

Neighbors blast Creedmoor for area problems

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Residents near the Creedmoor Psychiatric Campus in Bellerose say the state-owned property is a magnet for all sorts of unwanted visitors and unscrupulous activities, and neither the police nor campus security can seem to get the situation under control.

Creedmoor is divided into two sections by Union Turnpike, with the state Office of Mental Health's psychiatric center in the north. The south campus is home to a number of different programs — some run by various state offices, others by independent non-profits — many of which provide outpatient services to people with substance-abuse, psychiatric and/or developmental-disability issues.

Patricia Luppino lives in Country Pointe, a community developed about 10 years ago on a piece of property purchased from the state on the south campus. Her home is adjacent to the non-profit Institute for Community Living, which provides supported housing to "chronically and persistently mentally ill adult populations, many of whom are referred from state psychiatric centers [Creedmoor]," according to its website.

Luppino said she has had to put up with rocks being thrown at her house and men urinating against the institute's building, and even once saw a man expose himself to a woman.

"It's awful," she said. "I can't use my backyard."

Neighbors tell stories of

Continued on Page 15



SEA OF BLUE

More than 800 new police officers took part in a graduation ceremony at St. John's University. Officials said the graduates completed more than six months of training at the Police Academy and will be assigned to Operation Impact, which places officers in high-crime areas. **See more photos on Page 28.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

Queens Dems hail 5-4 vote on health care

GOP's Turner vows to fight decision

BY TIMESLEDGER STAFF

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld nearly all of President Barack Obama's controversial Affordable Care Act last Thursday and, depending on who you asked in Queens, the decision was either great news or a source of stress and uncertainty.

On the political front, the 5-4 decision to uphold the measure gave Obama, the Democratic Party and its representatives from Queens a reason to celebrate.

"We worked to put an end to runaway premium increases and arbitrary coverage denials, to improve and strengthen Medicare and to create options for individuals and small businesses to purchase quality and affordable insurance," said U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), who heads the Queens Democrats. "I am pleased that today our hard work was validated."

The ruling was a major blow to Republicans, who were particularly stung by the inclusion of conservative Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. in the majority opin-

ion.

Crowley wasted no time in rubbing salt in the wounds of the GOP, urging the party not to waste time trying to repeal the law but instead focus on repairing the economy.

But attempting to repeal the act was exactly what the borough's lone Republican congressman, Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village), had in mind.

"Congress has already found many mandates in Obamacare that would hurt small businesses

and kill jobs," he said in a statement. "Several more taxes and burdensome regulations

on small businesses are set to go into effect in the next two years. Congress must now rededicate itself to repealing Obamacare and replacing it with common-sense proposals that will lower health care costs for all Americans."

The news was all the talk in Queens, although many in the borough were unsure about what the ruling would mean for them.

"I already have everything I need," said Behije Ceka, 50, of Auburndale, referring to the health insurance provided by her job.

Impact on Queens
PAGE 4

Qns Village man shot dead

24-year-old found with three bullet wounds in nearby driveway

BY STEVE MOSCO

A 24-year-old man was killed by gunfire in the Queens neighborhood where he lived early Saturday, police said.

Travis Adams was found in a driveway on 212th Street near 104th Ave. in Queens Village at 4:45 a.m. with three bullet wounds, police said, after a 911 call alerted them to the shooting. According to the cops, Adams lived just steps away from where he was killed.

Adams had been shot twice in the torso and once in the shoulder, according to police, and EMS took him to Long Island Jewish Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police tape surrounded the residence and a police officer from the 105th Precinct parked at the corner of 104th Avenue and 212th Street, keeping area residents out walking dogs on the hot summer day from wandering into the crime scene.

"Can I walk through here?" asked Martin Landell while walking his dog, Salty. "I thought this was a good neighborhood, not great, but not bad either."

The afternoon following the shooting, neighbors were mostly unaware that any incident had occurred early that morning.

Herman Morrison, who lives nearby, said he had the air conditioner running all night and did



Police tape surrounds the Queens Village house where Travis Adams, 24, was shot and killed.

Photo by Steve Mosco

not hear the gunshots or any commotion at all.

"I didn't know anything happened until I saw the police tape this morning," said Morrison, who has lived in the Queens Village neighborhood since 1991 but did not know the victim. "It's crazy. This is a pretty quiet neighborhood. When I saw the [police] tape, I didn't think it was a shooting. It's sad that the young man died."

But another neighbor, who would only give her name as Sheila, gave a different view of the neighborhood she believes is not as safe and quiet as it once was.

It's crazy. This is a pretty quiet neighborhood.

Herman Morrison
Queens Village residents

"There are more and more questionable types of people hanging around here lately. I don't know the victim, so I can't talk about his character, but the vibe here has been getting worse," she said, adding

she would like to see more police patrols in the area. "No one deserves to be shot like that in the street and left for dead. I'm praying for the family."

The victim's distraught family chose not to comment on the shooting, but one young man walking from the victim's house asked for "prayers and privacy."

There were no suspects as of late Monday and police had not made any arrests yet in the ongoing investigation. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS.

Farmers' market returns to Jamaica

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Cookbook author Martha Rose Shulman contributed to a New York Times article in May touting garlic scapes — the green, curling tops of the garlic plant — but noted she would have to wait to provide any recipes because her local farmers market did not carry them.

"Next year, when I'm ready to write my now-annual green garlic column, I'll look hard for scapes so I can include some recipes," she wrote.

Fortunately for Jamaica shoppers, Alex's Tomato Farm, out of Carlisle, N.Y., had a crate overflowing with scapes when the Jamaica Farmers' Market opened for the summer on 160th Street last week.

"We have a lot of food you wouldn't find at a supermarket," said Miriam Haas, director of the for-profit Community Markets, which has been oper-

ating the annual market for about 10 years. Prior to that, she said, it had been run by the Greater Jamaica Development Corp. since 1976, making it one of the oldest in the city.

Haas said the Jamaica market has items that the city's Greenmarkets generally do not allow, such as the imported nuts from Tierra Farm. In addition to flavored nuts, the farm also offered nut butters in flavors such as maple almond, chocolate hazelnut and maple cashew.

Nicole Felix stepped out from the Bethany French Baptist Church, just up the street from the market, around noon to do a little shopping.

"They're unsalted, and they're good for your blood pressure," she said of the flavored nut butters. "They're unique."

Migliorelli Farm from Tivoli, N.Y., had crates of

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Manager Malini Rampersad shows off the wooden tokens shoppers get when they use their food stamp benefits at the Jamaica Farmers' Market.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

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105th Precinct's top cops bagged burglar: Courtesis

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JT

With summer heating up, commanding officer looks toward tackling house parties and fireworks

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Officer Francisco Luciano and Sgt. Jonathan Cermeli were honored as the 105th Precinct's Cops of the Month for May last week.

At around 2 a.m. May 17, the two officers responded to a call of a burglary at a home in Laurelton, Deputy Inspector Joseph Courtesis said at the precinct's community council meeting June 27.

When they entered the completely dark house, they found a 16-year-old boy inside, with a screwdriver in one hand and a pocket full of the homeowner's jewelry, Courtesis said. The teenager was arrested and locked up, facing a \$100,000 bail request, the commanding officer said.

"The reason for the

high bail was how we were able to link him to other things going on," Courtesis explained.

Despite what Courtesis called some good arrests, burglaries were up 30 percent in the 28-day period ending June 17.

"Burglaries go down in Laurelton, and then they start to pick up in Queens Village," he said. "We're seeing a spike in Rosedale now."

Grand larcenies were down close to 15 percent, though thefts of autos were up close to 14 percent. Courtesis said there have been about 10 stolen motorcycles so far this year, which he believed are being shipped out of the country.

"They're being taken out of a driveway and thrown in the back of a minivan," he said. "Coinci-



dentally, I get a call about a stolen minivan."

Another problem police expect to persist throughout the summer is that of house parties. Courtesis said his noise-control unit had been to more than 150 house parties in 28 days, many of which had more than 300 people in attendance. Due to the size of the parties, he said he has to dedicate significant resources to break them up.

"One really big party can put my whole unit out of commission," he said. "It's a constant battle for us."

Officer Francisco Luciano (l.) accepts the Cop of the Month Award for himself and Sgt. Jonathan Cermeli from 105th Precinct Commanding Officer Joseph Courtesis (r.).

Photo by Rich Bockmann

One resident said she can have up to four parties on her block at the same time, which means having to deal with cars triple parked in the street and in homeowners' driveways.

Courtesis said he anticipated having a rough time around the Fourth of July holiday with parties and illegal fireworks. Both are much easier to deal with before they happen, and Courtesis urged community members to contact the precinct with information they have on either.

The 105th set up a Twitter account, @105com-council, which will distribute tips as well as alert followers to crime trends.

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

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Obamacare still confounds boro business

Firms wary over hiring and regulations as residents weigh impact of court ruling on their lives

BY TIMESLEDGER STAFF

Queens residents and businesses owners largely lauded the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to preserve the president's health care program, but when it came down to how the ruling would affect them, many still had unanswered questions.

Lawmakers in the city hailed the 5-4 decision last Thursday, which was made all the more surprising by the inclusion of Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. in the majority.

As City Comptroller John Liu saw it, the president's health care measure will have a profound effect on the 1 million New Yorkers who are currently uninsured.

"New Yorkers will now benefit from increased access to primary and preventive care, added help in finding and using insur-

ance coverage and an overall focus on spending our health care dollars more wisely," Liu said.

Enthusiasm echoed elsewhere in the borough for days after the ruling.

Michael Lutton, 29, of Sunnyside said it was about time America got its act together.

"I'm very happy it was upheld. It's the right thing to do," he said. "It's shameful that more people weren't insured."

But other residents said they resented having another tax dipping into their income.

"Basically it's just another tax burden, a burden for insuring other people who may not want it but are forced to take it or can't afford it themselves," said Eric Jaklitsch, 44, who works in Bayside.

The White House posted a list of the law's benefits that would affect a



The U.S. Supreme Court upheld most of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act in its landmark ruling.
AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

wide variety of Americans. For families, children can no longer be denied health care because of a pre-existing condition. In addition, state insurance exchanges will be set up so anyone interested in purchasing a plan can compare more

options at what the White House assured would be lower prices.

Obama's individual mandate, the requirement that every American meeting certain income levels purchase insurance, was the thorniest portion of the

law and the source of much contention from conservatives.

But the mandate, along with nearly all of the law, except for a provision that required states to expand Medicaid programs, seemed to survive the

court's scrutiny, although the 193-page decision will be pored over in the coming days.

Under the law, certain businesses would have to provide health care to their employees, although the government estimates that it would only apply to about 0.2 percent of existing companies in the country, since any organization with less than 50 employees would be exempt.

Kenneth Buettner, the third-generation owner of York Scaffold Equipment Corp. in Long Island City, believes the legislation may be beneficial on a social level but could hurt commerce.

He, like many New York businesses, already provides health care for his employees, but it is rising at a rapid pace. His current insurance policy costs may climb by as much as 17 per-

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Queens prosecutor analyzes how TV's 'CSI' affects jurors

BY REBECCA HENELY

Do jurors who regularly watch the television show "CSI" have warped expectations for what evidence can and should be collected, thereby hurting prosecutors' chances to convict criminals?

Marjory Fisher, chief of the Queens district attorney's office's Special Victims Bureau, attempted to answer the question when she spoke to a group of sexual assault forensic examiners, who collect evidence from a victim who has been raped, and social workers at Elmhurst Hospital Center June 27.

Fisher's talk centered around how the hit crime

show and its numerous spin-offs, which revolve around forensic scientists solving crimes, blur scientific fact with science fiction. At the same time she stressed the importance of SAFE examiners and social workers in convicting rapists and other criminals.

"It's a fascinating subject, and it's something that worried me for a long time," Fisher said.

Fisher said prosecutors have long wondered about how shows like "CSI" and "Law & Order" have affected jurors' views on what evidence should or must be available to convict someone. She said these shows sometimes portray false or ludicrous ways of

collecting evidence, such as identifying a killer from the picture of the reflection in a victim's eye or finding the blood of a criminal in a mosquito.

She said one show also portrayed an infant showing the symptoms of Shaken Baby Syndrome a week and a half after being shaken, even though the effects of such an assault are immediate.

"I find them really aggravating," Fisher said of the shows, "because a lot of times they manipulate the facts to the story they want to tell."

But more pervasive are the mistaken assumptions that science can solve every

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League eyes Queens park for soccer stadium project

BY JOE ANUTA

A nationwide soccer league is hoping to build a new stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, which already has some lawmakers cheering.

Major League Soccer, which currently oversees 19 teams across the country, is looking to anchor another franchise in New York City, according to a spokeswoman.

"We are thrilled about the prospect of being in Queens and bringing the world's sport to the world's park," she said. "We are in exploratory discussions with the city and with Queens officials and look forward to working with the community to build a world-class soccer facility for all to enjoy."

The proposed stadium would hold between 20,000 to 25,000 people, about half the capacity of Citi Field, and would be at the current site of the Pool of Industry, a dilapidated fountain from the 1964 World's Fair in the northeast section of the park.

Any proposal to build a stadium there



Mirodis Manaridis (r.) plays soccer with his 6-year-old son Stefanos in Crochorn Park on Memorial Day, a pastime many in Queens enjoy according to a state lawmaker keen on seeing a professional team in the borough.

would need to go through the city's land review procedure, which involves a vote in the City Council. But because the site is

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Willets bid process called into question

BY JOE ANUTA

The winners of a bid to redevelop Willets Point may have had a leg up on the competition, although the city said the selection process was completely unbiased.

The partnership of Sterling Equities and Related Cos. submitted the winning design to transform the Iron Triangle, which is currently without a sewer system and basic city services, into a hub of retail and housing encompassing Citi Field in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

The mayor unveiled the plans at a June 14 breakfast and touted the proposal as “exactly as envisioned and approved by the community and City Council back in 2008.”

But there was one component of the plan that no one had seen before, not even the other developers who bid on the roughly \$3 billion project.

When the city released its request for proposals in May 2011, it was seeking developers to build in a precisely defined area along 126th Street across from Citi Field.

The Sterling and Related plan calls for development within the boundaries defined in the RFP, but it also features another 1 million-square-foot retail and entertainment block to the west of the stadium.

Called Willets West,

it will be built in the New York Mets parking lot on land not mentioned as available for development in the RFP.

People knowledgeable of the bidding process who did not want to be identified said no one other than Sterling Equities and Related Cos. knew development to the west of the stadium was a possibility.

Sterling Equities is owned by the Wilpon family, which also owns the Mets.

The land where Willets West is proposed is currently leased to the Mets and thus the Wilpon family.

The city Economic Development Corp. said in a statement that any of the developers competing to win the contract could propose whatever they wanted, meaning any extra projects were never off the table but simply would not be funded as part of the redevelopment project.

“As with any RFP, respondents can propose what they believe to be the best project within their ability and are free to form partnerships to achieve that end,” an EDC spokeswoman said. “The chosen proposal fulfills the original vision for Willets Point and more. We look forward to working with the team on this historic project.”

Amid questions on whether or not develop-

Continued on Page 40



Crowds walk between Citi Field and Willets West, a shopping and entertainment complex proposed by Sterling Equities and Related Cos., in a rendering of what the project would look like.

Image courtesy Mayor Michael Bloomberg

School closings put on hold

Arbitrator decides plan violates contract, Bloomberg vows to appeal

BY RICH BOCKMANN

An arbitrator ruled last week that Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s controversial plan to close seven Queens high schools was in violation of the teachers union’s collective bargaining agreement, though the city has vowed to challenge the ruling in the courts.

The city Panel for Educational Policy voted in April to replace more than half of the teachers at 24 schools across the city and open them under new names in September, including seven in Queens: Newtown High School in Elmhurst, Flushing HS, August Martin HS in Jamaica, Richmond Hill HS, John Adams HS in Ozone Park, William Cullen Bryant HS in Astoria and Long Island City HS.

Arbitrator Scott Buchheit ruled Friday that the plan violated stipulations in the United Federation of Teachers’ contract concerning how the city chose to remove the teachers from those schools.

UFT President Michael



An arbitrator has put the breaks on Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s plan to close seven high schools in Queens, including August Martin High School.

Mulgrew sent an e-mail to union members soon after the decision, claiming it as a hard-won victory for the union in its constant struggle with Bloomberg’s administration and for students as well.

“After months of difficult litigation, an independent arbitrator ruled today that the DOE violated the UFT and CSA [Council

of School Supervisors and Administrators] contracts, validating our belief that the ‘new’ schools the DOE claims it was creating were in reality not new schools,” Mulgrew wrote. “The DOE was attempting to remove half the staff in each of these schools. The arbitrator, Scott Buchheit, ruled that all members working in these schools in June

have the right to stay or return to their schools in September.”

“The arbitrator’s decision is focused on the question of whether or not the city’s actions violated our contracts,” the Mulgrew e-mail continued. “The larger issue, though, is that the centerpiece of the DOE’s school improvement strat-

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Meng win shows strong Asian voice

BY JOE ANUTA

State Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) trounced three other U.S. House of Representatives hopefuls in a Democratic Party primary last week with the aid of a sizeable war chest, the backing of the Queens Democratic Party and, most importantly, a robust Asian vote concentrated in downtown Flushing.

Meng is now preparing for a November general election for the seat that begins in Maspeth and Glendale in the west, runs through Forest Hills and Flushing and ends up in Bayside in the east.

According to unofficial results, Meng picked up 51 percent of the vote, and most of that came from downtown Flushing in the 22nd As-



Assemblywoman Grace Meng (c.) is surrounded by supporters after declaring victory in a Democratic primary.

sembly District.

In that district alone, Meng racked up 4,243 votes, which represented one-third of the total she received.

The lawmaker enjoyed a large funding advantage over her opponents and had the support of the Queens Democratic machine, but

Meng also rode a crest of excitement in the Chinese community.

If Meng defeats City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) in the general election in November, she will become the first Asian-American representative in Congress from New York state.

And that was a galvanizing force behind the robust turnout in heavily Asian enclaves like Flushing, according to community leaders.

“This is a great victory for the Asian-American people,” said Peter Tu, head of the Flushing Chinese Business Association, headquartered on Main Street.

Flushing had already vaulted one of its own into citywide office: Comptroller John Liu, who was elected in

Continued on Page 40

LIRR to alter schedule for some evening trains

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Construction on the East Side Access project will force changes in some eastbound Long Island Rail Road rush hour service for as long as one month.

The LIRR said the disruption of schedules, to begin July 9, will be the result of tunneling in Queens.

Some peak evening trains will be running on two tracks between Penn Station and Jamaica instead of three up until Aug. 17 as a tunnel boring machine excavates on the borough side of the East River Tunnels and a key switch is taken out of service.

The canceled evening peak eastbound LIRR trains are:

- 4:52 p.m. from Penn Station to Babylon. Riders will be on the 5:03 p.m. from Penn Station making all stops to Babylon.
- 5:20 p.m. from Penn Station to Long Beach. Riders



The Long Island Rail Road plans to cancel some peak trains to allow for construction on the East Side Access project.

Photo by Yinghao Luo

will be on the 5:23 p.m. from Penn Station stopping at Jamaica, then all stops to Long Beach.

- 5:40 p.m. from Penn

Station to Seaford. Riders will be on the 5:47 p.m. from Penn Station, which will make all stops from Rockville Centre to Seaford.

The canceled evening peak trains with adjusted schedules are as follows:

- 5:36 p.m. from Penn Station to Babylon, which

will depart from Penn Station one minute later and arrive in Babylon two minutes later at 6:42 p.m.

- 5:55 p.m. from Penn

Station to Long Beach will arrive at Long Beach one minute later at 6:52 p.m.

- 5:59 p.m. from Penn Station to Babylon will arrive at Babylon five minutes later at 7:04 p.m.

- 6:44 p.m. from Babylon to Patchogue will operate two minutes later at 7:16 p.m. as a result of its connecting train from Penn Station — the 5:37 p.m. — arriving two minutes later at Babylon.

Commuters on the affected Babylon branch trains will experience up to 11 minutes of additional travel time, while customers on affected Long Beach branch trains will experience up to six minutes of additional travel time.

The East Side Access, now estimated to be completed in 2019, will bring LIRR trains into Grand Central Terminal, saving thousands of commuters 40 minutes of commuting time every day.

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POLICE Blotter

Resorts World Casino experiences first robbery



Surveillance footage depicts a suspect, wanted in connection with a robbery at Resorts World New York.
Image courtesy NYPD

SOUTH OZONE PARK — A man claiming to have a handgun robbed Resorts World Casino, at 110-00 Rockaway Blvd. in South Ozone Park, at approximately 4:45 p.m. Friday, according to police.

Cops said the robber slipped a note to a second-floor cashier at the casino demanding money, the cashier complied and the thief made off with an undisclosed amount.

It was the first such incident at the casino since it opened in October 2011, cops said.

The suspect is described as a male about 30 years old and 5-foot-8, cops said, and he was last seen wearing a blue shirt, blue jeans and black sneakers.

Police on the hunt for man who robbed bank

ROCKAWAY — Police were seeking the public's assistance in locating a man in connection with two bank robberies at a Chase Bank, at 68-20 Rockaway Beach Blvd. in Arverne.

According to cops, the first robbery occurred May 18 when the suspect, a black man in his 30s, entered the bank and passed a note to the teller demanding money. The second incident occurred June 22 when the same suspect entered the same location, this time with a firearm.

The suspect fled both times on foot with an unknown amount of money, cops said.



Police released a surveillance image of a suspect, wanted in connection with a bank robbery in Arverne.
Images courtesy NYPD

Police seek man in rape of Jamaica woman, 21



EMMANUEL ELMORE

Photo courtesy NYPD

JAMAICA — Cops were asking for the public's assistance in locating a suspect wanted in the rape of a young woman in Jamaica.

Police said the suspect, Emmanuel Elmore, was armed with a gun and approached the 21-year-old female victim in Jamaica and forced her into an alley, where he raped her.

The suspect is described as a black male, 25, about 5-foot-11 and weighing 165 pounds, cops said.

Got tips?

**Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477), text 274637 (CRIMES)
and enter TIP577 or log on to nypdcrimestoppers.com.**

Possible MTA service just might be restored

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

It was called the doomsday plan to keep the MTA from plunging into a financial abyss, but it's two years later and there is talk — nothing official yet — that maybe some of the sorely missed bus and subway routes might be restored.

“Not a day goes by when I don't think about restoration of services and further investments in the system,” Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Joseph Lhota told the MTA's monthly board meeting June 27.

“I'm not sure we have the financial stability to bring back all of our services that were cut in 2010, but we're evaluating right now,” Lhota said.

Lhota said the MTA should avoid restoring some parts of the system and then having to take it out of service once again.

The chairman said if and when the matter of restoring service comes up, “we will discuss it, we will debate it.”

That could come later this month at the board's monthly meeting.

Among others, board members Allan Cappelli, of Staten Island, and Mitchell Pally, of Suffolk County, L.I., have been talking up the idea of restoration, even if it is just a start.

So dire was the MTA's

money plight that it cut 20 local and 12 express bus routes citywide and eliminated the V and W subway lines, among other transit services.

The transit agency faced a budget gap of \$900 million at the time.

The subway and bus cuts were followed by massive changes along with layoffs at the MTA. The agency underwent a tremendous consolidation and cutbacks.

The restoration talk brings the question of where the money for it will come from.

For one thing, the MTA plans to put through a 7.5 percent fare increase next year, which is estimated to bring in nearly \$500 million a year.

Former Gov. David Patterson, who took over the MTA board seat of resigned member Nancy Shevell, said “the question will be to what extent have we arisen so that perhaps services that were taken away can be restored.”

Patterson also expressed regret that \$143 million meant for the MTA was siphoned off to the state general fund during his time in office.

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by e-mail at timesledgernews@cnglocal.com or phone at 718-260-4536.



The W train was one of two subway lines that were cut in Queens as part of the MTA's doomsday plan.

Bird bust unfolds at JFK

Feds say they caught Guyanese man allegedly smuggling finches



A bull finch named Survivor is one of many birds that has competed in singing competitions in Richmond Hill's Smokey Oval Park.

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A Guyanese man's bird-brained scheme fell apart when he stepped off his flight at John F. Kennedy International Airport in May and was caught allegedly sneaking some feathered friends into the country, according to authorities.

Marlon Hariram was arrested last week after an investigation by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent Ryan Bessey determined that he did not, in fact, have authority from the Guyanese government to transport the nine live

finches he allegedly had stuffed up his shirt sleeves when he landed in Queens May 20, according to documents filed in Brooklyn federal court.

Bessey said Hariram failed to declare the animals upon arrival, which were discovered when he was pulled aside by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers.

“After further examination, it was discovered that the birds were individually packaged in toilet paper rolls, covered with netting and packaging tape and hidden in the sleeves of Hariram's shirt,” Bessey

wrote in the criminal complaint.

U.S. law prohibits someone from importing wildlife that has been taken illegally from foreign countries, and Guyana banned the exportation of its finches in 1919.

Guyanese finches are believed to be superior to their American brethren for their ability to carry a tune, and the special agent said there is a demand for the harmonizing fowl in Queens, where Guyanese immigrants enter them into singing contests.

“In such contests, often conducted in public ar-

enas like parks, two finches sing and a judge selects the bird determined to have the best voice. Many who attend the singing contests place wagers on the birds,” he wrote. “A finch who wins many competitions becomes quite valuable, and can sell for in excess of \$5,000.”

Bessey said that over the past several years customs officers at JFK have been catching people trying to sneak in finches, and Hariram had been fined for attempting to do so in 2005 and 2011.

Volunteers needed at boro Police Athletic League Centers

The Police Athletic League is looking for volunteers to continue its mission of serving New York City's young people by donating their time and talents to help serve Queens youngsters at PAL's Redfern Cornerstone and Far Rockaway Beacon in Arverne-Far Rockaway, PAL's Edward Byrne Center in South Jamaica and PS 214 in Flushing.

PAL Centers in Queens offer a wide range of opportunities for volunteers of all talents. PAL's Redfern Cornerstone and Far Rockaway Beacon are looking for people to participate in a center cleanup day. Volunteers are needed to tutor and mentor young people during the after-school program's daily homework help sessions.

In addition, individuals can also donate their time

assisting the many special events held at PAL Centers throughout the year. PAL is also seeking professionals to give career advice and talk about their own careers to young people, as well as guest speakers who can share information on a specific hobby of interest to youngsters.

To become a volunteer or learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit palnyc.org and click on “Get Involved” under the “About Us” tab for an application. Volunteers will go through an application process that includes an interview, a screening and an orientation.

For more information, contact PAL Volunteer Coordinator Alexandria Sumpter-Delves at 212-477-9450, Ext. 390 or volunteer@palnyc.org.

EDITORIALS

NEW BLOOD FOR QUEENS

The drawing of new district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate brought a new wave of competition to Queens last week, even though turnout on Primary Day was low in many of the borough's polling stations.

In the newly created 6th Congressional District, state Assemblywoman Grace Meng won in a four-way primary. If she prevails in the general election, she will become the first Asian American in the city's congressional delegation.

Her victory is seen as an indication of the growing political strength of the city's Asian-American community.

In addition to Flushing, the district stretches from Fresh Meadows and Bayside to Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale.

Meng will run against City Councilman Dan Halloran, a Republican who has the support of the Conservative and Libertarian parties in a district where Democrats are predominant.

In another race for a redrawn district, Councilman Charles Barron was defeated by Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries in his bid to represent the voters of Howard Beach, Lindenwood and part of Ozone Park. Barron has staked many of his positions on race, which voters clearly reject.

In the Ridgewood area, Rep. Nydia Velazquez defeated Councilman Erik Dilan and former Democratic District Leader George Martinez in the 7th Congressional District, despite running without support from the Brooklyn party boss.

On Nov. 7, the Democrats in Congress will face an immediate challenge that was laid out by the Republican Party when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Obamacare. Within hours of the decision, the GOP vowed to take control of Congress in order to repeal the health care reform law.

In a contest that may have national impact, Rep. Bob Turner was beaten by Manhattan lawyer Wendy Long in a three-way Republican primary for the Senate. She will face Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

Like Turner, Long is a favorite of conservatives, who are gaining political power in Nassau County and other parts of the state. Theirs is a voting block that has little sympathy for the concerns of New York City.

But no matter where one stands on the political spectrum, it was a good week for democracy in Queens.



OTHER VOICES

Mayor's sugar drink ban impractical

America's obesity crisis demands our full attention. This epidemic is affecting our way of life, making us less healthy and less productive. The good news is that we have the power to make a real difference in the years ahead. By working together — communities, nonprofits, business and government — we can solve this crisis by empowering New Yorkers and other Americans to make balanced and healthier lifestyle choices.

Unfortunately, the

recent proposal by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the city Department of Health to ban the sale of sugar-sweetened beverages more than 16 ounces fails to advance this public prerogative. It does not educate people on the need for balanced nutrition and physical activity.

Too many of us spend our days sitting at desks, watching TV and driving cars. According to studies by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every night young people spend an average of

three hours watching TV and another three playing video games or on a computer.

This at a time when the city has cut physical education in schools, defunded after-school programs and limited access to public parks.

Our efforts should be targeted at addressing this issue through continuous public education campaigns and community programs that encourage physical activity and a balanced diet. Empowering individuals to make the right

choices for themselves and their families is the game changer.

You cannot legislate personal food choices, but you can help stimulate public awareness. By engaging in public and private partnerships and investing in citywide programs, we can educate everyone about what they need to do to achieve health and wellness during their lives.

*Jose Calderon
Interim President
Hispanic Federation
Manhattan*

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Gianaris works hard to provide health care for residents

I write to thank state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) for his support for increased health care options in western Queens, where we are plagued with pollution-emitting power plants that have caused a high rate of asthma and emphysema throughout the community.

I would also like to set the record straight that he has been one of the leading proponents of greater health care for people in need, including the expansion of Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens. We are lucky to have elected officials like Gianaris standing up for all members of this communi-

ty, particularly those who are in need of extra care.

Gianaris, understanding the increased need for care following numerous hospital closures in Queens, continues to be one of our community's strongest allies and advocates for additional hospital beds. Since becoming a member of the state Legislature, he has been an outspoken proponent not only for the expansion of Mount Sinai, but for increased health care options for everyone in western Queens.

Indeed, as recently as February Gianaris led his Queens colleagues in requesting the state Depart-

ment of Health approve Mount Sinai's application for a Certificate of Need to construct a new, modern hospital building. Such an addition to the hospital would not only increase the number of beds, services and care provided by the hospital but it would also create hundreds of permanent and construction jobs.

While a member of the state Assembly, Gianaris requested \$5 million for the expansion of the hospital through the Assembly speaker.

It is my understanding that he was also successful in securing \$250,000 in state funding for a new CT

scanner for Mount Sinai to help diagnose and treat patients more efficiently.

Understanding the increasing, urgent need for improved health care in western Queens, Gianaris was a strong advocate for allocating the settlement money from the 2006 Con Edison blackout that affected thousands of western Queens residents and hurt hundreds of local businesses to improving health care options for those affected.

In previous years, Gianaris co-hosted an annual health fair, which offered free blood pressure, cholesterol level, bone density and asthma screenings to

neighborhood residents. Gianaris also sponsored free flu shots for area seniors.

Gianaris' record speaks for itself and shows that he is in tune with the current quality of life in western Queens and how it needs to be improved. Not only has he been a strong proponent of green energy production to make our air cleaner and decrease the number of asthma and emphysema cases in this community, but he has also been one of Mount Sinai's strongest advocates in its expansion efforts, which will better serve our health care needs.

It is clear he is committed to improving health care in western Queens and throughout the borough. We are lucky to have such a dedicated representative who understands the needs of this community and works relentlessly on our behalf.

*Tony Gigantiello
President
Coalition Helping
Organizations for a
Kleaner Environment
Long Island City*

Prez right on young immigrants

The Obama administration has announced the halting of the deportations of young undocumented immigrants and allowing some to be granted work permits. While this is far from a complete amnesty, it is a step in the right direction toward fixing a dysfunctional and broken immigration system.

In order to stay competitive in an increasing global marketplace, American companies need millions of highly trained and educated employees, especially in technology and science-related fields. Many foreign-born children who were brought to the United States by their parents have limited access to a college education once they graduate high school.

They are not eligible for federal financial aid and are often charged out-of-state tuition. Even if they manage to graduate

from college, they remain undocumented and cannot get legal work. Many of the 65,000 undocumented students who graduate from high school annually are bright and would make great employees. The president is right in allowing those who have led law-abiding lives to gain work permits. We need them to grow our economy.

My hope is that this step leads to the passage of the Dream Act, which would then allow undocumented students who complete college or military service to start on a path to citizenship. If the Dream Act passes, then it is time for Congress to negotiate a full-scale amnesty for the remaining 9 million to 10 million undocumented people in this country.

We cannot deport them all, since doing so would wreak havoc in certain sectors of our economy. Witness Alabama: Its severe

immigration policies have decimated its agricultural industry with the flight of immigrant labor and few of the local citizenry willing to harvest crops.

As president of a non-profit that assists migrant and seasonal farmworkers across the country, I have witnessed the cruel, inhumane and exploitative nature of our country's current immigration policies.

Was Obama's immigration announcement in part an election-year ploy to garner more of the Latino vote? Of course.

Was it the right decision to help fill the need for more highly qualified and educated employees to help our economy? I believe so.

Editor's note: The writer grew up in Douglaston.

*Philip Kellerman
President
Harvest of Hope
Foundation
Gainesville, Fla.*

It is important to display the flag

On May 28, several board members and I had the opportunity and honor to participate in the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade.

I was happy to see so many members of our community, young and old, at the veterans memorial park, at 15th Drive and 149th Street. It was one of the hottest days of the year so far. They all stood there in the heat throughout the ceremony honoring our veterans, past and present.

As we were marching along the parade route, I was happy to see so many of our neighbors lining the

streets cheering for the veterans and politicians. Once we reached the main road of 150th Street, I was saddened to see how few stores had the decency to display the American flag outside their businesses.

I know there are at least 40-plus stores along 150th Street from 12th Road to the Cross Island Parkway service road. Yet there were only five or six that had the decency to display our flag.

I also took note of stores off of 150th Street that had some flags out, but to see such a small number on the direct parade route

was shameful. These store owners do not realize that if it were not for the sacrifices of these brave men and women, they might not have had the right to own the businesses they do.

It is about time the individuals who own or operate businesses in Whitestone start taking pride in their — I mean, our — community.

We all owe the veterans a great deal of thanks.

*Kim F. Cody
President
Greater Whitestone
Taxpayers Civic
Association*

LETTERS POLICY

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Long fends off Turner to win GOP primary for Senate



William Lewis
■
Political Action

The Republican statewide primary for the U.S. Senate saw attorney Wendy Long win a decisive victory over opponents U.S. Rep. Robert Turner (R-Middle Village) and Nassau County Controller George Maragos.

There were some political writers who believed that since Turner was an incumbent congressman after winning a competitive race last year, he had the advantage of name rec-

ognition. They did not appreciate, however, the Long phenomenon and her ability to present the issues in such a way to gain support.

In addition to Long's support from Republican county organizations, especially upstate, she had strong backing from the state Conservative Party and support from many Tea Party affiliates. What is also important is that many of Long's voters believed strongly about their candidate and were willing to put forth a determined effort on her behalf.

Turner would have been far better off running for Congress, possibly in the 6th Congressional District. Had he done so, it would have vastly improved his

chances of success. He got into the Senate race late and seemed to think that with his name recognition from last year's win that Republican and Conservative state committeemen would desert Long and support him.

It did not happen. Delegates who had declared their endorsement for Long continued to support her candidacy.

As for Maragos, the third candidate in the primary, outside of Nassau and Suffolk counties he never really had much of a chance. According to present results, Maragos got only 13 percent of the vote compared to 36 percent for Turner and 51 percent for Long.

Election night at Long's headquarters in Manhattan's Sheraton Hotel was a happy occasion. Periodic reports of election results in various counties showed that Long was on the way to an impressive victory. When the Associated Press projected her as the winner of the primary election at 10:45 p.m., the guests in the room broke out into applause.

When Long came to make her victory speech, it was Mike Long, the Conservative Party chairman, who introduced her to the enthusiastic crowd. Long spoke proudly about her Conservative support and wants a unified working relationship between the Republican and Conserva-

tive parties regarding her campaign.

During Long's victory speech, she contrasted her views with those of her opponent, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.). Their views are different, with Gillibrand having a reputation of being one of the most liberal senators in the Senate. Long has continually worked for conservative causes throughout her legal career.

The forthcoming television debates between Long and Gillibrand should prove to be interesting, considering their differences in dealing with political, economic and social issues.

Neither candidate at this point has huge name recognition among the gen-

eral population, but this is a presidential election year with an important race occurring. This will increase the interest of the voting population in other races as well.

Gillibrand begins with a large amount of financial resources at her disposal in addition to a lead in the polls, but Long, by winning the Republican primary by such a large margin, has increased her chances of obtaining large fund-raising and increasingly becoming known by voters of all political parties.

There will be many interesting races this year in Queens and throughout the state. This Senate campaign will certainly be one of the most interesting.

Co-op, condo owners will suffer due to legislators' failure



Bob Friedrich
■
On Point

Co-op and condominium owners were abandoned and dealt a blow by politicians when the state Legislature adjourned before midnight June 21 without enacting vitally needed legislation for these working-class communities.

These politicians will now embark on summer-long vacations, free to devote their time to the fall elections, reminding us with self-aggrandizing stories of their legislative accomplishments that will soon fill our mailboxes inside taxpayer-funded

newsletters. When failures are exposed by columns such as this, they will point fingers at others or blame "partisan politics."

If you are a co-op or condo owner, the failures of this legislative session are colossal and will force you to dig deeper into your pockets for years to come.

First, the J51 program that has provided millions of dollars to co-ops and other residential buildings to help maintain aging infrastructure was allowed to expire. Legislators failed to extend this vital program that has been in existence for decades. The J51 program has helped co-ops like Glen Oaks Village afford to remove asbestos, install sidewalks and rebuild its infrastructure by providing more than \$2 million in J51 tax abatements — mon-

ey that would otherwise not have been available for these projects.

Second, the decades-old city Co-op and Condo Tax Abatement Program that was created to correct the unfairness of our property tax system, which taxes co-ops and condos at significantly higher rates than single-family homes, was also not renewed. The loss of this program is the equivalent of a 5 percent maintenance increase in co-ops like Glen Oaks Village and others, one that will hit families hard in our troubled economy.

Third, the property tax valuation debacle of the last two years that led to double- and triple-digit increases in valuations of many Queens co-ops remained unresolved for a second year in a row. These

increases were imposed by the city Department of Finance, allegedly due to a "computer glitch," which city Comptroller John Liu confirmed in a scathing audit of the department.

The co-op and condo community crafted and lobbied for an 8/30 valuation cap to restore some sanity to these insane increases. The proposed cap, similar to one already in existence for single-family homes, would cap annual property tax increases at 8 percent or 30 percent over five years.

If you live in a co-op or condo, the 2012 legislative session was a disaster, the economic effect of which will reverberate for years to come. The lion's share of the blame belongs on the shoulders of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and state Senate Majority Leader Dean Ske-

los (R-Rockville Centre) and state Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) — the proverbial "three men in a room."

But the three men in a room should not be used as a scapegoat for elected officials to deflect their own responsibility for the failure of this legislative session. Our elected officials had more than a year to work together, craft a plan, lobby fellow legislators, build consensus and show leadership on a single bill.

Instead, they introduced competing bills, failed to work as a cohesive team united in a common goal and waited until the last minute to push for passage. Where was the leadership that could have corralled the Queens Assembly delegation to march into Silver's office and de-

mand that these programs not be allowed to expire?

These are not controversial issues. They are extenders of existing laws that have widespread community and political support.

As the November elections near, the feverish pitch of politicians boasting about dubious achievements and "tireless efforts" will be ubiquitous. If achievements are measured by results produced, then these elected officials deserve no gold stars and voters will be reminded of this each time they write their higher monthly maintenance checks to make up for these legislative failures.

Bob Friedrich is a civic leader and president of Glen Oaks Village.

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Downtown Jamaica BIDs plan to restyle district

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Downtown Jamaica's two business improvement districts held their annual meetings last week where they reviewed their 2012 accomplishments and discussed initiatives for the next year, all of which focused on changing the shopping district's image.

Between the two of

them, the Jamaica Center and the Sutphin Boulevard BIDs have about 870 retail businesses, though the two corridors are a bit different.

The Jamaica Center BID runs along Jamaica Avenue from 169th Street to Sutphin Boulevard, and the strip is dominated by shops selling clothing, electronics and household items. The

BID called its campaign to draw Manhattan-type shoppers to the avenue "Lights, Camera, Action: The Making of an Outstanding Destination," which is aimed at what Executive Director Laurel Brown said was changing negative perceptions about Jamaica.

"I'd say the biggest misperception is that the area is not safe," she said.

Over the past year, the BID hosted a glitzy fashion show, implemented a visual merchandising campaign to help shopkeepers build attractive window displays and coordinated a late-night shopping event.

Brown said at the BID's meeting last Thursday that 80 percent of the avenue's businesses close at 7 p.m., but 70 percent of their rev-

enues are made after 6 p.m. She said shops would make more money, and Jamaica Avenue's reputation would benefit, if stores stayed open later and the district did not shut down so early.

"It's a coordination problem," she said. "Some businesses want to stay open, but if everyone else is closed, they stay closed."

Brown said the BID would continue programs, such as the visual merchandising campaign, in 2013.

The meeting's keynote speaker, Thomas McKnight from the city Economic Development Corp., said about 70 percent of Jamaica Avenue's shoppers came from the greater Jamaica area.

"I really see the potential to attract shoppers from other neighborhoods in Queens, other boroughs and outside the city," he said.

The Sutphin Boulevard BID, which runs from Hillside Avenue to 94th Avenue, held its meeting Friday. The Sutphin BID is anchored by the transit center on its southern end and caters mainly to businesses

associated with commuters and the court houses on the boulevard.

City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) spoke at the meeting and said he would like to see the BID's boundaries extended to the south, possibly as far as Liberty Avenue, an area he said could be marketed as the neighborhood's "restaurant row."

Executive Director Simone Price said the Sutphin BID rolled out its first value card in May, offering discounts at 34 participating stores.

"We're still looking to see how much business it drove to each store," she said.

The BID planned to repeat the summer concert series from last year, with a jazz band scheduled to play outside the courthouses on three consecutive Thursday afternoons beginning Aug. 9.

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

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City Comptroller John Liu (l.) is greeted by one of the Jamaica Center Business Improvement District's board members.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

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Cops

Continued from Page 1

patients wandering the grounds heavily medicated, and say the large concentration of people with substance-abuse problems makes the campus an ideal target for drug dealers.

Frank Toner, president of the Rocky Hill Civic Association, said he and his neighbors regularly see "aggressive panhandling" at a nearby deli, as well as people fighting and selling drugs along the outskirts of the campus.

"As far as we know, they're either residents [of Creedmoor] or people there selling drugs to them," he said.

The Office of Mental Health said it has a total of 22 security personnel at Creedmoor, while others such as the state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Treatment and the state Office for People with Developmental Disabilities have their own security details, each of which is re-



Cops from the 105th Precinct respond to investigate a possible explosive device on Creedmoor's north campus in early 2011.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

sponsible for dealing with its own patients.

The NYPD said the situation at Creedmoor has gotten worse over the past year.

Deputy Inspector Joseph Courtesis of the 105th Precinct said radio runs to the campus have increased 40 percent, averaging out to about six visits a day.

The majority of the calls, he said, are for emotionally disturbed people and require the precinct to send at least two cars.

"It eats up resources tremendously," he said.

The commanding officer recently attended a meeting to discuss the issue at Queens Borough Hall, where he suggested

OMH increase its security staff.

The office, however, asserted it had taken the proper steps to ensure safety.

"Our staff at OMH meets regularly with the community and the surrounding businesses," spokeswoman Leesa Rademacher wrote in an e-

mail. "In most cases, many of the troubles attributed to clients of the Office of Mental Health are, in fact, not OMH patients."

Assemblyman David Weprin's (D-Little Neck) office said it was still working with all the stakeholders to find an appropriate solution.

Market

Continued from Page 2

fresh greens for sale such as peas — both the shell and sugar-snap varieties — zucchini, bok choy and kale.

The market also accepts food stamp benefits from EBT cards, although in a way a bit different than shoppers may be used to.

Malini Rampersad, the market's manager, is equipped with a card-scanning machine and a bagful of wooden tokens. Shoppers tell her how much money they would like to spend and she scans their cards in exchange for the corresponding amount of tokens, which they can spend with the farmers.

The market is open, rain or shine from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Friday and Saturday through Aug. 18 on 160th Street, just north of Jamaica Avenue.

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

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Seven city Beacons survive Bloomberg's budget

BY PHIL CORSO

When Mayor Michael Bloomberg boasted his balanced fiscal year 2013 budget, Bayside buzzed with a resounding bravo.

The \$68.5 million financial plan saved schools, libraries, fire companies and more from the chopping block, but for some in Bayside and Little Neck the

survival of the coveted Beacon after-school program through the Samuel Field Y was the mayor's greatest save.

"For me, it is the ultimate illustration of how community organizations, advocacy organizations and the community members themselves can work together and really impact government decisions,"

said Samuel Field Y Executive Vice President and CEO Dr. Steve Goodman. "We have been working on this for months now and thousands of people have been involved. The city listened."

Since the mayor's March proposal of an initial \$2.1 million in budget reductions, which included the shuttering of seven

citywide Beacon programs — including two in Queens through the Samuel Field Y in Little Neck at MS 158 and the Forest Hills' Queens Community House at JHS 190 — activists of all sizes rallied together throughout the borough to push for the after-school program.

"Child care and after-school programs provide children with critical edu-

cational opportunities that pave the way for future success," said Borough President Helen Marshall, a former teacher. "Youngsters who attend these programs do better in school are more likely to graduate and have lower incidents of violence, drug abuse and teen pregnancy."

Parents, teachers, students and elected officials gathered outside Bayside's Marie Curie Middle School, at 46-35 Oceania St., in April in one of the many outcries for the mayor's reconsidering of the cuts.

"I'm very happy we were able to fight to restore these services, which are vital in getting people back to work without having to worry about where their kids are in the post-school hours," said City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone), one of the many elected officials who spoke at rallies in support of the programs. "In our district, we don't get the resources from City Hall that we should, despite being the fourth-largest tax base in the city. Similarly, these kids have come to depend and rely on having a safe place to be after school."

Goodman said saving the Beacons allowed for a big collective sigh of relief for parents and kids throughout the city, particularly in Bayside and Little Neck.

"Now parents can go back to concentrating on the other parts of their lives, like their jobs and

other responsibilities, knowing their kids will be safe and well-cared for in our program."

The budget will not raise taxes or lay off any teachers, the mayor's office said, and remained balanced through the use of "prudently saved prior-year resources, billions in agency savings actions and increased revenues from strong growth in the tech, film and television, tourism and higher education sectors."

But according to Halloran, Bloomberg and Council Speaker Christine Quinn's (D-Manhattan) budget agreement used short-term victories at the expense of the future.

"The reality is that we are not on a long-term sustainable footing with this budget," Halloran said. "We are at the point where we have used the entire surplus generated during former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and the early Bloomberg years. Next year, we will not be able to use the same restoration money."

As for the future, Goodman said he would be working with the city to assure that Beacon programs stay away from the chopping block next year or any year in the future.

Reporter Steve Mosco contributed to this story.

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

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Eniaya Smalls (l.) and Jourdan James, from the Beacon program at PS 56 in Richmond Hill, rally with other children outside Queens Borough Hall.

Turner refocuses on Congress following GOP primary loss

BY STEVE MOSCO

After an unsuccessful end to his U.S. Senate run, Congressman Bob Turner (R-Middle Village) quickly refocused on his House duties rather than brood over the what-ifs.

"There is no time to sit around and lick our wounds," said Turner, who lost the June 26 primary to conservative lawyer Wendy Long. "I entered the race thinking that I was the strongest candidate to deliver the Republican votes needed in November. That being said, the voters disagreed, case closed. That's the way the system works. There is no point in agonizing over it."

Turner campaigned against Long and Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos for the Republican nomination to challenge Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-

N.Y.) in November.

But low voter turnout and the Conservative Party's backing of Long spelled defeat for Turner, who ended up with 48,908 votes to Long's 69,610.

According to Associated Press returns, Long took every upstate county in her double-digit win, while Turner was able to nab victories in his home turf of Brooklyn and Queens.

"We were disappointed in the turnout," he said. "As it turned out, the way the vote broke was not to our advantage at all."

The congressman said that while the results were not what he was hoping for, he is intent on supporting Long during her campaign leading up to the fall election — one Turner believes puts two different candidates against each other.

"We'll get our team out there to shoulder a lot

of the workload. Long is the standard bearer of the Republican Party and we pledge to get on with the unity and get the big job done," he said. "We have a pretty classic distinction here between a big government, big spending liberal Democrat and a smaller government, pro-business Republican."

Turner also blasted Gillibrand for backing President Barack Obama's health care bill, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court last Thursday.

"She [Gillibrand] constantly votes right down her party line," he said. "As for the health care bill, this has got to be one of the dumbest and worst laws ever cobbled together by a hurried Congress. It was a mess and the Supreme Court somehow made it even more of a mess."



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Boro condo pays upkeep tab on DOT land

BY JOE ANUTA

The city Department of Transportation owns a small grassy plot of land in College Point, but condo owners nearby have been footing the bill for its upkeep.

Representatives from Bay Park Estates said they have been paying for landscaping for the small green parcel of land, at the corner of Poppenhusen Avenue and 115th Street, since the 1980s because of a contract that has long expired, if it ever existed at all.

In 1986, the then-owner of the condo complex apparently entered into an agreement with the city. In exchange for a 15-year tax break, the owner would provide upkeep to the verdant parcel owned by the city.

That tax break expired, but the condo is still stuck with the cleaning bill, according to the realty



Paul Kupetsky stands in the grassy area owned by the city but maintained by landscapers on his condo's dime.
Photo by Joe Anuta

firm that represents the condos.

"We've been maintaining since 2004, but not getting the tax abatement," said Janice Panero, of Lovett Realty. "And that's

really not fair."

Not only does the condo board have to dish out money, it could be liable if one of the landscapers is injured on the job, according to Panero, and that is a risk

the property owners should not have to take, since they do not own the property, she said.

In addition, the agreement that was supposedly signed and kept the condo

trimming the hedges and lawn all these years has not been located, according to Panero, which leaves her wondering why Bay Park Estates should be responsible for cleaning the area.

DOT confirmed that it indeed owns the land, according to a spokesman.

Bay Park had long assumed it owned the grassy spot with choice views of the Manhattan skyline until earlier this year, when it wanted to double check with the city Parks Department on whether or not it could put in some new plantings, according to Paul Kupetsky, a condo owner who represents others in the enclave.

Kupetsky was surprised to learn that the mini-park area was actually mapped as a city street and thus under the purview of DOT.

DOT said it has been in contact with local stakeholders to set up a transfer

of maintenance rights under which the condo could lease the land from the city.

But Kupetsky said he reached out to DOT and did not receive any offers to transfer ownership of the property.

"They're not taking responsibility for it," he said.

He would like to see DOT pay for landscaping, compensate the condo association or turn the property over.

Another option, he said, is to combine the swath into the confines of MacNeil Park and have Parks maintain it.

"We're willing to work with them," he said. "No one wants to see it turn into an eyesore."

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





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Elmhurst burglars had child in the car during crimes: DA

BY REBECCA HENELY

Two Elmhurst men were arraigned on charges of burglary, drug possession and endangering the welfare of a child last Thursday after they were allegedly caught trying to sell stolen items to a Woodside store while one of the men's 3-year-old daughter waited in the back of the car, the Queens district attorney's office said.

NYPD officers from the department's Burglary Larceny Apprehension and Surveillance Team were following Michael Natindim, 34, and Edgar Mortel, 22, early in the morning July 26, the DA said. Natindim lives at Van Loon Street and Grand Avenue, while Mortel lives at 83rd Street and 57th Avenue, the DA said.

The duo stopped at three residences in Elmhurst, Little Neck and Flushing that morning before taking items to Dr. PC, an electronics repair business on 43rd Avenue in Woodside, for sale on the black market around 1:30 p.m., the DA said. When the police arrested them, Natindim said his daughter, 3, was in the back of the car at the time, the DA said.

The electronic devices the men were allegedly trying to sell included an ASUS laptop, an Apple external CD drive, an iPhone



Two Elmhurst men allegedly tried to sell stolen goods to this Woodside electronics store and repair shop.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

and a watch, the DA said. Further investigation of the Lincoln Navigator they were driving allegedly revealed electronics like a Sony camcorder, a Sony camera, a Seagate Hard Drive, a Metro PCS cell phone and a MacBook laptop, the DA said.

Other items allegedly found were flashlights, pliers, gloves, and a rock-like substance and a pipe with residue that is suspected to be methamphetamine, the DA said.

The men were arraigned in Queens Criminal Court before Judge Stephanie Zaro and charged with multiple counts of burglary, stolen property, possession of burglar's tools, criminal possession of a controlled substance, endangering the welfare of a child and criminal trespass, the DA said.

Natindim was also

charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the DA said. Natindim, who fell asleep while being taken away in a police car, allegedly said he had smoked methamphetamine before his arrest, the DA said. Police allegedly also found a stolen credit card, two blowtorches and more of the rock-like substance thought to be methamphetamine at Natindim's home later, the DA said.

Natindim and Mortel were also charged with four burglaries that occurred between June 22 and 25 in Kew Gardens Hills, Fresh Meadows and Flushing, the DA said.

Zaro ordered Natindim held on a \$40,000 bail and Mortel on \$15,000 bail, the DA said. Their next court date is July 11, the DA said.

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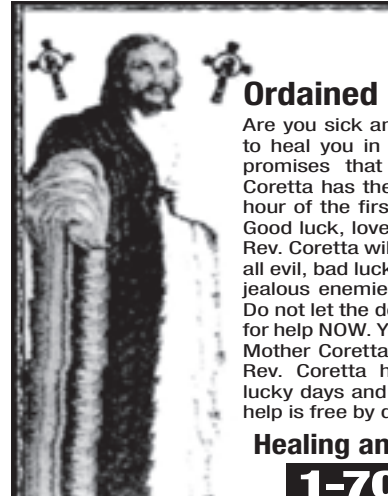


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Stavisky sets Senate run at new Flushing post

21

JT

BY STEVE MOSCO

State Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) kicked off her run for re-election Saturday in the redrawn 16th Senate District at her new campaign office in the heart of downtown Flushing.

With dozens of supporters in attendance, Stavisky said her campaign office's location, at 37-02 Main St., gives her the opportunity to remain close to her constituents through a team of dedicated interns and staff, who will canvass the surrounding area.

"We've got a broad coalition of supporters energized by the prospects of this campaign," said Stavisky, who is seeking her seventh full term in the Senate. "We've made progress in Albany these last two years, but work remains."

The senator said some of the most pressing issues



State Sen. Toby Stavisky (l.) kicks off her re-election campaign at her new Flushing headquarters with Peter Tu, head of the Flushing Chinese Business Association.

Photo by Steve Mosco

she plans on tackling if re-elected include minimum wage, job creation and women's rights.

"Nearly 900,000 New Yorkers will benefit from a minimum wage increase, including almost 100,000

right here in Queens," she said. "We need real job creation here in Queens, helping us to revitalize our neighborhoods. We need to win the war on women that's being waged and protect the fundamental right

for patients and doctors to make medical decisions, not legislators. And we need to pass the NY DREAM Act, empowering tens of thousands of law-abiding students to continue in their dreams and have access to

quality, affordable higher education."

Stavisky is running in the redrawn 16th Senate District encompassing Elmhurst, Flushing, Forest Hills, Fresh Meadows, Oakland Gardens, Rego Park and Woodside.

Two GOP challengers have emerged so far in the district: Oakland Gardens lawyer John Messer and Flushing lawyer J.D. Kim, who received the nod of the Republican Party.

All state candidates have until mid-July to accrue either 1,000 signatures for those running as Democrats or 816 signatures for Republicans.

Recent winner of the Democratic Party primary for New York's 6th Congressional District, state Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing) threw her support behind Stavisky in a statement issued as she geared up for her own run for Congress.

"I'm proud to support my dear friend and colleague Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky on her re-election campaign to Senate District 16," Meng said. "She has demonstrated her dedication and advocacy to her constituents and the many issues that affect Queens through her accomplishments in the state Senate. Toby is a candidate that demonstrates honesty, integrity and reliability in all she does — in her re-election she will continue to strive at making Queens the best it can be for all families."

Besides Meng, Stavisky has also received endorsements from the Working Families and Independence parties, along with several members of the Democratic Party, including U.S. Sen. Kristen Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and City Comptroller John Liu.

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Free Access-A-Ride cards could save MTA \$90M

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The MTA has approved free MetroCards for people who use Access-A-Ride, which it said could save \$90 million a year by 2015.

The plan is to give the MetroCards, at \$2.25 each, to the disabled who now use Access-A-Ride, which costs the Metropolitan Transportation Authority \$60 a trip.

The MTA's hope is that many of those who use Access-A-Ride will turn to buses and subways if they are free.

The transit agency said that of the 175,000 people using Access-A-Ride, only 25 percent must use wheelchairs and that many have disabilities that are such that they can still use mass transit. Users will pay the same as the prevailing fares of subways and buses with their care-providing attendant riding free.

Distribution of the free MetroCards is scheduled to be carried out in phases over the coming six months and, with just 15 percent of recipients choosing to use mass transit, the agency could realize a savings of \$90 million by 2015,



Access-A-Ride riders could be issued free MetroCards.

MTA officials said.

The offer of free MetroCards applies so far only to regular bus and subway service. No decision has been made on express buses.

The paratransit service was made mandatory by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires such transportation where there is bus or subway service.

Access-A-Ride was taken over by the MTA from the city Department of Transportation in 1993.

Those applying for Access-A-Ride service report to their borough's assessment center for determination on whether they are eligible.

The MTA's guide to Access-A-Ride provides exhaustive rules, explanations, directions, suggestions, cautions and facts about the service, including outdoor temperatures that should preclude travel — 39 degrees or colder and 90 degrees or hotter — and when you travel with a personal care attendant whether you may bring a guest on a space-availability basis.

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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 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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Local 'Occupy' protesters take on LIC's Citi building

23

JT

TIMESLEDGER, July 5-11, 2012
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Neighborhood activists slam banking company in low-key, 12-hour rally within Court Square Park

BY REBECCA HENELY

Long Island City and Astoria activists affiliated with the Occupy Wall Street movement held a 12-hour-long protest adjacent to the Citi Building at 1 Court Square last week.

The activists, who numbered between 15 and 50 at any given time June 27, contended that while Citigroup Inc. received a stimulus package from the U.S. government to stave off bankruptcy in the wake of the 2008 economic crash, the company has not paid any federal income taxes for years since then.

"We paid these bailouts so that they can pay their benefits, so that they can advertise," said Nicholas Levis, 47, an Astoria financial adviser and translator.

The claim comes from a statement put out by U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) in 2011 and is a talking point on liberal-leaning blogs, but could not be independently confirmed.



Performance artist Bill "Rev. Billy" Talen (I.), of the Church of Life after Shopping, speaks at an Occupy Astoria/LIC protest near the Citi building at Court Square.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

A financial professional familiar with Citigroup's performance pointed out, however, that the banking company recorded heavy losses after the bailout,

which offset its profits for at least two years.

Citi said in response to the protest, "We understand and respect that consumers have choic-

es when it comes to their banking needs. We are proud that millions of Americans choose Citibank and we will continue to work hard to earn their business."

While the Occupy movement is often associated with young college students, their counterparts at Court Square Park, at the intersection of Thomson and Jackson avenues, were older, ranging from their late 20s to middle age. Many of them said they were employed, and some said they had not considered themselves activists before being galvanized by the Occupy Wall Street protests, originally in Zuccotti Park in Manhattan, which began in September 2011.

"I believe that people need to be held accountable for their actions, especially big banks," said Emily Frail, a 27-year-old restaurant manager from Astoria who became an activist with the Zuccotti protests.

Occupy Astoria/LIC was created by Astoria resident Ted

Alexandro, 43, and his neighbors, Mark Marone and Stacey Mazurek. Alexandro had recognized Marone in Zuccotti Park and after being neighbors for years, they became friends through the protest.

"I was fascinated by this idea that people were sleeping in a park to protest this corruption," Alexandro said. "I was invigorated by it, fell in love with it."

He said after the Occupy Wall Street demonstrators were kicked out of Zuccotti Park in November, the three of them began a local chapter. They had 20 to 25 people at their first meeting, but their numbers have grown to about 200 through Facebook and the group's website.

"It's been in some ways gradual and some ways very rapid," Alexandro said.

Despite the NYPD's controversial role in clearing Zuccotti Park last year, the rally at Court Square Park was amicable between police and protesters.

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Focus on *Health*

Scoliosis screening of kids still important

Adults no doubt recall being tested for scoliosis in school. But unless they were diagnosed with it, adults probably recall little else about scoliosis.

Though not a terribly common disorder, the fact that many school districts still test children for scoliosis indicates it's not entirely innocuous either. In fact, according to the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, three to five out of every 1,000 children will develop spinal curves considered large enough to war-

rant treatment.

But what is scoliosis, what causes it, and what can parents of kids with scoliosis do to ensure their kids can still lead a normal life?

What is scoliosis?

Scoliosis is a musculoskeletal disorder in which there is a sideways curvature of the spine. While some kids with scoliosis will require treatment, others might simply need periodic observation by their physician.

Who is most likely to get scoliosis?

The most common type of scoliosis is adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, which is most likely to occur in girls over the age of 10. Research has also shown that idiopathic scoliosis can be genetic, and children who have a brother, sister, or parent with idiopathic scoliosis, or if any such relative has had it in the past, should visit their physician regularly for checkups and examinations.

Though it is most common in children over the age of 10, it's important to note that kids younger than 10 can also develop idiopathic scoliosis. Early onset idiopathic scoliosis is more common in Europe than it is in the United States, but children younger than 3 years old can develop this disorder. When a child is between the ages of 3 and 10 and develops scoliosis, that's known as juvenile idiopathic scoliosis.

What causes scoliosis?

More often than not, the cause of scoliosis is unknown. In fact, the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases estimates that the cause of scoliosis is unknown 80 to 85 percent of the time. Physicians will look for causes such as injury or infection, and if they find curves, those curves are classified into two categories:

- **Nonstructural** — A nonstructural spinal curve is temporary, and can be caused by an underlying condition such as leg length or muscle spasms. In fact, an inflammatory condition such as appendicitis can even result in a nonstructural curve. When treating a nonstructural curve, physicians treat the underlying condition and the spine then readjusts.

- **Structural** — Structural curves of the spine are more serious, and can be the result of a tissue disorder or disease. Neuromuscular diseases such as cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy can result in structural curves of the spine. Structural curves can also be the result of a birth defect such as hemivertebra, when one side of a vertebra fails to form normally before birth. Injury, metabolic diseases, and rheumatic diseases can also result in structural curves of the spine.

Does scoliosis have to be treated?

Each individual case of scoliosis is different, but oftentimes school screening programs are in place to shed light on a condition and determine whether or not there is a need for observation as a child continues to grow. In many cases, children who are sent to the doctor by screening programs have very mild curves that don't require treatment. If treatment is required, a child could be sent to an orthopaedic spine specialist. From there, the physician will likely recommend one of the following:

- **Observation** — Because children diagnosed with scoliosis are still growing, sometimes observation is all that's necessary. If that's what's recommended, a doctor will examine the child every four to six months. If the idiopathic curve (the measure of the spinal curve) remains less than 25 degrees, observation will likely remain the extent of the treatment needed.

- **Bracing** — When the idiopathic curve in children who are still growing is larger than 25 to 30 degrees, the doctor will likely advise that a child wear a brace to keep the curve from getting any worse. When a child nears the end of his growth, the doctor will then examine the effects of the curve on the child's appearance, and also determine if the curve is getting worse.

- **Surgery** — In general, doctors will recommend surgery for children who are still growing and have a curve greater than 45 degrees.



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People IN THE NEWS

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARGIULO

Academics

David Polanco of College Point was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, the national honor society of freshmen, at the University of Scranton.

Tshiring Gurung of Flushing was named to the Southern Arkansas University spring 2012 dean's list.

The following have graduated from SUNY New Paltz: **Susan Li** of Woodside; **Judea Costes** of College Point; **Katherine Boller** and **Jonathan Talmi** of Whitestone; **Sarah Hefetz**, **Ingrid Maryansky** and **Nelly McCarthy** of Forest Hills; **Alexandra Zielinska** of Rego Park; **Alicia Blakely** and **Jennifer Locascio** of Howard Beach; **Pamela Vivanco** of Ozone Park; **Michael Giurato** of Jackson Heights; **Ayanna Thomas** and **Karen Yen** of Fresh Meadows; **Allyson Eames**, **Paula Clay**, **Laura Dardignac**, **Charisma Bennett** and **Francis Rodriguez** of Jamaica; **Shaun Ben-Ari** and **Allison Sofer** of Kew Gardens; **Christina Chamorro** and **Thomas Garafo** of Richmond Hill; **Eric Demytor** of Woodhaven; **Stefanie Aluia** and **Krystal Miller** of Queens Village; **Philip Mavrikis** of Middle Village; **Roxana Ancher** and **Alexander Dreger** of Ridgewood; **Eunice Chiang**, **Brian Gabriel**, **Michael Krau**, **Vikki Tseng** and **Andrew Banuchi** of Flushing; **Anna Han** and **Kelly**

McCann of Little Neck.

The following have won United Federation of Teachers District 26 scholarships: **Mateo Ordenez** of PS 188, **Jessica Zawadzki** of Douglaston Community Church, **Isabel Gonzalez** of PS 133, **Anthony Ng** of PS 94, **Eileen Wang** of PS 98, **Gloria Shannon Lee** of PS 115, **Beatrice Arana** of PS 41, **Yu Fan "Amanda" Ma** of PS 221, **Sophie Robinson** and **Ricardo Bonilla** of MS 172, **Valencia Lewis** of Benjamin N. Cardozo High School and **Kristi Barth** and **Jason Marin** of Francis Lewis High School.

Xavier Bernard of St. Albans has graduated from Hebron Academy.

Robert Dipeolu of Rosedale has been named to the spring 2012 SUNYIT honors list.

Angela Amedeo and **Danielle Davaros** of Whitestone received the SUNY Oneonta 2011-12 Best and Brightest Award.

Allian Gentile of Queens Village, **Tiffanie Hawes** of South Ozone Park and **Nicole Sasu-Twum** of Briarwood were named to the spring 2012 SUNYIT president's list.

Christopher Yip of Briarwood has graduated from Juniata College.

Michael D. Jensen of Whitestone has graduated from Clarkson University.

Wendi Liu of Forest Hills



XAVIER BERNARD

and **John J. Murray** of Sunnyside have received National Merit Scholarships.

The following have been admitted into Saint Augustine's College: **Breanna Blake**, **Maisha Brown** and **Claudine Pierre** of Jamaica; **Deborah Oyebamiji** of St. Albans; and **Dominique Kinard** of South Ozone Park.

Caterina Bondi of Middle Village departed May 15 to spend five weeks at Harding University in Zambia with the university's speech-language pathology graduate program.

Kateri Clark of Queens Village has achieved recognition for her winning design in the "Design A Card" competition, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Long Island.

Danielle Gunraj of Rosedale



KATERI CLARK

has received a Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award from SUNY Binghamton.

Michael De Pasquale of Little Neck, **Patricia Lavelle** of Rego Park, **Sazzad Hossain** of Jamaica, **Ariana Thomas** of Richmond Hill and **Chi Hing Siu** of Flushing have graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Khristina L. Catarineau of College Point, **Cephas Andoh** of Corona, **Justine A. Balog** of Maspeth, **Pamela A. Hubert** of Flushing and **Nicole S. Hirsh** of Fresh Meadows have graduated from Quinnipiac University.

Shelley Park of Flushing has graduated from the School of Art and Design at Alfred University.

The following have graduated from the College of Mount

Saint Vincent: **Patricia Donoghue** and **Anthony Garcia** of Woodside; **Nilam Joshi** of Forest Hills; **Alexandra Maldonado** of Rego Park; **Maria Batista** and **Rocio Lijo** of Ozone Park; **Angela Lanzieri** and **Anthony Masullo** of Howard Beach; **Vanie Mangal** and **Trisha Outar** of South Ozone Park; **Mei Dan Chen** of Corona; **Michael Alam** of Jamaica; **Winnie Tema** and **Veronica Thompson** of Queens Village; **Matthew Morgado** of Woodhaven; **Ankita Sharma** of Richmond Hill; **Paulo Rovino de Dios** of Ridgewood; **Carolyn Hegel** and **Laura Shapiro** of Middle Village; **Sayuri Mijaro** and **Daniel Phelan** of Maspeth; **Sylwia Bednarska**, **Michelle Constantopes**, **Marcus Frederic**, **Jerilyn Gapit**, **Anthony Mongelli**, **Sandra Muriel** and **Alnnye Reyes** of Flushing; and **Stephanie Magallanes** and **Stephanie Sebo** of Fresh Meadows.

Jennifer Renta of Jackson Heights has graduated from Wilkes University.

Shorona Lallsingh of Jamaica has graduated from Fisher College.

Alexander Ng of Forest Hills participated in the National Student Steel Bridge Competition May 25 and 26 at Clemson University.

Awards



Timothy Ho, a buyer specialist with Energized Realty Group in Whitestone, is the winner of this year's 30 Under 30 — 50 Finalists Readers' Choice Award.

TIMOTHY HO

Air Force Airman **Xing Zheng**, son of **Liqin Wu** of Flushing, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Melissa Molfetas of Whitestone, serving with the 42nd Infantry Division Band, is promoted to the rank of sergeant.

William Pardue of Whitestone, serving with the 42nd Infantry Division Band, is promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Fabian Mendoza of Rego Park, serving with the 222nd Chemical Co., is promoted to the rank of specialist.

Military

Christopher Amorim of Ozone Park, serving with the 222nd Chemical Co., is promoted to the rank of specialist.

Ronald Rivas of Jamaica, serving with the 145th Maintenance Co., is promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Aida Paulomolina of Jamaica, serving with the 14th Finance Co., is promoted to the rank of staff sergeant.

Donique Salmon of Jamaica, serving with the Co. D (Forward Support Co. Reconnaissance and Target Acquisition), 427th Brigade Support Battalion, is promoted to

the rank of private.

Marquis Schofield of Jamaica, serving with the Co. F (Forward Support Co. Infantry), 427th Brigade Support Battalion, is promoted to the rank of private.

Anthony Vieira of Jamaica, serving with the Co. F (Forward Support Co. Infantry), 427th Brigade Support Battalion, is promoted to the rank of private.

Rodney Allen of Jamaica, serving with the Co. G (Forward Support Co. Field Artillery), 427th Brigade Support Battalion, is promoted to the rank of specialist.

FOCUS ON QUEENS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN JAMAICA'S 350TH ANNIVERSARY GALA IN GREAT NECK *Photos by Ken Maldonado*

1 The Rev. Aqueelah Ligonde, an associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica performs "The Prayer."



2 A dinner celebrates the 350th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica.



3 Barry Group was honored for his contributions to church programs.



4 The senior pastor of the Church, the Rev. Patrick O'Connor, stands with Christina Farro, the longest serving member, and Carol J. Hunt, who was honored as the director of Christian Education.



5 Members of the Magill family are honored for their support of church programs. Family patriarch the Rev. Andrew Magill, served as pastor during the early 1900's.



6 The staff of the First Presbyterian Church gathers for the celebration.

LITTLE NECK LIONS' 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AND SWEARING-IN OF NEW OFFICERS *Photos by Christina Santucci*

7 Ex-Sen. Frank Padavan (r.) presents a proclamation to outgoing President Charles McBride on behalf of Councilman Daniel Halloran.



8 New Lions Club leaders (l.-r.) Secretary Robert Greenberg, President Carolyn Meenan, First Vice President Patti Rifino, and Treasurer Rochelle Dunaisky are sworn in by Pauline Francis (r.).



9 New President Carolyn Meenan is presented with flowers by her husband, Peter Meenan.



10 Officers and friends joined the celebration of the club's 60 years.



11 Charles McBride (c.) is joined by Patti Rifino (l.) and Carolyn Meenan.



12 Guests filled tables at La Grotta restaurant in Little Neck.



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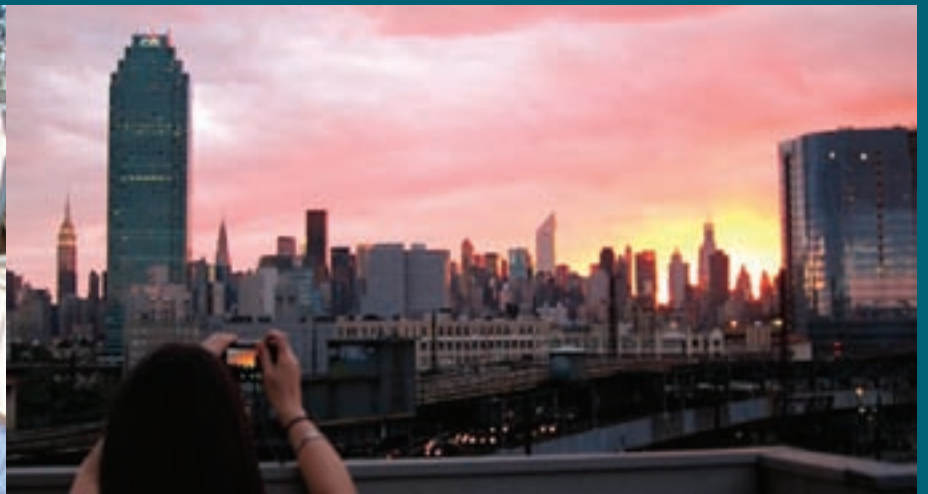
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6 - 8 PM

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NYPD Graduation

The New York City Police Academy held a graduation ceremony last Thursday for 838 new police officers at St. John's University. (Clockwise from top l.) Police Officer Corey Shane removes his cap from his son Logan's head after taking family photos; Police Commissioner Ray Kelly shakes hands with class Valedictorian Police Officer Michael Lassen, as Mayor Michael Bloomberg looks on; Officer Luis Campana gets a hug from his mother, Katuska Campana; a new officer salutes during the Presentation of the Colors; graduates are sworn in to the NYPD; members of the Emerald Society's Pipes & Drums proceed out of Carnesecca Arena; Police Officer Ana Woor kisses her daughter Anamaria Mastrocinque, 2; and the members of the class toss their white gloves in the air.

Photos by Yinghao Luo and Christina Santucci





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Astoria resident beat girlfriend to death: DA

BY REBECCA HENELY

A 33-year-old Astoria man was arraigned on charges of murder and criminal contempt Saturday after his girlfriend was found strangled and beaten to death in their apartment, the Queens district attorney's office said.

Jason Bohn, an attorney and Colombia University graduate, allegedly made the 911 call that allowed police to discover his girlfriend, 27-year-old Danielle Thomas, June 26 around 7:30 p.m. in one of the apartments at 33rd Street and 28th Avenue, authorities said.

When they arrived, Thomas' body was lying face up in a bathtub surrounded by bags of ice, District Attorney Richard Brown said in a statement. She had multiple bruises and lacerations on her face, mouth and chest, as well as

bruising on her neck and shoulders, Brown said. The city medical examiner later found she also had multiple internal injuries, like broken cartilage and compressions in her neck, fractures to her rib cage and lacerations to her liver, Brown said.

Her cause of death was listed as blunt force trauma to the torso and neck, Brown said.

Inside the apartment, officers found two handwritten notes. In one of them, Bohn allegedly said it was an accident and he had come home drunk.

"I woke up and there was fighting between us When I woke up again she was unconscious I am sorry," the note read, according to the DA.

The second note said, "Dani, I will love you forever."

Thomas worked for Weight Watchers.



Jason Bohn was picked up in White Plains, N.Y., some days after he allegedly beat Danielle Thomas to death, the Queens DA said.

Photo courtesy NYPD

The day after her body was discovered, police requested the public's help in finding Bohn. He was apprehended late Friday in a White Plains, N.Y., restau-

rant with his mother and attorney by his side, the DA said. He was charged with murder, aggravated criminal contempt, criminal contempt and tamper-

ing with physical evidence, the DA said. He faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

"Ms. Thomas was a young woman with a bright and promising future whose life was brutally and senselessly cut short allegedly at the hands of the defendant," Brown said. "This case will be vigorously prosecuted to ensure that justice is served for the victim, her family and other victims of domestic violence."

Before the incident that led to Thomas' death, Bohn allegedly attacked Thomas May 24 in their apartment, punching her so hard in her face and back that she was bruised on her back and her left knee was bruised and swollen, according to the criminal complaint.

When Thomas went to the police June 7, Bohn allegedly called her at the 114th Precinct's station.

"It's war! I'll dedicate my life to hunting you down like a dog in the streets," Bohn allegedly said in his message, according to the complaint. "I am going to make your life impossible."

Before her visit to the station, Bohn had also allegedly sent Thomas multiple e-mail messages, the complaint said. In these messages Bohn allegedly said she was a "whore" and a "moron" and that she had to leave their apartment.

He was arraigned on these charges in Queens Criminal Court the next day, the complaint said. Afterward, he was released on his own recognizance and Thomas had a restraining order against Bohn, stating he was not to assault or harass her, Brown said.

Thomas had worked for Weight Watchers in the company's financial department before her death.

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

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Q GUIDE

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Blowing into the WIND

Bayside musician Lefteris Bournias carries his family's musical heritage with him around the globe

BY RAPHAEL SUGARMAN

Lefteris Bournias says he's felt like an outsider all of his life, a bit like the uncertain wind, blowing sharp or steamy one moment, melancholy or cool the next.

Luckily for Bournias' fans — and due in large part to his ancestors' innate appreciation of the life powers of human breath — Bournias has used his clarinet to connect both loved ones and strangers for about the past 25 years.

"To me, it's an extension of my voice," said the Bayside resident. "The fact I breathe into it, it comes alive, like an extension of my body."

The Bournias family can trace their musical DNA back to at least the time of their paternal great-grandfather, Pantelis Bournias, on the island of Chios in the Aegean Sea. A notable local poet himself, Pantelis' five children grew up to be musicians, including two clarinetists, a violinist, as well as lute and santur players.

"I have heard that people used to ask my great great-grandfather to compose a poem

Continued on Page 33

Growing up in New York City and Greece, Lefteris Bournias has applied his international influence by fusing traditional Greek composition with a contemporary flare.

Photo courtesy Lefteris Bournias

BY SUZANNE PARKER

When current events draw our attention to a particular geographic location, our gut reaction (literally) is to start contemplating the native cuisine. While others might be obsessing over the financial or political implications of Greece's economic woes, we start wondering whether they will increase the number of Greek émigrés to Queens, and what effect that will have on the number and quality of Greek restaurants in Queens.

Those thoughts catapulted us out the door to Gregory's 26 Corner Taverna, an authentic Greek hideaway in the depths of Astoria.

Here, you could be in Athens or some other Greek city, sitting in an outdoor café with some not-so-young Greek men who look like they seldom leave their table. Although there are tables to be had in the small, dim interior, outdoors is the place to be, watching the world go by. Even in marginal weather, the streetside



A quartet of dips harmonize on the cold appetizer platter.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

tables are fitted with a vinyl enclosure, extending the viability of dining nominally alfresco.

This taverna serves a range of regional Greek specialties, split about evenly between turf and surf. No attention grabbing innovations here, just time-honored dishes expertly executed. If there is a signature to their culinary style, it would be the ability to flawlessly achieve crunchy exteriors with lush, juicy interiors — no mean feat.

Grilled octopus illustrates 26's deft singed-to-succulent ratio. Like most of their apps, it's rather hefty as a starter for a singleton, but perfect for sharing. And speaking of sharing, the cold appetizer platter, with its quartet of taramosalata (salmon roe dip), tzatziki (garlicky yogurt & cucumber), tirokafteri (spicy cheese spread), and melitzanosalata (eggplant spread) is perfect for beginning your meal or lingering over a bottle of one of the ex-

cellent Greek wines served here. The standout for us was the eggplant which is liberally studded with bits of raw garlic. The platter comes piled high with quartered pita, although it's also tasty with the unusual slightly whole wheat baguette in the bread basket. Greek salad is also reliable here, and generous with the feta, although our dining partner lamented the absence of anchovies, which have become a rarity on Greek salads.

For a wallet-friendly meat meal, try the biftekia, the Greek answer to Salisbury steak. Ground beef, seasoned in the traditional Greek way with onions, oregano and mint, it can be had plain or with an internal layer of feta cheese. Sort of an inside-out cheeseburger. It comes on a platter with an assortment of purposefully placed vegetables and your choice of fries or lemon potatoes. Opt for the lemon potatoes, the Greek standby. Like so much else on the menu, the biftekia is a counterpoint of juiciness and

DINING OUT

Gregory's 26
Corner Taverna
26-02 23rd Ave
Long Island City, NY 11105
(718) 777-5511
Price Range: Appetizers \$6-13,
Entrees: \$7-22
Cuisine: Regional Greek
Setting: Tiny taverna with limited
outdoor seating
Service: Friendly, efficient.
Hours: Lunch & Dinner daily
Reservations: No
Alcohol: Greek wine 7 Beer
Parking: Street
Dress: Casual
Children: Welcome
Music: Recorded
Takeout: Yes
Credit cards: No
Noise level: Acceptable
Handicap accessible: Yes
WIFI: No

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #71								
				7	9			
	1	6	3			2		
	5		6		4			8
		7			3	5		6
2		1	8			3		
5			1		7		2	
		4			8	9	6	
			9	6				

Hard #71								
6								3
	1						9	
8			1	4	3			2
		5		3		9		
			6		5			
		4		8		5		
2			9	6	1			4
	9						3	
7								9

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
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LEFTERIS BOURNIAS

Continued from Page 31

right on the spot,” said Bournias, displaying a musician’s knowledge of the challenges of adlibbing.

His father Elias shared tales with him about his grandfather who would play gigs lasting nine days, during which members of the band “would go home and sleep for a few hours and then come back,” said Lefteris.

Decades later Elias Bournias moved to New York City, to an unknown place called Hell’s Kitchen.

Elias was an artist, too, but in the culinary world rather than the musical. He became a chef at Manhattan’s Pierre Hotel and owner of the Roosevelt Coffee Shop, Lefteris said.

But the musical winds of the Bournias family never left Elias and in his tidbits of spare time, he played the Shepherd’s Flute.

“I remember picking it up a couple of times when I was a kid and making a sound,” said Lefteris, 40.

When Lefteris was only 10, his father announced to his wife

Elizabeth and three children that despite their success in America, he longed to return to his Greek homeland.

“When we left, we could barely speak Greek,” said Lefteris, who settled with his family in a small town near Athens. “The kids in our school were studying ‘The Iliad’ and ‘The Odyssey,’ but in ancient Greek.”

As he grew into his teenage years, Lefteris began listening to Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, Pink Floyd and other rock bands. He asked his mother to buy him a guitar.

“She said to me, ‘Why don’t you get a clarinet and make your father happy?’” Bournias recalled.

He did, and began to play his instrument of wind.

With his family resettled in Greece, Elias Bournias traveled back and forth on business between Athens and New York. The trips sometimes lasted as long as a year — a long time for his wife and young children.

“Growing up as a boy without my father around very much was not easy,” said Lefteris. “A young

boy looks for a sense of guidance and security.”

The period of his father’s absences coincided with the first tiny seedlings of Bournias’ public personae as a musician. He began playing in Greek outdoor festivals called panigiria, which can last for 12 hours, he said.

It was as if the straight black clarinet was connecting father and son, like a felt marker on a map between two continents.

“There were times that I felt that the sound coming from my clarinet was connecting us,” said Lefteris.

For a time though, he decided to take a more practical route and enroll in the New York City College of Technology, where he studied cooking and baking, planning to follow in his father’s footsteps.

Instead, a fateful audition would put him on the path of music and his beloved clarinet. He played for Eugene Armour, the head of the music department at NYCCT. Armour told Bournias that he would be sorely mistaken not to study music.

The young clarinetist enrolled at the Aaron Copeland School of Music at Queens College. He earned both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s.



Lefteris Bournias grew up listening to classic rock like Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Pink Floyd, going on to pick up the clarinet in his teen years.

Photo courtesy Lefteris Bournias

“I got to learn musical analysis, theater and orchestration,” he said. “I had never really studied those things before.”

At the same time, he continued to play traditional Greek music.

These days, Lefteris has nicely merged both worlds. On the weekends, his Apollo Orches-

tra plays private functions, including as many as 100 weddings, christenings and other private parties each year, he said.

He is also the founder and head of the Kavala Brass Band, which plays Greek music with a less traditional bent. Bournias also plays with the Meandros Ensemble, which features the music of Asia Minor, as well as such artists as Electra Curtis, a violinist who fuses Greek and Arabic music.

Last month, he was asked to play Cuban-Jewish music in the debut of Roberto Rodriguez’s Orquesta Sarabia, a 10-piece group, at the David Rubinstein Atrium at Lincoln Center.

He has performed World Music with the Queens Borough Philharmonic and performed Zorba the Greek at Lincoln Center in a show orchestrated by the legendary jazzman, Skitch Henderson.

“Every time I play, I can visualize my great-great grandfather,” he said. “I am always carrying their energy. They are alive though the music.”

Bournias is planning to spend much of the summer touring in Europe. To check out his activities for the fall, go to www.apollorchestras.com.

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

Warm Up 2012 – The annual music series Warm Up at MoMA PS1 is celebrating its 15th year, featuring temporary urban landscape by HWKN called Wendy, the winning design of MoMA PS1’s 13th annual Young Architects Program.

When: July 7 to Sept. 8; Saturdays, 2-9 pm

Where: MoMA PS1, 22-25 Jackson Ave., Long Island City

Contact: (718) 784-2084

Website: momaps1.org

Target Passport Fridays – A summer series dedicated to music, film and dance.

When: July 6 to Aug. 24; Fridays, 6:30 pm

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

Contact: (718) 592-9700

Website: www.queensmuseum.org

Hot Jazz/Cool Garden – Hot Jazz/Cool Garden celebrates its 9th season with a stellar lineup: The Hot Sardines, Bria Skonberg Quartet and the Lucky Dogs. Held

in the Armstrong Garden, these concerts feature traditional jazz bands that play and promote the music of Louis Armstrong. Tickets for each concert include historic house tour.

When: July 21 and Aug. 18, 2 pm

Where: Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107th Ave., Corona

Contact: (718) 478-8274

KIDS & FAMILY

Summer Fun: Carambu – Live music with children friendly tunes.

When: July 11, 10:30-11:30 am

Where: Athens Square, 30th Ave. at 29th Street, Astoria

Contact: (718) 728-7820

Website: www.nycgovparks.org

Seeing Trees – View images from 18 artists of trees in various landscapes.

When: Through Aug. 18

Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona

Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353

Website: www.nyscience.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: Through Sept. 2;

Weekdays, 9:30 am-5 pm;

Saturdays and Sundays, 10

am-6 pm

Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona

Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353

Website: www.nyscience.org

EVENTS

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

Continued on Page 34

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- Chicken Marsala
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Sausage & Peppers
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Small Meatballs
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Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

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\$25.95

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Any 2 Choices From B
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Chicken Francaise
Chicken Marsala
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Veal Marsala
Tortellini Alfredo
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Continued from Page 33

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, 1:30-4:30 pm
Cost: Free
Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Contact: (718) 592-9700

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

dEMO's Bears – Created by Spanish artist dEMO, the exhibit is comprised of a collection of neon glass bears of varying colors and heights, and that have already traveled through most of the world. The Bears most notable exhibition to date was their tenure at the 2010 Venice Biennale.
When: Through Aug. 31
Where: Sky View Center, 40-24 College Point Blvd., Flushing

Ada Bobnis: Stages, Mountains, Water – Site-specific installation that transforms the museum's second-floor into a Caribbean landscape. Geometric compositions in hues of blue and green are either painted on the wall or adhered to the glass railing façade in the form of translucent color film. The work is inspired by the Panama Canal, one of the most transformative world events in the 19th century.
When: Through Jan. 6, 2013
Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona
Contact: (718) 592-9700
Website: www.queensmuseum.org

Caribbean: Crossroads of the World – A first-time collaborating with El Museo del Barrio to highlight over two centuries of rarely seen works from the Haitian Revolution (1804) to the present. The show features some 400 works including painting, sculpture, prints, books, photography, film, video and historic artifacts from Caribbean nations, Europe and the United States.
When: Through Jan. 6, 2013
Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona
Contact: (718) 592-9700
Website: www.queensmuseum.org

Portrait of a King – Susan Varo's tribute to Michael Jackson.
When: Through July 31
Where: Langston Hughes Public Library, 100-01 Northern Blvd., Corona
Contact: (718) 651-1100
Website: www.queenslibrary.org

Bill Bollinger – Bollinger made significant waves in the late 1960s, challenging the limits of sculpture and expanding thought regarding concept, materiality, and commodity. His works were made from primarily pre-fabricated industrial supplies, such as sawhorses, oil drums, rubber tubing and cyclone fence. Focusing on the gesture of construction and the physical limits of material, Bollinger's work addressed ideas of gravity, balance and material nature.
When: Through July 30
Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Astoria
Contact: (718) 956-1819
Website: www.socrateessculpturepark.org

Civic Action – Opening reception May 13. Artists: Natalie Jeremijenko and xClinic, Mary Miss, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and George Trakas.

Co-organized with The Noguchi Museum and curated by Amy Smith-Stewart.
When: Through Aug. 5
Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Astoria
Contact: (718) 956-1819
Website: www.socrateessculpturepark.org

Industry/Cinema – The installation Industry/Cinema is a split-screen work that juxtaposes images from industrial films and popular films made between 1896 and 1991. With specialized dual-channel headphones, visitors are able to toggle between the soundtracks, creating an ever-changing interplay between sound and image as they take an illuminating journey through film history.
When: Through Aug. 12
Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria
Contact: (718) 777-6888
Website: www.movingimage.us

Seeing Trees – View images from 18 artists of trees in various landscapes.
When: Through Aug. 18
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353
Website: nyscience.org

EDUCATION

Korean Temple Food Lecture – By Joungmook Seunim. Recipes taught will include lotus leaf rice, pickled tofu, steamed aged kimchi, pickled cucumber mixed rice, oak sprout riceball, radish mool kimchi, seasoned dry seaweed. RSVP by phone.
When: July 5, 4-6 pm, and July 6, 4-6 pm
Where: Yegam Art Space, 196-50 Northern Blvd., Auburndale
Contact: (732) 693-7205
Website: facebook.com/hyoandjoungseunim

THEATER CALENDAR

Golden Dragon Acrobats – Recognized throughout the United States and abroad as the premier Chinese acrobatic touring company, the Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time-honored tradition that began more than 25 centuries ago. World-renowned impresario Danny Chang and choreographer Angela Chang combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.
When: July 5 to Aug. 5; Saturdays 1 pm and 7 pm; Sundays 3 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona

Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686
Website: www.queenstheatre.org

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting – Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.
When: Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck
Contact: Muriel, (718) 225-7382

Gregory's

Continued from Page 32

crunch. Grilled fish is a sure-fire winner here. “Fish of the day” is likely to be a multiple choice question. We chose branzino, also known as Mediterranean seabass, a fish generally regarded as sustainable. Again, the success of simple preparation with olive oil, herbs and lemon rests on skill at the grill, and

that's what they've got here in abundance. It comes only with a sprinkling of herbs and a lemon wedge, so go for one of the sides.

Our complimentary dessert was ravini, a semolina pudding soaked in syrup. No other desserts were offered.

The Bottom Line

There are so many good reasons to visit Gregory's 26 Corner Taverna: the feeling you've been transported to Athens, the wonderful food and the modest

prices. If you really want a bargain, you can order a side dish with an appetizer for only an additional \$2 instead of the usual \$5. Now there's an austerity measure no one can argue with. Just remember to bring cash as they do not take credit cards.

Suzanne Parker is the TimesLedger's restaurant critic and author of “Eating Like Queens: A Guide to Ethnic Dining in America's Melting Pot, Queens, N.Y.” She can be reached by e-mail at qnsfoodie@aol.com.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Jul. 5-11, 2012

By Pete Canty
It's Elementary

Across

1. End of many tragedies?
5. “Come here ____?”
10. “I ____ the opinion...”
14. Rod's companion
15. Gridiron gripper
16. “Unforgettable” singer
17. Concept
18. Excavation tool, informally
20. Grandfather clock part
22. Heavenly hunter
23. ____ out (resolve problems)
24. Den mother
26. Camper's comfort, perhaps
30. Holy quest object
31. Patriot Nathan
32. Popular music category
35. “Aquarius” musical
36. Call forth
38. Pepsi rival
39. Additionally
40. Black cat, maybe
41. Sanctuary
42. Sidewalk hose hook-up
45. Cook, as french fries
49. Long, long time
50. Golfer with an Army
51. Orchestra member
55. Alternative to oil painting
58. Loathsome
59. Minute minute fraction?
60. Disney mermaid
61. High point
62. Bone-dry
63. Tedious, as writing
64. Not as much

Down

1. “Take ____!” (swing hard)
2. Relinquish
3. Adolescent
4. First name in Russian politics
5. Spotted wildcat
6. Show-off
7. One semester, say



8. Consume
9. Advanced degree?
10. Oak source
11. Studio production
12. Dairy section selections
13. Non-flowering plants
19. Antlered animal
21. Inter-continental mountains
24. Media source, perhaps
25. ____ of Man
26. Turkish leader
27. Persia, today
28. Surprise attack
29. River of Lyon
32. Parks on a bus?
33. Analogous (to)
34. Cockroach, e.g.
36. Arab leader
37. Exceedingly
38. Brazilian festival
40. Bid
41. Scent
43. Angel's rings
44. Annual
45. Day-breaks
46. Clear the boards
47. Door sign
48. Gun, in slang
51. Ad man award
52. Agreeable
53. Shade trees
54. Golf ball props
56. Limit
57. Bruin legend Bobby

Quotable Quote

“It is amazing how quickly the kids learn to drive a car, yet are unable to understand the lawnmower, snowblower or vacuum cleaner.”

• • • Ben Bergor

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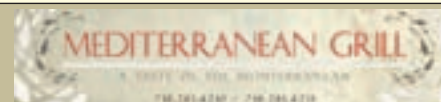
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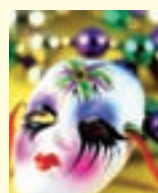
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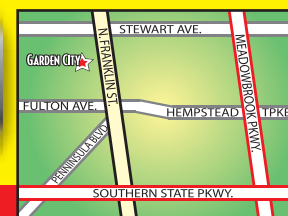


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Sports

Fallen McClancy baller remembered

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Two and a half years after he tragically collapsed and died playing a game of pick-up basketball at Farmingdale State College, of Long Island, Dominic Murray hasn't been forgotten.

In fact, the memory of the former Monsignor McClancy student and player, who died at the age of 17 of an enlarged heart, has been kept alive by friends, former teammates and teachers. He was remembered Saturday with the Dom Heart 21 Classic Day at the Queens Catholic school.

The Dominic A. Murray 21 Memorial Foundation and McClancy will host a heart awareness day and basketball games featuring local CYO and AAU teams at the school, at 71-06 31st Ave. in East Elmhurst. There will be a special "Reunion" game with Murray's former McClancy teammates taking on his childhood teammates returning to pay homage to their fallen friend.

Championship games were held at Farmingdale State College Sunday.

Doors opened at 8 a.m. Potentially lifesaving information on Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Free Hands Only CPR training and free health and wellness screenings were offered. There was also entertainment, fun activities for the entire family, food, raffles, contests and give-a-ways.

At noon, the foundation presented awards to community leaders for

their commitment to shed light on SCA in the community. State Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst), state Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (D-Corona), Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (D-Jackson Heights) and City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) will be recognized. At 2 p.m., the foundation donated automated external defibr

Dominic Murray died from sudden cardiac arrest during a pickup game in October 2009.

brillators to youth-serving organizations in the district.

Dominic Murray was a happy, energetic, seemingly healthy 17-year-old when he went into sudden cardiac arrest and collapsed on the basketball court at SUNY Farmingdale State College during an open gym pickup game in October 2009.

Dominic's mother, Melinda, founded the Dominic A. Murray 21 Memorial Foundation, a nonprofit named for Dominic, in 2010. The foundation's mission is "to promote sports health, education and safety." Its goal is to help prevent sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes.

Queens defeated in battle

Bronx beats borough squad in first match-up, more to come

BY ZACH BRAZILLER AND JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The Bronx knocked off Queens in the first contest in the Battle of the Boroughs, but unlike the previous two years, this was just the beginning.

The Battle of the Boroughs was previously a one-day event featuring all five boroughs in August, but now the teams will play a series of scrimmages to set up seeding for the one-day tournament in August.

The entire schedule will be announced in the coming days, with all games played at Rivington Court, the newly built home for Team Nike 2 — a professional streetball all-star team which will face other star-studded teams on a weekly basis this summer on the Lower East Side.

"Now it formalizes into a program, not just a game," said Bronx Coach Bernard Bowen. "That's something that the kids can look forward to."

In the opener June 27, Deandre Bembry of St. Patrick (N.J.) scored 14 points, Terry Larrier of Our Savior Lutheran had nine points, Christ the King's Adonis DeLaRosa added eight points and Putnam Science Academy's (Conn.) Dayshon Smith had seven as the Bronx knocked off Queens 65-48. Boys & Girls' Rashad Andrews scored 15 points for Queens and Holy Cross' Marquise Moore had 14.

"It gives us a chance to feel each other out and see what we are up against,"



Dayshon Smith scored seven points, including a big dunk, in the Bronx's 65-48 win over Queens in the first Battle of the Boroughs scrimmage. Photo by Robert Cole

said Long Island Lutheran forward Kentan Facey, who played for Queens.

The highly sought-after Smith, who has scores of mid-major offers and is beginning to compile high-major interest, had the play of the game, a steal and right-handed slam over An-

draws, who prides himself on his defense.

"I got sneaky athleticism," said the 6-foot-2 point guard who is playing with the New York Lightning this summer. "A lot of people don't know I can jump. I told my teammate [Adonis DeLaRosa] it was going to

happen, not particularly on [Andrews]. I felt I was going to dunk on somebody. It was that type of night."

Andrews laughed it off afterward, in front of Smith, though it was no laughing matter during the game as the in-your-face

Continued on Page 39

Former Campus Magnet star has Magic draft

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Kyle O'Quinn saw his name flash across the television screen, felt his Pastor Gregory Perry's Virginia home basically shake and took a deep breath of exultation and elation.

The former Campus Magnet standout from Queens, who led Norfolk State to one of the biggest upsets in NCAA Tournament history in March, completed his Cinderella-story journey last Thursday night when he was drafted in the second round (49th overall) by the Orlando Magic.

"It's a miracle," he said after becoming Norfolk State's first NBA draftee since Lee Johnson was taken in the third round of the 1988 draft by the Detroit Pistons. "There's no other word I can use. Nobody would've thought this back in 2008. The amount of work that had to be put in, from start to finish, it

looked like it was too much. To get there is like, wow."

The 6-foot-9 forward with limited varsity high school basketball experience held just a single scholarship offer — from Norfolk State — coming out of Campus Magnet. He made the most of his four years at Norfolk, capped by his sterling season in which he was the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Player of the Year and led the Spartans to a shocking upset of Missouri, just the fifth time a 15th seed has taken down a No. 2, in the NCAA Tournament.

"It's a tribute to him, his work ethic," Norfolk State Coach Anthony Evans said. "What he's getting is a result of that."

O'Quinn's story is a rags-to-riches tale. He didn't take basketball seriously until senior year at Campus Magnet. He landed at Norfolk State, but struggled until midway through his junior year. With the



Queens native Kyle O'Quinn was drafted in the second round of the NBA Draft by the Orlando Magic. AP Photo/Nati Harnik file

Spartans in a midst of an 11-game losing streak, he had an epiphany, realizing he had to get more serious on the court, cut out the joking and lapses of focus.

He carried Norfolk with him, leading the Spartans to its first NCAA Tournament victory this year and a 26-win regular season, the school's most victories since 1995. He was also named MEAC Tournament MVP and the Lou Henson Award winner at the nation's top "mid-major" player.

"To see my name called, no money can pay back everyone who helped me and the program rise to get this opportunity," he said. "It's a wonderful experience."

O'Quinn worked out for 18 teams, but not Orlando. He did speak with assistant general manager Scott Perry leading up to the draft. He was pleased it was the Magic who took him. With little frontcourt depth

and the possibility superstar center Dwight Howard could get traded, O'Quinn may have an opportunity to find his way into the rotation immediately.

"It's another team on the rise just like Norfolk State," he said. "The experience I had at Norfolk State, I can carry that on to the locker room with the Magic."

O'Quinn has always been fond of Orlando, following them in the days of Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway and Shaquille O'Neal. Now he will get to be a part of the Magic.

"The Orlando Magic is one of those franchises you always respect," he said. "To go to a franchise with that kind of tradition and the path they've set, it's going to be wonderful to put that Magic jersey on."

O'Quinn was one of two Queens products to go in the second round, Doron Lamb of Kentucky being the

Continued on Page 39

St. John's signee excited about team's incoming talent

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Orlando Sanchez, the 6-foot-9 JUCO standout out of Monroe College, forgot for a moment the name of the postseason tournament — the NCAA Tournament — all college players want to compete in, but he knew with St. John's University's incoming class it's a possibility.

"They say everyone coming into St. John's is very good," he said June 26 at Nike Pro City at Baruch College in lower Manhattan. "We have a lot of possibilities."

Sanchez, a gifted shot-blocker and athlete for his size, is a major part of the Red Storm's impressive class, which includes impact forwards JaKarr Sampson (Brewster Academy) and Chris Obekpa (Our Savior New American) and guards Felix Balamou (Our

Savior), Texas A&M transfer Jamal Branch, Harvard transfer Max Hooper and sharpshooter Marco Bourgault, Sanchez's Monroe teammate. He picked the Johnnies over Providence and Auburn.

"Orlando can play-make, shot-make, defend multiple positions, block shots and rebound," St. John's Coach Steve Lavin said shortly after Sanchez signed.

A versatile forward, Sanchez was named to the All-Tournament team at the NJCAA Nationals as Monroe finished fifth in the tournament. Sanchez, who averaged 10.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game this past year, chose St. John's because of the relationship he developed with the coaching staff — "I like the coaches, they talked to me every day," he said — and its close proximity to



Gary Ervin scored 30 points in the Franchise's 102-97 win over Dyckman/NYAC at Nike Pro City. Photo by Robert Cole

Monroe.

Before he begins the next step of his career, Sanchez is playing with

Dyckman/NYAC at Nike Pro City, getting back into playing shape after spending six weeks in his native

Dominican Republic.

"It's a good experience," he said after scoring two points, grabbing five rebounds and adding two assists in a 102-97 loss to the Franchise. "I never played here before. There are NBA [players] here."

Ervin enjoys season in Ukraine, ready to cut down on summer hoops: Dating back to his days of high school at Robeson, Gary Ervin has spent his summers on the city's streetball circuit, playing multiple games per day. He remains as passionate about the sport at the age of 27 as he was at 17, but he also has family to take care of.

That's why Ervin will scale back his schedule over the next few months, to prepare himself for next year — he has yet to decide where he will play — and spend as much time with

his two children: daughter Neve'a, 6, and son Amare, 3.

"I want to enjoy my time with family and friends," he said.

Ervin is coming off a solid year overseas, playing with BC KYIV. He averaged 14 points, four rebounds and four assists per game. He enjoyed his time in the Ukraine Super League, describing Kiev as a "beautiful city." The only drawback was the frigid weather.

Ervin plans to avoid television the next few days. He's never watched the NBA Draft; in fact, it is a painful time for him.

"I feel like I belong there," he said. "All the top players I've played against."

Late miscues cost Dyckman/NYAC: Dyckman had two chances in the

Continued on Page 39

Battle

Continued from Page 37

dunk was replayed on the big screen several times.

“He got lucky,” Andrews said.

Andrews will have

a chance at redemption and the next time Queens takes the floor together, it will likely have former St. John’s and Dayton commit Jevon Thomas and national prospect Jermaine Lawrence, neither of whom was on hand June 27. The Bronx, it should be noted,

was without Chris McCullough, considered one of the top players in the country in the class of 2014. “It’s better,” DeLaRosa said of the new format. “Now we are going to play with and against each other throughout the summer.”

Talent

Continued from Page 38

final 9.9 seconds to either go ahead or take the lead and failed to get off a shot either time in a 102-97 basketball loss to the Franchise. Trailing the Franchise by a point with 9.9 seconds left, Nate Brown and Sean Marshall had a miscommunication

as Marshall cut to the basket when Brown figured he would stay on the wing.

After New Jersey Nets guard Sundiata “Yatta” Gaines made two free throws, Marshall drove to the hoop, hung in the air and threw the ball away again. Gaines iced the game with two more free throws.

Ervin led the Franchise with 30 points; Gaines, the former Archbishop Mol-

loy star, had 29 points, nine rebounds and four assists; and Scotty Hopson, previously of Tennessee, had 12 points. Marshall had 27 points and five assists in defeat for Dyckman, former Fordham and St. John’s Prep dynamo Bryant Dunston had 21 points and 13 rebounds and former Cornell standout Jeff Foote added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

SJU student first NBA draftee since '01

Moe Harkless last week became the first St. John’s University player since 2001 to be drafted to the National Basketball Association. He is the 60th all-time St. John’s player to be drafted into the NBA, according to the university.

Harkless, the Big East rookie of the year, was picked No. 15 overall by the Philadelphia 76ers in Newark last Thursday.

He was called on to the stage by NBA Commissioner David Stern as No. 15 overall, marking the highest St. John’s draft pick since Malik Sealy was drafted No. 14 overall by the Indiana Pacers in 1992.

“Moe is the most well-rounded and complete player I’ve coached relative to this juncture or stage of a playing career,” said St. John’s head Coach Steve Lavin in a release. “His intellect, size, skill set and

athleticism set him apart from others. Not surprisingly, Moe impressed NBA brass in his recent workouts and interviews. We are happy for Moe and his family. Given the rich heritage of St. John’s basketball, it is a noteworthy distinction to be chosen at No. 15, the highest drafted Johnny in 20 years.”

Lavin called the 76ers a young up-and-coming NBA franchise.

“Moe’s particular talents will fit nicely with the uptempo and flexible system employed by Coach Doug Collins,” he said.

From 1997-2006, a total of 13 players signed or coached by Lavin became draft choices. Baron Davis, a 1999 lottery pick at No. 3 overall, is a two-time NBA All-Star who completed his 13th season in 2011-12. Earl Watson, a 2001 draft choice, is now a 12-year NBA vet-

eran. Trevor Ariza was the last signee during Lavin’s UCLA tenure. Harkless becomes the first basketball player of the Lavin Era at St. John’s to be selected in the NBA Draft, and the second NBA player overall after D.J. Kennedy’s call-up to the Cleveland Cavaliers in April.

“I know that they are a really young team and that they play really fast. I think that’s the type of game that I like to play, and I think I’ll fit in well,” said Harkless, of Philadelphia in a release. “That’s really cool to me because I’ve pretty much been close to home my whole life, going to St. John’s and being from New York and having my family close and being able to come out to games is definitely a great feeling.”

— Colin DeVries

Draft

Continued from Page 38

other. The former Bishop Loughlin standout, considered one of the top shooters in the draft, was taken with the 43rd overall pick by the Milwaukee Bucks.

Lamb served a pivotal role in the Wildcats winning a national championship, scoring 22 points in

the NCAA Tournament finals victory over Kansas. He was one of six Kentucky players taken.

“They came out of nowhere and I’m happy that they chose him, out of nowhere tonight as far as I know,” Lamb’s father, Calvin, said. “It was shocking to the sense that it was Milwaukee, but it wasn’t

shocking he went where he went because me personally I think he should have went a lot earlier.”

Lamb was unable to be reached for comment.

Iona College point guard Scott Machado, who led the nation in assists at 9.9 per game, was bypassed, along with West Virginia forward Kevin Jones from Mount Vernon and Xavier point guard Tu Holloway out of Hempstead, L.I.

York coach now on CUNY track and field body

York College’s head coach of track and field, Mark Benjamin, has been named the CUNY Athletic Conference Men’s Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year. This is Benjamin’s first year coaching at York College in Jamaica.

With Benjamin’s accolades, seven members of the men’s and women’s track and field squads were selected as CUNY-AC All-Stars.

“I’m very pleased that my colleagues voted to give me this award,” said Benjamin, “especially this being my first year at York College. Of course, I could not have done so well without the guidance and support of my wife, assistant Coach Jenny Benjamin, who in many ways was the real force behind our success as a developing program. I must thank my track athletes at York who became a

warm, loving and intense group of competitors who were really open to a different type of training that paid off for most of them.”

Benjamin earned the honor after taking over the reins of the Cardinals this season and leading the men’s squad to a third-place finish at the CUNYAC Outdoor Championships. The Cardinals improved upon a fourth-place finish at CUNYAC Indoor Championships, as well as a fourth-place finish at the 2011 Outdoor Championships.

Earning the All-Star nods for the men were Tarik Weekes, Jason Shaw, Steve Burnett, Wayne James, Olabimpe M. Ologundudu and Christopher Peguero. Maria Suero-Santos was named an All-Star on the women’s side.

Easy #71								
4	8	3	2	7	9	6	5	1
7	1	6	3	8	5	2	9	4
9	5	2	6	1	4	7	3	8
8	9	7	4	2	3	5	1	6
6	3	5	7	9	1	4	8	2
2	4	1	8	5	6	3	7	9
5	6	9	1	4	7	8	2	3
1	2	4	5	3	8	9	6	7
3	7	8	9	6	2	1	4	5

Week 27

Hard #71								
6	2	7	5	9	8	4	1	3
4	1	3	7	2	6	8	9	5
8	5	9	1	4	3	6	7	2
1	6	5	4	3	7	9	2	8
9	8	2	6	1	5	3	4	7
3	7	4	2	8	9	5	6	1
2	3	8	9	6	1	7	5	4
5	9	1	8	7	4	2	3	6
7	4	6	3	5	2	1	8	9

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Elections

Continued from Page 5

2009. But after federal investigators began to probe his campaign finances and the onetime Flushing councilman found himself making headlines, it took a toll on the neighborhood that elected him, Tu said.

While Liu has not been accused of any wrongdoing, sending Meng to Congress offered the population another opportunity to feel proud, according to Tu.

“We feel like we have to show our power to the majority of the people,” he said.

That power was evident June 26 and was not lost on the borough’s Demo-

cratic Party leader, Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), who called the election “historic” at Meng’s victory party in Bayside.

Lancman, too, noticed the excitement surrounding the prospect of Meng’s election that might not have existed for the other candidates.

“Without a doubt, her base of support were very excited about the historical aspect of her candidacy that was beyond the normal ebb and flow of politics,” he said.

But having \$760,000 compared to Lancman’s \$460,000, according to preliminary Federal Election Commission tallies, and hundreds of people involved in ground operations on Election Day did not hurt

Meng either, according to Lancman.

“Grace was much more successful in turning out her supporters than we were,” he said.

But Meng also won in districts that were considered not part of her base.

In Lancman’s Assembly district, for example, she bested her opponent by 200 votes.

Crowley won the Assembly district that covers portions of her home turf including Maspeth and Middle Village in the east, but Meng beat out both of her opponents in the district that covers Elmhurst.

Overall, the turnout for the primary was a dismal 13 percent to 15 percent, based on preliminary results — and in some cases that turnout was hampered

by city Board of Elections workers, who unjustly turned some people away from the polls, according to an agency that was monitoring.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund found several instances of voters being denied a written ballot when their information did not appear to be in the system.

Under federal law, any voter has the option of filling out what is known as an affidavit ballot and having that ballot checked at a later date.

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

Willets

Continued from Page 5

ment on the parking lot is even legal — it technically sits on strictly regulated parkland — the city has contended that a 1961 state law allows development in the footprint of Citi Field and all of the surrounding parking lots.

“This project is allowed under the same 1961 state legislation that authorized the construction of Shea Stadium and also permits a broad range of other uses beyond stadiums,” said Elizabeth Taylor, of the city Law Department. “The planned entertainment and retail destination will enhance the attraction of Citi Field and the entire

Flushing Meadows area.” The legislation does indeed stipulate that the parking lots and stadium land can be used for a wide variety of retail, recreation, entertainment, amusement or educational uses.

There are a few caveats.

The law basically requires that any development provide a benefit to the people of the city through economic stimulation or cultural use or the development could comply with the law if it aids in the financing of the stadium or any development associated with that stadium.

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

Stadium

Continued from Page 4

also on parkland, legislation allowing the construction would need to be drafted on the state level.

And one lawmaker already knows which team he is rooting for.

“It’s a win-win for Queens,” said state Assemblyman Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights), who is such an avid soccer fan that

he has traveled 15 times to see his favorite team, the European soccer club FC Barcelona.

Moya, of Ecuadorian descent, is not alone in his love for the game, he said.

“Take a poll and you will see that soccer is the No. 1 sport people play, watch, live and breathe in this area,” he said, referring to neighborhoods like Corona and Jackson Heights with large Latino populations.

Other neighborhoods

in the borough housing enclaves of European immigrants, like Astoria and Woodside, are also home to avid soccer fans. As proof, Moya referenced a one-time game between Greece and Ecuador held at Citi Field that sold out in a day.

As part of the agreement being floated around to lawmakers on both the city and state levels, the league would also spruce up several existing soccer fields in the park for public use, would refurbish some

of the aging buildings in the park and by state law would be required to build an equivalent amount of parkland somewhere else in the five boroughs, according to sources familiar with the project.

The league has been eyeing the area formerly known as the Flushing Airport. It is a large swath of land in College Point behind the neighborhood’s corporate park, sources said.

egy — closing struggling schools — does not work.”

Continued from Page 5

Bloomberg and city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott issued a joint statement, accusing the union of putting its members’ interests above students and pledging to challenge the arbitrator’s decision.

“Today’s decision is an injustice to our children that — if allowed to stand — will hurt thousands of students and compromise their futures. The ruling puts the career interests of adults ahead of the edu-

cational needs of children, and it contradicts the state Department of Education’s decision authorizing our plan to move forward,” the statement read.

“The plan was permitted by state law and is

Schools

consistent with existing union contracts,

but we now risk losing the opportunity to hire effective faculty eager to be a part of the new school community,” the statement said. “We will appeal the decision because we will not give up on the students at these 24 schools.”

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CSI

Continued from Page 4

case, that forensic evidence exists in every case or that forensic tests take seconds and are available immediately. The shows also portray a handful of investigators working on all aspects of one case, when in reality multiple agencies handle many different aspects of a case.

Fischer said in some

studies prosecutors reported jurors who watch crime dramas would be suspicious or less willing to convict if forensic or DNA evidence was not available. Sometimes the demand for more evidence of this type can result in laboratories and then courts becoming backlogged with cases.

On the other hand, Fischer said there had been no indication that conviction rates have decreased since “CSI” has become popular. She also said the show has

had the effects of making jurors more pro-prosecutor and has stigmatized victims of rape.

Fischer told SAFE examiners that with the rise of “CSI,” their evidence gathering has been crucial to convincing the jury of a criminal’s guilt.

“The work that you do in the hospital is what jurors are looking for,” she said.

Rebecca Carman, a social worker at the hospital, said she thought it was ben-

eficial for SAFE examiners to hear from Fisher, whose work comes at the end of the conviction process, whereas theirs starts at the beginning.

“She’s definitely way more incredible than anyone you see on TV,” Carman said.

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

Healthcare

Continued from Page 4

cent next year.

“I can’t imagine that anything they did is going to help me,” he said. “It’s going to be years before anybody knows if that actually works.”

The debate over the law will likely rage on until it is fully implemented in 2014, but Mayor Michael Bloomberg wondered if

anything would actually change in New York state and across the county, since the law was already on its way to being implemented.

“I’m not sure after all of the yelling and screaming and all the politics around this there’s really any great change,” he said on WOR radio.

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

Business

Bayside optometrist sticks to old-school ways

Vincent's Opticians puts emphasis on quality, customer care at a time dominated by the Internet

BY JOE ANUTA

Vincent's Opticians in Bayside has a reputation for quality — and it goes back a long way.

Owner Paul Nicolosi's father was an optician as well as his grandfather.

Many customers say they used to come to Vincent's when they were children, tagging along with their parents on errands.

And in some ways, not much has changed.

"It goes back to the old Sicilian ways," Nicolosi said, referring to his father Antonino, who immigrated to the country a generation before. "An old-fashioned business."

Nicolosi's main draw is quality and customer care, he said, two concepts that often get lost in the digital age.

Vincent's does not do a lot of advertising. Instead,

he gets most of its business through referrals from doctors.

The ophthalmologists know they can rely on Vincent's because, according to Nicolosi, he makes sure the job is done right.

"There is a doctor who has an optician's office right next door to his," said Nicolosi. "But he sends his patients over to me."

On a wall in the modestly sized store, a posted sign instructs customers to be patient — and for good reason.

Nicolosi goes through extensive preparations to ensure that both the spectacles fit and are the right prescription. Curiously, some of the routine measurements he takes puzzle some customers, who had not even have them taken in other stores.

Vincent's carries a wide variety of lenses, but



Paul Nicolosi stands in his shop, Vincent's Opticians, on Francis Lewis Boulevard.
Photo by Yinghao Luo

the Italian population in the Bayside and Whitestone area tends to prefer European designers.

Carrara, Gucci and Trussardi frames are just some of the wares offered.

On a recent Thursday, two women walked into the store complaining about some crooked frames they bought somewhere else. Nicolosi plied the glasses with a small screwdriver at the back of the store, finding the best adjustment he could without breaking the lenses, and handed them back.

The women insisted on paying, but ultimately conceded and left.

"It's no charge. It's what we do," Nicolosi told one of them.

The optician then sank back into his chair.

The personal touch is becoming no match for the lures of the Internet, he

said.

When Nicolosi's family set up shop in Queens in the 1950s, a charismatic owner and word of mouth was all that was needed to fill the store.

Now Vincent's has to deal with Yelp reviews and mail order contact lenses, and Nicolosi points out his store will match any price and ship the lenses as well.

But Nicolosi hopes the old adage holds true — you get what you pay for — and that potential customers know that good work takes time.

The Nicolosi family has spent a long time practicing.

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Helping Small Business Owners - Health Insurance in New York State Taxes — Insurance workshop.

When: July 10, 3:30 pm

Where: Richmond Hill Library, 118-14 Hillside Ave., Richmond Hill

Contact: (718) 898-8500

Powerful You! Women's Network — A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston

Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009

Website: www.powerfullyou.com

Power Networking Group — Led by Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am

Cost: \$10 for breakfast

Where: Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or

(718) 423-0427

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly

Meeting — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI Provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact Lydie Pellissier, chapter president, to arrange a visit.

When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows

Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986

Website: www.bniouterboros.com

The Eastern Queens and Long Island Networking Group — This unique business networking group

discusses today's challenges and helps form alliances. Relationships are built. Facilitator is Gayle Naftaly, rainmaker, entrepreneur, coordinator, leader and organizer with contacts.

When: Second Wednesday of every month

Cost: \$20, includes food from Marcella's Pizzeria of Glen Oaks. Payment benefits the Ronald McDonald House of L.I.

Where: Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park

Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (866) 391-2780

Website: www.accessoffice.net

FUND-RAISERS

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When: Through July 26

Where: College Point Multiplex, 28-55 Ulmer St., Flushing



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► JOB INFORMATION

DeBlasio Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble. Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: HK CONTRACTORS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/11/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 7544 61ST STREET APT. 2R RIDGEWOOD, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (L.L.C.) Name: Better Speech Now, L.L.C. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on Apr 12 2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of L.L.C. upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 21-36 33rd Road Long Island City, NY 11106. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS US Bank National Association, as Trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust, Asset Backed Pass Through Certificates, Series 2006-AMC1 under the Pooling and Servicing Agreement dated as of September 1, 2006, without recourse, Plaintiff, against Gilberto Rosa, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 12/20/2007 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, in Courtroom #25 on 7/20/2012 at 11:00AM, premises known as 100-17 87th Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 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: 9286, LOT: 28. Approximate amount of judgment \$501,640.71 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 07-15649. David S. Dikman, Esq., Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff, 20 West Main St, Bayshore, NY 11706 Dated: May 21, 2012 951447 6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 07/12/2012

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE UNDER POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT Dated as of November 1, 2005 Morgan Stanley ABS Capital I Inc. Trust 2005-HE6; Plaintiff(s) vs. SHERYL LAURIMORE; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about January 6, 2012, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at

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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 Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on 8/03/2012 at 11:00AM, premises known as 91-30 86th Road, Woodhaven, NY 11421 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: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 Dated: June 27, 2012 962301

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: QUEENS COUNTY, NYCTL 2010-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Pltf. vs 119-53 222ND STREET, INC., et al, Defts. Index #9532/11. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered Dec. 20, 2011, I will sell at public auction in Courtroom #25 at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY, on Friday, July 27, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., prem. k/a 119-53 222nd St., Queens, NY a/k/a Block 12782, Lot 0028 on the Queens County Tax Map. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$16,489.90 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. MORTON POVMAN, Referee. SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC, Attys. for Pltf., 105 Maxess Rd., Ste. N109, Melville, NY, (631)844-9611- File No. 11-008047- #81353

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: QUEENS COUNTY

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company as Trustee Under Pooling and Servicing Agreement Dated as of November 1, 2005 Morgan Stanley ABS Capital I Inc. Trust 2005-HE6; Plaintiff(s) vs. SHERYL LAURIMORE; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about January 6, 2012, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at

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Queens County Supreme Court located at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, in room #25, Jamaica, NY 11435. On July 20, 2012 at 11:00 AM Premises known as 115-22 147TH ST., JAMAICA, NY 11436 Block: 11991 Lot: 4 ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$227,638.11 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 21939/08 Herbert Posner, Esq., REFEREE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: QUEENS COUNTY SUTTON FUNDING LLC; Plaintiff(s) vs. TAHMINA HAIDER; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about November 3, 2011, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at Queens County Supreme Court located at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, in room #25, Jamaica, NY 11435. On July 13, 2012 at 11:00 AM Premises known as 109-39 Union Hall Street, Jamaica, NY 11433 Block: 12152 Lot: 14 ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, known and designated as part of Lot No. 2 on a certain map entitled "Map of Property of the Jamaica Homestead Association, Town of Jamaica" and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens, February 13, 1872, as Map No. 11 As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$519,879.20 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 6961/08 Joseph Baum, Esq., REFEREE

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF QUEENS INDEX NO. 27633/2011 NYCTL 2010-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 2010-A TRUST, Plaintiffs -against- JACOB ZEDNER, GEORGE KENNEDY, AND VICTORIA MCGILL KENNEDY, and all of their respective heirs, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trus-

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tees, lienors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, all of whom and whose names and places or residence are unknown to plaintiff, except as herein stated, SALOMON BROTHERS REALTY CORP., BANK ONE, NA, BROOKLYN UNION GAS/KEYSPAN ENERGY DELIVERY, THE NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, and "JOHN DOE No. 1" through "JOHN DOE No. 100" inclusive, the names of the last 100 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiffs, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the liened premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or a lien upon the liened premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendants.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 133-37 147TH STREET, QUEENS, NY, BLOCK: 12114 LOT: 15.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHTTHE OBJECT of the above entitled action is to foreclose a tax lien for the amount due and interest, recorded in the office of the Register/Clerk of the County of Queens on the 12th day of August, 2010 and bearing City Register File Number ("CRFN") 2010000272817 covering premises described as follows: ADDRESS: ..133-37 147TH STREET, QUEENS, NY BLOCK: 12114 LOT: 15 COUNTY: QUEENS

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NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME.

SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO THE PLAINTIFF WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Dated: April 16, 2012
New York, New York
ROSENBERG & ESTIS, P.C.

JAMIE C. KRAPP, ESQ.
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS 733 THIRD AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

PHONE: (212) 867-6000
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing supplemental summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Court dated MAY 21, 2012 and filed along with the supporting papers in the QUEENS County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a tax lien.

SCHEDULE 1 - DESCRIPTION ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Queens, Borough of Queens, City and State of New York, known and designated on the City of New York Tax Map as BLOCK 12114, LOT 15.

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