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THE NEWSPAPER OF BAYSIDE

Bayside pub crawl raises funds for Sandy victims

Pages 7, 16



produce BID's winter banners

BY PHIL CORSO

New holiday banners will soon beautify the businesses along Bell Boulevard, courtesy of the students of Bayside High School.

In collaboration with the Bayside Business Association, the Bayside Village Business Improvement District has been working directly with area high school students to implement the new banner program, made possible by the school's own design service, Bayside Creative.

Cheryl Steinberg, an art director and work-based learning coordinator at Bayside High School, has served as chief executive officer of the in-house company, guiding students through the ins and outs of the design business as part of just one of the school's several career and technical education programs.

"The goal here is to train the students for entry-level positions," Steinberg said. "Coming out of these programs, the students are much better informed and get a jump in the industries they are passionate about."

Beyond their classroom education, students participating in the CTE programs receive internships that partner with area businesses and groups, such as the Bayside BID, to connect aca-

Continued on Page 17

Bayside students | DOE locks out community groups

Co-op owners barred from meeting in public schools, open only to nonprofits

BY PHIL CORSO

Unless they are nonprofits, groups looking to use the city's public schools have been told to back off by the city Department of Education, community leaders in

Queens said this week.

Bob Friedrich, the Presidents Co-op and Condo Council co-president and Glen Oaks Village president, said he received a letter from the DOE about a co-op meeting he was scheduling at a local school in the middle of November

In the letter. Friedrich said the DOE told him he could not use public schools to hold meetings unless his group changes its status to nonprofit or confers

with the DOE as to why they were meeting and whether or not it served a public purpose.

The co-op president said he hoped city legislation could overturn the policy as he had never

Continued on Page 17

Wave of Blue



PS 203 students wave ribbons during a musical revue, entitled "There Ain't Nothin' Like Our School!", performed to celebrate the Oakland Gardens' school's designation as a National Blue Ribbon School. See story on Page 5. Photo by Christina Santucci

Bloomberg visits Alley Pond

Mayor thanks city workers for cleaning up park after Sandy's wrath

BY PHIL CORSO

Sharmin Derrick grabbed her cellphone to snap a photo when Mayor Michael Bloomberg reached out to shake her hand, thanking her and several other city Parks Department workers who helped clean up after Hurricane Sandy.

"This park looked crazy after the storm," said Derrick, who traveled to Alley Pond Park from Brooklyn over the last six months to maintain the landscape. "There was a lot of work to do and it feels amazing to have the mayor say thanks."

Derrick said crews were working hard at Alley Pond Park before the storm to prepare for the high winds by pruning loose branches and securing trees that might have fallen. And by Sandy's departure, she said crews worked around the clock to make the park safe for everyone.

Bloomberg made a quick visit to the Oakland Gardens section of Alley Pond Park Friday to show his appreciation for those who worked to restore one of the hardest hit city parks in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

"Mother Nature is tough," Bloomberg told a crew of city Sanitation De-



The mayor shakes hands with city Parks and Sanitation workers at Alley Pond Park to say thanks for their work after Hurricane Sandy. Photo by Phil Corso

partment and Parks workers, who lined up at the park to shake his hand during his visit. "Thank you for taking care of it."

His appearance came amid the sounds of chain saws pruning damaged trees and workers spreading fresh wood chips across the park. According to a spokesman for Parks, the eastern Queens park had some of the worst effects of Sandy with roughly 200 downed trees out of the 5,000 trees toppled in all city parks.

Parks Commissioner Veronica White toured the grounds alongside the mayor, pointing to uprooted trees in the aftermath of the storm. As they walked through the park, workers were buzzing around them as they serviced the park.

According to White, the city recorded 12,000 downed trees on city streets and about 5,000 throughout the city's 29 acres of park property. After surveying the progress at the park, Bloomberg spoke about the future possibility of storms such as Sandy surging through Queens again.

"This kind of storm is very unlikely," Bloomberg said, citing the perfect combination of Sandy's position and timing during a full moon, which increased storm surge. "But we are likely to have more storms, more draughts. The climate is changing."

But looking forward, the mayor said he was cautious about committing substantial amounts of investment into bulking up

Continued on Page 16

Glendale car group delights St. Mary's

BY STEVE MOSCO

Shining chrome and roaring engines signaled the beginning of the holiday season for some excited children in Bayside.

The East Coast Car Association rolled its collection of classic cars into the front of St. Mary's Health Care System for Children Nov. 18, delivering goodwill, a day outside and gifts galore to the hospital's throngs of youngsters.

"This kicks off the holiday season for us," said Angela Sculti, director of community relations for the hospital, at 29-01 216th St. "It is so wonderful to see such active generosity by the community and to see that in the kids' excitement is especially wonderful."

In its 14th annual visit to the children's hospital,

the Glendale-based ECCA also donated \$9,000 toward the hospital's new music room, a musical healing environment in St. Mary's new Patient Pavilion, which opened in early October.

"All of the programs and the building itself are designed to help the healing process," said Leslie Johnson, director of communications at St. Mary's. "Music and musical therapy is vital to the healing process. It helps children express themselves and cope with their condition. And it's fun."

The children had most of the fun during ECCA's toy delivery as they checked out the classic cars. Mike Bilski, of the ECCA and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7336. said all the children were

Continued on Page 16



St.Mary's children welcome the East Coast Car Association with holiday to the contract of thsmiles. Photo courtesy St. Mary's Health Care System for Children

IN THIS ISSUE Police Blotter 10 Editorials & Letters......12-13 QGuide......51-60 Sports......65-67 Political Action14 Holiday Gift Guide......35-42

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Oakland Gardens' PS 203 earns Blue Ribbon honors

School among five in New York City selected for high achievement by U.S. Dept. of Education

BY PHIL CORSO

On the wall inside the lobby of the Oakland Gardens School, a vibrant display of blue outlined why students at PS 203 think their school deserved its classification as a National Blue Ribbon School.

"Our teachers are very bestowed and dedicated to children's education," said fifth-grader Vishnu Kumar. "Being part of PS 203 makes me feel ebullient and jovial."

Kumar's advanced use of vocabulary offered a glimpse as to why the Oakland Gardens School filled up its auditorium last Thursday to celebrate its classification as one of the five Blue Ribbon schools in New York City. Students at the school put on an elaborate musical and theatrical performance, packed with bluethemed songs and dances to songs such as "Blue Moon" and "Blue Suede Shoes" to an audience full of school and city officials as well



Students take the stage during the musical revue, "There Ain't Nothin' Like Our School!" Photo by Christina Santucci

as their peers.

The National Blue Ribbon Award honors both public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at high levels or where significant improvements are made in student achievement. In the award's 30-year history, the honor has been bestowed upon more than 7,000 schools throughout the country.

"This is a team effort," city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott told the packed room to open up the celebration ceremony. "It's not just the principal, not just the teachers, not just the parent coordinators, not just the students and not just the parents. It's all these people who helped win this prestigious award."

The school's dedication to the arts was on full display in the ceremony's opening performance in which students and faculty members sang songs and acted out scenes to explain the significance of the award.

Principal Carole Nussbaum, who has led PS 203 for about two decades, said she could not be more proud to be at the helm of the school, which was one of only 269 schools nationwide to receive the Blue Ribbon distinction for overall excellence in 2012.

"Our school won this award because we performed at a very high level," Nussbaum said. "We will continue to work hard to be a school of excellence."

Only one other school in

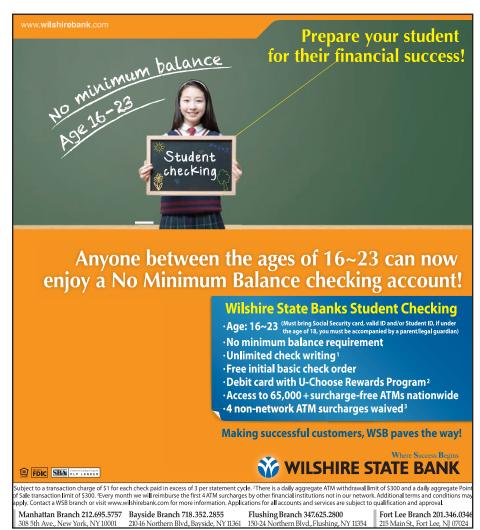
Queens received the distinction this year in nearby Floral Park, where small PS 191 also celebrated its new blue status,

Joining in on the celebrations were several political figures, including city Comptroller John Liu, City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) and state Sens. Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing) and Tony Avella (D-Bayside).

Liu, who also attended PS 203 as a boy and graduated as the school's valedictorian, said it was a great day for the students, parents and staff.

"To be nationally recognized is no small feat and they deserve every ounce of congratulations," Liu said. "This shows what our schools in New York City are capable of."

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





⁶ City Council lines redrawn

Districting commission takes second look at Flushing's Mitchell-Linden

BY JOE ANUTA

In a feat of legal gymnastics, the commission in charge of redrawing the City Council districts Tuesday took back its supposed final version to make further changes and reunited Flushing's Mitchell-Linden co-op and condo complex into the same district.

The 15-member commission is mandated by the City Charter to redraw the lines every decade in response to population changes identified by the U.S. census. In mid-November, it had completed its task and sent a final draft of the lines to the Council.

But those lines drew outrage from civics in Queens and across the city for splitting several communities, like Mitchell-Linden, and specifically tailoring a district to include the home of embattled state Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Brooklyn) in the Council seat he is eyeing next year.

Changes to the Brooklyn seat and the splitting of Mitchell-Linden were



The City Districting Committee convenes to withdraw maps previously submitted to the City Council. Photo by Joe Anuta

reversed Tuesday by the commission, which did not formally adopt the new districts but included them in maps that will be presented to the public for a third round of public hearings.

"These are the changes that the commission was asked to adopt," said Carl Hum, executive director for the New York Districting Commission.

had Hum TimesLedger Newspapers in November that after the group released its final version of the maps Nov. 16, he thought the Charter required that the maps move to the Council for review. In other words, he believed there was no time to hold another round of public hearings despite a sharp public backlash.

Along with the lines, the commission also submitted a letter to the Council indicating a further round of public hearings would have been desirable.

According to Hum, the commission then contacted the city Law Department to see if there was any wiggle room in the Charter allowing them to take back the maps. Hum said that process had nothing to do with a letter he received from Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) also requesting a new version in response to anger over the lines.

On Tuesday morning, the commission voted to formally withdraw its maps from the Council, hold public hearings over the next several weeks and have new maps by late January for the Council's consider-

But former state Sen. Frank Padavan took umbrage with Tuesday morning's decision, abstaining

Continued on Page 64

Civic Virtue statue heads to Brooklyn

BY STEVE MOSCO

While the borough was cleaning up after Hurricane Sandy, a city agency approved a resolution to send a much-maligned statue packing to Brooklyn.

"The Triumph of Civic Virtue," a statue looming large near Borough Hall in Kew Gardens, is heading for its final resting place at Green-Wood Cemetery, where descendants of the statue's sculptor, Frederick MacMonnies, are buried.

The statue, depicting a nude man personifying civic virtue standing over the two sisters of vice and corruption, has stood outside Borough Hall since the 1940s after Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia moved it from City Hall, where it supposedly offended him.

Criticism of the statue from the LaGuardia days crossed the river right along with it, as former Borough President Claire Shulman tried to get it moved and former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner called the statue "offensive" to women — prior to his sexting scandal.

Borough President Helen Marshall's office confirmed the city Public Design Commission approved the relocation of the statue and said the space will now honor women.

President "Borough Marshall is pleased that the statue will be restored and will work to see that the base of the statue, which will remain here, will be transformed into a public sitting area with benches and landscaping," said the spokesman. "She would also like the public area to pay tribute to outstanding women who have made a significant contribution to our borough and city."

But not everyone is so quick to applaud the relocation of the stone carving. City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) said the authorization to move the statue was done in secret, and he believes there should be time for public comment.

"This is a historically significant statue and the only one of its kind that I know of," he said. "It's an allegory for virtue triumphing over vice and corruption — a message that we need today."

The councilman, who has two daughters, said he does not believe the statue debases women and said "if you think this is anti-woman, then there are lots of other statues out there that you must oppose."

Vallone has been outspoken about this statue in the past and said he has never heard from any residents who are offended by the statue and believe it should be moved.

Continued on Page 20

Smith splits to work with Senate GOP BY RICH BOCKMANN

State Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-St. Albans), who earlier this year tested the waters for a Republican nomination in next year's mayoral race, will break from the Democratic Party to work with the GOP when the Senate reconvenes in January.

At stake is control of the state Senate, where Democrats appear to have won a majority of the seats in the November election. But Smith's decision to join Republicans in a powersharing arrangement will prevent the Democrats from exercising their clout as the party with the most members in the upper house.

Two years ago our Democratic senators, led by Bronx Sen. Jeffrey Klein, broke from their party to form the Independent Democratic Conference and caucus with the Republi-



State Sen. Malcolm Smith plans to caucus with the Independent Democrats, who will share power with Senate Republicans.

cans.

On Tuesday, the Republicans and the IDC announced a new partnership in which the two conferences will share power in the new legislative session.

In a statement issued by both

conferences, Smith said he was joining the IDC in the name of bipartisan-

"Our state's biggest issues are too important to address on a narrowly focused, partisan basis," Smith said. "Over the past two years, Sen. Klein and his colleagues in the IDC have shown that they're driven by policy, not politics. They have delivered on an impressive bipartisan agenda, have stayed true to their Democratic principles and have laid the groundwork for an historic bipartisan model of governing."

In August, Smith met with the five county Republican chairs in New York City to discuss running for mayor on the GOP ticket. Because he is a registered Democrat. Smith would need the endorsement of three out of five county chairs.

Smith is no stranger to shifting Continued on Page 64



"Triumph of Civic Virtue" is on its way to Brooklyn after the city authorized its move. Photo by Christina Santucci

Rockaway bears deep scars from Sandy

Communities along Queens peninsula continue healing process following last month's hurricane

BY STEVE MOSCO

The Rockaway community still waits for its share of federal aid after Mayor Michael Bloomberg visited Washington, D.C., last week to lobby for relief funds. Bloomberg said he met leaders from both houses of Congress and both parties to describe the recovery efforts and explain why the city needs \$9.8 billion, backing Gov. Andrew Cuomo's request for \$42 billion in federal relief aid for the state.

"Our reception was very good — everyone we talked to understands the severity of the hurricane damage and the need to help," the mayor said.

While Bloomberg said the reception in Washington was good, the same could not be said for the

mayor's reception on a Rockaway beach Sunday, when close to 300 residents and activists rallied on the sand near Beach 86th Street to declare their opposition to the mayor's statement that he wants all boardwalks in the Rockaways rebuilt with concrete.

Residents, including John Cori, co-founder of Friends of Rockaway Beach, believe rock jetties helped to stave off complete devastation.

As conditions in Rockaway changed from the storm, so did the lives of the peninsula's pets. A clinic in Far Rockaway was knocked temporarily out of commission with minor damages, but was restored within days.

"There was a lot of devastation," said Dr. John Charos, chief operating of-



A kitchen sink and cabinet dangle above the sand in a damaged home on the beach in Belle Harbor.

ficer of CVA and lead coordinator for the New York City Veterinary Emergency Response Team and Animal Planning Task Force. "There is a lot of need out there and we have taken a lot of animals in since the storm "

The group has been providing relief in hard-hit areas, including the Rockaways, where Charos said some residents were taking in animals who would have otherwise been left stranded or needed to be put to sleep.

"The community there phenomenal," Charos said. "Everyone is working together."

Residents in Rockaway neighborhoods wrecked by the storm are also dealing with sinkholes. A large sinkhole appeared on Beach

Continued on Page 64

Sinkholes present new challenge in storm-ravaged Far Rockaway

BY STEVE MOSCO

Residents in stormbattered Far Rockaway have learned to expect the unexpected and even a large hole in the ground can appear without much fanfare at all.

While spending vet another day cleaning out his house on Beach 67th Street, Jorge Howard glanced toward his garage where a gaping sinkhole had appeared between his and a neighbor's house. Barely acknowledging its existence, Howard shrugged as he bent down to pick up more debris.

"I can't worry about that right now," Howard said of the hole, which mea-

sured close to 6 feet wide. "I'm trying to make my house liveable again. That hole is on my neighbor's property and it looks like it goes right under her house. She better check the foundation."

neighbor Howard's was not at home, but a friend who was at the house said the homeowner had called a few different city agencies about the sinkhole and she was expecting an inspection soon.

A spokesman with the city Department of Environmental Protection said it had received phone calls about sinkholes in the Rockaways, but the department can only recommend that residents call the city Department of Buildings to inspect any damage.

The DOB did not return requests for comment.

The nonchalant Howard, too busy to inspect the pit himself, was preoccupied with thoughts of growing up in Panama playing

"Those days were definitely better than today, that's for sure," said Howard, as he donned a breathing mask and headed back into his house.

Residents reminiscing about better times are a common occurrence these days in Far Rockaway, but there is plenty of optimism about the future as well.

Arlene Phipps, who Continued on Page 64

Flood insurance rate hikes could alter boro shoreline

BY JOE ANUTA

Some flood insurance premiums are set to double after federal legislation was enacted over the summer, and portions of Queens residents recovering along the borough's southern coast will be affected more than

The National Flood Insurance Program, overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is the sole agency that backs flood insurance to homeowners.

In response to the federal program's increasing debt. Congress passed a bill called the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012, signed by the president in July, that seeks to make the program



Many Breezy Point residents whose homes were destroyed want to rebuild, but rising flood insurance rates may make it financially

solvent by increasing premiums, ending subsidies and including more homes in its base.

Flood insurance is required for anyone engaged in a federally backed mortgage living in what FEMA determines is a flood-risk

An average policy in a high-risk area runs about \$1,000 to \$3,000 annually, but for many homeowners premiums will double within a few years under the new law, according to

Continued on Page 64

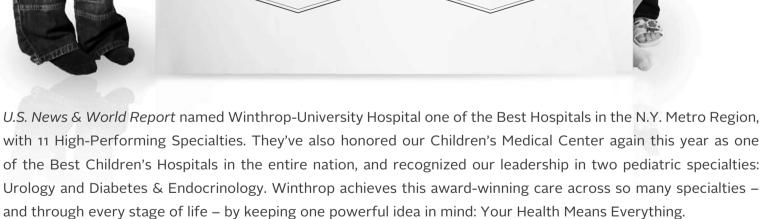
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Rockaways residents rally for rock jetties

BY REBECCA HENELY

Shortly after Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he wanted the boardwalks in the Rockaways to be rebuilt with concrete, about 300 residents and activists from the peninsula and beyond gathered on the beach Sunday to declare rock jetties are what saved the surf from complete devastation.

"Jetties work," said John Cori, co-founder of the civic group Friends of Rockaway Beach, which has advocated for replenishment of the beach in the past. "Jetties work very well."

Cori's organization

SUPERSTORM

held a rally Sunafternoon on the sand near Beach86thStreet.

The beach in that area has rock jetties installed, and while the lumber and concrete boardwalk was damaged in the area, the group said areas with jetties fared better when Superstorm Sandy hit the peninsula at the end of October.

Bloomberg had told The Wave, the weekly newspaper in the Rockaways, that in the wake of the storm, the concrete boardwalks held up better than the lumber ones.

"There will be no more wooden boardwalks in Rockaway or anywhere else," he said.

But those at the rally said the jetties were what kept the boardwalk from being completely decimated. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state Department of Environmental Conservation have been doing a study since the early 2000s on beach erosion in Rockaway, but the residents said the time to act is now.

"No more studies," said Lew Simon, an activist from the peninsula. "It is quite obvious that the ietties saved this end of the boardwalk."

Hector Mosley, spokesman for the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers, said in response, "The Army Corps is still assessing the alternatives and we'll need to evaluate the assessments in the light of the changed condition post-Hurricane Sandy."

Many civic and community leaders spoke in favor of building rock jetties and encouraged the residents to continue to lobby elected officials not only to get jetties installed but to fight to ensure the community has a seat at the table as the boardwalk and beach are rebuilt.

"We are the stakeholders in the community. We decide," said Noreen Ellis,

> president of the Rockaway Civic Association. "We can't let the

Army Corps of Engineers sit on their tuchus and wait for a report."

Some of those elected officials were already on board. State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) said Rockaway residents band together to fight for their community.

"We need to be sending the message we know what we need, we need to get it done now," Goldfeder said.

City Councilman Erich Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) said he would work to make sure the residents' voices were heard.

"Rockaway, I believe, like the phoenix, is going to rise from the ashes," he said



Averne resident James Hartley carries his daughter Maya, 5, on his shoulders during the rally.

Photo by Christina Santucci

MLS pitches Queens stadium 'NE

Soccer league presents plan to Marshall, but boro leaders uneasy



Major League Soccer President Mark Abbott discusses the league's plans to put a stadium in Flusing Meadows Corona Park.

Photo by Joe Anuta

BY JOE ANUTA

Major League Soccer presented plans for a stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park Monday night to the borough president and civic leaders from around the borough, who expressed concern about the impact to existing traffic problems and several crucial aspects of the project that are still vague.

Mark Abbott, president of the league, stood in front of Borough President Helen Marshall and the heads of community boards from across Queens, explaining how the league plans to proceed with building a 25.000-person capacity stadium — that in the future will be expanded to hold 35.000 people — on about 10 to 13 acres of parkland currently occupied by a fountain left over from the 1964 World's Fair.

"We're here to be a partner with the park," said Abbott.

The league hopes to have the stadium operating in time for the 2016 season. but the plan still has several pieces missing.

For example, league has vet to announce an owner to finance and build the \$300 million to \$400 million stadium. MLS would also be required to replace the parkland that would be taken up by the stadium. The league has toured several sites and is seeking community input into where the new parkland should be located, though few specifics have emerged aside from a possible location along the Flushing River on cityowned property in Willets Point.

"I'm not optimistic they will find suitable replacement land," City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) said after the meeting.

MLS still has to reach an agreement with the New York Mets to share the parking lot at Citi Field, according to Abbott, and a traffic study is still being conducted, although the league estimates about 4.000 car trips for each game, a number which would be able to fit into existing parking structures at Citi Field should an agreement be hammered out.

The league is also still in negotiations with the city as to any tax breaks or revenue sharing regarding the operation and construction of the stadium, though Abbott said that talks have focused on MLS not paying for the parkland but rather investing \$10 million into the park.

Part of that money would go toward building new soccer fields around the stadium, but unlike the tennis courts at the Billie Jean National Tennis Center, once the soccer fields are built, they will be the responsibility of the city Parks Department to main-

CB 2 Chairman Joe Conley was not happy with the project and called the deal a "land grab."

"I'd much rather people say 'not for sale," he said. "One of the things we don't have enough of is open space in Queens."

But Abbott also touted the economic benefits of having a stadium there and said hundreds of businesses were in support.

"Fans who patronize the games will also patronize their businesses," he said.

But Queens business leaders have said in the past that the neighborhoods on either side of the park, Corona and Flushing, do not see a significant boost from other sporting events.

Seth Bornstein, executive director of the Queens Economic Development Corp., commented during this year's US Open in August that he would like to see more people patronizing businesses in the borough, though many hotels in the area were booked solid.

Jerry Iannece, chairman of CB 11, commented that the economic benefits promised by the Mets during the construction of Citi Field never materialized.

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

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10

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Thursdays Dec. 6, 13, 20	Adult Hebrew Class	
Sundays, Dec. 9, 16	Hebrew Class10:30 a.m.	
Wed., Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26	B'nai Mitzvah Class 5:00 p.m.	
Sunday, Dec. 9	Klezmer Dance Party at FLUSHING TOWN HALL 137-35 Northern Blvd. Flushing, NY. 1:00 p.m. Dancing / 2:00 p.m. Concert Please Call 718-463-7700, ext 222 for ticket information. A portion of all tickets sales will be donated to Free Synagogue of Flushing Restoration Fund.	
Thursday, Dec. 13	Chanukah Party at La Fusta Restaurant 7:00p.m. Candle lighting, music, fun with friends and good food. Non-Member Couvert: \$42.50. Reservations Required.	
Friday, Dec. 14	Shabbat/Chanukah Celebration8:00 p.m. Bring your Menorahs. Latke Party following services.	
Wednesday, Dec. 26	Lunch and Learn 12:00 p.m.	

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POLICE Blotter

Whitestone man given 10 years in bomb plot

MANHATTAN — An Algerian immigrant who formerly lived in Whitestone pleaded guilty to multiple synagogue bomb plots Tuesday in a Manhattan state court, the Manhattan DA said.

Ahmed Ferhani, who lived on 143rd Street, had sought to pose as an Hasidic Jew and plant bombs in multiple synagogues around the city, according to the NYPD.

State Supreme Court Justice Michael Obus agreed to sentence Ferhani to 10 years in prison and five years of post-release supervision pending a presentence report, though prosecutors had sought 14 years, according to a report in Bloomberg.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly had encouraging words for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance.

"He rose to the occasion in making sure Ahmed Ferhani received significant jail time," Kelly said in a statement. "In his allocution, Ferhani made clear – as our intelligence division detectives documented – that he intended to attack a Manhattan synagogue with a hand grenade and gunfire for the purpose of intimidating and coercing the Jewish population of New York City"



Ahmed Ferhani is set to be sentenced to 10 years behind bars after he was arraigned in 2011 for plotting to blow up New York synagogues.

AP Photo/Louis Lanzano

AG cites four boro gas stations with gouging

FLUSHING — State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman informed four Queens gas stations that he will initiate enforcement proceedings against owners after the fuel depots allegedly violated the state's price gouging law in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

The stations included a Getty station located at 141-50 Union Turnpike in Auburndale, a Gulf station located at 60-90 Elliot Ave. in Maspeth, a Shell station located at 92-10 Astoria Blvd. in East Elmhurst and a Sunoco station located at 18-84 Flushing

Ave. in Ridgewood.

"Our office will continue to take enforcement actions against price gougers because ripping off New Yorkers is against the law," Schneiderman said.

Consumer complaints at each station pegged prices anywhere from \$4.65 to \$10 in some cases, according to the AG.

A total of 25 gas stations in New York City have been suspected of price gouging.

Man charged in bottle bash at Flushing bar: DA

FLUSHING — A barfight brawl ended with one man in cuffs and another in an area hospital, according to the Queens district attorney's office.

On Nov. 23 at about 10:40 p.m., Young Bo Park got into a verbal dispute inside Palazzo Grill and Bar, located at 154-27 Roosevelt Ave. The 32-year-old then picked up a glass bottle and allegedly smashed it over the head of his adversary, according a criminal complaint from the DA.

Park was charged with two counts of assault, while his victim's head was patched up with 20 stiches and one staple, according to the complaint.

Got tips?

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TIMESLEDGER, DEC. 6-12, 2012 TIMESLEDGER.COM

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TIMES LEDGER, DEC. 6-12, 2012

Save Flushing High

Three Queens high schools — Law. Government and Community Service and Business, Computer Applications and Entrepreneurship in Cambria Heights as well as Flushing — remain on a list of 24 schools the city has targeted for closure.

They received a "D" on the DOE's annual report card. The city Department of Education recently released the 2011-12 progress reports for city high schools. They combine attendance rates, school surveys, performance on standardized tests and progress toward graduation.

The final decision will be made early next year and must be approved by the city Panel for Educational Policy.

Low scores are reason for concern, but closing and reopening schools with new names and teachers was a bad idea last year when it was challenged in court by the teachers union. It continues to be bad.

For more than a year the department has failed to persuade Queens communities why closing schools makes sense. If a school is failing, find the problem and fix it. This may require changing the school's leadership, but closing the school should not be an option.

Schools are part of communities. DOE bureaucrats fail to understand the impact that closing Flushing HS and reopening it with a new name would have.

If the DOE continues down this path, Queens taxpayers will pay for lawyers to defend a policy they oppose.

The people of Flushing want their children to get the best possible education, but closing a school that has been part of the community for generations and reopening it with a new name no one will remember doesn't make

Tell the mayor to save Flushing HS and its teachers.

BACKING OFF STOP-AND-FRISK

We were pleased to learn that the number of stop-andfrisks conducted by city police is in decline in nearly every Queens precinct. The policy, designed to remove illegal guns from the city, was well-intentioned but a failure.

There is no indication that stop-and-frisk reduced gun violence and gun-related crimes have not increased in areas where the campaign has been cut back.

According to New York Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Donna Lieberman, stop-and-frisk has a 90 percent failure rate.



IT'S A CITY TREE ON YOUR HOUSE, SO YOU'RE IN VIOLATION

OTHER VOICES

Sandy first responders deserve gratitude

s our area is still reeling from the sayage blows from Hurricane Sandy, we need to mindful of the heroism of our first responders.

They made daring rescues of those trapped by surging tides and roaring winds, and struggled to contain the raging firestorm that engulfed and destroyed more than 100 homes in Breezy Point in the Rockaways.

Our firefighters, police officers, EMTs and other emergency personnel, as well as countless others, braved horrendous conditions to render assistance to those who were in danger during the hurricane. We owe all of these heroes and heroines our grateful gratitude.

When adversity strikes, they always rise to fight against it. Hurricane Sandy, a maelstrom of death and destruction from the tropics, has touched the lives of every person in our tri-state area with various degrees of severity. We hope our federal government will aid this stricken area as quickly as possible and

work in tandem with local and state governments to bring relief in the form of restored electrical service, food, shelter and clothing to the thousands of people who have lost their homes and other possessions.

Thousands still remain without power, heat and water, and with temperatures dropping to below 40 degrees at night, conditions will become dangerous for them, especially the elderly. those with life-threatening medical conditions, infants and children.

The landscape of our

coastline, from New Jersey to Connecticut, has been changed forever by the hurricane. The storm also has wrought an arbori-cultural disaster, uprooting tens of thousands of trees all across the region, some of which had stood for more than 100 years or more.

But we are tough and will recover and bounce back stronger and better than before.

> John Amato Fresh Meadows

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Implement early, mail-in voting | Do not let condo, co-op taxes rise

ew York state needs to take a long, hard look at how elections are conducted. During this year's presidential election, there were long lines of people all over the state waiting to cast their ballots. Some did not have the time to stand on a long line, and so forfeited their vote. In areas where devastation resulted from Hurricane Sandy, voting was difficult. Some people had other priorities on their minds.

A 15-hour window for voting during a single day is insufficient in an election where millions are to decide who our country's leader will be for the next four years. Why doesn't New York have early voting like other states or even voting by mail? This would increase participation, allow for emergencies that develop and be a convenience to people who have busy lives and many responsibilities. Bad weather on Election Day would not be as bad if

voting was spread out over time or done through the mail.

If the state employs early voting or voting by mail, it may affect positively on the problem of low voter turnout and apathy. If people had more opportunity to cast a ballot. it would seem logical that more voters would take advantage of such a system and be involved in the election process. Isn't that what democracy is all about?

Perhaps the state Board of Elections should try early voting and/or mail-in voting first during off-year elections, where there is little to vote for or where there are few competitive races. The 2011 election is a prime example. I understand that in Queens less than 10 percent of registered voters participated that year.

Instead of wasting millions of dollars to hire poll workers to sit waiting for relatively few voter participants, wouldn't it make more sense to mail ballots to registered voters for those elections? Primary elections, which are infamous for low turnout. should be handled by mail as well.

If this method proves successful and cost effective, the BOE should consider having all elections conducted by mail. There would be no need to purchase expensive voting machines for every election district or employ poll workers, little chance for voter suppression and no excuse for the electorate to not take advantage of their right to choose their lead-

I believe early voting or even voting by mail would be an improvement over the antiquated system we have in place now and bring more people into the election process.

> Henry Euler Bayside

ecent news reports indicating that the Legislature state may not reconvene this year could be bad news for Queens co-op and condo owners. At the end of the legislative session in June. leaders reached a deal to extend and enhance the coop and condo real property tax abatement, which was due to expire.

Unfortunately, the Legislature adjourned without enacting the measure, instead planning to take up the issue at the end of this year. If the Legislature does not meet before the year is out, co-ops and condos may face skyrocketing tax bills in January 2013. This cannot be allowed to happen.

In 1996, as a state assemblyman, I sponsored the original version of the co-op and condo real property tax abatement, which partially addresses the real property tax code's adverse impact on co-op and condo owners. The Legislature has continually renewed the benefit until this year, and the agreement that was reached in June would allow the continuation of the ahatement

While New York state still needs to conduct a topto-bottom evaluation of the real property tax system and reform it permanently in a way that is fair for all New Yorkers, the abatement goes a long way toward providing some relief for beleaguered co-op and condo taxpayers.

The bill would, for the first time, increase the value of the tax abatement for middle-class owners while limiting the tax break for those whose own apartments they do not use as primary residences or those who own units valued above a certain level.

These measures would help local residents deal with the outrageous real property tax assessment increases the city Department of Finance has imposed over the past few posed over the past few years. I have successfully fought alongside co-op and condo leaders to limit the increases, and the passage of the co-op/condo tax abatement bill by the Legislature represents our best opportunity to stabilize the situation in the short term.

For most Queens coops and condos, the tax abatement is vital, and its elimination would surely wreak havoc on the budgets of co-ops, condos and the middle-class families who make their homes therein.

I urge Gov. Andrew Cuomo to call the Legislature into session as soon as possible to address this matter, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg to do everything in his power to avoid sending out painfully high property tax bills to co-ops and condos next year.

> Mark Weprin City Councilman (D-Oakland Gardens)

Soccer stadium poll sounds dubious

ajor League Soccer is a private, forprofit sports businesses and much hoopla was announced over a poll of people in Queens indicating 71 percent support a soccer stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, 21 percent are against it and 8 percent are undecided ("Survey finds Queens wants soccer stadium," TimesLedger Newspapers, Nov. 15-21).

With all due respect to TimesLedger, the aforesaid headline is not supported when the alleged survey is scrutinized.

The poll consisted of 650 respondents: 500 from around Queens and 150 selected from Corona and Flushing. Sixty percent of the people said they had

seen or read nothing of substance about the plan, so a survey based on that is as worthless as the plan itself. The 2010 U.S. census determined that the population of Queens was 2,230,722, so in that context a purported poll of 650 people would not professionally qualify as a legitimate poll.

Furthermore, the poll was commissioned and paid for by MLS and conducted by Global Strategy Group, a registered lobbyist for MLS. This hardly suggests an impartial poll. In suggesting there is "tremendous support for the stadium," MLS is engaging in Madison Avenue nonsense so absurd it is qualified for admission to the Chutzpah Hall of Shame.

That some politicians

support the stadium in the park should come a no surprise since few of them have the intellectual capacity to understand urban parks are a necessity for the poor and middle class and not for the benefit of real estate moguls and wealthy business owners.

When John Garner gave up his U.S. House of Representatives seat to run as Franklin D. Roosevelt's vice president in 1932 and realized the job was essentially powerless, he described it as "not worth a bucket of warm spit."

Garner's statement accurately describes the value of the MLS poll.

> Benjamin M. Haber Flushing

GOP ticket lost over bad message

he election is over and the losers are in post-election mortem dissecting what went wrong? They will have four years to figure it out. If they do not come to the conclusion that they had the wrong message and the wrong messengers with which to deliver it, they can look forward to the same results four years hence.

As for the messengers, a look at the votes not cast in their favor by those who knew each candidate best is an indicator of the level

of esteem in which they are held by those whom they served directly. Michigan, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's family's home turf, went for the other guy.

And then there was Massachusetts. Romney was governor there and it also went for the other guv. Obviously voters there were not impressed enough with his governorship to vote for him again, this time for president.

Then there was the other guy, young gun and

Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan who not only lost his home state of Wisconsin, where he is a U.S. representative, but his hometown of Janesville.

If this is the loyalty they have earned by those who had experienced their leadership, our country is fortunate not having to undergo the same.

> Nicholas Zizelis *Amagansett*

CLARIFICATIONS

An article in the Nov. 29-Dec. 5 edition of TimesLedger Newspapers should have quoted state Sen. Jose Peralta as saying that the entrance of Sen. Tony Avella into the race for borough president would have no impact on his

An article in the Nov. 29-Dec. 5 edition of TimesLedger Newspapers should have identified AirServ and Global International as security companies contracting with airlines at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Queens GOP must stop infighting if it wants to survive



William Lewis Political Action

ince the early, 1980s there have been disputes over leadership within the Queens Republican Party, which has led to periodic election contests in the form of district leadership primaries, in addition to contests for members of the county committee.

A county convention will be held in September 2013. At that time, the county chairman, various county officers and the county executive committee will be elected by the county committee members, including those present at the convention and also through proxy votes cast.

During the last several county conventions, the county leader, Phil Ragusa, and his slate of officers have been challenged by insurgents. Ragusa has won these intra-party fights each time he has been challenged.

One of the key insurgent leaders has been City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park). Up until his recent defeat for state Senate by incumbent Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) in the 15th District in western Queens, Ulrich was being referred to as a rising star in the Queens Republican Party.

The Republican Senate campaign committee poured huge amounts of money into that race, but Addabbo won by a substantial margin. He, at this time, is leading 57 percent to 43 percent before all the paper ballots are counted.

Ulrich sent out a considerable amount of negative mailings attacking his opponent. Whereas negative campaigning does at times have a successful outcome, in the case of this race it did not. Addabbo did not use negative campaigning. He campaigned on his accomplishments in the state Legislature and what he hopes to accomplish in the future.

It is hoped that with an increasing number of Queens Republican activists, there will be no internal party battle for leadership next year.

In Ulrich's case, he needs to spend most of his time campaigning for reelection to his Council seat in the 32nd District.

It is time for Ulrich

What is at stake here is the survival of the two-party system in New York City.

and other insurgent leaders to sit down with the Republican county leaders and try to work out a solution agreeable to both sides.

These intra-party fights can take up a lot of time, manpower and financial resources that would be better spent in the election process.

More than 30 years ago, the Queens Republican Party had six state As-

sembly members and, until recently, two senators, but times have changed and the Queens Republican Party now has two Councilmen: Ulrich and Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone), both of whom are running for reelection.

A united Queens Republican Party would be a big help in achieving the reelection of these two councilmen. If the Queens GOP continues this conflict over county leadership, it could hurt the Republican effort to maintain control of these two Council offices.

Ragusa is expected to run for re-election. In the last two times he has run for re-election as chairman, he has been successful, winning the county chairmanship by significant margins. Ragusa has proven to be a popular chairman. It would seem he would give his support to any serious effort to reach an agreement with the insurgent force.

These seemingly endless conflicts between various groups have hurt the Queens Republican Party's efforts to compete in general elections.

It could be said that three years ago Queens Republicans did well in Council races by winning three seats. It will be making every effort to repeat those election victories next year.

What is at stake here is the survival of the twoparty system in New York City, although in the city the Democratic Party has for the most part dominated politics since the end of the Civil War. We need a strong, multi-party structure that will compete in general fall elections.

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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 According to Alan Alford, 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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Sandy becomes teachable moment at Alley Pond 15

BY PHIL CORSO

Hurricane has remained a sensitive subject for New Yorkers across the city, including in Queens, but at Douglaston's Alley Pond Environmental Center, the historic storm has become a topic of education and looking forward for the borough's youth.

The environmental center has taken its student visits and incorporated lessons on climate change into present-day examples, where Hurricane Sandy brings the effects of climate change to the forefront. APEC Educator Kimesha Reid-Grant said.

Reid-Grant said groups of high school students from all around northeast Queens have visited the environmental center since Sandy made her way through the borough at the end of October. With each visit, the educator said she could not avoid discuss-



Students overlook a deck at Alley Pond Environmental Center while studying water and wildlife in the

ing the importance of wetlands.

"Our wetlands [surrounding the APEC property] helped to save us because without them, we

would have had more flooding in our area," Reid-Grant said. "We

did have the water rise, but a lot of it was absorbed by the wetlands, so we did not

see any flooding."

In the aftermath of the storm, Alley Pond Park fared well with very minimal damage, according to Dr. Aline Euler, education

> director APEC.

"We held up well," Eul-

er said. "Though we did see some damage to the park, we were lucky."

Photo courtesy Alley Pond

After a summer of record-breaking warmth. Euler said educators throughout the environmental center were already in the habit of conveying the concepts of climate change to students during their vis-

Reid-Grant said though the APEC building off Northern Boulevard survived Sandy's wrath,

The environmental center has taken its student visits and incorporated lessons on climate change.

the severe storm brought about serious discussions about sustainability-in-theclass visits. In referring to other historic storms in recent years, like 2005's Hurricane Katrina, Reid-Grant said she could prove her point to the students by showing how New Orleans suffered serious flooding because of dilapidated wetlands.

Beyond environmental lessons, students at APEC could see the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy by simply surveying the landscape at the Douglaston center, Reid-Grant said.

"When we walk into the park and they see the trees on the ground, it brings it home that this was a really strong storm," Reid-Grant said. "It shows the relationship between human and actions and what is happening to us. We end up talking about more severe storms in places like this and it helps reiterate the point that there is climate change and there is something happening."

But that does not scare her students away, the educator said.

"I still have not gotten the impression that they are afraid," Reid-Grant said. "They believe it is good to know what this is and want to figure out what we can do. That is what we teach them — 'Here's what's happening and here's what we can do to mitigate it."

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Continued from Page 4

outside waiting as the cars moved toward the building to the sweet sound of Corvette engines and old-time police car sirens.

"The kids walk around the cars, some of them go inside the cars — they just love it," said Bilski. "We usually bring some antique cop cars and the kids love playing with the sirens."

Hurricane Sandy prevented any modern day police cars from escorting the automobile procession onto the hospital grounds, as the NYPD could not spare the manpower this year. And there were also fewer cars involved than in previous years as many were lost or wrecked when the superstorm blew through, according to Bilski.

"We did what we had to do," said Bilski, adding that the ECCA is not really a car club but rather a nonprofit. "It was important to us to get down there and give these kids a treat."

But the holiday treats

were not only reserved for the children receiving gifts, as St. Mary's staff observed the joy in the eyes of the many gift-givers.

"All children respond the same way to the affection and attention that comes with a gift," said Sculti. "But the really special takeaway is for the group giving the gifts. They know what they're doing has a real significance."

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

Bloomberg flooded after the storm. Looking ahead, Bloomberg

Continued from Page 4

rebuilding efforts to combat such significant flooding in places such as city subway systems, which were

said New York City was in better shape than other cities in the region when it came to preparing for another storm similar to Hur-

ricane Sandy.

"Flooding can hap-

pen again. But it hasn't happened in 100 years," Bloomberg said. "You can take so many precautions, but at what expense? New York City is much better prepared than anyplace



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Pub crawl down Bell Blvd. to benefit victims of Sandy

BY REBECCA HENELY

Eager to help their neighbors while still having a fun Saturday, Baysiders participated in a pub crawl at several bars on Bell Boulevard and 41st Avenue and raised \$1,000 to help victims of Superstorm

"Everyone on Bell likes to drink, so we figured we were doing it for a good cause," said co-organizer Deidre Baker.

Baker and co-organizer Kimberly Smith work as a waitress and as a hostess at the Bourbon Street Cafe. at 40-12 Bell Blvd. The bar had previously held another fund-raiser for those displaced by Superstorm Sandy, and both Baker and Smith as well as Bourbon Street owner Mark Boccaica wanted to hold another event to assist those in the

Rockaways who are still struggling.

The crawl ended up raising \$1,000, Smith said.

Baker and Smith came up with a pub crawl two weeks ago and many fellow Bayside bar owners were eager to join in.

"Everyone wanted to help out," Baker said.

The pub crawl began at Bourbon Street at 1:30 p.m. and participants stopped at multiple bars throughout the afternoon and into the evening. These included Pour House, at 213-11 41st Ave.; C.J. Sullivan's, at 213-10 41st Ave.: Safari Beach Club, at 40-09 Bell Blvd.; Dempsy's, at 39-31 Bell Blvd.; and Local, at 39-24 Bell Blvd.

To participate, those on the crawl needed to buy a T-shirt for \$25 with information about the event. When they wore the T-shirt at the various pubs, they would be entitled to drink specials at the establishment.

"A lot of people who also don't want to come on it or can't make it, they're still donating," Smith said.

Funds are going to Gravbeards, a group of community volunteers in Breezy Point.

Baker said she expected the event to draw about 50 participants throughout the day.

"Then we'll just guilt people into joining the crawl," she said.

Baker said her aunt lived in Breezy Point and has been staying with her family in Bayside since the storm, but Smith said a lot of Rockaways residents visited Bourbon Street Cafe after the storm.

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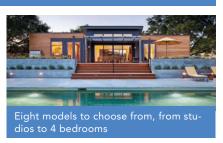
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Meetings

Continued from Page 3

before been barred from holding meetings in public schools.

"The fact that the DOE has not defined what is or isn't a public purpose and will leave that decision to a cabal of DOE lawyercrats out of the public eye is troubling," Friedrich said. "The school chancellor and Bloomberg administration have heretofore successfully kept this ruling under the radar, which says a lot about the lack of transparency in the rule-making process."

But according to a DOE spokesman, there has not been a change to the department's regulation of schools' extended usage. Instead, he said the DOE was reiterating existing policies in the letters sent to group leaders such as Friedrich.

"Permits are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be granted for civic forums and community centers," the DOE spokesman said. "We are reviewing our communications to ensure they reflect the intent of this regulation."

In an attempt to amend the rule, City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) called on city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott to consider the leaders of communitybased organizations.

"Co-ops, condos, tenant groups and civic associations hold meetings that consistently focus on community issues," Weprin said. "They should be permitted to meet in public



Glen Oaks Village President Bob Friedrich outside a school at Little Neck Parkway near 73rd Avenue.

schools without requesting special permission."

Warren Schreiber, copresident of the Presidents Co-op and Condo Council and president of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance, said the rule caught him by surprise and fails to consider the importance of community-based organizations on the local level.

"Not everything can be nonprofit, but that doesn't mean it's not communitybased," Schreiber said. "This is going to create a lot of difficulties. In many instances, the school is the only place large enough for these groups to meet at the right cost."

Schreiber speculated that the enforcement might come as a byproduct of another heavily debated DOE ruling that blocks religious institutions from holding worship services in public school buildings after school. City lawyers appealed the ruling last week, asking a federal appeals panel to undo the policy.

Puzzled by the de-

Schreiber cision, Friedrich noted that the DOE was in return forfeiting money that groups would pay to host meetings at public schools.

In theory, Friedrich said his group would pay public schools for the cost of keeping the building open. And while his tax dollars continue to fund the schools in Glen Oaks he once had access to for meetings, the co-op president said he was told to look elsewhere.

"Nobody is looking for a freebie, but the DOE closed the doors and put out the non-welcome mat for community-based organizations," Friedrich said. "The DOE does not own the schools. The taxpayers and groups trying to maintain the excellent quality of life pay for these schools and now they are being denied usage of them. It's an outrage."

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

Banners

Continued from Page 3

demics to the real world. But unlike trade-oriented schools, the programs coming out of Bayside High focus on putting students a step ahead for their college educations.

"We're trying to connect academics to the real world, with work-based learning being a big part of that," said Elizabeth Guglielmo. CTE development director and assistant principal of arts and languages. "Here the students are the ones in the driver's seat of their own experience, with teachers acting as coaches and facilitators."

David Solano, vice president of the Bayside Business Association and owner of information technology firm Solano Associates, has also been assisting Bayside High to connect students with internship opportunities in the area. With his help, Steinberg and Bayside Creative were able to connect with the



These holiday banners presented by the Bayside BID and designed by Bayside High School students will line Bell Boulevard this winter.

Photo courtesy Cheryl Steinberg

Bayside BID to collaborate on the holiday banner de-

And the project has grown gradually since its implementation three years ago, according to Principal Michael Athy, who said the number of students applying to the school has tripled since Bayside High took on CTE programs.

Steinberg said students working with Bayside Creative have participated in workshops and collaborations with experts in the artistic field to learn more about things like photography and graphic design. With scheduled meetings once a week, the in-house company's CEO said she runs students through a boot camp on how to create logos, label their work and understand the business aspects of working with clients and maintaining a reputation.

The group has already acquired several community clients, including the Bayside BID.

For the holiday season, Steinberg said students working at Bayside Creative designed five drafts of banners for the Bayside BID to consider — two of which were chosen to line the streets of Bell Boulevard through the winter. On Dec. 8, the banners will be unveiled in conjunction with a holiday lighting celebration in front of the Bavside Long Island Rail Road station at 6 p.m.

"They loved the banners," Steinberg said. "The kids are really excited to be part of their communities and seeing their work outside of the classroom."



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RAFFLE PRIZES

Monserrate girlfriend vouches for disgraced pol

BY REBECCA HENELY

As disgraced former state Sen. and City Councilman Hiram Monserrate prepares to face sentencing for fraud convictions that could put him behind bars for up to 40 years, the girlfriend who he was found guilty of assaulting is still standing by her man.

"I know that Hiram has made mistakes," Karla Giraldo, who Monserrate assaulted in 2008, wrote in a letter to Manhattan Federal Judge Collen McMahon last month. "We all have[.] I have made some myself. I would ... like you to know that he is the kindest men [sic] I have known."

Monserrate and Giraldo made headlines in 2008 for an incident in which Giraldo's face ended up slashed and video footage showed Monserrate pulling her by her arm down the stairs and through the hallway of his Jackson Heights

apartment building. Monserrate received a misdemeanor assault conviction in 2009 for the crime that ended up with his being booted from the Senate where he represented East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Elmhurst and Corona — in February 2010.

He ran afoul of the courts again later in 2010 when he was hit with charges of allocating \$300,000 of the discretionary funding he received as a councilman in 2005 and 2006 to the Corona-based nonprofit Latino Initiative for Better Resources and Community Empowerment Inc., then using \$109,000 of the funds in 2006 to pay LI-BRE employees to work on his failed Senate campaign against incumbent Sen.-John Sabini.

Prosecutors contended Monserrate also used the employees to conduct a drive of registered voters in the district in 2006 and



Karla Giraldo (r.), seen here at a street renaming, has written a letter supporting former state Sen. Hiram Monserrate (I.), who once assaulted her, in his recent fraud case.

withheld the database from the state Board of Elections until the last minute, giving him an unfair advantage.

LIBRE held English classes, helped with immigration matters, held job placement programs and offered health education services. Monserrate had a major hand in choosing its staff and board of direc-

In May Monserrate pleaded guilty to mail fraud and conspiracy to commit mail fraud in the LIBRE case. Both charges carry a jail term of up to 20 years.

Giraldo dated Monserrate again after a Queens Supreme Court justice reduced her order of protection against him in July

In recent years she has maintained that Monserrate only slipped and fell with glass in his hand and had only been pulling on her because she did not want to go to the hospital.

She described Monserrate in her letter as a good father to his autistic son. Gabriel. and a helper to his mother, Hilda, who is battling can-

"Hiram has always been very very good to me and has never [been] hurtful to me," Giraldo wrote.

About 15 other letters defending Monserrate were also submitted to the court. Writers included Hilda Monserrate, former Flushing District Leader Martha Florez-Vasquez, former colleagues of his at the NYPD and community members who said Monserrate had helped them during his time in public office.

Monserrate's sentencing date is Dec. 11.

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

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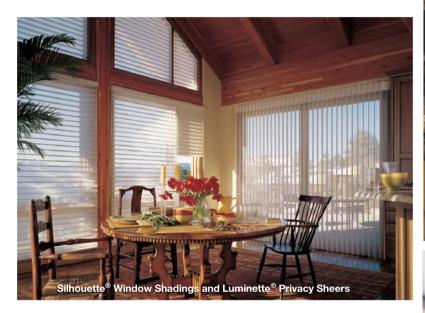
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Rockaway woman ID'd who died during Sandy

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

She was the cat lady of Beach 87th Street, her next door neighbor said.

And a month after 84-year-old Santina Reilly died during Hurricane Sandy, several strays still roamed in her yard, scavenging for food.

Police identified Reilly as one of 11 people to lose their lives in Queens during the hurricane. According to the NYPD, officers responded to her home at about 2:30 p.m. the day after the storm and found the elderly woman unconscious and unresponsive.

Her next-door neighbor, who asked only to be identified as Adam, said she lived alone in the twostory Rockaway home but slept in the front room on the ground floor because she had difficulty walking and was unable to make it upstairs.

"She was an Italian lady from the old school,"

Adam said, describing Reilly as speaking with a thick accent.

When he moved in about 10 years ago, she was already living on the block. Recently she used a walker, but years ago she would walk the neighborhood constantly to exercise.

At one time, Reilly had been married and Adam believed she had children, but other than that the woman was much of a mystery to him and several other neighbors.

"Nothing negative to say," he said. "She was a good, good lady."



Two cats meander out of the yard of Santina Reilly's Rockaway home. Photo by Christina Santucci

On the night of the storm, Adam said he could hear Reilly velling for assistance but by that time, the storm surge had filled the street with rushing wa-

"She was screaming, 'Help, help,' but no one could get to her house because the water was 4 feet high and it was a river," he said, explaining that anoth-

SUPERSTORM

er neighbor went to check on her the next day.

"It's a sad story," Adam said, pointing to an empty plate for cat food in the yard. "She really had no one to take care of her."

A spokeswoman for Denis S. O'Connor Funeral Home confirmed that a service for Reilly had been held last week.

Reilly's death keeps the borough's death toll at 11, with nine of those in the Rockaways. Police also identified a 72-vear-old man who was found dead in a bedroom as David Gotthelf in Rockaway Beach.

A Howard Beach woman, who had previously

been on the list and who police identified as 85-yearold Rose Faggiano, was taken out of the tally. A spokeswoman for the city medical examiner said Monday that the death of a woman, who the office identified as Rose Tanzi and had been found at the same address as that given for Faggiano, had been ruled natural.

spokeswoman said the woman had died from an aortic dissection and rupture and suffered from high blood pressure and heart disease.

Faggiano's neighbor, Annette Albanese, said residents of the Old Howard Beach block had concluded her death had been because of the storm and said the woman did not appear sick.

"We all assumed that because the water was so high she was screaming out her window, that she had drowned," Albanese said.

Reach photo editor Christina Santucci by email at timesledgerphotos@ gmail.com or by phone at 718-260-4589.

Statue

Continued from Page 6

"It should be restored to its original beauty, with a working fountain," he said. "The city would never let this statue decay the way it has if it was in Central Park. And it certainly would never be moved."

Vallone said he is waiting to hear back from the Design Commission, as well as the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, to find out how the decision was made to move the statue and what he can do to keep "Civic Virtue" in the borough.

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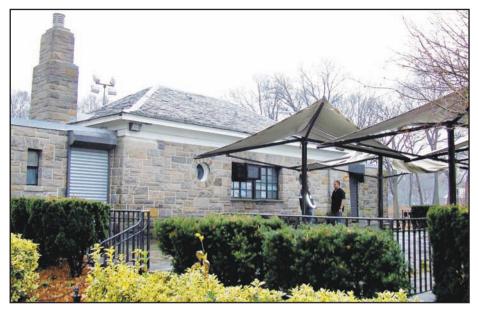
BY KAREN FRANTZ

A number of seniors are upset that a facility in Cunningham Park used for socializing has shortened the number of hours it is open and are demanding that the city Parks Department restore the original hours.

"There's no reason why it can't be open four or five days a week," said Ed Shehab, who lives in Kew Gardens and is one of the seniors angry about the shortened hours. "It's a shame, it really is."

He said the center, which used to be a pre-K school and is unofficially used as a place for seniors to congregate in the park near 193rd Street, previously was open for 30 hours a week. He said many seniors gather there to use the Wi-Fi, play cards, chess and pool or in the winter to take a break from the cold.

This fall the hours



Seniors are upset that the hours have been cut back at a Cunningham Park facility used for socializ-Photo by Karen Frantz

were scaled back to only a few hours a day three days a week, he said.

"Three hours a day doesn't cut it for these people," Shehab said. "There's so many people that use the building."

Shehab said he believes it does not take a lot of money to keep the center open and pointed to the large sum of money spent on a ball field elsewhere in the park as evidence of Parks spending funds on projects that favor young people. He said before the hours were reduced the facility appeared to have about three people working there

So Shehab decided to take action. He and about

20 other seniors who use the facility sent a petition to Community Board 8 and City Councilmen Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) and James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) Nov. 19, asking for the regular hours to be restored.

The petition notes that the center used to be open five days a week, six hours a day, but now is only open between 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. three days a week for a total of 10.5 hours a week.

"This is very unfair," the petition says. "The cold weather is coming and we have an average of 20 to 25 senior citizens who utilize the facility every day."

The petition also says two phone calls were made to Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, the Queens chief of recreation for Parks, about the matter, but they were not returned.

Rodriguez-Rosa told the Times Ledger Newspapers after an inquiry that it was the first she had heard of the petition.

A Parks representative contradicted the seniors' claims the facility was open only three days a week, saying the department provides free programs that include fitness, crafts and games at the center for four hours a day, four days each week.

The representative said it adjusts schedules in response to participation trends and that there are four nearby senior centers in CB 8 that offer similar activities.

Gennaro's office said it had not received the petition but someone had showed up to make a complaint about the reduced hours. The office said Gennaro would support efforts to restore hours, but the park is not in his district.

Weprin's office said it had put in a call to Rodriguez-Rosa about the issue and was waiting to hear

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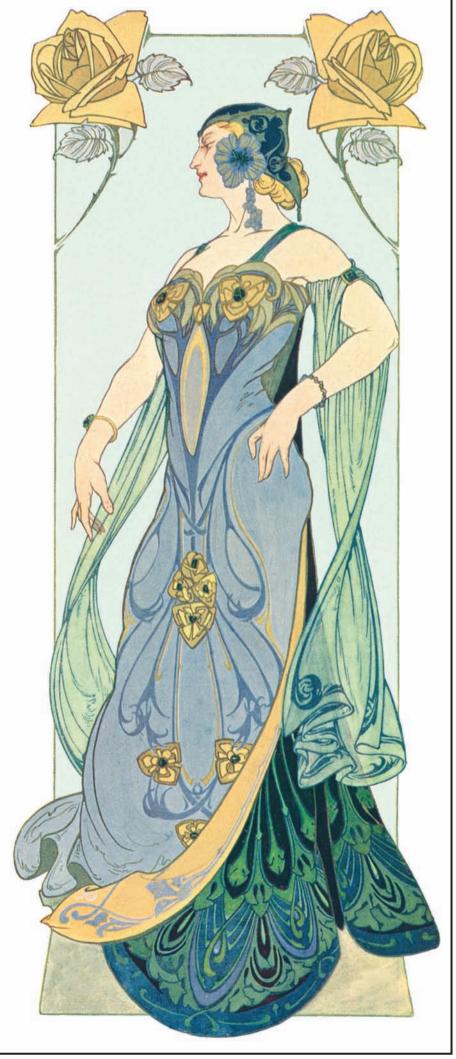
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Breezy Point guards against crime after storm

BY STEVE MOSCO

Residents who have finished fighting fires and floodwaters in Breezy Point are now dealing with a new scourge: thieves.

After the peninsula's beachside dream spiraled into an epic nightmare when Hurricane Sandy came to town last month. the houses that remained were left vulnerable to humanity's worst. According to police, three homes were broken into over the Thanksgiving holiday and crooks stole laptops, jewelry and cash from another 14 homes from Nov. 12 through Nov. 18.

One week after the holiday, it was obvious the police had escalated patrols and surveillance in response to the break-ins, as mobile units became a constant sight in the neighborhood and floodlights towered over street corners



A house in Breezy Point inches toward restoration as residents work to rebuild amid burglary wor-Photo by Steve Mosco

ready to reveal the night after darkness fell.

"It's a vulnerable feeling," said one resident near Utica Walk and 4th Avenue, just off Beach 217th St., who spends four or fives hours every day cleaning up the superstorm's mess. "We're not spending our nights here because there's no heat or electricity, so there's a lot of laying awake at night wondering about my home."

Breezy Point is dotted

with 2,800 homes ranging from modest bungalows to soaring two-story houses surrounded by imposing decks. More than 100 of those homes were completely destroyed by fire the night of the storm,

while some of the remaining structures sit skewed on their foundations with decks that are buckled and warped from the storm surge waves.

Isolated on the west end of the Rockaway Peninsula, the community is

reachable only by a bridge leading to a single road. with a guard

station standing at the en-

One resident, who was walking his dog through the sand-covered streets, wondered how anyone could breeze into the neighborhood undetected. Police said thieves probably slipped in and out of the community during the early morning hours.

Marian Lizzi, who has been spending summers in Breezy Point since she was a little girl, said she had heard about the break-ins but was far too busy with the ongoing cleanup to fret over potential burglaries. Despite the hardships, Lizzi remains steadfast in her determination to make Breezy Point a quaint community once again.

"Everyone is keeping a positive attitude," she

said. "It's unbelievable what's happened here. but everyone I've

talked to said they are going to rebuild."

SUPERSTORM

SANDY

Lizzi said most residents have set July Fourth as the target date for a return to the serene beach life, but she believes most are anxious to return much earlier.

"Everyone keeps saying, 'See you on the beach," she said. "When we'll be back is really anyone's guess. But there is nowhere else we'd rather be."



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The South Ferry subway station was damaged by seawater flooding during Hurricane Sandy. Photo courtesy Leonard Wiggins/MTA

SUPERSTORM

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Michael Bloomberg have appealed to federal officials for tens of billions of dollars to repair the damage from Hurricane Sandy in the city and the state.

"New York has been there for other parts of the country when they needed help," Cuomo said. "We're asking for the same today."

"People are still reeling from this trauma," said the governor, who met Monday with the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada).

The mayor issued his appeal to Washington last week and asked for about \$9.8 billion to cover the city's losses.

Cuomo is asking for \$32.8 billion to reverse the destruction wrought by Sandy and \$9 billion for construction to protect against further such storms.

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) took it a step further.

"Our colleagues are aware that if they are not fair to New York and New Jersev and the Northeast. if disaster hits their area next time ... that could boomerang on them," Schumer said.

In any case, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will not pay for the enormous storm damage its operations incurred on the backs of straphangers, MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota said last week.

"The burden of Sandy will not be on riders," Lhota told the monthly meeting of the MTA Board.

Cuomo asks federal gov't

for \$33B in Sandy relief

Lhota said the present

plan for a fare hike in March would not rise even more be-

cause of Sandy. He added that he would "do everything I possibly can to prevent any service cuts."

Asked if he thought the MTA could get enough money from Washington to recover costs estimated at about \$5 billion from the storm damage, Lhota said, "I have an enormous amount of confidence in the federal government that we will receive a substantial amount of money to cover what is necessary to get us back to the condition of functionality we had the day before the storm."

Lhota said he based his confidence on how the federal government has acted in cases of other such catastrophes nationwide.

Calling attention to the severity of the destruction, Lhota said the South Ferry terminal "was destroyed. It wasn't hurt. It wasn't wrecked. It was destroyed. From top to bottom."

The MTA estimates restoring South Ferry alone could cost \$600 million. In other

transit news:

• The R train, which now extends to Whitehall Street-South Ferry in lower Manhattan, "now is programmed to be completely restored by Christmas," MTA spokesman said Charles Seaton.

• The New York Transit Museum and vendors who produce official MTA licensed products nounced a limited collection of H line merchandise will be sold online dedicated to raising funds for the beleaguered Rockaway community.

the Rockaway Peninsula between Far Rockaway and

The H line is the special subway shuttle established in late November to restore partial service on

Beach 90th Street.

Braunstein sponsors holiday gift drives

State Assemblyman Edward Braunstein (D-Bayside) is sponsoring a holiday gift drive for hospitalized veterans, as well as a toy drive for needy and hospitalized children and the young victims of Hurricane Sandy.

All gifts should be delivered by Dec. 19 to Braunstein's office, at 213-33 39th Ave., Suite 238; Dr. William M. Duke's office, at 35-01 202nd St.: or the Community Board 11 office, at 46-21 Little Neck Pkwy.

If you are interested in participating and would like to receive more information, call Braunstein's office at 718-357-3588.



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State AG examines charity spending post-Sandy

BY KAREN FRANTZ

New York state's attorney general is gathering information from nonprofits helping with hurricane relief efforts in order to disclose to the public how their donations are being spent.

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced Nov. 27 that his office sent letters to 75 nonprofits engaged in relief efforts requesting information about their activities and expenditures in the name of transparency.

"In light of the importance of the recovery efforts and the enormous amount of money raised in such a short period of time, it is critical that donors know where their money is going and that funds are spent responsibly," Schneiderman said in a statement.

According to the attorney general's office, the letter was not spurred by any specific concern about misuse of donated funds, but rather was a proactive effort to institute a system of checks and balances for the nonprofit groups.

The office said that after



Occupy Sandy volunteers distribute food by flashlight on Rockaway Beach Boulevard.

such natural disasters as Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Haiti, a number of charities

were formed to help with relief efforts and, although most acted honorably, some misused the funds donated to them.

The 75 charities that re-

ceived letters from the attorney general were chosen because they were high profile and were

soliciting money, the office said. Organizations that received the letters include the Ameri-

can Red Cross; Occupy Sandy; Breezy Point Hurricane Sandy Relief; Catholic Charities Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens; Graybeards, based in the Rockaways; and INCA Relief USA, based in Jamaica.

Schneiderman is gathering information from the groups, such as the amount they are raising and spending, whether the money is going solely to hurricane relief efforts, what they have done to help hurricane victims so far and what they intend to do with any surplus donations.

The attorney general's Charities Bureau will compile the information and report it online, which will have the dual purpose of promoting transparency and helping nonprofits coordinate their services, Schneiderman's office said.

If any misuse of funds is discovered, the first step is usually to start with a cease-and-desist letter and asking the nonprofit to disclose how it is spending its money, the office said.

It also said determining whether funds are being misused is often a gray area because some spending that does not directly go to hurricane relief, such as using donations to pay salaries, may be a good rationale for use of money.

The office said although responding to the letter is voluntary, it expects most nonprofits will do so

Avella questions state on new revised fracking regs

BY KAREN FRANTZ

A state senator from Queens questioned Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state Department of Environmental Conservation on hydraulic fracturing this week, arguing the recent release of revised draft regulations on the controversial drilling method raises concerns about assurances from the administration that it will take the public health impact into account in its final decision whether and how to allow the practice in the state.

When DEC released the new set of revised regulations, it was up against a deadline that required the agency to file for an extension that included the release of revised rules with a public comment period or to restart its process for drafting regulations. It released the revised regulations and filed the extension a day before the deadline on Nov. 28.

But Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) told the Times Ledger Newspapers that rather than submitting the revised regulations, it would have been more appropriate for the DEC to allow the public health impact study to be concluded first and then release new regulations afterwards.

"We believe that if this is done properly it requires a whole new level of review." he said.

He sent a letter to Cuomo and DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens last Thursday questioning the release of the revised regulations when the public health impact study had yet to be completed.

"We must get this decision right and it must be based on science," he wrote in the letter.



Jeremy Buckingham (I.), member of the Australian Legislative Council, talks hydrofracking with state Sen. Tony Avella in his Bayside office earlier this year.

Hydraulic fracturing, colloquially known as hydrofracking or fracking, is the process of extracting natural gas from shale rock by blasting a mixture of chemicals and water at high pressure into the ground. The state has had a moratorium on the practice since 2008 while the DEC has been drafting regulations and conducting an environmental impact study.

The revised regulations include responses to the previous round of public comments on hydraulic fracturing, which took place a year ago. The public comment period on

the most recent regulations will be from Dec. 12 through Jan. 11.

The DEC said it sought the extension in order to give the public health impact study, being conducted by the state Department of Health, time to be completed. It said once the study is finished, the DEC will either decide hydraulic fracturing cannot be done safely in the state or it will adjust its regulations in accordance with the health study's findings.

But it is unclear how the regulations would be revised and whether a new public commenting period would be allowed at that time.

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



Tracey had planned to deliver her baby in NY City. But when she suddenly began bleeding and went into labor at home, she and her husband rushed to Winthrop-University Hospital instead. "Winthrop is known as a leading maternity hospital," she said. "Now I know why."

Winthrop's Chief Ob/Gyn Resident recognized that she needed an emergency C-Section. He assembled a highly trained surgical team in minutes. The severe complications they encountered called on all their skill and teamwork. Large fibroids were wrapped around the uterus. The baby was positioned sideways in the womb. And Tracey's placenta had ruptured. She was bleeding profusely.

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Mayor pushes for tax relief for Sandy victims

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Homeowners particularly hard-hit by Hurricane Sandy may soon receive some property tax relief under two proposals being pushed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Under the first proposal, some homeowners would be given an interest-free, three-month grace period before they would need to pay their city property taxes, which would be due April 1 instead of the usual date of Jan. 1. The second proposal would give homeowners a rebate of about \$700 on their property taxes

"These two tax relief measures will, taken together, provide some help for New Yorkers who really need it and need it now," Bloomberg said at a news conference at a restoration center in Staten Island last Thursday.

If passed, the tax ex-



A beachside house deemed uninhabitable by the city Department of Buildings in the Belle Harbor neighborhood of the Rockaways Nov. 19.

AP Photo/Kathy Willens

tension and rebate would be available to homeowners whose houses have been given a red tag by the city Department of Buildings, meaning they need extensive repairs or are damaged beyond repair. About 3,000 properties would be given the extension and 900

would be eligible for the rebate.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) said at the news conference the Council will take up the extension proposal at its next stated meeting Dec. 10.

"There's nothing we can do to bring back everything people lost, but I

hope this action shows that the city is thinking creatively, is

listening and trying to do everything we can to make the tough times after Sandy a little easier," she said.

Bloomberg said the rebate would need to be passed by the state Legislature, and he is urging it to do so when it convenes in January.

The cost of both proposals to the city would be minimal, Bloomberg said. He said about \$1.5 million in tax collections would be deferred at an average of \$500 per effected property. In addition, the rebates would cost about \$760,000, compared to \$19 billion collected in property taxes in

the fiscal year.

"We expect the measures that we're proposing today will have a very small effect on the city's finances," Bloomberg said.

In addition to the prop-

erty tax proposals, Bloomberg said the city Department of Fi-

nance is working to ensure the next round of property tax assessments will reflect post-hurricane conditions.

City Finance Commissioner David Frankel said the Department of Finance is working on the tentative assessment role for fiscal year 2014, and said homeowners will soon be able to send reports of damage to their houses through an application either online or at city recovery centers.

"We want to make sure that next year's assessments reflect the impact of the storm," he said.

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One month after Sandy: Life goes on in Rockaway and Broad Channel

(Clockwise from top I.) A person dressed as Elmo walks on a rock jetty during a rally to add more jetties to the beach in the Rockaways; flowers covered in dirt lie on the ground in Broad Channel; the sun sets behind machinery left for the evening on Shore Front Parkway; the interior of a Belle Harbor home is visible from the beach; debris is piled at the corner of Church Road and 20th Avenue in Broad Channel; and youngsters Juliette Mulligan and Emily O'Connor, both 3, make sand angels on the beach. Photos by Christina Santucci





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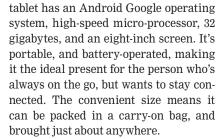
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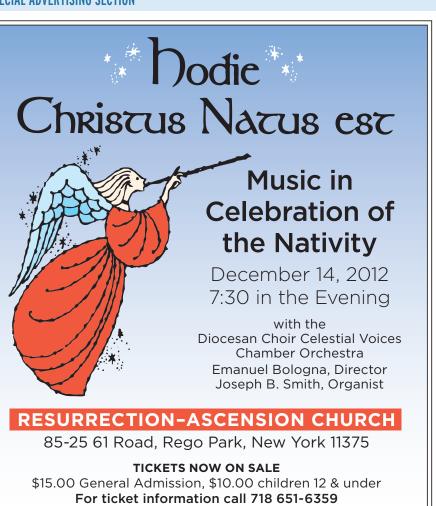
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Make the holiday extraordinary by giving the gift of an historical timepiece, as Joseph Anthony Fine Jewelry sells antique and estate jewelry. Adornments of this caliber were created to be owned, worn, admired, and enjoyed for generations, so you'll be presenting a gift to be treasured for a lifetime.

Joseph Anthony is

passionate his profession. He worked as an apprentice when he was 16 years old, and opened his first business at age 19. By the time he turned 25, he owned four stores. He is a graduate of The Bulova School, a master jeweler, designer, and appraiser. A believer in old-fashioned values,

he does engraving, ear piercing, watchmaking, and repairs, right on the premises. Joseph Anthony Fine Jewelry Plandome Rd.Northern Boulevard in Manhasset, Long Island, (516) 365-9591, www.JosephAnthonyDesign.com]. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 am - 6 pm.

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Green Acres is the place to be

9 is the season to wear green, think green and shop at the Green Acres Mall.

The 1.8 million square-foot Green Acres Mall features more than 200 shops and eateries, in a beautifully renovated, enclosed shopping area. Among the stores you'll find include J.C. Penney, Kohl's, Macy's, Toys R Us, Express, Sears, Radio Shack, Zales, Modell's, Old Navy, Forever 21, and Victoria's Secret. Pick up a holiday savings book at the customer service desk. If you still don't know what to buy, give a Green Acres Mall gift card, and let the recipient decide.

Has your pet been naughty or nice? If it promises to be good for Santa, bring it to "Paws and Claus" Night. The fun takes places Tuesdays, Dec. 11 and 18, from 6 to 9 pm. If the kids have been good, they can visit Santa, too, every day, through Dec. 24. Holiday festivities are happening all month — caroling, danc-



ing, and special performances. Check out the calendar of events online.

Green Acres Mall [2034 Sunrise Hwy. off W. Circle Drive in Valley Stream, Long Island, (516) 561-1157, www.GreenAcresMallonline.com.] See website for extended holiday hours.

Smile for the Sony

mile and say, "I found the perfect

It will happen when you purchase a Sony digital camera at Universal Electronics and Appliances, for \$79. This camera has 14.1 megapixels, a 5x optical zoom, and a 28mm wide-angle lens. It's the perfect present for those who want to capture the memories of

the holidays and beyond. You'll still be smiling whentherecipient of your thoughtfulness asks you to pose for photos, as you'll know you're the one who made the fun possible.

Universal Electronics and Appliances sells televisions, computers, laptops, tablets, car audio equipment, refrigerators, surveillance cameras. and more. Its been in business for 20 years, so you can shop with confidence, knowing it will be around, should you have to exchange anything after the holidays.

"We help our customers solve any problems they might have," says Manny Santos, manager of the Queens store for two decades. "We're a mom and pop shop."

Universal Electronics and Appliances [170-08 Jamaica Ave. between 170th and 171st streets in Jamaica, Queens, (718) 725-1335] and [1170 Fulton St. between Bedford and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, (718) 230-1214]. Open seven days a week, 10 am-8 pm.



Fishin' for fun

he Italian Feast of the Seven Fishes has long been a Christmas Eve tradition. Celebrate by bringing the entire family to Giardino Restaurant for a \$49 per person meal of fish galore, and lots more. Dessert, appetizers, entrees—it's all included in the price, and it's available all day long on Dec. 24.

Additional holidaythemed events include Sunday brunch with Santa, who will give out goodie bags to all the kids. Ring in the New Year with a sitdown dinner, party favors, and midnight champagne toast, for \$52 per person. And when the holidays are over, the fun doesn't end. Wednesday evenings, at 5 pm, enjoy halfprice bottles of wine, and complimentary wine and



cheese tastings. On Fridays, there's live music in the main dining room with guitarist Kevin Ronan. Giardino is known for its Northern Italian cuisine, specialty pastas, and brick oven pizza. Private parties and corporate events are welcome.

Giardino Restaurant [44-37 Douglaston Pkwy. between Douglaston Parkway and Northern Boulevard in Douglaston, Queens, (718) 428–1090, www.Giardinos.com]. Open Mondays – Thursdays, noon–10

pm; Fridays – Saturdays, noon–11 pm; and Sundays, 11 am–10 pm.

Giardino is part of the Russo Group that includes: Russo's on the Bay [162-45 Cross Bay Blvd. between 162nd street and Cross Bay Boulevard in Howard Beach, Queens, (718) 843–5055, www.RussosOnThe-Bay.com] and Vetro Restaurant and Lounge [164-49 Cross Bay Blvd. between 165th street and Cross Bay Boulevard in Howard Beach, Queens, (718) 843–8387, www.Vetronyc.com].

Brunch with Santa

he kids won't have to wait up all night to catch a glimpse of Santa. They can have Sunday brunch with him at Bourbon Street Cafe on Dec. 16.

The fun starts when Santa arrives aboard a New York City Fire Department truck at 11:30 am, ready to pose for photos with all his admirers. Reservations are required, and when you purchase an adult brunch, your child under age 12 eats free of charge.

Dine at the Bourbon Street Cafe, and taste baby back ribs, just liked they're cooked in Louisiana. The meat is so tender, it falls off the bones, and it's smothered in a tangy house barbecue sauce. Blackened catfish and seafood gumbo are other tra-



ditional favorites.

Chef Joe Cannella is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, creating innovative and flavorful dishes in Cajun-American style. Every sauce is made on the premises, cooked to order. For 2013, there will be a new menu of original dishes, and that makes

for one happy new year.

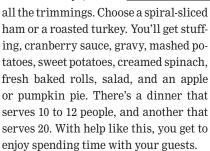
Bourbon Street Cafe [40-12 Belle Blvd. between 40th and 41st avenues in Bayside, Queens, (718) 224–2200, www.BourbonStreeetNY. com]. Open Sundays—Thursdays, noon–11 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, noon– midnight; and for Sunday brunch, noon–3 pm.



It's Christmas 'to-go'

Santa would send a helper to do all the shopping, chopping, and cooking for the holiday meal?

Austin's Steak & Ale House creates the magic with "Christmas To Go." This special catering menu features full dinners for the holidays, with



Austin's Steak & Ale House is known for its steaks and burgers, especially the blue label burger, made from a combination of three cuts of beef. The restau-



rant partners with St. John's University. Bring in a ticket from the same day's game, and receive 10 percent off a lunch or dinner entree.

Austin's Steak & Ale House [82-70 Austin St. between Mulberry Street and Lefferts Boulevard in Kew Gardens, Queens, (718) 849-3939, www.AustinsSteakandAleHouse.com]. Open Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, noon-11 pm; Wednesdays, noon-midnight; Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, noon-1 am; and on Sunday for brunch, noon-4 pm.

Welcome the wienerschnitzel

arve the roast goose. Bring out the bratwurst and the knockwurst.

Tourists may travel to Germany to experience the ambiance of the season, but we enjoy it all at Zum Stammtisch Restaurant and its pork store. Come for a holiday dinner at the restaurant, or buy what you need from its shop to create your own feast. Select from 100 different kinds of meat and sausage.

The full-service butcher department can cut your holiday roast to your specifications. Get all the trimmings, too German potato salad, red cabbage, sauerkraut, German chocolate, and cookies. There are about 1,000 different products, imported from Germany, and more than 40 differ-



ent types of imported beer. No time to cook? Cater the merry-making.

Zum Stammtisch Restaurant has been serving the Glendale community for 40 years. Brothers Hans and Werner make annual visits to Germany to bring traditional recipes to the business started by their father, John, in 1972. Corporate events are welcome. Gift certificates and wieners — make great stocking stuffers.

Zum Stammtisch Restaurant [69-46 Myrtle Ave. between Cooper avenue and 70th street in Glendale, Queens, (718) 386-3014, www.ZumStammtisch.com]. Open daily, noon-10 pm. Stammtisch Pork Store [69-40 Myrtle Ave. between Cooper avenue and 70th street in Glendale, Queens (718) 386-7200, www.StammtischPorkStore.com]. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 am-6 pm and Sundays, 11 am-6 pm.

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Menu Additions for Your Dining Pleasure...

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Shrimp cocktail (4) jumbo \$8.95	Mixed Green salad\$5.95
Fresh mozzarella & tomato \$7.95	Fried calamari\$7.95
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	RÉES
T-bone Steak for Two \$34.95	Shrimp Scampi (6) Jumbo
T-bone for One\$24.95	w/ Rice\$17.95
New York Cut Sirloin Steak \$19.95	Veal Marsala, Piccata
Rib Eye Steak\$23.95	or Francese\$13.95
Filet Mignon\$23.95	Chicken Marsala, Piccata
Calf Liver with Bacon & Onion \$11.95	or Francese\$11.95
Two Cut Pork Chops Topped w/ Sauteed Hot or Sweet Pepper\$13.95	Filet of Sole Broiled or Sauteed \$15.95

All plates served with choice of potato & vegetable of the day. All plates served with a glass of bomemade Sangria, Wine, or Beer!

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Oh, little town of ... Sicily

vour home. Jimmy's Trattoria, known for its Sicilian and Napolitan cuisine, provides full catering services to the tristate area. You won't have to cook, and a waiter will be sent to your house, too, allowing you the opportunity to be served for the holidays. Now that's something to celebrate.

hey'll bring the party right to

When you dine at Jimmy's Trattoria, you'll feel right at home, too.

"Customers are all friends," says owner Jimmy Boushehri. "If you come here for a second time, I know you. Nine out of 10 customers are repeaters."

That says a lot about the food and the customer service. Boushehri has been around since 1986, working his way up from bus boy to waiter to manager, and finally, in 2007, to owner. Come for the red sauce, Alfredo cream, the veal chops, and the filet mignon. But start with a drink at the full bar, the place where everybody knows your name.

Jimmy's Trattoria [45-73 Bell Blvd. between 45th Drive and 46th Avenue in Bayside, Queens, (718) 229-5319]. Open Mondays through Thursdays, 3:30-11 pm; Fridays, 3:30 pm-midnight; Saturdays, 4 pm-midnight; and Sundays, 1-10 pm.



Eldercare

GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR SENIORS

xchanging gifts has become synonymous with the holiday soccasion. lily members exchange gifts with one another, employees trade gifts and greeting cards with their coworkers, and students participate in grab bag gift exchanges in the classroom.

Giving gifts is such a big part of the holiday season that shoppers may run out of gift ideas before they have crossed everyone off their lists. For example, it might not be easy to find the perfect gift for the senior citizen on your holiday shopping list. Seniors might not be up-to-date on the latest gadgets or might have downgraded from a home to a more manageable living arrangement, so knickknacks or decorative items for the home may not be too practical, either. The following are a few tips for gifting seniors this holiday season.

Warm things up

As people age, many develop medical conditions that require medication. Medications like blood thinners can make seniors feel the cold more than others, so a gift that can keep seniors warm through the winter can make a great gift. A thick wool sweater or a fleece blanket is both practical and thoughtful.

Open a senior's eyes to e-readers

Many seniors find that maintaining a household is simply too much work once all the kids have grown up and moved out. As a result, many move from private homes into apartment complexes geared to the senior set or even into assisted living facilities that make it easier to deal with the daily demands of life. When seniors make such a move, they sacrifice space for convenience. Personal libraries may no longer be possible or practical, but an e-reader allows

seniors to store their favorite books in one small and convenient place.

Give the lap of luxury

Many seniors are on fixed incomes. which greatly limit how much disposable income they have to treat themselves to something nice. But seniors still love a trip to the spa or a round of golf just as much as their younger counterparts. Savvy shoppers know that deals can be had on such luxuries, and it just takes a little patience and research.

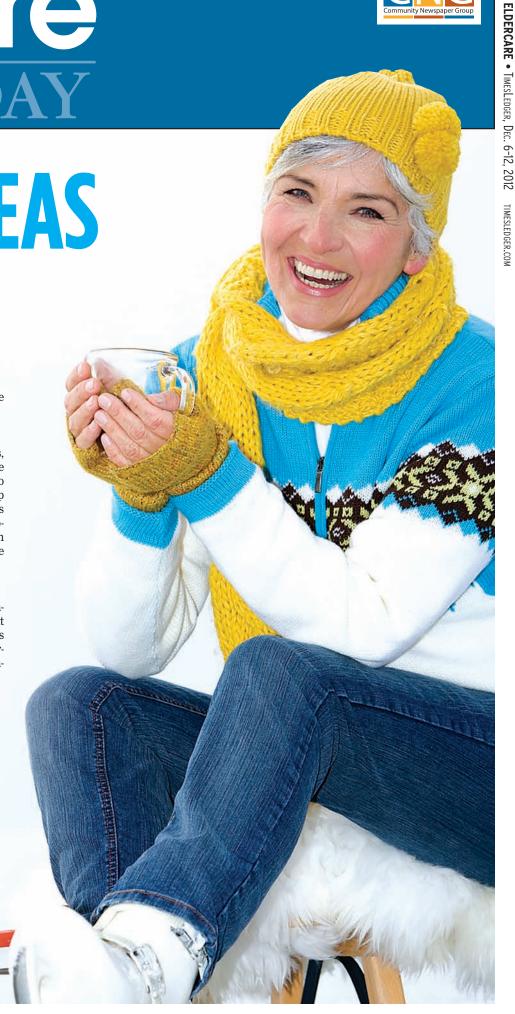
Go healthy

Many men and women embrace a healthier lifestyle as they age. Seniors who might have been too busy raising a family to focus on their own health are typically encouraged by their physicians to exercise and embrace healthier eating habits. Gift-givers can help seniors on their quests to become healthier by buying them a membership to a local fitness club, many of which provide classes designed specifically for seniors. Fitness clubs typically offer discounted memberships to seniors, who might even be eligible for rebates from their health insurance providers if they meet established attendance requirements. Seniors who suffer from arthritis might benefit from a membership at a nearby yoga center.

Give the gift of communication

Sometimes the best gift is the simplest gift. Seniors love to speak with their children and grandchildren, so why not give the gift of communication? If you haven't already,

Continued on Page 44





Criminals who run fraudulent charity scams target specific groups of people, most

Tips for vetting charities

onating to a charity or nonprofit organization is a selfless act that pays dividends for the less fortunate. Whether you plan to be a financial donor or donate your time as a volunteer, your efforts help charities stay afloat and achieve the goals set forth in their mission statements.

Many people struggle when it comes to choosing a charity with which to associate, especially seniors. With so many worthy charities, the vetting process can be difficult, as charities that warrant your time and money are just as easily found as nefarious organizations designed to mislead donors. Elderly people must be wary of potential con artists, who can be persistent in their pursuits. When vetting a charity, consider the following tips.

Have some familiarity with the organization.

Many people hope to contribute to a charity with which they have a personal connection. You might have volunteered with this organization in the past or you or a loved one may have even benefitted from its services or programs. Such a personal connection can help you feel more secure about your donations or efforts and may even help you feel as if you're giving back to an organization that helped you in the past.

Do vour homework

If you aren't very familiar with a charity but its mission statement strikes a chord, then learn as much about the charity as possible before making your decision to donate or volunteer. Don't allow an especially persuasive telemarketer to make your decision for you. Instead, listen to what a solicitor has to say and then let him know vou want to do more research before making a final decision. Visit the organization's website, or ask someone to do it for you, check out its rating from the Better Business Bureau or a charity evaluator like Charity Navigator, and talk to friends and family to see if they have any experience with the charity before making your deci-

Be wary of organizations that put pressure on you.

An established charity won't need to put pressure on you to donate. While charities and nonprofit organizations rely heavily on donors and volunteers to remain operational, their lights won't be turned off if vou don't immediately make a donation. If solicitors try to pressure you into making a donation over the phone, politely end the conversation without sharing any personal information. While the holiday season presents a charity's best time of year to raise funds, an organization will be just as happy to receive your donation after the holiday season when you have had ample time to gather information and make a more informed decision. Organizations that try to pressure people into making donations are most likely disrep-

Recognize that vou might be a target.

Criminals who run fraudulent charity scams target specific groups of people, most notably the elderly. They often call frequently to establish a rapport in the hopes of tricking elderly citizens into making donations and sharing sensitive financial information. Seniors should be especially vigilant when vetting a charity, avoid sharing financial information over the telephone, and then discuss their donations with their children or loved ones who can help them determine whether an organization is legitimate or not.

Prevent slips and falls this winter

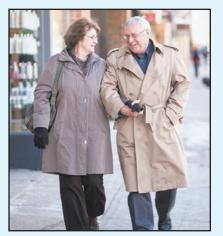
inter is right around the corner. That means that most people will be trading in windbreakers and rakes for heavy coats and snow shovels. Winter can be a beautiful time of the year, but the snow and ice that covers the landscape in a pristine sheet of white can present certain hazards as well.

Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly. According to the National Safety Council, slips and falls are the single largest cause of emergency room visits. Slip and fall injuries also are the third largest cause of workplace injuries, says the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many accidental falls occur from lack of stability or poor physical health. However, come winter, many falls can be attributed to walking on slippery surfaces covered with snow or ice. To avoid falls on ice, you might want to take certain precautions.

Change the way you walk

Adapting to the slippery conditions could help prevent some of the falls caused by snow and ice. When walking on ice, plant feet with toes facing outward slightly, and then shuffle along. Hunching over a little and extending arms outward will help to lower your center of gravity and also offer a little more stability. Take short, flat steps so that the heels and toes of your shoes stay in contact with the ground as much as



Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly.

possible and offer maximum surface contact.

Switch shoes

Flat shoes with rubber soles are more capable of gripping the ice than other types of shoes. Contrary to popular belief, clunky winter boots may make walking more difficult. Try rain boots instead, as rain boots typically have flatter soles. There also are many different types of shoe ice grips on the market that can be added to the soles of shoes. They easily slip on to offer more traction. Whenever possible, try to avoid shoes with already slippery soles or high heels. Carry these shoes with you and change after you are inside.

Remove shoes indoors

Slips and falls can happen inside a home as well. Many people have tile or laminate entryways in their homes, and these entrances can become quite slippery when snow-packed shoes warm up and the snow melts, creating a wet, slick surface. Avoid falls by placing mats by the front door and removing shoes when you enter. Stash a pair of slippers nearby into which you can change.

Falls on slippery surfaces can be quite dangerous, especially for seniors. Avoid trips to the emergency room for broken bones or abrasions by slowing down, dressing appropriately, and walking on paths that have been cleared of snow and ice.



Senior gifts

Continued from 43

alter your cellphone plan to a family plan that gives seniors unlimited minutes when calling family members so they can speak to their grandkids as often as possible. You can even go the extra mile and upgrade a senior's computer so he has access to instant messaging and video conferencing services such Skype, allowing seniors to see just how fast their grandchildren are growing even if those youngsters are on the other side of the country.

Elderly face challenges coping with Sandy's impact

lileen James sits by the window when the sun is out, wears gloves to bed, and hasn't had a hot meal in a week.

Like many elderly people in the New York area coping with no electricity or heat in their homes in the aftermath of super storm Sandy, the 78-year-old retired secretary confesses she's "starting to get less and less pa-

Healthcare officials, social workers, and other volunteers are paying close attention to the elderly in the days since Sandy left millions in the dark throughout metropolitan New York and New Jersey. While some say life experiences have tempered the ability of the region's oldest residents to cope with the immensity of the destruction, others note signs that the stress of no electricity, displacement from their homes, and upheaval from their daily routines is beginning to take a toll.

Some caregivers were unable to reach their elderly patients because of transportation problems and the older people were left alone without help.

"When the sun is out, I gravitate to where it is coming in through a window and I sit there," James said as temperatures hovered in the high 40s. "I took my thermometer with me and it went up six degrees, and I felt a little warmer."

The situation is the same for thousands throughout the region.

At Comstock Court, a subsidized apartment building for senior citizens in Asbury Park, N.J., residents were given fliers informing them about free hot meals being served 10 blocks away.

Several said they were unable to make the trek even though their food has spoiled.

"I'm not walking over there. That's too far for me. My knees can't take it," said Pam

Two utility poles were down behind the building and a snapped electrical wire was lying in the street half a block away.

Tenants had running water and were using their gas stoves to stay warm.

"It's dangerous, but if you don't turn your stove on, you've got pneumonia," said 72-year-old Rudolph Graham, the president of the tenants association.

Karen Boorshtein, president and CEO of Long Island's Family Service League, said the group has been monitoring nursing homes and reaching out through social workers to check on the elderly in their homes.

"We're making sure patients' needs are being met; if they need to be evacuated that they are evacuated," Boorshtein said. The workers also stay in contact with patients' relatives "to make sure there are no concerns with their loved ones in the nursing

Suffolk County's Office of Aging reached out to 725 seniors before the storm to warn them to prepare, said county spokeswoman Vanessa Baird-Streeter. When Sandy passed, the office sent teams to the homes of residents who couldn't be reached by telephone and by Nov. 2, all had been accounted for, she said. Some were provided with extra blankets and food while others were taken to Red Cross shelters.

Dr. Marie Genevieve-Iselin, a psychologist specializing in elder care at Zucker Hillside Hospital in Queens, said many of her patients have fared well.

"On the whole, they are very resilient," she said, adding that older adults generally tend to cope well. "They have had other crises in their lives that they have been able to master and it gives them a road map."

Dr. Gisele Wolf-Klein, director of Geriatric Education at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, said older dementia patients were among those facing the greatest challenges.

"Some of those who care for the elderly were unable to get to their homes because of their own transportation issues," Wolf-Klein said. That meant some older patients were "left alone without any help and that becomes a major, major problem."

She said some patients required changes in their medication, while others were temporarily placed in elder care facilities to be treated for heightened anxiety.

Up the street from Eileen James's home in Farmingdale, Mike Katz, a 73-year-old retired advertising executive, said the chilly temperatures, dipping into the mid-30s overnight, are most troublesome for him and his

"We're coping pretty good, but it's very cold," he said as he raked leaves strewn from Sandy's storm. "I knew it was going to be bad. And it was.'

Katz said despite initial predictions that power would be restored in seven to 10 days,



Eileen Miley looks for magnets that might be salvageable at her home that was destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Sandy on Staten Island.

he was not optimistic.

"I think it's going to be almost 20 days. Ten days would be wonderful, but there really are a lot of things to clean up."

Island Harvest, a Long Island-based food bank, dispatched a fleet of 11 trucks to various locations, giving out sandwiches and drinks. President and CEO Randi Shubin Dresner said she has seen many seniors at the trucks.

She encountered a woman on Nov. 2 outside the Point Lookout firehouse, whom she described as a "younger senior, in her late

"She just had this forlorn look," Dresner said. The woman would not tell Dresner what had happened to her.

"She didn't even know what to ask for. And when I said, 'What can I give you, what can we help you with?' she just was shaking her head and holding back tears. Then she asked, 'How about a hug?""

"She grabbed me and she gave me this hug and she didn't want to let go. And when she let go she said, 'That's what I needed more than anything.'

"They're just feeling alone and they're -AP / Frank Eltman struggling."



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The Care Mom Needs - at Home Healthfirst's Long Term Care Options

Of course Mom wants to stay home; that's where her memories are. The family photos on the walls and shelves are more than just moments in time. They're reminders of who she is and what she's accomplished in her life. Staying in her home allows her to live her life in familiar surroundings, amidst her cherished memories.

So when Mom begins to struggle with basics like dressing, feeding or bathing – and you can no longer manage her weakened condition alone – it's understandable that you might think your only option is a nursing home. Thankfully, that's no longer true. Healthfirst's managed long term care options offer the support services needed to care for Mom and keep her in the home she loves.

Quality Care from the Company You Know and Trust

For almost 20 years Healthfirst has been a community partner helping some of the needlest patients on Medicare and Medicaid get the same kind of quality healthcare we would want for our own families.

And now, Healthfirst's managed

long term care options offer the special in-home services that Mom (and Dad, too) may now need. Services such as:

- An assigned Care Management Team — including a registered nurse, a social worker and a support coordinator — that oversees every aspect of your parent's care
- Ongoing reliable care by professional home attendants, nurses and other caregivers

This combination of professional support services ensures that Mom gets at-home assistance with basics needs such as dressing, feeding and bathing, as well as ensuring that she's receiving her medication and is getting to appointments on time.

Easy to Enroll

When you contact Healthfirst, a representative will walk you through the process and collect the details surrounding your request. A Relationship Coordinator will contact you within 24-48 hours of your call.

Next, we come to you. An Enrollment Specialist will visit your parent at home, confirm his or her eligibility, and help you with the sign-up process. It's just that simple. Within a few weeks (depending on approval) your parent can be enrolled with Healthfirst's man-

aged long term care plan.

We Speak Your Language

As proud members of New York's richly diverse communities, we at Healthfirst understand your culture is important to you. That's why we pride ourselves on our network of thousands of doctors, many of whom speak your language. So when you need answers or have a home situation you would like to discuss with us, we're in your neighborhood with support options that are right for you.

To find out more about Health-first's managed long term care options or to begin the enrollment process for Mom or Dad, call 1-855-551-4369, TTY:1-888-542-3821

7 days a week, 8am – 8pm or visit HFLongtermcare.org. Healthfirst managed long term care options: Getting Mom the care she needs to remain at-home and live independently, longer.

Healthfirst Medicare Plan is a coordinated care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the New York State Medicaid program.

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Your loved one can live at home and stay independent with **Healthfirst's managed long term care options.**



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- Treatment is Safe, Easy and Requires NO Surgery.
- Treatment Covered by Most Major Health Insurance Plans Including Medicare
- This program produces above average outcomes and helps delay our eliminate the need for costly and painful knee replacement surgery

CONSIDER THESE FACTS BEFORE SURGERY

	NY Rehab	Surgery				
Cost	Covered by most insurance plans including Medicare	Time off from work and loss of wages				
Risk	No known side effects	Complications, poor outcome, addiction to pain medications				
Pain	Little to none	Can be severe for months				
Recovery	Immediate	Months/years				

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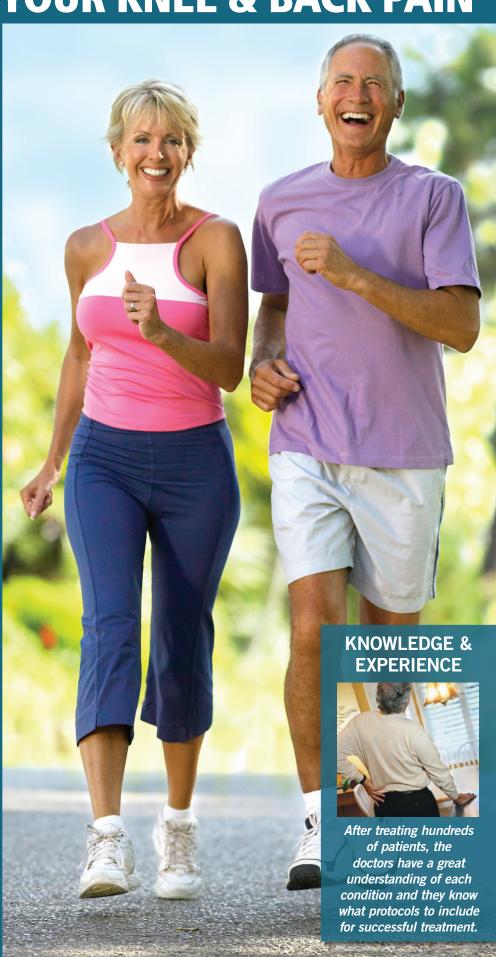
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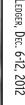
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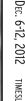














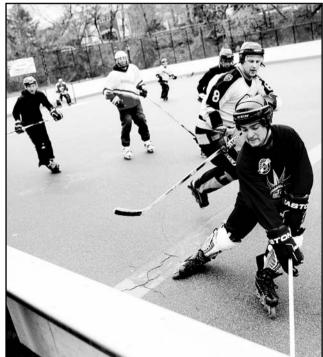


Hockey players raise funds for Sandy

Dozens of hockey players outfitted themselves with skates and sticks to take part in "Slapshot for Sandy," a fund-raiser in Whitestone for those affected by the hurricane. (Clockwise from top I.) Emmanuel Moya, 11, is ready to play; Aurelio Contilli (r.) looks to get around Sandor Kope; goalie Steve Peters dives to block a shot; the rink was decorated by handmade posters in honor of the event; Mike Byrne flaunts a missing tooth; players face off during one of several pickup games; and Miro Zahorsky (r.) celebrates after scoring a goal.











Elmhurst man dies after shove on subway tracks

BY REBECCA HENELY

A 58-year-old Elmhurst man died early Monday afternoon shortly after being pushed in front of a downtown-bound Q subway train in Manhattan, police said.

Authorities got the 911 call that Ki-Suck Han, of 52nd and Justice avenues, had been hit at around 12:30 p.m., police said. The Q train had struck Han when entering a Times Square platform near West 49th Street and 7th Avenue, police said.

Han was taken to St. Luke's Hospital in Manhattan, where he was pronounced dead on arrival, police said.

A spokesman for the NYPD said police were questioning a man in connection with the platform pushing Tuesday evening, and the New York Post identified the suspect as 30-year-old Nieem Davis. The NYPD had described the suspect as a black male with dreadlocks. When last seen, he was wearing a dark jacket, a gray T-shirt and a cap, police said. A



Police say this man pushed Elmhurst resident Ki-Suck Han, 58, in front of a Q train.

lineup was expected to be held Wednesday morning.

Sources who spoke to the New York Post gave conflicting descriptions of what led up to Han's being pushed, the newspaper reported. Some police sources said the pusher was an emotionally disturbed panhandler who

Han had tried to calm down, the Post reported.

But one witness said Han had started the fight, the Post reported

Han's wife said he had been drinking before the incident, the Post reported. He left their home on 52nd Avenue in Elmhurst Images courtesy NYPD

around 11 a.m. before going into Manhattan, the Post reported.

"We had a fight," she told the Post while crying. "I kept calling him and calling him to see where he was, but he didn't answer."

Witnesses, including a Post freelance photographer who snapped a shot of Han struggling

to get back up on the platform seconds before he was hit, said Han had been thrown onto the tracks. Freelance photographer R. Umar Abbasi had repeatedly fired his camera flash to try to warn the train driver that Han was on the tracks, while other straphangers screamed and waved their hands in an attempt to get the driver to

"Out of the periphery of my eye, I just saw a body flying, flying through the air," Abbasi told the Post. "People started waving their hands, anything they could find. They were shouting to the man in the tracks, 'Get out! Get out of there!"

The train operator was treated for shock after the accident, the newspaper said.

The NYPD asked anyone with more information about the homicide to contact Crime Stoppers, which can be reached by calling 1-800-577-TIPS, by visiting nypdcrimestoppers.com or by texting 274637(CRIMES).

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For more information call 718-518-2300 or visit www.calvaryhospital.org.



Continued on Page 56

Making fun of modern marriage at Qns Theatre

BY ALICIA TAYLOR-DOMVILLE

In a 75-minute comedy, Annabelle Gurwitch and Jeff Kahn will take their audience through the ups and downs of love and marriage in the stage play "You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!" The couple adapted the play from their book of the same title.

The Queens Theatre is the first stop for the play, and it will continue on to 11 other cities before it ends in March. It began its run Nov. 30 and will continue in Queens through Dec. 9.

The play follows the couple and their opposing personalities as they try to navigate through marriage. They turn parenting into a competitive sport and disagree on everything from anniversaries to Facebook. The couple drops out of couples therapy in an attempt to fix their prob-

lems on their own.

Ironically, their crazy lifestyle is what keeps the marriage intact and they learn to embrace each other's differences. This is the second national tour — the play's first appearance in New York was at the 2009 New York Comedy Festival.

The cast includes Gabrielle Mirabella as Annabelle and Jonathan Van Dyke as Jeff. Mirabella is originally from Florida but came to New York to attend the Manhattan School of Music. She studied theater and opera.

Van Dyke is a member of the Dramatist Guild and wrote the award-winning play "Spring at the Willowbrook Inn." Van Dyke has also recently appeared in "Boeing, Boeing," "Holiday Inc." and "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

"The play is relatable to

most couples" said Joe Trentacosta, spokesman for the play. "Couples are either elbowing each other saying, 'You do that all the time' or, 'See, we aren't that bad."

For more information, visit queenstheatre.org.

IF YOU GO

Queens Theatre

14 United Nations Ave. S. Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Dec. 9, 3 p.m.
\$25-\$49
(718) 760-0064
queenstheatre.org



Gabrielle Mirabella and Jonathan Van Dyke star in the marriage comedy "You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up!" playing at Queens Theatre until Dec. 9.

Photo by Robert Harris Productions

St. Michael's Cemetery

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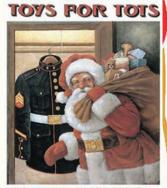
St.Michael's renews last year's efforts to make the upcoming Holiday Season joyful for needy children.

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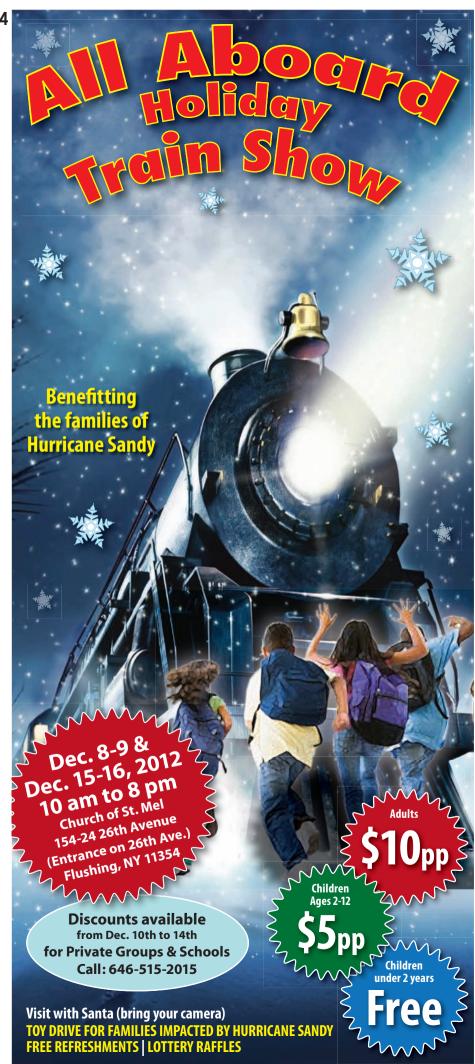
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THE ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

York College Big Band with **Queensborough Community College Symphonic** Orchestra.

When: Dec. 8, 8 pm Where: Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside

Contact: 718-631-6311 Website: visitqpac.org Tribute to Fred Hammond - By

the York College Gospel Choir. When: Dec. 9, 3 pm

Where: York College, 94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica

Colombia de fiesta with Mestizo Dance Co - Embark on an uplifting journey through Colombia's favorite music and dance holiday traditions! When: Through Dec. 9; Fridays

and Saturdays, 8 pm; Sundays,

Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside

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

Eastern European Christmas - Polish and Romanian carols.

When: Dec. 10, 5 pm Where: Ridgewood Public Library, 20-12 Madison St. at Forest Avenue, Ridgewood Contact: (718) 821-4770

Website: www.queenslibrary.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers Dec. 6-12, 2012

By Ed Canty A Ford in Your Future

WEEK'S **ANSWERS**

Across

- 1. "Pipe down!"
- 5. Cancel
- 10. -- the line (obeyed)
- 14. Boat in "Jaws"
- 15. "____ fault is it?"
- 16. Device for rotating one's tires?
- 17. Bothers
- 18. Like Cheerios
- 19. Beginning to care?
- 20. The 19th President
- 23. Command
- 24. "Heads up!" e.g.
- 25. Has a cow
- 28. Bay
- 30. Face saver?
- 31. Ex-viewer of Medusa?
- 33. Friendly beginner?
- 36. Shakespeare's hangout?
- 40. Big load of bricks
- 41. Descartes and others
- 42. Cast leader?
- 43. Roger of "Cheers"
- 44. Newspaper section
- 46. 1960's radical Hoffman
- 49. Bewitching town?
- 51. Classic '50s car
- 57. Chick chaser?
- 58. Circumvent
- 59. Blue Bonnet, e.g.
- 60. Brand, in a way
- 61. Deserve
- 62. Big money-maker?
- 63. Tut's cousins?
- 64. Composer Camille Saint-
- 65. Diminish

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60	T		T		61						62			
63	\top				64						65			

- 1. Coating of frost
- A language of Pakistan
- "Great !"
- Discuss
- Duel tools 5.
- Rub the wrong way?
- Chopper blade
- Computer addict?
- Bow to pressure?
- 10. "Chili today, hot
- 11. Certain daisy
- 12. Bush, senior?
- 13. Thomas Jefferson, religiously
- 21. "... ____ he drove out of sight"
- 22. Any port in a storm
- 25. Actors
- 26. A chorus line
- 27. Financial aid
- 28. Atlantic swimmers
- 29. "... sail ____ Ship of

- 31. Dad's lads
- 32. A crowd in Torino?
- 33. Green beginner?
- 34. Stallion, once
- 35. 11 components?
- 37. Canned meat rival of Spam
- 38. " fi fo fum"
- 39. 1940s Los Alamos development
- 43. Commuters
- 44. Almost hails
- 45. The "p" in m.p.g.
- 46. Pull ____ one
- 47. well
- 48. Go to pieces?
- 49. Animal catcher
- 50. Bring to the mix
- 52. Does some tailoring 53. Bit of eye makeup?
- 54. Hip bones
- 55. Bed check?
- 56. Spoil, with "on"

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Contact: (718) 592-9700

Kew Gardens Contact: (718) 523-1876

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When: Dec. 14, 7 pm

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The story of how Jacob Riis

Where: The Center at Maple

Grove, 127-15 Kew Gardens Road,

brought Christmas Caroling to

America in 1911. Free Parking on

performance in Yiddish. Tickets are limited.

When: Dec. 14, 7:30 pm Where: 43-12 46th St. Contact: (718) 729-0986

Christmas in Vienna - With the Vienna Bovs Choir.

When: Dec. 15, 7:30 pm Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing Contact: (718) 997-5000

Bayside Men's Glee Club Fall Concert - Join us for an

afternoon of singing in the male choral tradition. **When:** Dec. 16, 3 pm Where: Church on the Hill. 168th Street and 35th Avenue.

Flushing

Annual Holiday Concert -

Handel's "Messiah" and other songs by the Oratorio Society of Queens.

When: Dec. 16, 4 pm Where: Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside Contact: (718) 631-6311 Website: www.visitgpac.org

Christmas Concert - Open to the public.

When: Dec. 16, 4 pm Where: Benjamin N. Cardozo High School, 57-00 223rd St., Bayside

EVENTS

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

When: Tuesdays, 8 pm Where: On the Rox Lounge, 43-03 Broadway, Astoria Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@

bigbencomedy.com Website: bigbencomedy.com/

GALLERIES & **EXHIBITS**

Vietnam War Protest Posters

- The exhibition demonstrates how art can be used as a dynamic device to teach and bring history and politics to life for students and public audiences alike.

When: Through Dec. 21 Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing Contact: (718) 997-5000 **ReGeneration** – Despite the near ubiquity of the

term "sustainability," there remains significant ambiguity about everything from the actual meaning of the term to overarching solutions to the challenges we face as a community. Technology and behavioral changes including energy production, agriculture, recycling and pollution reduction are all on the table as we work to understand and address the challenge of sustainability.

When: Through Jan. 13 Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353 Website: nyscience.org

Korean Traditional Illuminated Sutra – The 1.700-year-old

tradition of sutra transcription and illumination by hand, known in Korea as Sagyeong, is brought to life in this spectacular exhibition of 55 pieces of elegant calligraphy and painting in gold and silver. The exhibition Samadhi + Art = Sagyeong brings out the beauty and history of this unique art field, which transcends religious boundaries.

When: Through Dec. 30 Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing **Contact:** (718) 463-7700 Website: flushingtownhall.org

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

Caribbean: Crossroads of the World - A first-time collaborating with El Museo del Barrio to highlight over two centuries of rarely seen works from the Haitian Revolution (1804) to the present. The show features some 400 works including painting, sculpture, prints, books, photography, film, video and historic artifacts from Caribbean nations, Europe and the United States.

When: Through Jan. 6, 2013 Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona

Contact: (718) 592-9700 Website: queensmuseum.org

Emerging Artist Fellowship

Exhibition - Each year, Socrates Sculpture Park selects artists to produce outdoor artworks within the Park. Reflective of our time, these artists are making public sculptures that are subtly mysterious, visually compelling, and, at times, provocative. When: Through March 31, 2013

Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Astoria

Contact: (718) 956-1819 Website:

socratesscultpurepark.org

Hammer, Chisel, Drill: Noguchi's Studio Practice

- Includes about 60 hand and industrial tools drawn from Noguchi's belongings. A handful of his sculptures, finished and unfinished, will be positioned throughout the exhibition as they relate to specific tools or processes, and a 1970 documentary including footage of Noguchi at work at his Pietrasanta studio will run. When: Through April 28, 2013 Where: The Noguchi Museum,

9-01 33rd Rd., Astoria Contact: 718-204-7088 Website: noguchi.org





TIMES LEDGER, DEC. 6-12 2012

Continued from Page 51

says. "He was our first major influence in music, and our diverse taste definitely comes from him. He played Miles Davis, Metallica, Bob Marley, Anita Baker and everything in between."

And Natalie says they don't remember a time when they weren't singing: "It's always been a part of us." At age 7 they wrote their very first song, "Sisters."

Never formally trained in music, the twins said they learned to play drums and guitar from their stepdad, while their mom encouraged them to sing and express themselves. By the time they were 9, they had books full of songs about everything from dancing to sisterhood, and even helping sick people.

These days, they draw their inspiration from Madonna, Lauryn Hill, Lisa Lisa, Outkast and Sting.

As teens, Natalie said Steinway Street was their favorite place to shop: "We loved Sound City, where we bought most of our mix tapes, and Nicole would buy records. Astoria Park was fun in the summer; the strip always had life and the swimming pool was always full."

Fast forward to 2012 and now when the girls "hang in their 'hood," they say Sanford's is their go to for a quick bite, for a nice glass of wine. They choose Mosaic and Wattawa for the best sushi.

The duo's home studio is where they record most of their ideas before bringing them to a larger studio to be mixed and mastered. "When we were younger, we'd sing on the stoop with friends," says Nicole. "We'd turn up the radio, press record on our karaoke machine, and sing over the beats."

Stoli original series

The twins said they teamed up with Stolichnaya vodka for their new album:

"The series highlights originators within our community. They invited us to collaborate on a song as a part of their creative project — ORGNL.TV, showcasing



Astoria natives Natalie (I.) and Nicole Albino perform as Nina Sky.

Courtesy Gamer Score Blog

different artists in fashion, art and music," Nicole says. "For the project, we wrote 'Now Is The Time." The song is available for free download at soundcloud.com/stoli-music/nina-sky-now-is-the-time.

And, along with their musical talents, the twins' fashion

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sense comes naturally.

"We just consider ourselves Nicole and Natalie," Nicole says. "We don't take fashion as seriously as other people do. Yes, we want to be presentable and cute but most importantly, comfortable in our own skin. We love to

try new things; our fashion sensibility is similar to our taste in music — we love it all!"

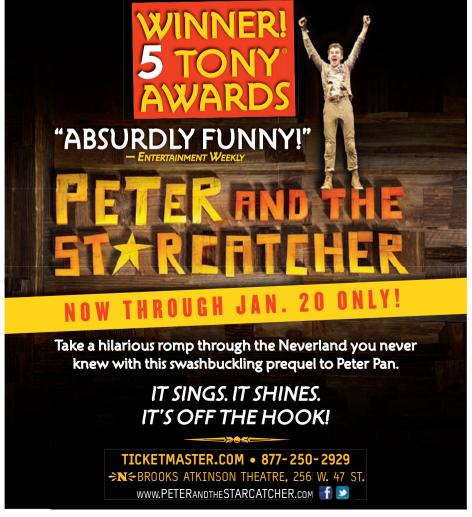
"Now is the time, here is the place. Live in the moment... there's no time to waste." (Lyrics from "Now Is The Time").

www.ninaskyhigh.com/blog



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VISITS WITH SANTA AND HIS ELF

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Saturday, December 8th	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 9th	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday, December 15th	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 16th	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday, December 22nd	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 23rd	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Sunday, December 9th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, December 16th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday, December 23rd

MENORAH LIGHTING

To be held at Chabad House, 212-12 26th Avenue. (Featuring fire eaters; jugglers; live music; dancing; raffle)

> Sunday, December 9th 6 p.m.



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Shirley Valentine - The play about a middle-aged housewife who finds herself unhappy and wondering what happened to all the joy in her life.

When: Daily, until Sunday, Dec. 9

Where: Queens Theatre. Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona

Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064: Administration 718-760-0686

Website: queenstheatre.org

You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up! - In the 75 minute tour-de-force, You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up! takes a look at a relationship that seems doomed by opposing personalities from the start. After trials and tribulations, they learn to navigate the conflicts that come with romance, money and children, by embracing each other's

differences, taking on parenting as a competitive sport, and dropping out of couple's therapy.

When: Dec. 7, 7:30 pm; Dec. 8, 2 pm, 8 pm; Dec. 9, 3 pm

Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona

Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686

Website: queenstheatre.org

Colombia de Fiesta - With the Mestizo Dance Co.

When: Through Dec. 9; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 pm; Sundays,

Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside Contact: (718) 729-3880 Website: thaliatheatre.org

Shirley Valentine - The play about a middle-aged housewife who finds herself unhappy and

wondering what happened to all the joy in her life.

When: Through Dec. 9 Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park,

Corona Contact: Box Office (718) 760-0064: Administration (718)

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Website: queenstheatre.org

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting - Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties. When: Every other Wednesday,

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck

Contact: Muriel, (718) 225-7382

sudoku

Answers in Sports

	Easy #48										
	8				6		7				
	9		8				1	4			
1		7						6			
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	4		6				9				

	Hard #48									
	2			1	9					
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Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There should be no repeats; which means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

Tips at www.sudoku.com © Puzzles by Pappocom

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FRIDAY NIGHT

DJ STARTS AT 10PM

SATURDAY NIGHT

70's DANCE PARTY DJ STARTS AT 10PM

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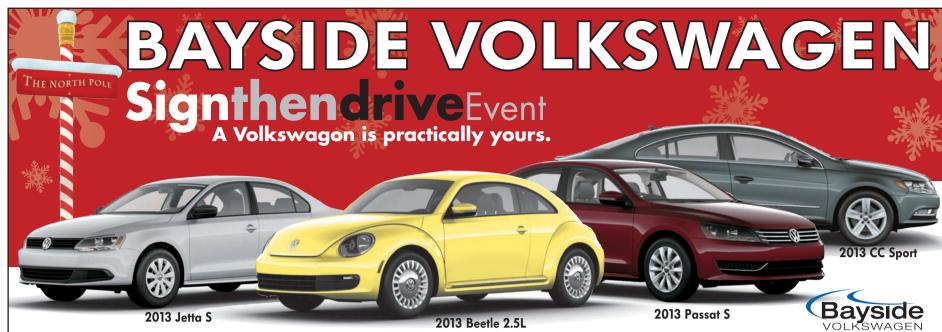
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Worries surface about air, water after Sandy

BY KAREN FRANTZ

As residents living in areas devastated by Hurricane Sandy slowly start to put their lives back together and rebuild, some are worried about an additional concern: the quality of their air and water.

In the Rockaways a month after the storm, dust and debris were still suspended in the air in many areas. Business owners cleaning out their wrecked stores were battling mold. And concerns about water quality mounted after reports that sewage had leaked from damaged treatment plants and flowed into New York and New Jersey waterways.

State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) said he had received several calls from constituents worried about the safety of the air and water. He said some complained of an ailment going around



A police officer wearing a mask directs traffic on darkened Beach 116th Street in Rockaway.

Photo by Christina Santucci

called the "Sandy Cough" that he said might be attributed to random dust in the air, but there is concern it could be due to asbestos, mold or sewage that had washed up.

"We just don't know," he said "And that's the biggest fear, fear of the unknown."

Mary Hansen, who lives in Hamilton Beach and had been spending every day cleaning up her flooded home, said she had been struck by the ailment.

"I've developed a cough, and I don't cough. I'm not a cougher unless I'm sick," she said. "There was a lot of dust and a just lot of ... smell."

She said for a while after the storm she could smell high tide by whiffs of chemicals, which she said could be from boats that leaked oil

"There's shiny stuff in my water," she said.

Meanwhile, Goldfeder said he is calling on the city Departments of Health and **Environmental Protection** to conduct daily tests for

"It's easy for someone to say it's safe, but until we see documentation or proof, everyone is afraid," he said.

He said so far he has not received an answer from the city about the availability or viability of such daily tests.

But DOH and DEP said tests of the air and water have been performed. Both agencies said they have been monitoring the city's drinking water system and found tap water is safe to drink in the city, including in all areas that expe-

rienced flooding with one exception. In Breezy Point, tap water

is not drinkable even if it is boiled, the DEP said, because it is assumed there was extensive damage to the water pipes there. Residents are asked to drink bottled water.

DEP also announced Friday that advisories for the New York Harbor, Hudson River, East River, Jamaica Bay and the Kill Van Kull that were put in place following storm damage to 10 of the city's 14 wastewater treatment plants were lifted following two weeks of water quality testing. The agency cautioned that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency maintains an advisory for parts of the Rockaways that are on the ocean.

In addition, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has been conducting routine outdoor air quality moni-

SUPERSTORM

toring and has not shown any unusual air quality risks since

the hurricane, DOH and DEP said.

But DOH did caution that residents cleaning up their homes may come into contact with irritants such as dust, mold, fumes from temporary heating sources and the use of strong cleaning products. It said such contact could be irritating to the eyes, throat and lungs and worsen conditions like asthma.



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64 Rockaways

Continued from Page 7

67th Street after the storm, between Jorge Howard's residence and a neighbor's house.

Howard said the sinkhole is closer to his neighbor's house and she had better check the foundation.

"I can't worry about that right now," Howard said of the hole, which measured close to 6 feet wide. "I'm trying to make my house livable again. That hole is on my neighbor's property and it looks like it goes right under her house.

She better check the foundation."

The seemingly endless road to recovery continues for the storm-battered Rockaways and now drivers will have to fork over some cash to help residents navigate that road.

Toll collections resumed Saturday at two bridges leading in and out of the peninsula, as the MTA reinstated tolls at the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge, linking the Rockaways with the rest of Queens, and at the Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge, linking the peninsula with Brooklyn.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo

had suspended tolls Nov. 4, as the loss of train service after Superstorm Sandy made traveling difficult for residents and volunteers alike. The car tolls are \$3.25 cash or \$1.80 with E-ZPass.

A spokeswoman for state Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) said the assemblyman advocated to have the tolls removed following the storm and that he would like to see them removed permanently.

"Assemblyman Gold-feder has been the champion to completely eliminate the tolls on the Cross Bay Bridge," said the spokeswoman.

Smith

Continued from Page 6

alliances in the Senate. He was the majority leader in 2009 when four Democrats broke with the party to caucus with Republicans,

shifting power to the GOP side. The so-called "Gang of Four" refused to back Smith as the Democratic majority leader and tried to make their own deals.

Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos (R-Massapequa Park) said the Senate's rules will be rewritten

to formally recognize the IDC as a third party, and every two weeks he and Klein will alternate as "temporary president."

The Senate was still waiting for the results from two upstate races to determine which party would hold the majority.

Flood

Continued from Page 7

a report in The New York Times.

The legislation will cap annual increases in premiums to 20 percent, but will also end subsidies and include many more homes in its coverage base, according to the legislation.

And those increases will hit some flood-ravaged communities in the Rockaways harder than others.

For instance, the median average income in Neponsit, which is made up of largely single-family homes, is about \$100,000 and the majority of households earn more than \$200,000 according to estimations from the U.S. Census Bureau, though the data came with large margins of error ranging from 30 percent to nearly 50 percent.

Bayswater has several areas that are also zoned for single-family detached homes, yet residents there have a median household income half of Neponsit's, according to similar data from the bureau, with a 17 percent margin of error.

Many homeowners in decimated Breezy Point have vowed to rebuild. According to the bureau, their median household income is about \$80,000 with a 7 percent margin of error. But new premiums could represent nearly 10 percent of a household's yearly income.

The lowest income areas of the Rockaways, some with a median household income of \$20,000, are in higher density housing stock including apartments, attached row houses and many city housing projects, meaning premium increases could trickle down in the form of higher rent.

According to Robert Hartwig, president and economist at the Insurance Information Institute, an industry trade association, the government had been charging artificially low premiums for decades and in effect subsidizing low-cost coastal development.

"The existence of subsidized flood coverage has encouraged and enabled substandard construction to occur in very vulnerable areas," Hartwig said. "It

is a principal reason why the U.S. is so vulnerable to events like Katrina and Sandy."

Why the rates stayed so low is a matter of speculation, with The Times pointing the finger at real estate lobbyists. But the weather events of 2005, when the insurance program went \$18 billion into debt after Hurricane Katrina, spurred Congress into action with the prospect of future storms and more borrowing from the U.S. Treasury, according to congressional legislation.

The new rates, according to Hartwig, may displace some low- and middle-income residents in flood-prone areas of Queens, but the modified premiums more accurately reflect the risk involved with owning a home there.

"If the program had been doing this consistently for the last 44 years, it would have more money in the bank relative to exposure and it's likely there would be fewer structures in harm's way than there are today," he said.

Lines

Continued from Page 6

from the vote. He wondered why Mitchell-Linden and the Brooklyn changes were fixed, but the rest of the maps left alone. In particular, Padavan is seeking to have the neighborhood of Broadway-Flushing put entirely into the district of City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone).

In the commission's Nov. 16 map, the neighborhood was divided, with some of it falling into the district of City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing). In an interview after Padavan voted to adopt that map, he groused that he could not see the final results clearly and was not aware that portions of Broadway-Flushing had been split apart from each other.

Hum noted the original Mitchell-Linden deci-

sion was a blatant mistake and hinted that the outcry over the redrawn Lopez district was so great after the assemblyman's sexual harassment scandal the commission was compelled to make those changes in advance of the yet-to-be scheduled hearings.

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

Sink holes

Continued from Page 7

ran a day care center on 67th Street for two years before Superstorm Sandy struck, had her spirits lifted from the doldrums after deciding that she wanted to rebuild — bigger and better than before.

"I keep thinking, 'OK, this thing happened, it wasn't welcomed, but I'm glad for a new start," she said. "Out with the old, in with the new."

And the old went out in a hurry. Phipps said the hurricane took everything, as her day care, which she also calls her home, was completely gutted by a squad of eager volunteers.

"What I've seen is

people from all walks of life chipping in to help one another," said Phipps, who has worked for the New York City Housing Authority and as a matron with the NYPD in charge of detained women and children. "It's a shame that a catastrophic situation pulled everyone together."

While this experience is something she never wants to go through again, she cannot deny she has learned a lot in the month since the storm. She learned how to text out of necessity and she also learned to appreciate long-ago lessons from her Uncle Leonard, a military serviceman.

"We moved a lot and I hated it," she said. "But the discipline he showed helped me cope with my situation. I texted him, 'thank you for

teaching me the strategic art of survival."

Phipps is surviving these days with the help of friends, strangers and the mayor's Rapid Repairs program, a free assessment service that expedites home repairs. She said she is grateful for the work being done, but wishes it could get done a lot faster.

But she continues to look forward, and Phipps said that is a lot more constructive than looking back to those first few harrowing nights after the storm.

"I have never experienced anything like this before, it was horrifying," she said. "Those first few nights I slept in my car so that I wouldn't freeze to death. It was a grimy, dirty, filthy life. I can still smell it."



MERRY BREAKFAST

Santa Claus pays a visit to a special breakfast event at Sacred Heart School of Bayside last week to spread holiday cheer.

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart of Bayside

Sports

over Sacred Heart

BY JOE PANTORNO

Sophomore Saarah Velandia had already done the hard part by sparking a St. Francis Prep comeback. Still, she was nervous as she stepped to the free throw line before making one of two to seal her team's basketball season opening win.

"I couldn't keep my cool at the line," she said. "I tried my best, but I couldn't. I'm just glad I made one."

Velandia scored six points in the game's final minute to lead St. Francis Prep to a 52-49 comefrom-behind win over Sacred Heart (L.I.) at the St. Dominic Holiday Classic in Oyster Bay Saturday night. Velandia doubled her points total and finished with 12 points on the night.

"We just had hope the whole time," Velandia said. "We knew we were going to win this."

The Terriers, who were down seven points with four minutes left to play, trailed just 49-46. Velandia started the spurt by knocking down a threepointer from the right elbow to tie the score. She followed that up by hitting a 15-foot jumper with 22 seconds left to give St. Francis Prep (1-0) its first lead of the game after a steal from Veronica Ganzi and an offensive rebound from freshman Sofia Re-

"Everyone was coming towards me and I was just filled with joy," Valendia said. "I just knew we had it then."

St. Francis Prep had to overcome the hot shooting Sacred Heart. which hit seven three-pointers.

It didn't look that way early. Sacred Heart flew out of the gates, taking a 15-0 lead four minutes into the game and was up 21-7 after the opening eight minutes. St. Francis then began to chip away slowly but surely, really making a move with a 17-10 third quarter. Down seven with four minutes left in the fourth, the play of Ganzi, who recorded 14 points on the night and a key threepointer from Recupero made the comeback possible.

"We're young, and for us to come back from seven in the fourth quarter, they never thought they were out of the game," said assistant Coach Kevin Wagner. "It showed a lot of character."

St. Francis had to overcome the hot shooting of Sacred Heart, which hit seven three-pointers on the night, six of them coming from Ashleigh Orr, who recorded a game-high 22 points. Wagner called it a character win to start the season. St. Francis Prep expects an improved season after winning just two games last year. The win meant a lot to the play-

Velandia leads rally | Heart carries Xavier to win

Knights come together in uphill battle to capture Class AA crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Hurricane Sandy chased 11 Xavier players from their Rockaway homes, but left them wanting to keep their football family together as long as possible.

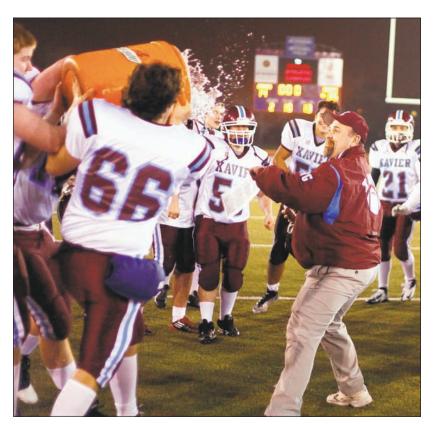
The Knights banded together and drew strength from one another all the way to a Cathoic High School Football League Class AA title 35-14 over St. John the Baptist Saturday night at Mitchel Field in Uniondale. L.I. The Manhattan school's first 'AA' crown since 1996 — when it was called the 'A' — was the only way the players felt this story could end. The already close team, which had trouble finding a place to practice the last two weeks, was going to be an example of perseverance for its community.

"It took the whole character of the team to another level," Xavier Coach Chris Stevens said. "We knew after we beat Mount [St. Michael in the quarterfinal] if we can pull this off, we could be the feel good story of Sandy."

Seniors Ryan Kilgallen and Jimmy Wolfer, two of the players who were forced out of their homes, played a major role in the title win. Kilgallen rushed for 104 yards and three touchdowns on 16 carries. He also caught a huge 36-yard pass from Trey Solomon to set up his own 5-yard touchdown run for the game's first score. Wolfer was a force on defense with an interception and sack. He also had a long kick-off return to the 50 against a Cougars (9-3) team that won the first meeting 14-0.

"It's beyond words," Wolfer said. "I've been thinking about this since freshman year. It just feels so good to win this game. I'm just so choked up by it."

He was one of four players who lived with teammate Connor Sweet in Manhattan after the storm, some of whom are back home in Rockaway. Another of the four, senior Ryan McDade helped evacuate his family



Xavier head Coach Chris Stevens prepares for a celebratory soaking after winning the 2012 CHSAA "AA" Football Championship game over St. John the Baptist at Nassau Community College in Garden City. Photo by Robert Cole

before their house burned down. He walked around after the game with a red hammer in his hand.

It was the symbol the team adopted after Stevens brought it to his pep rally speech prior to the team's Thanksgiving Day and semifinal win over rival Fordham Prep. He brought two hammers, meant to be used for a service trip by students, and made an X for Xavier (10-2). It intensified the fire already present in his players.

"It just shows the perseverance of all of us," Kilgallen said. "The community itself of the Rockaways, Breezy Point, it's a great community, it's tight-knit. The motto is keep calm and rebuild because we know we're going to get it done and come back stronger."

The 11 players became an example to their teammates and their courage motivated them. Solomon, who rushed for 140 yards and two touchdowns, said the win was bittersweet. Xavier had fought to stay together as long as possible and this game marked the end of their journey as teammates.

"I feel like I want to keep going," Solomon said.

Their lives will continue with their spirit strong. Sandy destroyed homes, but couldn't tear down Xavier and its players' will to win for each other.

"It's the final chapter," Wolfer said. "We got to finish it strong and that's what we did."

Red Storm gets pumped up by monster slam dunk

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Chris Obekpa's offensive confidence is growing and it's helping St. John's at just the right time. For the second game this season the 6-foot-9 freshman, known more for his "SportsCenter" highlight blocks, provided big shots in the closing minutes of a tight game on his terms.

"I won't force it though," Obekpa said. "If it's open, I'll take it."

He stood true to those words with the Red Storm men's basketball team leading NJIT by just one point with less than 3:00 to play. He grabbed the ball at the high post, faked a handoff and went in for a two-hand power slam. A possession later, he stepped out and buried an elbow job that sent the Red Storm to a 57-49 win over NJIT Saturday afternoon at Carnesecca Arena. He had a similar jumper in



St. John's point guard D'Angelo Harrison dribbles the ball during a previous game.

Photo courtesy St. John's Athletic Communications/Vincent Dusovic

the season-opening win over Detroit.

It is the Red Storm's fourth straight home win. DeAngelo Harrison scored 14 of his 21 points in the second half. Freshman JaKarr Sampson recorded his first career triple double with 15 points and 17 rebounds. Obekpa had eight points, five blocks and six rebounds.

"That just energized the whole team," Sampson said of Obekpa's dunk. "It got us hyped, got us going."

St. John's was in a tight game because of another turnover-filled and poor-shooting first half, a trend the team can't seem to buck. The Red Storm (6-2) let Highlander stars Ryan Woods, who had 16 points and connected on four treys, and Chris Flores (10 points) have their way in the first half. NJIT (4-3) built a 14-point lead early in the second

half.

"They just torched the nets, carved us up like a side of French fries," St. John's Coach Steve Lavin said.

He and his players know they need to put an entire game together when they get to Big East play. Obekpa admitted he and his team may have been looking past NJIT.

St. John's remembered who they were in the second half, going on to tie a school record with 12 blocks and dominating the paint and the glass. They ripped off a 17-2 run to grab a 42-40 lead with 12:33 remaining in the game.

"We mentioned if we are at Syracuse or playing at Villanova and you spot a team like that a 14-point lead it makes it more difficult," Lavin said. "Being at home this game, we were able to come back. Eventually it's going to burn you.

St. Francis Terriers optimistic despite loss to Iona

BY DANIEL MARTIN

St. Francis Prep boys' basketball Coach Tim Leary is staying positive, despite his team's 62-45 loss to Iona Prep in CHSAA Class AA play Friday night in Fresh Meadows.

Just two games into

the season, Leary is continuing to find the right combination of lineups, working players back into the rotation from injury and assimilating multisport players into the roster after they finish up their fall seasons.

"We're on a learn-

ing curve," the longtime coach said. "We didn't get after them hard enough. We have a lot of young guys, and even our seniors didn't play much. We're in the stage of the game where we have to put everything together."

St. Francis

trailed by just four points at halftime, 30-26, and was able to tie the game up early in the third quarter at 32-32. Defensive lapses allowed Iona Prep to go on a 10-0 run after that point, ballooning the lead to 42-32 mid-way through the

"It was a lack of defense," said Terriers guard Michael Fields, who had 13 points on the night. "We almost completely stopped playing defense. They were in better shape. We have to learn and get in shape and come back strong the next

Fields was integral in a comeback attempt by the Terriers in the fourth quarter, when they were able to cut the deficit to seven points. Dribble penetration by Fields opened up opportunities for teammates, including sophomore guard Shane Herrity, who led the team with



St. Francis Prep's Michael Fields (I.) passes the ball.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

14 points.

"It comes with the offense," Fields said. "We run a very simple but effective offense and when you run it right, good things happen."

But defensive struggles struck again late in the fourth quarter, as sharpshooting Iona sophomore Matt Ryan led an 11-2 run that sealed the game for good. Ryan led all scorers with 25 points.

"They out-hustled us and obviously they shot the ball really well, but that's their reputation through the years," Leary said. "They let us back in the game, but we were bad from the foul line."

The road continues for St. Francis Prep, adding pieces along the way, including guard Nick Colack. Leary expects improvement to follow.

"We have a couple of football kids late. We have a few kids who might start for us who are hurt," Leary said. "I don't think you got a good picture of who we are. We're going to get a lot better."

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Royals fall despite strong rally in opener against Bishop Ford

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Christ the King Coach Bob Mackey liked what he saw from his team in the middle of the game, cutting a 20-point deficit to just four in the fourth quarter.

"I loved the comeback," he said.

It's what happened before and after that led to the Royals' 67-53 season opening loss to host Bishop Ford in CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens girls' basketball Monday night. CK watched the Falcons open the game on a 12-0 run and close it on a 13-2 spurt. He pointed to seven missed free throws in the final quarter, sloppy play and turnovers, which plagued them early on as well.

"I think [the comeback] took a lot out of us," Mackey said.

Junior wing Sierra Calhoun scored 20 points, including nine straight to open the fourth. Ford bottled her up early and foul trouble kept her on the bench more than she'd like. Classmate Kollvns Scarbrough tallied 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Shannon Barrett added eight points of the bench, but Mackey is looking for more contributions outside of Calhoun and Scarbrough.

The Royals got within 54-51 with 4:44 remaining in the game and didn't score again until two Calhoun free throws with 20 seconds remaining in the game. Ford got a layup from Aaliyah Lewis (20 points) and a huge threepointer from Jill Conroy (13 points) and never looked back. St. John's-bound guard Aaliyah Lewis added 15 points.

"We had our momentum and let it slip away," Calhoun said.

CK will play the early season without an experienced point guard. Last year's starter, Alyssa Gatti, is still recovering from a torn ACL and should be cleared to run Friday, according to Mackey. Her backup, Amanni Fernandez, transferred to Lawrenceville (N.J.) prior to the school year and last year's JV point guard Deja Johnson suffered a concussion during a scrimmage with St. Anthony's and is out for a week. Kristen Drogsler is handling the duties for now.

"Right now it's point guard by committee," Mackey said. "We are going to be all right. It's a long season."

Queens College's Rowland earns rookie honors

Queens College freshman MacKenzie Rowland (Shaker, N.Y./Cohoes) was named East Coast Conference Rookie of the Week. it was announced by the league office Monday. This is the second such award for the talented freshman basketball player.

The Knights improved to 3-2 and earned their first conference win of the season with an 82-43 victory over Mercy Saturday from Fitzgerald Gym. The game, which was the only one of the week for QC, saw them improve to 3-0 at home this sea-

In the win, Rowland was a perfect nine-for-nine from the field as she scored

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a season-high 19 points and pulled down 14 rebounds. She added a pair of blocked shots and threw in an assist and a steal. Rowland was one of four Knights to reach double figures in scoring in the win.

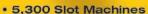
The Knights' forward picks up her second award after she was feted for her stellar play Nov. 11. Rowland has reached double figures in scoring in three contests this season.

Rowland and the Queens College women's basketball team return to the hardwood Dec. 8, when they have their first conference road game at NYIT. The tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m.

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PROTECTIVE SERVICES, LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/25/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Julie Babatunde, 109-11 Pine Grove St., Jamaica, NY 11435. Jamaica, NY General Purposes.

CP QUEENS 2012, LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 9/24/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 625 Rahway Union, NJ 07083. General Purposes.

Street Properties LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/13/05. Office in Queens County SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 213-19 99th Queens Village, NY 11429. Purpose: General.

Notice of Formation of 248-50 54th Avenue LLC. Arts of Org filed Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on State of NY (SSNY) on 10/24/12. Off. loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The (LLC). Name: SPIRIT

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LLC, 208-48 Cross Island Pkwy., 2nd Fl., Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: E-SSENTIAL SUPPLEMENTS AND BODY CARE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/15/2012. 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, 54-20 39 Ave., Woodside, NY 11377-2626. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: FOX TWO LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/16/2012. Office loca-Queens tion: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Andrew D. Boxberger, Carson Boxberger LLP, 1400 One Summit Square, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION
OF LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY. NAME: JKX
HOLDING LLC. Articles of
Organization were filed organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/22/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated. 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 189 Allen Street, 2J, New York, New York 10002

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GATE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed Secretary of State of New (SSNY) 10/26/2012. Office location: County Queens SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC, 39-18 211 Street, 2nd Fl. NY 11361 Bayside Purpose any purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: STARFIELD ENHANCE (US) LLC.
Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/07/2012. 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: LLC, 6909 108 Street 409. Forest Hills. NY ENHÂNCE (US) Street 409, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: M.P.H. SPORTS PERFORMANCE Articles Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/15/2012. Office location: County Queens SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Nelson Reyes, 65th Crescent,
Meadows. NY 194-35A Meadows, Fresh 11365. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: TONG THAI NEW YORK LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2012. Office location: County. SSNY Queens

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LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC, process to: THE LLC, 34-11 62nd Street, Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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of limited liability company (LLC). Name: KINGDOM BUSINESS VENTURE Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New (SSNY) on 08/13/2012. 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, 109-20 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica. NY 11435. Jamaica Purpose: awfu anv

Notice of Formation of New TJ Group Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/12. Off. loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to princ. bus. loc.: The LLC, 217-46 54th Ave., Bayside, NY 11364. Purpose: lawfu any activity

Notice of Formation of NGN New York, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 6/20/12. 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 25046 39th Rd., ittle Neck, NY Purpose: any awfu

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against it may be served SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co. 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, regd. agent upon whom and which āt process may be served . Purpose: Any lawfu activity.

XTRA MILE MINDSET LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts filed with the SSNY on 9/28/12. Office location: Queens County SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Robert A. Massey, 162-15 Highland Ave., Ste. 4M, Highland Ave., Ste Jamaica Estates, NY 11432. General Purposes.

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CHAN f/k/a HELEN CHAN f/k/a YUK YING CHAN, Plaintiff, v. CHEUN-CHENG WU, if living, and all the heirs, next of kins, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees, and successors in interest to any of CHEUN-CHENG WU, and all their heirs, CHEUN-CHENG distributees, next-of-kin. trustee, devisees, lega-tee(s), lienors, creditors, assignees, and successors devisees, in interest to the aforementioned class of persons having or claiming under, by or through said CHEUN-CHENG WU, who may be deceased, by purchase, in-heritance, lien, or other-wise any right, title or inter-

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described in the Complaint herein, and their respective husbands, wives, or widows, if any, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff, except as may be stated herein. Defendant.

Index #2820/12, Purchased: 02/09/2012

Plaintiff designates OUFFNS COUNTY as Place of trial. The basis of venue is location of The Premises. The Premises is located at 202-21 Rocky Bayside, Road, Queens County, NY (Block 5561. Lot 54).

SUMMONS

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York. Dated: Flushing, New York, January 30, 2012. The Law Offices of Alison Fung, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 136-20 38th Avenue, Suite 11-D, Flushing, New York 11354,

the venue designated is

the location of the real

property that is the subject

of this action, which is in

the Borough of Queens,

City and State of New

(718) 321-7000. By: Stephen Fung, Esq.



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CLINTON, LAWRENCE JOSEPH

of Ormond Beach Florida, died Nov. 16, 2012. Born Nov. 14, 1921 in Brooklyn, NY to Anna Kerr

Clinton & Patrick Joseph Clinton. Served with the US Army in North Africa and Europe, participating in the invasion of France on D-Day June 1945. A lieutenant in the NYC Police Dept, Larry was a lifelong athlete who loved football & played half back at St. Francis Prep and later semi-professionally. But golf was his main game; he played until his 91st year & scored seven holes in ones in his career including one at the age of 82. A loving & generous father, Larry often told his children how fortunate he was to have a wonderful family and great friends. His eyes sparkled, he loved to laugh, & he appreciated every day

He is predeceased by the love of his life. Kathleen & survived by his children Barbara Clinton (Jim Selin), Kathleen Clinton (Peter Corl), Larry Clinton (Ginny Graybill), Maureen Clinton, Michael Clinton (Moira Marian Clinton) & grandchildren Greta. Caitlin, Kathryn, Lauren, Alexa, Joey & Anna Grace.

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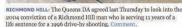


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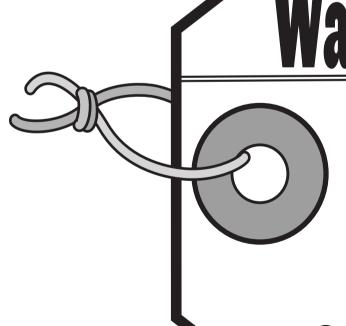
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