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Helicopter noise | sparks outrage in Whitestone

BY JOE ANUTA

Whitestone and Malba Gardens residents are being driven nuts by increased helicopter noise as more choppers travel to and from the north coast of Long Island, where a mandatory route bypassing Suffolk and Nassau counties begins about 15 miles away from the Queens border.

Community leaders gathered Tuesday to protest the noise, which they say has diminished their quality of life, frightened Continued on Page 58



Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz (c.) speaks at a rally with state Sen. Tony Avella (I.) and northeast Queens homeowners about excessive helicopter noise. Photo by Joe Anuta

Flushing principal has dark past

Pedestrian Killed —



Michael Munoz, 42, was killed along the Whitestone Expressway service road this week when police say a Toyota Camry allegedly hopped the curb and mowed him down on the sidewalk. See story on Page 8.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

Administrator sued in sexual abuse case at Long Island school

BY PHIL CORSO

The city Department of Education said it was unaware of the fact that the new principal of Flushing High School had been accused of sexual harassment and racist remarks when he headed a Long Island middle school.

James Brown, 48, previously worked as principal of Baldwin Middle School in Baldwin Harbor. L.I., where he was faced with accusations of harassment and cost the school district \$1.6 million to settle the suit filed by the dean of students in 2010, the Post reported. But despite his questionable past, he was still hired this year to serve as principal of Flushing High School, at 35-01 Union St., at a salary of \$132,633.

> A spokeswoman for the DOE Continued on Page 58

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Flushing MS-13 men plead Prep grad identified

Two members of international gang cop to violent crimes in court

BY JOE ANUTA

Two more members of the violent MS-13 gang's Flushing chapter have pleaded guilty to assault, racketeering and murder conspiracy charges in Brooklyn federal court.

Abraham "Lobo" Iraheta, 22, copped to racketeering and murder con-



U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch has convicted more than 30 MS-13 members on murderrelated charges in Brooklyn federal court.

Photo by Christina Santucci

spiracy charges Monday. while Jose "Travieso" Barrera, 24, admitted to assault with a dangerous weapon charges last Thursday, according to U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch. They both face up to 20 years behind bars when they are sentenced.

"This office will match MS-13's dedication to violence with our own unwayering commitment to justice. We have now convicted over 200 MS-13 soldiers and leaders in the Eastern District of New York, and we will work tirelessly until this violent gang is eradicated from the district and elsewhere," Lynch said in a statement. "This week's

convictions are another important step toward ending the gang's influence in our communities and bringing a measure of justice to the victims and their families."

MS-13, or La Mara Salvatrucha, is an international criminal outfit based in El Salvador with a membership primarily comprised of immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, according to Lvnch.

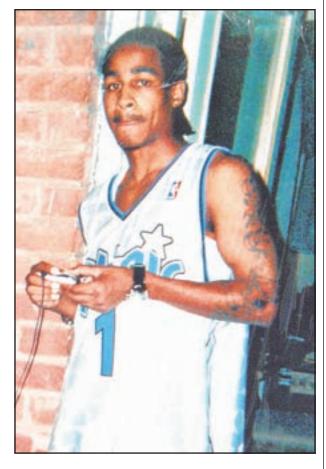
The street gang, the largest in the federal court's jurisdiction, has a violent past in Queens and Long Island.

The Flushing-based cell committed murder, murder conspiracy and attempted murder, Lynch said. Iraheta himself was charged with attacking the father of a rival gang member with a machete and admitted in court to conspiring to murder rival gang members and plotting to kill a disfavored MS-13 associate, according to the attorney's office.

Barrera copped to stabbing a rival gang's associate.

Barrera and Iraheta, along with a third MS-13 member from Long Island, mark the final pleas in a group of 10 gang members who were indicted in January 2012.

As a result of that indictment, the leader of the Flushing chapter, Hector Aleman Lemos, was sentenced to 30 years in prison



Maurice Parker was one of several innocent victims gunned down by the Flushing chapter of MS-13, a violent, international gang. in early August.

Lemos "spread death and destruction throughout his community," Lynch said in a statement following the sentencing.

The Flushing outfit has a history of shooting innocent people they mistook for rival gang members.

In 2007, Lemos shot and killed 25-year-old John Halley in Yonkers, N.Y., and also shot a 13-year-old who was standing on a Flushing stoop, a location the kingpin suspected was a rival gang hangout, prosecutors said.

An MS-13 member killed an innocent 15-yearold boy Christmas Eve in 2006 outside John Bowne High School, and in 2007 two gangsters murdered 21-year-old Flushing resident Maurice Parker, who they falsely believed to be a rival.

in sex suit vs. school

BY PHIL CORSO

A St. Francis Preparatory School graduate has revealed her name to the public in the midst of a \$17 million sexual abuse lawsuit against her former school.

Felicia Mooradian, 21. graduated from the Fresh Meadows school in 2009 and had kept her identity private since accusing a Franciscan brother at the school of sexual harassment in Brooklyn federal court in June. She revealed her name to the New York Post over the weekend, saving she wanted to be the face for other victims to come forward.

"It should be called St. Francis 'Predatory' School," she told the Post. "The Christian thing would be to admit your mistakes, not hide them."

Attorneys on the school's side contended from the beginning that she had no legal reasons to remain anonymous. She had previously been referred to in court documents only as Jane Doe.

She, another former student and a former teacher filed the suit against St. Francis Prep, Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn and various members of the school's board of trustees.

"While it is true that in certain circumstances. the interests of justice are better served by anonymity, that is not so under these circumstances," said Philip Semprevivo Jr., who represents St. Francis Prep and the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, in a letter to the judge. "Jane Doe's right to privacy does not outweigh the customary presumption of openness in judicial proceedings, especially in light of the fact that upon information and belief, she made public statements about this case on the Internet."

According to her civil suit. Mooradian said the problem began at age 14 during her 2006 freshman year at the school, when longtime Spanish teacher, Brother Ben O'Reilly, 69, allegedly started flirting with her in class. The stu-

Continued on Page 9



A former St. Francis Prep student is one three plaintiffs in a \$17 million sex-abuse lawsuit against the school.

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Three boro schools claim National Blue Ribbon titles

Principals from Little Neck, Oakland Gardens, Richmond Hill join ranks of country's top performers

BY PHIL CORSO

Public schools in Little Neck, Oakland Gardens and Richmond Hill landed national Blue Ribbon honors this week along with three others citywide, the U.S. Department of Education said.

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan made the announcement Tuesday, adding the six city schools to a list of 286 others — 50 of which were private — given National Blue Ribbon titles based on academic excellence and improving student achievement around the country.

The three schools from Queens to receive the prestigious title included PS 221, at 57-40 Marathon Pkwy. in Little Neck; PS 46, at 64-45 218th St., in Oakland Gardens; and PS 66, at 85-11 102nd St. in Richmond

"Excellence in education matters and we should honor the schools that are leading the way to prepare students for success in college and careers," Duncan said. "National Blue Ribbon schools represent examples of educational excellence. and their work reflects the belief that every child in America deserves a worldclass education."

Marsha Goldberg, principal of PS 46, said her school of 575 children made a point to adhere to its motto, "Join together in excellence," by walking the talk.

"We are a microcosm of today's society, where everybody works closely together," she said. "Kudos to the entire school community. It exemplifies that joining together in excellence is not a slogan, it's our absolute mission for every student every day."

Principal Phyllis Lein-



PS 46 Principal Marsha Goldberg (I.) is one of three borough principals to celebrate National Blue Ribbon titles this year.

wand of PS 66 in Richmond Hill said her landmarked school emphasized diversity every day, coming out of the city's most ethnically and culturally diverse bor-

"This school opened in 1898 and has been successfully educating children in this community ever since," she said. "I am proud to say I am part of a 19th century building educating children for the 21st century."

PS 221 Principal Patricia Bullard said the school was thrilled to receive the honor and got there by putting the students first.

"I am extremely proud of our entire school community for achieving this national distinction," she said. "The hard work of

our conscientious students, dedication of our staff and support from our parents have helped us become a school of excellence."

The three Queens schools joined the ranks of others throughout the borough to receive the honor in previous years, including PS 203 in Oakland Gardens, awarded in 2012, and PS 159 in Bayside and PS 173 of Oakland Gardens, which were awarded in 2011.

Other city schools to receive the recognition included PS 199 Jessie Isador Straus in Manhattan, PS 222 Katherine R. Snyder School in Brooklyn and PS 247 in Brooklyn.

City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott praised the six city schools in a statement, recognizing them for "their all-around academic excellence and their success in preparing students for college and

careers," he said. "I congratulate the principals, students, teachers and parents at these six schools for receiving this honor. It is a testament to all of their hard work and dedication to student achievement."

The National Blue Ribbon Award honors both public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at high levels or where significant improvements are made in student achievement.

In the award's more than 30-year history, the honor has been bestowed upon more than 7,000 schools throughout the country.

The Education Department will honor all 286 schools in a recognition ceremony planned for Nov. 18 and 19 in Washington, D.C., Duncan said.

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Nonsurgical Back Pain **Treatments Offer Relief**

If vou're like most people, chances are you'll have a backache at some time in your life. If you take it easy and rest your back for a couple of days, it will often get better. But many people have persistent back pain, and it's one of the most common reasons for a visit to the doctor.

A number of nonsurgical options

can help relieve the pain, according to Dr. Stephen Geiger, a physiatrist at Hospital for Special Surgery Physician Offices in Fresh Meadows, Queens, and in Uniondale,

A physiatrist is a medical doctor who specializes in providing nonsurgical care to treat problems of the back, neck, hips, and other areas that may cause problems. The goal is to alleviate pain, improve muscle strength, and restore function and movement.

Dr. Geiger says the first step is to get an accurate diagnosis with a comprehensive medical evaluation. "Once I determine



the cause of the pain. I tailor a treatment plan to meet a patient's individual needs."

Treatments often include medication, lifestyle changes and physical therapy. If these don't help, many people have found relief with epidurals and other spine injection procedures. After receiving a local anesthetic, the medication is injected into

the spine region with x-ray guidance to pinpoint the exact area causing pain. The procedure takes about 15 minutes, and within a few days, patients usually find relief and can start a physical therapy program, if needed.

Dr. Geiger advises patients to develop good habits and stick to their exercise program so the pain relief lasts.

For more information about Dr. Geiger and the other specialists at HSS Queens, visit www.hss.edu/Queens.

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Bayside eyes FAA advisory committee

Boro activists united against airliner noise ask for community seat at NextGen negotiating table

BY PHIL CORSO

Bayside-based Queens Quiet Skies has an independent advisory committee on its radar as the group's activists continue to speak up about airplane noise over northeast Queens.

A private, nonprofit known as the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics established the NextGen Advisory Committee in September 2010 to provide recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration related to its pending changes in flight procedures. The 28-member group was made up mostly of FAA employees, labor union representatives, airport operators and others from the airline industry.

But Janet McEneaney, founder of Queens Quiet Skies, said there was one key spot for a community member missing on the committee that would ideally represent those most closely affected by any procedural changes.

"There happens to be no public accountability," she said. "This is an area that has become so murky. Nobody has really shined a light on it."

McEneaney penned a letter to the RTCA in June, asking President Margaret Jenny how the committee's members are chosen and what qualifications were needed to sign on. In her letter. McEneanev cited the Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan, which is required by a federal statute so advisory committees are fairly balanced and represent all relevant points of view.

She heard back from the group months later, but only in the form of an organizational brochure reiterating the core goals of the organization.

"She must think we



Queens Quiet Skies founder Janet McEneaney is looking for a way to get a community member on an advisory committee that works on NextGen flight procedures with the Federal Aviation Administration.

are a kindergarten class instead of U.S. taxpavers," McEneaney said.

The RTCA did not return requests for comment. Since the group's inception last year, Queens Quiet Skies has set out to achieve four specific goals: getting the Port Authority to conduct a noise compatibility study for the major metropolitan airports. have the FAA complete an environmental review procedural changes, require more noise monitors at LaGuardia Airport and establish an aviation roundtable with the FAA for the northeast.

What started as a tiny group of Bayside activists meeting at their local diner has since snowballed into a boroughwide call to arms with hundreds of members coming from all corners of Queens.

The movement was sparked late last year when airplane noise over northeast Queens became the talk of the neighborhood with residents reporting a noticeable increase in airliners rumbling outside the walls of their homes. The root of the problem pertained to the FAA's implementation of NextGen technology, which allowed for a more precise path its planes can take going into and out of LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International airports.

Bob Whitehair, vice president of Queens Quiet Skies, has called on his extensive experience as a former airport manager to demand the FAA end its policy of shutting out the community when implementing flight changes.

"There are 85 written flight procedures at JFK and LaGuardia," he said. "We have been bothered by just one. The FAA has to redirect the focus of the noise."

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

Walcott blasted in Maspeth over school co-location vote

BY RICH BOCKMANN

City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott got an earful at a routine policy meeting in Maspeth last week when students, parents and educators sounded off on the city Department of Education's upcoming plans to co-locate a number of schools in Queens.

The city Panel for Educational Policy met at Maspeth High School Sept. 19 for a housekeeping meeting to approve contracts and a change to the Department of Education's attendance policies.

But on Oct. 30, the panel will meet in Brooklyn to vote on proposals to co-locate eight schools

in the borough, including two Success Academy charter schools in southeast Queens.

The process of co-location, or placing multiple schools with their own administrations inside the same building, has been one of the most contentious policies of the Bloomberg administration, especially when it comes to charter schools.

Critics say it creates tensions among the school communities when it comes to allocating resources. Proponents claim charters would not be able to operate without the space provided by the DOE, and when it comes to co-locating public schools, the administration views it as a way to provide students and parents with more choices.

One of the proposals includes co-locating an information technology school with Long Island City High School, which narrowly avoided closure two years ago when the United Federation of Teachers sued to keep it open.

To do this, the DOE would reduce enrollment at LIC by about 450 students over four years to make way for the new school.

Ken Akron, a teacher at LIC, said the repeated attempts to reform the school have caused students nothing but turmoil.

"That's all we go Continued on Page 58

County Democrats rally behind de Blasio's run

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

Queens Democratic officials stood shoulder to shoulder and more than eight deep on the steps of Borough Hall earlier this week to literally and figuratively get behind city Public Advocate Bill de Blasio's bid for City Hall.

The Democratic nominee acknowledged some of those people standing with him were longtime supporters while others were new to his campaign's fold.

But whose corner they stood in two weeks ago does not matter as much as where they stood now, he

"Everyone I have spoken to desires unity," de



U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (r.) claps for mayoral candidate Bill de Blasio during a Queens County Democrats rally earlier this week at Borough Hall.

Photo by Kevin Zimmerman

Blasio said. "And they desire the Democratic Party to rightfully provide leadership again in City Hall."

De Blasio's appearance was officially labeled an endorsement by the Queens County Democrats, who turned out in force to support him.

"Bill is someone who will fight tirelessly for all New Yorkers, not just some," said U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), who serves as chairman of the Queens Democrats and originally supported City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) for mayor. "He understands the many challenges our diverse communities face and will bridge the inequalities in our city while strength-

Continued on Page 58

Hotel hotbed in Flushing

CB 7 gives approval to Flushing project

BY JOE ANUTA

Community Board 7 voted to approve the sale of several city properties during its September meeting: one lot that will house a six-story building in downtown Flushing and another only 3-feet wide.

The board voted in favor of allowing the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to sell a decrepit city building, at 135-15 40th Road, that had long been abandoned after sustaining structural dam-

Bayside developer Betsy Mak bought the property for \$1.5 million after a bidding process, the city Economic Development Corp. said in December, and will tear down the former offices of the city Sanitation Department to construct a new, six-story structure.

"The [city Department of Buildingsl has determined this building has to be demolished," said Joseph Sweeney, chairman of the board's Land Use Subcommittee.

Mak plans to build a 12,000-square-foot, mixeduse structure with commercial activity on the first floor. The building will also include about 4,000 square feet dedicated to what is known as community facility use.

These uses can vary, but they are designed to offer the community doctor's offices, daycare centers or schools, for example. They also allow developers who include them in proposed buildings to build bigger than would normally be allowed through zoning regu-

Back in December, the city said that any community facility use would be selected with input from the community.

Mak and her legal counsel, Steve Sinacori, said the community facility use will be an English as a Second Language school.

The city also gained

approval from CB 7, which has an advisory role in the applications, to sell several tiny properties that cannot be developed on their own.

One of the properties is only 3-feet wide and touches 22 separate properties. It runs almost like a narrow allevway between the backyards of two rows of homes.

"What are you going to do with the land?" one perplexed board member asked.

Developer Betty Mak bought the property at 135-15 40th Road

Representatives from the city said Administrative Services will approach homeowners and try to get them to buy the land and incorporate it into their property, according to Chris Grove, a senior city planner, who said many of these irregularly shaped properties are the result of surveying errors from decades past.

Although it is unclear what one person would do with a 3-foot-wide, 500-footlong strip of property that runs along the backyards of 22 homeowners.



Attorney Steve Sinacori (r.) speaks about a new, six-story downtown Flushing building while Community Board 7's Chuck Apelian listens.

Photo by Joe Anuta

Barrage of new rooms could push district toward market saturation

BY JOE ANUTA

A blitz of hotel construction is taking Flushing by storm, but real estate experts wonder on how many more projects the area can sustain.

At least eight new hotels are slated to be built in the area, according to various proposals and announcements.

A developer is currently constructing an 18-story, extended-stay hotel on Union Street boasting 161 rooms. Starwood Hotels is opening two new hotels in the Flushing area with a combined capacity of nearly 300 rooms, while TDC Development is planning on opening a mixeduse project that includes a 168-room hotel.

The real estate company Massey Knakal put up three downtown Flushing hotel sites for sale earlier this month with a total of more than 100 new rooms. One is nearly completed, while two others are shovel-ready, according to the company.



This overgrown lot on Linden Place north of Northern Boulevard could soon be home to a 40-room Photo by Joe Anuta

The slew of projects in Flushing mirrors a boroughwide trend, said Rob MacKay, spokesman for the Queens Economic Development Corp.

In the last three decades, the borough has gone from housing roughly 20 hotels — many rented by the hour — to very likely cracking the 100 mark within the next few years.

"There is an unbelievable hotel boom in Queens," he said, citing other examples around the borough including a Crown Plaza near John F. Kennedy International Airport and a SpringHills Suites near La-Guardia Airport — not to mention the 21 new hotels that have sprung up in the Long Island City area in the last six years.

But it cannot continue forever.

"I think we are going to saturate," he said. "Some of these hotels are going to go away and people will stop trying to build."

But it is unclear when that will happen.

Stephen Pruess is an associate broker at Massey Knakal, the company sell-Continued on Page 42

Eat a bargain at Restaurant Week

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

Borough President Helen Marshall loves to tout Queens' diversity with a tourism-board-ready slogan: "Visit Queens and see the world."

Marshall repeated her mantra Monday afternoon at Borough Hall to kick off this year's 10th annual Queens Restaurant Week.

Sponsored by the Queens Economic Development Corp., this year's festivities include eight days of deals at dozens of restaurants across the borough.

"We're here to promote the restaurants and the local neighborhoods," said Seth Bornstein, QEDC's executive director. "There is such diversity here. And it's the real thing at a great price."

As part of those deals, diners can order a three-course prix fixe



Patty Medina, from Uncle Peter's, hands out samples of Pollo Al Funghi during the kickoff to Queens Restaurant Week.

Photo by Kevin Zimmerman

dinner for \$28 and lunch for \$14 from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 and again from Oct.

By Monday's kickoff, about 50 restaurants offering a variety of cuisines had signed on to this year's event, said Bornstein, but he expects another 25 or so to join by this coming Monday.

"There's obviously going to be great food with a lot of different flavors," said Bornstein.

About a half dozen businesses provided a sneak peek and samples of some of the food and drinks on tap to the 500 or so passersby who dropped by Borough Hall.

Patty Medina, from Jackson Heights' Uncle Peter's, offered bitesized tastes of her restaurant's Pollo Al Funghi, chicken and mushrooms with a touch of cream; Supreme Seafood Salad offered a cold melange of lobster, crab, shrimp and avocado; and for dessert, tres leches — a sponge cake soaked in heavy cream and evaporated and condensed

Pavlo Serelis, from Astoria's Christos steak house, tempted the

Continued on Page 41

⁶ Jax Heights field renamed for boy who died from sepsis

City-owned lot near Travers Park dedicated in memory of aspiring activist Rory Staunton

BY PHIL CORSO

Rory Staunton fought hardforhis Jackson Heights community throughout his 12 short years before his untimely death from sepsis shock last year. His community fought just as hard to make sure his name would be never be forgotten.

Political and community leaders used a clear, sunny Monday morning to their advantage this week to unveil a new plaque dedicating a sports field next to Travers Park recently acquired by the city in Rory's name. It was a long-awaited project that dated back to when the civic-minded 12-year-old was still alive, with hopes of bringing more open space to the western Queens neighborhood.

"This is a special day for us because we see Rory's

dream come true," said Ciaran Staunton, Rory's father, before receiving a standing ovation at the dedication ceremony. "Rory was keenly aware of his civic responsibility. The path to acquire this park was not easy."

Rory became seriously ill in March 2012 when he fell in the school gvm. cutting his arm while playing basketball, his father said in an interview earlier this year. His family said it was as a result of his cut that Rory developed sepsis, a medical condition in which an infection causes a reaction in the immune system that leads to full-body inflammation. Rory died in April 2012.

Those who spoke in his honor remembered the Jackson Heights 12-yearold as a responsible and ambitious boy with high hopes for the future. Aside



Friends and classmates of Rory Staunton place roses in the fence at the Jackson Heights field dedicated in his name.

Photo by Christina Santucci

from his aspirations to increase open space in Jackson Heights, he also stood up for children who were being bullied in school and helped present a plan to remediate flooding at nearby

Sunnyside Gardens.

The Garden School in Jackson Heights agreed to sell the field between Northern Boulevard and 34th Avenue to the city, which was slated to comple-

ment another open space next door at Travers Park. An all-star lineup of city officials came together to celebrate the expansion, which required \$6 million in funding, \$4 million of which came from City Councilman Dan Dromm (D-Jackson Heights).

Dromm said Rory and his family helped lead the community opposition to a proposal that included building high-rises at the property.

"If it weren't for Ciaran and his family's dedication, this might not have happened," Dromm said. "Rory was a pleasure and a really good kid."

Borough President Helen Marshall said it was difficult for her to even speak at the Monday morning dedication ceremony because of how close to home the tragedy was for her, a mother of two.

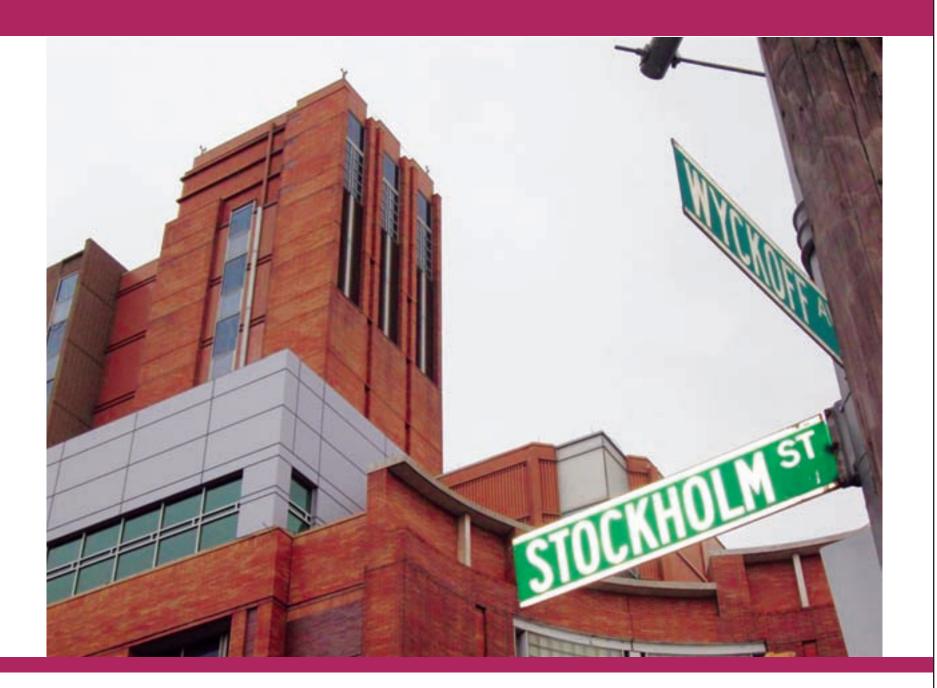
"This young man was an outstanding little person and I'm so sorry this ever happened," she said. "To name this park after him gives us a living, working memorial of him, a boy who was taken from us too

Rory Staunton Field and Travers Park will soon undergo a \$3.7 million renovation with help from Dromm's and Marshall's offices, Parks said.

After Rory's sign was unveiled, a lineup of his former classmates and friends solemnly approached the park with flowers of different colors, fastening each one in between the chain fence's links.

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





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POLICE Blotter

College Point man struck and killed by car: NYPD

COLLEGE POINT — A 42-year-old man was killed when a car jumped the curb and hit him on the Whitestone Expressway service road Monday afternoon, police said.

Emergency responders were called to the busy roadway near the intersection with 20th Avenue in College Point at about 2:45 p.m. and then brought the victim, Michael Munoz, to New York Hospital Queens, where he was pronounced dead, the NYPD said.

The 78-year-old man believed to have been behind the wheel of the Toyota Camera that hit Munoz as well as a passenger were



Police tape hangs from a chair on the Whitestone Expressway service road. Photo by Christina Santucci

also taken to the Flushing hospital to be treated for minor injuries, according to cops.

A spokesman for the Fire Department said a fourth person was also taken to the hospital, but it was unclear if this was another pedestrian who was injured.

The New York Post said Munoz was selling water bottles at the intersection, and authorities said the 42-year-old lived several blocks from where he was mowed down.

Half of alleged thieving twosome still at large: Cops

WOODSIDE — Police have arrested one man in connection with multiple robberies across the borough while his alleged accomplice remains at large, the NYPD said.

A 49-year-old was taken into custody as part of a 34-incident citywide robbery pattern, which included nine incidents in Queens between May 11 and Sept. 12, according to police. But cops released a photo of Richard Rivera, 43, suspected as the man's partner in crime, in the hopes the public can help locate him

The duo hit a Woodside liquor store May 11, an Astoria grocery store May 15 and a Long Island City deli June 7, police said

In each case the pair entered the location, one armed with a gun, and demanded cash before fleeing, sometimes in a dark

colored, late model Nissan Altima coupe or a dark colored, late model Toyota Camry, cops said. The duo had also been seen fleeing in a dark minivan, police previously said.

The two men later hit a Queensboro Hill gas station June 10, an Auburndale beverage store June 13, a Woodhaven deli July 21, an Elmhurst deli July 25, a Glendale convenience

store Aug. 2 and a Murray Hill shop Sept. 12, police said.



RICHARD RIVERA

Ridgewood woman last seen in Brooklyn this week

RIDGEWOOD - A 75-year-old Ridgewood woman has been missing since Monday, the NYPD said.

Evelyn Sepulveda was last seen about 4:30 p.m. Monday when she left a Brooklyn residence wearing a gray fleece jacket, blue jeans, brown sandals and carrying a black purse, police said.

She is described as 4 feet 11 inches tall, weighing 80 pounds with brown eyes and gray hair, according to the NYPD, and lives near the corner of Linden Street and Cypress Avenue.



EVELYN SEPULVEDA

Got tips?

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

Carter coming to boro

Ex-president to help Habitat for Humanity in SE Qns. projects

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

When 9-year-old Maya Tsou looks at the shell of a house being renovated on 132nd Road in Rosedale, she sees beyond the construction. In her mind, she envisions her future bedroom with an art studio, a music center, a science exploration area and a loft bed.

But the best of the bunch, she believes, is the reading center.

"It will be a place for me to study," she said, while standing inside what will soon become the home's garage Saturday afternoon. "It will be very quiet and

Maya and her family are slated to move into one of five now rundown Queens homes, which will get a major overhaul by Habitat for Humanity New York City along with 10 Hurricane Sandy-wrecked homes on Staten Island as part of the 2013 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project next month.

Over the weekend, the Tsou family attended a rainy groundbreaking for the project.

"A little bit over 20 years ago, both me and my wife came from very different countries and were living in New York for a better life and in search of the American Dream,"

Billy Tsou told the crowd gathered on what will soon be his front lawn. "Unfortunately, owning a home in New York City for someone who simply has a job is just not possible for a lot of working-class families."

Charity to rebuild

five Queens homes

Billy Tsou said he heard about Habitat for Humanity through his church, which partnered with the group for volunteer proj-

"We are very privileged and very grateful," Billy Tsou said.

The Tsou family of four currently lives in a one-bedroom apartment on the Lower East Side, where his wife Anna Tsou has lived for the past 18 years. The couple has a 2-monthold son named Layne.

"I moved in. We got married and we made a family," said Billy Tsou.

Maya gushed about how the family's dog will be able to live with them, instead of her grandmother, once they move into the Rosedale home.

"First of all, I won't have to sleep in the living room," she said.

Billy Tsou estimated that their apartment was about one-fourth to onethird of the space in the new house.

"We see a lot of potential and a lot of growth in our family here," he said.



The Tsou family (I.-r.) Anna, baby Layne, Billy and Maya smile as they stand inside what will soon be the garage to their new home. Photo by Christina Santucci

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Former President Jimmy Carter is coming to southeast Queens and he's bringing his hammer and saw with him.

The public face of Habitat for Humanity will roll up his sleeves in October to help the nonprofit kick off its campaign to renovate 38 single-family homes in the borough.

"So we're really happy and proud to have him here," said Paul Thabault. Habitat's director of real estate. "He's [going to be] 89 years old. I definitely don't want to kill him, so we're going to try to take it easy with the scope of work."

Nearly 30 years after he and his wife, Rosalynn Carter, completed their first Habitat project on the Lower East Side in 1984, the 39th president will return to the city the week of Oct. 16 to help volunteers repair homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy in Staten Island and rehab a handful of vacant properties in southeast Queens.

Habitat bought 38 oneand two-bedroom homes in the borough from the New York City Housing Authority for \$1 each when it divested a large portfolio of single-family residences it owned last year. In the 1970s and '80s, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development found itself with a number of va-



Former President Jimmy Carter is scheduled to come to southeast Queens in October as Habitat for Humanity plans to build 38 single-family homes in the borough.

PRNewsFoto/Habitat for Humanity International

cant properties when homeowners with federally underwritten mortgages defaulted on their loans.

The department transferred the homes to NY-CHA to use for public housing, which the agency did for many years. Last year, the housing authority unloaded a large portfolio of these properties, selling many to the residents who had lived in them for years and the other vacant homes to Habitat.

"Some of them have been empty for a decade, so they're really beat up," Thabault said. "We went into these houses and we started to gut them, and again some were empty for so long there was asbestos in them. There was lead in them. We hired a professional to get all that out and now we're in the process of kind of gutting them out the rest of the way completely. Our plan is to break them down to the bare shell of the house, make sure its structurally sound and then we're going to rebuild

"When we're done rehabbing them, we'd like to get some folks from the those community into homes," he added.

The Southern Queens Park Association will play host to the Carter work project at its headquarters in Roy Wilkins Park. Throughout the week, volunteers will work to rehab five homes in the area.

Habitat said it is putting an emphasis on placing local families who rent apartments into the homes, which will cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

A qualified family must earn between 50 percent and 80 percent of the area's median income, and put in between 200 and 400 hours of volunteer time, or what the organization calls "sweat equity."

And unlike a conventional mortgage, Habitat offers loans that require a 1 percent down payment with a 30-year interest rate fixed at 2 percent.

"Compared to having to pay 20 percent, and that's around \$60,000 or what not," said Nica Bautista, one of Habitat's homeowner associates. "That's a really good deal."

St. Francis

Continued from Page 2

dent said she reported these incidents to the school, and the lawsuit showed O'Reilly, who was 62 at the time, was subsequently evaluated by a psychologist and found unfit to work with children. He was not removed from the school, however.

The school denied the suit's accusations, Semprevivo said in a letter to Brooklyn Federal Court Judge Sterling Johnson.

The two other plaintiffs in the suit, former student Mark Evangelista and former teacher Elizabeth Cucinotta Sorvilla, used their real names in the initial court filings.

The case also included accusations from Evangelista that the school ignored claims of sexual abuse by Assistant Football Coach Robert Stenger.

The lawsuit said Evan-

gelista initially refrained from filing any lawsuit against the school because he had not heard of complaints that Stenger was accused of physically assaulting or sexually abusing innocent boys prior to his own alleged physical assault.

Sorvillo's role in the case centered around a website she launched to help students vent class troubles with school staffers, known as "Burn and Rot in Hell,"

on which she allegedly collected countless complaints about teachers there.

The school only demanded she take the site down once complaints about inappropriate conduct started surfacing there, according to court documents.

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

¹⁰ Educator visits Astoria school to review curriculum

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The head of the state Education Department visited the Albert Shanker school in Astoria last week and said he is looking for students to make slow-andsteady gains this year on the state Common Core ex-

On his visit to a handful of schools in Queens and Staten Island Sept. 19, Commissioner John King said he saw students working on complex writing and math exercises reflecting the new Common Core standards the state began testing third-through eight-graders on last year.

In the lead-up to the new tests, state and city education officials made a large push to temper expectations, saying they expected grades to drop as students were evaluated on stricter standards.

"I think what you'll see over time is incremental improvements on state tests," he said. "Teachers and principals are focused on refining the principles."

Located not far from the Astoria Houses, Albert Shanker is a visual and performing arts middle school where 85 percent of the student body qualifies for free lunch. About 22 percent of students are English-language learners. and 22 percent are in special education.

While almost schools across the state, even those in the top percentiles, saw their scores drop on the new exams, Albert Shanker, at 31-51 21st St., was struggling before the new standards were implemented. The school had a proficiency rate of about 30 percent in English and 45 percent in math in 2012. Those numbers dropped to 13.8 percent in English and 11 percent in math last

King had been invited



Commissioner John King pays a visit to Astoria's Albert Shanker school to discuss state Common Core exams.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

to visit Albert Shanker on his back-to-school tour by state Assemblywoman and Education Committee Chairwoman Cathy Nolan (D-Ridgewood), who said she was hoping the visit would help convince the commissioner to reinstate a grant the school recently

"We're not too happy about it." she said of the loss of the 21st Century after-school grant. "The principal has arranged for the YMCA to come in after school, but it's important to get a struggling school the resources it needs to be a community school."

"The school is an Arated school, but it is struggling with the new Common Core standards, and we wanted the commissioner to see ... you know there's nothing like getting into a building and seeing it. The school has a really great history, but we want to see it do even better," she said.

Assembly woman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria), an alumna of Albert Shanker, said she is proof the school can turn out successful graduates, but there is certainly a need for more resources.

Education Department spokesman Tom Dunn said the 2013 cycle for the 21st Century Grant program is complete, and there were fewer education dollars coming out of Washington, D.C., this time around.

"Unfortunately, there were fewer funds to distribute than in years past and the federally mandated selection criteria left many worthy programs and communities disappointed," he

The grants are awarded for three-year cycles.

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



*Sweepstakes date is Saturday, October 5, 2013. You do not need to be a customer of the Bank to enter and win. No purchase or bank transaction is necessary and it will not improve your chances of winning. One entry per person. The odds of winning the Prize (40" LCD TV with an approximate retail value of \$499.99) depend on the number of eligible entries received at the Bellerose 40th Anniversary Celebration from September 30, 2013 through October 5, 2013. One prize winner will be selected by random Sweepstakes drawing on October 5,2013 shortly after 2:00pm from all eligible entries submitted. The random drawing will win the Prize noted above. You must be at least 18 years or older and a resident of the State of New York to enter. Entry Forms and Official Rules are available Monday, September 30, 2013 through Wednesday, October 2, 2013 from 9:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday, October 3, 2013 through Friday, October 4, 2013 from 9:00am to 6:00pm and Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Bellerose branch of Queens County Savings Bank, a division of New York Community Bank, located at 244-19 Braddock Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426. For all terms and conditions of the Bellerose 40th Anniversary Celebration, please visit http://www.myNYCB.com/promotion/bellerose.pdf or stop by the Bellerose branch of Queens County Savings Bank, a division of New York Community Bank, located at 244-19 Braddock Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426. New York Community Bank is not affiliated with WFAN in any way. © New York Community Bank - Member FDIC

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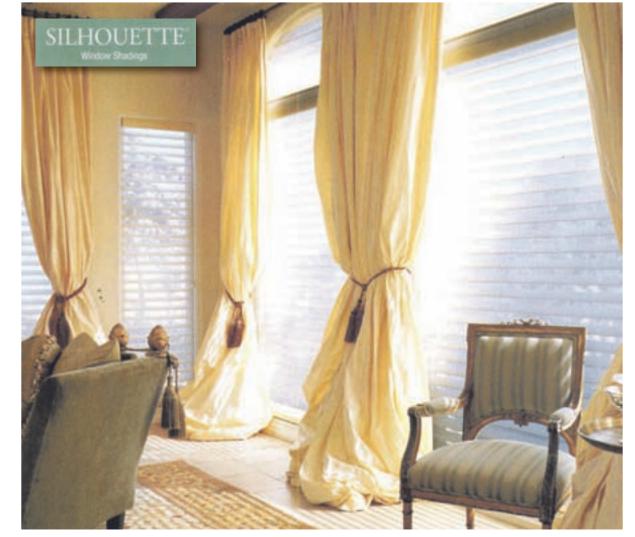
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QUEENS BOOMS WITH CONSTRUCTION

EDITORIALS

The magic number for Queens these days seems to be 24. In the last week, it was revealed that a new 24-story hotel is headed for downtown Jamaica while the owner of the Rego Park mall is moving ahead with plans to put 24 floors of apartments above the shopping mecca.

Queens is riding the crest of a building boom that has brought 21 new hotels to western Queens in the last few years, a number of large condo and rental buildings to the blocks around Queensborough Plaza and a series of big projects to downtown Flushing.

Jamaica was one of the three areas in the borough targeted by the Bloomberg administration as ripe for development back in the mayor's first term. Long Island City and downtown Flushing have been filled with the sounds of construction, but Jamaica has been slow to join the party.

A Long Island hotel company, Able Management, has stepped up to be the game changer. The company plans to build a 24-story tower with 210 hotel rooms and ground floor retail space across from the Jamaica AirTrain station. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Greater Jamaica Development Corp. are selling the properties where the hotel is to be built to Abel for \$4.5 million.

Now that the area across from the AirTrain station has been rezoned to high-rise commercial, the hotel tower could encourage other groups to develop large buildings in the vibrant downtown area, which more than 200,000 people visit each day using the AirTrain, the Long Island Rail Road and the subway.

Abel's vision could be the beginning of a major transformation of the urban center.

Over in Rego Park, Vornado Realty Trust is poised to begin Phase 2 of the shopping center, which has brought an influx of jobs to the neighborhood. The plan to build 314 rental apartments in a 24-story addition on the top of the Junction Boulevard mall was approved in June.

The residential component was part of the developer's original plan and no surprise to the community, although some members are concerned about congestion and adequate parking for the new tenants.

Despite these understandable reservations, it's clear Queens is on the move and in need of well-thought-out development for both tourists, residents and commercial tenants that respects the rezoning of many parts of the borough.



OTHER VOICES

Our children's education is in crisis

here are many reasons why our education system is in crisis. Prospective educators are subjected to a trendy oppressionobsessed, feel-good and esteem-ridden curriculum with little emphasis on mastery of subject matter. Note some college courses offered to prospective educators: Social Diversity in Education, Oppression of the Disabled, Diversity and Change, Lesbian/Gay Oppression and Multicultural

Education.

Some educators prefer to be called "facilitators" and consider themselves bystanders as they guide the self-educating child. Requiring and abiding by a curriculum is considered cramping the human spirit.

Another factor in the decline of our schools was the elimination of music education programs. Learning to play an instrument is an unforgiving endeavor: You cannot

hide a wrong note or a missed beat. Demanding rigorous, disciplined repetitious drills are indispensable for the development of a variety of skills, musical or otherwise.

But such drills are frowned upon and, in some schools, considered punishment. corporal There is evidence of the efficacy of this approach, though: Just ask any student to perform the latest rap hit. The National Commission on Music Education reported that "in 1987-89 students taking music courses scored an average of 20-40 points higher on both verbal and math portions of the SATs"

I suggest all education professors and prospective educators begin learning how to play an instrument, perhaps the violin. The benefits of disciplined repetition will soon become apparent to them as well as their neighbors.

> Ed Konecnik **Flushing**

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Ferreras should not support Willets plan changes

or too long there has been an unwritten law that in connection with legislation pending before the New York City Council, the Council member whose district encompasses the area on which there may be an impact has the say on whether the legislation should be enacted or rejected. Not only does this not comport with legitimate democratic processes, but it ignores the fact that a single Council member does not speak for all the residents of a district and ignores the fact there may be an impact upon an en-

tire borough as well as the

A case in point is the legislation now before the Council in which Sterling Equities and Related Cos., multibillionaire real estate developers seeking to amend the Willets Point plan approved by the Council in 2008, want to construct in Willets Point a parking lot. A cover-up to allow the New York Mets to remove its Citi Field parking lot to Willets Point and on the vacated lots construct a 1.4-million-squarefoot shopping mall.

To allow this deception is to sanction the taking of a huge section of Flushing Meadows Corona Park land on which the current lot sits and to sanction a significant land use change without the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, All Council members, guardians of the public's interests, must protect the integrity of ULURP and land use change for the entire city. To ignore that duty is to lay the groundwork for further intrusions in the future in other Council districts.

While I am uncertain as to where Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) stands on the issue, from what I have heard her say, she supports the mall. If she does, I urge all Council members to make an independent judgment and not accord Ferreras any greater weight. Not only should they give great weight to the attempt to bypass a mall ULURP and land use change requirements, they should consider the effect a shopping mall will have on the hundreds of small merchants and existing malls throughout Queens and the city and the traffic congestion it will cause on the Grand Central Parkway, the Van Wyck Expressway, Northern Boulevard and Roosevelt

If great weight is to be given to a particular area, the Council should take note that Ferreras' district contains Community Board 3, which, after conducting a ULURP on the amendment to allow a parking lot at Willets Point, rejected the application with a vote of 30-1 with 1 abstention. That rejection made clear the board was not going to allow a phony amendment to the 2008 plan as a cover-up for a 1.4-million-square-foot shopping mall.

It is CB 3 that speaks for the community and not Ferreras. I believe all of the above are good reasons why allowing a single Council member to decide if a bill should or should not be enacted has no place in our Council. The Council need have no fear: A rejection will doom the original 2008 Willets Point plan. Willets Point plan.

In fact, other developers will line up for the job without a mall and without affordable housing on the back burner until 2025 and the job will get done.

> Benjamin Haber Flushing

Obamacare will do people good

longtime friend sent me an e-mail the other day about defunding Obamacare, hoping his side would shut down the government in protest. He is in that Tea Party/Republican/Libertarian loop of e-mailers who send out crazy, racist, bigoted, mean e-mails mocking President Barack Obama and the Democrats.

I sent a reply asking him why he did not want 40 million uninsured people to have health care insurance. He answered, "Because it's socialism."

I replied that the plans were underwritten by insurance companies, not the government.

I said. "You're on Medicare. Don't you like it?"

He said he did not like "the government telling him what to do."

So I asked, "What are they telling you to do?"

No answer. I asked why he did not opt out of Medicare and pay out-ofpocket for another plan of his choosing.

He said, "Obamacare will cost too much."

I said that was not true. Free annual preventive care checkups would catch health problems earlier, saving money in the long run, and new fraud detection methods would also save money. I asked if he did not like the fact that children could stay on their parents' plan until age 26 now and pre-existing conditions were no longer a reason to deny coverage.

In the near future, the drug prescription donut hole will be closed, saving people more money on drugs. I said if he had a better health care plan, he should tell me about it or tell his party about it because it offers no alterna-

"What is your answer to the uninsured?" I asked. He had no answers.

All he had was party-line rhetoric, Obama-hater guips and the same bumper sticker language used by right-wing pundits. It is a shame. I cannot have a logical discussion with him because he is ignorant of the facts. When questioned, he thinks raising his voice and swearing will make him right.

But he is typical of many in his party who are condemning Obamacare and threatening to shut the government down. One problem is many voting Republicans are realizing that Obamacare is good for them, too, and they do not want it repealed and have go back to the old ways. This last stand by Republicans will not work and will cost them dearly in future elections.

I am not sorry for them.

> Tyler Cassell Flushing

Do not attack Miss America

s a member of Congress who represents a large population of Americans of Indian descent, I am troubled by the remarks aimed at the winner of the 2013 Miss America Pageant and a fellow New Yorker, Nina Davuluri.

Davuluri embodies the American Dream: the daughter of immigrants who graduated from a prestigious university and plans to pursue a medical

degree. She is American in the truest sense, and the fact that this would be questioned is despicable.

Embracing diversity is an American value, one I have always cherished. I am the product of grandparents who fled Russia due to persecution and found an accepting home here in America. I have spent my life honoring their memory by fighting against hatred, bigotry and persecution. When I heard of the vitriol

being directed toward Davuluri, I felt compelled to respond.

I join with the voices of the many Americans who have cried out against these hateful remarks, and I will continue to work in Congress to fight against hatred.

> Steve Israel U.S. Representative (D-Melville)

Corrections

In the Sept. 20-26 issue of TimesLedger Newspapers, the number of people protesting the expansion of the business improvement district in Jackson Heights and Corona was overstated. The accurate number is about 20 protesters. We regret the error.

In the Sept. 20-26 issue of TimesLedger Newspapers, the last name of the Community Board 6 district manager in the article titled "24 floors to be added on top of Rego Center" should have been spelled Gulluscio.

Contact the newsroom:

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

Queens' Gorman made his name playing Lenny Bruce

Queens Line .

ongtime New Yorkers should remember character actor Cliff Gorman for his breakthrough stage roles as Emory in "The Boys in the Band" and as Lenny Bruce in the eponymous

Born in Queens in 1936, Gorman had a long career on the Broadway stage, in television and in pivotal roles in several movies.

"Lenny."

The child of Ethel Kaplan Gorman and Samuel Gorman, Cliff was raised in the Jewish tradition. Although Cliff graduated from New York University in 1959 with a bachelor's in

education, he had already become active in the New York theater community. His first role of note was in "Hogan's Goat" in 1965 with the yet-to-be-discovered Faye Dunaway.

"Boys in the Band," written by Mart Crowley, who would later go on to write and direct the successful TV series "Hart to Hart," gave Gorman the breakthrough role every actor salivates over. Cast against his type, that of the macho, swaggering New York tough guy, Gorman enriched the role of Emory from how it was written from just being a swishy

stereotype of a gay man of the time, instead infusing it with humor and subtle pathos.

Gorman reprised his role for the film version, directed by William Friedkin, who later famously helmed "The Exorcist," and released in 1970. Although many critics today find "Boys in the Band" dated and uneven, it remains an important work depicting life at the dawn of the gay rights movement.

Moving on from the ensemble work in "Boys," Gorman followed up that success with a more dramatic turn as Lenny Bruce in "Lenny." Bruce was a groundbreaking, controversial comedian in the 1950s and '60s, made famous by his string of obscenity

Although critics today find 'Boys in the Band' dated and uneven, it remains an important work depicting life at the dawn of the gay rights movement.

arrests. Bruce was a deeply troubled man and died of a drug overdose in 1966.

His peers in the Broadway community honored Gorman with the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play in 1973 for his harrowing performance in the role. Later, when the play was made into a movie, director Bob Fosse felt Gorman was not enough of a

marquee name and cast Dustin Hoffman instead. Although Hoffman turned in a brilliant performance, one cannot help but wonder if this was a missed opportunity that would have sent Gorman's career to new heights.

Gorman continued to act and received a 1977 Tony nomination for Neil Simon's "Chapter Two." He recurred in the late 1990s as a tough Judge on "Law & Order" and one of his last roles was in the cult favorite "Ghost Dog."

By the turn of the millennium, he was diagnosed with leukemia, which he died of in 2002.

Gorman leaves behind a vast body of work as an actor and a reputation as a givingfriend and co-worker, and should be remembered for his acting achievements in two important theater pieces of the '60s and '70s.

For more information, call 718-278-0700 or visit astorialic.org.

Next beep should take notes on Brooklyn's Markowitz



Kenneth Kowald I Sit And Look Out

nthony Weiner is out. We really never thought, given the last few polls, that he was in, but one never knows. Since he served a part of Queens in the U.S. House of Representatives, I guess we have to remember him, but let us get over it quickly. Anthony will capitalize on his return to public life — note I did not write "public service"). In any event, he is living in Manhattan and, if we are lucky, he will not be in Queens anytime soon.

Eliot Spitzer is out, for now. It looked for most of this campaign that, with his money and chutzpah, he would run roughshod over Scott Stringer. But he will have to seek his redemption elsewhere. I am sure he will manage. The family fortune, as far as I know, is still intact. I am sure Eliot has several places where he can sit and lick his wounds, but I think none are in Queens.

Vito Lopez is out. This disgraced politician, whom even his pals in the state Legislature rejected — and that is saying something — lost his bid to be a city councilman. with most of the district in Brooklyn and a small part in Ridgewood. I do not know whether Vito is seeking redemption, like Anthony and Eliot, but I he continues to live in Brooklyn, so we are spared his presence.

In any event, I do not intend to start or give money to any group trying to help Anthony, Eliot or Vito.. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they just went



Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz (I.) attends Queens Borough President Helen Marshall's State of the Borough speech earlier this year. Photo by Christina Santucci

away — far away?

As for Queens, I hope whoever is the next borough president will take some lessons from Marty Markowitz, the outgoing Brooklyn borough president. I know many people in Brooklyn who could not stand Marty. He was too brash, maybe too "Brooklyn." But he was a great advocate for his borough and, if you look back over

his years in office — which I do from a distance — he did a great job. He helped put Brooklyn on the map.

I hope whoever succeeds him will not take down the "Leaving Brooklyn? Fuhgeddaboudit" sign on the Belt Parkway at the Queens border. It is priceless. Just change the names of the mayor and Brooklyn borough president.

What I think we need in Queens is a version of Marty which pushes Queens to the forefront of the city. We are the most diverse county in the United States. We have problems, of course, but we need a cheerleader, loud and clear. We need Council members and community boards to work together with the borough president to help fix problems, wherever

and in whatever language they may be. We need good education, good jobs and safe schools, homes and streets. We need open spaces. We need affordable housing. We need a plan to protect our city against the effects of climate change.

Above all, we need courtesy in public discourse, which will help all people regardless of any differences we may have. Aren't we all tired of the screamers and smearers? How about a little tenderness?

We are no longer the Forgotten Borough of my Elmhurst childhood. We are Queens!

And we are great, or we can be!

It needs work and, above all, is needs putting aside ego and useless rhetoric.

Read my blog No Holds Barred at timesledger.com.

De Blasio must choose great deputy mayors if he wins



Tom Allon Mayoral Spire Cycle

onventional wisdom is rarely correct in political campaigns, and early front-runners also don't often make it first to the finish line. Just ask Hillary Clinton, Christine Quinn or Mark Green.

The old fable of the tortoise and the hare comes to mind when reflecting on the recent Democratic mayoral campaign. Slow and steady won the race, and I must tip my hat to city Public Advocate Bill de Blasio and his entire campaign team, especially his exceptionally talented TV commercial producer John Del Cecato.

De Blasio ran the most authentic campaign, and his message was clear from the start. He didn't waver when he was way back in the polls and he confidently continued to lay out a different vision for the future than his opponents.

De Blasio is an appealing and likable man. I got to know him and meet his wife during the campaign when I was running and even though he and I occasionally disagreed on some issues, he was always respectful. We even developed a light-hearted banter about our different views. I came to respect and admire him more as the campaign continued, and if he wins in November, he has the potential to be a strong mayor.

De Blasio's rise is also a product of an interesting geographic shift in our city: He is from Brooklyn. which has climbed out of Manhattan's shadow in the past decade and is the place talented young people yearn to live and work. As

the first mayor from outside Manhattan in a while, it will be interesting to see how de Blasio is able to equalize opportunity for all New Yorkers.

Joe Lhota, the Republican nominee, is also a Brooklyn resident and he has an impressive background that would make him a potentially strong mayor. Yet the party registration disparity — six Dems to every Republican — and the shifting demographics of the city make his candidacy an uphill

De Blasio is too smart and humble to make some of the same mistakes Democratic nominee Mark Green made in 2001 that cost him the election to Mike Bloomberg. As many are saying, it will take an extraordinary event for Lhota to catch de Blasio. who is ahead by 43 points in the first poll.

But in politics, any-

thing can happen.

De Blasio's campaign team and coherent message bodes well for an effective administration. One of the most important aspects of the mayor's job is to pick great deputy mayors and commissioners. If the campaign team is proof of de Blasio's ability to spot talent, we can be confident he will bring the best and the brightest to City Hall. In fact, if he wins, I wouldn't be surprised if de Blasio brings in talent from around the country to energize city government with new ideas and the best practices from other cities.

One thing that would also be interesting to see is if de Blasio would potentially take a page from President Barack Obama's — and Abraham Lincoln's playbook and form a "team of rivals." Would Christine Quinn make a good deputy as Hillary Clinton made a great U.S.

secretary of state? If Obama and Clinton could patch up their rivalry, there's no reason de Blasio and Quinn couldn't bury the hatchet for the good of the city.

Who would be de Blasio's police commissioner. arguably the second most important job in the city? I like former Police Commissioner Bill Bratton, who seems willing to come back to his old job. His track record in New York and Los Angeles would lead me to believe he would be the right commissioner to mend stop-and-frisk but still maintain the city's record-breaking run of crime reduction.

For city schools chancellor, de Blasio is likely to pick someone who will anger the charter school and education reform community. Although it's hard to imagine de Blasio continuing the Bloomberg administration's hard-charging school reform agenda, it

will be tricky to switch gears quickly, particularly with the new Common Core bedeviling curriculum educators around the city. This key choice of chancellor will be telling about de Blasio's plans for his first

This is all theoretical now because there are still six weeks left until the general election, but based on his poll lead, it might make sense to start getting used to spelling de Blasio's last name.

Or just start preparing to call him "Hizzoner." a favorite appellation of the late Ed Koch.

Tom Allon, president of City & State NY, was a Republican and Liberal Party-backed mayoral candidate in 2013 before he left to return to the private sector. Reach him at tallon@ citvandstatenv.com.



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Street to be co-named for Gibbons as kin press for tough hit-run law

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

A Maspeth street will be co-named Saturday for George Gibbons, who was killed in a hit-and-run crash on the Long Island Expressway, but his family would like the popular bar owner's legacy to also leave its mark on state leg-

Gibbons' family has been pushing for New York to strengthen penalties for drivers convicted in hitand-run crashes after the driver who pleaded guilty to leaving the scene after hitting the bar owner's livery cab was sentenced to 3 1/2 to seven years in prison.

Earlier this year, state legislators introduced a bill to change a fatal hit-andrun from a Class D felony to a Class C and increase



George Gibbons' name will share a street sign in Maspeth.

prison time to a maximum of 15 years in state prison.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village), who proposed the street co-naming for the proprietor of Gibbons' Home bar in the City Council. has been supportive of the family's efforts.

"If everyone sees this sign, they can remember the good life that George led, the tragic end at such a young age and how important it is to get involved," she said.

Gibbons, 37, had been riding in a livery cab on a Long Island Expressway service road in October 2011 when the taxi was hit by a vehicle traveling the wrong way, according to the NYPD. The driver of the car that smashed into the livery cab fled the scene, and police initially were unable to locate him. But a month later Brooklyn resident Peter Rodriguez was picked up in Connecticut and charged with manslaughter, assault, criminally negligent homicide and leaving the scene without reporting, according to the Queens DA. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 3 1/2 to seven years in prison in May 2012, the district attorney said.

Crowley credited the Gibbons family with helping to locate Rodriguez.



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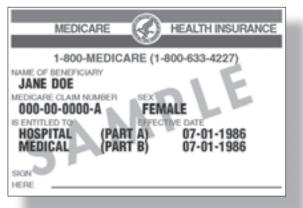




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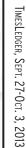
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Republican mayoral candidate Joe Lhota (c.) samples some fruit and Peking Duck in Flushing alongside neighborhood GOPer Phil Gim (I.) during a campaign stop Tuesday. Lhota is facing off against Democrat Bill de Blasio in the general election. The area voted heavily for city Comptroller John Liu during the Sept. 10 primary. Photo by Ellis Kaplan

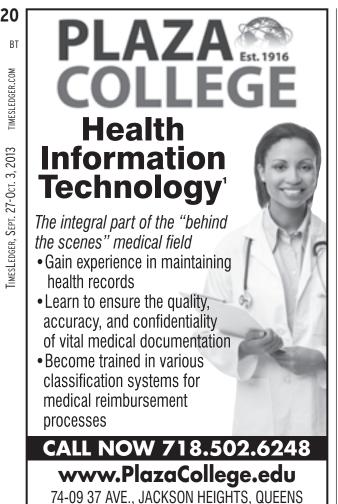


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Old-fashioned gambling ring busted: DA

BY BIANCA FORTIS

Six individuals, five of whom are Queens residents, were indicted on charges of unlawfully running an illegal gambling operation, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said last week.

The ring, which allegedly took in about \$1 million each year in bets, involved a centrally located wire room in Brooklyn, a second wire room in Woodhaven and more than 30 betting parlors scattered throughout Queens. Brooklyn and Nassau County, according to Brown. The wire rooms maintained a number of fax machines that received betting slips from the various parlors.

According to the DA's office, the defendants are Saul Montalvo, 44. of 137-30 Lafavette St. in Ozone Park; his sister Veronica Montalvo, 40, of 90-02 97th Ave. in Ozone Park: his son, Daniel Montalvo, 26, of 99-11 57th Ave. in Corona, who is presently being sought; Benny Maldonado, 60, of 60-81 Myrtle Ave. in Ridgewood; Rosa Rincon, 56, of 106-17 95th Ave. in Woodhaven; and Juan Arias, 41, of 85 Strong St. in the Bronx.

They have been charged with



Police found guns, cash and narcotics while investigating an alleged gambling Photo courtesy Richard Brown enterprise corruption, promoting gambling and possession of gambling records, Brown said. The defendants each face up to 25 years in prison if they are convicted.

"A six-month investigation that used both court-authorized wiretaps and physical surveillance has dismantled this family-operated gambling ring that allegedly ran an oldfashioned numbers racket complete with betting parlors, wire rooms and runners and collectors that handled approximately \$3,000 a day in bets,

or \$1 million a year," Brown said in a statement. "Todav's indictment will send a clear signal that when it comes to illegal gambling in Queens County, all bets are off."

Nineteen other individuals, who were not named by the DA, were also arrested after 12 search warrants were executed at various locations.

Brown said a long-term investigation into the ring began in February. Authorities allege that Montalvo and Arias ran the operation, he said.

Police found more than \$120,000 in cash, gambling records, fax machines thought to be related to betting, hundreds of narcotic pills and weapons, the DA said.

"The NYPD follows leads where they take investigators, in this case to a converted wire room on Sutter Avenue in East New York, Brooklyn, where defendants processed thousands of dollars in gambling proceeds daily from bettors in Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County," Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said in a statement.

Reach reporter Bianca Fortis by email at bfortis@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.



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BY BIANCA FORTIS

The Ridgewood Reservoir in Highland Park is open now that Phase 1 construction at the site has been completed.

Nearly half the path that winds around the reservoir had been closed since July 2011 when construction began. All of the paths in the park, which is located in Glendale near the Jackie Robinson Parkway, reopened last week, a spokesman for the city Parks Department said.

Phase 1, which cost almost \$7 million, involved installing new fencing and new lighting, repaying the walking paths around the basin and building a handicap-accessible ramp, according to Gary Giordano, district manager for Community Board 5.

"It's just beautiful," he said.

contract was The awarded to Maspeth construction company Trocom



The enhancements at the Ridgewood Reservoir include re-paved walking paths and new liahts. Photo by Bianca Fortis

Construction Corp. for \$6.4 million. According to the city comptroller's database, \$6.92 million has actually been spent on the project.

Giordano said there may be a ribbon cutting planned to officially mark the reopening of the park, but no details have been set

For more than 100 vears, from 1858-1959, the reservoir operated as a water supply. Later, the second of three basins was used as a backup water supply for Queens and Brooklyn. In 1990, the site was decommissioned and it was later developed into a public park.

In July, the Parks Department released three concept plans for Phase 2 of the park. They were based on listening sessions and surveys conducted in 2008 and 2009.

But the city does not actually have any funds available for Phase 2, nor are there any cost estimates available for any of the plans.

In July, a spokesman for the Parks Department said the plans are "intended to foster discussion" and can be adjusted with community input.

The first and simplest plan includes viewing platforms, trail heads and a pedestrian bridge.

The other two plans include more development such as a boat dock, a rock climbing wall, additional boardwalks, ball fields and a "waterworks adventure playground."

Community members, including Giordano, have said they would like to limit development in the park so the reservoir can remain a natural preserve.

Giordano said he hopes there will be funding available to renovate the pump house at the reservoir, build bathrooms and to possibly construct an environmental center.

"What we as a board have been opposed to is the development of any basins for active recreational use," he said.

Reach reporter Bianca Fortis by email at bfortis@ cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.

Man, 33, shot near Jax Hgts stabbing

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Two days after state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-Jackson Heights) described Roosevelt Avenue the city's new version of once crime-ridden Times Square, a 33-year-old man was found with gunshot wounds to his head and neck just steps away from where the legislator had

"The Police Department has done great with the limited resources they have, but we need more." Peralta said at a news conference at the corner of 90th Street and Roosevelt Avenue Sept. 18. Peralta and western Queens officials - Councilman Daniel Dromm, Comptroller John Liu, Assemblymen Michael Den Dekker and Francisco Moya - had gathered to denounce the fatal stabbing of

69-year-old Ever Orosco at the same intersection Sept.

Four days later, authorities responded to a report of a man shot and found the victim at 89-09 Roosevelt Ave.. He was taken to Elmhurst Hospital. where he was pronounced dead, the NYPD said. Police later identified the victim as 33-year-old Ivan Rodriguez, a spokesman for the NYPD said Wednesday.

No one was arrested in connection with Rodriguez's death, and an investigation into the shooting was ongoing. Steven Torres, a 22-year-old Bronx resident, was charged with murder in connection with Orozco's death, police said.

Several workers and shop owners at the intersection said the recent spate of violence had them worried.

Continued on Page 42

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Expanded business district would help Corona: Leader

BY BIANCA FORTIS

A proposal to expand the 82nd Partnership in Corona and Jackson heights could greatly improve street conditions in the vibrant shopping district, the head of the organization

"It would be a comprehensive, holistic approach to address quality-of-life issues in the community," according to Seth Taylor., the executive director.

The Partnership, founded in 1990, covers 82nd Street from 37th Avenue to Baxter Avenue. If approved, the expansion would be called the Jackson Heights-Corona Business Improvement District. It would include Roosevelt Avenue from 81st Street to 104th Street, as well as Junction Boulevard from 35th Avenue to 40th Road.

Taylor said the BID expansion will be a way to curb the crime, litter and graffiti that currently plague the community.

"These are quality-oflife issues," he said. "The offenses are widespread all along Roosevelt Avenue."

If the proposal passes, businesses would not be able to opt out of participation. All commercial property owners would be assessed an annual fee of \$900, which they can pass on to their tenants.

Residential property owners who live within the district boundaries would be assessed a fee of \$1 per

Ballots will be mailed in October to residential and commercial property owners who fall within the district lines. Each property owner will have the opportunity to vote whether to expand or not. Should the proposal pass, the district expansion is expected to take place in late 2014.

Those fees would add up to a budget of about \$860,000, which would be invested back into the community. The funds would be used for services such as graffiti removal and supplemental sanitation, Taylord said. The district would be governed by a board of directors who would be voted in by the participating businesses.

But not all of the small business owners who would be part of the district currently support it.

Earlier in the month a group of about 20 people, under the name Roosevelt Avenue Community Alli-

Continued on Page 41

Flushing BID hosts photo contest to capture essence of downtown

The Downtown Flushing Transit Hub Business Improvement District is hosting its second Flushing Photo Contest, which started Aug. 31 and will run through the end of December 2014.

"The photo contestants submit photos — it should be a positive image of downtown Flushing," said Dian Yu, executive director of the BID. "Hopefully, the photo tells a story — what it means to you."

The contest winner, who will be selected by a panel of judges including a professional photographer and Tom Finkelpearl, of the Queens Museum of Art, will win an iPad. The runner-up will receive an iPad Mini and the thirdplace finisher will get an iPod Touch.

All of the winning en-



Alice Lee (I.-r.), Emily Yu, Councilman Peter Koo, state Sen. Toby Stavisky, Yuh-Line Niou of Assemblyman Ron Kim's office, Robert Cheng and Dian Yu stand in front of previous photo contest Photo by Joe Anuta

tries will be displayed at the Flushing branch of the Queens Public Library and at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, according to

The contest runs for more than a year so photographers have a chance to capture the area in all four seasons, Yu said.

For details, rules and submission forms, visit flushingbid.com.

— Joe Anuta

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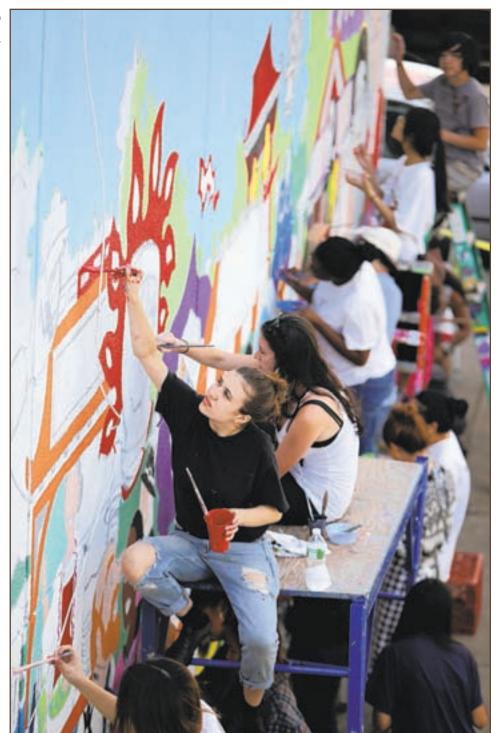
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Brightening the Commute

One Flushing Community Economic Development Center in partnership with business owners and community groups organized a mural-painting project at the 40th Road entrance to the downtown Flushing Long Island Rail Road station Saturday. The mural was designed by world-renowned artist Lady Pink. (Clockwise from top I.) Frank Sinatra of the Arts student Sanne Vanderveen (front) works on the piece; Frank Spinelli, a volunteer with Lady Pink, pays close attention to details; paint is spooned into a container; young Vince Zhang saw the effort and opted to join in; and participants work on the mural, which features a melange of people and animals.

Photos by Christina Santucci











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Trio stole from Corona Ambulance Corps: AG

BY JOE ANUTA

A Corona volunteer ambulance service said it may have to close shop after state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced last week three former board members allegedly stole more than \$300,000 from the nonprofit to fund lavish vacations and meals.

Daniel Dominguez, 37, is accused of stealing more than \$300,000 from the Corona Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps and using the cash for extravagant jaunts to Walt Disney World and Niagara Falls as well as expensive feasts, the AG said in a Sept. 19 re-

Then Dominguez allegedly helped another

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member, Daryl Adeva, 31, to skim \$8.960 from the ambulance corps, according to Schneiderman.

Even the service's one-time president, David Moretti, 41, partook in the fleecing, the AG said. The leader allegedly stole more than \$11,000 between September 2008 and May 2011 for car payments and overseas money transfers. Schneiderman said.

The ambulance service released a statement in the wake of the trio's indictment indicating the nonprofit may have to shut down as a result.

"The discovery that our funds were misappropriated caused us a great amount of anguish as we have labored to continue serving the community over the last two years," the service said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, only were our funds misappropriated, but we believe many of our relationships



Daryl Adeva (I. to r.) Daniel Dominguez and David Moretti have been accused of stealing from the Corona Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Photo courtesy New York Attorney General's Office

with organizations that we provided EMS services to were sabotaged. The financial strain we are now under requires us to seriously consider dissolution or sell our building and streamline our services." the corps said.

The three former members were charged with various degrees of theft in Queens Supreme Court, the attorney general said. If convicted, Dominguez would face up to five to 15 years behind bars, while Adeva and Moretti would face as much as 2 1/2 to

seven years. Dominguez and Adeva were being held on bail.

The organization gets its money through a variety of sources, including donations, insurance reimbursements and taxpaverfunded reimbursements from Medicare and Medic-

According to financial filings with the attorney general's office, the total amount allegedly skimmed by the former board members is roughly equal to the organization's annual revenue in some years.

"These emergency medical technicians, who were entrusted with providing medical services and transportation for New York residents, instead took advantage of their positions and used a not-forprofit ambulance corps as their own personal piggy bank." Schneiderman said. "My office will continue to weed out theft and fraud in charitable organizations and prosecute criminals who take advantage of the public's trust."

The remaining members of the organization have been trying to reestablish that trust.

In its statement, it detailed some of the work EMTs have done in the community aside from their everyday work, like responding during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, saving a life at Citi Field and hosting blood drives and toy drives.

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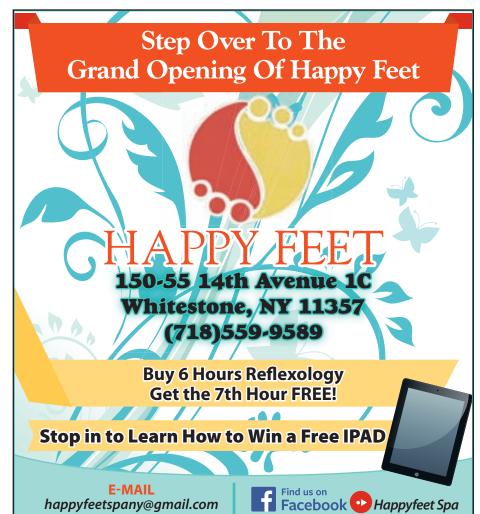






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TIMESLEDGER, SEPT. 27-0CT. 3, 2013

COUNCILMAN LEROY COMRIE HOSTS STREET RENAMING FOR LATE QUEENS PASTOR Photos by Steven Malecki



Councilman Leroy Comrie is joined by clergy and community leaders to unveil the street sign in honor of the late Monsignor Robert R. McCourt at the corner of 199th Street and 113th Avenue in St. Albans.



Sister Mary Walsh of the Sister of St. Joseph, (I.-r.) Father William Smith, Councilman Leroy Comrie and Monsignor John Maloney hold a commemorative sign for the late Monsignor Robert R. McCourt, a longtime paster in southern Queens.



Members of Our Lady of Light perform at a service to remember Monsignor Robert McCourt, who served as pastor at St. Pascal Baylon Church in St. Albans and St. Clement Pope in Ozone Park.

U.S. REP. JOSEPH CROWLEY CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN JACKSON HEIGHTS Photos by Nat Valentine



U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (second I.) is joined by (I.-r.) Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, Queens Borough President candidate Melinda Katza, Congressman Luis Gutierrez and Councilman Daniel Dromm during the event at El Coyote Restaurant in Jackson Heights.



U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (I.) honors Peruvian American National Council President Kilder Fuentes as part of the 12th annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.



U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (I.) presents Corona Senior Center Director Miriam Rolon with an award. The center is part of Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc.

STATE SEN. MALCOLM SMITH HOLDS SENIOR APPRECIATION EVENT Photos by Nat Valentine



State Sen. Malcolm Smith (second I.) dances with attendees during his annual senior appreciation luncheon.



Performers from the Rockaway Review senior dance troop show off their moves at The Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center in St. Albans.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand tours Maker Faire



U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (r.) chats with young girls at the World Maker Faire, at the New York Hall of Science. Gillibrand toured the fair with Dr. Margaret Honey, president and CEO of New York Hall of Science. Photo courtesy Kirsten Gillibrand

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE OF GREATER JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEETS AT HARVEST ROOM Photos by Walter Karling



Captain James Fey, the executive officer of the 103rd Precinct, spoke about crime statistics.



Speakers (I.-r.) included Kevin Livingstone, president of 100 Suits for 100 Men; Angela Mohan, manager of the Jamaica Market; Deborah Truhowsky, senior counsel of the law firm of D.F. Truhowsky; and Downtown Committee Chairman William Martin.



Attendees from the YMCA's Out of School Youth Program (I.-r.) Director Kevin Guscott, Michael Wint, Octavia Haile, Khalil Elias, and Vaughn Bellot visit with Downtown Committee Chairman William Martin (r).

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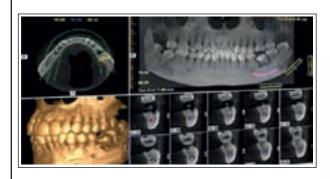
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TimesLedger editor makes cut in Sandy photo contest



Visitors look at works in the "Rising Water" exhibit, including a TimesLedger Newspapers image (far r.).

Photo by Christina Santucci

TimesLedger Newspaper Photo Editor Christina Santucci's work has been selected for an exhibition titled Rising Waters: Photographs of Hurricane Sandy.

The show, a joint venture of the Museum of the City of New York and In-

ternational Center of Photography, incorporates photographs that detail the damage and recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

Santucci's piece is one of 100 selected from the more than 5,000 entries from professional photographers, residents and bystanders.

Rising Waters: Photographs of Hurricane Sandy is on view Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 6 p.m. in Building 19, Nolan Park on Governors Island, through Sunday, Sept. 29.

Steinway Mansion raises funds with music at bar

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

The evolution of modern Queens, New York City and even the entire United States can be traced to one house on 41st Street in Astoria, says Bob Singleton.

That house is the Steinway Mansion, at 18-33 41st St., and Singleton is on a mission to make sure people understand the significance of the home built by music.

"The Steinway Mansion represents what our city is all about," said Singleton, executive director of Friends of Steinway Mansion. "This was an immigrant family that came to New York City and succeeded at so much. That is something anyone who has lived in New York at any time can understand."

Singleton and his group plan a series of events, be-



ginning this weekend, in Friends of Steinway Mansion in Astoria plan a series of fundraisers to help them purchase the New York City landmark.

their efforts to raise \$5 million to purchase the home and grounds. Once they buy the property, the Friends will begin raising money to restore the mansion and turn it into a public space for eduction and music.

On Saturday the Friends' fund-raiser will be at SingleCut Beersmiths, at 19-33 37th St. in Astoria. The event starts at 8 p.m. and includes performances by The Dru Cutler and The

Heart & Hand Band. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to support the mission.

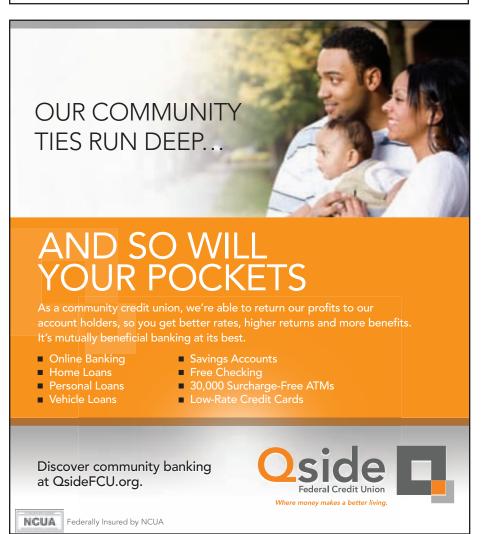
Singleton suggests people arrive around 6 p.m. for a pre-show rally.

"Come early and we'll walk over to the mansion and hold up signs," said Singleton. "We want to show the world that New York wants to save the mansion."

Currently a city landmark, the building cannot be torn down, but until someone steps in to purchase it the house will continue to decay.

For the Friends of Steinway Mansion, the building represents everything the family did in the fields of business, transportation and entertainment, said Singleton.

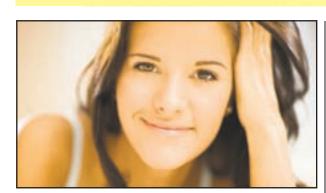
When William Stein-Continued on Page 41





33

FOCUS ON HEALTH



It behooves teenage and adolescent girls to familiarize themselves with breast cancer and be mindful of their health.

Educate young women about breast cancer

At the age of 12 to 15, many young women are experiencing the body and life changes that accompany adolescence. It can be difficult to imagine that breasts that are just beginning to develop may contain cancer. But such is the reality for some girls.

The majority of women who receive a breast cancer diagnosis are over the age of 40. Experts at Monroe Carell Jr. Hospital at Vanderbilt University note that only five percent of breast cancer cases are found in women under the age of 40. However, the hospital recently treated a 14-year-old girl who found a lump and learned she had a rare form of breast cancer called a phyllodes tumor. In 2009, a 13-year-old from Little Rock, Ark. found a quarter-sized lump in her right breast, while a 19-year-old student at the College of New Jersey was diagnosed with cancerous cells and underwent a bilateral mastectomy.

Such cases are rare, but it behooves teenage and adolescent girls to familiarize themselves with the disease and be mindful of their breast health.

increased breast cancer messages for young girls, and it is not uncommon to find young women participating in runs and fund-raisers for breast cancer research. Some organizations even conduct breast cancer workshops to educate voung women about breast health. Dorothy Paterson of Texas, a former Girl Scout leader who was diagnosed with breast cancer herself, began conducting workshops for Girl Scouts in 2007. The idea isn't to scare girls into believing they have the disease, but rather to increase their awareness of changes in their bodies that may or may not be normal.

Some parents worry that educating children about breast cancer may cause them to worry unnecessarily, especially considering a young girl's risk of developing breast cancer is so minimal. However, others see the importance in schooling girls early on about a disease that is so common. Advocates of teaching young girls about breast cancer often note that any effort to help save lives and promote health is worth-

Just as with older women, adolescents and teens should realize that eating healthy foods, exercising, avoiding alcohol and tobacco, and maintaining annual physical exams with a doctor are key ways to reduce the risk for cancer.

Preventive mastectomy facts

Understanding options available to breast cancer patients

People around the world were shocked to learn that actress and activist Angelina Jolie opted to have a double mastectomy in 2013 to reduce her risk of breast cancer. Jolie, who was 37 years old at the time of the procedure, reportedly learned that she carries a mutation of the BRCA1 gene, which sharply increases her risk of developing breast cancer and ovarian cancer. In addition, the actress has a family history of cancer. Her mother, Marcheline Bertrand, died of ovarian cancer in 2007 at the age of 56.

By having a preventive mastectomy, Jolie reduced her breast cancer risk from 87 percent to five percent. according to an op-ed piece she authored in the New York Times. Jolie is not the only well-known actress to opt for a preventive mastectomy, as fellow thespian Christina Applegate had a similar procedure in 2008 after learning she had a mutation of the BRCA1 gene. These highly publicized cases have left many women wondering if a preventive mastectomy is something they should consider.

BRCA stands for "breast cancer susceptibility genes, " a class of genes known as tumor suppressors, says the National Cancer Institute. Mutations in these genes have been linked to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. A person's risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer is greatly increased if she inherits a harmful mutation in BRCA1 or BRCA2. Mutations in these genes could also put a person at increased risk for other cancers.

Genetic tests can check for mutations in BRCA genes. During such a test, a blood sample is taken,



Actress Angelina Jolie says that she has had a preventive double mastectomy after learning she carried a gene that made it extremely likely she would get breast cancer.

There is no surefire way to determine if a person with a mutated gene will develop breast cancer, but many women who are considered high-risk opt for a preventive mastectomy to reduce their risk.

and if a mutation is found, a person may get genetic counseling and work with a doctor to develop a plan of action. It is important to note that not all people with a genetic mutation will get breast cancer or ovarian cancer. The National Cancer Institute's "SEER Cancer Statistic Review" states a woman who has inherited a harmful mutation in BRCA1 or BRCA2 is about five times more likely to develop breast cancer than a woman who does not have such a mutation.

There is no surefire way to determine if a person with a mutated gene will develop breast cancer, but many women who are considered high risk opt for a preventive mastectomy to reduce their risk. Women who have a family history of breast cancer, have received positive results from gene testing, have already had cancer in one breast, or have dense breasts that make testing difficult, may want to get a preventive mastectomy.

The decision to get a preventive mastectomy is not one to take lightly. Many breast centers are staffed with breast-health specialists, genetic counselors, breast surgeons, and reconstructive surgeons who can help patients make the best decision. Second opinions are strongly recommended for women considering a preventive mastectomy.

Women should understand the options available to them if they have an extremely elevated risk of breast cancer or ovarian

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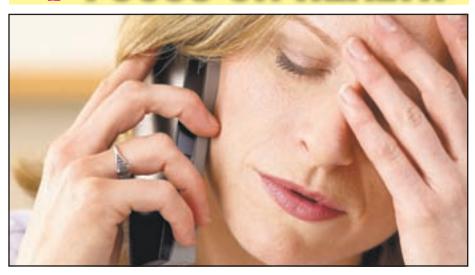


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FOCUS ON HEALTH



A cancer recurrence can be difficult news to receive. But past experience battling the disease can help men and women as they begin their fight anew.

Cancer recurrence difficult to face

A cancer diagnosis is never welcome news, especially when it comes unexpectedly. Cancer patients may undergo treatment for weeks or months, all the while hoping that treatment will ultimately prove effective. But cancer can return even when it is successfully treated, and the prospect of that return understandably induces concern.

The risk of recurrence is different for each person and typically depends on a host of factors. The type of cancer, how much time has passed since treatment, the type of treatment received, and how well a person has been taking care of herself since treatment ended can all influence her risk of recurrence. Eating right, exercising, and seeing the oncologist for follow-up visits are key to good health. But the American Cancer Society notes that nothing can be done to guarantee your cancer won't recur.

Cancer recurrence is defined as the return of cancer after treatment. The same type of cancer may return in the same area of the body, such as breast cancer returning in the same breast. In some instances, the cancer may return elsewhere in the body. But it is still referred to as a breast cancer recurrence, even if the next incidence is elsewhere. The length of time between the

Focusing on the future and not growing discouraged about beginning the battle anew are keys to fighting cancer again.

first bout of cancer and the next can vary. When cancer gets worse, this is called a progression. Sometimes it can be difficult to discern whether a recurrence is truly a recurrence or a progression. When only a short amount of time has lapsed since the initial diagnosis, then chances are the can-

cer is a progression.

After cancer goes into remission, a doctor usually sets up a schedule of follow-up appointments to check for cancer recurrence. A local recurrence, or one in the same spot as before, may be easy to treat. Many advancements have been made regarding the treatment of cancer. However, for many cancers, a recurrence at a distant site can mean the chance for successful treatment is not very likely.

Learning of a recurrence can be devastating, especially after working so hard and suffering through so much to push cancer into remission. Focusing on the future and not growing discouraged about beginning the battle anew are keys to fighting cancer again. But this time you will know what to expect and can plan accordingly.

Receiving news of a cancer recurrence can elicit anger, fear, and fatigue. But a recurrence of cancer can be treated successfully, and maintaining a positive outlook can make it easier to fight cancer once again.

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How you can lower your risk of breast cancer

Cancer treatments continue to evolve, but there remains no cure for breast cancer or any other types of cancer. However, there are steps men and women can take to reduce their risks of developing breast cancer. In fact, the National Cancer Institute says avoiding breast cancer risk factors is the best path to prevention.

·Avoid exposure to radiation. Repeated exposure to radiation therapy can increase a person's risk of breast cancer.

•Keep a healthy weight. Obesity increases the risk of breast cancer, particularly in postmenopausal

•Get your exercise. Exercising four or more hours a week can lower breast cancer risk. Exercise need not be heavy lifting at the gym. Any moderate physical activity, from cycling to walking, can be effective.

·Eat a low-fat diet. The Women's Intervention Nutrition Study from the National Cancer Institute found that the highest rate of breast cancer reduction was among a group of women who ate a low-fat diet.

·Reduce alcohol con-

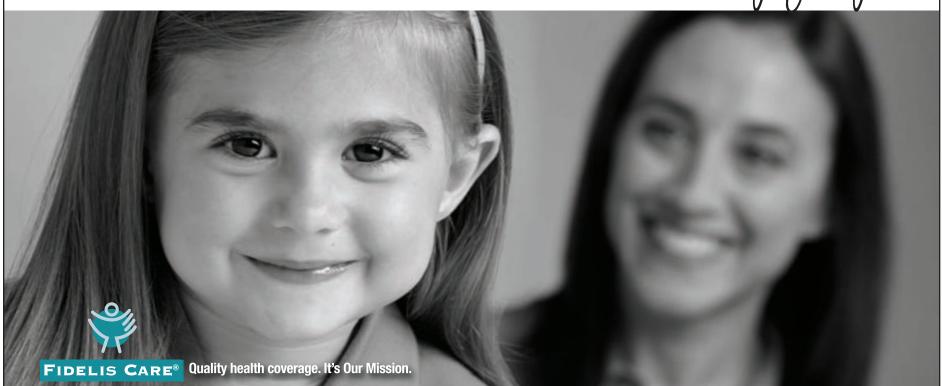
sumption. Women who consume two to five drinks daily have a greater risk of developing breast cancer than those who abstain from alcohol.

•Go sparingly on antibiotics. Only take antibiotics when they are truly needed. New evidence suggests that

the more often a woman takes antibiotics, the higher her breast cancer risk.

·Breastfeed your children. Lactation can suppress ovulation and the body's production of estrogen, which has been linked to higher levels of breast cancer.

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Cops in 110th, 115th precincts sold accident reports: Brown

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Two city cops assigned to Queens precincts have been charged with accepting cash payments from \$40 to \$1,500 for supplying copies of official police accident reports, the Queens district attorney said.

Danny Cano, 36, of the 115th Precinct in Jackson Heights, and Roberto Espinal, 44, of the 110th Precinct in Elmhurst were identified as the officers by Queens DA Richard Brown and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.. Both, free on bail, have been ordered to return to court Oct. 9.

"The defendants are alleged to have been operating independently of each other in this accident victim solicitation scheme," said Brown. "However, what they allegedly did have in common was that they both tarnished their NYPD badges by exploiting the misfortune of others to unjustly enrich themselves."

According to one of the criminal complaints, from March 11, 2013 to Aug. 19, 2013, Cano provided either copies of official NYPD accident reports or the information contained within of the names and addresses of 13 accident victims to a "runner" in return for a total of \$6,200 that he either received in cash or was directly deposited into a bank account controlled by him.

The second complaint



Roberto Espinal of the 110th Precinct (pictured) in Elmhurst was one of two officers charged with selling police reports, according to the Queens district attorney.

contended that between May 20, 2013 and Aug. 8, 2013, the alleged runner sent texts to Espinal requesting copies of NYPD accident reports containing names of specific accident victims. It is alleged that Espinal would obtain the requested reports, meet the runner at various locations in Queens in order to turn over the reports and received between \$40 and \$800 for providing the reports, the Queens DA said.

In total, it is alleged Espinal provided copies of official NYPD accident reports containing names and addresses of seven accident victims to a runner in exchange for a total of \$1,500 in cash payments, according to Brown's office.

Conviction could bring prison sentences of up to seven years for each defendant.

Brown thanked the National Insurance Crime Bureau, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and New York Central Mutual Co. for assistance in the investigation.





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BY PHILIP NEWMAN

MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast has appointed Carmen Bianco as president of the New York City Transit Authority after what the chairman called a nationwide search.

Bianco had served as acting president since April when the previous NYC Transit president, Prendergast, was named Metropolitan Transportation Authority chairman.

"Carmen was my pick after a nationwide search because of his extensive background in safety, his management skills and his vision of guiding the system into the future," Prendergast said. "Carmen is a leader with lengthy mass transit and railroad career experience. He un-



Bianco named president

of city Transit Authority

CARMEN BIANCO Photo by Philip Newman

derstands the issues, is an advocate for the customer and will remain someone the employees can depend upon for support."

Bianco, 61, led the subway system through the MTA response to Superstorm Sandy, which flooded tunnels, inundated stations

the most devastating event to strike the vast network. Transit officials said he oversaw the immediate efforts to pump out water and make round-the-clock emergency repairs, construction work and longterm planning to prevent future flooding. Bianco is a 30-year vet-

and washed out tracks in

eran of the transportation industry who served as head of NYC Transit's Department of System Safety from 1991-96. He also held senior safety positions at Amtrak and New Jersey Transit. He returned to NYC Transit in March 2010 as senior vice president for subways before being named acting president of New York City Transit this spring.

Continued on Page 42

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Astoria dental lab owner admits to tax fraud

BY PHIL CORSO

The owner of an Astoria dental lab knew what he was doing when he failed to collect employment taxes, court documents showed.

Simon Galeas, 48, pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court to the charge in April and was sentenced last week to five years' probation, ultimately costing him \$237,468 in restitution

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and an additional \$10,000 fine, the Internal Revenue Service said.

The IRS also said he will spend the next six months of his probation under house arrest.

According to court documents, Galeas worked as the owner of Steinway Dental Laboratory Inc. in Astoria, which operated under the name of Steinway Fisher Dental Labs

and provided hospitals and dentists with artificial teeth throughout the metropolitan area.

The IRS said that although he was required to collect and pay over Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes to the IRS, he instead made an agreement with a commercial check-cashing company in Brooklyn to divert corporate checks and cash them.

The money was instead supposed to fund different federal benefit programs, including Social Security and Medicare, the IRS said.

Overall, he cashed more than \$2 million in checks that went toward his off-the-books payroll, the IRS said.

Galeas admitted to using commercial checks to divert corporate checks payable to Steinway Laboratories, court documents showed. He cashed them at



Simon Galeas, owner of Steinway Fisher Dental Labs in Astoria, faces five years probation – including six months under house arrest – after pleading guilty to tax fraud. Photo by Phil Corso

a corporate check cashier in a way that would not be reflected on financial records and then used that money to pay his employees off the books, records said.

Court records showed more than \$10,000 in taxes lost on four separate occasions between 2007 and 2010. The Astoria business owner admitted to the crime in court April 12, placing the blame on confusion with the rules of play.

"In about 2006, I met a gentleman and he told me that it was possible to cash corporate checks that I can pay some of the employees and this way I don't have to pay some of taxation that was being paid and basically that was what was done," Galeas said, according to court documents.

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

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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 Divorce-fast.com of Massachusetts, a company that has been providing speedy, low-cost for-eign 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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Continued from Page 22

ance, rallied against the proposal, saying it would lead to increased rent and taxes and would displace immigrant-owned businesses. They also contended it would encourage chain stores to move into the neighborhood.

But Taylor said the BID expansion would actually support and strengthen local business.

"This is 100 percent about preserving small immigrant-owned

Restaurants

hungry crowd with what

was basically a Greek egg-

wrapped in phyllo dough

and topped with a Greek

yogurt sauce," Serelis said

as he squirted another dol-

a lamb roll

Continued from Page 5

businesses," he said. "It's a small business survival strategy."

Within the current district boundaries, almost 75 percent of businesses are mom-and-pop shops, Taylor said.

He said BID proponents are taking all the concerns seriously and have done outreach in the community.

"We understand that not everyone is going to agree with or support this," he said. "But we want to make sure everyone has the facts and information they need to make an informed

Also on hand Monday

were representatives from

Forest Hills' Haveli Indian

restaurant and Bayside's

Tequila Sunrise, who

served up Mexican treats.

Queens Brewery owner

Nelson Rockefeller filled

plastic cups with his red-

dish-hued lager. The brew-

ery is one of the sponsors

Across the plaza,

the appetizer.

Steinway

Continued from Page 32

way developed Steinway Settlement as a utopian village for his company's workers in northwest Queens. he quickly realized getting there would prove to be difficult, said Singleton. So naturally Steinway put in streetcar lines to connect the village to the rest of New York.

From there, Steinway became involved in designing the borough's transportation system.

"He created a transit network knitting together the various villages and hamlets of Queens," said Singleton. "The No. 7 train tunnels [under the East River] are still called the Steinway tubes."

And it wasn't just trains that received Steinway's attention.

A decade before Henry Ford delved into the automobile world, the Steinways formed an alliance with Gottlieb Daimler to sell gasoline engines. They also assembled Mercedes vehicles in their Astoria factory, said Singleton.

Because they made their fortune creating pianos, a lot of their achievements are related to music, said Singleton.

plans to offer deals at some of the establishments that serve its beer, said Rock-

About 20 places joined in the first Restaurant Week in 2003. Since then, said Bornstein, each year has seen the number of participants increase. The length of the event has also been extended — a fact that Marshall, who noted the first day of Restaurant

Week is her birthday, reminded the crowd in Kew Gardens.

"I'm proud to say Restaurant Weeks," said Marshall. "Maybe next year we'll be celebrating Restaurant Month."

A full list of participating venues is online atitsinqueens.com/restaurantweek/Queens.

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Bianco

Continued from Page 39

"I am extremely proud yet humbled at being picked to lead the 45,000 men and women who make up New York City Transit," Bianco said. "To perform this job to the best of my ability, I will need the assistance of each and every one of them.

"They are the people who go out on a daily basis and move New York City and were responsible for restoring service after

Sandy."

As head of subways, Bianco oversaw the restructuring of the Department of Subways, led development of the successful FAS-TRACK program of maintenance and continued New York City Transit's introduction of new techniques, particularly those that improve customer communications and efficient train operation.

New York City Transit includes subways and buses, the Staten Island Railway and Paratransit.

DR. DWAYNE E. ROLLINS

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Hotels

Continued from Page 5

ing the three hotel sites in the downtown Flushing area. He believes these development projects are coming back to life after the 2008 economic downturn.

"Ever since the end of 2010, construction has been revived in Flushing," he said. "It is really exploding."

"We will hit a saturation point in a few years, but right now it is an industry that is needed in the downtown and greater Flushing area," he said, pointing out that Asian travelers landing at LaGuardia and visitors from abroad are looking to stay in the bustling neighborhood.

Massey Knakal's portfolio includes proposed hotels — each about 40 rooms with similar architectural plans — at 34-36 and 31-02 Linden Place and a nearly completed hotel at 31-26 Linden Place.

The 18-story hotel will be near the corner of Union Street and Sanford Av-

enue, while the combined 300-room hotel complex is slated for 35th Avenue and Farrington Street.

Michael Meyer of TDC Development, which is building the 168-room Hyatt brand hotel on the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Prince Street, has a hunch the proposed hotel developments in Flushing may already oversaturate the market.

But Evan Weiss, a principal at LW Hospitality Advisors, a company that tracks the hotel market throughout the city, believes Flushing's growth can sustain the boom.

"I think it has been under-hoteled historically," he said. "[The new projects] are only going to be a positive development for the area. I think there is going to be sufficient demand."

Many people looking to stay in Flushing now are finding rooms booked solid, according to Weiss, and have to stay outside the neighborhood at facilities near LaGuardia.

Stabbing

Continued from Page 21

"Of course, it makes me nervous," said Fatema Zohra, who has owned Kacha Bazar for the past 13 years. "You don't know when it will happen again."

A man who identified himself as Patrick and works inside Jackson Heights Home Goods suggested better surveillance in the area could help authorities catch and prosecute those who break the

"What they need to do is have video cameras along this street," he said, motioning to Roosevelt Avenue. "[Police] can identify if someone is bad and catch them more easily."

Patrick said the crime also takes its toll on the small stores in the area.

"Usually this is a family street," he said. "People are afraid. Sometimes we lost money because of that."

Peralta said part of the problem is that Roosevelt Avenue is the divider line between the 110th and 115th precincts and called for one police precinct to be responsible for the busy commercial stretch. The 110th Precinct currently is responsible for the south side of the street and the 115th Precinct watches over the north side.

The lawmaker said additional measures like the revival of the Roosevelt Avenue Task Force, which was originally convened in 1991 and faded out about four years later, trash bins and video cameras were needed to increase security in the area.

"Roosevelt Avenue is referred to as the old Times Square for good reason. Cleaning it up once and for all will require the kinds of resources and determination that were invested in purging Times Square of the sleaze that flourished there for so long," he said.

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



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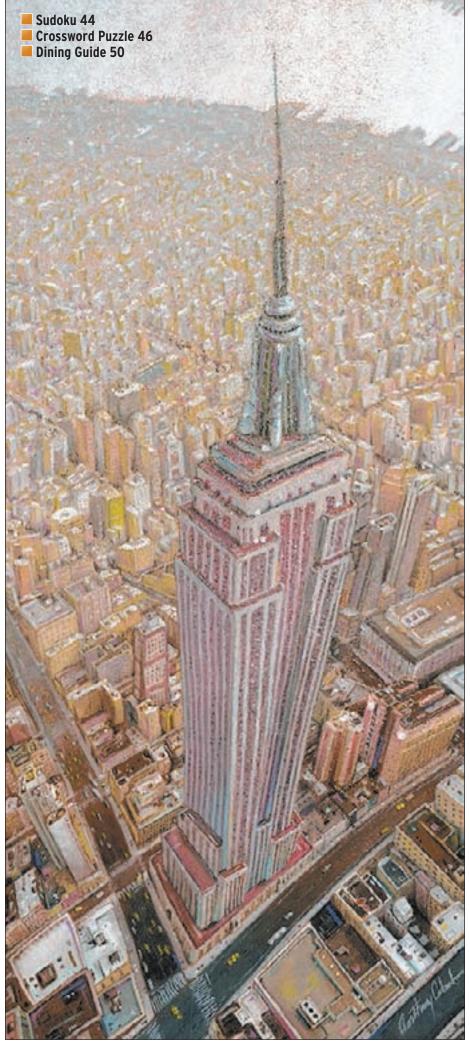
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This painting by Anthony Calandra is titled "34th-5th."

Courtesy Anthony Calandra



ASTORIA TURNS INTO ONE BIG PERFORMANGE

Second annual art festival offers gallery shows and concerts in restaurants, bars across nabe

BY ALLISON PLITT

For the next couple of weeks, the public can take a break from all their worries and ride the N or 7 trains to the 2nd Annual Astoria Arts Festival.

Immersing themselves in a world of art, partakers can see an art exhibit in a restaurant, participate in an interactive photo show or attend a concert.

This is the second year for the festival, which is being co-headed by photographer Lisabeth Nieves and design-

er Christine Haber. While last year's festival was held only for one weekend, its success led organizers to hold this year's festival for a whole week bookended by two weekends.

Eschewing traditional studios and galleries, the festival's organizers decided instead to use the walls of popular neighborhood hangouts.

"A mix of photography, paintings, illustrations and mixed-media creations from



This untitled painting is by artist Jason Barletta. Courtesy Jason Barletta

well-known and emerging local artists will hang on the walls of such beloved neighborhood restaurants, bars and shops including Queens Comfort, Sweet Afton, Hell Gate, Sparrow, Astoria Park Wine & Spirits, Lockwood and William Hallet," organizers said in a release. "There is no set schedule for viewing the art; attendees can wander into venues and linger at their leisure while enjoying some of the wonderful local food and

cocktails."

Founder of the festival, Nieves said there was a variety of 20 venues, a combination of restaurants and bars, where they would display the artwork of 30 neighborhood artists.

"We have about the same amount of artists as last year. We have about five more venues, though. A lot of new places have opened up," she said.

There is also a schedule of eight events that spans the 10-day period. The kick-off party

for the festival starts on Friday, Sept. 27, at 9 p.m. at Hell Gate Social (12-21 Astoria Blvd.) with live music from local band 10 Cent [expletive deleted]. evening doesn't end there, though. On the same night from Midnight to 4 a.m. there will be an after-party at Sparrow Tavern with an Instagram photo show with over 20 participants. Printstagram, a company that can easily print Instagram photos, is one of the festival's

Continued on Page 46

Japanese comic storytelling bows in LIC

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

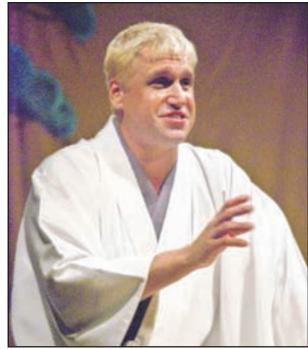
Tall and blond, Katsura Sunshine looks like he should be relating Nordic tales rather than funny Japanese stories.

But Sunshine, who was born Gregory Robic, is one of the only Westerners practicing the ancient form of rakugo comic storytelling. which combines bits of Noh and Kabuki with a smattering of Jerry Seinfeld.

On Monday, Sunshine brings his act to LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City as part of his first North American

Dressed in a traditional kimono and kneeling on a cushion, Sunshine's performance begins with a comedic monologue, which segues into a traditional story from the 400-year-old rakugo canon.

"People should expect to laugh," said Sunshine.



Katsura Sunshine, aka Gregory Robic, performs traditional Japanese rakugo storytelling at LaGuardia Community College Photo courtesy Katsura Sunshine Sept. 30.

"Rakugo is not very formal. You come out and for the first 20 minutes it is a lot like stand-up comedy. Then in the second half vou become more of a storyteller."

For the past five years, Sunshine has told stories for a living in Japan, which has been his home since he emigrated from his native Canada in 1999. In his previous life as Gregory Robic, Sunshine worked as a writer and composer creating musicals for the stage in Toronto. His pieces always dabbled in the ancients and in particular in the works of Aristophanes. The more he researched the origins of Greek theater, the clearer its connections to ancient Japanese drama became, Sunshine said.

Naturally, Sunshine lit out for the Far East to continue his studies.

One night, he wandered into his favorite local eatery just in time to catch a rakugo performance and he was hooked.

"Little did I know that my life was leading up to this," said Sunshine, "It has comedy, tradition and ceremony. This was combining everything I was doing."

About 700 performers work as rakugo storytellers in Japan today. And just like the other 699, Sunshine had to be accepted as an apprentice by one of the country's masters. In his case it was Katsura Bunshi

"My master is very famous. He is kind of like the Bill Cosby of rakugo," said Sunshine.

As an apprentice, Sunshine spent his days cleaning his master's home and ironing his kimonos. But he also learned how to be a rakugo storyteller by watching his master. He also began to memorize the 400 comic stories that make up the core of rakugo performing.

Although Sunshine hasn't written his own stories yet, which is perfectly

acceptable once the main tales are learned, he does a Japanese version of Abbot and Costello's "Who's on First?" back home.

But for his show in Queens, Sunshine plans to stick to the rakugo playbook.

"It is light-hearted and easy to understand," said Sunshine, "And I hope the cultural part is an afterthought for the audience."

IF YOU GO

Katsura Sunshine

Japanese rakugo comic storytelling

When: Monday, Sept. 30

at 6 pm

Where: LaGuardia Community College's Little Theater, 31-10 Thompson Ave., Long Island City

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 482-5151 Website: www.lagcc.cuny.

edu/lpac

sudoku

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

Astoria's Mar's offers out-of-this-world cuisine

From its eclectic menu to it speak-easy design elements, this former Greek tavern reinvents itself

BY SUZANNE PARKER

Aaaaarrrr. No, it's not the punch line of a pirate joke, but the letter that must be found in the name of a month in which it's safe to eat oysters. While that bit of folk wisdom is not necessarily true, it's as good a reason as any to hit an oyster bar in September (or October or November, and so on). Mar's, a newish Astoria watering hole offering mollusks and crustaceans, was our target.

This former home of various Greek tavernas has been transformed in

the speakeasy-ish trend of dark recycled wood, peeling paint, and a detectable funky fragrance into a place designed to attract a certain young crowd that would demur at being identified as hipsters. It also boasts some of the enticements that attract that crowd like craft beers, original cocktails, and beef identified



Mar's in Astoria offers an array of shellfish on the half-shell along with dozens of other raw bar options on its menu.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

by the farm from whence it first mooed. But its real draw is the seafood—especially the oysters.

Their raw bar, which changes its menu daily, offered an impressive assortment of East Coast oys-

ters as well as wild caught shrimp (of unspecified provenance) and Little Neck clams. Try a selection of each in order to savor the variations of brininess, sweetness and texture of the different varieties. The oysters are individually priced, from \$2.50—\$2.95 a piece. During weekday happy hours, there are always a couple of varieties going for a buck apiece. After 11 p.m., whatever oysters are left are reduced to \$2 each.

If craving a greater range of invertebrates, there is either the Plateau Royale or the Grand Plateau. These include some of the many types of oysters on hand as well crab claws, shrimp, clams and mussels. The downside of that is that without first warning us that they were out of claws, they substituted extra shrimp instead. The shrimp were exceptionally jumbo, but unappealingly flaccid. It is to their credit that they reject seafood that doesn't

Continued on Page 48

IF YOU GO

Mar's

34-21 34th Ave Astoria, NY 11106 (718) 685-2480 http://lifeatmars.com/

Price Range: Raw bar by the piece: \$1.50 - \$4; "Share plates": \$8 - \$20 Cuisine: Oysters, small plates with emphasis on seafood.

Setting: Dark, reclaimed speakeasy with outdoor café seating

Service: Friendly, but unfocused **Hours:** Kitchen: 5 p.m.- 11 p.m, Raw Bar: 5 p.m.- 1 a.m., Bar: 5 p.m.- 3:30 a.m.

p.m.- ra.m., Bar: 5 p.m.- 3:30 a.

Reservations: Optional

Alcohol: Full bar

Parking: Street

Dress: Casual

Children: It's a bar

Music: Recorded

Takeout: Yes

Credit cards: All

Noise level: Acceptable

Handicap accessible: Yes



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"Florida Fires" is a photograph created by Adrienne Claire Darnell. Courtesy Adrienne Claire Darnell

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Friday, Oct. 11th • 6pm - Midnight

Saturday, Oct. 12th • Noon - Midnight

Sunday, Oct. 13th • Noon -10pm

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42ND ANNUAL

URNS INTO ONE B

Continued from Page 43 sponsors and has provided the festival with prizes for

Another sponsor, the Impossible Project, is a company that still manufactures instant photographic materials, such as Polaroid According to cameras. Nieves, the company donated Polaroid's instant film to the festival to help set up an interactive exhibit.

ınday, Oct. 13tl

"On Saturday, Sept. 28, at 4 p.m. in a store shop called Lockwood (32-15 33rd St.)," Nieves said, "we hope to create a huge photo collage with anyone who wants to show up and be involved and see how it's done."

On the following day, Sunday, there will be two opening receptions. From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., an exhibit for photographer Clemens Kois will be held at Mar's (34-21 34th Ave.) accompanied by live music from Rudy Mungaray. From 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., work by artist Caitlin Allen will be shown at the Queens Kickshaw (40-17 Broadway) with live music also scheduled.

For the full agenda of the festival's events, those interested can go online at www.astoriaartfestival. The festival runs through Oct. 6.

Whether it is appreciating art or music, taking pictures with a Polaroid or enjoying a cocktail with some fine cuisine, Astoria's 2nd Annual Arts Festival has a little something for evervone.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers September 20-26, 2013

By Bill Deasy

Fine Feathered Friends

LAST WEEK'S **ANSWERS**

Across

- 1. Native American pole
- 6. "When I Was ____" ("HMS Pinafore" song)
- 10. Authority at home
- 13. Ebony's partner
- 14. "M*A*S*H" character
- 16. Sod buster
- 17. Pirate's pet desert
- 19. Org. for Ginsburg and Thomas
- 20. Grabs some z's
- 21. He wrote The Praise of
- 23. Lever 2000 competitor
- 25. "The McCoy"
- 26. It doesn't go full circle
- 29. Spheres of interest
- 32. Old Icelandic saga
- 34. Anthony who married J. Lo
- 36. Morton product
- 37. Word after stinking
- **39.** Secret target?
- 'easter
- **41.** Bad spots for teens?
- **42.** Flightless New Zealanders
- 44. Transitional word
- **46.** Record problem
- **47.** Stevie Wonder's ' She Lovely'
- 48. Camel lot?
- **50.** "Game, ____, match!"
- 51. Like a fine Merlot
- 53. Religious schism
- **55.** Fished like a caveman
- **58.** Put the pressure on
- **62.** Beverage measured in spots?
- **63.** Anti-war mail
- 65. Row boat need
- 66. Sugar partner, in a verse

- 67. Unsavory one
- 68. "Little Giant" Mel
- gin fizz
- 70. Roots author Alex

Down

- 1. Waiters' rewards
- 2. Office for Obama
- 3. Went really fast
- 4. Proved to be human
- 5. Mr. Magoo's problem 6. Gallery hangings
- **7.** Add punch to punch?
- 8. Jewish calendar month
- 9. Senegal seaport
- 10. Helpful moving birds
- 11. Flash (impromptu gatherings)
- **12.** Split soup
- 15. Tend to the bird feeder
- 18. Russian royals
- 22. Plaid fabric
- 24. Wilderness home
 - Uncontrolled

- 27. Geometry r's
- 28. Birds separating
- 30. Hilo hello
- 31. Cause of some fractures
- 33. Tomorrow singer
- 35. Recoil in distaste
- 38. Stayed fresh
- 43. Bed and home attachment
- 45. Bro's daughter
- 49. Rob Roy need
- 52. Hints of rain
- 54. Tank fish
- **55.** Center of government
- 56. Villain's forte
- **57.** Art ('20s style)
- 59. Part of an angler's gear
- 60. Prairie Indian tribe
- **61.** Award presented by Chris Berman
- **62.** "A Bridge _ Far"
- 64. To Kill A Mockingbird
 - author
- By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

Jason Kao Hwang's **Burning Bridge** Sun, Oct 6, 4:00 PM - \$20/\$15 Members/\$10 Students With fiery interplay between Chinese & Western instruments, Jason Kao Hwang's Burning Bridge is a dramatic journey of sonic discoveries and sets ablaze the boundaries of cultural identity. **TICKETS & INFO:**

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This program is supported by New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation; Chamber Music America; WAC Lighting Company, Co-founder Tai Wang, It is also supported by Presenting Jazz, a program of Chamber Music America funded through the generosity of the Doris Duk Charitable Foundation. Promotional support in partnership with New York University's Asian/Pacfic/American Institute



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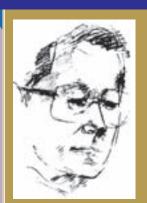
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Continued from Page 45

meet their standards on a given evening, but not without warning the diner, who may have been eagerly anticipating those claws.

Ironically, the fine print on the bottom of the menu states "No Substitutions Please."

If raw seafood doesn't appeal, there are ample other tasty and trendy options. The clam chowder. suffused with bacon, is loaded with clams, while the potato plays an agreeably minor roll. An architectural heirloom tomato salad embodies what is wonderful about late summer. Crunchy fried spearing, dipped in seasoned rice flour and lemon made

a delicate protein rich alternative to the usual fried bar items. This is definitely a dish to share.

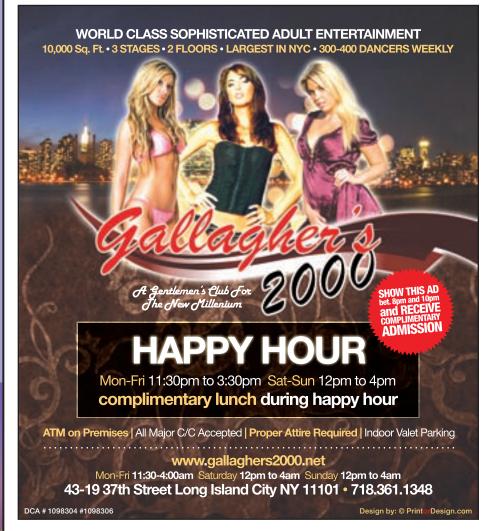
For something more substantial, there is steak grites for two, boasting a 24-ounce New York strip steak from Painted Hills Farms. It's served with truffle butter and a side of fries with house-made mayo. This beef, according to the Painted Hills website, is "grass fed and finished. and raised without growth hormones or antibiotics." If vou've been looking warily at supermarket meat lately, this should be reassuring.

Mar's opened in June, and only recently expanded its menu to include brunch and dinner. As with many newbies, the service is bumpy. The pacing was erratic. Mistakes were multiple. Instead of the fingerlings we ordered, fries arrived, and preceded the seafood platter they were intended to accompany. A wrong drink was delivered. It was promised to be comped, and then wasn't.

The Bottom Line

Mar's Bar is nothing to Snicker at. Order Mounds of oysters or some Chunky clam chowder. Nestle into the outdoor seating with your Sugar Daddy under the Milky Way. They're open until well After Eight.

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.



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Queens Public Communications Corporation



The Board of Directors of Queens Public Communications Corporation (QPCC) is pleased to announce that the Executive Director of Queens Public Television (QPTV), Daniel J. Leone, has been appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of QPCC.

Mr. Leone has a long and successful history with the company and we welcome his ability to make meaningful contributions to both the company's technology and mission strategy.

Patrick J. DiMotta

Chairman, Queens Public Communications Corporation

Daniel J. Leone has been with QPTV for 25 years. Prior to his promotion he held the position of Executive Director and Director of Engineering of Queens Public Television (QPTV). He was and continues to be responsible for the oversight of all daily operations of the company including the cablecasting of four channels on Time Warner, Verizon FiOS, and RCN cable networks. As Director of Engineering, he is responsible for the infrastructure of the television facility. Mr. Leone has worked closely with regulatory agencies and the cable operators renegotiating franchise agreements with the cable companies to ensure QPTV's future.

Mr. Leone plays a significant role in supporting dozens of Queens's not-for-profit organizations by providing them with the means to communicate their message to borough residents through community television. Prior to his promotion to Executive Director, he also held positions as the Director of Engineering, Studio Operations Manager, Field Production Manager, and Trainer. In these positions, he has produced and directed hundreds of television programs and public service announcements.

In 2013, Mr. Leone accepted the Overall Excellence in Public Access Television Award presented by The Alliance for Community Media on behalf of QPTV. As Executive Director, he has received top honors as Executive Producer for an original series about Mental Healthcare in Queens. Recently the Josephine Foundation awarded Mr. Leone the 2013 Chairman's Honoree Award for his many years of service as Executive Director of QPTV and his work with dozens of charitable organizations. Among other honors, he has received a national award as Executive Producer for "Circle of Life: Excellence in Queens Healthcare" series. He is the recipient of many citations and awards presented by the U.S. Department of Commerce; Bureau of the Census; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – HHS Image Award; City of New York - Mayor's office and Fire Department; and the Office of the Queens Borough President.

Mr. Leone has also been a member of National Association of Broadcasters; the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences; and the Alliance for Community Media. He also serves on the Queens Advisory Board of Directors for VISIONS Services for the Blind. For this work, he has received recognition for supporting an employer/employee cooperative work program for the visually impaired. Recognizing the convergence of traditional television and the internet, Mr. Leone, along with the support of the Board of Directors and staff, is planning the expansion of technology that will enable QPTV to remain relevant over the next decade.





QPTV is a not-for-profit private corporation serving the residents of Queens. QPTV cablecasts the most diverse programming to the most diverse community in the world reaching over 475,000 subscribers 24 hours a day, everyday.

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Business

Flushing shop dishes out SiChuan cuisine

Food stall at downtown's Golden Mall a spicy gem in neighborhood overflowing with food options

BY JOE ANUTA

Flushing is awash in Chinese restaurants, but on closer inspection many eateries, like Cheng Du Tian Fu, pay homage to the enormous country's specific regions and cuisines, which can vary widely.

The modest food stall is tucked away in the basement of Golden Mall, on the corner of 41st Road and Main Street, and dishes up expertly prepared cuisine from the SiChuan province, known for its fiery and distinct dishes.

"SiChuan food also focuses on the color and smell," owner Xie Wen Hong said through a translator. "It smells good, looks good and tastes good."

The small operation has been family-run ever since Hong and her chef husband set up shop after emmigrating from the region in 2005.

Luckily for Flushing, they brought their culinary know-how with them.

SiChuan cuisine is distinct. The eponymous hot pepper native to the region gives the mouth a tingling feeling along with the heat.

Hong's shop serves a sizable population of expatriates looking to get a taste of home, but famed dishes from the province are a hit with just about everyone, including a growing number of gourmands who are just getting turned on to SiChuanese-style



Xie Wen Hong stands behind a new lunch counter boasting a wide variety of SiChuan snacks. Photo by Joe Anuta

cooking.

Dan dan noodles are one of the restaurant's most popular and well-prepared meals, according to Hong.

The chefs pour a liberally spiced sauce into the bottom of a bowl before adding noodles,



Top: After mixing the spicy sauce to coat everything in the bowl, dan dan noodles are ready to eat.

Bottom: Dan dan noodles are served with a bed of minced pork on top, but the real flavor lies with the spicy sauce and greens hidden under the noodles. Photos by Joe Anuta

greens and minced pork to make the hearty, famous dish.

Ma Pao Tofu is synonymous with the western Chinese province, where hunks of tofu are served in a chili and meat sauce.

Another signature meal is Fu Qi Fei Pian, which consists of beef, cow stomach and tendon cooked with more SiChuan-style spices.

Although this might turn off less-adventurous eaters not used to consuming organ meat, the tripe and tendon balance perfectly with the spices, cilantro and peanuts to make a singular entree. The meal was a hit at the second annual Flushing Food Festival over the summer, where Cheng Du Tian Fu showcased its wares alongside some of the neighborhood's best restaurants.

It can sometimes be difficult for restaurants to make a name in the crowded downtown Flushing area. Just across the hallway from Cheng Du Tian Fu is a restaurant called Xi'an Famous Noodles, written about by many citywide papers and once visited by celebrity chef Anthony Bour-

But Cheng Du Tian Fu has kept quality consistent while churning out some of the tastiest treats along Main Street for more than six years.

The key, according to Hong, is striking a balance by adding just the right amount of unique flair to traditional dishes.

The small shop is expanding, however. Hong recently added a lunch counter in front of the kitchen, where diners can enjoy their food and gaze into a glass case housing an array of cold, SiChuag-style snack foods.

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

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

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: powerfulvou.com

Power Networking Group - Led by Harvey

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

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

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly Meeting - BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification

or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

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

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

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The Eastern Queens and Long Island Networking Group - This unique business networking group discusses today's challenges and helps form alliances. Relationships are built. Facilitator is Gayle Naftaly, rainmaker, entrepreneur, coordinator, leader and organizer with contacts.

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ВТ



WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER HOLDS 17th ANNUAL GOLF & TENNIS CLASSIC MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Golf and Tennis Enthusiasts Invited to Play for a Good Cause

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC) Board of Trustees invites golfers and tennis players to its 17th Annual Golf and Tennis Classic on Monday, September 30, 2013 at the Old Westbury Golf and Country Club, 270 Wheatley Road, Old Westbury, NY 11568

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center is a voluntary, not-for-profit 360-bed teaching hospital located in an ethnically diverse residential neighborhood on the border of northern Brooklyn and western Queens. This event will support the hospital's mission to provide the highest quality of care in

The classic will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a sumptuous brunch. A shotgun signal at 11:30 a.m. will kick off 18 holes of golf and the tennis matches. The registration fee of \$500 for golf and \$400 for tennis include an elegant cocktail reception and dinner at 4:30 p.m.

"The need to remain viable is essential because of the unstable healthcare environment in Brooklyn. We are pleased that Wyckoff Heights Medical Center continues to make great strides; but your support is vital for us to do much more," said Gary Goffner, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. "Don't miss out on this opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones and enjoy an exciting day outdoors while supporting a worthy cause!"

Golfers may register individually or as a foursome. Those who sign up individually will be grouped with a foursome. Online registration and sponsorship opportunities are available at www.wyckoffhospital.org/golf2013 or by contacting Wyckoff's Chief of Staff, Hector Cruzado, at 718-963-7151or hcruzado@wyckoffhospital.org

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center is a voluntary, not-for-profit 350-bed teaching hospital located in an ethnically diverse residential neighborhood on the border of northern Brooklyn and western Queens. Founded in 1889, the hospital is committed to providing the highest quality care to our community through prevention, education and treatment in a safe environment.

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Sports

SFP runs past Kellenberg

Justin Guerre leads Terriers to victory with three touchdowns

BY JOHN TOLIS

Kellenberg ended St. Francis Prep's season with a heartbreaking overtime playoff loss last year.

For that the Terriers and senior star running back Justin Guerre got to exact a measure of revenge with a 30-20 win over the Firebirds in CHSFL Football at Mitchel Field Saturday night.

Guerre was the Terriers' catalyst for the second straight week with a stellar performance against Kellenberg. He ran for three touchdowns and set up the Terriers' fourth. Guerre rushed for 142 yards and had three receptions for 95 yards. He showed everyone in attendance that he's the real deal, especially late in the fourth quarter.

The Terriers, who were clinging to a threepoint lead, began to put the game out of reach when quarterback William Gluck hit Guerre around the midfield. Guerre then took care of the rest and ran down to the Firebirds' 3-yard line for a 60-yard gain.

"Bread and butter play right there, wide open," Gluck said. "Just Justin being Justin, him outrunning everyone and getting up the

That set up fellow running back Tariq Olivier to finish the drive with a 3-yard run into the end zone to give St. Francis (2-1, 2-0) a commanding 30-20 lead. After the Terrier touchdown. Kellenberg had no time to bounce back. Throughout the game SFP used Guerre as its main weapon. He got warmed up in the first quarter when he broke away and ran for a 19-yard touchdown, which helped give his team a 7-6 lead. Between Guerre and Anthony Vieto, the Firebirds had trouble controlling the Terriers' running game.

St. Francis Prep's Justin Guerre holds out his hands as he scores a touchdown.

Photo by William Thomas

On its second possession of the game, St. Francis Prep handed it off to Guerre yet again, who ran it in for a 17-yard touchdown, making the score 14-6. Kellenberg sliced the deficit late in the first half when quarterback Kyle Driscoll connected with wide out Connor Gross on a 14-yard touchdown pass that made the score 14-12.

"Justin is a special kid," St. Francis Prep assistant Coach Richie Carroll said. "He forces defenses to take notice of him wherever he is on the field."

Even though Guerre and the Terriers' offense put on a show, Carroll was impressed by the defense.

"When we had to come up big, we came up big," Carroll said. "We were able to stop them in certain situations."

Kellenberg (0-3, 0-2) didn't have the same luck against the Terriers and Guerre. The season just started and already Guerre has rushed more than 100 yards in consecutive games. He thinks he can still do more.

"I think I did pretty good," Guerre said of his performance. "I still gotta get better in everything."



Mary Louis' Therese Boyle takes a corner kick during the game against Cardinal Spellman. Photo by Ken Maldonado

Mary Louis team ties with Spellman

BY ANTHONY PARELLI

Mary Louis couldn't capitalize on a quick start.

Six minutes into the game, star senior Therese Boyle scored six minutes into the game from close range, but that was all the Hilltoppers could muster. They had to settle for a 1-1 tie with Cardinal Spellman in a CHSAA Intersectional girls' soccer game at Joseph Austin Playground last Friday.

"We need to finish better," TMLA Coach Tom Bruen said. "We need to anticipate a little bit better and our composure needs to come up a little bit."

Mary Louis (0-1-2) was able to maintain offensive pressure on the Pilots after Boyle's goal. Forwards Colette Craig and Nalae

Crossland were able to get deep into Spellman territory, but didn't record another goal to show for it.

Spellman sophomore Emma Carrillo tied the score at 1-1 in the 58th minute with a 30-yard strike from the center of the pitch. The Pilots' defense held strong to keep the game deadlocked despite the best efforts of TMLA midfielder Rachel Spampinato. She facilitated the offensive effort, but her pinpoint passes weren't enough to give her team another score.

"She's just a monster, she's a great player in the middle," Bruen said.

Even Spampinato knows the team must do more to earn a victory.

"We moved together as a unit rather well, but I Continued on Page 57



56 SJU misses opportunity to sign Whitehead

Lincoln star player's commitment to play for Seton Hall not a game changer for Lavin's Red Storm



Joseph Staszewski Block Shots

St. John's University's loss to tri-state rival Seton Hall in the basketball recruitment of Abraham Lincoln hoops star Isaiah Whitehead is a blow, just not the end of the world.

Whitehead, the No. 12-ranked prospect nationally in the class of 2014 by scout.com, announced at a news conference Sept. 19 that he will be heading to the South Orange, N.J., school over the Red Storm, Indiana, Minnesota and Pittsburgh.

He is a big get for the Pirates as they look to con-

tinue to bring in talent to re-energize the program after a losing season. For St. John's, it's another potential local All-American to pass on the school since Christ the King's Omar Cook committed there in

What it is not is a sign that the Johnnies are an undesirable place for local talent. Whitehead took the time for an 11th-hour visit the night before his decision. St. John's just didn't put enough effort in his recruitment.

Losing Whitehead during the Norm Roberts era or the first year of current Coach Steve Lavin would have been more alarming. The 6-foot-4 Whitehead, a combo guard, is a programchanging player without a doubt. Except St. John's



Lincoln's Isaiah Whitehead (I.) dribbles around Boys & Girls' Antoine Photo by Christina Santucci

isn't in dire need of that type of kid anymore. But you never like to lose one of them from your own back-

St. John's has no one to blame but itself despite Seton Hall reportedly hav-

ing offered Lincoln Coach Dwayne "Tiny" Morton an assistant coaching job next season. The Johnnies were the first to offer Whitehead a scholarship, but then were non-existent this past summer during a crucial point in the process. This wasn't a player St. John's went very hard after until the very end and it bothered him.

"I don't think it was tough because they really didn't see me as the face of St. John's before," Whitehead said. "I don't understand why they would

It's a missed opportunity for both. No Red Storm players are more beloved than the ones from New York City, who have been part of some successful teams. Chris Mullin, Mark Jackson, Felipe Lopez, Ron Artest, Eric Barkley and even Dwight Hardy come to mind. Whitehead could have been one of those guys and and maybe even more, according to his coach at the Coney Island high

"He might be the face of the Big East if he does the right thing," Morton said.

He is a loss, no doubt. Whitehead is a top-25 player who is the most well-known New York City high school basketball star, but his absence doesn't set the program back. Seton Hall needed Whitehead to further its credibility. St. John's is past that point. There will be more talented players to come for the Johnnies.

They just won't be named Isaiah Whitehead.

Cardozo volleyball team aims for PSAL city title

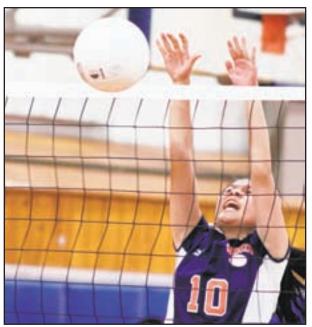
BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

A junior-heavy Benjamin Cardozo team fell two wins shy of a volleyball city title last season. The bulk of the squad is back and plans on finishing the job.

"Everyone wants to win this year because we are all leaving," senior setter Jessica Yin said.

The Judges feature nine seniors on their roster this season, including a new addition in 5-foot-11 transfer Anja Malesevic from Serbia. Head Coach Dan Scarola understands he has a talented bunch, but isn't going to dub them city title-ready just yet.

"We have to put it all together," he said. "We have to see what we have here, find that second hitter. We have to be able to play good defense and just put that whole package together."



Cardozo's Jessica Yin tries to score a point against Poly Prep. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

The addition of Malesevic, an outside hitter, is a key part to that package for Cardozo, which lost to Bronx Science in last year's PSAL Class A semifinals. The Judges saw star hit-Continued on Page 57

Bayside JV coach to take helm of boys' varsity hoops squad

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The new face of Bavside boys' basketball is a familiar one.

Junior varsity Coach and Commodores alumnus Steve Scharf was named the new varsity headman, according to Athletic Director Joe Capuana. He takes over for Cory Semper, who left to coach at High School for Construction. Scharf is also an absent teacher reserve at the school.

"It's a great feeling to be able to coach my alma mater," Scharf said. "Coaching the JV team the last five years, it's great that I pretty much get to coach my kids throughout their high school careers."

Capuana said Scharf was up for the job five years ago when he hired Semper, who was a better fit at the time. The athletic director



Steve Scharf is taking over the role as the Bayside High School boys' varsity hoops coach. Photo courtesy Bayside High School

believes Scharf, who was around the Bayside and Queens College programs as a manager growing up, is more prepared to take over now. He's grown as a person, a coach and a leader.

"There seems to be a different level of maturity in him," Capuana said.

He has been impressive with Scharf's development of players on the junior varsity team. Capuana thinks bringing players

along gradually is something the program will look to do moving forward, limiting the number of kids who jump right to varsity.

"The kids are going to develop as freshman and sophomores and then get their opportunities a little bit later to kind of stabilize the program," he said.

Scharf takes over a team that lost much of its roster after winning the

Continued on Page 57

ter Alexis Hamilton move back to California after her freshman season to seek better competition, according to Scarola. Malesevic gave them an immediate, more polished replacement.

She dominated in a 25-16, 25-22, 25-20 non-league win over Poly Prep last week. Malesevic displayed plenty of hitting power. smarts to know where to place the ball each time and a good, all-around skill set.

"Once she started playing we were just like, 'Whoa, she's great," Yin

Scarola is still looking for a second consistent weapon out of a strong group of hitters that includes middles Simaran Wilson and Alyssa McAdams and Whitney Young on the outside. He thinks right now Young could be the one to break out because of her athleticism, and so do her teammates.

"She's improved so much," senior libero Rachel Ng said.

So has Yin in the coach's mind. She was one of the top setters in the city last season, but has gotten much smarter playing the

position. Yin knows who should be getting past the ball and is less concerned

"Last vear it was let me mix it up and see how many people I can set, not realizing you have to put the emphasis on the best hitters that have the hot hand at that moment. She is starting to realize that and do that now."

The Judges as a whole realize the opportunity in front of them. They want to bring home the school's second city title in the last three years.

"We are pushing ourselves to try to make it," Ng said.

with a balanced attack.

think our touches can get better," she said. "We're going to work hard in practice and I'm positive we'll be better next week." Mary Louis pressured

> and played hard all afternoon but couldn't overcome a tough Spellman defense. "I think we have to

Mary Louis

Continued from Page 55

move the ball better and be faster," Spampinato said. "I think today our heads were there, just not necessarily our feet."

This is the first season of intersectional play between teams from Brooklvn/Queens and Bronx/ Westchester. It was a chance for the Hilltoppers, the Brooklyn/Queens runner-up the last two seasons, to test themselves against new opponents. Bruen loves the idea.

"I want as many of them as we can positively get," Bruen said. "It helps you get better. When you

get these intersectionals, 57 you just don't know what you're getting. It's phenomenal. I'll play any team that wanted to."

Spampinato agrees that the new challenges benefit everyone instead of playing the same few teams.

"I think it's good to get our names out there," Spampinato said. "It gives us a chance to practice different tactics against different teams."

, 2013

Coach

school's first PSAL Queens title. He thinks the transition will be smooth because a good portion of his JV team will be moving up to the varsity with him. Scharf was 56-15 as the junior varsity coach and as interim coach helped lead it was time for him to get a

"I think he's ready." he

Scharf thinks his responsibility to his players goes beyond wins and

"Our job as a coach

goes beyond basketball," Scharf said. "If I get all my kids into college and they graduate on time, regardless if they play basketball in college, I feel like I did

It is one he is happy to

"How many times can someone coach where they went as a kid?" Scharf

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Continued from Page 56

shot at the big job. losses.

the girls' basketball team on a Cinderella run to the PSAL Class A semifinals in 2012. Capuana thought

my job."

be taking on.

asked.

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Principal

Continued from Page 1

said the city knew nothing about the lawsuit against Brown or the settlement when he was hired to serve as principal for Flushing High School.

"When DOE officials contacted the Baldwin school district for a recommendation, they did not disclose this information," she said in a statement.

The city would not comment on whether or not a background check was conducted on the former Long Island educator, but the New York Post reported that Brown's past only came to light once teachers at Flushing High School ran his name through Google in the days leading up to the new school year.

Brown could not be reached for comment. The school's website, however, still listed Brown as principal at press time.

The educator's appointment infuriated members of Community Board 7, who voiced their opposition to the DOE's decision to hire him.

During a Monday meeting, CB 7 Chairman Gene Kelty encouraged City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) to investigate how Brown's installation at the troubled institution



The principal of Flushing High School is also a former administrator for a school on Long Island, where he was accused of sexual harassment.

happened.

In the 2010 suit, former Baldwin Middle School Dean of Students Cheryl Farb accused Brown of various verbal improprieties, including asking her to file a school report as "tight as a virgin's, well, you know what is tight on a virgin," the Post reported.

Complaints also alleged Brown had told a staffer at the school to use her "womanly skills to fake an apology," among other accusations.

The resurfacing of Brown's questionable past came at a murky time for Flushing High School, one year after Mayor Michael Bloomberg tried shutting the school down and reopening it with fewer staffers along with 23 others throughout the city in November. The DOE chose schools throughout the city based on their progress report scores, but a state appellate court order blocked the proposal after the United Federation of Teachers filed a lawsuit saying it violated the union's contract with the DOE.

The DOE said Brown had previous experience working in the city, having been a substitute teacher in 1988 as well as a middle-school math teacher, assistant principal and principal in Brooklyn before resigning in 2001 to take the Baldwin Middle School job.

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

PEP

Continued from Page 4

through in that school from downtown," he said. "The support is not coming, but the turmoil is certainly coming."

In Springfield Gardens, IS 59 is currently sharing its building with several grades from PS 176 as that school awaits completion of an addition to its facilities in Cambria Heights. The DOE is proposing to co-locate a Success Charter Academy school, one of two planned for the borough. The other would be at August Martin High School in South Jamaica.

Leslie Myers, a parent of two IS 59 students, said there are already problems with the two schools concerning sharing the cafeteria and traffic, and asked the DOE to hold off on the proposal until parents could better sort the plan out.

"We are asking for a postponement of the Oct. 30 vote until another walkthrough of the physical building can be done during an active, regular school day," she told the panel.

The panel normally puts forth its proposals in the second half of the school year, but with Bloomberg on his way out the process is getting a headstart this time around.

With a new administration on the way and mayoral control coming up for review, it is unclear

what the panel, which has been criticized as a rubber stamp for Bloomberg's policies, will look like next year

One thing that is almost certain is that most of its current members will be gone, and UFT representative James Vasquez said he could not be happier.

"The great thing about it is we're watching this, and we're going to be sitting there and the community's going to stay organized. But even more than all of this, we're going to be watching all you leave the door," he said.

"Everybody here in the community is going to be here long after you are all gone," he concluded with a loud show of applause.

De Blasio

Continued from Page 4

ening the middle class. As Queens Democrats, we are proud to support Bill de Blasio as our next mayor."

The mayoral candidate thanked the county Democrats who offered their support Monday, but he also used the event as a forum to hit his campaign's key points.

"We don't accept the notion of a tale of two cities," said de Blasio. "We don't think that is the way things are meant to be." De Blasio believes New Yorkers don't want to see hospitals shut down and turned into luxury condos. He wants to work to ensure local restaurants and retails shops aren't fined out of business. And he promises stopping residents of color for a police patdown will never be allowed to happen again under his watch.

"This election is about whose side you're on," said de Blasio. "I'm on the side of the middle class, the working class and the poor in all five boroughs."

De Blasio, a Brooklyn resident, emphasized New

York City is much more than Manhattan. He believes that is a concept the current administration never grasped.

"The mayor has to spend time here on the ground with the people to understand them and their concerns," said de Blasio. "The energy and unity you see today is not just in the abstract. I'm standing with people who know how to reach out to yoters."

Reach News Editor Kevin Zimmerman at 718-260-4541 or at kzimmerman@ cnglocal.com.

Helicopter

Continued from Page 1

residents and reduced property values.

"There are days when homes vibrate, things fall off shelves," said Alfredo Centola, of the Malba Gardens Civic Association.

The majority of the helicopters travel between helipads in Manhattan and points east along Long Island, including tony destinations at the island's eastern forks, according to state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and state Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz (D-Electchester), who protested alongside homeowners this week.

Last year, in response to complaints of helicopter noise in Suffolk and Nassau counties and pressure from U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), the Federal Aviation Administration instituted a mandatory North Shore route to push choppers out over the Long Island Sound and keep them from flying above residential areas.

The route begins off the coast of Huntington, L.I., miles away from Queens.

But how pilots get between Manhattan and that route is at the heart of the problem in Queens and the subject of hot debate.

A helicopter taking off from Manhattan and bound for Long Island has several possible routes, including a few crossing Queens and Brooklyn and one along the south shore of Long Island, according to flight maps. One of those routes flies directly over Malba and Whitestone.

The Eastern Region Helicopter Council, a non-profit that represents helicopter pilots, contends the Malba and Whitestone route is the safest way to traverse the restricted airspace of LaGuardia Airport and travel on to the start of the North Shore Route about 17 miles away from the Queens border.

The council wants to get rid of the route, which would eliminate choppers buzzing Queens communities and allow them to fan out over the island, it said.

"Last year at the urging of Sen. Schumer and other Long Island elected officials, the FAA reduced the flight paths available and implemented a mandated North Shore route that requires helicopters to repeatedly fly over the Whitestone and Malba communities," said Jeff Smith, spokesman for the coun-

cil. "To best help the local communities, we urge Sen. Tony Avella and Assembly member Mike Simanowitz to talk to Sen. Schumer and the FAA to repeal the mandatory North Shore route and return to a more diversified flight path to alleviate the impacts to these important communities."

But Schumer's office countered that no one route over Queens is mandatory—the pilots are deliberately picking the shortest shot to the North Shore route to save time and fuel.

"The Eastern Regional Helicopter Council is either ignorant, lying or both they could solve this entire problem by simply flying over water and flying higher, but so far they've refused," said Max Young, spokesman for Schumer. "For the ERHC ... to say that they are required to fly over certain houses in Queens in order to follow a proscribed route that doesn't start until the middle of Long Island is absurd and dishonest."

The council said it shares a goal with Schumer to end excessive noise for residents.

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

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The LLC process to: 242-16 84rd, Bellerose, 11426 Purpose: any lawful

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company Name: IDLEWILD ENTERPRISES SOLÁR LLC. Articles Organization filed with Secretary of State of New (SSNY) 08/16/2013. 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, 32 Cherry Wood Lane, Port Washington, NY 11050. Purnose: any lawful Purpose: any lawful

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY OF LIMITED COMPANY. N. PROPERTY, LI NAME: IMG LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/30/13. 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, 66th Avenue, Hills, New York Forest Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: EVERESTIT Articles Organization filed with Secretary of State of New (SSNY) or 07/03/2013. Office location: Queens County SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of

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SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 10517 77th Street, Ozone Park, 11417. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: THE FIRE TRUCK LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New (SSNY) York (SSINT) 07/31/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of designated as agent or LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 100-24 199th Street, Hollis, NY 11423. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SKY VIEW 1506 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/30/2013. Of-fice location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, C/O Law Office of Z. Tan PLLC, 39-07 Prince St., Ste. 3B, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: NYCHO-MEREPAIRS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) οn 07/02/2013. Office location: y. SSNY agent of Queens County. designated as LLC upon whom process

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The to: 144-50 69th Rd., Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC) Name: ZONA
PUNTO LLC Articles of filed Organization Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/16/2013. 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: C/O Business Filings Incorporated, Road, Suite Wolf 101 12205 Albany. Purpose: purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: EM REALTY GROUP LLC. Articles were of Organization with the filed Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/23/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 31-87 Steinway Street, 1A. Steinway Street, 1A, Astoria, New York 11103 Purpose: For any lawfu purpose.

Notice of Formation of STB Events LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 8/1/13. Office Queens County location: Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process

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St., Jamaica, NY 11435 principal business address lawful Purpose: any

TZZ NEWS LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 06/27/2013. tion: Que Office loca-Queens SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 3503 29TH ST. APT. 6G, AS-TORIA, NY 11106. General

Waterview Nursing Care Center, 119-15 27th Ave-nue, Flushing, N.Y. 11354: This facility does not dis-criminate 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 ence.

Notice is hereby that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on September, 2013, N bearing the index NC-000807-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica. 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) HASINA (Last) My present (First) HASINA QURESHÍ. name is (Last) HASINA (infant). My present address is 150-21 75th Rd, Apt. 1E, Flushing, NY 11367. My place of NY 11367. My place of birth is Afghanistan. My date of birth is June 2004

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Assume the name of (First) SHAFIULLAH (Last) QU RESHI. My present name is (First) SHAFIULLAH (Last) QURESHI. My (First) present name SHAFIULLAH (Last) SHA-(infant) FIULLAH M١ Present address is 75th Rd., Apt. 1E, Flushing, NY 11367-. My Place of birth is Afghanistan. My date of birth is May 21,

Assume the name of (First) KHATERA (Last) QURE-SHI. My present name is (First) SHAFIULLAH (Last) QURESHI. My present name is (First) KHATERA (Last) KHATERA (infant). 150-21 75th Rd., Apt. 1E, Flushing, NY 11367- My Place of birth is Afghanistan. My date of birth is May 27, 2007.

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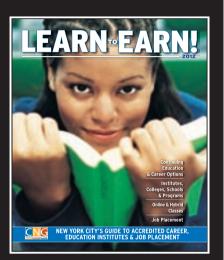
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