

BAYSIDE Times

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Cuomo, Silver pledge to halt co-op tax hikes

BY PHIL CORSO

Co-op and condo owners need not worry about any drastic tax increases because Gov. Andrew Cuomo has committed to their cause, lawmakers said Monday.

In a statement, state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) and state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing) said Cuomo and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) would pass a measure authorizing retroactive tax relief.

"It is reassuring to receive a commitment from the governor and the speaker to pass an extension retroactively," Braunstein said. "I want to thank Gov. Cuomo and Speaker Silver for their leadership on this issue."

Earlier this year, the state Legislature failed to extend the J-51 program, which provided co-op and condo owners with millions of dollars in tax abatements to help maintain and upgrade properties. The program officially ended June 30, but lawmakers said agreements were in place to pass a new plan.

In response to the concern, lawmakers throughout northeast Queens spoke out against any sudden tax increases for co-op and condo owners, including state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and

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Boro raises voice over flight noise

Northeast community leaders rally for seat at FAA negotiating table

BY PHIL CORSO

Whether the Federal Aviation Administration has finalized its changes in departure procedures out of LaGuardia Airport or not, elected officials from

northeast Queens said they would not go down quietly.

Borough leaders, including state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), U.S. Rep.-elect Grace Meng (D-Flushing) and state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside),

joined with more than 50 area residents Saturday morning to protest FAA plans, which have led to complaints of air and noise pollution.

"The FAA is in for the fight of its life," Avella said, calling on

elected officials on the national level to add their voices to the battle. "This is a winnable fight, but it is going to take each and every one of us to get involved."

The FAA did not return re-

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SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



Maestro David Close (c.) conducts members of the Orchestral Arts Ensemble of Queens as they are joined by the Oratorio Society of Queens during the group's annual concert at Queensborough Performing Arts Center in Bayide.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Avella gets tough on trees

Senator scolds city for silence on residents' pleas for trimming

BY PHIL CORSO

Even before Hurricane Sandy, Glen Oaks Village President Bob Friedrich said his group maintained a running list of ailing trees in his part of northeast Queens, but to no avail.

According to Friedrich, the Glen Oaks tree-trimming laundry list went virtually unnoticed when presented to the city Parks Department despite warnings about roughly 50 unhealthy trees.

By the time Superstorm Sandy swept through his streets, Friedrich said almost half of the already problematic trees had toppled down from the intense wind and rain.

"Had those trees been pruned, they wouldn't have come down so easily," Friedrich said. "The city is basically ignoring the pleas of northeast Queens communities."

In front of uprooted sidewalk plots where trees once stood and homes with missing roof shingles, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) joined civic leaders and homeowners in Floral Park last Thursday to blast the Parks Department for neglecting homeowners' requests and failing to maintain its trees.

"One of the biggest problems residents had to deal with in the after-



State Sen. Tony Avella (c.) joins with residents of northeast Queens to demand reform to the city Parks Department's management of trees in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Photo by Phil Corso

math of Hurricane Sandy was downed trees," Avella said. "It is extremely unfortunate that many of the downed trees that either fell on homes or blocked streets are the same trees that constituents have been calling on the city to remove for years."

Avella said a changing climate has forced the city's hand in committing to new policies involving tree damage, stump removal and the placement of new trees. The senator had

held a news conference on the subject in July 2011 and said things have not gotten any better this year.

To expedite progress, Avella said he developed his own plan, which included calling on the formation of a tree policy review committee to evaluate tree maintenance and to put an immediate temporary halt to the city's Million Tree Planting program until new rules and procedures are installed.

"This just further il-

lustrates what I have been saying for years as a former City Council member and now state senator — the city needs to do a far better job at maintaining the trees that are already planted before planting a million more," Avella said. "Going forward, there needs to be a concrete plan in place to address this serious problem."

Avella said the city was rushing to fulfill its million trees commitment

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Braunstein law aims to bust fake lawyers

BY PHIL CORSO

Lawyers caught practicing without a license will now be charged with a felony, according to the northeast Queens official who originally introduced the bill.

Legislation introduced by state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) designed to crack down on fake lawyers victimizing New Yorkers was signed into law last week, upping the penalty from a misdemeanor to a Class E felony. The assemblyman said the tougher penalty should go on to protect the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

"Over the past several years, there have been hundreds of complaints by immigrants who have been victimized by fraudulent attorneys," Braunstein said. "No one should ever be forced to leave the country because of the practices of dishonest con artists claiming to be lawyers. By having this law signed, we are standing up for the rights of all New Yorkers to ensure that individuals receive proper legal assistance."

For most state-licensed professions in New York, unlicensed practice constitutes a class E felony, Braunstein said. But under current law, unlicensed lawyers caught in the act would only receive a misdemeanor.

"When New Yorkers have legal problems, they deserve a real attorney. Unscrupulous individuals pretending to be lawyers often prey on immigrants and the poor," said New York State Bar Association President Seymour W. James Jr. "The consequences of their bad advice can be life-altering for their victims, resulting in jail time, loss of child custody, deportation and financial hardship."

Now after Cuomo's approval, Braunstein's new law will increase the penalty of the unlicensed practice of law a felony as of Nov. 1, 2013.

"We have no tolerance for scam artists who pose as lawyers and deceive New Yorkers in need of legal help," Cuomo said. "This new law will help hold accountable individuals who

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A bill introduced by state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein that aims to toughen penalties on fake lawyers throughout the state will take effect in November 2013.

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Cardozo brings the gritty Civil War to life for students

History teacher sets up battlefield scene with military uniforms, food, weaponry and A-frame tents

BY PHIL CORSO

High school students study the Civil War every year, but rarely do they ever get a chance to see, hear, smell and taste it.

That all changed Friday when hundreds of students at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School in Bayside took to the fields throughout the day to see what life was like for Civil War soldiers firsthand, complete with A-frame tents, period food, uniforms, weaponry and even shaving equipment.

The entire event was orchestrated with help from history teacher Peter Ridout, an active member of the 124th New York State Volunteers Civil War re-enactment unit.

"I want these kids to get a real appreciation of history," Ridout said. "Anything that I can do to bring



Students sit around a campfire at Cardozo High School in Bayside during a live Civil War re-enactment.

Photo courtesy Peter Georgatos

that to life is what it's all about."

As he has done for five consecutive years now, Ridout arrived at Cardozo in the early hours of the morning, regardless of the weather, to prepare its field

so that it accurately portrays the camps of the Civil War era. Throughout the day, hundreds of American history students at the school took tours of the site to see the ins and outs of Civil War life up close.

Assistant Principal of Social Studies Peter Georgatos said the event has grown to become a school tradition that sets Cardozo apart from any other high schools in northeast Queens.

"Putting something like this together makes much more of an impression on the kids," Georgatos said. "It brings it all to life and that is what separates us from any other school."

To engage the students in sight, Ridout assembled the same style of tents in which soldiers would sleep inside. While they could read all they wanted about how tightly packed those tents were, the history teacher of more than 25 years said the lessons really hit home with the kids once they were packed inside the tents themselves.

Ridout also organized more musical lessons where students could experience the important role of the drums, as they were used during the Civil War to execute commands, he said. The history teacher also outlined firing procedures during battle.

And to engage all of the students' senses, Ridout ignited a camp fire and prepared period food for them to try themselves. The history teacher said he prepared one of the more popular dishes known as apples and onions, served with the same types of utensils soldiers had used during that era.

Though all of these messages could be conveyed by rolling a television into the classroom to show Civil War movies and documentaries, Ridout said there was nothing like the real thing.

"Teenagers are much more tactile," Ridout said. "The movie is still a movie. But this way, students get to crawl into a tent and see where soldiers had to sleep. It allows them to see the life for themselves."

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Chain stores slip in Queens

Nonprofit study finds 2012 growth slower than in past two years

BY JOE ANUTA

Chain stores in Queens grew at half the rate of last year, a report released Monday showed, though their effect on the borough is not always positive, according to business experts.

"State of the Chains 2012" is an annual report published by the Center for an Urban Future, a Manhattan-based nonprofit, and showed that the city as a whole added 2.4 percent more chain stores this year, while the stores in Queens grew at a slower rate of 2.1 percent.

Seth Bornstein, executive director of the Queens Economic Development Corporation, said chains can add a value to the business landscape of the borough, but having too many of them can create a drag on the economy.

"As in many things in life, a good balance is key as there are pros and cons to chain stores," he said.

Queens boasts the second-highest number of chain stores in the city —



Dunkin' Donuts has more chain stores in Queens than in any other borough, a new study shows.

Photo by Joe Anuta

Dunkin' Donuts has set up more franchises in the borough than in any other — but this year ranked behind the Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn in its growth rate. State Island actually lost chain stores over the last year.

The growth rate in Queens is about half of what it was in 2010 and 2011, when the borough saw a 5.4 percent increase in chains.

Heading into 2012, Queens had 1,624 of the businesses, with Dunkin' Donuts and Subway lead-

ing the way. By the end of the year, 34 more stores had opened up shop.

But they did not do so in every neighborhood.

A ZIP code in the Elmhurst and Corona areas had the largest concen-

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Clues in Midtown slay lead police to Queens

BY JOE ANUTA

The investigation into a broad daylight assassination in Manhattan earlier this month has led authorities across the river to Queens in search of answers, according to police and multiple reports.

Los Angeles law student and hip-hop promoter Brandon Lincoln Woodard, 31, was walking down a sidewalk near Manhattan's Columbus Circle at about 2 p.m. Dec. 10 when he was shot point blank in the back of the head by a man who then walked to a getaway car, according to NYPD.

That left the island via the Queens-Midtown Tunnel, according to the New York Post, and police soon followed, locating the rented silver-gray Lincoln MKX in Rosedale.

Police have made no arrests in either the Columbus Circle shooting nor the assault rifle murder as of press time Tuesday.

Sources told the Post that a woman may have rented the car for the killer and his accomplice.

Just afterward, police took into custody a 40-year-old Rosedale man who might be a friend of someone involved in the hit, sources told the Post.

But the Queens connections do not stop there.

A cellphone being tracked as part of the investigation has also been tied to the summer's bloodiest shooting, sources told the Post.

That incident occurred July 7, when three

men were killed and one was wounded in an early morning ambush involving an assault rifle, according to police and reports.

Across the street from Springfield Gardens High School at about 5 a.m., three men in a Jeep Cherokee were torn apart in a hail of gunfire, police said, and a fourth was injured.

Neighbors described the scene as gruesome, as crowds stood out all day while police combed the crime scene for clues and took away the bodies. One man, referring to the number of empty shell casings glimmering on 144th Street, told TimesLedge Newspapers, "It looked like a piggy bank busted open."

Early reports suggested that the carload of people may have had an altercation with someone at a Brooklyn location before the killing, but one of the men killed, Queens' James Bussereth, 33, may also have been murdered in retaliation of a \$1 million robbery, the Post reported at the time.

Investigators in this month's shooting have also tied the 9 mm gun used to shoot Woodard in the back of the head to an incident that occurred in Queens Nov. 29, 2009, according to the NYPD.

On that day, two men pumped a total of 12 rounds into a St. Albans home near the corner of Mangin Avenue and Hannibal Street, according to police.

Woodard is the father of a 4-year-old girl and has

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Beep candidates wary of soccer site

BY JOE ANUTA

The field of candidates hoping to fill the shoes of Borough President Helen Marshall have varying opinions on whether or not Major League Soccer should build a 25,000-seat stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

The current field heading into next year's elections includes state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik, former Forest Hills Councilwoman Melinda Katz, Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) and Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria).

Some of the candidates were vehemently against the controversial plans to plop the stadium on the site of the Fountain of Industry, a site north-



A rendering shows the proposed site of the soccer stadium proposed by Major League Soccer.

Rendering courtesy MLS

west of the Unisphere, while one was opposed to the idea.

A vocal opposition has emerged decrying the loss of public parkland that would be associated with the project.

Avella has aligned himself with

that opposition and rejected outright the fundamental idea that building on the borough's largest green space is not acceptable.

"I was at the rally against it," he said. "I like the idea of a soccer stadium. I oppose the location and want to see more specifics."

Avella added that if MLS gets tax breaks as has been rumored, in his eyes it would contradict the league's claims that the stadium would be built without public money.

Comrie is the chairman of the Council Land Use Committee and said as such he could not state his support or opposition to the project until the Council members whose districts about the site had made their opinions known — a process he follows for any other land-use proposal.

"I normally try to work with the

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A member of the NYPD's Crime Scene Unit performs an investigation in front of a bullet-ridden Jeep in July.

Rockaways face health crisis after Sandy

Officials say peninsula lacks urgent care facilities as residents stare down long road to recovery

BY STEVE MOSCO

When Peninsula Hospital closed last year, many feared the Rockaways would plunge into a health crisis, and now in a post-Sandy world those fears are being put to the test.

"Anybody who doesn't recognize that there is a significant health risk looming in the Rockaways has blinders on," said state Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park). "The lack of

**SUPERSTORM
SANDY**

health care on the peninsula is something I've been dealing with for a long time now. And the likelihood of a real need for increased health care over the immediate future is definitely going to grow."

Peninsula Hospital in Far Rockaway closed its doors in April, nearly 104 years after it first opened in the beach community. The

shuttering of the 173-bed facility, which employed about 1,000 people, leaves one hospital on the peninsula: St. John's Episcopal in Far Rockaway, a 257-bed facility with 29 full-time physicians on staff.

St. John's remained operational through Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath with officials saying the staff worked two to three shifts at a time during the most critical hours to serve patients requiring critical care. According to a hospital spokeswoman, St. John's has experienced a 40 percent increase in inpatient volume and emergency patient visits.

The spokeswoman also said the hospital continues to be full, with medical surgical units operating at 100 percent capacity, often because there are few places where discharged patients



Rockaway residents rallied when Peninsula Hospital closed in May and officials say the closure has hurt the area after Hurricane Sandy.

can be transferred.

As Rockaway's only hospital remains at capacity, the city Department of

Health released a report last month warning New Yorkers that prolonged time in apartments or

homes without heat can cause hypothermia and exacerbate heart disease and other medical problems.

"The weather is getting colder and winter is not far off," Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley said. "Living in cold buildings is not good for your health. If your building heat is not going to be restored very soon, look for another warm place to live until it is. And check on your family, friends and neighbors, especially those who are vulnerable, to see if they need help getting into a warm place."

Farley said the people at greatest health risk from prolonged exposure to the cold are the elderly, infants and those with chronic health problems — precisely the people that Goldfeder believes need an urgent care facility with beds to spare.

"A lot of people are out here working and breathing clean construction dust can cause a health risk," said Goldfeder, busy rebuilding

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Jamaica woman tells story of loss in mayor's campaign against guns

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Dionne Gordon, whose brother was gunned down 2 1/2 years ago while visiting their parents' house in South Jamaica, stood behind Mayor Michael Bloomberg at City Hall Monday in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre to call on Washington to take immediate and long-term steps to curb gun violence.

She was one of 34 people who shared their stories of losing loved ones to guns in a new campaign for Bloomberg's coalition of mayors against illegal guns.

"Gun violence takes the lives of 34 Americans ev-

ery single day," Bloomberg said. "That means that during President Obama's next four-year term, some 48,000 Americans will be killed with guns."

"Today, Mayors Against Illegal Guns — a bipartisan coalition of more than 700 mayors from cities and towns across America — is releasing a set of 34 very powerful, and very personal, brief video statements," he added. "These videos, I think, bear testimony to the sorrow and trauma produced by gun violence in our nation."

Maurice Gordon, a border patrol officer with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration from Freeport, L.I., was killed in

a hail of nearly 30 bullets from a high-powered rifle June 21, 2010.

"He believed that we lived in the greatest country of them all. He believed that when he took the oath to protect and serve that that was what he was going to do until the day he died. It's unbelievable the pain that this has caused," Dionne says in her somber video. "I need to know what are our leaders are going to do to stop the gun violence."

Bloomberg laid out a set of proposals, including renewing and strengthening a ban on assault weapons, which he said the president and Congress should

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Dems cite weak leadership as they vote out Sampson

BY REBECCA HENELY

Amid the formation of a new coalition between the state Senate Republicans and the breakaway Independent Democratic Council, the Democrats voted to oust Sen. John Sampson (D-Brooklyn) as their leader in favor of Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers).

Sampson, first elected to the Senate in 1997, has led the Democratic Conference since 2009. The decision makes Stewart-Cousins the first woman to lead a conference in the state Legislature.

"I'm delighted that Andrea Stewart-Cousins was chosen to lead the Democratic Conference,"



State Sen. John Sampson, head of the Democratic conference since 2009, has been voted out of the leadership.

said Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone). "She represents the future of our party and the future of a progressive agenda."

Sampson lost the Democrats' confidence

after failing to keep his membership in control of the upper house in Albany even though the Democrats had won a slim majority of the seats at 32-30. The Republicans have controlled the Senate for many years, while the Democrats have dominated the Assembly, which has led to gridlock in Albany on many issues.

Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) said Sampson brought stability to the Democrats after a different group of Democrats known as the Gang of Four broke away to work with the Republicans in 2009. Despite this, he said the leadership always stood in the way of the Democrats

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City sends Civic Virtue packing to Brooklyn

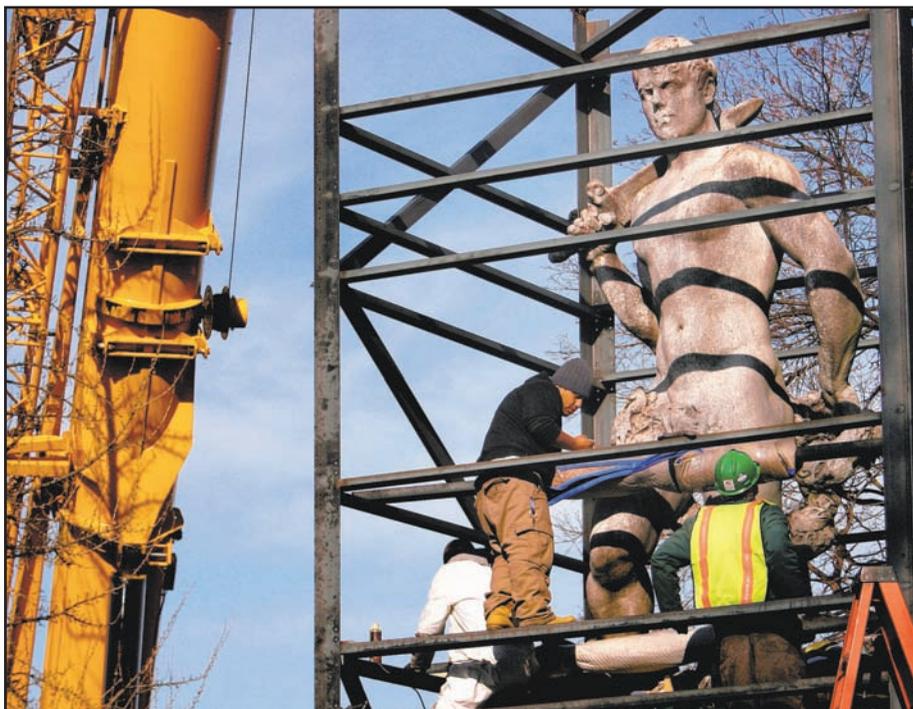
BY STEVE MOSCO

A towering Borough Hall statue was quietly loaded onto a truck by workers and carefully moved to its final resting place Saturday.

"Triumph of Civic Virtue," a controversial Queens icon unloved by some city lawmakers, was removed from its base and shipped off to Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn after advocates failed to keep the monolith from leaving.

The city authorized the removal of the divisive statue from outside Queens Borough Hall during a meeting of the city Public Design Commission Nov. 13, just days after Superstorm Sandy hit.

"It was designed so no one would know about it," City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) said at a rally earlier this month in Kew Gardens to save the statue.



Workers prepare to move "Civic Virtue" out of Queens and into Brooklyn over the weekend.

Photo by Phil Corso

Vallone said the Design Commission informed elected officials and community boards of the meet-

ing to discuss moving the statue with a "generic, city-wide email sent one week after [Hurricane Sandy]

when City Council and many other e-mails were still not working."

The statue has stood

at Borough Hall since 1941, when Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, reportedly tired of looking at its rear end, moved it from City Hall. Criticism of the statue continued 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.

The sculpture depicts a sword-wielding, fig-leaf wearing male figure poised victoriously over two mermaid-like Sirens representing vice and corruption. The work was designed in 1920 by Frederick MacMonnies and carved by a pair of Bronx brothers best known for recreating the 16th president's likeness for the Lincoln Memorial.

A spokesman for Borough President Helen Marshall said the statue would be properly restored at its new home, while the space it once graced will likely be

used to pay tribute to outstanding women who have made significant contributions to the borough and city.

But Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) said the city should have allowed for public comment from the community before shipping the statue to its new Brooklyn home.

"Moving public art into a private space with virtually no public input from the community is simply unacceptable," said Crowley. "The artist's work is recognized in museums around the world, and I believe the only acceptable place to move 'Civic Virtue,' if it has to be moved, is the Queens Museum of Art."

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



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POLICE Blotter

Cops on the lookout for missing Asian girl, 12

FLUSHING — Police were asking for the public's assistance in finding a missing teen who lives within the 109th Precinct, the NYPD said.

According to police, 12-year-old Long Lin was last seen inside her Flushing residence Dec. 13 around 11:45 p.m.

Police described Lin as an Asian teenager standing about 4 feet, weighing 80 pounds with a medium build and having brown eyes and black hair.



LONG LIN

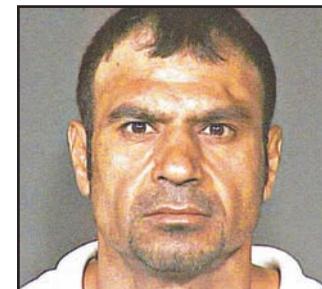
Photo courtesy NYPD

Missing Flushing man sought by police

FLUSHING — Police were looking for the public's assistance in finding a missing man who lives in Flushing, the NYPD said.

According to police, 39-year-old Nadir Ferozi was last seen inside his Flushing residence.

Police described Ferozi as about 5-foot-9, 165 pounds and last seen wearing a black jacket, black jogging pants and brown shoes.



NADIR FEROZI

Photo courtesy NYPD

Man dies while crossing Long Island Expressway

LITTLE NECK — A man from Jericho, L.I., was struck and killed while walking along the Long Island Expressway over the weekend, police said.

According to the New York Police Department, Jordan Savvides, 22, was struck while walking along the expressway near Little Neck Parkway, resulting in severe body trauma. Emergency responders pronounced the man dead on arrival, police said.

Upon further investigation, police said the man was struck and killed by an eastbound car operated by 69-year-old Christian Ludlow, of Great Neck, L.I., who was taken into custody and arrested on charges of vehicular manslaughter and driving while intoxicated.



A man from Great Neck, L.I., faces charges of driving while intoxicated and vehicular manslaughter after police say he struck and killed a pedestrian on the eastbound Long Island Expressway at Little Neck Parkway. Photo by Christina Santucci

Got tips?

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

Material dumped on huge Whitestone site

BY JOE ANUTA

A Queens developer and a Massachusetts environmental company dumped unauthorized material onto a sprawling Whitestone site where more than 50 houses are planned at the same time they were supposed to be cleaning it under the state's Brownfield Cleanup Program, a state agency revealed this week.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation issued an order on consent, a legally enforceable violation, to Barone Management, a Whitestone-based construction and development firm, and EBI Consulting, an environmental consulting firm.

The violation came after Barone Management, headed by Whitestone's Scott Barone, and EBI were supposed to remove contaminated soil at the proposed site of 52 single-family homes, at 151-45 6th Road. They were then supposed to put clean soil in its place to ensure the ground was safe for residential use.

But an investigation by DEC revealed that along with that clean soil, the companies dumped unapproved material from other construction sites around the city onto the property, according to the department.

They were issued a \$150,000 fine and ordered to submit a new plan on how to get the material, which has not been specifically identified, out of the site, the department said. Half of the fine will be nixed when the property is clean

again, according to DEC.

"The plan will describe all activities necessary to investigate, remove and properly dispose of all unapproved materials brought onto the site, as well as all pre-existing site materials that were mixed or commingled with the unapproved materials," DEC said.

The property is the largest vacant development site in Queens, and boasts waterfront views of Long Island Sound. Months of speculation surrounded who would develop the property after it hit the market.

Barone and a collection of anonymous investors purchased the plot in September, and this week pledged to fully cooperate with fixing the site, according to EBI. They call themselves 151-45 Sixth Road Whitestone Partners LLC.

"The new owner is ready and willing to complete the required remedial actions to implement the work plan upon DEC approval," said Charles Losinger, of EBI, based in Burlington, Mass. "The new owner is committed to complying with all environmental laws and to cooperating with DEC and all other applicable governmental authorities to remedy the issue."

Barone contends the violation amounts to more of a record-keeping mistake.

As part of DEC's Brownfield Cleanup Program, which provides incentives such as tax breaks to developers who clean up

Continued on Page 48



A rendering shows the residential homes set to be developed in Whitestone. Image courtesy Barone Management

Arms wrestle at Queens bar

Kew Gdns. Hills hosts 35th state tournament and Sandy fund-raiser



Strongest overall arm winners Ana Kenah (l.) and Joyce Boone take their places in the winners' ceremony at the 35th annual Empire State Arm Wrestling Championships in Flushing. Photo by Phil Corso

BY PHIL CORSO

Inside a packed pub in Flushing, a rowdy crowd was gripped with excitement as some of the strongest arms in the region locked up for competition.

Sunday's 35th annual Empire State Arm Wrestling Championships brought more than 100 men and women to the Cheap Shots Sports Bar on Union Turnpike, but only a handful made it out with the strongest titles.

"The Empire State Golden Arm Tournament of Champions is New York City's oldest and most prestigious sought-after title," said Gene Camp, founder and president of the New York Arm Wrestling Association. "This event is a culmination of the NYAWA season and it's very exciting to watch because it's loaded with top talent locally, from

all over the tri-state area and far beyond."

The competition's strongest arms overall hailed from as close as Queens Village and as far away as Puerto Rico. The event also served as a fundraiser for the American Red Cross Hurricane Sandy Relief effort, Camp said, with competitors contributing a \$25 entry fee and spectators also donating to the cause.

Jason Vale, who was named the men's strongest right arm, kept his cool and stayed focused on the task at hand as he dominated opponents one after another Sunday. The Queens Village native said he has been training once a week for more than 15 years and has already wrestled his way to championship titles in the past.

On the lefthand side, Richard Calero, of Puerto Rico, shook his opponents'

hands with an ear-to-ear smile after muscling their arms to the table.

"It takes consistent practice, strategy and strength in the hands and wrists," Calero said of his training and preparation for the tournament. "I have spent years competing with these guys. I'm just happy to be here and continue to share this with them."

Throughout the day, the tournament celebrated the top-three wrestlers of 17 pro and amateur categories for both men and women. Brooklyn native Oleh Frankivskyy also pounded his way to the title of 2012 New York State Arm Wrestler of the Year.

Jersey City's Ana Kenah was named the women's strongest left arm overall and said it was Brooklyn's Joyce Boone, the strongest arm on the righthand side, who compelled her to com-

pete. "It really is an interesting subculture for sure," Kenah said of the arm wrestling community who flooded into Cheap Shots for the tournament. "We do this all over the state."

Boone was named the New York State MVP overall in last year's competition and has become a known name ranked among the best arm wrestlers in the world, Camp said. Boone said she first started arm wrestling on a whim before letting the thrill of the fight capture her.

"I just bring my best to every match," Boone said. "It is a lot of fun because you never know who you'll come up against next."

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

timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

Newtown boy mourned near old Sunnyside home

BY REBECCA HENELY

More than 200 residents, many of them young children, gathered in Sunnyside Gardens Park Tuesday evening, holding candles and singing songs for two victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre.

"We're shocked, we're saddened, we're devastated and we're deeply, deeply angry," Sunnyside resident Roger Hitts said.

The march was held for friends and family members of 6-year-old Benjamin Wheeler and Principal Dawn Hochsprung, two of the 26 killed in the massacre Friday in Newtown, Conn.

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said that before the Wheelers moved to Connecticut a few years ago, Francine Wheeler was an active member of Sunnyside Gardens Park. One of

her friends who requested the vigil visited her after the massacre.

"When they left, they left a lot of good friends and those friends remain very close to the family," Van Bramer said.

Adam Lanza, 20, shot his mother Nancy before driving to the school in her car while dressed in combat gear and armed with two semiautomatic pistols and a semiautomatic rifle. Lanza killed 20 children and six adults before shooting himself inside the school, authorities said.

The councilman said he organized the neighborhood candlelight vigil after good friends of Benjamin's mother, one of whom he met at a Girl Scouts event in Sunnyside, asked him to arrange a community memorial. Hochsprung's stepsister, a Sunnyside resident, also visited Van Bramer's office Monday.

"I think everyone is



Sunnyside residents held a vigil for Dawn Hochsprung (l.) and 6-year-old Benjamin Wheeler, who were killed in the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

AP Photos/Eliza Hallabek; (l.) Newtown Bee-Wheeler Family

just trying to find some comfort and some way to come together and process and understand and show love for the families who did lose a child," Van Bramer said.

Mourners marched up

48th Street and east on 39th Avenue to Sunnyside Gardens Park, where Francine Wheeler spent time with Benjamin, her 9-year-old son Nate and residents of the neighborhood.

Many shared memo-

ries of Ben and Francine.

"He was a peaceful little boy," said friend Jennifer Busnel. "So sweet and kind — the kindest most beautiful eyes filled with so much love."

Francine Wheeler did

not attend the ceremony Tuesday, but approved it before it was held.

Members of Sunny Moms Yahoo group, which she started, read a letter on her behalf.

"There are no words to express our gratitude for the honor you have given Ben this night," the letter said.

Nicole Perkins, Hochsprung's stepsister, also thanked the community.

She said she was grateful to know Hochsprung tried to save the students when Lanza attacked.

"It really makes it easier to know that she was such a hero," Perkins said.

Van Bramer said the vigil was important for members of the community shocked by the tragedy, but especially for the children of Sunnyside who may be hearing about the massacre in the media and may need to feel safe.

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PEACE ON EARTH

Two events in the final weeks of 2012 have dampened the holiday season and will make this a year we will never forget. First was Hurricane Sandy, a storm that hit our shores and destroyed communities. The second was the Newtown, Conn., shooting that has shaken a nation.

In both tragedies we have witnessed the best of the human spirit. The response to Sandy has been phenomenal. Thousands of volunteers have stepped up to help their neighbors in every way possible. And in Newtown, broken hearts were lifted by the reports of a principal and teachers who put themselves in the line of fire to save the children.

Even in the midst of tragedy, there is reason in this season for hope. We wish our readers a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

THE LAST STRAW

On Dec. 17, Queens elementary school principals should have been joyfully preparing for Christmas break. Instead, they were most likely holding meetings to review school safety procedures to make certain everything possible is being done to prevent a massacre like the one in Newtown.

Certain realities should be apparent:

- No unarmed school safety officer or an armed police officer has a realistic chance of thwarting an attack by a madman armed with a high-powered assault rifle.
- The Sandy Hook Elementary School was prepared for an emergency. Schools in Queens could probably learn from such measures.
- There is no reason why any citizen should possess a semi-automatic assault rifle.

Our hearts go out to the families affected by this massacre. Most important, this should be the turning point in the war on guns.

So far Queens has not witnessed a massacre on this scale, but we report shootings in Queens nearly every week. Queens has been victimized by guns. Children have been injured by bullets fired by gang members.

In the wake of last week's tragedy, the NRA should give up the campaign against gun control.

The Founding Fathers never envisioned, when they wrote of the right to bear arms, that a gunman would walk into a school and kill children.

The debate over gun control ended Dec. 14. This war can and must be won.



OTHER VOICES

Jack up buildings in the Rockaways

One of the things that needs to be carefully looked at after the devastating sweep of Hurricane Sandy is how beachfront communities can protect themselves from future storms, of which there will most certainly be.

In 1900, after a hurricane devastated Galveston, Texas, and killed nearly 10,000 people, the survivors decided that their city had to have protection from the Gulf of Mexico. Tons

of sand were transported into the city to raise every structure 17 feet to be level with the top of the sea wall, which was being built to protect the city from future storm surges.

Today, the seawall still stands strong, as does Galveston. In the Rockaways, the same type of project should be considered. Every building on the Rockaway Peninsula should be raised 17 feet higher by having sand funneled under each one. A seawall 17

feet high, similar to the one in Galveston, should be constructed along the entire length of the peninsula, and a new boardwalk should be built on top of the seawall, constructed out of concrete instead of wood.

This undertaking may seem far-fetched and would need the assistance of the federal government, but it is an idea that our local, state and federal officials should at least consider. There must be steps taken to prevent another devas-

tating storm surge from destroying the Rockaways, as well as Coney Island in Brooklyn, Staten Island and Fire Island.

We can no longer bury our heads in the sand like ostriches and act like nothing is wrong. Hurricane Sandy was a devastating wake-up call for us.

*John Amato
Fresh Meadows*

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Ferry service a lifesaver to city during disasters

The challenges that ground, air and public transportation faced in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy were unimaginable. Subway service was suspended for days, with some parts of the system experiencing damage so great they could be out of operation for months. Cars ran out of gas and the airports were closed. Even after bridges, tunnels and airports reopened, gas shortages and debilitating traffic ensued.

But one mode of transportation that was able to escape these issues was the city's ferry service, which is quickly becoming an unsung hero in restoring normalcy by helping residents return to work and access vital services.

Immediately following Sandy, New York Waterway restored some of its ferry service along the Hudson River, the first operator to get its system back online. Soon after, Waterway began running two modified routes along the East River, providing critical service between Brooklyn and Manhattan to passenger loads twice the normal size.

Within 72 hours of the storm, the Staten Island Ferry system was reinstated for commuters, even as many ground options remained closed.

And despite heavy damage to the Jersey Shore and critical boat piers, ferry operator Seastreak was able to find a safe and effective way to restore service

from Highlands, N.J., to Manhattan and created a new emergency ferry service from the Rockaways to Manhattan.

Seastreak and New York Water Taxi are also helping the military transport personnel and supplies from U.S. Navy vessels to relief operations in the Rockaways.

The ability of these ferry services to respond in such a time of need is due, in part, to a critical maritime law known as the Jones Act, which requires cargo and passengers traveling between U.S. ports to be carried on American vessels.

During the inevitable chaos of natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy, the Jones Act plays a quiet

role in helping to secure our waterways — and our residents traveling on them — by ensuring that boats are operating in full accordance with U.S. laws and under the oversight of the U.S. government.

It takes a small army of customs staff, immigration officials and other federal security staff to regulate foreign vessels. Without the Jones Act and its homeland security measures, monitoring foreign-controlled and foreign-manned boats in such a time of need would have proven difficult at best.

There is nothing new about the domestic maritime industry working around the clock to respond to emergency situations, across the country and

in New York City. During Sept. 11, 2001, American vessels transported nearly half a million individuals away from lower Manhattan — a response that has been called “the greatest sea evacuation in history, larger than the evacuation of Dunkirk in World War II.”

Similarly, as the region recovers from Sandy, the industry continues to stand by, ready to help. Families who lost their homes on Staten Island and emergency response personnel have access to a Military Sea-Lift Command vessel for accommodations like hot meals and showering, and the Massachusetts Maritime College's federally supported training vessel has arrived on scene to

house relief crews helping in the aftermath of Sandy.

Both of these ships are being operated by mariners typically employed on Jones Act vessels.

New York's transportation system is one of the greatest in the world because of its broad reach throughout the city and the breadth of travel options it provides passengers, motorists and straphangers. The Jones Act helps ensure that our waterways are a crucial and effective component of that network, especially during times of crisis.

*James Henry
President*

*Transportation Institute
Camp Springs, Md.*

Government will help single parents

A response to Lisa Carriero-Veneziano's, of Flushing, Sept. 20-26 letter "Big business must pay their fair share in taxes":

Thank you for writing. I have heard from single parents across America about the challenges they face, and I am glad you reached out to me to share your perspective.

Single parents do a heroic job raising their children, tirelessly balancing work and family. They often spend long hours on the job and make tremendous sacrifices to provide the time and care their children need. Today's economic climate further intensifies the difficulties these families feel every day.

I know the struggles and opportunities single parents experience because I was raised by a single mother. She provided unending support and guidance, and I know that, like her, single parents across

our country are working to help their children achieve their dreams.

My administration is working hard to lend a hand to single parents. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has invested in child support enforcement and provides more than \$4 billion to increase enrollment in Head Start, Early Head Start and other childcare programs.

The recovery act also created the Making Work Pay Tax Credit and the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which help parents make ends meet and pay for higher education. Looking forward, I am working on investing in high-quality, early childhood education and advancing flexible work policies to help parents care for their children.

Assistance with financing education can be found at studentaid.ed.gov and opportunity.gov.

Communities and

government can also work together to encourage responsible parenting. For example, I have begun a national conversation on fatherhood to explore how we can encourage fathers to fulfill their responsibilities and serve as positive role models.

All of us must work together — moms, dads, community organizations and all levels of government — to strengthen our nation's families. I invite you to join this discussion by raising these issues in your community.

For additional information about assistance for families with children, please visit hhs.gov/children and fatherhood.gov.

Thank you again for writing.

*Barack Obama
President*

*United States of America
Washington, D.C.*

Rebuild the city's infrastructure

Hurricane Sandy struck a devastating blow to New York City. It is going to be a long time before Far Rockaway, Breezy Point and Staten Island are going to be back to the way things were before Sandy.

The one thing made clear in the days since the storm hit is now is the time to rebuild the city's infrastructure. As a City Council candidate in the 19th District in 2013, I feel this issue must be put front and center.

The images of flooded subway tunnels, downed power lines, major hospitals being evacuated and destruction of homes are overwhelming. We must come together and develop

a comprehensive plan to rebuild our city. Whether it is building storm doors for our tunnels or metal gates that will seal entrances to subway stations, creating levees or moving all power lines underground, all options must be put on the table.

With a 9.3 percent unemployment rate in October 2012, rebuilding our aging and outdated infrastructure is the perfect way to put New Yorkers back to work. Historically, every time the United States economically struggled, we built infrastructure like the Erie Canal and transcontinental railroad in the 1800s, or the interstate highway system in the 1950s.

These projects helped our economy recover. I am confident rebuilding the city's infrastructure will secure and protect our city and do the same for today's economy. Yes, the cost will be high and these projects will take a long time. We must find a way to move these projects forward. Our future depends on it.

When elected to the Council next year, I will be a strong advocate for these projects. I know that together we will make a difference.

*Matthew Silverstein
City Council Candidate
Whitestone*

Contact the newsroom:

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

Conservative-Republican coalition plans future campaigns



William Lewis
■
Political Action

In a recent interview with Michael Long, the state chairman of the Conservative Party, he discussed the recently concluded 2012 campaign.

He indicated that Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney did not connect with the people. Long pointed out that Romney did well in the first debate with President Barack Obama, but could not follow up with successful second and third debates. Romney during the last two debates failed to show the

shortcomings of the Obama administration.

Long believes that the race was in Romney's hands, but he failed to deliver.

Long mentioned that the late President Ronald Reagan, after he failed to win the nomination for president in 1976, became the leader of the Republican Party from 1977-80. No one has mentioned Romney as a potential Republican leader for 2013-16.

When asked if he sees an end to the two-party system in New York City, considering the shrinking number of Republicans elected during the last 30-year period, he said the two-party system ended a long time ago in New York City. He believes that for high public office in the

city, a candidate has to be well-known and have considerable financial resources. His two examples were Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg, both of whom were first elected mayor as Republicans.

Long believes the main focus of the state Conservative Party should be on supporting small government, opposing high government spending and lowering taxes. He also believes social issues are important, but economic issues are of prime importance during election campaigns.

Long indicated it is possible to elect a Republican mayor next year with Conservative support. He also believes it is possible to elect more Republican City Council members depending on how the redrawing

The two-party system ended a long time ago.

Michael Long

State Conservative Party
Chairman

of the Council lines turns out after reapportionment.

When asked what would be the emphasis of the Conservative Party in 2013 and 2014, he said it would emphasize rebuilding and aggressively push issues. He indicated in the final analysis that these campaigns are up to the candidates and how well they express themselves about the issues is what will decide election results.

Long also believes that Wendy Long's campaign would have had a different result if she had the necessary finances to wage a successful campaign in her U.S. Senate race.

In his concluding statement, Long said the Conservative Party has promoted issues for the last 50 years of its existence and will continue to do so.

The Conservative Party has, for the most part, worked well over the years with the Republican Party at the local and state levels. Together, if they get behind the right candidate, they can produce victories. After the results of the 2012 election in New York state, it will be interesting to see how the Conservative-Republican coalition does in the Council and citywide

races in 2013.

At the recent Queens Village Republican Party Club Christmas dinner, the guest speaker was Lauren Whalen, founder of the Northeast Queens Tea Party Patriots. She spoke about the growth of the Tea Party and its present and future influence on political campaigns.

In 2009, the Queens Republican Party won three seats on the Council: Dan Halloran, of Whitestone; Eric Ulrich, of Ozone Park; and Peter Koo, of Flushing. Afterward, Koo registered as a Democrat. The question is whether the Republicans can do the same or better in 2013. One factor in all this is how united the Queens Republicans will be during the general election.

Divorce Caribbean Style

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

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

According to Alan Alford,

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

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

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

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Condos

Continued from Page 1

City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens). Ultimately, the governor's acknowledgement of their concerns brought relief to elected officials in the borough.

"I appreciate the governor and speaker's support for the co-op shareholders and condo unit owners," Stavisky said. "People are terrified that their maintenance fees will increase and their strong statement should allay these fears. While nothing is ever absolute in Albany, the governor and speaker have given their commitment to resolving this problem and I thank them."

The Senate and Assembly ended their respective legislative sessions in June without extending co-op tax abatement for another four years, Stavisky said, but expressed intentions to return for a special session after the November



State Sen. Tony Avella (second from r.) joins with heads of the Presidents Co-Op/Condo Council Warren Schreiber (l.) and Bob Friedrich (second from l.) to protest any drastic tax hikes.

Photo courtesy Tony Avella

elections.

Due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy, however, Cuomo decided against any special session, sending co-op and condo owners into a frenzy.

But after a public outcry, both the governor and Assembly speaker announced their commitment to the retroactive tax abatement. According to Cuomo,

the tax abatement will be retroactive when the legislation is signed into law, and co-op owners will not see any changes to their payments.

"At the end of session we reached an agreement on a comprehensive bill that will cut taxes for the vast majority of condo and co-op owners who pay a disproportionate share of the

city's property tax burden," Silver said. "The city has indicated that it will issue tax bills based on these new tax rates, and we will pass the bill when we return to Albany."

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

Lawyers

Continued from Page 2

defraud New Yorkers by offering services they are not licensed to provide. I thank the bill sponsors for their efforts on this important legislation."

State Sen. Charles J. Fuschillo Jr. (R-Merrick), who also sponsored the legislation, said phony lawyers deserved more severe punishment for victimizing the most vulnerable New Yorkers, such as immigrants.

"Someone who hires an attorney is paying and entrusting that attorney to carry out some of their

most important personal and financial wishes, such as buying or selling their home or creating a will," Fuschillo said. "Scam artists who pose as licensed attorneys and jeopardize these important matters should face tougher penalties. I applaud Gov. Cuomo for approving this law which will help ensure that phony lawyers receive real punishment for defrauding consumers."

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

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Continued from page 1

quests for comment.

Avella said he and Braunstein had initially met with the FAA Sept. 6 to discuss changes the agency was testing related to departure and landing patterns at LaGuardia. In that meeting, the senator said the FAA had just finished a six-month testing phase of the new procedures and indicated it would go on to examine the data before following up with area elected officials and northeast Queens communities.

But that follow-up meeting never came.

According to Avella, the FAA has already submitted an environmental review of its testing phase and issued a categorical exclusion, allowing the agency to make the new procedures permanent. But the FAA did not respond to requests for a copy of the report.

Since then the senator said he has called for action from U.S. Transportation



State Assemblywoman and U.S. Rep.-elect Grace Meng (c.) joins with leaders and residents of northeast Queens in a rally against rising flight noise throughout the area. Photo by Phil Corso

Secretary Ray La Hood, demanding that the FAA conduct a full environmental review and engage in open dialogue with the affected communities.

In an attempt to examine the impact from airport noise, Avella also said he introduced legislation that would require the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey to routinely conduct noise and land use compatibility surveys, as outlined under federal aviation regulations, and also host public hearings to oversee aircraft noise complaints.

Meng, who will assume her new role as congresswoman in January, said she was anxious to take on the issue of flight noise and air pollution coming out of LaGuardia Airport as she cited those problems as the one of the most discussed in the region.

"We need to let the FAA and Department of Transportation know that the FAA's mission is to be environmentally responsible and accountable to the general public," Meng said. "That is exactly what they are not doing now."

Avella said he hoped other leaders on the national level, including Rep. Steve Israel (D-Hauppauge) and U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), would lend their political influence to the cause.

The elected officials were joined by community leaders from areas covering Little Neck, Douglaston, Bayside, Whitestone and Flushing.

Janet McEneaney, a member of Community Board 11, has helped lead the charge in northeast Queens to push back against the FAA and demand the FAA give residents a seat at the negotiation table.

"This is a stealth proceeding on the part of the FAA and Port Authority," McEneaney said. "The FAA makes decisions for the benefit of the airline industrial complex and we are nowhere on their list."

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

Trees

Continued from Page 2

without proper planning, which has resulted in trees being planted in inappropriate or poor locations.

Friedrich proposed that the city consider allowing residents to maintain trees in front of their homes, regardless of whether the trees were city-owned. Even in Glen Oaks, Friedrich said his group tried striking a deal with the city in which they would hire their own tree pruners for which they could be reimbursed. The city, however, would not sign on, Friedrich said.

"I am certain that many of those downed trees from Sandy would

have been maintained by homeowners if they were allowed," Friedrich said. "The time has come for the city to step up."

Avella said he hoped the city would amend its current policies and consider his new proposals, which also included purchasing new tree maintenance equipment, eliminating an existing policy that bars the removal of live trees, and establishing a shelf life for various tree species throughout the city.

"People's lives are in danger as a result of the city's tree policies," Avella said. "If we take better care of our trees, the potential damages to life and property during such storms as Sandy will be significantly reduced. The time for action is now."

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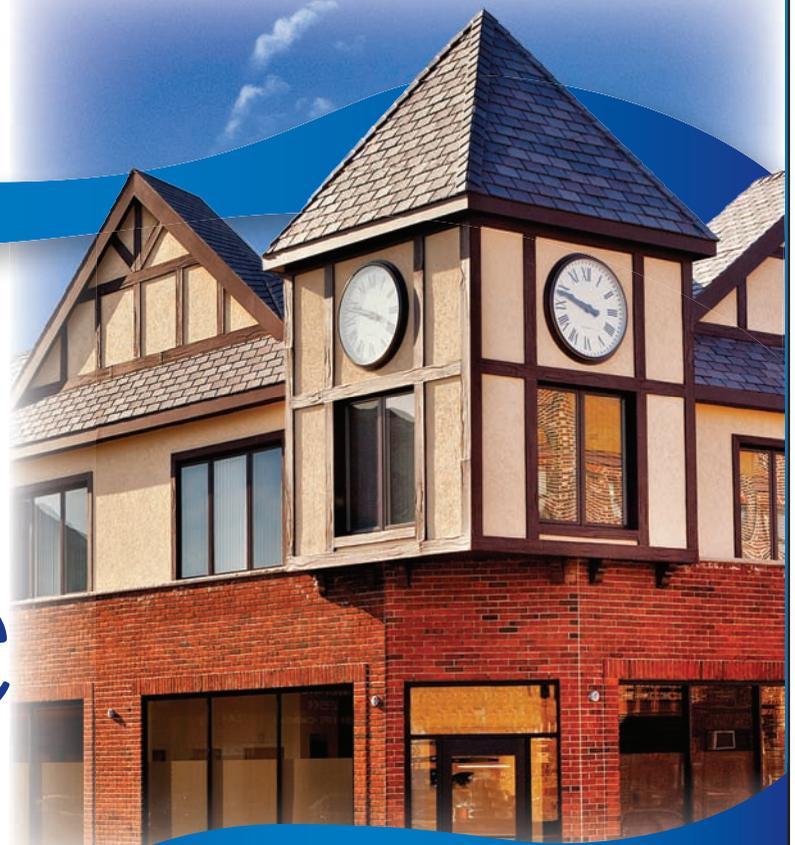
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Boro pols angry at limits to disaster food stamps

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the Human Resources Administration have come under fire from several elected officials from Queens who charged that too many people in need were denied eligibility for a federal disaster food aid program and that applying was too difficult for Rockaway residents.

The aid program, known as the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, provides one-time payments for households affected by Hurricane Sandy. The city received \$13 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the program.

But eligibility for D-SNAP was limited in the borough to a handful of ZIP codes in Far Rockaway, excluding areas like Hamilton Beach and Howard Beach that were badly hit by the superstorm.

In addition, Queens residents were required to apply for the aid benefits in person, but the nearest of only two application sites was far away in Brooklyn, at 495



The Human Resources Administration building in Brooklyn can accommodate thousands of people in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations, according to an HRA spokeswoman. Photo by Karen Frantz

Clermont Ave.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) sent a letter to HRA Commissioner Robert Doar Tuesday saying she was unhappy with the number of people who applied for the program.

“Due to the low participation numbers from the weeklong registration period, we are dis-

appointed in the implementation of this vital emergency food program,” she wrote. The chair of the General Welfare Committee, Anabel Palma, was also a signatory to the letter.

The letter said only 3,911 families registered for D-SNAP, far less than the number of potentially eligible families, which was

projected to be 30,000.

Quinn and 11 other Council members also sent a letter to Doar last week asking HRA to add additional D-SNAP registration sites in the Rockaways, to petition the USDA for expanding eligibility to additional ZIP codes and to extend the application period if needed. The last day applications were accepted was Dec. 18.

U.S. Reps. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) and Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) also sent a letter to Bloomberg last week with similar demands.

Carmen Boon, a spokeswoman for HRA, said Tuesday there were no plans to change the program.

She said finding an application site in the Rockaways would have been difficult, if not impossible, due to federal guidelines mandating that it must have a certain amount of space. The Brooklyn site can accommodate thousands of people, whereas there are no areas in the Rockaways that could

do the same, she said.

There was also a free shuttle bus that took residents from the Rockaways to the Brooklyn site and back again, Boon said, departing from Mott Avenue between Beach 20 and Beach 21st streets in the Rockaways on the hour every hour. She said the department disseminated information about the shuttle on its website, through social media and to thousands of community-based organizations.

But some Rockaway residents at the Brooklyn office last Thursday said they were not aware there was a free shuttle. One woman said she had taken a bus and the subway to get there, which she wearily said “took a long time.”

Another man from Rosedale said when asked about the shuttle that it was the first he had heard of it. He said he had come out also by bus and subway only to arrive and be denied aid because he does not live in one of the eligible ZIP codes.

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Bayside Historical Society salutes movers in boro

BY PHIL CORSO

There were some new kinds of presents under the tree at this year's holiday celebration for the Bayside Historical Society.

During the group's annual party, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) presented three northeast Queens community leaders Janice Melnick, Paul Graziano, and Michael Genovese with Senate proclamations to recognize them for their civic contributions to the borough.

Melnick, a former northeast Queens city park administrator, was recently named an administrator for Flushing Meadows Corona Park and has been an active member of the borough community, Avella said.

"As northeast Queens park administrator, Ms. Melnick was responsible for almost 900 acres of parkland, including Little



State Sen. Tony Avella (l.) awards Senate proclamations to Janice Melnick, Paul Graziano and Michael Genovese alongside Bayside Historical Society President Paul DiBenedetto.

Photo courtesy Tony Avella

Bay Park, Joe Michael's Mile, Crocheron Park, John Golden Park, Udall's Cove Park Preserve, and Alley Pond Park," Avella said.

Melnick also played a key role in the development of Fort Totten from a military base to a public park, Avella said.

The senator also gave a Senate proclamation to Graziano, a lifelong North Flushing native and founder of the Associated

Cultural Resource Consultants management firm. Throughout his service in northeast Queens, Graziano helped establish reputable organizations like the North Flushing Civic Association, the North East Flushing Civic Association, and the Waldheim Neighborhood Association.

"Paul is an expert in the fields of land use, zoning and planning and historic preservation," Avella said. "While Paul has consulted regularly in four states, including New York, he has concentrated much of his efforts towards advocating the protection and preservation of neighborhoods in Queens."

Genovese, a teacher at Holy Cross High School on Francis Lewis Boulevard, also received the honor at the annual holiday event. Since he first started teaching 43 years ago, Genovese has been named director

of Service Learning, a program he founded, where he has worked on the mayor's Task Force for Student Volunteers through the mayor's voluntary action center during the tenures of Mayors Ed Koch, David Dinkins and Rudolph Giuliani.

Genovese also served on the governor's task force under Mario Cuomo's administration.

"Through the auspices of Mr. Genovese, the Bayside Historical Society has benefited from his commitment to instilling the merits of volunteerism into the students at Holy Cross High School and has been supplied with a steady stream of willing, dedicated and enthusiastic young men who have assisted them with a multitude of tasks and assignments," Avella said.

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Fire strikes Victoria Gotti's Jamaica scrap metal yard

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

A day after a five-alarm blaze burned for hours at a South Jamaica scrap yard owned by Victoria Gotti's Three Sons Real Estate Group, the shop was back in business.

On Tuesday, workers used a forklift to haul some of the torched vehicles, which had been damaged in the massive fire at Liberty Scrap Metal, at 95-49 Tuckerton St., the day before.

Vaughn Ramkissoon, who has owned Tri-state New and Used Auto Glass on the same property as Liberty for the past eight years, said employees stayed late until 11 p.m. to stack between 150 and 200 torched cars in the corner of the lot so the business could reopen.

Ramkissoon believes a car battery was the source of the fire Monday morning.

Records with the City



Torched vehicles are stacked in the back of Liberty Scrap.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Register show the property is owned by the Three Sons Real Estate Group. The company shares an address that several websites identify as the Westbury, L.I., home of Victoria Gotti, daughter of the late Gambino family mob boss John Gotti.

But workers at several other auto shops say

it is Victoria Gotti's son, Frank Agnello, who is the most visible face in the neighborhood and runs the South Jamaica scrap yard. The business was formerly called A&J Scrap Metal but changed its name about two months ago, Ramkissoon said.

Gotti and her three

sons — Carmine Jr., Frank and John — starred in the reality show "Growing Up Gotti" from 2004-05. The Dapper Don's daughter was rumored to have visited the area Monday, but workers varied in their accounts of the sightings.

A spokesman for the city Fire Department said

a call reporting the blaze came in at about 9 a.m., but it took until about 1:15 p.m. before the fire was considered under control.

Thick white smoke could be seen as far away as 150th Street and Liberty Avenue at about 10:30 a.m.

One worker described the flames as between two and three stories high, reaching to almost the height of the storage facility next door.

"It was just horrific. The flames were out of control," said Liberty employee James Gray, who said he arrived at the scene after the fire had already started. "It was a lot of flames, a lot of black smoke."

Workers from Liberty Scrap Metal and other surrounding businesses said they heard several explosions.

"It was a huge fire and cars were going boom, boom, popping," said Victor Rivera, who

does auto work at Guardian Gates, across the street from Liberty.

In total, 44 units with about 200 firefighters were brought in to battle the blaze, fire officials said. The spokesman for the FDNY said three people had sustained minor injuries — two police officers and one firefighter — and the cause of the fire was under investigation as of Monday.

Kirk Young, the owner of K&W Auto Radiator several blocks away, said Liberty Avenue was closed to cars and trucks until about 5 p.m.

"Traffic was rerouted all around," he said.

On Tuesday, a strong smell of smoke remained.

"We don't get much action around here," Young added.

Rich Bockmann contributed to this story.



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Belle Harbor Christmas

The Belle Harbor Yacht Club played host Sunday to hundreds during the Jingle Bell Rockaway Festival, which was organized by the FriendsOfRockaway.org, Funbars.com and iAdventure.com. (Clockwise from top l.) Susan Setttani moved from Belle Harbor to Brooklyn after her basement apartment was wrecked by flooding; Santa, portrayed by Andrew Wainright, does his best air guitar impression as he heads for his sled with elf Alice Kaasik; (l.-r.) Adrienne Armstrong, Thai Williamson, Ray Luden and Adam Kuhn dish up hot food for festivalgoers; Mike Sinensky, (l.) co-founder of FriendsOfRockaway.org, is joined by Ray Luden and his 13-year-old daughter Kendra. The Ludens brought five types of chili from Connecticut; a man points to a sign in the window of the Belle Harbor Yacht Club, showing that the building was inspected after Hurricane Sandy and deemed safe; Evan Wade, 4, sits with Santa; and Geoff Rawling uses the front porch to paint during the event.

Photo by Christina Santucci



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Briarwood's Susil Singh, 74, worked tirelessly to help others



Bob Harris
in
The Civic Scene

In Queens, Harbachan Singh is a well-known civic activist from Community Board 8, the Saul Weprin Democratic Club, the Queens Civic Congress and the Holocaust Center at Queensborough Community College, but his wife Susil H. Singh was an active civil and community servant in her own right.

Many times she came with Harbachan to civic events, but her quiet dignity hid the worldwide and local activities she was involved with. Sadly, she died Thanksgiving Day after a brief illness.

The funeral was held at the Sikh temple in Glen Cove, L.I. Her husband, a former senior U.N. official, read his own deeply touching poetry in Punjabi and English. A number of federal, city and state officials sent condolences. Her children and grandchildren paid tribute to her devotion to the protection of life and the environment.

Susil Kaur, 74, was the eldest daughter of Sikhs in Malaysia who came from Punjab, India. Her father was a parliamentary draftsman in the attorney general's chambers. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Malaysia, served at the Association of the South East Nations Conference in Kuala Lumpur and was subsequently posted to the Malaysian embassy in London, where she met Queen Elizabeth II

in Buckingham Palace during a reception.

Harbachan was an administrator and interpreter for the police department in Malaysia and followed her to London when she was posted there. He studied law in London and married her at that time.

The couple immigrated to the United States and became citizens. Susil worked as the personal assistant for the permanent representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and later in 2003 as an assistant director of the World Environment Center in New York, in which she was a director of programs in many parts of the world.

She checked on various corporations to determine if they should get awards for good environmental practices. She then worked as director of the Center for

Susil was always passionately dedicated to serving others. For her ongoing charitable work, she received many awards.

the Women of New York. This group started with an office in Queens Borough Hall, a building in Fort Totten. This organization works to help women obtain jobs, solve problems and succeed in the workforce.

Susil was always passionately dedicated to serving others. For her ongoing charitable work she received many awards, including one from the U.N. Secretary General U Thant for the job she did for the World Youth Assembly. She was also the recipient of the World Environment Center

Award in recognition of her distinguished work.

She lived in Briarwood and left behind her loving husband, three married children and seven grandchildren. The Susil H. Singh Memorial Fund has been established in her memory at Cornell Cardiology-New York Presbyterian Hospital. For more information, call 917-826-1725.

GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK: A tourist quietly snapped a photo of Police Officer Larry DePrimo giving a pair of boots to an elderly homeless man standing in Times Square.

The officer saw the man on a cold November night and decided to buy him the boots from a nearby store.

The picture was posted on the Internet and has gone worldwide. A nice gesture in this holiday season.

BAD NEWS OF THE WEEK: The Rockaways were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. Sand, mold and dried material are everywhere. People are cleaning up with shovels and brooms. Dust is in the air. People are coughing, which is now called the "Rockaway Cough."

Should the workers be given heavy-duty breathing masks? Families and children are coming back and breathing in this dust. Is the air safe to breathe? Are we going to have respiratory illnesses like those caused by the polluted air after Sept. 11, 2001?

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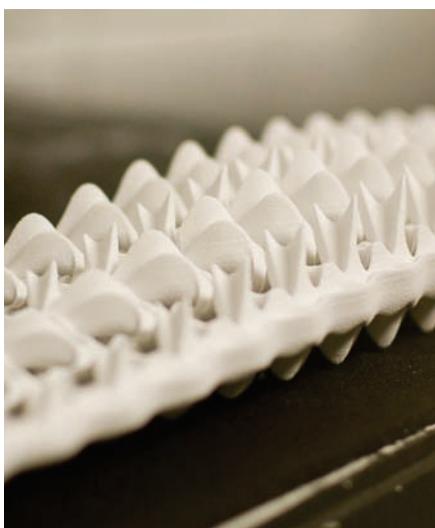
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FOCUS ON QUEENS

INDEPENDENCE PARTY OF NEW YORK CITY ANTI-CORRUPTION AWARDS *Photos by Nader Khouri*

1 Award presenters and honorees: Sarah Lyons, author Jacqueline Salit, Brandy Martindale, student Stephanie Orosco, Dr. Lenora Fulani and State Sen. Malcolm Smith.



2 Anti-Corruption Awards presenter Dr. Lenora Fulani and honoree State Sen. Malcolm Smith.



3 Dr. Lenora Fulani, Stephanie Orosco, State Sen. Malcolm Smith, Queens Independence Chair Nancy Hanks.

JAMAICA HOLIDAY CELEBRATION *Photos by Walter Karling*

4 Under the gleeful gaze of her mom, Natalia Austin, 3, heads back to the seats to open her gift at the Jamaica YMCA.



5 Enjoying hot chocolate: (top row, l.-r.) Elvis Fernandez, Jennifer Pena, Iselle Berrios, and Justin Sosa (7); (bottom row, l.-r.) George Gomez and Allison Sosa.



6 Beautifully decorated tree for the holiday season brightens the northern reaches of Rufus King Park.



7 Zaira Lopez, 6, grins ear-to-ear with her present.



8 Helping with the children's gift-giving are St. John's University volunteers Melissa Wlshart, Rachel Chan and Ashley Sanchez.



9 Local children gather around the newly lit tree to sing Christmas carols.



10 Anticipating the start of the festivities: Cultural Collaborative of Jamaica's Tyra Emerson, Taylor Guzman of the Centro Hispano Cuzcatlan and St. John's University volunteer Ashley Sanchez.

QUEENS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY PARTY *Photos by Walter Karling*

11 Queens attorneys and judges hold donated children's gifts.



12 Valeria Katsorhis, Nicole Katsorhis and Kerry Katsorhis.



13 Judge George Heymann, Briana Heymann, Yvette Gutierrez and Richard Gutierrez.



14 Annamarie Brown, Morton Povman, Lawrence Litwick, Judge Leonard Livote, Thomas Principe and Judge Seymour Boyers.



15 Richard Harris Lazarus, Judge Darrell Gavrin and George Nicholas.



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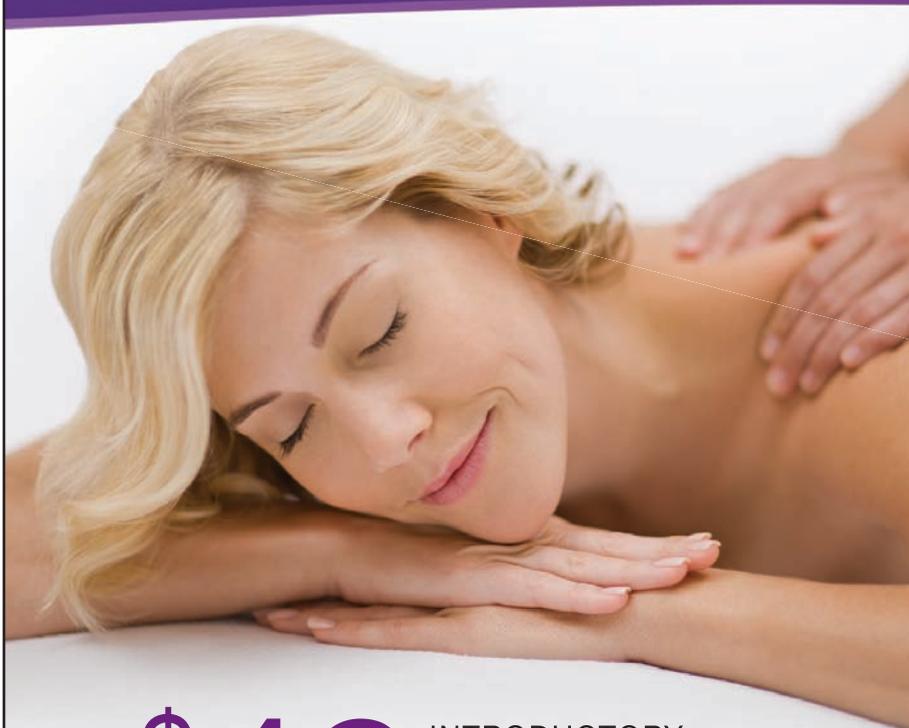
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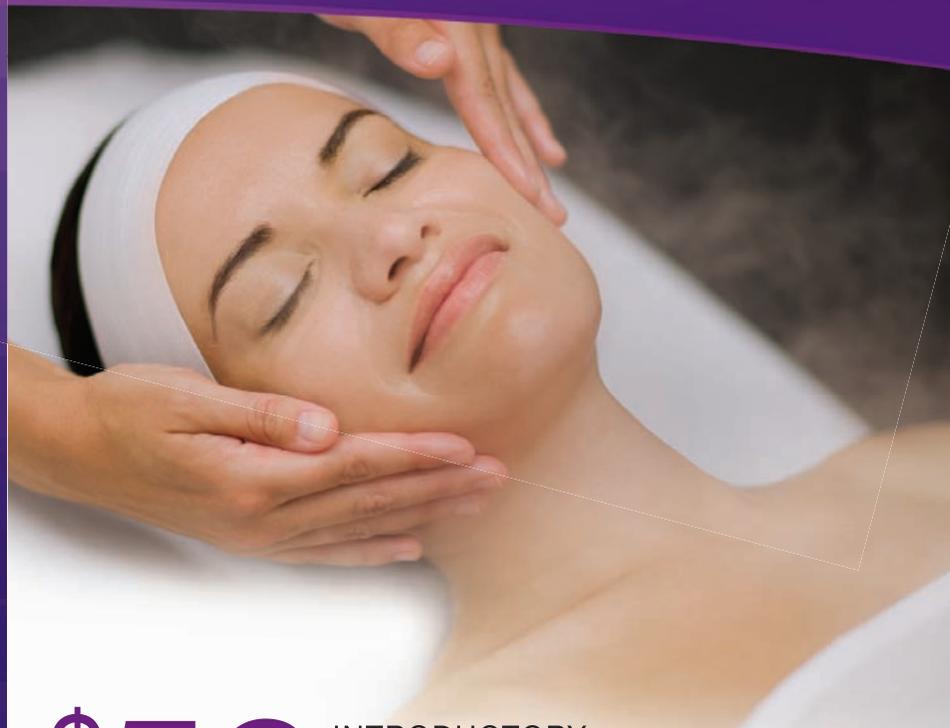
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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

Dreaming to be a **ROCKETTE**

Growing up in Jamaica Estates, Stacey Sund marvelled at the leggy spectacle of the Radio City Music Hall icons

BY RAPHAEL SUGARMAN

Unlike other kids, it was not the inflated balloons that most mesmerized Stacey Sund during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. It wasn't the floating cartoon Kermit, Mickey Mouse or even Spider-Man tethered to his strings.

It was the Rockettes that beguiled the girl from Jamaica Estates.

"I remember being in my pajamas and tap shoes in front of the television," said Sund, who was little more than a crawler of 3 or perhaps 4 years old when she fell in love with America's dandiest dancers. "Everything in the house would stop so we could watch the Rockettes."

Like many fledgling danseuses her then tender age, Sund's attraction was surely sensory — the sparkle of the outfits, glamor of the settings, metronomic clap of the tap shoes.

"It was a mystical thing," she said. "This glamorous line of beautiful women dancing perfectly together."

At the time, however, the young dancer couldn't have imagined the rigors required to actually become a Rockette — the years of training and scores of teachers and dance forms, the sea of dedicated competitors and the indelible rejections.

It all paid off for Sund when her phone rang about eight years ago.

"I just could not believe it," she said, recalling the day she learned that she

had finally been accepted into the troupe after her third audition. "I called every single person I knew and told them. I felt like it was my big break, the most exciting thing that ever happened to me."

Endless audition

Stacey Sund began training as a dancer at age 4. She danced at Studio E on Union Turnpike in Bayside, with Robert Mann, at the Dance Zone, and even with a Russian pedagogue in the basement of the American Martyrs Church. She also studied at the Eglevsky Ballet School in Bethpage and at Broadway Theater Project.

She worked out in the dance program studio as a student at Cardozo High School and attended college at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she studied dance, acting and musical theater.

Sund first tried out for the Rockette's during college with some fellow dancers.

"We had heard so many stories," she said. "I remember thinking on that day that I want to find out more."

By the time Sund arrived for her try-out, at about 6:30 a.m. on a spring morning, 300 or more dancers were coiled around Radio City Music Hall, all with the same aspirations.

"I am never going to get this," she recalled thinking. "I remember girls standing in line with suitcases in their

Continued on Page 40



Stacy Sund, of Jamaica Estates, stars in the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, running through Dec. 30. Photo courtesy MSG Entertainment

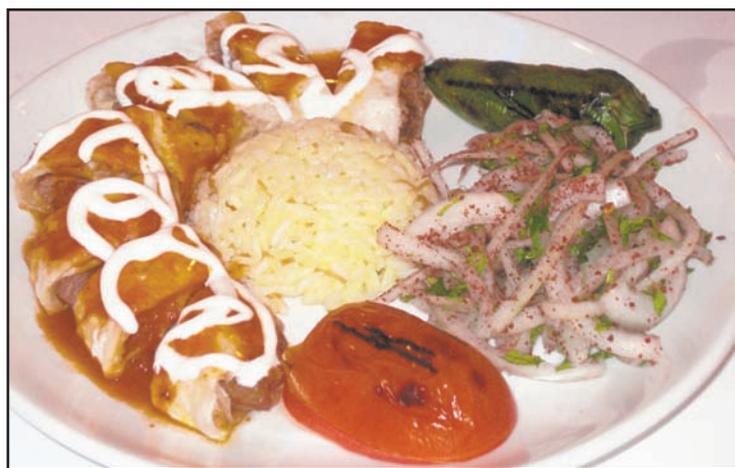
Roka: Kew Gardens welcomes big Turkish tastes

BY SUZANNE PARKER

Last spring I was all excited that a Turkish restaurant had opened up on Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills. I was impressed, in more or less equal parts, by the quality of the food, and by the fact that there was a new cuisine in this rather Italian-heavy stretch of geography. As often happens in the restaurant business, the relationship between the two partners began to fray. Eventually Annette Dulger broke away to found a new Turkish restaurant Roka, less than a quarter of a mile west on Metropolitan Avenue in Kew Gardens.

First impressions couldn't be more different. Ms. Dulger's new establishment is handsomely appointed. Serpentine recessed blue lights oversee stone mosaics of Mediterranean scenes on both the walls and floor. She has left the homeliness of her former venue behind her.

The Roka menu is pretty similar to the one at the Forest



Adana kebab served at Roka Turkish Cuisine, 116-35 Metropolitan Ave. in Forest Hills.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

Hills location. It includes all of the Turkish standards, and a few surprises.

The house-made Turkish flat bread is a test of your willpower.

It takes a supreme act of self-control not to fall up on this seductively fragrant baked offering

before your meal begins.

We started with a lentil soup

that had a lightness about it uncommon to the typical lentil soup. There was a familiar, yet unidentifiable herbal note that we later learned was mint.

Mucver (zucchini pancakes) added to my appreciation of Turkish cuisine. The dish inspired me to remember this when I'm desperate to find ways to use up the surfeit of zucchini in my garden.

They come with garlic yogurt sauce here. Although they're billed as an appetizer, paired with a salad, they make a perfect lunch. A Coban salad, or the more robust Ezme salad make good partners.

The meats I tried in the mixed grill were tender and juicy, but there are two entrees that really stand out. Iskender is a platter of the vertically roasted Doner kebab lamb blanketed with a piquant tomato sauce over pieces of the house bread. A generous glob of yogurt sidles up to the meatier real estate. This takes what is already good, the Doner kebab, and makes it better.

My absolute fave was the Adana kebab. I attempted to make this dish at a recent Turkish cooking lesson, but I have to give credit where credit is due. Theirs was sooo much better than mine. Expertly spiced ground lamb flavored with red bell peppers is grilled on skewers and then wrapped in a tortilla-like flat bread and sliced in sections.

Continued on Page 42

Roka Turkish Cuisine

116-35 Metropolitan Avenue
Kew Gardens

Price Range: Apps: \$4-8

Cuisine: Turkish

Setting: Small but snazzy.

Service: Attentive

Hours: Tues.-Sun., noon-11 p.m.

Reservations: Optional

Alcohol: License pending

Parking: Street

Dress: Casual

Children: Welcome

Music: Recorded

Takeout: Yes

Credit cards: Yes

Noise level: Acceptable

Handicap accessible: Yes

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Panzarotti with Seafood

Pasta

Penne alla Vodka

Tagliatelle Pasta with Tomato Sauce and Basil

Salad

House Salad with Radicchio, Frisee, Endive, Plum Tomato
and Cucumber dressed with Homemade Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

Seven Fishes

with Carrots, Potatoes, Celery, Cippolini, and Leeks

Lamb Chops

with Mustard, Breadcrumbs, Carrots, Potatoes & String Beans

Stuffed Jumbo Shrimps,

Stuffed with Crabmeat in an Orange Sauce

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Dessert

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Pasta

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Angellotti

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Penne alla Vodka

Salad

House Salad

with Radicchio, Frisee, Endive,
Plum Tomato and Cucumber
dressed with Homemade
Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

(Choice of One)

Osso Bucco Milanese
Roasted Port Loin Stuffed
with Prosciutto, Roasted
Garlic & Apples 

Salmon Pescatore

Tilapia Stuffed with Crabmeat
in Champagne Sauce

Pollo Sorrentino

*Entrees served with Roasted
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Dessert

Coffee & Tea 

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'Forbidden Broadway' a sparkling revue on classics



The cast of "Forbidden Broadway" at 47th Street Theater.
Photo by Carol Rosegg

BY RON HELLMAN

Broadway musicals are serious business. Most of them cost tens of millions of dollars to produce and less than one-third make back their investment. Two of every three tickets are sold to tourists, and the efforts to attract and satisfy those out-of-towners are not for the faint of heart.

But Gerald Alessandrini doesn't care about all that. The creator of a series of "Forbidden Broadway" satires just wants us to have a good time, and now after a three-year hiatus, he's back. Celebrating its 30th year, this version has the tag "Alive & Kicking!", and has earned so many rave reviews that its run has been extended through April 28, 2013.

Without a doubt, these fast moving skits are guaranteed to make you laugh — a lot — even if you haven't seen all the shows that are skewered by the politically incorrect barbs. You're sure to recognize most of the performers and other show biz types who are given the once over, and if they have a sense of humor and a thick skin, they'll enjoy it as much as the audience.

A major plus is the energetic, versatile and multi-talented cast of four — Natalie Charlé Ellis, Scott Richard Foster, Jenny Lee Stern and Marcus Stevens — who provide 100 minutes of non-stop entertainment, all to the piano accompaniment of David Caldwell.

Among the shows that are taken for a spin are "Evi-

ta," "Anything Goes," "Newsies," "Spiderman," "Porgy and Bess" (the Gershwins, that is, not to be confused with any other authors) and "The Book of Mormon" (here parodied as the "Book of Morons").

I must give special mention to Mr. Stevens, not just because he's the only cast member who doesn't list a middle name, but, like most New York actors, he comes from a faraway place (okay, not so far in his case, Wallingford, Pa.), and now resides in our own theater outpost of Astoria. An expert mimic, Mr. Stevens has fun portraying Ricky Martin, Matthew Broderick, Steven Sondheim, Harvey Fierstein and Mandy Patinkin.

For those, like myself, who have an aversion to con-

stant revivals, my favorite bit was when Ms. Stern came out as "Annie" — this time it was "Granny" who could make it to tomorrow only with the help of a walker.

If you're able-bodied enough, however, make sure you get to the 47th Street Theater (304 West 47th Street, off 8th Avenue) and treat yourself to a good time. The theater has only about 200 seats so you won't miss the facial expressions or the array of costumes. The small stage has never been bigger.

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sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #50

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

Hard #50

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

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.

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Website: queenstheatre.org

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Circus – Queens Theatre presents a special holiday theatrical experience for the entire family: the Handsome Little Devils in The Squirm Burpee Circus, an exhilarating, fantastical adventure of classic slapstick comedy, high-skill circus acts and a plot straight out of American Melodrama. Featuring an eye-catching cast and a beautiful, Cirque-like aesthetic.

When: Dec. 27-31, 2 pm and 7 pm

Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows

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

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

The Nutcracker: A Christmas Celebration

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When: Dec. 22, 1 pm and 3 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: flushingtownhall.org

bigbencomedy.com

Website: bigbencomedy.com/blog/archives/astoria_comedy_all_stars

First Sundays for Families

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

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

Cost: Free

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

Contact: (718) 592-9700

EVENTS

Wilderness survival – Urban Park Rangers lead workshop on how to survive almost any disaster, whether in the wild or at home.

When: Dec. 30, 1 pm

Where: Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Blvd. at Forest Park Drive, Forest Park

Contact: (718) 846-2731

Website: nyc.gov/parks/rangers

Wilderness survival – Join with Park Rangers and learn how to cope with any and all emergencies. Suitable for older children.

When: Dec. 30, 1 pm

Where: Fort Totten, Fort Totten, Bayside

Contact: (718) 352-1769

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@

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 Sageyeong, is brought to life in this spectacular exhibition of 55 pieces of elegant calligraphy and painting in gold and silver. The exhibition Samadhi + Art = Sageyeong 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

Site-specific installation that transforms the museum's second-floor into a Caribbean landscape. Geometric compositions in hues of blue and green are either painted on the wall or adhered to the glass railing façade in the form of translucent color film. The work is inspired by the Panama Canal, one of the most transformative world events in the 19th century.

When: Through Jan. 6, 2013

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

Contact: (718) 592-9700

Website: 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

Continued on Page 42

Christmas Eve at Aunt Bella's

Appetizers

- Lobster Bisque - \$5.95
- Garden Salad - \$5.95
- Fresh Mozzarella and Tomato - \$8.95
- Dozen Baked Clams - \$12.50
- Mussels - White or Red - \$10.95
- Shrimp Cocktail - \$8.95
- Assorted Antipasto - \$9.75

Pasta

- Baked Ziti, Lasagna, Ravioli, Stuffed Shells or Manicotti - \$10.95
- Penne Vodka - \$11.95
- Linguini Clam Sauce - \$11.25
- Spaghetti and Meatballs - \$11.95

Entrees

- Chicken (Parmigiana, Pizzaiola, Marsala or Francese) - \$15.95
- Veal (Parmigiana, Marsala or Picatta) - \$16.95
- Eggplant (Parmigiana or Rollatini) - \$13.95
- Shrimp (Scampi, Parmigiana, Bella, Marinara or Fra Diavolo) - \$16.95

Seafood

- Tilapia - \$15.95
- Calamari Marinara - \$14.95
- Seafood Pasta - \$18.95
- Chilean Sea Bass - \$18.95

Dessert

- Cheese Cake - \$5.95
- Tartufo - \$5.95
- Truffles - \$5.95



Aunt Bella's Restaurant

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ROCKETTES

Continued from Page 33

hands. They had just gotten off the plane from Pennsylvania and Florida."

The dancers are first measured for height. Would-be Rockettes must be between 5-foot-6 and 5-foot-10-1/2 and be no younger than 18.

She wore brightly colored leotards with tan tights "so they would be able to see my legs." Her hair was slicked back and her lips glossed red.

Sund and a group of about 40 other dancers were taken into a room to learn the first dance combination. In groups of three, the dancers then perform the routine in front of Linda Haberman, the director and choreographer of the Christmas Spectacular.

"She is very intimidating, to say the least," said Sund.

Auditioning, measuring and photographing the dancers is a two-day process, said Sund.

"Then you wait," said Sund, who didn't get a callback for two months after the audition. She auditioned again in August. This time, Haberman recognized her, and referring to her by name during the tryout, Sund recalled.

Still, it took several more weeks for her to get that special phone call that changed her life.

Starting anew
Both of the The Rockettes' 40-member casts put on a total of 100 shows during the Christmas season.

That's a grueling schedule, even when compared to the most demanding Broadway musicals. Unlike Broadway, too, each of the Rockettes is essentially a leading lady in the show, adding an additional element of pressure.

"One thing I didn't realize was how difficult it is and how tirelessly we practice," said Sund. "When you watch on television it looks so easy."

In September each year, the Rockettes begin six-hour, six-day-a-week rehearsals in preparation for their season of holiday performances, which begins in early November.

"We rehearse everything every year, as if it's brand new to us," said Sund, "so that it's perfect."

The Rockettes are celebrating their 85th holiday season in New York City this year. Their show includes many fan-favorite numbers, such as "Santa's Workshop," "The Living Nativity," and "New York at Christmas," during which the Rockettes board a double-decker Gray Line bus and take audiences on a virtual tour of Manhattan.

In "Let Christmas Shine," the Rockette's sparkle from the stage, as each dancer wears a costume adorned with more than 3,000 Swarovski crystals.

Two of the scenes in the show are in 3D, utilizing Radio City's huge floor to ceiling LED screen.

In honor of this year's anniversary celebration, a costume retrospective has been added to the show. A

handful of Rockettes have been chosen to model the outfits the dance company has worn in performances throughout the decades.

Sund models a Rockettes costume from the 1960s. "I was so happy to be picked," she said. "I love the costume, it is so much fun."

Though hard-pressed to decide, Sund chose the costume retrospective and the perennial "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" when asked to pick her favorite numbers in the show.

After eight years as a Rockette, Sund hasn't lost any of her enthusiasm.

"There are mornings I am really tired," she admitted. "But then I see the lines waiting for the show and the little kids dressed up for Christmas in their pea coats. I am honored to be a Rockette."

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular plays through Sunday, Dec. 30. For more information or to order tickets, call 866-858-0007 or go to www.radiocitychristmas.com.

WORTH A TRIP

Grace – The story about a Minnesota couple that moves to Florida to convert hotels into Christian-themed hotels, is an examination of the meaning of faith, fate, and love. Starring Paul Rudd, Ed Asner, Michael Shannon and Kate Arrington. **Closing Sunday, Jan. 6. Cort Theatre, 138 W. 48th St. Call 212-239-6200, or go to telecharge.com.**

War Horse – The drama about the perilous adventures of a horse that moves from life on a farm into the battles of World War I. Story is told using uncanny

puppetry and scenery.

Closing Sunday, Jan. 6. At the Vivian Beaumont Theater, 150 W. 65th St. Call 212-239-6200, or go to telecharge.com.

My Name is Asher Lev – Aaron Posner's adaptation of Chaim Potok's novel, the acclaimed drama tells the story of a Hasidic boy's growing up in Brooklyn in the 1950s, and of his conflicts with both his father and his growth as an artist. **At the Westside Theater, 407 W. 43rd St. Call 212-239-6200, or go to telecharge.com.**

Leonard Cohen – After touring

to rave reviews in dozens of cities in continents around the world, and producing two live albums and a new studio album, Cohen and his band return to the area for a show at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday, Dec. 18, and at the Barclays Center, on Thursday, Dec. 20.

Both shows are at 8 p.m. MSG is at Seventh Ave. and 33rd St. in Manhattan, the Barclays Center is at 620 Atlantic Ave. in Brooklyn. Call 800-745-3000, or go to www.ticketmaster.com.

The Piano Lesson – Signature Theatre has extended the

run of the revival of August Wilson's esteemed play about an African-American family that is torn regarding a decision to sell an old family piano. Selling the piano would provide the Charles family with the money to make a fresh start. But the piano has powerful symbolic bonds to this family and to black history in America. The instrument was once traded for the family's patriarch, during the slavery years.

At the Pershing Square Signature Center/Irene Diamond Stage, 480 W. 42nd St. Go to www.signaturetheatre.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

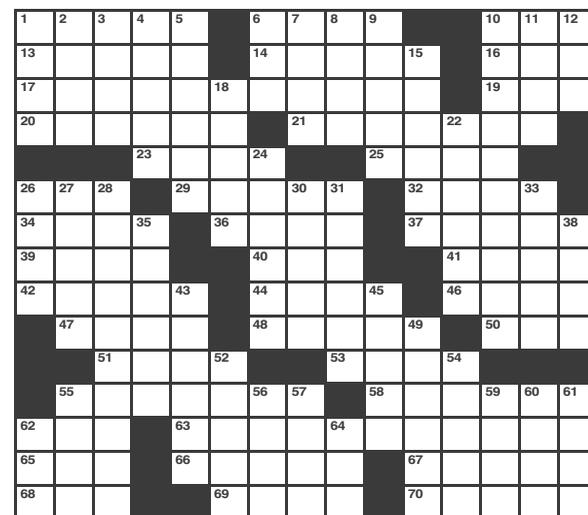
TimesLedger Newspapers
Dec. 20-26, 2012

By Ed Canty New England Menu



Across

- June birthstone
- Post-diet, ideally
- Dracula, at times
- Kukla's co-star
- "The Taming of the Shrew" city
- A pint, maybe
- Maine menu item
- Barbie's beau
- Atlas features
- Soft tissue
- "Cheep" accommodations?
- Sought damages
- Hack
- Kind of center
- London subway to Brits
- Frigid finish
- Sleuth Wolfe
- Coach's advice yo Base runner
- Hubbubs
- French monarch
- "I could ___ horse!"
- Tiny amphibians
- Photo blowups: Abbr.
- Genetic letters
- Dirk of yore
- Systems of waist removal?
- Main and Wall: Abbr.
- Give a little
- "Buenos ___"
- Lorax creator
- Cuisine style
- Drone, e.g.
- Cape Cod menu item
- ___ Today



- Apportion
- Munich denials
- Caesar, for one
- Line parts: Abbr.
- "Super!"
- In ___ (owing)
- Actor James
- Gofers
- Boston menu item
- Mac follower
- ___ lobster
- Patronize, as a restaurant
- Lauder and namesakes
- Highland miss
- ___ Falls, NY
- Knit or purl
- Polynesian wrap
- Takes the edge off
- Ratty place
- TV's Arnaz
- Ad headline
- E.P.A. concern
- "Garfield" dog
- Actress Olin
- At one time, at one time
- Greyhound, e.g.
- Pennies: Abbr.



Rockettes undergo grueling physical training and scrutiny before they are selected to perform in the world-renowned "Christmas Spectacular." Photo by Gene Schiavone/MSG Entertainment

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DECEMBER 24, 2012

APPETIZERS

Shrimp Bisque	\$6.95
Clams Oreganata	\$8.95
Linguini with Garlic, Oil and Spinach	\$11.95
Penne Arrabbiatta <i>A spicy Italian tomato sauce with bacon</i>	\$12.95
Mussels Fra Diavolo	\$12.95
Cold Antipasta Platter	\$11.95

ENTREES

Seafood Marinara <i>Shrimp, Scallops, Clams & Mussels over Pasta</i>	\$29.95
Christmas Eve Seafood Platter <i>Fried Shrimp, Scallop & Sole</i>	\$27.95
Stuffed Sole <i>w/a Seafood Cornbread Stuffing</i>	\$26.95
Steak and Stuffed Shrimp <i>12oz. Steak w/Shrimp Stuffed w/Crabmeat</i>	\$27.95
Red Snapper a la George <i>in a white wine Lemon sauce w/Mushrooms & Artichokes..</i>	\$27.95
Steak Pizzaiola <i>Pan seared 12oz. Steak w/Tomato Sauce & Spicy Bread Crumbs</i> .	\$27.95
Chicken Stuffed w/Spinach, Prosciutto & Mozzarella	\$25.95

DESSERTS

Chocolate Mousse Cake	\$7.95
Bailey's Cheesecake	\$7.95
Carrot Cake	\$7.95



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December 25, 2012

5 Course Dinner **\$45⁰⁰** PER PERSON Includes: Appetizer, Soup, Salad, Entrée, Dessert, Coffee or Tea

*Filet Oscar and Lobster Tail Entrée \$55.00 per person

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Soup

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Salad

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Entrees (Choice Of One)

8 oz. Filet Mignon Oscar & 7 oz. Lobster Tail (Add \$10 to Price Fixe)
Porcini Crusted Lamb Chops with Rosemary Garlic Emulsion
Pan Seared Sea Bass w/ Mango Sauce over Spinach
Grilled Salmon w/ Crawfish Cream Sauce
Sautéed Chicken Breast w/ Crabmeat Spinach & Lemon Horse Radish Sauce
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Carrot Cake, Chocolate Mousse Cake,
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Catering Services

Roka

Continued from Page 34

These sections are decorated with squiggles of yogurt and arranged around a hemisphere of rice. Shaved onion sprinkled with sumac heightens the piquant flavors, along with a grilled tomato and a dangerously spicy grilled pepper. This dish is as much a pleasure to look at as to eat.

Have you O.D.'d on piz-

za, but still long for something to fill that niche? Pide, its Turkish cousin is well represented here. They can be ordered with ground lamb, mozzarella cheese, Turkish pastrami, or Turkish sausage, or in various combinations of the above. They are boat shaped, thick crusted (except for the Lahmacun, which comes as three thin crusted rounds). Forget tomato sauce, though. That's not how they do it in Turkey. Just meat and/or cheese.

The Bottom Line

Roka is a tasty new addition to Kew Gardens. The ambiance is inviting, the food is enticing, and the prices are modest. Sounds like a home run.

Afiyet olsun (bon appetit!)

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

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from Page 38

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

Broadway Billboard –

For Socrates Sculpture Park's Broadway Billboard, photographer Catherine Opie has created a mise-en-scène of epic scope, drama, and mystery. Nature and artifice, light and darkness are just some of the contradictory elements of Opie's image that create an ominous tableau for us to contemplate.

When: Through March 31

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

Contact: (718) 956-1819

Website: socratessculpturepark.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: socratessculpturepark.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

EDUCATION

Fall Pilates Program –

A series of premier Pilates classes instructed by Robin Budnetz, who was trained by Joseph Pilates himself. The classes are designed to strengthen the core while developing overall flexibility. Beginners sessions, intermediate/advanced and sessions for teachers after school are available. Call to register.

When: Mondays, 12:30 pm and 7 pm, Tuesdays, 7 pm, Thursdays, 10:05 am, 11:10 am and 4:10 pm, through Thursday, Dec. 20

Where: Central Queens YM & YWHA, 67-09 108th St., between 67th Avenue, Forest Hills

Contact: (718) 268-5011 ext. 504

Website: centralqueensy.org

FILM

Representing South Asia on Film –

A series of screenings and programs.

When: Through April 25, 2013

Where: Godwin-Ternbach

Museum, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Website: qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach

DANCE

Dance Power Movement –

Feeling the rhythms of music from all over the world, even those who have never danced a step in their lives find themselves taken into a full range of movement integrating flexibility, balance, and muscular endurance.

When: Thursdays through Dec. 20, 7:40 pm

Where: Central Queens YM & YWHA, 67-09 108th St., between 67th Avenue, Forest Hills

Contact: (718) 268-5011

Website: centralqueensy.org

Free Line Dance Lessons –

Free line dance lessons given by professional dance instructor, Bernardo, every Monday.

When: Mondays, 1 pm

Cost: Free

Where: Pomonok Senior Center, 67-09 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing

Contact: Jennifer Buljan (718) 591-3377

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

To Circumcise or Not to Circumcise –

The topic will be about whether it is an infringement on religious freedom.

When: Dec. 21, 8 pm

Where: The Reform Temple of Forst Hills, 71-11 112th St., Forest Hills

Contact: (718) 899-8298

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Expect Success!

When you are involved and support the important work going on in the classroom, your child is more likely to succeed in school and in life. The Expect Success Family Guide can help you participate in your child's education. The Guide has information about school reforms, raising academic standards, course requirements and ways to help your child become college and career ready. For electronic copies, search NYC.gov for Expect Success or call 311.

Each month, look for a new insert with more information to help your child get the most out of the school year.

Does your school make the grade?

The NYC Progress Report

The New York City Progress Report awards schools grades based on student progress, performance, and attendance, as well as feedback from parents, students, and teachers.

For the first time this year, high school reports also include a section on college and career readiness. Parents can use the Progress Report to evaluate how well their child's school is preparing its students for success in high school, college, and careers.



Stay in touch with your child's school

ARIS Parent Link

Be sure to complete or update a blue card for every child attending a New York City public school. Schools rely on this important information to keep you informed about your child's progress, school closures, and to contact you in the event of an emergency. You may also want to keep your child's student identification number handy to log into ARIS Parent Link.

Apply to the Summer Arts Institute

The Summer Arts Institute is a tuition-free, four-week program for public school students entering grades 8 to 12 who want to immerse themselves in dance, theater, instrumental music, vocal music, film, photography, or the visual arts. The program provides students with a unique opportunity to train with Department of Education arts specialists as well as teaching artists from such cultural partners as American Ballet Theatre, Roundabout Theatre Company, Theatre for a New Audience, Tribeca Film Institute, and Young Audiences. To be eligible, your child must be at an intermediate or advanced level of study. The Institute is held at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School in Astoria, Queens. Applications for the summer 2013 session will be available online in January and are due February 8, 2013. Students who complete the program in good standing are eligible to receive a one-half unit of credit that may be applied towards an elective arts credit or a Regents or local diploma.

For more information and a short film on the program, search NYC.gov for Summer Arts.



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

NYC Parent Academy Workshops



This fall, the NYC Parent Academy was launched to help parents become more engaged in their child's education. This program

is dedicated to strengthening parent involvement to support student achievement in the City's 1,700 schools.

Attend the NYC Parent Academy's upcoming borough-wide workshops:

SAT., JAN. 12

9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The Eagle Academy
for Young Men
4143 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10457

SAT., JAN. 26

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

P.S. 24
427 38th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m.

Parents in Schools:

Education Council Information Sessions

Parents are invited to attend the following upcoming events to find out how to make the most out of educational resources, and how to take part in district decisions by serving on an Education Council.

Who should attend?

Parents who want a voice in district and City policies affecting their children's schools.

Councils serve students:

- in grades 3-8 by district
- with special education needs
- in high school
- receiving special education services through District 75
- receiving English language learner services

THURS., JAN. 24

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Brooklyn Informational Session

Brooklyn Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Stay Connected

Is today a school holiday or snow day? When are parent-teacher conferences? When is the deadline to register for high school entrance exams? New York City public school families can now stay informed by receiving text messages in English or Spanish throughout the school year. Text "nycschools" or "escuela" to 877-877 to receive school-related information, including calendar updates, reminders and tips on how to access school resources. Standard text messaging rates may apply.



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for alerts and info.

NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR:

**MON., DEC. 24 -
TUES., JAN. 1**

Winter Recess
Schools Closed

2013

MON., JAN. 21

Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day
Schools closed

MON., JAN. 28

Fall term ends for
high school students.
No classes for
high school students
(Does not apply to
District 75 high schools)

TUES., JAN. 29

Spring term begins
for high school
students

Are you Looking for Activities for the Winter Break?

The holiday break is the perfect time to take advantage of New York City's many free and low-cost cultural activities.

For a list of family-friendly events, visit NYC.gov and search for Winter Activities.

Business

Boro eatery puts twist on Chinese dishes

101 Taiwanese Cuisine offers variations on traditional fare like tofu, oyster omelets and three-cup chicken

BY JOE ANUTA

Despite a large Taiwanese population in Flushing, there are surprisingly few restaurants where gourmets can get a taste of the island's bold and innovative food.

But 101 Taiwanese Cuisine, at 135-11 40th Road, showcases some of the country's most popular dishes, which are always evolving.

"Taiwanese people like to eat," said owner Timothy Chuang, who opened the restaurant just over a year ago. "But the country is small and there is a lot of competition, so cooks try to make their dishes better and better."

Taiwan's taste buds now want less salt and oil, said Chuang, who found a chef from a five-star restaurant across the Pacific and hired him at the Flushing eatery.

To that end, diners can feast on a lettuce-leaf wrap containing a mixture of cooked shrimp, shrimp crackers and fresh fruit — either mango, grapefruit or apple depending on the season.

Or the health-conscious might want to try an appetizer consisting of rectangular cubes of taro, pumpkin, apple and yam wrapped in a paper-thin slice of cucumber.

Chuang went to great pains to make the dining experience



A Flushing Taiwanese restaurant's menu includes a healthy shrimp dish (from front to back), refreshing fruit and vegetable dishes and stinky tofu, among other foods from the island.
Photo by Joe Anuta

authentic, by using fresh ingredients and creating a large dining space with photos from the island on the wall.

But the menu just wouldn't be Taiwanese without certain items.

Stinky tofu might epitomize the country's food more than any other dish. It is fermented soybean curd that is fried, giving it a distinctive and pungent kick, and served with pickled cabbage and hot chili sauce. Chuang claims to

have the best in the city, though the dish is not for the faint of heart.

The menu also boasts an oyster omelet, which is beaten eggs fried with greens, oysters and a thickening starch, and three-cup chicken, which is pieces of the fowl braised in a sauce composed of equal parts wine, soy sauce and sesame seed oil and cooked with ginger — both of which are Taiwanese staples.

The experimental nature of the island's chefs come from the country's history, according to Chuang, who said that in the late 1940s a large population from China fled to the island in the aftermath of World War II amid political upheaval on the mainland.

Chefs from all over China, who specialized in the cuisines of various regions, came to Taiwan and styles began to overlap, making the food, and the fare dished up

at Chuang's restaurant, a unique experience.

Pork belly plays a big role at 101 Taiwanese Cuisine, and is a component in many dishes. For example, it can be found in a special sandwich topped with crushed peanuts and cilantro.

Large tanks hold fresh fish and other seafood, and for dessert anyone would be mistaken to pass up the shaved ice topped with sweet fruits and beans.

Many of the most famous foods are associated with large markets that open in the country's large cities.

At these expansive night markets, shoppers stroll around nibbling on scrumptious snacks, like fried popcorn chicken — served at Chuang's restaurant cooked to perfection with crispy fried basil — or deep fried pieces of pumpkin. They can also shop for goods from local stores.

Chuang wants to set up a night market in downtown Flushing, which he said would create a tourist attract and give more people outside the Taiwanese and Asian communities the chance to try some of the food the neighborhood has to offer.

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

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

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

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

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

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

Website: powerfuleyou.com

Power Networking Group — Led by Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am

Cost: \$10 for breakfast

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

Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or (718) 423-0427

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly Meeting — BNI is a business and professional

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

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets

Point Blvd., Bayside

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

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter — BNI

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Barone

Continued from Page 9

toxic properties by following a set of state regulations, the two companies began their work in Whitestone in August 2010 by agreeing to a document called a Remedial Work Plan. It stipulated which kinds of materials could be used as replacement soil on the property.

Specifically, the plan forbids solid waste material from other industrial sites and material from contaminated sites or potentially contaminated sites from being used as replacement soil, according to the plan. Any non-virgin soil was subject to higher standards of documentation.

Barone initially hired Restoration & Conservation Environmental, a company that provides fill material, to provide unadulterated replacement soil, Barone said in a September interview. Logs were provided to TimesLedger Newspa-

pers indicating where each truckload of that earth came from, its chemical makeup and when it was delivered to the site — information required by the Remedial Work Plan.

After this process was completed in July 2011, a second round of soil was put on top, according to Barone. This top soil would be more conducive to growing vegetation, which would then prevent erosion, he said. Barone indicated DEC would also have the required records for the second round of soil importation.

TimesLedger submitted a Freedom of Information Request for these records, but DEC could not locate any, saying no documents showing a chain of custody had been provided to it for the second round of replacement soil. Barone disputes this claim.

The department was nearly ready to sign off on the project in August this year after it deemed the soil replacement went according to plan, according

to DEC authorities. That would have given the green light for development with the unauthorized material on the site, but about the same time, questions were raised about illegal dumping at the site.

TimesLedger and state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bay-side) both received complaints from residents to this effect. Avella sent a letter to DEC, launching the investigation.

DEC told TimesLedger in August that no unapproved material was found on the site, though this was contradicted by their subsequent investigation.

In September, DEC performed chemical tests on the soil in question and found it not to be contaminated.

At that time, Barone had taken umbrage at the suggestion that any unapproved material had somehow found its way to the site.

“Unless somebody is illegally dumping with a helicopter, it’s feasibly impossible,” he said.

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Guns

Continued from Page 5

make a priority.

Several Queens lawmakers expressed their condolences to the victims' loved ones and echoed the mayor's calls for stricter gun laws.

"In the wake of this

unthinkable tragedy, it is time for a new national conversation about the role of guns in American life," said U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-Ridgewood).

State Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) called the shooting a "sickening tragedy."

"The blood stain of gun of violence will only grow larger until we resolve, at

every level of government, to bring common sense and sanity to our laws governing firearms availability, sales and possession," he said.

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

Stadium

Continued from Page 4

members involved before I take any position ahead of them, since things are still evolving," he said.

Grodnychik has not heard enough specifics to make up his mind.

"There are a lot of questions that have not been answered," said Grodnychik, who said he does not oppose the idea of development in the park, but needs to see more details like how the project will be financed and the dimensions of the proposed structure before he can make up his mind.

Katz, who formerly chaired the Council Land

Use Committee, also indicated that she needed to learn more about the proposal before making up her mind, especially since other developments are taking place on public parkland and any more greenspace taken for private gain, a process called alienation, is a serious issue.

"I think it's got to be looked at overall," she said. "Alienation of parkland should never, ever be taken lightly."

Peralta had emerged as an early supporter of the project, citing its economic impact on the borough, but the lawmaker said he is withholding the final thumbs-up until he is certain MLS will replace the 10 to 13 acres of parkland

the stadium will occupy, should it be built.

"I share the concern over lost park space, which is why my final support is contingent on the replacement space that is secured," he said. "If that concern is addressed, there is a great deal to like about the project — jobs, economic activity and improvements to the park, all privately funded."

Vallone took special issue with the question of where the replacement parkland will go.

"It is not possible for me to support this project without knowing any specifics," he said. "I would need to know exactly where the comparable parkland will be. And I'm not going to accept vague promises."

Health

Continued from Page 5

his own Rockaway home. "Now imagine mold, rotting wood and other debris in the air. Rockaway and South Queens are breathing this stuff and it's troubling to me to even think about what people are going to be going through as we progress."

The New York Nurses Association, a unionized association for registered nurses, rallied in front of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Manhattan home Saturday calling on him and Gov. Andrew Cuomo to set up mobile care units in the hardest-hit areas.

A spokesman said a mobile unit would ease overcrowding in places like the Rockaways with minimal health care facilities. And while volunteer groups went door-to-door checking on the medical needs of individual residents immedi-

ately following the storm, the union is also urging the mayor to have health officials carry out a broad scope assessment on the peninsula.

Meanwhile, the Joseph P. Addabbo Family Center, a community health center with two badly storm-damaged locations in the Rockaways, received a \$250,000 grant from Direct Relief USA and the National Association of Community Health Centers last month to help rebuild after Sandy.

"These nonprofit clinics and health centers are on the front lines during emergencies, caring for their communities in darkness and in despair, as we have seen with Sandy. They have limited financial ability to absorb the blow right now, and yet their patients need help during this critical period," said Thomas Tighe, president and CEO of Direct Relief.

The peninsula's Addabbo health centers are located at 6200 Beach

Channel Dr. in Arverne and 1288 Central Ave. in Far Rockaway. The facilities are staffed by licensed and trained physicians and provide primary care, pediatric services, family support and mental health resources. And while he commends the work done by the Addabbo health centers and the scores of volunteers who have helped residents, Goldfeder said his pre-Sandy stance on health care in the Rockaways has not changed: South Queens needs more access to affordable, quality health care. Now, in a post-Sandy world, that need has been magnified 10 times.

"In the immediate long term we need to open health centers and ensure that doctors are spread throughout the peninsula to address our health needs," he said. "St. John's is stretched to the limit and this area is ripe for another catastrophe."

vacant storefronts got tenants which are still there today."

But too many can have the opposite effect.

"An overabundance of chain stores can attack an area's retail fabric, usually by causing rent increases that make it impossible for small, independent businesses to thrive. This can lead to fewer unique services and products and really change a neighborhood's character," he said.

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

Senate

Continued from Page 5

having a focused conference in future years.

"I think it was something that had to be done," Addabbo said.

The Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, in Hamden, Conn., released a study last week that said 53 percent of voters believed the coalition would bring good government while 30 percent characterized the coalition as some leaders trying to grab power. The poll also found 48 percent of voters want a coalition to choose what bills are voted on, with 31 percent in favor of Democrats choosing and 17 percent in favor of Republican choosing.

Despite what appeared to be a slim win for the Democrats in the Senate on Election Night, many factors left control of the upper house up in the air. Upstate Democrat Terry Gipson seemed to beat incumbent Sen. Stephen Saland (R-Poughkeepsie) and Democrat Cecilia Tkaczyk had a lead over state Assembly-

man George Amedore (R-Rotterdam) for a new seat drawn near Albany, but the races were so close that recounts were ordered.

Saland conceded to Gipson last Thursday, but Amedore appeared to have a slim edge of less than 100 votes and declared victory again Monday.

Some Democrats also rejected working with the party at large. Shortly after the election, Sen.-elect Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn) decided to caucus with the Republicans, saying they would help him get more from his district. Earlier this month, Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-St. Albans) became the first Queens senator to join the four-member IDC led by Sen. Jeffrey Klein (D-Bronx), which broke away from Democrats two years ago.

"He believes strongly that if a coalition, bipartisan government — should it work — would be a very good model for the rest of the nation," said Smith spokesman Hank Sheinkopf.

Without the results of the new seat, the current make-up of the Senate gives

the coalition a 35 to 27 lead.

Sheinkopf said the Quinnipiac poll proves that the electorate wants "government that works" and not "politics."

"It's exactly the opposite of what's occurring in Washington right now," he said.

But Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), chairman of the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee, was skeptical. He also said he did not think the Quinnipiac poll was written in a way that properly explained that the coalition was a joint undertaking by Republicans and the breakaway IDC.

"I could draft you a different question that would give you an opposite answer," he said.

He also characterized the coalition's platform as essentially the Republican's and not bipartisan.

Stavisky, who said she no longer considers herself a minority legislator, had hopes that the IDC would return to the conference.

"We have five misguided folks who I think, ultimately, will remember that we're Democrats," she said.

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

Stores

Continued from Page 4

tration of chain stores in the borough, 144, according to the report.

Several ZIP codes, including Breezy Point and Jamaica, had the fewest number of chain stores in the borough, ranging from zero to two. Kew Gardens had one chain store.

Subway, a sandwich shop, led the pack this year, with a net gain of 11 stores in the borough. But the borough lost some business as well.

CVS, a national pharmacy chain, closed three

stores in Queens, while Mandee, a clothing store, and McDonald's, a fast food chain, both closed two stores, the report said.

Carvel, an ice cream shop, also closed one of its shops in 2012.

An abundance of chain stores can bring jobs and low prices, but also attract consumers to an area, according to Bornstein. And that can bolster some of the borough's small businesses, he said.

"This happened on Farmers Boulevard in Hollis a few years ago, when a Walgreens opened in an abandoned strip," said Bornstein. "Almost immediately, the nearby

Assassin

Continued from Page 4

an extensive rap sheet, according to the Post, which also reported that Woodard may have been lured by text message to the spot where he was shot.

Molloy victory caps end of tough week

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Archbishop Molloy knows a thing or two about watching double-digit leads evaporate in the fourth quarter. Unlike last year, the Briarwood school wasn't the one having to make the comeback and it was refreshing.

"It felt good having a team coming back from what you did, how hard you played," senior guard Amani Tatum said.

The Stanners saw host Bishop Loughlin cut a 14-point fourth quarter lead cut to three in the closing minutes, but ultimately held on. Molloy beat the Lions 72-64 in CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division I girls' basketball Dec. 12. The team drew strength from senior guard Alexa "Weazel" Dietrich, whose father Phillip, 43, died of a heart attack Dec. 3.

He was cremated Dec. 12, but Dietrich, who is headed to Pace next year, still wanted to play. She caused a key turnover on Loughlin point guard Jasmine Alston with 38.2 seconds left that kept Molloy up 67-62.

"She's an amazing person, and I can't imagine what she's going through," classmate and close friend Caroyln Gallagher said of Dietrich. "We spent half the day with her [Wednesday]. What she's gone through is horrible. No one should go through that. But we're her family. We'll do anything for her."

The Stanners, who fell in the CHSAA Class AA state semifinals last year, saw their depth shine

through. They played most of the first half without the Columbia-bound Gallagher (17 points), who picked up two quick fouls and Patti Dorgler scored six straight points to put Molloy (3-1, 1-0) up 38-25 at the half. Tatum, who is headed to James Madison, fouled out with 2:00 remaining in the game after scoring 14 points and Molloy ahead just 62-58. Daniela Arias would hit a huge three-pointer and Nysha Irrizary had a transition layup late in the fourth quarter.

"They wanted to close the gap between the star players and them and they have," Molloy Coach Scott Lagas said of his role players. "We have no second thoughts about going to anyone on the best."

It was Loughlin's star that nearly did them in. Albany-bound senior Imani Tate scored 24 points and Alston, who is headed to LaSalle, dropped in 22. They lead a 14-2 run that got the Lions (1-0, 1-0) within 61-58 on a Kiana Clark three-pointer with 2:53 left in the game. Molloy shot poorly from the free throw line to open the door. Still there was no panic in this veteran Molloy club, which starts three players in at least their third varsity season. Gallagher calmly sunk two free throws with 20 seconds remaining.

"You just need to block out the crowd," Gallagher said.

Molloy was able to hold off a valiant Lions comeback to put an emotional week behind them and give Dietrich a lift.

St. John's to leave Big East

The school will join six other Catholic colleges to form new league



D'Angelo Harrison (r.) and his St. John's team will leave the Big East and compete in a league with six other Catholic institutions.

AP Photo/Alice Keeney

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

St. John's University and the six other Big East Catholic schools are seeking a return to their programs' basketball roots.

The seven presidents announced in a statement Saturday that they plan on leaving the conference and its football-based schools behind in an attempt to shape their own futures.

"Under the current context of conference realignment, we believe pursuing a new basketball framework that builds on this tradition of excellence and competition is the best

way forward," the statement said.

St. John's, along with DePaul, Georgetown, Marquette, Providence, Seton Hall and Villanova, which are considered the conference's basketball schools, voted unanimously to exit the Big East to form their own hoops-based league. St. John's, Georgetown, Providence, Seton Hall and Villanova helped found the league in 1979.

"Our focus clearly we recognized had to be on basketball as our major sport," St. John's University President the Rev. Donald J. Harrington said in

a conference call. "It was more and more difficult to maintain that focus when many of the priorities of the conference legitimately had to be on football."

The split, which may have to wait until Jan. 30, 2015, took place over a philosophical difference with the present 17-school league and its football schools. It was triggered by the recent departure of West Virginia to the Big 12 and the future exits of Notre Dame, Syracuse, Rutgers, Pittsburgh and Louisville to play in football power conferences like the ACC and the Big Ten. The league would add

schools like Tulane, Boise State, Temple and SMU among others with football in mind.

"We believe at St. John's that it's important that we shape our future rather than have it happen to us," Harrington said.

It has yet to be determined which conference will keep the Big East name and the status of Madison Square Garden as the home of its men's basketball conference tournaments. Steve Lavin, Red Storm men's basketball coach, believes the program will thrive in the new setting because of

Continued on Page 53

Red Storm breezes past St. Francis at Barclays

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Much like his St. John's team, D'Angelo Harrison has been a second-half performer the majority of the season. The sophomore bucked that trend at the Barclays Center Saturday.

Harrison scored 15 of his game-high 25 points in the first half to help pace the Red Storm to a comfortable 77-60 win over St. Francis College at the Brooklyn Hoops Winter Festival. He shot 9-of-17 from the field, including 4 for 8 from behind the arc. Harrison credited his teammates for his big night.

"It's just good when you're open (and) a guy hits you," Harrison said. "That's what we do. We knock down open shots. It was easy today."

The ball movement was something St. John's Coach Steve Lavin stressed as a key to the contest. The Terriers (2-7), who play in the Northeast Conference, led 19-18 midway through the first half, but St. John's (8-3) methodically built a



45-35 halftime lead. St. Francis only got as close as 11 after the break. The Red Storm had 19 assists and committed just eight turnovers.

"It was a strong indication to make that extra pass to find that open man," Lavin said. "We were able to pull away because of our ball movement on offense and defensively our pressure."

JaKarr Sampson scored 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for St. John's and Sir'Dominic Pointer had 12 points and seven boards. Forward Chris Obekpa chipped in seven points, five assists and nine blocks. Jalen Cannon paced St. Francis with 14 points and 12 rebounds and Akeem Johnson had 13 points and 11 boards.

"He's a difficult matchup because he's not just a shooter,"

JaKarr Sampson, of St. John's, dunks against St. Francis during the Brooklyn Hoops Winter Festival at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Photo by Robert Cole

St. Francis Coach Glenn Braica said of Harrison.

The game was the first start of the season for Obekpa, who has blocked 20 shots in his last two games. While Obekpa has said in the past he likes coming off the bench, Lavin said he had earned the chance and it felt right after his strong performance against Fordham Dec. 8.

"It felt like the right time," Lavin said.

Braica, a former St. John's assistant, said Obekpa had a hand in his team having to settle for outside shots against the St. John's zone. The Terriers made seven of the 24 three-pointers they hoisted up.

"He's takes a layup out of the inside," Braica said. "Their athleticism kind of flustered us into taking shots from deep."

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Scanlan basketball gets leadership from St. John's alum

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Mercedes Dukes was uncertain about taking new Monsignor Scanlan girls' basketball Coach Tom Catalanotto up on his offer to be his assistant at her alma mater.

She was honored to be asked to help turn around the struggling basketball program she had once played to prominence more than a decade ago, but the St. John's alumna had never coached outside of summer ball, camps and clinics.

Catalanotto, the former Archbishop Molloy coach, was just as wary about Dukes' ability to commit to the job. He purposely didn't give her any Scanlan gear that would serve as an incentive. It worked.

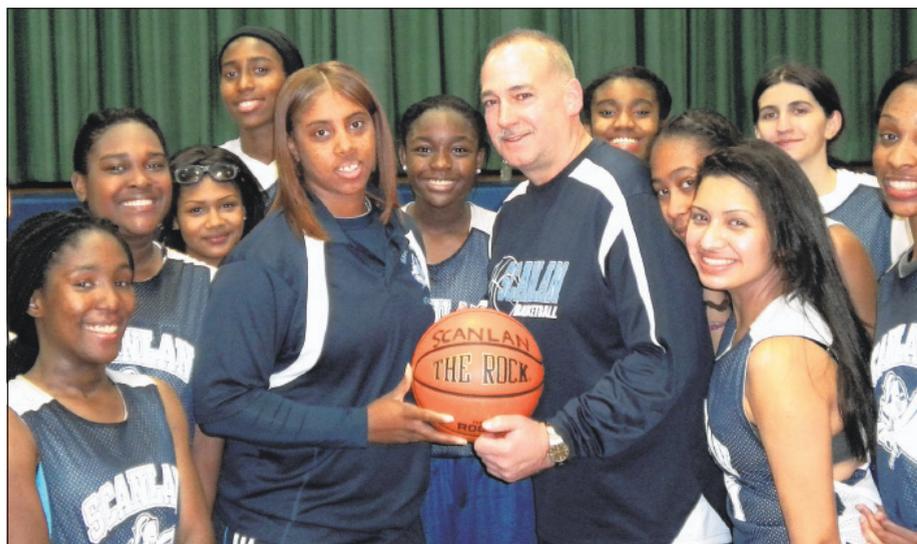
"Then all of a sudden I see her coming to practice

like every day and I was like, 'OK,'" said Catalanotto, who got her number from the alumni offer. "I broke out four shirts."

They take over a Scanlan program that won just two games last season and has already surpassed that win total so far with a 4-4 overall record. Dukes, who also helped St. John's begin the rebuilding of its program, serves as a mentor and instructor to a young team learning a new system and learning to play together.

"It's very inspirational," senior guard Kayla Patrick said. "She comes and she doesn't let us get it easy She constantly tells us what she went through."

Dukes is a link to Scanlan's past. She helped lead the Crusaders to the State Federation Class C title and perfect 22-0



Scanlan Coaches Mercedes Dukes (l.) and Tom Catalanotto (r.) are trying to re-energize the school's girls' basketball program. Photo by Joseph Staszewski

record as a sophomore in 2000 and averaged 18 points, five rebounds and four assists per game as a junior. Players like Rene Taylor and Stacy Claxton,

who went on to play at Miami and Hofstra, joined her along with Monique Coker, who went to Old Dominion. Dukes wants to slowly bring things back

to that level.

"Coming back, I want to change things," Dukes said. "I want to bring it back to the original essence of the school where

people know this school as an elite program."

Catalanotto is working toward that also. The last time he was a head coach he was celebrating a state Federation Class A title at Molloy. He knows that talent level here right now is not what he had with the Stanners, but he's embracing the challenge of teaching the game and skills from the ground up. Catalanotto even jumped in and had to play with the girls when they were short players.

"I'm having a good time," he said. "I really am. I didn't think I would."

He's tried to instill in the team that last year is in the past and the group can achieve whatever it puts its mind to. The early success has helped.

"Now they are starting to buy into the whole thing," Catalanotto said.

Deja Johnson rises above fray to get Christ the King point role

BY ROB ABRUZZESE

One of biggest questions facing Christ the King heading into the season was who was going to be their point guard. It may not be a question any longer.

The Royals might have found their point guard in Deja Johnson after a 53-48 victory over rival visiting Nazareth in CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division I girls' basketball Saturday afternoon.

She only tallied seven points in this game, but scored five of those in the final minute, including a momentum-changing layup with 48 seconds to go with CK (2-2) up a point. Johnson, a junior playing in her first varsity league game, missed the Royals' last two games with concussion symptoms.

"We were point guard by committee and it's hard when you do that," Christ the King Coach Bob Mackey said. "Deja stepped up real nicely tonight though. I think she's kind of coming into her own. She's growing up, too."

The points were important, but perhaps the most impressive thing she did was defending Nazareth star Bianca Cuevas. Cuevas scored 12 points of her 16 points in the first half and carried Nazareth (1-1), which ended the Royals' season in the CHSAA Class AA state semifinals,



Christ the King Coach Bob Mackey gives instructions to his team. Photo by William Thomas

to a 31-30 lead at halftime.

It was at the start of the second half, though, when Mackey made the switch to have Johnson guard Cuevas. The move left her frustrated, got her into foul trouble and ultimately kept her to just one field goal after the break.

"She's a good offensive player and she's really quick, so it is hard to guard her," Johnson said. "I just tried to keep up and I tried to do my best."

Mackey said that he's not ready to give Johnson the starting job just yet, but admitted that she is the frontrunner for the position right now. Freshman Dominique Toussaint could also challenge for playing time after an impressive four points in the second quarter. Johnson did get a strong endorsement from teammate and team captain Sierra Calhoun.

"Yeah," Calhoun said emphatically when asked if she thought Johnson

should start. "I mean, I'm not the coach, she started this game and she did great for us. She brings a lot of energy on and off the court."

She is the unquestioned team leader and it showed. Calhoun scored a game-high 26 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in front of UConn Coach Geno Auriema and a host of other college coaches. By the end of the game she was clearly gassed and missed four consecutive free throws.

That opened the door for a late comeback attempt by Nazareth, which got as close as 48-47 with just under two minutes to play before Johnson put the game away. It's CK's first regular season win over Nazareth in the regular season since Feb. 5, 2011.

"It's going to be a long season," Mackey said. "One game doesn't make it."

Boro native, UMass frosh transfers to LIU program

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Kelly Robinson believes she has a place she can settle down at in Long Island University after attending four schools in the last seven years dating back to her high school days at Archbishop Molloy.

"This is my home now," the sophomore guard said. "I'm not planning on going anywhere. I'm happy. My team and my coach are like my family."

Robinson transferred to the Brooklyn school after her freshman season at the University of Massachusetts because women's basketball head Coach Marnie Dacko, who recruited her, had been fired. The Queens Village native played one year under new Coach Sharon Dawley and sat out last season because of NCAA transfer rules.

She went through something similar in high

school. She helped lead Archbishop Molloy to the 2008 CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division I title, ending Christ the King's 23-year reign only to transfer to Francis Lewis the next season after interim Coach Don Cecala was not brought back. Robinson is back in New York City, choosing LIU to be closer to home.

"At my games at UMass I was used to my father and my little brother coming," Robinson said. "Now my mom gets to come to my games. An extended family is there."

It may be her first season on the court with the Blackbirds, but she has already become a quiet lead to a young team. Robinson, a 5-foot-6 point guard, has started every game this season and is the epitome of a true floor general. She is averaging 5.6 points and 5.0 assists per game as the Blackbirds are off to a

2-3 start. Her intangibles aren't lost on LIU Coach Gail Striegler.

"She's been a good leader in the beginning of the year," the coach said. "I think she was a little unsure about stuff because I was our system She's done a great job getting the team into different defense and different offense."

Robinson has already provided a big moment for her new club, one that made her feel even more at home. She scored the winning layup with 29 seconds left in overtime to lead the LIU to a 65-63 win over Towson Dec. 1. Robinson scored 10 of her 12 points in the second half and also had seven assists. It broke her out of a mini funk.

"It felt like I finally had a good game," Robinson said. "I was disappointed in the way I had been playing. I was like, 'OK, this is my game.'"

St. John's

Continued from Page 51 what St. John's has to offer in terms of its tradition, its New York City location and its brand of basketball.

"We are confident it's going to work out well for St. John's," he said.

Harrington and St. John's Athletic Director

Chris Monasch both said the university is prepared to make the financial commitment if necessary to keep the men's and women's basketball programs at an elite level. Monasch is confident the new league can win a substantial television rights package. He said while the focus is basketball, St. John's has not changed its commitment to

be leaders in other sports such as men's soccer and baseball.

"That's always been an emphasis at St. John's to compete at the highest level we can in the sports that we sponsor," Monasch said. "That will continue to be the goal."

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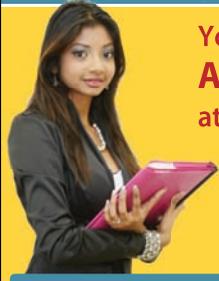
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10-19 47th Ave LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/20/12. Office in Queens County, SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 149-03 7th Ave, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: General.

395 DUCK POND ROAD LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/3/12. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 37-05 Main St. Ste. 318 Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

AOG 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. General Purposes.

► **LEGAL**

BALI CATINA, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/3/12. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Tina Cabrera 6901 Shore Rd., Apt. 5C, Brooklyn, NY 11209. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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 Ave., Union, NJ 07083. General Purposes.

Montauk 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 Ave, Queens Village, NY 11429. Purpose: General.

► **LEGAL**

NOTICE OF FOMATION of a limited liability company (LLC). The name of the limited liability company is 25-95 ASTORIA LLC. The date of filing of the articles of organization with the Department of State was October 30, 2012. The County in New York in which the office of the company is located is Queens. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the company upon whom process may be served, and the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the company served upon him or her to C/O Manuel and Irene Gavras, 144-35 38TH Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354. The business purpose of the company is to engage in any and all business activities permitted under the laws of the State of New York.

Notice of Formation of 248-50 54th Avenue LLC. Arts. of Org. filed Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/24/12. Off. loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it

► **LEGAL**

may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 208-48 Cross Island Pkwy., 2nd Fl., Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of BLOSSOM OPULENCE LLC Cert. of LLC filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on July 09, 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 140-37 Cherry Avenue, #1B, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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: 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, 34-11 62nd Street, Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

► **LEGAL**

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 11375. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: E-SENTIAL 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: SPIRIT

► **LEGAL**

GATE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/26/2012. 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, 39-18 211 Street, 2nd Fl., Bayside, NY 11361. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: JKX HOLDING LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/22/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 189 Allen Street, 2J, New York, New York 10002. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: MARYANN'S HANDYMAN LLC. Articles of Organization filed with

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Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/06/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: James G. Lamberth, 26-45 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102. 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 location: 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 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

► **LEGAL**

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: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of YC GLOBAL MARKETING LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/2/2012. Office location, County of Queens. The street address is: 39-15 Main St., Flushing. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 3411 Silverside Road, Rodney Building, Suite 104, Wilmington, DE 19810. Purpose: any lawful act.

Little Neck Care Center LLC. 260-19 Nassau Boulevard, Little Neck, NY 11362. This facility does not discriminate in admission or retention or care of its residents because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, source of payment, marital status or sexual preference.

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MIDDLE VILLAGE
MidVill slams Q38 delays
By Joe Anuta
It's the end of the line for Middle Village straphangers who said they have put up with spotty service on the Q38 line for far too long. Comment.

RICHMOND HILL
Rich Hill man seeks to clear name in 1996 drive-by killing
By Joe Anuta

ELMHURST
Elmhurst shopping center gets earful over workers' wages
By Rebecca Henely
ELMHURST: Activist groups marched into the administrative offices of Elmhurst's Queens Center Mall last Thursday, dropping off 5,500 signatures demanding the mall give their workers higher wages and provide a community space. Comment.

LONG ISLAND CITY
Queens Library gala to raise money for resources

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4 pm, Douglaston/Little Neck Public Library, Douglaston, Queens
HAPPENING TOMORROW
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11:15 am - 12:15 pm, Alley Pond Environmental Center, Douglaston, Queens
Find many more upcoming events!

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