

High water bills anger some Queens residents

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Boro dancers spotlighted

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Electeds urge FAA to alter flight patterns

BY PHIL CORSO

While they said constituent complaints were not doing the trick to silence the booming planes zipping over their homes, Bayside elected officials took to the streets Friday to make some noise of their own.

With noisy planes flying overhead, concerned residents and community leaders called on the Federal Aviation Administration to reconsider a departure route causing airline noise passing over the area.

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) joined with state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) and Community Board 11 Chairman Jerry Iannece to protest a sudden increase in air traffic coming from nearby LaGuardia Airport affecting neighborhoods in Bayside, Bay Terrace and Flushing.

"My office has been inundated with phone calls from homeowners who are irate at this abrupt increase in air traffic over their homes, which is causing an intolerable amount of noise pollution," Avella said. "Residents are unable to open their windows and enjoy these summer months."

The Federal Aviation Administration said the agency is evaluating the departure path, known as the Flushing, for planes taking

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SPEC-TACULAR

Devon O'Connor, head of the civic group Welcome to Whitestone, shows off a pair of spectacles he created that leave nothing to the imagination when it comes to how he feels about his neighborhood.

Photo by Christina Santucci

College Point condo complex back in city eye

134-unit waterfront development proposed

BY JOE ANUTA

Plans to convert a dilapidated College Point factory into a 134-unit waterfront condo complex resurfaced this month after spending years off the community's radar.

On Aug. 14, the city Board of Standards and Appeals received a request to extend a set of permits to allow construction at the old Chilton Paint Co. factory, at 110th Street and 15th Avenue.

The permit, called a variance, allows the developer to circumvent zoning laws and build housing in a manufacturing district.

The permit was initially issued in 2005 but was only valid for three years.

When it first expired in 2009, the developer had still not put a shovel in the ground and went back to the board.

According to documents

filed with BSA, construction was delayed because the ownership of the property changed hands and the economic downturn caused funding to dry up.

The BSA granted the extension for another three years "on condition that substantial construction shall be completed by July 19, 2012."

Yet substantial construction has not been completed. In fact, no work appears to have been done on the property as the developer is again approaching the city for another extension.

Details of the latest request were not available, but the 2005 plans show the developer's vision for a six-story, 134-unit condo complex with views of the Manhattan skyline, as well as LaGuardia Airport and Rikers Island.

Out of the total units, 14 would be three-bedroom, 68 would be two-bedroom and 52 would be

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Ianecce, Rozic vie for votes

NE Queens Dems woo supporters for Assembly primary election

BY PHIL CORSO

With less than a month to go until the Sept. 13 primary, two Democratic candidates vying for a chance at the state Assembly seat in northeast Queens upped their efforts by taking to the streets in full force.

Jerry Iannece and Nily Rozic both said they were spending the weeks leading up to the primary knocking on doors and making sure voters knew of the unconventional voting day, which was moved to Thursday because Sept. 11 falls on Tuesday.

Iannece, who serves as chairman of CB 11, said he emphasized his record when he met with district voters and encouraged them to look him up if they were unaware of his service.

"I come to the table equipped and ready to handle the position. I can point to several things I have done," Iannece said. "If elected, I am going to hit the ground running. I've got some meat on the bone because I have already addressed so many of the issues that people care about."

His greatest concerns on a state level, Iannece said, revolved around passing the state DREAM Act, increasing the minimum wage and promoting campaign finance reform — an issue Rozic said she



Jerry Iannece (l.) and Nily Rozic are gearing up for one final push in their Democratic primary, scheduled for Sept. 13.

Photo (r.) courtesy Nily Rozic

planned on addressing her first day if elected.

Iannece has received endorsements from elected officials, including U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria), congressional candidate and Assemblywoman Grace Meng (D-Flushing), Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) and organizations including the Uniformed Fire Officers Association and the United Federation of Teachers.

"I have many local elected officials behind me. I am not taking this lightly," Iannece said. "I have been working my tail off. If you want to compare, then let's compare."

As for the local issues, Iannece said he had a proven record. Through 10 years as chairman of Com-

munity Board 11, Iannece said he has already dealt with the bread-and-butter issues, including flooding in Bayside Hills, helping to save the Bayside Beacon program from the city chopping block, and fighting to restore bus service across different routes in northeast Queens.

Meeting constituents face-to-face, Rozic said, was one of her favorite parts of campaigning.

"My best interactions come from meeting the voters," Rozic said. "The response has been incredible and I think people have been receptive to my story."

Rozic, a first-generation immigrant and Community Board 8 member, formerly served as chief of staff for Assemblyman

Brian Kavanagh (D-Manhattan) and propelled herself into the Queens political sphere for the first time with hopes of changing the scenery in Albany. The Fresh Meadows resident said what made her different from her opponent was her fresh perspective on the issues that affect the 25th Assembly District, which runs from Flushing to Douglaston and also includes most of Bayside Hills.

"I don't wait in line," Rozic said, referring to Iannece's former runs for public office, including a failed bid for the City Council in 2009.

The alumna of Townsend Harris High School in Flushing said focusing on education

Roving Qns peacock may look for a lover

BY JOE ANUTA

The wayward peacock who has been comically eluding authorities after escaping from John Bowne High School several weeks ago may just be looking for love.

NYPD officers, faculty from the Flushing high school, at 63-25 Main St. in Flushing, and New York City Animal Care & Control continued to try and spring makeshift traps to nab the slippery fowl last week, but just when its capture seemed certain, the bird would flap away to safety.

A Queens ornithologist said lady troubles could be behind its jaunt around Kew Gardens Hills, where the winged creature would pop up like a spectre, appearing in spots in the residential neighborhood but ultimately evade capture.

At this time of year, peacocks are wired to hang out in what is known as

their harem, tending to multiple peahens and their offspring, according to David Lahti, assistant professor of biology at Queens College.

But this bird is a confirmed bachelor, and being single in late summer is unusual, according to Lahti, since it is not mating season.

"Who knows what it's doing?" he said. "It could be wandering around looking for its harem, even though it doesn't exist."

The errant bird shares a 4-acre farm with only one other male peacock, according to Steven Perry, assistant principal of the agriculture program at the high school, which may be why he undertook his quixotic quest.

"That is what we think he went looking for, probably," Perry said.

But any romantic intentions would be purely instinctive, since peacocks

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A police officer approaches the escaped Queens peacock with a cage moments before the bird took flight, escaping to a nearby roof.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

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Bayside business has established roots at US Open

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Keil Bros. Garden Center and Nursery has beautified grounds of USTA tennis center for over 25 years

BY PHIL CORSO

The US Open is televised throughout the country and showcases the world's best tennis players, but there are still some aspects of the Flushing tournament that remain local.

While onlookers watch the tennis stars showcase their talent at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Bayside's own Keil Bros. Garden Center and Nursery keeps an eye on something other than the ball: the landscaping.

"We have been working with the US Open for so many years and it is always a challenge," said Ronald Keil, co-owner of the 82-year-old Bayside business. "We are very thankful and lucky to have this opportunity to do the planting at such a big event."

The Keil Bros. Garden Center and Nursery has arranged the scenic grounds work for the US Open for more than 25 years, Keil said, allowing the crew to develop a real rhythm for the routine. With planning and grounds work beginning as early as July, Keil said the three-month process is a huge task to take on with almost 50 acres to beautify.

"It is a unique task. We have been doing this for so many years that we have really gotten to know how to do it," Keil said. "The secret is to pay close attention to detail towards the latter part of August."

According to Keil, the vibrant colors of the plant materials become more difficult to maintain as August dwindles, and entire landscaping crews work



Bayside's Keil Bros. Garden Center and Nursery showcases its work at the 2011 US Open in Flushing.
Courtesy Keil Bros.

tirelessly to keep the colors strong for what he referred to as his company's premier account.

"We try to give off a real 'wow' effect," Keil said. "It is a challenge, but we do our best. It is a labor

of love, and we are happy to see some of the work being done so locally."

From the inside of

the US Open to the luxury boxes, Keil said landscaping crews work each year to build on what they deem successes and to perfect what they think could use improvement from previous years. By the end of the event, Keil said, the payoff comes back in the nursery's reputation and customer relations.

"Our regular customers can't help but mention it when they realize it's us out there," Keil said. "They see us working. We always have to keep it looking at its best."

The Keil Bros. Garden Center and Nursery, at 210-11 48th Ave. in Bayside, features a "secret garden" nursery, stocked with gardening supplies, trees, shrubs and other decorative plants.

At 10:30 pm, he needs the Jungle Room, not the Emergency Room.

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Jamaica state senator charged with cover-up

Shirley Huntley pleads not guilty as her Democratic primary challengers call on her to step down

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The day after state Sen. Shirley Huntley (D-Jamaica) pleaded not guilty to interfering with a state probe into an alleged scam to bilk taxpayers out of nearly \$30,000, her Democratic Party primary challengers called on the three-term incumbent to step down from office.

Huntley, 74, pleaded not guilty in Nassau County Monday to two felony charges and one misdemeanor charge in what state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli called an attempt to cover up “a scheme to steal taxpayer dollars using a sham not-for-profit that did not provide services to the public.”

In December, Schneiderman's office indicted Patricia Savage, a Huntley aide, and Lynn Smith, the

senator's niece, on charges of submitting false documents to the state in order to misappropriate about \$29,950 in state legislative member items that Huntley had steered to Parent Workshop Inc., her Nassau-based nonprofit.

Savage, the nonprofit's president, and Smith, its treasurer, claimed the public funds would be used to conduct workshops to help parents navigate the city's public school system. According to the attorney general, Parent Workshop never provided those services.

Another defendant, David Gantt, was charged at the time with falsifying documents to make it appear as if he were paid in cash for the phony workshops.

Months went by and Huntley tried to distance herself from the charges, pointing out she had not



State Sen. Shirley Huntley turns herself in to the Nassau County district attorney.
Photo by Dennis Clark

been accused of misconduct.

That all changed this week when Schneiderman and DiNapoli issued a joint indictment against Huntley, charging she drew up the template for a false, backdated letter to the AG's office in response to a subpoena designed to make it seem as if the nonprofit had actually conducted the workshops.

Huntley was charged with tampering with physical evidence, falsifying business records and conspiracy. If convicted, she would be automatically removed from office and faces a maximum of four years in jail.

As a result of the scandal, Huntley was removed from her leadership role as chairwoman of the Senate Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee.

She is next scheduled to be in Nassau court Sept. 14, one day after the Democratic primary, in which she faces challenges from City Councilman James Sanders (D-Laurelton) and Rockaway resident Gian Jones.

Sanders held a news conference Tuesday morning on the steps of the Queens County Courthouse, where he called the scandal a “personal tragedy” for Huntley and her family and called on the senator to step down from office.

“I believe that Sen. Huntley cares deeply about our community,” he said. “I believe that she wants the people of southeast Queens to have a strong voice in the Senate, one who will advocate tirelessly on their behalf without the distraction of scandal or the diffi-

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2012 US Open kicks off tennis but boon for boro still in offing

BY JOE ANUTA

The 2012 US Open opening matches kicked off an economic bonanza for the city Monday, but a man working for a borough nonprofit trying to get spectators to stay in Queens did not have the same luck as some of the athletes.

“This is the best tennis tournament in the best city with the best fans anywhere,” said Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who delivered a short speech at the opening ceremony before pop stars, break dancers and fireworks entertained the crowd gathered at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

A hushed crowd sat in the Arthur Ashe Stadium to watch No. 3-ranked Maria Sharapova take down her opponent, Melinda Czink, where the tense atmosphere was periodically broken by people shouting to the 25-year-old on a first name basis: “C'mon Maria!”

Later in the evening, the top men's player in the world, Roger Federer, defeated Donald Young in straight sets.

The drawing power of these tennis stars nets the city about \$750 million a year in economic activity, according to Bloomberg, but it is unclear how much of that money trickles down into the neighborhoods sur-

rounding the tennis center.

“Whatever it is, we'd like to have more,” said Seth Bornstein, executive director of the Queens Economic Development Corp., a nonprofit that had a booth set up at the Open.

Alex Wu, marketing assistant for the QEDC, was manning that booth and attempting to steer tennis enthusiasts to restaurants in Flushing and Corona.

Instead, he found himself mostly guiding people to the subways to return to Manhattan or New Jersey.

“If you take one train stop, there is a lot more food,” Wu recalled telling a family from Tennessee, who actually made the

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Panel hears Queens' views on new City Council lines



Members of the 15-person redistricting commission listen as Queens residents give testimony about where new City Council lines should be drawn.
Photo by Joe Anuta

BY JOE ANUTA

When a city commission redraws the district lines for the City Council this year, civic leaders from southeast Queens are calling for the unification of the Baisley Houses in Jamaica.

“Include all five buildings so there is only one

Council member to oversee that area,” said A.U. Hogan, president of the Baisley Houses Tenant Association, speaking to a commission of 15 individuals appointed by the mayor and borough presidents who listened to comments about redistricting in Flushing last week.

The panel is tasked with adjusting boundaries

of the 51 Council districts across the city for population growth according to the 2010 U.S. census. It must finish before next year's elections and is set to reveal its first draft of the maps Sept. 5.

Several guidelines laid out in the City Charter stipulate exactly how the

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Water bill increases blamed on meters

BY KAREN FRANTZ

The city public advocate and Queens residents suspect new city DEP-installed water meters may be to blame in many cases of abnormally high water bills — some of which have jumped by as much as 1,000 percent.

An official at Public Advocate Bill de Blasio's office said 500 people, 167 of them from Queens, have come to the office saying their quarterly bills have inexplicably risen in cost after they received the new meters.

"They know something changed. They know the readings are different," said the official, saying that in one case a customer's new meter read 1,000 gallons of water usage in the middle of the night, even though the person lived alone and did not have any leaks.

In some cases, human error in installing the new meters is the likely cause of the high bills, according to the official, who asked not to be identified.

"Anytime you swap out old equipment and put new equipment in, you're going to have some mix-up," said the official. "It's not a conspiracy, it's not a systemic problem, but it's the way the world works."

The official said the Department of Environmental Protection has refused to admit to any technical errors and acknowledged

fault in only one appeal brought to them.

A DEP official said all meters are factory-tested for accuracy before being installed and that billing disputes have been resolved in favor of the customer 12 percent of the time over the past fiscal year.

The public advocate official also criticized a DEP practice of reconciling water bills when a new water meter is put in place.

Prior to installing the new meter, a final manual reading of the old meter is taken and used to determine whether a customer has been under-billed for past estimated readings.

The official said the practice is problematic when a customer's last non-estimated meter reading took place long before the time period for which the DEP reconciles water usage because there would be no way of determining whether the higher usage took place within that billable period.

The DEP official responded that under an agreement with the City Council, the DEP is permitted to reconcile estimated bills for four years' worth of actual water use, but it only reconciles for the full four years when a customer is not current with their bill payments. If a customer is up-to-date, they will only be billed for the prior two years of actual water use.

Marie Adam-Ovide,

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The Public Advocate's office and Queens residents are concerned new DEP water meters have caused spikes in water bills.

Ulrich proud to buck party

GOP pol backs rent controls, minimum wage hike in state Senate bid

BY STEVE MOSCO

City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) promised to make decisions based on principle, not party affiliation, if he is elected to the state Senate this fall after a campaign where the councilman finds himself battling both sides of the aisle.

Ratcheting up his campaign efforts heading into a September primary on both the Republican and Independence party ballots, the councilman addressed the ideals he believes separates him from his opponents and from others in his party during an interview with TimesLedger Newspapers last week.

"I'm used to fighting my own party and the other party. I wear that as a badge of honor," he said. "I think that makes me a better elected official. When I run into constituents on the street, they say, 'Good for you, Eric.' I'm not in anybody's pocket and I don't always tow the party line — what you see is what you get."

Ulrich is facing Forest Hills lawyer Juan Reyes in the Republican primary and Joseph Tiraco in the Independence primary, both set for Sept. 13. If he passes those two hurdles, Ulrich will square off against Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach)



City Councilman Eric Ulrich will seek to challenge both sides of the aisle if he wins a state Senate seat this fall.

Photo by Christina Santucci

in the November election for the 15th Senate District seat, covering Howard Beach, Ozone Park, Woodhaven, Glendale, Middle Village, Maspeth and parts of South Ozone Park, Ridgewood, Rego Park and Sunnyside.

The councilman is running in the primary without the backing of the Queens Republican Party, which opted to put their influence behind

Reyes instead. Ulrich said he was not surprised by the borough GOP's decision to endorse Reyes since he has never set out to please Republican Party leaders.

"At some point I realized that [the Queens Republican Party] are useless. They do nothing to grow the party or to help the party," he said. "When

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Weprin urges city to use electric taxis

BY PHIL CORSO

When it comes to environmental legislation, two City Council members have plugged into a bill they said has the potential to save the planet from harmful gas emissions.

Councilmen Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) and James Vacca (D-Bronx) have taken the wheel in drafting a bill that would encourage the city Taxi & Limousine Commission to use electric cars, which have zero transportation emissions, to help save the environment.

With more than 13,000 taxis patrolling the city streets, Weprin said the bill



Taxis make their way across an intersection in lower Manhattan. City Councilman Mark Weprin is proposing a bill that would encourage the city to implement zero-emission electric vehicles instead.

AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

presents a major opportunity to reduce air pollution.

"Increasing the use of electric vehicles will reduce carbon emissions, protect the environment

and make New York a more sustainable city for future generations," Weprin said.

Weprin, chairman of the Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises,

introduced the bill with Vacca last week to allow the TLC to approve electric vehicles for use as long as they meet the commission's safety criteria.

"A dense city like New York is the perfect market for electric vehicles," said Vacca, who chairs the Council Transportation Committee. "Although electric vehicles represent only a tiny portion of car users, the growth potential is enormous, and the city should be looking at any viable way to encourage electrical vehicle use."

Electrical vehicles use a battery to store energy and charge through elec-

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City braces for climate change through panel and task force

BY KAREN FRANTZ

A panel and task force that first convened several years ago to identify ways the city can cope with the local impact of climate change, such as fiercer storms and rising sea levels, will now meet on a regular basis and have an expanded focus.

"Climate change is here and our city must be prepared to deal with this and to have a coordinated response," City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) told a news conference at City Hall last week, lauding the passage of legislation institutionalizing the task force and panel.

The legislation, passed unanimously by the Council Aug. 22, is being hailed as the first of its kind among federal, state and lo-

cal governments.

"It's great for New York City to be the national leader in greenhouse gas reduction. It's also great for us to be the leader in climate change adaptation," Councilman James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) said.

Gennaro, head of the Council Committee on Environmental Protection, is the author of the legislation.

The New York City Panel on Climate Change, made up of scientific experts on climate change appointed by the mayor and modeled after the International Panel on Climate Change, will now make projections once every three years about the risks rising global temperatures pose to the city.

In addition, the New York City Climate Change Adaptation Task Force

will make strategy recommendations for reducing climate change impacts on vulnerable populations, public health, natural systems and the economy one year after the panel makes its projections.

The task force is made up of government agency representatives and leaders from private sectors including energy, telecommunications and others, and previously only focused on city infrastructure.

Gennaro said one of the most pressing consequences of climate change currently facing the city is intense weather events, such as severe flooding that has overwhelmed many neighborhoods in Queens.

"We're really getting inundated with five- and 10- and 20-year storms that are happening every year," he said.

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NBA star returns home to Hollis for annual youth clinic

Royal Ivey spends three days at IS 192 playground teaching youngsters basketball is more than a game

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Royal Ivey did not speak much Saturday, the third and final day of his annual youth event in Hollis, but he said a lot.

While the reticent guard for the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers was short on grand speeches, his love for his neighborhood was expressed in the smile on his face as he danced with an excited group of youngsters, with the tear that rolled down his cheek when he realized the appreciation he had for his community was mutual.

For the past five years, Ivey has returned to Hollis to host a basketball clinic where the youngsters learn there is more to the game than the game itself.

"I feel obligated," he said in the brief moment that TimesLedger Newspapers could pull him away from his extended family at the IS 192 playground, at 109-89 204th St. "This is where I'm from. It's given so much to me over my lifetime. This is how I give back."



Basketball star Royal Ivey (l.) congratulates young dancers at his annual youth event in Hollis over the weekend.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

Ivey grew up in Hollis, and while he readily admits he was never the most talented basketball player when he was younger, those who have known him since his youth said his greatest attribute has always been his character.

"To be honest, he wasn't the best player," said Shavon Glover,

who coached the young Ivey at the Children's Aid Society. "But he knew about sportsmanship and teamwork. He worked hard. He's like a living lesson."

As it turned out, Ivey did possess the talent to play with the Texas Longhorns in the NCAA Final 4, to get drafted to the pros and to play with the Oklahoma

City Thunder in the NBA Finals this year.

But Ivey, 31, said the game taught him much more, and that was the message he wanted to teach the youngsters.

That is why his annual clinic, in addition to teaching basketball skills, also has empowering themes. This year he invited representatives from TD Bank to teach the youth about financial literacy.

He told them the NBA has plenty of opportunities for those who cannot dunk or shoot a free throw, that they could aim to work in the front office or in sports medicine as long as they believed in themselves.

Maybe that is why instead of leading up to a basketball game, the clinic's highlight was a dance-off.

Maybe 13-year-old Jaida will never play in the WNBA, and maybe she will. Maybe every time she rides the bike she won during Sunday's dance competition she

will remember that someone who had had so much success cared enough to remind her there is something she succeeds at.

And Ivey, too, was reminded that no matter which NBA city he calls home, Hollis will never forget him.

The man who towered over most on the playground was moved to tears when he was presented with an airbrushed likeness of himself created by neighborhood artist Art1, who also created the nearby mural of Jam Master Jay.

Cheryl Steadman said her two children had plenty of positive influences, such as Hollis Court Tenants Association President Marilyn Mays, who is known as a steward of the IS 192 playground.

"All the kids know her," she said. "She's someone they can look up to."

Hollis, Steadman said, is not lacking for role models.

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Assembly hopefuls get cash from afar

BY JOE ANUTA

Campaign war chests in the race for the downtown Flushing state Assembly seat appear to be largely filled by donations from outside the district or loans, according to the latest disclosure reports.

Among the Democratic contenders, retired librarian Ethel Chen raised more cash from individual donors than her six opponents by raking in \$35,600, though her rival Yen Chou collected \$42,000 overall with the help of a \$20,000 loan, and newspaper owner Myungsuk Lee boasted \$36,700 with a loan of \$24,000, according to reports filed with the state Board of Elections covering only the period of time between July 12 and Aug. 9.

Out of Chen's 122 donors, more than half of them listed an address outside the district, which only covers downtown Flushing.

Many of the donors to the candidates did, however, live close by to the district.

Ron Kim, the former aide to two New York state governors and chosen candidate of the Queens Democratic Party, had a total of \$11,890 from 48 donors, but only four of them listed addresses inside the district.

Chou raised \$17,450 from individual contributions, but again from only four listed addresses in the

district, while Lee raked in \$11,460 from 35 donors, two-thirds of whom did not reside in the district, according to the reports.

Martha Flores-Vazquez raised a fraction of her Democratic competitors' funds at \$2,500, with only two of the eight donors listed as in the district and three of the donations totaling \$1,500 coming from family members.

On the Republican side, businessman Phil Gim raised \$3,800 from 32 donors, but only seven lived in the district.

Sunny Hahn's disclosure reports did not appear in the state's database.

Kim had the largest percentage of donors from outside the district, but he also employed a tactic not used by his opponents.

Kim made several payments to a California-based company called Piryx Inc., according to the disclosure report, which allows candidates from races all over the country to raise money online.

But collecting cash from outside the confines of the district is not uncommon in New York. According to a database maintained by the National Institute for Money in State Politics, candidates for races in Flushing historically have turned outside the

Continued on Page 49



Ethel Chen (clockwise from top l.), Yen Chou, Phil Gim, Sunny Hahn, Ron Kim, Myungsuk Lee and Martha Flores-Vazquez are running for the downtown Flushing state Assembly seat.

Peralta plans boro prez run

Senator says Shulman, Markowitz to be models for leadership style

BY REBECCA HENELY

State Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) said he would like to be a borough president who combines the salesmanship qualities of Brooklyn's Marty Markowitz and the wide-reaching influence of Queens' Claire Shulman.

"You will see me front and center," Peralta said as he prepares for a 2013 run.

The senator, who took office in 2010 following the ousting of former Sen. Hiram Monserrate, spoke of future plans and current concerns in a meeting with TimesLedger Newspapers staff and editors last week.

Peralta said he was interested in running for the top spot in Queens to shepherd future economic development forecast in neighborhoods such as Willets Point, Long Island City and the Rockaways. He said he wanted to mesh Markowitz's cheerleading for his home borough with Shulman's ability to attract big businesses. The former Queens borough president served from 1986-2002.

"We really need to be sure someone is at the helm sort of making it happen," Peralta said.

City Councilmen Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) and Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) as well as former Forest Hills Councilwoman Melinda Katz are also running.

The senator said that if elected he would want to forge relationships between city and state legislators to bring back resources to the borough, encouraging legislators to vote and work together as a bloc instead of simply for their own district. Peralta, who worked with the city Central Labor Council and seven years in the state Assembly, said he has made an effort throughout his political career to work with many different types of people and leaders in the community.

He is one of the principal members of the Unity Team, a group formed by the elected officials of Jackson Heights and Corona, to share ideas and rid the political culture of the infighting left over from former state Sen. Hiram Monserrate, who was convicted of misdemeanor assault in an incident that left his girlfriend's face slashed before being ousted by the Senate. Peralta won his seat in a special election.

"I work well with everyone," Peralta said. "I even talk to the Republicans. It's something that you need to do to be successful."



East Elmhurst state Sen. Jose Peralta is running for borough president in 2013.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Peralta does not have an opponent in his 2012 race for another term in the Senate, but due to this year's controversial redistricting process, his district will lose a chunk of Elmhurst but gain parts of Woodside and Astoria in 2013. The new lines have had him showing up at community meetings and knocking on doors of those new constituents.

"I have to introduce myself to those individuals," he said.

Meanwhile, Peralta said business in Albany has been going well under Gov. Andrew Cuomo. He described the governor as working hard to move issues through the Legislature, like tax reduction for the middle class, pension reform and same-sex marriage.

"It's let's get down to business, let's do what we have to get done for the people of the state of New York," Peralta said.

As the Democratic minority whip, Peralta focused on getting the party in line on same-sex marriage last year. Now he is turning his attention to gun control. Peralta has been advocating for many months for the microstamping of bullets, which would imprint markings on a bullet allowing law enforcement to trace the gun from which the bullet was fired.

"It's a hot issue for Republicans," Peralta said. "They don't want to talk about it."

But he said he is also focusing on a bill to require background checks for those buying ammunition and forbidding the violently mentally ill from buying guns, which he characterizes as "common sense" legislation that he hopes the other side of the aisle will

eventually support.

"If we can stop one person who's going to do something off-the-wall, I'll take it," he said.

Back in his home district, much of Peralta's efforts have been concentrated on how to combat crime on Roosevelt Avenue. The thoroughfare, which the senator called "the new Times Square," has been known as a hotbed of crimes such as robberies and other thefts, the sale of fake IDs and illegal alcohol and prostitution and sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking has been a particular focus for the senator. Peralta has sponsored legislation to ban the distribution of "chica chica" cards, which use naked women to advertise prostitutes. Most recently, he has worked to distribute fliers in small businesses around his district informing trafficked women that they can call 311 if they need help escaping that life.

"A lot of people don't understand that there's a victim in this situation," he said.

On the other side, Peralta also emphasized that to fight crime, a positive relationship needs to exist between the residents and the police. He called a recent New York Times report that the 115th Precinct was one of four in the city where the police were most likely to use force in making stop-and-frisks "alarming." He said he was in contact with NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly for an explanation.

"There is no need for that," Peralta said, "especially when you're stopping 100 people and only arresting four or five."

Hydrofracking getting closer to reality in NY

BY KAREN FRANTZ

While Gov. Andrew Cuomo is expected to soon release proposed regulations allowing a controversial drilling practice known as hydraulic fracturing in New York state, the head of the City Council Committee on Environmental Protection is cautioning that a national standard for so-called fracking in a safe manner does not exist.

The possibility of fracking in New York state has caused an uproar among many environmental activists who worry drilling in the Marcellus Shale, a large rock formation that lies under parts of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and West Virginia, could contaminate the city's drinking water.

Councilman James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) said the federal government does not regulate hydraulic fracking, the

process of injecting high volumes of water and chemicals into the ground in order to break apart shale and extract natural gas, leaving states little guidance in governing the practice themselves.

"This is a real abdication on the part of the federal government," he said. "This is the type of technology, the type of process, that really needs to have national standards."

Congress exempted hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act in a 2005 energy bill after a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study found the practice posed little to no threat to drinking water, although that study has been criticized by environmentalists.

Gennaro said state rules in place so far have not sufficiently protected the environment or drinking water and public health,



Protesters rally against hydraulic fracturing at the New York State Capitol in Albany on Aug. 27, 2012.
AP Photo Mary Esch

thus creating the absence of any regulatory paradigm.

"It's pretty well-known that other states don't do a very good job of regulating this," he said. "It is really almost beyond the capability for any individual state

to do all the basic research and science that would need to be done to do this properly."

He pointed to the nuclear energy industry and said in comparison it is unimaginable the federal

government would leave the states to themselves to determine how to dispose of nuclear waste or contain radioactivity.

"This should not be left up to the states, it should be done by the federal govern-

ment," he said.

Cuomo may allow limited drilling in the state once a state Department of Environmental Conservation completes a four-year study on fracking's environmental and health impacts.

Potential details of the state plans were leaked to The New York Times earlier in the summer and include limiting the practice to five counties near the Marcellus Shale that do not have a single, common drinking water supply.

Drilling would also only be allowed in towns that agree to it and would not be allowed near water reservoirs that serve New York City.

Reach reporter Karen Frantz by e-mail at kfrantz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538.

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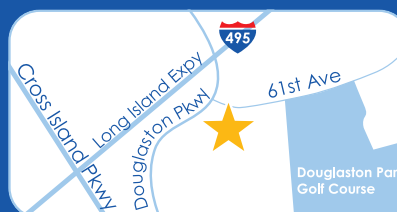


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PAYROLL TAX AXED

We'd cheer any decision that will save taxpayers a few bucks, but a decision by a Nassau County judge who ruled last week that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority payroll tax was unconstitutional could have a negative impact on the entire metropolitan area.

In 2009, with the MTA facing financial disaster, the state Legislature passed a payroll tax in which employers would pay about 34 cents for every \$100 of payroll. The tax only applies in the 12 counties the MTA serves.

And that's the problem. A Nassau judge ruled that the tax is unconstitutional because it "does not serve a substantial state interest."

In response to a lawsuit brought by Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, Judge Bruce Cozzens said such a tax must be imposed by a "special law" approved by a two-thirds majority of the Legislature.

If the ruling stands, the MTA, which has a \$13 billion budget, says it will lose about \$1.26 billion a year. It warned this will result in higher fares and dramatic cuts in service.

Imagine for a second the mess that will be created on the Long Island Expressway and Grand Central Parkway if even a small percentage of the commuters who use the LIRR decide it's cheaper or more convenient to drive into the city.

Queens will pay a heavy price. Some workers with low-paying jobs may decide they can no longer afford to take the subway or bus to work.

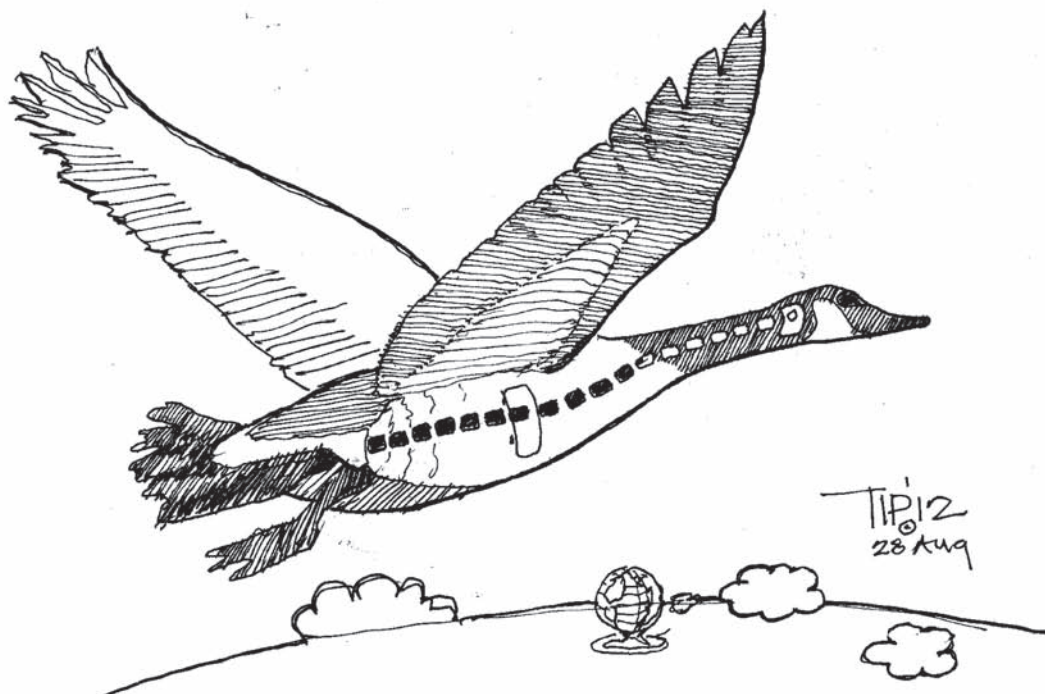
In 2012, with the real threat of global warming, any decision that discourages the use of mass transit will hurt everyone.

Opponents of the tax argue that it is a "jobs killer." We don't believe there are any businesses that cut their payroll because of this tax.

The MTA has promised a "vigorous appeal." The decision was made in the lowest of three state courts and the MTA can continue to collect the tax until the appeals process is finished.

Mangano and other opponents of the tax argue it unfairly burdens people who never use mass transit. The same shortsighted thinking could be applied to taxes used to build roads and schools.

Everyone in the metropolitan area benefits from an affordable and healthy mass transit system. This ruling should be overturned.



OTHER VOICES

Make train station ADA-compliant

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority recently constructed an auxiliary entrance/exit at the Briarwood-Van Wyck Expressway E and F subway station, with a stairway not compliant with the standards for accessibility for people with disabilities in wheelchairs.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Transportation Facilities apply to the construction and alterations of transportation facilities, effective Nov. 29, 2006. Specifically,

the standards for accessible routes (Chapter 4:402) require "one or more of the following components: ramps ... elevators" for wheelchair accessibility.

The projected construction of an elevator at this station is also non-compliant, since its terminus will be the mezzanine, not the station platform. Therefore, upon final completion of this boondoggle accommodating the Van Wyck Expressway widening of the Kew Gardens interchange project, we shall have MTA

essentially non-compliant with ADA standards effective since 2006.

Wheelchair-bound people with disabilities will be forced to dodge congested vehicular traffic along Queens Boulevard toward the Kew Gardens station, whose elevator is ADA-compliant. The present Van Wyck bridge and contiguous construction site is a nightmare of obstacles and dangerous vehicular traffic flow.

I suggest a class-action lawsuit of people with disabilities against the MTA

for permanent non-compliance in Briarwood with the ADA standards for public transportation facilities. A protest of a thousand wheelchair-bound subway commuters in Briarwood with summonses and complaints heading for the Federal District Court of the Eastern District in Brooklyn would be a welcome event.

*Joseph N. Manago
Briarwood*

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Sanitation must change garbage can pickup policy

An open letter to city Sanitation Commissioner John J. Doherty:

I received your Aug. 9 response regarding my correspondence on behalf of Ms. Palma Polizzi.

While I appreciate your attempts to “balance” the issues involved, your response fails to address the fundamental point in question, which is the legality of the implementation of a city Sanitation Department policy regarding the placement of receptacles on

residential properties the day before their scheduled collection.

I am aware that Section 16-120(c) of the Administrative Code requires residents to keep their receptacles stored in or at the rear of their buildings until the time of collection. I am also aware of Sanitation’s current policy, as stated in your “Summary of Sanitation Rules and Regulations,” under the “Refuse Collection — Containers and Disposal” section on Page 12, which states in part that “[r]esidential

units may place receptacles out for collection on the sidewalk ... no earlier than 5 p.m. the day before their scheduled collection, and no earlier than 4 p.m. from Oct. 1 to April 1.”

But as I have said before in correspondence with you, Sanitation implementation of this policy appears to be in violation of the City Administrative Procedure Act, and as such this policy is unenforceable and effectively void because it was not established under the necessary rule-making procedures set forth under

CAPA.

Furthermore, Sanitation failed to fulfill the promises that were made to the City Council in April 2006 in terms of properly amending its regulations so that proposed legislation amending Administrative Code Section 16-120(c) became unnecessary on this issue of early placement of refuse receptacles.

As a result, Sanitation is improperly enforcing a “policy” and thereby selectively enforcing the lawful provisions of the Administrative Code, which pro-

hibit the placement of receptacles on non-collection days pursuant to Section 16-120(c). In turn, I find it unlikely that Sanitation would address this improper agency conduct by issuing tens of thousands of tickets across the city for outright violations of Section 16-120(c).

Therefore, I am again requesting Sanitation cease enforcement of this policy and take the necessary steps to either properly establish it as a formal rule pursuant to CAPA’s requirements or abandon

this idea completely.

In addition, I am reiterating my request for Polizzi for an exemption from the provisions of Administrative Code Section 16-120(c), given her status as a senior citizen who is reluctant to go outside during the evening hours.

*Tony Avella
State Senator
(D-Bayside)*

Nation must invest in education

It would seem that all Americans would want our youth to be as highly educated as possible. The United States has fallen to “average” in international rankings, as released by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as other knowledge evaluating studies, having fallen to “average” with typical scores of 500 on a scale of 1,000: 487 in math, 500 in reading and 502 in science.

“This is an absolute wake-up call for America,” U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in an interview with the Associated Press. “The results are extraordinarily challenging to us and we have to deal with the brutal truth. We have to get much more serious about investing in education.”

Studies also found that in terms of political affiliation, the higher the education level, the more likely

the student would be liberal as opposed to conservative. With education, it appears, comes illumination, which greatly explains our 2010 clueless Tea Party conservatives, who have infiltrated Congress.

The last thing their cause could withstand, it appears, is that their will be diluted by introducing intelligence.

*Nicholas Zizelis
Bayside*

Queens residents respect diversity

On Aug. 10, I was proud to be an eastern Queens resident when I participated in a candlelight vigil, organized by local civic leaders, to honor the memory of the victims of the shooting at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin earlier this month.

At Gurdwara Sant Sagar in Bellerose, local residents joined members

of the Sikh community, elected officials and police precinct representatives to mourn the loss of life and speak out forcefully against hate crimes.

It was heartwarming to see so many longtime civic leaders from eastern Queens standing shoulder to shoulder at the gurdwara with their neighbors, many of whom originally come

from countries across the globe and now make their homes here.

The country can learn a lot from Queens about how neighbors from diverse backgrounds can live side by side, work together and maintain mutual respect.

*Mark Weprin
City Councilman
(D-Oakland Gardens)*

Glendale needs a good cleanup

Recently I visited the CVS store at 68-02 Myrtle Ave.

In summer 2011, I passed through Ridgewood and Glendale and my observation today is that Glendale was a different section in summer 2011 than it is now.

Today, as far as I can see, Glendale is not as clean as it was a year ago. There seemed to be a lot of trash along Myrtle Avenue and I saw five to six litter baskets filled with trash and in real need of being emptied.

I recall Glendale as being a nicer section than

what I saw recently.

What has happened to Glendale?

*James Meaney
Forest Hills*

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ASPCA should have 24-hour rescue hotline for animals in need

BY MEAGAN J. MEEHAN

About a month ago, a baby swan was attacked by an off-the-leash dog by the Bayside Marina. The incident took place 20 minutes prior to my arrival. By the time I got to the scene, at least 30 people were attempting to call the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for help.

Unfortunately, it was 8 p.m. on a Sunday evening and no one was available. There was no option to “stay on the line” to reach someone. Sadly, the baby swan died less than half an hour later.

This led me to wonder why there is no 24/7 option for immediate assistance

for animal emergencies at the ASPCA. We have 911 for emergencies. We even have all night 7-Eleven stores, 24-hour pharmacies and bowling alleys and movie theaters that never close.

Why have animal rescue groups been slow to initiate a 911 emergency number — especially the ASPCA, which is the most well-known rescue organization in New York?

Granted, the baby swan may have been too badly injured to be saved, but other animals could be helped if there were immediate rescue services available. Had anyone known a number to call to reach someone immediately, then the swan might have gotten help faster. Possibly it

Why have animal rescue groups been slow to initiate a 911 emergency number — especially the ASPCA, which is the most well-known rescue organization in New York?

would have lived.

I am a longtime supporter of the ASPCA and I decided to contact it to find out if it was planning to implement any such service in the near future. My inquiry was responded to within a day by Bret Hopman, manager of media and communications for the ASPCA. My e-mails with

Hopman resulted in Steve Froehlich, vice president of direct response for the ASPCA, to offer the below statement:

“The ASPCA is committed to providing the highest level of customer service for all animal-related inquiries. To that end, we offer three call centers that operate 24 hours

a day, 365 days a year: our Animal Poison Control Center hotline for animal poison-related emergencies (1-888-426-4435), a hotline for non-emergency public information and member support (1-800-628-0028) and a hotline for donation inquiries (1-888-365-2772).

“The ASPCA continually evaluates the response channels it has in place to ensure that individuals who contact the organization looking for assistance receive timely and accurate information. We want our members’ experience on our various channels — whether that be via phone, online or in print — to be as robust, informative and impactful as possible.”

I was grateful for the

timely responses I received from the staff at the ASPCA, although I will continue to push for the implementation of a hotline for all emergencies, not just poison control. I think it is crucial to always seek ways to improve systems and continuously better processes.


Adding a 24/7 help option to animal rescue centers would earn the ASPCA more respect and make its services more effective. It is certainly something worth considering, especially when noting that lives — no matter how small — could be saved due to such innovations.

Meehan is a Bayside resident.



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Rep. Israel visits Queens to launch campaign

BY RICH BOCKMANN

U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Hauppauge), the five-term congressman from Long Island, hosted a breakfast at Fort Totten Saturday morning to kick off his 2012 re-election campaign now that his new district encompasses part of northeast Queens.

Since 2001, Israel has represented Nassau and Suffolk county communities in the 2nd Congressional District. When state legislators redrew district lines earlier this year, Israel decided he would run in the new 3rd CD, which



stretches west from Smithtown, L.I., to include Douglaston, Little Neck, Glen Oaks, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bay Terrace and Whitestone.

"You and I don't know each other all that well

yet, but we're going to get to know each other well," Israel told about 25 people gathered at the Fort Totten Officers' Club, who included state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) and Ann Jawin, who chairs the board of the Center for the Women of New York.

The most northeastern neighborhoods in Queens — along with the adjoining communities in northwestern Nassau County — in the new district were culled together from Rep. Gary Ackerman's (D-Bayside) old 5th CD.

Israel said it was Ackerman who encouraged him to run for Congress in 2000 when he was serving as a town councilman in Huntington, L.I. Israel said Ackerman, who announced earlier this year he planned to retire, could not make the meeting due



U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (c.) makes the rounds with supporters during his campaign kickoff in Fort Totten.
Photo by Christina Santucci

to a personal obligation, but pledged to pick up where he would leave off.

"I know Gary has been an incredibly effective representative for this commu-

nity," Israel said. "I have big shoes to fill, though I'll never fill his boutonniere."

He was referring to Ackerman's signature white carnation that he wears daily in his lapel.

Israel said he would make jobs, education and health care his priorities and criticized House Republicans for threatening to shut down the federal government over funding to Planned Parenthood and efforts to have the language of "forcible rape" included in an anti-abortion bill.

"One of the main reasons we need a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives is because ... we're going to focus on creating jobs, not redefining rape," he said. "We're going to focus on investing in schools, not divesting from women's health care."

Israel is chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.



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Bland Houses resident shot dead as officials push for surveillance

BY JOE ANUTA

The sister of a man murdered at the Bland Houses last week was joined by a representative of the Queens district attorney's office and local activists to denounce gun violence that has put the complex on edge less than a year after a series of shootings shocked the community.

At about 10:30 p.m. Aug. 21, 45-year-old Alejandro Ramos was shot in the back and another man was shot in the buttocks in a courtyard of the Bland Houses, at 40-21 College Point Blvd., police said. Ramos was taken to New York Hospital Queens, where he was pronounced dead, according to the NYPD.

As of press time Tuesday, there have not been any arrests, police said.

"I want this to stop," said Sonia Ramos speaking at a small rally across from Bland Houses Monday. "That night I heard the shots that killed my brother."

Ramos was working as a delivery driver before he lost his job and began staying with his sister in Bland Houses, she said.

The day after the shooting, Ramos' girlfriend of three years was erecting a memorial where friends could write messages and look at pictures.

"He was a good, funny guy and I loved him to death," said Rita Rodriguez. "We want justice for him."

But a representative from District Attorney Richard Brown said authorities need help from the



A picture of Alejandro Ramos, 45, sits near where he was shot and killed at Bland Houses. Photo by Joe Anuta

community to make that happen.

"This is not the Queens County we want it to be," said Supervising Assistant DA Frederica Jeffries, speaking at Monday's rally. "We are very vulnerable unless witnesses have the courage to talk about what they saw."

The DA must rely on eyewitnesses partially because the Bland Houses do not have security cameras installed in any of the buildings, according to the New York City Housing Authority.

The issue heated up in October, when a series of three shootings rocked the complex.

On Oct. 31, Alex Botero, 21, was shot in the head in an elevator at the houses, yet police could not make an arrest because no witnesses would come forward and give information. Two other shootings occurred around the same time, yet no cameras had been installed in the elevators or anywhere else in the houses.

At a meeting in November, NYCHA officials and City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) discussed the feasibility of a new security system and cameras.

A spokesman for NYCHA told TimesLedger Newspapers at the time that the schedule for installing the security system would be spring 2012.

But NYCHA recently said there is not enough money from lawmakers to install the security system, only enough to put in cameras — and that deal was only signed off on a couple weeks ago.

Cameras will not be installed until 2013, according to NYCHA.

Monday's rally was organized by a nonprofit called Community Prevention Alternatives for Families in Crisis Center and led by Martha Flores-Vazquez, who denounced the violence and called for more gun control in Albany.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com

Compete in the TriMathlon

On Sept. 29, The Bayside Mathnasium will hold its annual TriMathlon, a competition where children in Grades 3-6 compete in The Counting Game, Magic Squares Challenge and Mental Math Workout.

All participants will receive a

goody bag with prizes for local winners, as well as \$10,000 in cash prizes for national winners. Participation is free, but you must register at mathnasium.com/trimathlon by Sept. 21.

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from The Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association

The Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association's Officers and Board of Directors wishes everyone a safe and Happy Labor Day Holiday.

We regret to announce the postponement of the GWTCA's annual Whitestone Family Appreciation Day until 2013 when renovation of Whitestone's Francis Lewis Park is completed, and the necessary space is available for our event.

In the interim, please enjoy the park and new playground, and we will keep you posted for the future date of the Whitestone Family Appreciation Day.



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Ron Hellman

*The Play's The Thing: Thoughts from theater insider Ron Hellman
of the Outrageous Fortune Company, appearing monthly*

Theater Calendar:

Find out about all the
upcoming shows
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TIMESLedger
NEWSPAPERS



State Sen. Tony Avella (L) joins with community leaders, including Community Board 11 Chairman Jerry Iannece (second from L), to call on the FAA to engage the public in its flight plans crossing over northeast Queens.
Photo by Phil Corso

FAA

Continued from Page 1

off from LaGuardia and turning toward the northeast part of the borough.

"The FAA is evaluating a NextGen procedure for flights departing from Runway 13 at LaGuardia Airport. The procedure follows an existing departure path over Queens," the FAA said in a statement. "The FAA evaluation will identify the potential benefits and impacts of the NextGen procedure. It also will indicate if additional environmental analysis is necessary before the agency decides whether to permanently implement the procedure."

According to an administrator at the FAA, the departure procedure was

being tested before a public comment period opens to consider its permanent approval.

Avella and Braunstein said their offices reached out to the FAA, which notified them about a six-month departure procedure being tested out of LaGuardia. The elected officials said they did not receive definitive time frames as to when the trials would conclude after hearing constituent complaints as early as June.

The FAA sent a letter to Avella in June outlining the trial run, explaining that the departure procedure had airplane traffic turning left to the north off Runway 13 at LaGuardia — a pattern that would not exceed six months. The start date for the trial, however, was not specified.

"It is outrageous that

our community was not notified prior to the start of the FAA's flight departure testing and that we have still not been informed of its end date," Braunstein said. "It is clear to me, Sen. Avella and my constituents that this testing has been a failure and we call on the FAA to conclude it as soon as possible."

Iannece said he had been a longtime opponent of any airport expansion plans resulting in more noise and air pollution for northeast Queens residents.

"This is not just in Bayside," Iannece said. "We are not a landing strip here. We were here first. We live here."

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

Primary

Continued from Page 2

throughout her campaign has been the bottom line to combat the borough's growing classroom sizes.

Other key issues, Rozic said she was campaigning

on job creation, affordable health care and accessible women's and immigrant services.

"We need more women in government to advocate for these kinds of things," Rozic said.

Rozic's campaign reported several endorse-

ments from groups including Council hopeful Kevin Kim, the Working Families Party, EMILY's List and the New York League of Conservation Voters.

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

Peacock

Continued from Page 2
are not exactly the brightest feathers in the plume.

In fact, next to chickens, peacocks and the rest of the pheasant family are some of the least intelligent birds on the planet.

So how does this bird continue to dodge its human pursuers?

"They have at least 3,000 years' experience of humans trying to catch them," Lahti said.

The peacock is native to South Asian countries like Sri Lanka and India, but their eye-catching colors made them highly prized to visitors who wanted to take them back other countries like Egypt and then Europe, he said.

"Response to a net and flying higher to escape are things that peafowl are known to do," Lahti said.

This peacock does both well.

Last week, a teacher at the school was search-

ing for the winged creature and spotted it on the roof of a home near the corner of 70th Avenue and 147th Street.

He was clutching a large pole with a net and waiting for the peacock to come down off a roof, where it was munching on a strawberry and staring at itself in the reflection of a window, but the peafowl ultimately lost interest and flew to another rooftop.

As of press time Tuesday, the sightings have dried up.

And while the peacock may be lovesick, it may also have been scared off a favorite perch on a building overlooking the farm, according to Perry. Whatever the reason, he hopes the itinerant fowl will eventually abandon his odyssey and return home.

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



Developers who want to build condos on the site of the old Chilton Paint factory have asked the city for more time.

Photo by Joe Anuta

Condo

Continued from Page 1
one-bedroom apartments, according to plans submitted to Community Board 7 in 2005.

The exterior of the three-story brick factory would be kept intact, although its innards would be renovated and connected to two long, six-story buildings that would form the

bulk of the housing. Those two buildings would extend outward from the factory toward the water, forming a U-shape with a courtyard in the middle, according to the plans.

Due to city laws governing the development of waterfront property, a public walkway would also be required to hug the coastline in front of the complex.

The building would

also feature 139 parking spaces, but that did not stop the community from worrying about traffic.

CB 7 Chairman Gene Kelty said the additional traffic generated by the complex could prove troublesome for the area.

Another condo complex was erected next door to the derelict factory a few years ago.

And according to neighbor Adrian Simon,

the people who live there often do not use the parking that has been provided in the complex, but rather take valuable spots on the street.

"If they see one empty on their way in, they take it," he said, adding that a new police facility down the street also causes traffic headaches, as officers violate traffic laws with impunity.



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FOCUS ON QUEENS

DOG CONTEST AT ASTORIA SHORE FESTIVAL *Photos by Walter Karling*

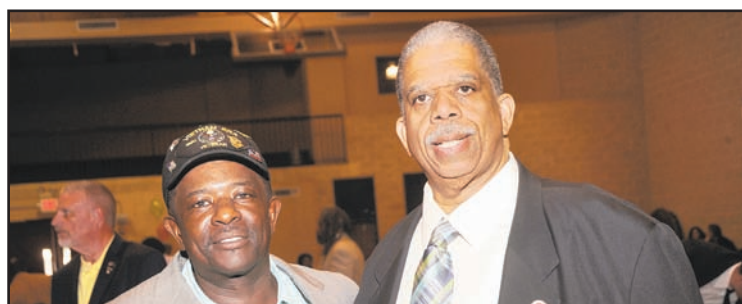
1 He thinks an ear-to-ear grin will sway the judges . . . Ziggie and owner Valeria Domingues.



2 Woofing it up. Contestants line up for an official group photo.



3 Cool, hip all-black attire: Phoenix and her owner, Lisasrette Vasquez.

HAITIAN AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION BREAKFAST *Photos by Nat Valentine*

4 Haitian American Veterans Association President Fritz Fils-Aime is joined by Councilman Leroy Comrie, who organized the event in conjunction with HAVA.



5 Members of the J-CAP Veterans Honor Guard carry the flags.



6 State Sen. Joseph Addabbo addresses the crowd.

JACKSON HEIGHTS MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE *Photos by Steven Malecki*

7 City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (l.) looks on as Miss India 2011, Chandas Tereeni, is introduced.



9 Assemblyman Michael DenDekker, state Sen. Jose Peratta, U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley, Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Comptroller John Liu join community leaders and Miss India USA 2011 Chandas Tereeni (third r.).



8 Miss India USA 2011 Chandas Tereeni, poses with Miss North Hempstead Raishma Ram.

COUNCILMAN JAMES SANDERS JR. HONORED WITH TURBAN *Photos by Walter Karling*

10 Councilman James Sanders Jr. was honored by the Gudwara Sikh Cultural Society of Richmond Hill in front of City Hall.



12 He was given an honorary turban by the Sikh community.



11 The gathering was in response to a fatal shooting in Oak Creek killed six Sikhs.

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MTA to appeal decision striking down payroll tax



If the MTA tax ruling stands, straphangers and Long Island Rail Road commuters could face fare hikes.

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Transit officials have expressed confidence that a payroll tax providing the MTA with \$1.4 billion a year will be upheld in court, warning that otherwise the agency would suffer a catastrophic blow.

Judge Bruce Cozzens, of Nassau County, ruled last week that the payroll tax "does not serve a substantial state interest."

The tax was opposed by interests in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties and outlying areas.

Many public officials supporting the lawsuits against the payroll tax rejoined, among them Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano. Many Republican members of the state Legislature suggested that the MTA still has too much bureaucracy and too many

managers and could sell off much of its real estate, which they said was worth billions.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it would "vigorously appeal" the decision.

"We believe this opinion will be overturned, since four prior challenges to the constitutionality of the law making the same argument have been dismissed," the MTA said.

If not, said MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota, "it would be catastrophic for the entire region and the entire state economy which depends on it."

"Without the services the MTA provides, New York City would choke on its own traffic," Lhota said.

Transit officials say the demise of the payroll tax would also mean drastic cuts in subway, bus and

commuter railroads and heavy increases in transit fares.

"We believe the ruling is wrong and we believe the ruling is going to be reversed," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The tax, known as the Payroll Mobility Tax, authorizes charging employers in the 12 counties served by the MTA 34 cents for every \$100 in payroll.

The state Legislature approved the tax in 2009, a time when the MTA was struggling on the edge of a financial abyss.

The MTA not long afterward eliminated two subway lines, scores of bus lines, large numbers of employees and duplication in its headquarters to cut more than \$700 million from its annual operating budget.

"Without the Payroll Mobility Tax or another stable and reliable source of funding, the MTA would be forced to implement a combination of extreme service cuts and fare hikes," the MTA said. "The Payroll Mobility Tax remains in effect for now and we expect that it will survive this legal challenge."

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

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Mayor touts Web plan for small biz in Jamaica

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A recent report shows that while all small businesses — even the corner bodega — can benefit from Internet technologies, less than 20 percent of the city's small companies are using them effectively, with experts citing a lack of awareness as one of the key obstacles.

A week after the report was released, Mayor Michael Bloomberg was in downtown Jamaica to announce a new city initiative called the Small Business Digital Toolkit, designed to help small businesses get online and use tools like websites, payment systems, search-engine optimization techniques and social media sites such as Facebook, Foursquare and Tumblr.

"If you have a very small business, you don't have the kind of resources to have a staff to do these kinds of things," Hizzoner said last Thursday. "They read about it and they have friends who have businesses and it's working for them and they say, 'Well what about me?' They don't even know what the questions to ask are."

According to the public policy think tank Center for an Urban Future's "Smarter Small Business-

es" report, small business owners — especially those with low-to-moderate incomes — are largely aware of the importance of such technologies, but many are only beginning to scratch the surface when it comes to using them in meaningful ways.

Jorge Borges, of the Queens Business Solutions Center, is quoted in the report as saying that while cost is an issue, most business owners can rationalize spending money as an investment.

"The bigger issue is the fear of learning it — the complexity of the software and the education level of the business owner," he said. "Many are good at what they do for a living, but they're not tech-savvy."

Bloomberg made the announcement at the city's Business Solution Center, at 168-25 Jamaica Ave., where Chief Digital Officer Rachel Haot will teach a free class Sept. 20 on creating an online presence, digital and mobile payment systems and how to market a business and advertise through digital media.

The free courses, along with the how-to guides offered online at nyc.gov, will teach people "everything from using Foursquare customer specials to launching

a blog on Tumblr or accepting payments on Shopkeep," she said.

The guides and the class curriculum, Bloomberg said, were developed at no cost to the city in partnership with Mashable, a social media news website.

City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) and state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-St. Albans) were on hand to lend their support.

"Clearly we need to make sure that New York City's small businesses stay competitive," Comrie said. "As their needs and technological needs and especially the need to stay Internet-savvy and have an Internet presence become more and more critical to every business, we need to make sure our small businesses have a leg up and a better leg up so that they can stay competitive."

The digital toolkit is a part of the mayor's digital road map, a larger initiative aimed at making the city a premier technological hub.

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

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3	10/22	10/17	10/20	10/11
4	10/29	10/24	10/27	10/18
5	11/5	10/31	11/10	11/1
6	11/19	11/7	11/17	11/15
7	11/26	11/14	11/24	11/29
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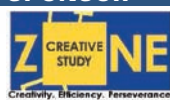
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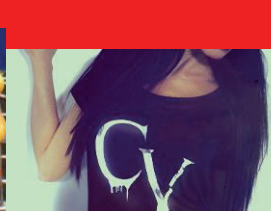
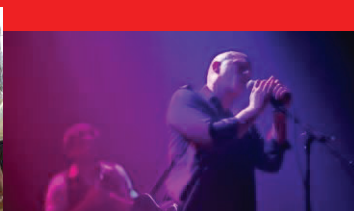
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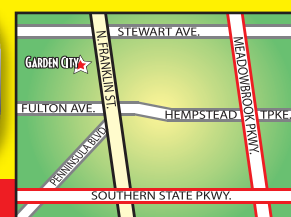


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To encourage teens to wear their seatbelts when driving, institute a policy wherein they lose their vehicle privileges should they be caught driving without a seatbelt.

Tips for parents of teen drivers

Arguably, no parent in the history of the world has looked forward to the day that her teenager gets his driver's license. Getting a driver's license is a milestone for kids, but it's also the cause of heartache for parents who understandably worry about their teenager hitting the open road all by his lonesome. There's no way to keep kids from growing up, but there are steps parents can take to make a teen's transition to fully licensed driver a little easier.

- Institute a no cellphone policy when driving. This is a relatively new, yet major concern for parents of teen drivers. Most of today's teens have their own cellphones, and parents could very well be helpless when it comes to keeping kids from talking or texting while driving. That said, a no-cellphone-while-driving policy should be instituted and thoughtfully discussed with teens. Make it known that, should an accident occur because of cellphone use while driving, both the car privileges and the phone will be taken away.
- When applying for colleges, consider the school's

freshman driving policy. A child's first year away at college is enough to make any parent lose sleep, but sending kids off to college with a car for their first year only adds to the sleepless nights. When kids are applying to colleges, look for schools that don't allow freshmen to have cars. Many schools don't, so this should not be a problem. If a child chooses a school that does allow freshmen to have a car, let him know that you would be more comfortable if the car stayed home, at least for the first semester while he learns to adjust to his new surroundings.

- If possible, wait an extra year. If your teenager is the rare breed who isn't especially excited about getting a driver's license, let it slide. Studies show 16-year-old drivers are far more likely to get in accidents than their 17-year-old counterparts.

- Limit passengers. Teenage drivers are more likely to get in an accident with each passenger who comes along for the ride. One study indicates that teen drivers with one fellow teenager in the car are 40 percent more likely to get in an accident than they would be

if they were driving alone. Those percentages increase with each additional teenage passenger, so parents should institute a reasonable policy that limits the number of passengers that a teen can take on when driving.

- Make sure teens are driving safe vehicles. While it might be nice to give your teen a flashy sports car for his birthday, doing so is a big mistake. A teenager's first car should be the kind of vehicle that discourages irresponsible driving. The vehicle should also be fully equipped with all the necessary safety features, including airbags and anti-lock brakes.

- Stress the importance of seatbelts. A significant percentage of teenagers killed in auto accidents weren't wearing their seatbelts at the time of death. All drivers should wear seatbelts, and parents should set a positive example by wearing their seatbelts whenever riding in a car. To encourage teens wear their seatbelts when driving, institute a policy wherein they lose their vehicle privileges should they be caught driving without a seatbelt.



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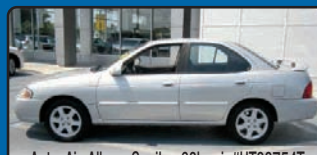


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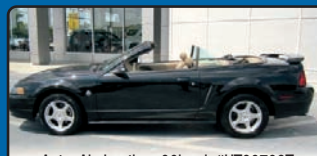
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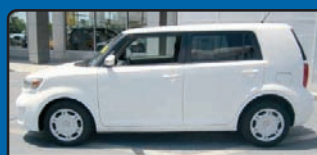
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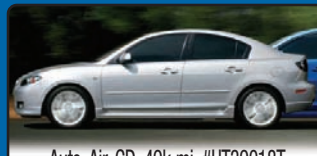
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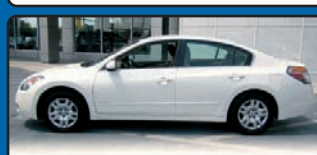
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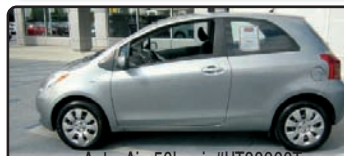
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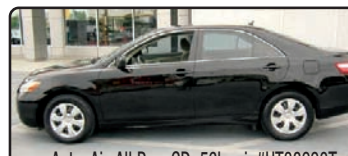
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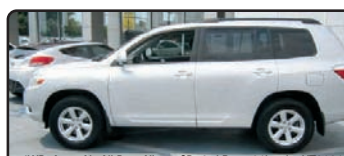


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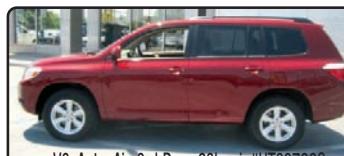
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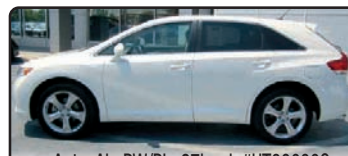
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insurance to save
money.

Things to consider before buying auto insurance

Auto insurance is necessary for anyone who drives. Some places allow motorists to drive without insurance, but doing so is an unnecessary risk, one that could prove costly should an accident occur.

When purchasing auto insurance, many drivers hope to save as much money as possible. That's understandable, as many drivers go years without ever filing a claim, giving some the feeling that they're paying for something they will never use. However, when an accident does occur, paying for those premiums proves well worth it.

It's important to get the best rates and not overpay for auto insurance, but there's more to shopping for auto insurance than simply finding the cheapest policy. The following are a few things drivers should consider when shopping for a new auto insurance policy.

- Determine the amount of coverage you need. How much auto insurance coverage a driver needs depends on what the local law requires. Some areas, including densely populated cities with more drivers

on the road, tend to require more coverage than others because the risk of accident is greater. In addition, some places require all motorists purchase personal injury protection, which pays for a driver's medical expenses as well as any lost wages or additional costs that occur as a result of an accident. It is not required everywhere, but motorists should weight its pros and cons if they live in a region where it is not mandatory.

The amount of coverage a driver needs is relative, but Consumer Reports recommends adequate coverage for bodily injury liability is \$100,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident, and an additional \$100,000 for property damage.

For drivers leasing or financing a vehicle, the leasing or financing agreement will typically spell out the minimum coverage required, and drivers can choose to increase that coverage if they feel it's necessary.

- Explore payment options. Drivers who want to reduce their insurance costs without reducing coverage should explore their

payment options. In many instances, drivers who choose to make annual or bi-annual payments instead of monthly installments can save some money in so doing. If your current insurance provider does not offer such an alternative, then shop around for a company that does.

- Re-examine your driving history. Speeding and traffic tickets might sting initially, but they will disappear from your record over time. When shopping for auto insurance, re-examine your driving record. In the United States, accessing these records can typically be done by contacting the local branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles. If an old speeding or traffic ticket is close to being removed from your record, wait until those disappear before purchasing a new policy.

- Shop around. Drivers often lament paying so much for auto insurance, a safety net few drivers use but all must pay for. Despite that, many motorists continue to overpay for their insurance because the popular misconception is that shopping for a better policy is inconvenient and te-

dious. But the Internet has made it much easier for consumers to shop for a better auto insurance policy. When shopping for quotes online, have your vehicle registration and identification number, as well as your driver history on hand so the quote is as accurate as possible. Print out each quote and then compare them to find the best deal. If another company is offering a deal significantly better than your existing policy, discuss that with your current provider, who might match the rate to keep you as a policy holder.

- Shop for discounts. Another thing to consider when shopping for an auto insurance policy is the availability of discounts. Many companies reward policy holders for good behavior, such as driving without an accident and earning good grades in school. Other companies even offer an one-time accident amnesty, forgiving drivers for their first accident by not raising their rates when an accident occurs. These discounts can add up to substantial savings over the course of the policy, so do your homework.

Avoid car accidents on city streets

Many people find the allure of the big city too hard to resist. In addition to more employment opportunities, large metropolitan areas typically offer more convenience than their suburban counterparts. As a result, metropolitan roadways are often busy.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, three-quarters of the population live in the country's metropolitan areas. The majority of the nation's growth over the next 25 years is expected to be in metropolitan areas. Traffic in these areas stands to increase, which will no doubt lead to a spike in accidents as well.

City statistics

Crashes that cause injuries and property damage are more likely to occur in urban areas. However, fatal crashes occur at a higher rate in rural areas. There are a number of accidents that are common to populated areas, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. These include:

- Running red lights or other traffic controls, such as stop or



Metropolitan areas can be ideal places to live. Driving safely within city limits often requires placing a greater emphasis on driving defensively and staying aware at all times.

yield signs, and having a collision.

- Stopping or being in the process of stopping and being struck from the rear.

- Running off of the road and striking an object.

- Swerving into an occupied lane.

- Turning left and colliding with an oncoming vehicle.

Avoid accidents

Accidents in urban areas can be largely prevented if drivers take action. Here are ways that many common accidents can be avoided.

- Exercise caution when ap-

proaching an intersection. Drivers should slow down when approaching any intersection. They should be prepared to stop, even if they have the right of way. Don't run through red lights or attempt to "beat" the yellow light. Someone on the other side of the intersection may be harboring similar thoughts.

- Leave several car lengths between vehicles. Tailgating can be troublesome to drivers. Not only does it limit the amount of response time a driver has, but also it could anger another driver and lead to a dangerous altercation. As more and more drivers are distracted by technology, driving with several car lengths between cars takes on even greater importance.

- Check blind spots often. Drivers should repeatedly check for cars in their blind spots, especially when changing lanes or making a turn. Cyclists, motorcycle riders, and even pedestrians may be hidden in a blind spot. Err on the side of safety.

- Drive slowly. Urban areas do not offer the open road of rural areas. That means drivers will have to maintain slower speed limits to stay safe. Excess speed makes it

difficult to see obstacles, including pedestrians or debris on the road. Driving too fast can also make handling turns treacherous.

- Electronic enforcement is present. Many towns and cities employ the use of speed-monitoring devices or cameras to catch traffic violations. Red light cameras have been shown to reduce violations by 40 to 50 percent. Drivers should keep in mind that cameras may be in use where they frequently travel.

- Be cautious during left-hand turns. According to research, many side-impact accidents occur when a collision takes place during a left-hand turn into oncoming traffic. Drivers should wait for a left turn signal when possible and make sure oncoming traffic has completely stopped before turning. If the intersection is particularly treacherous, motorists can choose another place to turn, even if it means going out of the way for a few minutes.

Metropolitan areas can be ideal places to live. Driving safely within city limits often requires placing a greater emphasis on driving defensively and staying aware at all times.

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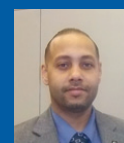
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Is a hybrid the right fit for you?

Some eco-friendly behaviors and lifestyle changes have been easy to adopt, but others have proven far more difficult. Perhaps nothing illustrates that more than consumer reaction to hybrid cars.

Hybrid car sales have dipped in recent years. But supporters note that vehicle sales in general have also decreased over that period, meaning it's quite possible that hybrid car sales are indicative of a larger slump, and not necessarily indicative of an adverse consumer reaction to hybrid cars.

Whatever the reason for dwindling sales, it's clear consumers have been reticent to embrace hybrid cars, especially when compared to other eco-friendly lifestyle changes that have caught on seemingly en masse. For those considering a hybrid car, there's a valid case to be made on both sides of the fence.

Why buy a hybrid car?

Buying a car is never an easy decision. Choosing to buy one that's fundamentally different than one you've ever purchased before is even more difficult. Perhaps there's no greater reason to buy a hybrid car than the environmental benefits. A hybrid's low emissions mean less greenhouse gases, which can include harmful carbon dioxide. Less emissions make for a healthier planet. For consumers whose chief concern is the environment, then hybrid cars are the way to go.

There's also more practical reasons to buy a hybrid car. Better gas mileage means drivers will be paying less at the pump, which can add up to significant savings over time, not to mention less fuel consumption that will help the environment as well.

Hybrid cars also tend to be more efficient. Hybrids have both an internal combustible engine and an electrical system, enabling drivers to switch back and forth between the power sources to make their vehicle more efficient, burning less fuel when the conditions allow and using less electrical energy when the conditions would otherwise drain the electrical power system.

Why steer clear?

Hybrid cars' biggest problems are largely economical. Resale value of hybrid cars pales in comparison to that of traditional au-



Before purchasing a hybrid vehicle, weigh the advantages and disadvantages of hybrids to ensure the car meets your needs.

tomobiles. Much of this lower resale value is thanks to the battery needed for hybrid cars.

Hybrid car batteries typically need to be replaced once per decade. When selling a preowned vehicle, drivers might find that vehicle is less attractive to prospective buyers if that battery has not previously been replaced or if it's been several years since it was replaced.

Lower resale value is especially tough to stomach when considering the initial cost of hybrid cars, which many feel makes them less attractive options. Hybrids are often considerably more expensive, and researchers have noted that the cost savings of hybrids are not realized until after several years of driving a hybrid vehicle. While this figures to change as the market continues to offer more hybrid cars, for today's consumer, that future offers little comfort.

Safety is also a concern when considering a hybrid car. Hybrids use high-voltage batteries to operate, which can prove disastrous should an accident occur. Manufacturers insist this concern isn't really a problem, as the batteries are designed to turn off in an accident. However, some consumers subscribe to the "better safe than sorry" approach and feel hybrid batteries are simply too risky.

Much like any big-ticket decision consumers must make, deciding whether or not to buy a hybrid car requires careful consideration of the advantages and disadvantages to hybrid cars before driving one off the dealership lot.



You don't have to sit idling to save gas.

Seven auto myths revealed

When it comes to cars, many drivers would admit that their technical knowledge is lacking. In addition, automotive technology is constantly changing, making it hard to separate car facts from fiction.

The following are some of the most common myths and misconceptions about vehicles.

Myth 1: Higher octane fuel causes all cars to run better

Fuels are rated according to how they prevent detonation in the engine. Higher performance engines generally have higher compression ratios and are more prone to detonation. They require high-octane fuel to prevent this. Other engines have different compression rates and usually require a lower-octane fuel. Unless a driver hears engine pinging or knocking, switching to a higher octane will not improve performance due to the engine design. Drivers can save their money and stick with "regular."

Myth 2: You must service your vehicle at the dealership

It is illegal for dealerships to force service be done strictly at the dealership. Routine maintenance can be done by other vendors. Find out if certain after-market parts installation may affect the warranty, but even these should be OK.

Myth 3: Idling uses less gas than restarting the engine

Drivers don't have to sit idling, wasting gas, and contributing to added emissions. Restarting a warm engine does not use more fuel than idling a car.

Myth 4: All-wheel drive makes a vehicle invincible

All-wheel drive can provide some added traction going up a snowy hill or coming out of a turn on a rain-slicked surface, but it doesn't make a vehicle invincible. All-wheel drive will do little to help a driver avoid road hazards or grip the pavement in corners. Tires, suspension, and driver skill are essential as well.

Myth 5: Drivers should see side of the car in side mirrors

In fact, they are improperly adjusted if the sides of the car can be viewed. Moving out the mirrors just a bit more reduces the need to look over a shoulder to check for blind spots, which takes a driver's eyes off the road.

Myth 6: All-season tires offer more traction in the rainy seasons

Unless a person lives in a locale with considerable snowfall, it's best to avoid all-season tires. A standard tire has more grip, both wet and dry, than an equivalent all-season tire.

Myth 7: Antilock braking systems create shorter stopping distances

Antilock braking system was actually created to enable a driver to steer out of danger and not spin out while braking. Shorter stopping distances may occur, but they're a side effect of the system's design.



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2001	Toyota Corolla, 73k	17062	\$2,995	2003	Jaguar X-Type, 150k	70362	\$3,995	2003	Honda Civic Hybrid, 154k	001383	\$4,995
2003	Toyota Camry, 108k	67147	\$2,995	2006	Chevy Cobalt, 100k	70263	\$3,995	2005	VW Passat ndsmtr, 24k	69686	\$4,995
2001	Ford Explorer XLS, 173k	70369	\$2,995	2002	Ford Escape, 97k	67450	SAVE	2005	Toyota Camry, 65k	62871	SAVE
				MANY MORE LIKE THIS TO CHOOSE FROM!				2003	Ford Mustang, 99k	63795	SAVE
YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STK /VIN	PRICE
2003	Cadillac CTS, 145k	70281	\$5,995	2008	Toyota Corolla, 7k	43265	\$6,995	2007	Mazda 3, 5k	JU13340	\$7,995
2005	Nissan Altima, 168k	70122	SAVE	2008	Chevy Trailblazer, 116k	62530	SAVE	2006	Cadillac CTS, 67k	JU12013	SAVE
2003	Mazda Protege, 99k	186675	SAVE	2003	BMW x5, 110k	68755	SAVE	2008	Honda Civic, 14k	JU12353	SAVE
2000	Mercedes C240, 126k	66680	SAVE	2006	Chrysler Town & Country	JU14877	SAVE	2007	Scion TC, 127k	53554	SAVE

MANAGER SPECIALS

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2006	Nissan Altima, 6K TMU	65610	\$6,995	2004	Toyota Highlander, 134k	69228	\$9,995
2007	Chevy Impala, 28k	42370	\$7,995	2004	VW Touareg, 100k	63984	\$9,995
2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
2005	Nissan Quest, 60k	63458	\$8,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 24k	72516	\$15,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$9,495	2010	Infiniti G37, 30k	69927	\$19,995
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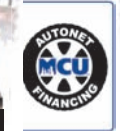
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Judge to sue after DA drops cop assault probe

BY REBECCA HENELY

Justice Thomas Raffaele said he was filing a notice of claim this week after Queens District Attorney Richard Brown announced his office would not pursue criminal charges against an officer who Raffaele contends assaulted him in a pedestrian plaza in Jackson Heights last month.

"It's become a tremendous process of lying here, and that shouldn't be sustained by the police or the district attorney," Raffaele, 69, of Jackson Heights, said in an interview.

Brown announced his office would not continue looking into the case in a statement last week.

"The people would have the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the police officer intentionally and unjustifiably struck Justice Raffaele and that the judge sustained physical injury," Brown said. "Based on our investigation, we are unable to sustain that burden."

Brown said the district attorney's office had referred the matter to the Police Department



Justice Thomas Raffaele plans to file a motion of claim with the city after the Queens district attorney's office dropped an investigation into a cop who hit him in a pedestrian plaza on 37th Road in Jackson Heights.

and the Civilian Complaint Review Board to see if any violation of NYPD rules or procedures occurred in the incident. He said his office had no opinion over whether violations took place.

Raffaele said Monday he

planned to file a notice of claim, which must be filed before he can sue the city.

He is a matrimonial judge in State Supreme Court in Jamaica.

The justice alleges he was struck by an officer June 1 after

midnight while 115th Precinct police were trying to arrest and subdue 47-year-old Charles Menninger at the plaza at 74th Street and 37th Road in Jackson Heights.

Raffaele said he was attempting to help calm the crowd growing around Menninger when an officer hit him so hard in the windpipe that he could not talk for a short period of time and required medical attention with his throat still hurting weeks later. He said if he had not stepped back soon enough, he could have been killed.

"When he was angry enough at the crowd, he just attacked a bunch of us," Raffaele said of the officer.

The judge said he tried to get officers at the scene and at Elmhurst Hospital Center, where he went after the incident, to file a report but they refused.

Brown said the officers were trying to establish a safety perimeter in the course of the arrest when Raffaele was hit.

"We find that there is insufficient evidence of criminality to

support a charge that the police officer acted with intent to injure or that physical injury — as defined by statute and case law — occurred," Brown said.

The district attorney said Menninger had been trying to strike officers with a metal pipe at the time of his arrest and was also acting violently in an erratic and uncontrolled manner.

"We find that there is insufficient evidence that excessive force was utilized in restraining Mr. Menninger," Brown said.

But Raffaele denied he was inside the police's safety perimeter and characterized the attack as an officer out of control. He said when he saw Menninger, the man was lying on the ground, handcuffed and shirtless, and the officer was kneeling him in the back.

"It absolutely was intentional," Raffaele said. "I was doing nothing. I was just part of the crowd."

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

Divorce Caribbean Style

For a growing number of New Yorkers, tired of the delays and expense of conventional local divorces, fast, inexpensive Caribbean and offshore US divorces have been the answer.

A leader in the fast divorce business has been Divorcefast.com of Massachusetts, a company that has been providing speedy, low-cost foreign divorces for 50 years. The company provides divorces that can be completed in as little as one day in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the US offshore island of Guam.

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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Owner seeks upgrades to bring Atlas success

BY STEVE MOSCO

The owners of the Shops at Atlas Park are looking to revitalize the struggling mall with an infusion of new stores — and possibly a new name.

Mall officials confirmed Forever 21, a fashion retailer aimed at the young and trendy, plans to open a 15,000-square-foot store at the Glendale shops in early 2013. The clothing chain is just one of the new stores the mall's owner Macerich is currently engaging in negotiations.

"We cannot confirm details of any new retailers at this time, but we are pleased that a Forever 21 representative confirmed their interest in opening a store at our center," said Liza Diaz, property manager with Macerich. "We are very happy that our community is supporting us by showing such an interest in Atlas Park."

Residents in the Glendale community have been clamoring for an influx of new retailers at the mall, with many posting their suggestions on the Glendale Civic Association's Facebook page.

Kathy Danile Masi, president of the civic group, said she has heard the names of clothing and jewelry retailers expressing interest in opening locations at the mall.

"Let's hope that the new owners of Atlas can make these rumors reality and close at least one or two of the prospects," she said.

Macerich, which owns, operates and develops malls across the country, purchased Atlas Park at a foreclosure auction last year. The company, which also owns the Queens Center Mall in Elmhurst, would not comment on any current negotiations with specific retailers.

The company also would not comment on a



The owners of the Shops at Atlas Park are looking to bring new retailers into the Glendale mall.

possible name change for the mall, but at least one elected official thinks it might be wise to depart from Atlas Park's unfortunate reputation.

"Changing the name might be the right business move for Macerich because Atlas has been associated with a failing entity for so long," said state Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach), adding the mall's new owners have spent a lot of time discussing what types of stores would fit the area.

"They understand the community," he said. "Some people have said they should bring outlet stores to Atlas and how great it would be to have the borough's first outlet store at this location. But Macerich said they would not do that

to the community."

Addabbo said Macerich has expressed concern with the amount of traffic such stores would bring to Glendale, a residential community. Addabbo said the lack of subway service means potential shoppers would either drive in or rely heavily on mass transit bus service.

"There are residential homes adjacent to the mall. Having outlet stores there which create traffic problems for locals," he said. "Macerich has a great track record and they are primed to do good things at Atlas Park."

Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at smosco@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.

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Bankrupt hospital attracts potential buyer

BY STEVE MOSCO

The shuttered Peninsula Hospital has a potential buyer, a source familiar with the negotiations said.

A group led by former board of directors member Michael Melnicke has emerged as a strong candidate to purchase Peninsula Hospital in Edgemere, which closed in April af-

ter running out of operating cash, according to the source, who asked not to be identified.

Melnicke is the administrator of Rockaway Care Center and also operates Park Nursing Home in Rockaway; Regency Extended Care Center in Yonkers, N.Y.; Hempstead Park Nursing Home in Hempstead, L.I.; and Caton Park Nursing Home in Brook-

lyn.

He is also a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains and the New York Board of Rabbis.

The hospital is currently under the control of court-ordered bankruptcy trustee Lori Lapin Jones, a Long Island bankruptcy law attorney.

Jones currently serves as a Chapter 7 trustee on the panel of Trustees for the Eastern District of New York and as a court-appointed mediator in the Southern and Eastern districts of New York.

Neither Melnicke nor Jones could not be reached for comment.

State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) said he heard rumors over the past few months that Melnicke was involved in negotiations to potentially purchase the hospital, but he has not been in-



A former board member leads a pack of potential buyers for the shuttered Peninsula Hospital.

Photo by Christina Santucci

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involved in any of the talks.

"I would have liked to be involved in some of these talks. I don't need to be aware as far as the finances are concerned, but I just want to make sure Rockaway gets a good partner that will look to develop the property to benefit the community," he said. "I'm a big fan of openness and of

community involvement — you can't go wrong involving people in the process to ensure it is done fairly with the best interests of the community in mind."

Goldfeder said he hopes any buyer for Peninsula that emerges will take seriously the task of providing urgent care to the people of the Rockaways.

"Immediately, we need space for an urgent care center," he said. "As it stands right now, if someone has a heart attack or is drowning, the closest facility is easily 15 or 20 minutes away. This building is centrally located and can serve people across the peninsula in a timely manner."

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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



DANCERS TAKE A *leap*

Sarah Council Dance Projects performs "Shadowlands." Council is a Queens resident of seven years.

Photo by Steven Schreiber

Queens Council on the Arts dance project features artists and performers from around across the borough

BY ALAN KRAWITZ

The Leap Dance Project, created two years ago by the Queens Council on the Arts in partnership with the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, was founded to foster a better sense of community among dancers and dance professionals working in the borough.

The project is a nine-month program that offers professional development workshops, peer leadership to encourage the exchange of resources, ideas and information as well as admission to local performances and low-cost rehearsal space.

"QCA was meeting many dancers around the borough and not many of them had a clue as to who was who, so we decided to try the LEAP program," said Lynn Lobell, Queens Council on the Arts' managing director.

Lobell noted that while other arts organizations such as Topaz Arts and Green Space were doing a "fantastic job of offering dancers an affordable venue," which is rare in New York City, QCA wanted to create cohesion among the dancers in hopes of building leadership in the field.

Further, she added that 2012's Leap Dance participants are the tops in Queens' dance right now. "From established artists to emerging choreographers, Leap features a diverse range of individuals working on a variety of topics, all rooted in their experience as Queens residents," Lobell said.

Leap artist Leslie Scott is the founder and artistic director of Long Island City-based Bodyart, a multimedia, modern dance theater company. Scott, who has performed at several New York City landmarks, including the Ailey Citigroup Theater and The Joyce Soho, said her company is currently preparing for their upcoming city season at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in Manhattan Oct. 4 to Oct. 7.

"This evening will feature the New York City premiere of 'Loft' set to a commissioned sound score... a world premiere of 'I wanted...' and an encore performance of 'Script' originally commissioned by the Dallas Dance Council," Scott said.

Steven Hitt, managing director of LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, said that dance in Queens is growing and thriving.

Continued on Page 47

St. Albans native may be among last to play Lenox

BY DIANA R. CABRAL

Along a commercial strip on Lenox Avenue in Harlem sits a historic New York jazz home, Lenox Lounge — its Art Deco façade designed by Raymond Loewy, the father of industrial design, stands out among the many other drab businesses on this wide street.

Inside you're taken back in time to the heyday of the jazz era. The bar looks like it has not changed since at least the 1950s or '60s save for the giant HDTV's peering down from the walls.

It's here — in the legendary Zebra Room — where St. Albans native Carl Bartlett Jr. and his quartet performed Friday evening, gracing the tiled floor once occupied by music legends Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Thelonus Monk and Miles Davis.

The aptly named room, whose walls are covered in black and white zebra wallpaper with framed prints of greats like Vaughan, Davis and Monk, is an intimate backroom behind the Lenox Lounge's bar.

The quartet started their set

with a Monk recording: smooth, fluid with hints of drum beats, piano and notes on the upright bass that took center stage.

The Carl Bartlett Jr. Quartet plays Lenox Lounge four times a year and Bartlett, now living in Cambria Heights, described his music as straight jazz but progressive.

Growing up in St. Albans, the Manhattan School of Music alum began taking piano lessons at age 7, then moved on to the clarinet while in elementary school. In his teens and in college he started playing jazz and picked up the saxophone. Bartlett Jr. started his quartet while in college in the early 2000s and graduated with a bachelor of music in jazz performance in 2004.

Though the historic lounge — once a fixture of the Harlem Renaissance — has regular jazz performers like Bartlett and a steady local clientele, it is in danger of shutting its doors.

"We are doing whatever possible to stay open," said Toni Alexis, a Lenox Lounge manager.

Though she would not go



The Carl Bartlett Jr. Quartet performed at the Lenox Lounge in Harlem on Friday, Aug. 21. Bartlett, on saxophone, plays at the historic jazz lounge a few times a year, though it has been struggling to stay open.

Photo by Diana R. Cabral

to close would be a huge blow to the New York jazz scene."

Still, some of the management of the lounge maintained their optimism.

"It doesn't look as bleak. This neighborhood is on an upswing," said Malaika Davis, another lounge manager.

Opening its doors in 1939, Lenox Lounge whose regular patrons included a who's who's of important African-American figures like James Baldwin and Malcolm X, has weathered both the decline of the area and its recent upturn. Currently, the lounge is on a month-to-month lease with the landlord.

"We will be open in September," assured Davis.

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

Hard #79

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

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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The Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit

Martin H. H. Leff-Cinthus

The Washington Square Outdoor Art Exhibit is pleased to include Martin H. H. Leff-Cinthus in the blocks of exhibitors. Mr. Cinthus will be in Schwartz Plaza, which used to be known as Bobkin Lane (between West 4th and West 3rd).

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THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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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: Through Sept. 8; Saturdays, 2-9 pm
Where: MoMA PS1, 22-25 Jackson Ave., Long Island City
Contact: (718) 784-2084
Website: momaps1.org

KIDS & FAMILY

Legends of Flight – Get an insider's view of modern aircraft building practices. See the first public flights of the Airbus A380 and the 787.
When: Through Sept. 2, 9:30 am-5 pm
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St. at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353
Website: 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: nyscience.org

AUDITIONS & REHEARSALS

Queens College Choral Society Auditions – The Queens College Choral Society is seeking new members for its 2012-13 concert season, which will feature two extraordinary works for chorus and orchestra: Bach's B Minor Mass and Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection." Rehearsals are held from 7:30 - 9:45 pm on Wednesdays at Queens College, and will begin on Aug. 29. Auditions consist of basic singing skills; no preparation is necessary.
When: Wednesdays through Sept. 12, 6 pm
Where: Queens College, 65-30

Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 997-5000

EVENTS

Laughing Devil Presents – Showcase of the best comics that New York City has to offer, Laughing Devil Presents features a rotating cast with a healthy mix of celebrities and the next big thing. There is always something new, and you never know who is going to drop by.
When: Fridays and Saturdays through Sept. 2, 8 pm and 10:30 pm
Where: Laughing Devil Comedy Club, 47-38 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City
Contact: (347) 91-DEVIL
Website: www.laughingdevil.com

The Big Thing – Bringing their A-Game to show off for the audience and the club bookers, The Big Thing comedians are all great pros on the rise who have been vetted by the club. If anyone kills on The Big Thing, they earn the coveted position of Club Regular – and you will see them again soon.
When: Wednesdays through Sept. 19, 8 pm
Where: Laughing Devil Comedy

Continued on Page 47

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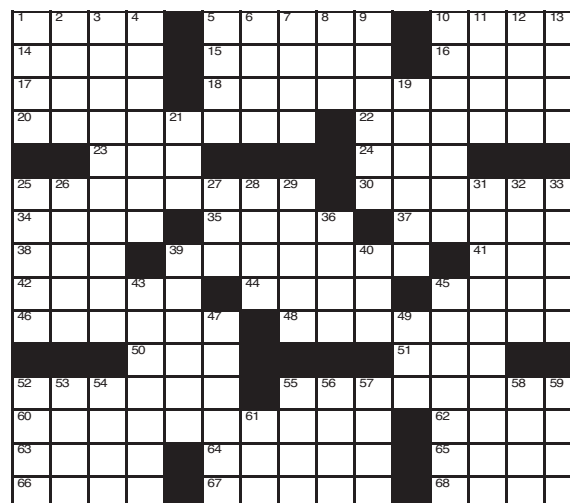
TimesLedger Newspapers
Aug. 30 - Sept. 5, 2012

By Pete Canty
C Minus



Across

- Nile slitherers
- Gets close
- Cask contents
- Uncovered
- Chocolate source
- 63 Across preceder
- Sal's Canal
- Exchange soot and precious metal?
- Lad?
- Minuscule
- Mine find
- Hee partner
- Rationality
- Go by, as time
- Iron follower
- Heap
- Fairy tale bad guy
- St. Louis player
- "Clear a path!"
- Tiny bit
- Enough
- Obey
- Pew area
- Portrait models
- Don King, e.g.
- Tennis unit
- Lennon's partner
- Black Sea port
- Gunfire at a garbage pile?
- Poem praising DNA?
- Scrabble piece
- Parade spoiler
- Steel support for concrete
- Many a tournament



- Tails
- Replay speed
- "Hey you!"

Down

- Cain's victim
- Poet Teasdale
- Equipment for a convict band?
- Gets irate
- March Madness org.
- Dawn direction
- Yearn
- Brit. fliers
- Ease
- Call for conflict
- Desktop feature
- Guitarist Lofgren
- Small whirlpool
- Property
- Rest room sign
- Junk
- San Antonio landmark

- Antipollution org.
- Punjabi believer
- Get some shuteye
- Leg joints for tubers?
- _____ driver
- Respected one
- Water pitcher
- Most basic
- Big fuss
- Gets smaller
- Like some flights
- Elevator alternative
- Item in a bucket
- Fairy tale bad guy
- University bigwig
- City west of Tulsa
- Vagabond
- Dutch cheese
- Dynamic start?
- Corrida cheers
- Circus sight
- Animation unit

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- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

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

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- Any 2 Choices From B
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- Chicken Francaise
- Chicken Marsala
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- Veal Marsala
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DANCERS

Continued from Page 43

"I believe LaGuardia Performing Arts Center has a lot to do with that growth at the moment. Over the past several years we have hosted some of the best mid-career and emerging dance artists in the Northeast and particularly New York City artists."

Hitt said artists such as RIOULT and Azure Barton are well-known and respected names, but more important to him are the names people have not heard of, at least not yet.

While Scott agrees that dance in the borough is growing stronger, she said competition for funding is as tough as it has ever been.

"With 'biggerfish' swimming in smaller ponds, more than ever as a dance maker you are forced to be extremely pointed and specific with your projects," Scott said.

Hitt agreed, adding "I believe the most difficult and challenging problem facing choreographers is paying for the space to develop new work."

A unique space rent program offered by LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, he said, allows artists to develop and perform new work by providing technical hours and



Dancers perform "Spin Art" during the LEAP Dance Concert at the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center on June 15.
Photo by Kerville Jack

time to make certain that elements such as lighting are correct.

To Emily Berry, choreographer and artistic director of Beyond Third Wave performance collective in Jackson Heights (b3w.org), her company has taken much of its inspiration from the borough of Queens itself.

"Our company...includes Haitians, African Americans, whites, a Korean immigrant, and a Venezuelan immigrant. This level of diversity provides a rich dialogue, especially as we dive into the topic of forgiveness," said Berry as she described an upcoming project called "Forgiveness," a multi-media performance with dancers, actors, live music, and

new media that delves into the topic complete with stories and expressions of forgiveness along with the consequences of not being able to forgive.

Spin Art, another of Berry's projects is a 25-foot-by-25-foot plexiglass cube with an audience surrounding the cube. Berry explained that four dancers inside the cube have tubes attached to their bodies that spray paint when they fling their limbs.

"As the performers build momentum through spiraling and flinging movement sequences, the glass slowly becomes covered with paint and the performers disappear from view," she said. "Once the performance is com-

plete, audience members can enter the cube as they would a gallery where the walls, ceiling and floor have become the canvases."

Berry said that she, too, has observed renewed interest in community dance. "While the arts are usually seen as being on the outskirts of society and dance on the outskirts of the arts, we are seeing a resurgence of the power of dance," she said.

She also praised organizations such as QCA and LPAC for providing necessary funding to make community dance projects possible.

Community projects Berry recommended include Green Space (greenspacestudio.org), Topaz Arts (topazarts.org), Queens Theater in the Park (queens theatre.org), LaGuardia Performing Arts Center (laguardiaperformingarts.org), The Jamaica Performing Arts Center (jamaicap performingartscenter.org), and Flushing Town Hall (flushingtowhall.org).

Sarah Council, a Queens' resident for the past seven years who grew up in a coal-mining region of Kentucky, founded Sarah Council Dance Projects in 2007 as a platform to create "emotionally and physically honest" dance performance works.

Her latest work, "Staring at Stones," examines Council's Southern roots via the exploration of the culture of the Appalachian Mountains, home to picturesque rolling hills and varied hardships.

Calling dance in Queens "as vibrant and varied as the community it reflects," she said there is a wide variety of performance opportunities for local companies to share their work with the Queens community.

"They range from festivals and showcases to programs such as Green Space's "Take Root," a series that presents choreographers in a full evening of work," Council said.

For those who cannot get enough dance in the borough, she advised residents to "get to know your local dance artists ... many teach classes and offer various workshops open to the Queens community."

Failing that, Council said that becoming a financial donor is yet another way to support local artists.

"Every contribution, no matter how small helps. Finding the resources to create and produce new dance is one of the biggest obstacles to the growth of our community," she said.

THEATER CALENDAR

Hot Box – Conceived, directed, choreographed and performed by Chocolate Factory Artistic Director Brian Rogers, the performance will create a violent and chaotic situation with noise, fog, sweat and drinks.
When: Sept. 13-15, 8 pm; Sept. 17-21 8pm
Where: The Chocolate Factory, 5-49 49th Ave.
Cost: \$15
Contact: (718) 482-7069
Website: chocolatefactorytheater.org

Behad the Playwright – When the actors revolt who saves the playwright? Should he be beheaded or should the actors be on trial? What's the verdict and why the revolt? Ticket sales go to the Children's Developmental Center. Call for advance tickets.
When: Sept. 28 and 29, 8 pm; Sept. 30, 2 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.
Cost: \$15
Contact: (718) 358-3341

AUDITIONS & REHEARSALS

Oratoria Winter Concert Auditions – Sing with the Oratorio Society of Queens and be part of the celebrated annual concert featuring Handel's "Messiah," Christmas carols and Chanukah songs. Reservations required.
When: Sept. 10 and 17, 7 p.m.
Where: Temple Beth Shalom (in the FSG Hall), 172nd Street and Northern Blvd., Flushing
Contact: LeeAnn Close, (718) 279-3006
Website: www.queensoratorio.org

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from Page 46

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Water bill

Continued from Page 5

who is on Community Board 8 in Fresh Meadows, said she heard from one woman who got a bill for almost \$4,000 because DEP said her first meter was defective and re-billed her for two years.

Adam-Ovide said the woman is being unfairly penalized because DEP's equipment was defective.

"It's their responsibility to come, as DEP, to make sure their equipment is working," she said.

The new automated meter readers, which the city began installing in 2009 and most residences and businesses now have, are intended to give DEP and customers real-time information about water usage and eliminate the need to send a department official to physically read the meters.

"The automated meter readers have saved our customers millions of dollars by providing them access in real time to their water consumption and notify them when they're using a higher than normal amount of water," the DEP official said.

Reach reporter Karen Frantz by e-mail at kfrantz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538.

Hopefuls

Continued from Page 9

district, which in this case is only about 4 square miles in area.

In fact, many of the donations in the current filing came from the greater Flushing area, though those donors will not be represented by whoever

wins.

Going back to the 2008 and 2010 Assembly races, candidates typically collected about half their money from outside the district, according to the institute's database, which tracked about 80 percent of the candidates' donations.

On the expenditure side, Myungsuk Lee hired Cottage Consulting, which

is run by former Republican Councilman Dennis Gallagher; Yen Chou hired Multi-Media, which is run by Queens Tribune publisher Michael Nussbaum; and Ron Kim is using The Parkside Group, the go-to consulting firm for the Queens Democratic Party, although the company did not show up in the expenditure list.

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NEW YORK POST PRESENTS

The 11th Annual

Our secret Samaritans

THE Olympics will decide the world's finest athletes, but when it comes to hometown heroes, there's no competition: New York has the best on the planet.

It's again time to salute our superstar neighbors with the 11th annual New York Post Liberty Medal awards, and we're inviting you, our readers, to tell us about those among us whose compassion and courage make this the most wonderful city on earth.

The Post is partnering with Fox 5 and getting an exuberant assist from quintessential New Yorker Regis Philbin, who has emceed the award ceremony for nine

consecutive years.

"I'll be there for this year's great stories from the people in this city who have done something to make you feel good about New York," said Philbin. "There are so many things like that going on in this town. If you know somebody who does good things, let us know; we want to say thanks and tell them how important they are to all of us."

You'll find it easy to nominate someone. Just log on to nypost.com/libertymedals and submit nominations in the eight categories outlined below: Leadership, Courage, Lifetime Achievement, Young Heart, Freedom and one each for the city's teach-

ers, cops and firefighters.

Just tell us in 100 words or less why your nominee deserves to be the toast of the town. You may nominate only living people. And please nominate as many heroes as you like.

A panel of notable New Yorkers, including NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly, FDNY Commissioner Salvatore Cassano and Lew Leone, vice president and general manager of WNYW-Fox5 and WWOR-My 9, will choose from among the nominees in each category to determine the winners, who will be honored by The Post on Oct. 17.

Each winner will receive a medal engraved with Lady Liberty's torch and specially designed for The Post by New York graphic artist Milton Glaser, who created the iconic "I ♥ New York" logo.



Liberty Medal Awards

2012 LIBERTY MEDAL CATEGORIES

- **Leadership Medal**
For a compassionate, disciplined person whose activities during the past year most improved the quality of life in a borough or neighborhood.
- **Freedom Medal**
For an immigrant New Yorker who best embodies the values of honesty, industriousness and hard-earned success, or a New Yorker who reflects the finest qualities of New York to the world.
- **New York's Bravest Medal**
For the firefighter or EMS technician whose performance in the line of duty best exemplifies the department's unflinching heroism; to be selected in consultation with the FDNY.
- **New York's Finest Medal**
For the police officer whose on-the-job performance reflects the department's honor and selflessness; to be selected in consultation with the NYPD and the Port Authority Police Department.
- **Courage Medal**
For a notable act of bravery by a civilian that contributed to saving human life.
- **Educator Medal**
For an administrator or teacher who excels at preparing the next generation of New Yorkers for their future challenges.
- **Young Heart Medal**
For the youth under 17 who most impressively displayed adult resolve — not for a physical feat but for behavior that demonstrates moral character or mature judgment — in the past year.
- **Lifetime Achievement Medal**
For the individual whose accomplishments reflect the very best of our city.

How to Nominate Your Hero for a New York Post Liberty Medal®

Go to nypost.com/libertymedals

- 1 **Fill out** a nomination form and tell us in 100 words or less about an outstanding New Yorker who you feel deserves to be recognized. Before submitting your nomination, please identify the category for which your candidate is nominated.
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For nomination rules, go to www.nypost.com/promotions.
- 3 **Or fax** your completed nomination form to: (212) 997-9272

Faxed and online entries must be received by 5 p.m. E.D.T. on 9/14/12. Mailed entries must be postmarked by 9/14/12 and received by 9/18/12. Incomplete forms/entries will be disqualified.

Business

Little Neck music school keeps a steady beat

Long Island Drum Center offers one-on-one training and creates lifelong bonds with pupils, alumni

BY PHIL CORSO

With an ear-to-ear grin, a drum student walked out of his rehearsal room inside the Long Island Drum Center in Little Neck at the end of his lesson. Store owner Tony Fabiano then dropped what he was doing to walk the boy outside so he did not have to find his ride home alone.

"This is a family-friendly operation," Fabiano said. "There is hope for the world as long as kids want to learn to play the drums properly."

That is the approach Fabiano said the Little Neck mainstay has employed through its more than 30-year history in Queens.

The Long Island Drum Center, at 252-10 Northern Blvd. in Little Neck, provides private lessons for drums, guitar, bass and keyboard with the utmost attention given to the details of the craft. By focusing on the education aspect of the music, Fabiano and his staff of instructors said the goal was to teach students to give the instruments the dignity they deserved.

Drum instructor Brendan O'Hanlon started out at the Drum Center in the 1980s as a student. Since then, he said, he never left.

"There is not a day I am not here," he said.



Store owner Tony Fabiano (c.) boasts more than 140 years of combined musical experience across his staff of dedicated instructors at the Long Island Drum Center in Little Neck.

Photo by Phil Corso

And he was not the only one to become a lifelong lover of the Long Island Drum Center in Little Neck. Over the roughly 30 years he owned the store, Fabiano said he eventually got to a point where he was doing business with the children of the former children he used to work with years ago.

"We have developed sort of a

mini empire here," Fabiano said. "I like to call it the mom and pop candy store of the drums."

Ed DiCapua, director of drum studies, said the instructors approach giving lessons as more than a job, but a preservation of a practice. Almost 100 different students of different skill sets as young as three and as old

as their mid-60s pass through the store each week for their one-on-one training sessions from Fabiano's lifelong and experienced musicians.

"This is a labor of love for all of us," DiCapua said. "Music lessons are an elective and are always the first to go. We try to make the music language some-

thing students can become literate to."

Beyond the educational aspect of business, the first steps inside the Long Island Drum Center also unveil stacks of drums, piles of cymbals and shelves of sticks for any local drum junkie. Fabiano and his staff use their combined 140 years of drumming experience to point shoppers in the right direction in testing out new gear while also working to repair and service used equipment.

It is a unique offering of teaching services, Fabiano said, unlike any other music shops around the area. Though there is a similar family operation in the Original Long Island Drum Center in Plainview, N.Y., the Little Neck instructors said aspiring musicians in Queens could not find their style of teaching anywhere else in the five boroughs.

"We don't make the rules, we just abide by them," DiCapua said.

The Long Island Drum Center in Little Neck is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Neuroscience Institute Advisory Board — Meeting to be held in west wing, conference room A W502 on the fifth floor of the new building.
When: Sept. 4, 8:30 am
Where: New York Hospital Queens, 56-45 Main St., Flushing

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

Man dies after club dispute ends in Ozone Park shooting

BY KAREN FRANTZ

A man who was shot and killed early Monday morning after an altercation outside an Ozone Park night club has been identified as Boutin Williams, of Rockaway Beach, and police are asking the public's help in identifying a suspect.

Police got a call at about 3:30 a.m. Aug. 27 that the 22-year-old black male was shot on 80th Street and Rockaway Boulevard, authorities said, near the club Flirt, where witnesses said the victim was fighting with several other individuals. Williams was shot in the back, according to police and the city medical examiner's office.

A man who did not want to give his name was watching from a convenience store as police put up

crime tape at the scene. He said he spoke with a Flirt employee soon after the incident who said the victim and two or three other men were "talking trash" and fighting inside the club before getting kicked out by a bouncer.

"Once they got out of the club, they were fighting outside," the man said. "And I guess one guy got p---ed off enough, went back to his car or wherever, grabbed his gun and just shot the guy."

He said he lives a few blocks away from the club and heard about four or five shots fired.

"There was a pop, and then there was a pop, pop, pop, pop after that. Then that was it," he said.

But the manager of Flirt, who also did not give his name, said there was no fighting inside the club

and the venue had just closed around the time of the shooting. He said he was not sure whether Williams was ever inside the club and he had not heard the gunshots.

The victim's friends put Williams in a car to drive him to a hospital and were pulled over by a patrol car after running several red lights, police said. EMS pronounced him dead at the scene, authorities said.

The man who was looking at the scene from the convenience store said he felt nervous after the incident but not surprised that it had happened.

"There's more guns in this neighborhood alone than probably God knows where else," he said. "It's just so easy to get the access to the guns it's not even funny."



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*There will be Session 1 Registration for September-December.
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If you have any questions please contact Ms. Lisa at
teamxhilaration@aol.com or call (718)932-3926



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The US Open kicked off with a ceremony Monday evening. (Above, clockwise from top l.) member of Black Violin wave to the crowd; Fireworks cap the opening night; singer Jordin Sparks performs; Kim Clijsters swings her racket; Roger Federer jumps; and actor Alec Baldwin walks the red carpet with wife Hilaria Thomas.

Photos by Christina Santucci

US Open

Thousands (below) packed the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Saturday for Arthur Ashe Kids' Day. Players (l.-r.) Kim Clijsters, Andy Roddick, Serena Williams and Roger Federer cheer for Taylor McKnight, who competed against them for charity; and singer Carly Rae Jepsen performs her hit, "Call Me Maybe."

Photos by Christina Santucci



Sports

Holy Cross football readies for big year

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Holy Cross Coach Tom Pugh hopes a year older means a year wiser for his football team. The Knights were littered with talented sophomores last season, but injuries and inconsistent play sent them into a late slide they never recovered from.

"We are expecting to be a little more seasoned," Pugh said.

Second-year captain Juwan Wilson, a linebacker, said the Knights losing four of their last five games and finishing 4-6 was the talk of the offseason in the weight room. It centered around last year being unacceptable, that it was something Holy Cross football isn't about.

"As seniors, our big thing is we need to finish," he said.

There are plenty of reasons to be optimistic with nine starters back on defense and a stable of running backs to work with new quarterback Michael Loprete behind a veteran offensive line. Pugh described the 5-foot-11 senior, who takes over for Yianni Gavalas, as a tough runner with a big left arm and sound command of the offense.

"He waited his turn," running back/linebacker Jordan Francklin said of Loprete. "He knows what he is doing. I am really confident in him."

The Knights could feature as many as four different ball carriers, despite graduating standout Shyheim Wingate. The group

starts with bruising back Brandon Pelzer, continues with Terrell Hinton, Brian Contino and the explosive Francklin. The balance will keep any one player from having to shoulder the bulk of the running duties and allow Cross to vary its running style.

"We have speed, but we got to use it," Pugh said. "We have to get the kid outside."

They are joined by returning wide receivers Lekeith Celestain, Anthony DiPasquale and Brandon Jackson, who could be a breakout star, Pugh said. Receiver and defensive back Joshua Wallace will not be playing this year as he chose to focus on basketball. Jordan Pagan, Christian Hallerdin and Stefan Harrington all return on the offensive line along with newcomer Kevin Walsh.

The unit that Pugh
Continued on Page 55



Michael Loprete takes over at quarterback for Holy Cross.

Photo by Priyanka Katumuluwa

Hurley a top leader at Prep

Coach Vince O'Connor says team has new quarterback's respect

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Vince O'Connor has a special feeling when it comes to quarterback Jack Hurley and it has nothing to do with what he can do on a football field.

The legendary St. Francis Prep coach's grandson, Dylan King, one of the team's captains, said that in the cafeteria Hurley will pick up papers that not only fall off his lunch table, but two and three tables away. At a practice last week, backup quarterback William Gluck was talked to by assistant Coach Patrick Keena about playing a little harder.

The 5-foot-9, 150-pound Hurley immediately pulled the junior over and said he should play like he is gunning for his job.

"The kids learn to respect that," O'Connor said. "That gives him a big dimension of strength as a leader."

Hurley is just happy to be able to get this opportunity under center after watching from the sidelines last season. He isn't the fastest on his feet, but O'Connor feels he can throw well enough to get all the Terriers offensive weapons involved. SFP will go back to its traditional belly power running attack after using the spread the last few years.

The speed begins at wide receiver with three-year starters Rhamel Joseph and Kadir Wisdom, and Joey Troina. Junior Justin Guerre, who runs a 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds, and Pierangelo Licata are



Jack Hurley, Terrence Stackpole, Coach Vince O'Connor, Dylan King and Joey Troina will try to lead St. Francis Prep back to the CHSFL Class AA playoffs.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

blazers in the backfield. Guerre led the junior varsity to within a point of the title game. Tight end Jason Jovic has preliminary interest from C.W. Post and Rutgers. Steven Wasserfall will be at center and be flanked by King, O'Connor's grandson and Sean Coffey, who are both close to 300 pounds, at the tackle spots.

"I feel like we're stronger on everything on offense," Hurley said. "The speed is a plus, obviously."

Terrance Stackpole, Kevin Brown and Rob Wright will anchor the linebackers. Shot put star Edward Arzooman is the

top returning defensive lineman, the versatile Joseph will start at safety and Michael Whitman will be at one of the corner spots.

This Terriers group is motivated by how last season ended, after moving down from the CHSFL Class AAA. They were kept out of the 'AA' playoffs despite a 4-3 record, thanks to a coin toss and three-way tie. The Terriers were upset by Bishop Ford, a team they beat during the regular season, in the Class A final.

"That's never happening again," Stackpole said.

It drove the players immediately into St. Francis prep's new weight-lift-

ing facility, named after O'Connor, immediately after the season ended. They ran and lifted like they had never before.

"As a whole, we kind of surprised the coaches," Joseph said. "They didn't know we were going to come out [like that]."

Now they finally get a chance to see how the hard work translates onto the football field and erase the memories of the disappointing finish.

"That coin toss was heartbreaking," Troina said. "We felt like we had something to prove. That's what we are coming with, something to prove."

Flushing stacks the line in hunt for playoff win

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

For all the success Flushing has enjoyed in the short time since Jim DeSantis resurrected the football program, there is still one mammoth hole in the program's list of accomplishments.

Zero playoff victories.

DeSantis isn't happy about it, and he's made sure his players are aware of the need to change the recent past. When DeSantis isn't happy with a certain drill, he'll remind his players of their recent postseason failures.

"We need to turn the corner," said the eighth-year coach, who has guided Flushing to the PSAL City Championship division playoffs all three years it has been in the league's highest level.

DeSantis sees promise to get over the postseason hump, led by arguably his best group of linemen yet. Senior Daryl Webster leads



Flushing is hungry to win its first PSAL City Championship division playoff game this fall.

Photo by Denis Gostev

Flushing in the trenches on both sides of the ball. The 6-foot-3, 315-pound mountain of a senior is an interior force and is joined by fellow two-way linemen Nick Prosper and Devin Harris. DeSantis said Webster dominated Kennedy's Francisco Mendez, voted an All-City offensive tackle, last year and got the better

of Beach Channel's UConn-bound lineman Folorunso Fatukasi at the High School Player Development camp this summer.

"He's the best defensive lineman and offensive lineman in the city, and nobody knows about him," DeSantis said. "Here we go again."

Webster, indeed, is fol-

lowing in the anxious footsteps of recent Flushing standouts Jay Bromley and Andrew King in terms of recruiting, or in their case lack thereof. Last year, he narrowly missed being named All-City on offense and defense, finishing behind players who graduated. Webster said he heard from Vanderbilt, Syracuse,

Duke, Rutgers, Illinois and Michigan early in the process, but nothing lately.

"Every day I think about college," he said. "I think I'm doing something wrong. I have to work harder. I have to dominate."

Webster and Flushing's other lineman will be key to the Red Devils' success on offense as playmakers King and quarterback Jason Gonzalez graduated. Schlonz Peterson will attempt to replace the workhorse King while Adam Singleton and Terrence Chavis are battling it out for the starting job under center.

The junior varsity quarterback last fall, Chavis is the better thrower and Singleton, ineligible a year ago, has shown the ability to make plays with his feet. Whoever gets the nod will have weapons in the speedy Peterson and dynamic junior slot receiver/tailback Deandre Ross-Lomax.

DeSantis would like to

settle on one of the two, and the player who wins the job, will determine Flushing's attack, whether it will be run or pass-heavy.

"If I had my druthers, I'd like to run the ball, but a mix of both is always good," DeSantis said. "We're up in the air of the direction we want to go in."

Lockdown cornerback Jevon Gooden returns to anchor the secondary and Peterson will lead a stout linebacker corps on the defensive side of things to form what DeSantis thinks should be a typical stingy unit. Again, the guys up front — namely Webster, Harris and Prosper — will be instrumental to the group's success.

DeSantis played down what playoff success means to the future of the program. He figured sending Bromley to Syracuse and King to Army would land him top talents, but his roster will be in the mid-30s, and he's still struggling with depth.

Fresh face brings renewed energy, spirit to CK football

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Christ the King's football players eased up, thinking Day 2 of practice was over.

Big mistake.

New Coach Tyree Allison wasn't happy with the way a few players finished up their springs.

"Again," he barked.

This time, nobody broke into a jog. As they gathered together, not everyone got on their knee — one player sat down.

Another mistake.

"Get up," the new Royals coach yelled. "We're running again."

A few players got on the teammate who extended practice.

Even bigger mistake.

"This is a valuable lesson," he seethed. "Don't blame the other guy — pick him up."

Such is life in Middle

Village, where Allison is the new sheriff, a demanding former NFL player who is attempting to resuscitate a dormant program previously run by Chris Higgins. The CK math teacher and former Hofstra star is trying to do so by remaking the program his way, holding players accountable for themselves and each other.

The team motto is "TBA" — trust, believe and accountability.

"The main thing is to get them mentally tough, get them to buy into the system," said Allison, 35, who has coached as an assistant coach at C.W. Post and Stony Brook on the collegiate level and at Long Island high schools West Hempstead and West Islip. "What I want these guys to realize is this is serious. We don't want to be the joke of the conference. We have to do things right."



Christ the King has high hopes under new Coach Tyree Allison.

Photo by Denis Gostev

The players have bought in. They responded to Allison with, "Yes, coach" and met all of his strict off-season weightlifting and training requirements, which Buffalo-bound running back James Coleman described as "college rules." The senior tailback, who was third in the CHSFL AA-A in total

offense with 2,108 yards to go along with 20 total touchdowns a year ago, said the overall feel at practice is different because of Allison. Every detail is harped upon, and the players don't mind because they know he's in their corner.

"If he's not out here teaching, he's in his office working on schemes or call-

ing a college coach about a kid," receiver/tight end Jordan Fuchs said. "He's always doing something for us. He knows how to get people motivated, he knows what to say and he's very intense."

Coleman said, "It's a big difference. Players connect with him. We see him as an idol, he knows what it takes."

Allison does have a lot of talent to work with, starting with Coleman and Fuchs, who is drawing tons of high-major interest from the likes of Rutgers, Connecticut, USC, Ohio State and Michigan after catching nine touchdowns last fall.

Quarterback Matt Gluick is back after missing plenty of time last fall due to injury. If the offensive line, led by senior offensive tackles Terrence Brown and Chris Banner

and sophomore center Rashawn Williams, can give him time, Allison expects the Royals to ring up plenty of points.

"The sky's the limit for these guys if they continue to take football serious," Allison said.

Coleman will anchor the Christ the King defense at secondary, while Brown, Williams and Banner will all be counted on up front and returning starters Josh Seaford, who led the division in tackles last season, and Frankie Dimaiolo will anchor the linebacker corps. Allison is high on Fuchs and Coleman's basketball teammate, Thomas Holley, a 6-foot-5, 280-pound defensive tackle new to the sport.

"He's definitely going to be a Division I prospect," Allison said. "UConn and Rutgers like him. He's the strongest kid on the team."

Acquisitions boost St. John's ahead of basketball training

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Chris Obekpa isn't making any predictions, but if summer workouts are any indication, St. John's University will be good this year, the shot-blocking machine said.

Between incoming forwards JaKarr Sampson of Brewster Academy (N.H.) and Orlando Sanchez of JUCO Monroe College, returning guards Phil Greene and D'Angelo Harrison and transfers Jamal Branch of Texas A&M and Harvard sharpshooter Max Hooper, the 6-foot-9 Obekpa has been impressed by his new basketball teammates.

"If we keep working hard, I think we're going to surprise the country," the former Our Savior New American standout told the New York Post. "Everybody is tough. I think we can do something great. It's a great

team and the coaches are behind us. They're doing a great job pushing us."

The 6-foot-9 Obekpa, who came to New York City from Nigeria two years ago and is known for his rebounding and shot-blocking, chose St. John's over Cincinnati, Oregon, Connecticut and Providence, and was recently cleared by the NCAA. He chose the Red Storm because of his comfort level with the coaching staff, notably head Coach Steve Lavin and lead recruiter Tony Chiles. Most of all, Obekpa opted for the Red Storm because it was close to home — his New York home, anyway.

Obekpa, scout.com's 19th-ranked center in the class of 2012, feels he's ready to contribute right away after a busy summer on the city's unlimited streetball circuit playing with the Sean Bell All-Stars. He won

a title with Coach Raheem "Rah" Wiggins' team at West 4th Street and played in the Tournament of Champions finals, losing to Sean Bell from Watson.

He went up against former college stars, guys playing professional overseas and even a few NBA players, like MarShon Brooks of the Brooklyn Nets and Tyreke Evans of the Sacramento Kings. He also crossed paths with several former St. John's players, like Paris Horne, Justin Burrell and Malik Boothe, who all gave him pointers on what to expect at the next level.

"It helped me prepare for the season," Obekpa said of playing streetball. "Most of these guys graduated from college or are pros. It's what I'm going to see."

Holy

Continued from Page 53

is the most excited about is his linebacking trio of Pelzer, Francklin and Wilson. He feels it could be the

best he's ever had at the position.

"They are our best three at one time," Pugh said.

He felt the unit's youth left them ill-equipped to deal with hardship last fall,

but they are prepared for it now after learning valuable lessons a season ago.

"Being young they didn't handle adversity," Pugh said. "This year they should."

St. John's falls behind Towson in Battle at the Bay

In the second and final day of the Battle at the Bay, St. John's picked up a pair of wins, sweeping Coppin State and defeating UMBC 3-1.

Sophomore Aleksandra Wachowicz, who led the team in kills in the women's volleyball tournament, and senior Sabina Piegza, who led in assists, received All-Tournament honors. Wachowicz had 38 kills in the four matches, including 16 against UMBC — a team-high for the season. Piegza, who led the team in assists in every contest, compiled 108 assists in the tournament, including a season-high 39 assists against UMBC.

Match One

The Red Storm defeated the Eagles 3-0 (25-17, 25-19, 25-12). All-time, St. John's is undefeated against Coppin State (0-3), sweeping them in all three meetings between the two programs.

Two freshmen led the attack against the Eagles as Karin Palgutova and Shawna-Lei Santos combined for 22 of the team's 43 kills. Palgutova had 12 kills and a .611 attacking percentage, both team highs for the match, and added three digs. Santos

notched 10 kills, picked up her first-career service ace and added six digs.

Match Two

The Red Storm defeated the Lady Retrievers 3-1 (25-20, 29-27, 23-25, 25-14). St. John's played UMBC (2-2) to three close sets before overwhelming the Lady Retrievers in the fourth.

The first set saw four lead changes and five tied scores before Wachowicz closed it out with a kill to win 25-20.

The Red Storm led for the majority of the second set, but the Lady Retrievers nipped at their heels, tying the score six times and extending the set beyond 25 points. St. John's collected two consecutive kills from Krstojevic and Piegza to win the set 29-27.

St. John's got off to a fast start in the third set, collecting the first five points, but UMBC rallied, tying the match 12 times before taking a late lead and winning it 25-23.

In the fourth and final set, the Red Storm led by as much as 15 points before closing out the match with a 25-14 victory.

Queens College soccer ranked sixth in preseason

Coming off a triumphant 2011 campaign in which they surprised their ECC rivals by reaching the conference playoffs, the Knights are looking to build on their success in 2012.

Although the team said farewell to eight talented veterans, the addition of 12 new recruits will help QC to continue forward-progress without missing a beat. This diverse group of new players — local, international, freshman and transfer — will cover all positions, adding both depth and new energy to the squad.

Team captain and All-American Danny Stoker will lead the new-look Knights along with returning juniors Metri Abdul-Karim and Tyler Iocco.

The Knights hope the combination of veteran experience and incoming talent will be the formula needed to reach the national tournament for the first time in the program's history.

2012 ECC Men's Soccer Preseason Poll

1. LIU Post (7)*
2. NYIT (2)
3. Bridgeport
4. Dowling
5. St. Thomas Aquinas (1)
6. Queens
7. District of Columbia
8. Molloy
9. Mercy
10. Roberts Wesleyan

*“()” denotes first place votes

SPORTS

Easy #79								
5	8	9	4	1	7	3	2	6
3	2	4	8	5	6	9	7	1
6	7	1	2	3	9	8	5	4
4	6	7	1	2	3	5	8	9
8	1	3	7	9	5	6	4	2
2	9	5	6	4	8	7	1	3
1	5	6	9	7	4	2	3	8
9	3	2	5	8	1	4	6	7
7	4	8	3	6	2	1	9	5

Week 35

Hard #79								
9	4	5	2	8	7	1	6	3
8	6	2	3	1	9	7	5	4
1	3	7	6	4	5	8	2	9
2	7	4	9	5	3	6	8	1
5	9	1	4	6	8	2	3	7
6	8	3	1	7	2	9	4	5
7	2	9	8	3	4	5	1	6
3	1	8	5	9	6	4	7	2
4	5	6	7	2	1	3	9	8

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Chevy Runs Deep

Ulrich

Continued from Page 5

you have someone trying to make a difference, that should be our shared goal. If we can agree on something as Republicans, it's that we should want to get our own people elected."

Ulrich believes he will win the election based on the strength of his convictions and his straightforward approach. He backs raising the minimum wage and rent stabilization, while also supporting the city's stop-and-frisk program to curb gun violence.

As for the minimum wage, Ulrich said it is impossible to expect working-class people to raise a fam-

ily and pay bills with the current minimum wage of \$7.25. He said the high cost of living in the state coupled with high taxes make living on such wages close to impossible.

"We can debate what minimum wage should be and how often it should be increased, but I think given the fact that some of the states in the our region have higher wages already, maybe it's time for New York to look at raising ours," he said, adding that while not all small businesses are thrilled with this prospect, good businessmen would be able to adjust and plan accordingly. "This is the cost of doing business in New York."

Rent stabilization is an-

other topic Ulrich strongly favors, having voted twice in the Council to extend laws barring against raising rent of affordable housing across the city.

"I have seniors living in the Mitchell-Lama housing and the Dayton Towers in the Rockaways. I can't raise the rent on these people, they live on a fixed income," he said. "It comes down to helping people who are trying to make ends meet and letting them know that I'm going to be there for them and I'm not going to let the government reach into their pockets. It's not only about taxes, it's about helping people survive and helping them be able to afford to stay in the place they've lived for so long."

And Ulrich said he wants people to feel safe where they live. He believes the stop-and-frisk program has helped turn around many troubled neighborhoods throughout the city, but the biggest gun problems in New York are caused by laws on the books in other states, according to Ulrich.

"New York has some of the toughest gun laws in the country. The problem is with the laws in Virginia and South Carolina and Tennessee, where you can buy a gun and then 24 hours later drive over the Verrazano Bridge," he said. "I'm all in favor of fully enforcing the gun laws we have and making sure people who use illegal firearms go

to jail."

Ulrich also said he knows transportation is a major issue for his constituents, especially the need for a dedicated bus lane on Woodhaven and Cross Bay boulevards.

"It's a disgrace when the city Department of Transportation] comes in and puts in bike lanes where people don't want them, installs red light cameras, but when we ask them to put up a stop sign or a bus lane, it's like talking to yourself," he said.

When addressing his possible opponent on Election Day, the councilman said Addabbo has not done enough to ensure Resorts World Casino in South Ozone Park has done

enough local hiring. The casino giant's contract promised 70 percent of its workforce would come from local hires — as it stands now, the casino has fallen short of that promise.

"Having a racino in his district has been beneficial to some, but not as many as they promised," he said. "You can't say they are pushing to hire more people from Howard Beach or Ozone Park, because the numbers show they are not. And my idea of creating jobs is not fixing a slot machine for \$7 an hour. That's not what creating jobs is all about, but that's what Joe Addabbo wants to run on."

Council

Continued from Page 4

commission is supposed to adjust the lines.

One of those guidelines states that the commission should try and keep communities of interest together.

The Baisley Houses are a set of five eight-story buildings that accommodate more than 1,000 people, according to the New York City Housing Authority. They are at 116-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. in Jamaica.

The boulevard bisects the housing complex, and the west half is represented by Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) and the east half is represented by Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans).

"One side doesn't come

to the other side," Hogan said.

Neither Comrie nor Wills could be reached by press time for comment.

But the hearing, which ran for hours, was an opportunity for advocates from across the borough to speak.

Representatives from Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park, neighborhoods historically carved into several districts on both the city and state level, were out in force to advocate for better representation.

A Richmond Hill group even made T-shirts calling for different lines.

"We consider Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park to be a single community of interest, and currently voters there are divided and thus diluted among four elected officials. This area should be

united within a single City Council district and thus given meaningful representation," said James Hong, speaking on behalf of the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy, which advocates for voting rights for various Asian communities throughout the city.

The coalition, which explained the rapid Asian population growth in Queens, also urged a shift in districts covering Bay-side, Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Woodside.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, another voter advocacy group, will be drawing up its own vision of how the lines should be drawn called the Unity Maps.

consuming. The question really is can Sen. Huntley effectively profess her innocence while also effectively representing the new 10th Senatorial District," he said.

"At the very least, it would be irresponsible to continue with her candidacy until she's found innocent," he added.

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

Taxis

Continued from Page 5

trical power sources. The vehicles produce no direct exhaust or emissions, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The city's comprehensive sustainability plan, PlaNYC, released a report in January 2010 entitled "Exploring Electric Vehicle Adoption in New York City," which developed a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by 30 percent from 2005 levels. According to the report, the goal would cut transportation emissions, which make up 22 percent

of the entire city's emissions, by 44 percent.

"Electric vehicles could provide a significant reduction in fuel usage, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and local air pollution compared to conventional gasoline-powered vehicles," the report said. "Electric vehicles do not emit harmful pollutants from the tailpipe that can exacerbate respiratory illness."

In November 2011, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the arrival of zero-emission vehicle manufacturer Smith Electric Vehicles in New York, bringing in more than 100 new jobs. The manufacturer, which

moved into a building in the Bronx, received a package of state and city incentives valued at more than \$6 million to supplement the company's private investment, Cuomo said.

And to keep the momentum driving toward a more electric traffic flow, Weprin and Vacca said their bill would expand on the TLC's current program, which already incorporates certain hybrid vehicles.

"The potential to reduce vehicle emissions and other pollutants through increased electric vehicle use could have a major impact on air quality throughout the city," Vacca said.

US Open

Continued from Page 4

trek.

But it was a rare success for the day.

Most people wanted to go back to Manhattan or New Jersey, he said, but Bornstein cited hotel rooms filled to capacity in neighborhoods around the complex as a sign that travelers are coming around to Queens.

There were also plenty of good food and drink options within the walls of the tennis center.

It is rare to be at a

sporting event and see people walking by with champagne flutes, but that is exactly what Tolly Riaz, a tennis pro who used to work at the Douglaston Club, was doing.

Riaz is originally from Pakistan and loves the sport because it unites the entire world, regardless of political or ethnic differences.

He recalled one of his players, also from Pakistan, went on to a US Open doubles final with a partner from India, a partnership that would be unheard of in the diplomatic world.

"Sport brings people together," he said, standing

amid a crowd from all over the world.

Mauricio Cano came all the way from Colombia to attend the open, and he did not leave empty-handed.

After Sharapova's win, she lobbed a series of signed tennis balls into the audience.

"I was shouting in Spanish, 'Maria, over here!'" he said.

Though Sharapova is Russian, she nevertheless hit one his way.

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

Huntley

Continued from Page 4

culties of a mounting legal defense."

"This is why today with great regret I am calling on Sen. Shirley Huntley to take the high road. Step aside so that a new voice can take over and you can deal with the legal problems that you're dealing with," he added.

Earlier this month,

Sanders received the endorsement of the politically influential the Rev. Floyd Flake. The councilman said "character" was one of the main things Flake looked at when he gave his backing.

"His decision was verified yesterday," Sanders said.

In a phone interview, Jones said it would be best for Huntley to step down from her office.

"The charges are serious and will be time-

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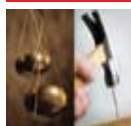
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721 LOGISTICS LLC, Authority filed with the SSNY on 05/25/2012. Office location: Queens County, LLC formed in NJ on 02/09/2011. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 300 Stevens Dr., Ste 105, Lester, PA 19113. Principal office: 300 Stevens Dr., Ste 105, Lester, PA 19113. Cert of Formation filed with NJ Sec of State, P.O. Box 002, Trenton NJ 08625. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

HUNTER POINT INVESTORS, LLC, a domestic LLC currently known as HUNTERS POINT INVESTORS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/25/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Spizz & Cooper, LLP, 114 Old Country Rd., Ste. 644, Mineola, NY 11501. General Purposes.

NOTICE OF FORMATION, Dragon House Creative, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/27/2012. Office location: QUEENS. SSNY designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copies of any process served against the LLC to c/o: Dragon House Creative LLC, 4106 50th Street, Ste. 2B Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

Notice of Formation of 162ND HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/6/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 12-40 Clintonville Street, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: 107-02 REALTY LLC Articles of Organization filed by the Department of State of New York on: 10/27/2011. Office location: County of Queens. Purpose: any and all lawful activities. Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 55 Watermill Lane, Suite 200 Great Neck, NY 11021.

Notice of formation of Sun's Family Group LLC, a limited liability company. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/02/2012. Office located in Queens County. SSNY had been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to c/o THE LLC, 69-20 226th Street, Oakland Gardens, NY 11364. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: JG79, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/26/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 136-40 39th Avenue, Suite 402, Flushing, New York 11354. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: COMPREHENSIVE DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT AND GERIATRIC CONSULTING LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/06/2012. 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 224-09 145 ROAD QUEENS, NY 11413. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: BARE STREET LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/19/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 22-53 24th Street, Astoria, New York 11105. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of The Jackson House LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 7/2/12. Office location: Queens County. Sec. of State designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business addr.: 35-16 89th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION, Sector Ready LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/21/2012. Office location: QUEENS. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail copies of any process served against the LLC to c/o: Sector Ready, 329 Beach 92 Street, Rockaway Beach, NY 11693. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

ONCE UPON A CUPCAKE NYC LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 6/25/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail

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process to: The LLC, 49-15 217th St., Bayside, NY 11364. General Purposes.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of professional limited liability company (PLLC). Name: TWO4DESIGN ARCHITECTURE PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/29/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC, 7507 64th Pl., Glendale, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANGUILLA CIRCUIT (DIVORCE) A.D. 2012 Suit No. AXA HMT 2011/0014 BETWEEN MINGZHU CEN NG Petitioner AND KWOKCHOY NG Respondent TO: KWOKCHOY NG last heard of an address in New York, U.S.A. NOTICE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Divorce has been filed in the High Court by MINGZHU CEN NG of Rock Farm, Anguilla, British West Indies. Subsequent Order for Substituted Service by publication in a newspaper gives you 28 (twenty eight) days in which to enter an appearance to the Suit. For further information you may contact Hodge's Law Office, The Valley, Anguilla, B.W.I at Tel: 1-264-497-3793; fax 1-264-497-0839; email: (Solicitors for the Petitioner or officials at the Divorce Registry, The High Court, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies at Tel: 264-497-3347 or Fax 264-497-5420 HODGE'S LAW OFFICE Solicitors for the Petitioner

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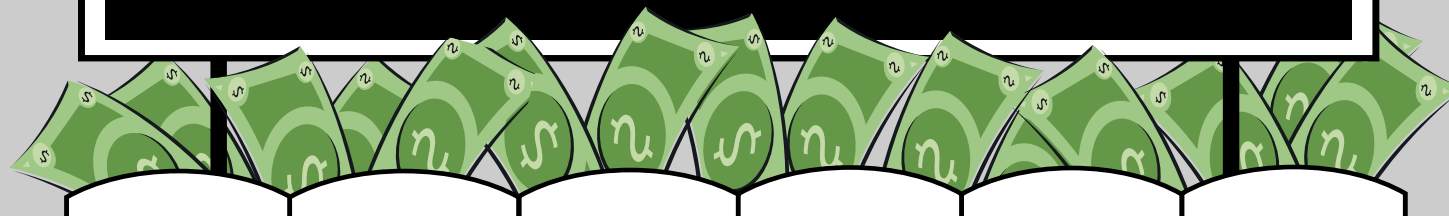
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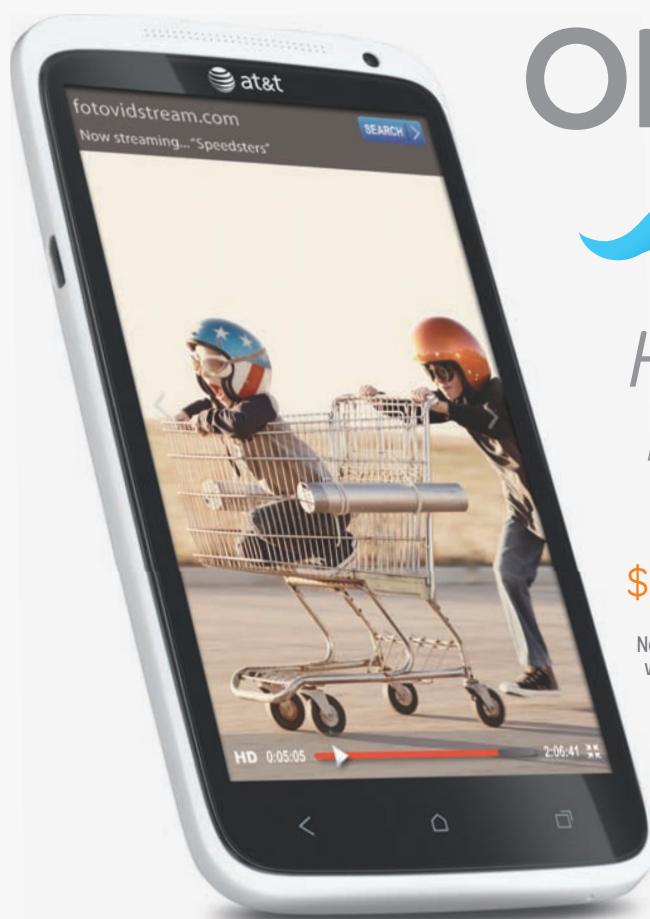
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