June 9, 2pm

**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City

**Contact:** (718) 392-0722

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**Gypsy** – FSF Community Theatre Group is pleased to present the musical. all seats reserved.

**When:** May 19, 8 pm

**Where:** Free Synagogue of Flushing, 40-60 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

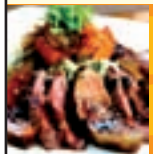
**Contact:** 718-961-0030

**Website:** www.freesynagogue.org

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## St. John's graduation is sea of red

St. John's University held its 142nd commencement exercises Sunday afternoon. (Clockwise from top l.) officials estimated that including students, staff, family and friends about 19,000 were in attendance; Dan Bart, who received a master's degree in accounting, genuflects like Tim Tebow; one student sports sandals; Bradley Jacques (r.) of Richmond Hill reaches over to hug his grandmother Marie Fortunat Sr. after he received his diploma; (l.-r.) Imran Khan, Shaban Khan (c.) and Sherizhan Khan cross the stage; Albert Chen Tseng (l.) adjusts his daughter Wan Chen Tseng's cap; and Angela Eyer (l.) and Angela Slhn catch Sophia Petrillo after she returned to the student procession area.

Photos by Christina Santucci



## Queens facility takes you out to ball game

Teams, sluggers of all ages can practice their swings at Batting and Pitching Academy in Bayside

BY PHIL CORSO

Without looking, the sounds of Bayside's Batting and Pitching Academy resembled any other ball field amid the early spring season frenzy. The cracking of aluminum bats seemingly dominated the room only to be met with the encouraging yells of a Little League coach.

But the baseball factory, on the second floor of 42-02 215th St., doesn't look like your traditional diamond-shaped field. Inside, batters of all ages take their swings encased in black nets and fielders practice their skills on a mock infield.

"Practice makes perfect, and this is the best place to do it," said Mike Socci, manager at Bayside Batting and Pitching.

The one-stop baseball and softball practice spot offers an affordable, year-round facility to local players and teams of all ages, Socci said. Whether it's offensive strategies or defensive mechanics, there isn't any aspect of the game that can't be perfected in Bayside.



Members of the Little Neck-Douglaston Cardinals line up to practice their swings at the Bayside Batting and Pitching Academy's indoor practice facility.

Photo by Phil Corso

Hitters looking for an extra push also have the option of training alongside hitting coaches and former Major League Baseball players Gabby Martinez and Kevin Baez.

But one of the most common uses of the facility, Socci said, involve Little League teams from the area, including Bayside and Little Neck. Sal Vassallo coaches the Little Neck/Douglaston Car-

dinals and said he brings his bunch to the cages at least once a week.

He threw pitches to his players as they warmed up during batting practice.

"We come here because we can focus more on the batting and pitching aspects of the game," Vassallo said. "The pitching machines are more accurate than any pitcher could be and it helps the kids get better."

Vassallo said there weren't too many cages in the area that were as especially clean as the Bayside Batting and Pitching.

"They keep it clean, which I feel is most important," Vassallo said. "Appearance is everything."

Andy Chui plays third base and outfield for the Cardinals and said practicing has been an easy and enjoyable experience for his entire team.

"It's so close to home," Chui said. "That makes it easy to practice and improve on a regular basis."

Bayside Batting and Pitching, owned by Anthony Chiodi,

opened in 2009 with four cages, a party room and a main lobby with clear glass to allow parents and spectators to watch practices as they unfold.

It is open from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends.

The busiest season, Socci said, ranged from December to April, when the weather might not permit the most baseball-friendly conditions.

"Sometimes it's tough to get a field," Socci said. "Here coaches and players can book the cages anytime they want."

Walk-ins are also welcome.

Socci said championship teams have come through the batting cages and credited some of their success to the time they devoted to the practice space.

"It's more than just hitting," Socci said. "People can come here to learn teamwork, defense and other fundamentals of the game."

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at [pcorso@cnglocal.com](mailto:pcorso@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4573

### BUSINESS CALENDAR

**Queens Chamber Business Expo** – The chamber's best networking event of the year.

**When:** May 22

**Where:** Queens Chamber of Commerce, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Suite 140, Jackson Heights

**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 through May 22, 6-8 pm

**Where:** The Daughters of Isis Foundation Office, 148-14 Liberty Ave., Jamaica

**Contact:** (917) 292-5176; [loliver24@verizon.net](mailto:loliver24@verizon.net)

**Website:** [luecorp.tripod.com](http://luecorp.tripod.com)

**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](mailto:gnaftaly@accessoffice.net), (718) 217-0009

**Website:** [www.powerfullyou.com](http://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](mailto:HGBCPA@aol.com) or (718) 423-0427

### FUND-RAISERS

**Drea's Dream Dance-a-Thon** – The Astoria Dance Centre and the Andrea Rizzo Foundation's nationwide fundraising effort, "Dance Across America," will coordinate a pledge drive. Astoria Dance Director Maureen Gelchio will oversee dancers as they collect pledges for dancing.

**When:** Saturday, May 19, 6-9 pm & Sunday, May 20, 5-8 pm

**Where:** Astoria Dance Centre, 42-16 28th Ave., Astoria

**Contact:** (401) 952-2423

**Website:** [www.dreasm.com](http://www.dreasm.com)

**First National Walk** – The TEAM TSA National Awareness Walk is a 5K (3.1 mile) walk to raise funds and awareness for Tourette Syndrome. Funds benefit TSA chapters in the Tri-State area as well as the national Tourette Syndrome Association.

**When:** May 20, 9 am

**Where:** Verdi's, 149-58 Cross Island Pkwy.

**Annual Fashion Show** – To benefit the parish, raffle for sweepstake prizes.

**When:** May 22

**Where:** Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, 34-24 203rd St., Bayside

**Contact:** (718) 229-5929

**Scholarship Dinner** – Sponsored by

the Bayside-Whitestone Lions Club.

**When:** May 17, 6 pm

**Where:** Verdi's, 149-58 Cross Island Pkwy., Whitestone

**180th Anniversary Gala** –

Celebrate women's health at Elmhurst Hospital Center.

**When:** May 17, 6:30 pm

**Where:** Terrace on the Park, 52-11 11th St., Corona

**Contact:** 718-592-5000; [www.terraceonthepark.com](http://www.terraceonthepark.com)

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# Peninsula Hospital

Continued from Page 4

adds critical minutes to every ambulance ride," he said. "The fact that the hospital remains shuttered with no emergency room and no plan that we know of

is reprehensible and unacceptable. And the fact that we don't have a plan coming from the Department of Health is inexcusable."

The hearing was convened in accordance with the Hospital Closure Act,

which requires a community meeting hosted by the Health Department. A report will be generated based on the public comments.

Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at [smosco@cnglocal.com](mailto:smosco@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4546.

## Frisk

Continued from Page 4

in the community."

Gadsden is planning a town hall meeting to discuss the recent numbers May 22 at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Hollis, 202-03 Hollis Ave.

The NAACP is also organizing a bus to carry protesters from the Jamaica branch, 189-26 Linden Blvd., at noon to Manhattan for a Father's Day silent march June 17 down Fifth Avenue.

The NYCLU's analysis found that while the number of stop-and-frisk incidents throughout the city has increased nearly sevenfold since 2003, the number of guns found has not kept pace.

In 2003, the NYPD recovered one gun for every 266 people stopped, compared to one firearm recovered for every 2,982 additional people stopped last year, according to the

NYCLU.

"The NYPD's own data undermine many of the Bloomberg administration's justifications for the stop-and-frisk program," said NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman. "Contrary to the mayor and police commissioner's assertions, the massive spike in the number of stops has done little to remove firearms from the streets. Instead, it has violated the constitutional rights of millions of people and corroded the ability of communities of color to trust and respect the police."

City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) said he believed more transparency would open a dialogue between the NYPD and neighborhoods so community members feel they are not being unfairly targeted.

"They should be reporting and in consultation with the community at meetings once a month on how they're doing and why they're doing what they're doing," he said.

The councilman said he would be co-hosting a town hall meeting with state Assemblyman William Scarborough (D-Jamaica) June 7 at the Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center on Linden Boulevard to discuss the city Public Advocate Bill de Blasio's plan to reform the NYPD program.

"One reason [NYPD Commissioner Ray] Kelly is doing this is because he's lost so many police personnel," Comrie said.

Tactics such as increasing police presence and targeted sweeps, the councilman said, are more effective in removing guns from streets.

State Sen. Shirley Huntley (D-Jamaica) has also planned a town hall meeting for May 19, 11 a.m., at the Springfield Community Church, 177-06 129th Ave.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at [rbockmann@cnglocal.com](mailto:rbockmann@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4574.

## Absentee

Continued from Page 5

daynyc.org.

According to Bloomberg, students who miss 20 days or more in a single year have a drastically reduced chance of graduating.

"The numbers are not surprising," Bloomberg said. "If you're not in school, you can't learn."

The mayor also announced new resources to connect parents with sup-

port to address their child's needs as part of the initiatives of his Interagency Task Force on Truancy, Chronic Absenteeism and School Engagement.

Bloomberg said the task force's strategies were active in 50 pilot schools across the city, which included 31,000 students. Of those students, 4,000 were assigned mentors to reduce absenteeism and work together to improve personal behavior.

Fifth-grader Quinn Corcino Jr. spoke in support of the mayor's plans

to promote attendance through the use of mentors and positive influence.

"I used to be out a lot. I missed 29 days last year, but only three so far this year and no more," Quinn said. "I got lots of awards this year because of that, which feels so great. My success mentor is the reason I will never miss school."

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at [pcorso@cnglocal.com](mailto:pcorso@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4573.

# Gay marriage

Continued from Page 4

sonally against same-sex marriage, although he was in support of civil unions for same-sex couples. He credited his family, friends and Vice President Joe Biden, who had announced his endorsement of marriage equality May 6, with changing his mind.

New York became the sixth state in the country to recognize same-sex marriage in July 2011. Queens' other openly gay councilman, Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), who is planning to be married to his longtime partner Dan Hendrick in July, said in a statement he was moved by the president's support.

"I remember shedding

a tear the night President Obama was elected, as so many of us were filled with hope for him and our country," Van Bramer said. "Today, that promise of hope is fulfilled yet again for so many in such a profound way."

Dromm arranged a news conference to send Obama a giant thank you postcard last week at the Jackson Heights post office, at 78-02 37th Ave. While some have credited Obama's change of heart to political reasons or have criticized him for not supporting what many see as a civil rights issue earlier, Dromm said what was important was that he had done the right thing.

"[People] can evolve

on this issue and they can change their mind on this issue," Dromm said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg made a speech in support of same-sex marriage and criticized North Carolina's amendment Sunday after the vote at the University of North Carolina's commencement speech. The university audience greeted his address with applause.

Gary Paul Gilbert, of the Empire State Pride Agenda, said that while New York state's marriage laws give same-sex couples 1,324 protections, they are barred from 1,138 additional federal rights.

"[Obama] has recognized that only civil marriage can give same-sex couples the same rights and protections as every couple," Gilbert said.

## Rally

Continued from Page 5

Helen Marshall said when she was a schoolteacher, the local library was a place where both teachers and students could expand on school lessons. She also

said a borough as diverse as Queens needs a strong library system to support the immigrant population.

"A library is an important resource for every neighborhood. It's a place to learn, read, explore and broaden new visions and learn how to achieve your goals and ambitions," she

said. "Libraries here in Queens, America's most diverse county, also bridge the gap for new immigrants to assimilate in a multicultural society while providing veteran visitors with the tools they need to build a better future for a new generation."

## Sully

Continued from Page 5

He said the building is already attracting birds, as hundreds can be seen perching on the under-construction facility.

"The facility is already proving to be a hazard during the construction phase," he said.

Elected officials also joined the fight against the waste station, with state Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) calling on the city and the Port Authority to halt plans for the facility.

She said the station, set for completion in 2013, poses an extreme hazard to both air travelers and residents on the ground.

According to the assemblywoman, the Federal Aviation Administration has raised concerns about this

project on numerous occasions over the last 10 years.

"It is plainly unreasonable that the city would plan to build a waste facility so close to LaGuardia Airport," she said. "Our goal is to protect Queens families. People are worried about the Sully incident happening again and remember — too vividly — the devastating air tragedy in Queens from 2001. My bill in the Assembly will prohibit building waste transfer stations near airports in heavily populated New York City."

Meng referred to the 2001 tragedy involving American Airlines Flight 587, which crashed into Belle Harbor shortly after takeoff and resulted in 260 fatalities on board and five on the ground.

State Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) and Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz (D-Flushing)

also weighed in, both co-sponsoring Meng's legislation to block the completion of the facility.

A representative for Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office said a waste station operated safely on the same land from 1954 to 2001.

But Paskar shot back at that claim, saying all it takes is one disaster.

"It's a question of when, not if, there will be a major catastrophe," he said. "The transfer station will significantly increase the risk."

Aviation safety has been a hot topic among elected officials recently as U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) drafted legislation aimed at making goose removal at John F. Kennedy International Airport easier after a bird strike forced the emergency landing of a Delta Airlines flight bound for Los Angeles.

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Bishop Ford's Brittany Martin is headed to Old Dominion.

Photo by Denis Gostev

## Ford's 'Pookie' signs with Old Dominion

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Intent with Old Dominion.

Basketball wasn't always a serious thing for Brittany "Pookie" Martin. The Bishop Ford center had played the sport growing up, but didn't compete in organized ball until she went to the Brooklyn Catholic school.

"I was so bad," Martin said. "From freshman year to this year I improved."

Falcons Coach Mike Toro said he began to see a change in her attitude and work ethic two summers ago when she was playing with Exodus and then Coach Apache Paschall. Two years later Martin was a major contributor for the Falcons — so much so she will be playing Division I basketball next season after signing a National Letter of

"When she started she was just a tall girl in the middle, not really serious about the game," Toro said. "It's great to see a kid who went from not wanting to get on the court and work out to a kid who has helped win games and wants to play every chance she gets."

The 6-foot-3 Martin, who will try to visit ODU next week, felt an immediate connection with the coaching staff, who watched tape and then came to watch her during the season. The Queens native felt wanted and loved everything she heard about the school, especially being down south in warm Virginia, and the program. Old Dominion went 11-21 last season and

*Continued on Page 42*

## Andre the Giant goes big

Forest Hills alum heads to Division I program in Baltimore

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Andre Armstrong's journey to a Division I basketball scholarship featured as many stops and starts as the Brooklyn/Queens Expressway.

After four solid years at Forest Hills, it included one year of prep school at Notre Dame Prep, two junior college years at Monroe Community College and a verbal commitment to Maine. The talented shooting guard's plan was to attend Maine after one year at Monroe, but the NCAA red-flagged his transcript, forcing Armstrong to do a second year at the junior college.

Armstrong's Division I goal was finally realized May 8 as the 6-foot-2 Flushing native signed with Coppin State of the MEAC conference.

"I was relieved, finally after everything," he said. "I'm very excited. I went through a lot to go to where I'm at. A lot of people doubted me, said I couldn't play at this level. A lot of people were trying to force me to go Division II. I felt I deserved a chance to play Division I."

Armstrong will get that chance at Coppin State.

He chose the Eagles over Hofstra and Norfolk State. After seven Coppin State seniors graduate, including leading scorers the Akeem Elis and Tony Gallo, Armstrong will be given an opportunity to make an immediate impact with the program, which went 14-16



Former Forest Hills standout Andre Armstrong, of Monroe Community College, signed with Coppin State.

Photo courtesy Monroe Community College Athletics

last year.

"I've been the underdog before — at Forest Hills I was the underdog," he said. "I'll continue that there."

He was drawn to Coppin State by 26th-year head Coach Ron Mitchell. Armstrong liked the way Mitchell uses his guards, the freedom they have in the Eagles' up-tempo system.

"It's a shooter's offense, he uses his shooters very well," Armstrong said. "I watched film high-

lights when I was there and I liked the way they play with their guards. I like their overall style of play. He rewards hard work, that's another thing I liked about him. That's where I fit in."

Armstrong enjoyed a solid two-year career at Monroe after a standout four seasons at Forest Hills, which he led to a Queens borough title as a senior. He also shined at Monroe, averaging 11 points per game this winter.

"He's a kid you give the ball to and he really can score the basketball," Monroe Coach Jerry Burns said. "He did everything we asked of him. His career was just as a JUCO career should be: two years, you get a Division I scholarship."

Armstrong was all set to go to Maine after one year at Monroe, thinking he was fully qualified. The NCAA red-flagged him because his SAT score in-

*Continued on Page 42*

# Lab cheerleader trades pompoms for high-tops

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Up until two years ago, if Ashanti Plummer was at a basketball game, it was in the stands or on the baseline waving pom-poms.

"I wanted to be a dancer and a cheerleader," she said. "It's so much better to be on the other side."

With the encouragement of her mother De-Shawn, Plummer traded in her cheerleading skirt for a pair of basketball shorts and quickly became a star at Lab Museum United.

This year, the 6-foot-2 senior helped lead the Gators to the PSAL Class A semifinals and Friday, to cap a remarkable three years, she committed to play Division I basketball at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

"I tried it and it was really hard," Plummer said of basketball. "But the fact that it was the hardest thing for me is why I kept playing. Everything else seemed to come easy for



Ashanti Plummer, a former cheerleader, will be joining Division I basketball program at Texas A&M.

Photo courtesy Long Island Lightning Dingle

me."

Plummer, who also plays softball, is an excellent student and also artistic, was found by Corpus Christi in a fortuitous way. New Corpus Christi Coach Royce Chadwick and assistant Roxanne White had signed Plummer's LMU

and Long Island Lightning AAU teammate, Jenny Ramirez, when they were at Marshall. Chadwick and White knew Plummer and liked her — but they didn't have a spot for a big girl.

"They came to my semifinals game and they were talking to me," said

Plummer, an Ozone Park native. "They both said, 'You have the potential to play for a Division I school, keep working hard, you can do it.'"

One month ago, Chadwick left Marshall for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and took White with him.

The Islanders needed some size and the athletic Plummer was the first call the coaches made.

"Next thing you know, I'm committing to play for them," she said. "It happened in the blink of an eye. I feel so happy and blessed."

Plummer also considered Indiana State, LeMoyne and Monroe (Rochester). She knew she wanted to go down to Texas to play for Chadwick and White, though. She just had to visit Corpus Christi this weekend to meet the team and see if she liked it. Plummer didn't just like it — she loved it.

"It's beautiful," she said. "The palm trees, the water. I love it there. I went to the beach today. When I first heard I was coming down, I was thinking farms and sweltering heat. Then when I came down here, it was like Florida."

Plummer's incredible journey from cheerleader to Division I basketball player

wasn't easy. It came after dedication and some help. Plummer credited New York Rockits Coach Kevin Low with teaching her the fundamentals and Lightning Dingle Coach Jaywana Bradley for taking her to the next level. LMU Coach Katie Jungers was diligent in finding her a college, talking to coaches, making sure her grades were in order and transcript met the necessary guidelines.

"That's a good fit for her," said one Division I assistant coach. "Her length and athleticism will help her really get that program going in the right direction."

Plummer hopes so. And she doesn't mind doing anything she has to in order to make an impact. As long as that doesn't include pom-poms and a skirt.

"Whatever is necessary," Plummer said. "I'll do whatever the coaches tell me. If I have to play a role, I'll play a role."

## Prep boys rake up win over strong Xaverian ball club

BY MARC RAIMONDI

St. Francis Prep players have spent more time wielding rakes and shovels in the last two weeks than bats and gloves. With all the rain, attempting to play games at the Terriers' grass field at Cunningham Park has been dicey. Three games last week alone were postponed.

"The kids get tired of fixing the field," Brother Robert Kent said. "They want to play."

It certainly seemed like that Friday.

Dylan Lawrence pitched a complete-game two-hitter to lead St. Francis Prep to its biggest win of the season, 2-1, over previously undefeated Xaverian in CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens 'AA' baseball in Fresh Meadows. Somehow, despite all the rain, SFP (9-3) has now strung seven

straight wins together after starting the league season 2-3.

"It's difficult to keep your rhythm, momentum," Kent said. "We were playing good last week and this week we couldn't even play."

Until Friday, that is. Bobby Perretti went 2-for-3 with two triples and an RBI and John Mendez scored the winning run after a wild pick-off attempt to second.

Lawrence, though, was the story. Just a sophomore, the right-hander almost pitched this year on the JV with all his friends, but Kent brought him up because the longtime coach felt he could help the big team. That decision is paying dividends.

"If I bring you up, you're gonna pitch," Kent said. "I don't believe in moving guys up and not



St. Francis Prep's Dylan Lawrence tossed a two-hitter against Xaverian.

Photo by Robert Cole

pitching him."

Lawrence got his feet wet in a win against Monsignor McClancy and then

beat Christ the King. Kent had enough confidence in the 10th-grader to throw him into the fire against de-

fending CHSAA Class AA intersectional champion Xaverian (12-1). Lawrence rewarded him with a bril-

liant outing, even picking off two batters off first.

"We found another pitcher today," Kent said with a laugh. "That's what happens with these rain-outs."

Indeed, with ace Taso Stathopoulos, steady Nick LoPrinzi and now Lawrence, St. Francis Prep has a staff that will be a force to be reckoned with in the postseason.

This victory against Xaverian doesn't clinch second place in Brooklyn/Queens, but it puts SFP in the driver's seat.

"It's tremendous," Kent said of the victory. "We're trying to get second place, get a good spot in the playoffs."

And perhaps the best part about the playoffs is that they're mostly at college fields. The Terriers can leave the rakes and shovels at home.



# Bronx standout signs with Queens College

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Joya McFarland didn't just want to go somewhere she felt wanted. The John F. Kennedy senior wanted a college where she was needed.

Queens College Coach Bet Naumovski gave her that exact feeling.

"She wants me to lead her team and she expects a lot from me," McFarland said. "She had the highest expectations for me out of all the recruiters I've spoken to over the years."

The 5-foot-5 sharpshooter made it official May 7, signing a National Letter of Intent to play women's basketball for Naumovski at Queens.

The fit, McFarland believed, was perfect. Naumovski, the second-year coach, is in the midst of a rebuilding project at Queens, which went 1-25 and 0-16 in East Coast Conference play this year. McFarland said she was told she'd play right away and make an immediate impact.

"The team had a rough season last year and they're rebuilding," McFarland said. "[Naumovski] wants me to play a big role in that."

The Bronx native received nearly a full athletic scholarship. In her time at Kennedy, McFarland was one of the best three-point shooters in New York City and the team's best pure

scorer. This season and last summer with her CAS Douglass travel team under Coach Jeff Paige, she showed more point guard skills.

That's exactly what she'll be next year with the Knights and she'll have a great mentor in former Christ the King and St. John's star Sky Lindsay, who is an assistant.

"She can shoot," Kennedy Coach O'Neil Glenn said of McFarland. "She has a nice handle. I think she'll be very good there. She's a tough kid. She's been through the Kennedy system."

McFarland, who said she might major in communications, is excited about QC's superior academics and the campus. She wasn't concerned with Division I schools, though she did have interest from Cleveland State and Jacksonville. Staying home was important to her, because she's close with her father, Leverne, who works in Queens on weekends. McFarland was also considering Mercy College, New Paltz, ASA and Monroe Community College.

"They're young," Glenn said of Queens. "She can really do some things there. It's a full ride. I'm happy for her."

McFarland is happy, too. She plans on taking the opportunity to play right away and run with it.



John F. Kennedy's Joya McFarland signed with Queens College.

Photo by An Rong Xu

# Francis Lewis tops Bayside

Commodores routed 13-1 in match-up against Fresh Meadows rival

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Alina Cerda provided a big finish to a big day for Francis Lewis.

The senior delivered a no-doubt blast to left center well over the head of the outfielder for a grand slam as part of a five-run fifth inning. It was the cap of Cerda's five-RBI day and helped give the Patriots an impressive 13-1 five-inning, run-rule win over rival and host Bayside in PSAL Queens A-I softball May 8.

"It topped it off," Cerda said. "I did feel like shedding some tears once I got home. It feels really great."

The win avenges a 6-1 loss from earlier in the season and wreaks continued havoc on the division standings. Lewis Coach Bryan Brown called it his team's best all-around performance of the season. His team excelled in all three phases showing off a balanced offense, superb defense and the Patriots got stellar pitching from Priscilla Lallave. The win moves Lewis, last year's division champ, into a tie in the loss column with Bayside and gives Cardozo a chance to win the division outright.

"We played well defensively, we played small ball," Brown said. "We had them a little off balance. This is perfect timing."

Lewis (11-3), which reached the semifinals last season, used a mix of small ball and big hits. It got a run in the first inning on a bunt single by center fielder Kiara Libreros. The Patriots scored five more times in the fifth to take a 7-0 lead, highlighted by an RBI single by Cerda and a two-run double by Neileni Esmeral, who also threw out a runner at home to end the fourth.

They added another run in the fourth when Samantha Stelloh singled home Bianca Concepcion, who was 3-for-4 with three



Francis Lewis' Alina Cerda had five RBIs, including a grand slam.

Photo by William Thomas

runs scored and two RBIs. Samantha Lallave also had three hits and scored twice. Priscilla Lallave, her older sister, allowed just a run in the fourth on an RBI single by Tina Faracci. She gave up just five hits, walked two and struck out six. She missed her team's recent loss to Cardozo while visiting her grandmother in Puerto Rico.

"It just shows that it doesn't matter what kind of hit you get, if you get a grand slam like Alina did or get a little fake weird bunt thing like I did, it doesn't matter," Concepcion said. "Things

will happen."

Bayside Coach Maggie Kassimis was disappointed by her team's effort in such an important game as they managed just a lone run in the fourth to make it 7-1. Pitcher Heidi Gomez collected two hits and scored a run. The Commodores (12-3) suffered their second straight loss and watched their bats continue to go quiet. Kassimis credited Lewis, a squad she thought was the team to beat in the division when the year began. She is now interested to see how her young team responds to some adversity

late in the season.

"This is a very young team," Kassimis said. "They have a lot of spirit. They have a lot of heart. We will get it together before the playoffs."

Francis Lewis, on the other hand, sees itself playing its best softball with the postseason right around the corner.

"Not only did we hit great, we fielded phenomenally," Concepcion said. "Our pitcher did great. We worked like a well-oiled machine."

Continued from Page 39

7-11 in the CAA under head Coach Karen Barefoot.

"I thought I would go high D-II, but luckily they liked me and they liked the way I played," she said.

It was quite a journey for Martin to get to this point. She applied herself both on the court and in the classroom, working to reach the desired SAT and ACT scores. Martin,

who struggled for minutes early in her career, became a more polished offensive player, a hustler and one of the city's best interior defenders. She started this season for the Falcons and was always in the center of their pre-game ritual chanting at the top of her lungs.

"Now she is more aggressive," Ford senior guard Shanice Vaughan said. "Now she's calling for the ball. We are handing it to her. She is getting layups, putback layups. She is getting a lot of blocks that

I'm loving."

During the Falcons' 21-6 campaign she was the perfect complement to their stellar backcourt. Martin, an All-Brooklyn third team selection by the New York Post, had a block of Sierra Calhoun to seal Ford's win over Christ the King in the regular season. She had seven points, 16 rebounds and another huge block to help beat Molloy and send Ford to its first-ever CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division I final. Martin pulled in 15 rebounds in an

upset of rival Nazareth.

"It's like as time went by, she started to wake up and see the potential she has and the fact that she can be a Division I player," Toro said.

Now Martin can call herself one. She is excited to visit her new home and the next step of her basketball journey.

"I worked hard", Martin said. "I got what I wanted."

Continued from Page 39

created at a large rate.

"I was disappointed, but it was out of my hands, there was nothing I could do about it," he recalled. "It was a setback, but it wasn't a major setback. I was still

able to do what I set out to do to begin with."

Armstrong isn't content to merely be on his way to Division I. He's proven his doubters wrong by gaining the scholarship, but he plans to make an impact.

"Now I'm there," he said, "It's time to prove I can play."

### Contact the newsroom:

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## Queens College hosts cancer benefit

Queens College and its athletics department recently played host to a Relay for Life event, which raised money for the American Cancer Society, in its Fitzgerald Gymnasium.

The event lasted from 6:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. the following morning. It served to celebrate cancer survivors while also remembering those who have died due to the illness.

The money raised will benefit cancer research, as well as transportation for families to visit patients, cancer treatments, wigs for patients and more.

The relay featured dodgeball and vol-

leyball contests and themed laps to honor various cancer survivors in attendance.

A "luminaria" was held in the evening, where all the participants lit candles in loving memory of those who died.

"I know what it is like to watch a loved one fight the battle with cancer," said sophomore women's soccer and track and field player Bernadette Wyndham. "My mother battled breast cancer for 11 years and unfortunately lost her battle three and one-half years ago. I love to know that I can help those who are fighting cancer so one day we will not have to worry about receiving the words, 'You have cancer.'"

Easy #12								
3	1	2	8	5	6	7	9	4
4	8	9	7	2	3	6	5	1
5	7	6	4	9	1	8	2	3
7	9	1	5	3	2	4	8	6
8	6	5	1	4	9	2	3	7
2	3	4	6	8	7	5	1	9
9	5	7	2	1	4	3	6	8
1	4	8	3	6	5	9	7	2
6	2	3	9	7	8	1	4	5

Medium #8								
8	4	6	3	5	2	9	7	1
9	3	1	8	7	4	5	2	6
2	7	5	1	9	6	8	4	3
7	5	8	9	2	1	3	6	4
4	6	9	5	3	7	1	8	2
3	1	2	4	6	8	7	5	9
5	9	4	6	8	3	2	1	7
1	8	7	2	4	9	6	3	5
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- B) A nominating letter from your school's guidance counselor and instructors describing the student's abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.
- C) Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

### D) Categories are:

- 1) Middle School 2) High School 3) College

Please send nominations and information to:

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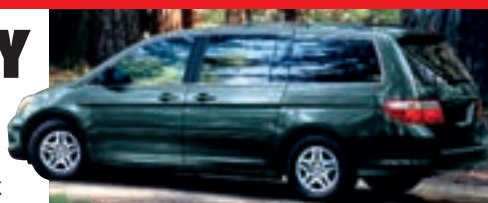
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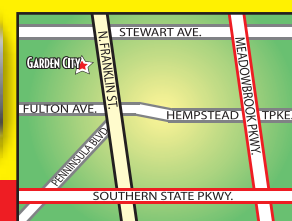
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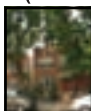
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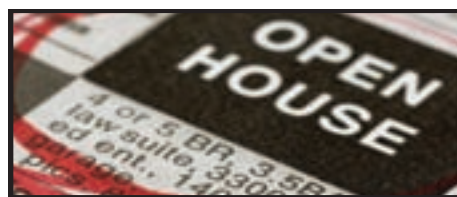
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**NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON CSFB 2005-6 Plaintiff, AGAINST BIBI Z. LATIF, et al. Defendant(s)** Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated 11/21/2011 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Court-house in Courtroom # 25 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on 5/25/2012 at 11:00 AM premises known as 91-30 86TH ROAD, WOODHAVEN, New York 11421 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected thereon, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of QUEENS, County of Queens and State of

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New York Section, Block and Lot: Block:8871 Lot:13 Approximate amount of judgment \$332,012.28 plus interest and costs Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #3374/09 Stephen D. Hans, Esq., Referee Gross, Polowy & Orlans, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 540, Getzville, NY 14068

**NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS PHH Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff, against Luis Portillo a/k/a Luis A. Portillo; Julia N. Espinosa a/k/a Julia Espinosa; et al., Defendant(s).** Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 3/26/2012 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, New York 11435, in Courtroom #25 on 6/01/2012 at 11:00AM, premises known as 88-28 237th Street, Bellerose, NY 11426 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block 7975 Lot 49. Approximate amount of judgment \$475,247.70

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plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 28026-09. Martha Taylor, Esq., Referee Shapiro, Di-Caro & Barak, LLC 250 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14624 Dated: April 16, 2012 941597 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 05/24/2012

**PROBATE CITATION** File No. 2011-2104 **SURROGATE'S COURT-QUEENS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**, By the Grace of God Free and Independent To: Michael Jordan if living and if dead, to his heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if he died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his executors, administrators, legatees, devisees and successors in interest whose name and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Anne Johnson, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained. A petition having been duly filed by John Astuto who is

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domiciled at 25-03 75th St., East Elmhurst, N.Y. 11370 **YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE** before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, on 21st day of June, 2012 at 9:30 A.M. of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Anne Johnson lately domiciled at 25-03 75th St., East Elmhurst, N.Y. 11370 admitting to probate a Will dated November 26, 2004, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: John Astuto. HON. PETER J. KELLY surrogate MAY 03 2012 (Seal) **MARGARET M. GRIBBON** Chief Clerk Robert S. Greco Attorney for Petitioner (516) 747-9006 Telephone Number 300 Garden City Plaza, Suite 326, Garden City, N.Y. 11530 Address of Attorney [Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law, you are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.] (pro.Cit./4-99)

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To be true, achieving certification is a process, and one not to be taken lightly. Depending on your industry, it could mean passing challenging field assessments or certification exams. In some fields, candidates may need to undergo a rigorous application process through an industry-specific certification agency, or may have to win over a panel of their peers with a presentation of their work portfolio. Each industry has unique procedures and practices.

The market for certification is larger than ever, with employers placing continued emphasis on advanced skills in global business management, project management, information technology, skilled trades, and other traditional fields to more modern credentials in sustainable and green energy or next generation design.

National and local professional organizations are a valuable resource for learning more about certification. Many provide training courses, workshops, or prep materials for those contemplating pursuing a credential. You'll also be able to learn from peers who have already gone through the process. In addition to professional organizations, many colleges and universities offer professional development and continuing education programs.

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