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heft of Flushing business**

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**Burglary spree
across Queens
ends in arrests**

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Two Queens men were arrested last weekend and charged separately in a rash of burglaries that were committed across the borough over the last six months, the Queens district attorney's office said.

Raheim West, 37, of Long Island City, and Randolph Ardila, 29, of Maspeth, allegedly participated in a number of burglaries hitting a range of targets in a long list of neighborhoods, the DA

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Weprin wants hazing redefined

Assemblyman introduces 'Michael Deng's Law' to crack down on harmful initiations

BY KELSEY DURHAM

State Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) announced new legislation Sunday aimed at cracking down on hazing after the recent death of Mi-

chael Deng, a 19-year-old Baruch College student from Oakland Gardens who died in December from injuries he sustained during a fraternity hazing ritual.

Weprin held a news conference Sunday afternoon outside

Baruch College, at the corner of 24th Street and Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, where he described a bill he has named "Michael Deng's Law." The bill is designed to amend the current definition of hazing in the New

York penal code to include any physical contact that puts another person at risk for injury during any kind of initiation.

Weprin said he drafted the legislation in response to the

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SHELL EXAM



Instructor Edna Santana shows off an Eastern box turtle to youngsters (l.-r.) Jessica Lish, Jordan and April Koffi and John Rouvelas during an animal care training class at the Alley Pond Environmental Center. **See more photos on Page 18.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

MAILING ADDRESS GOES HERE

Baysider starts ‘Mass Mob’

College student wants to help Catholic churches with new movement

BY KELSEY DURHAM

With the changing face of religion in the 21st century, one Bayside resident is trying to help restore the luster to some churches whose enrollment and financial situations have suffered in recent years.

Michael Cadigan, a student at the Catholic Newman Center at Queens College, has brought a grassroots movement called NYC Mass Mob to Queens with the goal of helping struggling churches regain members.

Each month, Cadigan will produce a list of the four poorest Catholic churches in New York City and the public can vote on them. The winning church will receive a visit from the Mass Mob, a large group of supporters who will attend mass at the church in hopes of bringing attention to the institution.

Cadigan said he was inspired to start the NYC Mass Mob, a play-on-words on the phrase “flash mob,” after hearing about a similar program happening in Buffalo. He said the movement in the western part of the state has already gained a large following, and he decided to try his hand at bringing the concept to the city.

“The idea just really captivated me and I figured I would try and start my own movement,” he said. “It sounds funny, ‘mass mob,’ but that’s what makes



Our Lady of Sorrows in Corona is one of four churches chosen to be part of the NYC Mass Mob movement that aims to help struggling churches regain members.
Photo by Christina Santucci

it interesting.”

Cadigan began going out into the community about two weeks ago and pitching his ideas to local churches to gauge their reactions and see if it was something church leaders would be interested in. He said the people he has talked to so far believe in his idea and think it will help churches in need.

“It’s a good way to show off churches that need a boost,” he said. “It raises money and awareness and inspires people to go back to their faith.”

After speaking with a local priest and obtaining a list of the poorest churches in the city, Cadigan chose the four at the top of the list, one being Our Lady of Sorrows in Corona, to partici-

pate in his first Mass Mob. Starting in a few weeks, he said, the public can vote online for one of the four churches to get a visit once voting closes.

Cadigan said he is not simply trying to raise funds for any certain denomination of religion. To him, the idea behind the NYC Mass Mob is more about introducing people of all faiths to other sects and discovering other areas of religion.

“For example, there’s a pretty significant Korean community here in Bayside and I think the Mass Mob will show that the Catholic Church is inclusive,” Cadigan said.

So far, Cadigan said he has a large group of people who have joined his movement, and the Facebook

page he set up for the NYC Mass Mob already has more than 100 supporters. When he is ready to launch the voting, those interested in participating can visit nycmassmob.com to cast their ballots.

Cadigan said he is hoping the movement grows in size and popularity as it continues and plans to visit one church every month, starting with smaller ones and working up to the larger churches in the city.

But for now, he said, he is simply looking to help someone in need.

“It’s an unconventional idea, but I think it’s intriguing and inspiring,” he said. “Hopefully, it makes people interested in going to church again.”

One Flushing launches e-commerce boot camp

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Over the next five months, Flushing business owners and entrepreneurs will be able to take advantage of a new program that will enable them to become more Web savvy.

One Flushing, a community-based economic development center, launched a boot camp last Thursday to offer assistance to businesses seeking to establish an online presence through a number of tools, including social media.

“We’re hoping the use of social media, Web and online marketing could propel some of these businesses to generate more sales and customers outside of their existing base,” said John Choe, the organization’s director.

One Flushing has been holding business assistance workshops over the last year, but the new boot camp’s focus on new technologies is a fresh approach for Flushing businesses hoping to bring themselves into the digital age, Choe said.

The program will run in monthly workshops on

the last Thursday of every month. The next session will be being March 27.

Choe said the organization decided to focus on e-commerce this year, after hearing feedback from last year’s participants who wanted to learn how they can apply new technologies to their businesses.

The boot camp will teach businesses about targeting a wider customer base by building their own websites and signing up for new services, such as an online payment system that bypasses credit card companies and provides a secure way of avoiding high transaction fees.

After each workshop, there will be an opportunity for entrepreneurs and business owners to have one-on-one consulting sessions the following Friday. The program’s facilitators, who are all volunteers from the community that have a background in information technology, will use these to follow up with participants and to help launch specific technologies for existing businesses such as websites and social media

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Members of One Flushing kick off last year’s business boot camp.
Photo courtesy One Flushing

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Bayside welcomes national network for television shoot

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BT

CBS uses businesses along Bell Boulevard to film second-season episode of cop drama 'Elementary'

BY KELSEY DURHAM

A stretch of Bell Boulevard in Bayside was transformed into a movie set this week when the strip was used for an episode of a nationally broadcast television show.

Trailers lined the street Monday as CBS shot scenes for an episode of "Elementary," a crime drama starring Lucy Liu and Jonny Lee Miller that is based on a modern-day interpretation of Sherlock Holmes. The crew spent the day in Bayside using various businesses and locations along the boulevard to film the entire episode.

Elizabeth Fisher, a member of the director's team, said the area was chosen a few weeks ago as a good fit by CBS based on the look of the neighborhood and what was required for the episode.

"Scouts match the needs of the script to places in the area," Fisher said, "whatever neighborhoods can accommodate us."

The show takes place in New York City and Fisher said being able to film in the locale is an important part of the series. She said the show frequently visits Queens and has been to Bayside a few times in the past.

"New York is a major character of our show, and we really want to highlight it and all the diversity," Fisher said. "We shoot in different neighborhoods all the time and really like to feature the whole city."

Parts of the episode were shot in North Shore Animal Hospital, at 42-02 215th St., and Gleason's Funeral Home, at 36-46 Bell Blvd.

Lyle Sclair, executive director of the Bayside Village Business Improvement District, said TV shows and movies have been filmed in the area in the past and businesses are usually happy to see their neighborhoods featured on the screen.

"If the business is displayed by its actual name, it's tremendous advertising," he said. "We



Trailers line Bell Boulevard during the shoot, including a dressing room for Lucy Liu.
Photo by Kelsey Durham

always like to see productions that leverage the current-day Bell Boulevard based on the success it's had in the past."

Some of the episode was also shot outside on the street, leading to temporary road closures along Bell Boulevard for a portion of the

day. Parking was also suspended Monday in certain spots surrounding the set, causing some congestion for motorists while filming took place.

Sclair said the BID is constantly working with Community Board 11, the 111th Precinct and the mayor's Office of Film, Theater and Broadcasting, which issues permits for film shoots around the city, in order to minimize the effect the parking and traffic issues could have on the area businesses.

Fisher said she could not reveal what the episode was about or why it so closely matched Bayside, but she said it is scheduled to run as Episode 19 during the show's second season, currently airing on CBS.

"Just keep an eye out for it," she said.

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at kdurham@cnglocal.com.

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Aqueduct funding sought

Pol urges NYRA to invest more Resort World profits in S. Ozone track

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The New York Racing Association and state Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Beach) are at odds over which community is entitled to revenue generated at Resorts World in South Ozone Park.

Goldfeder railed against NYRA for funneling “a large majority” of capital improvements funding from the racino in Queens to Belmont Park in Long Island and Saratoga Arena upstate rather than tending to the decaying Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens.

Flanked by union leaders representing track employees, Goldfeder announced Monday that he has drafted a bill that would bar NYRA from using capital improvement money gathered at Resorts World for projects outside the city.

“Enough is enough. It’s about time that NYRA stop giving our money away and invest in the community the money is being raised



State Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder discusses his bill to secure more money for capital investments at Aqueduct Racetrack.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

in,” Goldfeder said in the Aqueduct lobby. “The right bet should be placed on Aqueduct, and if we place the right bet, we’re going to hit the jackpot.”

But NYRA, which has a franchise agreement to operate the three state-owned racetracks, said it handed over land at the Aqueduct, Belmont and

Saratoga tracks to the state in exchange for receiving a portion of the revenues generated at Resorts World’s video lottery terminals.

Under this agreement, NYRA Communications Director Eric Wing said the racino’s operator, Genting Group New York, agreed to earmark 4 percent of money collected after pay-

ing out winnings for capital improvements at Aqueduct, Elmont and Saratoga.

Resorts World, which declined comment, operates on the same property as Aqueduct and the two businesses share the 110-00 Rockaway Blvd. address.

“Assemblyman Goldfeder is calling for all of those monies to be spent, 100 percent on Aqueduct. But in the past year we’ve spent well over \$5 million on Aqueduct,” Wing said. “We have an obligation to all three of our race-tracks.”

Neither the assemblyman nor NYRA could say precisely how much of the 4 percent was invested in work at each racetrack over the past three years.

The assemblyman said capital improvement funding fluctuates, but this year 4 percent of Resorts World’s profits amounted to about \$31.4 million. He argued such money should go toward fixing up Aqueduct and spurring economic development in South Ozone

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Queens DA applauds NYPD’s Chief Banks

BY ALEX ROBINSON

The NYPD’s second in command was honored by Queens District Attorney Richard Brown last week at a Black History Month event in the prosecutor’s offices.

NYPD Chief of Department Philip Banks III was presented with the William Tucker Garvin Public Service Award for his years of public service.

“Chief Banks has long been hailed for his successful efforts in building relationships between the NYPD and the communities it serves, particularly in enhancing the lives of young people and steering them away from crime,” Brown said at the ceremony.

Banks joined the Police Department in 1986 after he attended Columbia and Harvard universities. Banks was a precinct commander in three different precincts and also served as chief of the department’s Community Affairs Bureau in 2010.

He rose steadily through the ranks until he was appointed to his current position last March. Banks is only the second African-American to reach

the prestigious rank.

“He’s proven time and again he is not only an outstanding field commander and manager of police personnel and operations, but also as a bridge builder to the community,” Brown said. “But most importantly, he’s a resident of Queens.”

Banks was rumored to be in the runnings to become Mayor Bill de Blasio’s police commissioner and city Public Advocate Letitia James publicly expressed her support for him before Bill Bratton was appointed.

“He is truly the glue that holds the department together,” Bratton said of Banks at the DA’s ceremony. “He is one of the finest of the Finest.”

The award was established in 2001 to honor the memory of Garvin, the first black assistant district attorney in Queens. Before he joined the DA’s office, Garvin was one of the two first black graduates of St. John’s University Law School and the first African-American to serve on School Board 50 in Queens back in 1943.

“His accomplishments and service to others were exemplary,” Brown said

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Plan to plug potholes starts in Maspeth

BY SARINA TRANGLE

With help from city Department of Transportation staff, Mayor Bill de Blasio swept debris out of a last pothole, shoveled in asphalt and pounded in the filling on a Maspeth street corner.

The mayor tried his hand at roadway repair work last week before unveiling a street maintenance plan with DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg.

De Blasio said more snow has fallen in the first two months of this calendar year than ever before in the city’s history. Plows, salt, tire chains and the freezing

and thawing of snow and ice have riddled the roads with potholes, which de Blasio said merits a blitz on the roadway nuisances.

The mayor said DOT crews have been working diligently and filled 113,131 potholes citywide and nearly 27,000 in Queens — more than double the number plugged by mid-February in the prior two years.

“Every day has been unpredictable. What has been absolutely predictable, however, is they have to go to work and they have to fill the potholes,” de Blasio said. “They’ve been doing it on a schedule we’ve never seen before.”

The city has added \$7.3



Mayor Bill de Blasio fills a pothole in Maspeth.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

million to the DOT budget to facilitate the maintenance work. Trottenberg said 50 DOT crews would be assigned to fill potholes in all five boroughs every weekend and the agency’s

roughly 30 daily pothole teams would continue to work at double the pace.

Trottenberg said DOT crews would repave about 90,000 square yards of particularly beat-up streets, including portions of the Belt Parkway, 159th Avenue between 79th and 80th streets and a stretch of Beach Channel Drive in the Rockaways.

The commissioner said her team has been collaborating with the state to craft maintenance plans for highways and freeways owned by both governments.

DOT staff are slated to receive digital tablets

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Phillip Banks III (l.) receives the William Tucker Garvin Award from Queens District Attorney Richard Brown (r.).

Photo courtesy Queens DA

Avella to join Senate's Independent Dems

Albany lawmaker says he shares similar views with breakaway group on most progressive issues

BY RICH BOCKMANN

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said he thinks he will fit right in with the upper chamber's Independent Democratic Conference even if there are a few kinks to be worked out with the leadership of his new caucus.

The two-term senator and former city councilman announced Wednesday he was breaking ranks with Albany's Democratic leadership to join the IDC, a rogue group of lawmakers who denied their party a majority when they entered into a power-sharing agreement with Republicans following the 2012 elections.

"It's something that's been on my mind a while, something that's been suggested to me by people involved in good government groups," he said. "I've always been an independent guy, going back to when I was on the City Council."

Avella, who has rightly earned his reputation as an iconoclast for refusing to play nice with the political establishment, said he had been watching the IDC closely ever since Sen. Jeffrey Klein (D-Bronx) led five lawmakers, including Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis), in revolt against the Democratic leadership at the State House.

He said that for the most part he sees eye-to-eye with Klein and his progressive initiatives, although when it comes to issues such as the IDC chairman's support of Mayor Bill de Blasio's universal pre-kindergarten plan, there are some differences.

Whereas Klein and de Blasio support raising taxes on city residents earning more than \$500,000 a year to fund pre-K, Avella said he would prefer a "true millionaires tax" on those earning \$1 million or more like the one he advocated



State Sen. Tony Avella is breaking ranks with Albany's Democratic leadership to join the Independent Democratic Conference.

for more than two years ago.

"It's not like we're that far apart on the issue itself," he explained. "At the end of the day it's all about making compromises."

The jury is still out on just how much can be done by the IDC, which set out to

bring a progressive agenda to Albany and break through the state Legislature's gridlock.

The rogue conference helped pass the state's gun reforms in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting and raise the minimum wage to \$8 an hour, but Albany fell

short on other progressive projects such as the Dream Act and Gov. Andrew Cuomo's women's equality agenda.

Klein said he looked forward to working with Avella on issues such as lifting up working-class families.

"The breadth of his experience, in both the City Council and the Senate, makes him the type of seasoned legislator who knows how to get things done," Klein said. "I am very pleased to welcome him to the team."

The IDC has been down to four members ever since April, when the conference booted Smith after he was arrested on corruption charges.

The Democrats will try to regain control of the Senate later this year, but Avella said they had slim chances even before he defected.

"Anybody who realistically looks at the situation in terms of the Democratic conference can see they would still have to win a lot of seats," he said.

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

Galante addresses controversy as library reviews CEO's salary

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The embattled CEO of the Queens Library told reporters earlier this week he does not believe the continuing criticism over his executive compensation and the library's spending will pose a problem when it comes time for the non-profit to raise funds.

"I think that people provide funding to the Queens Library because they want to see us improve and access services and because of all the good we do," Thomas Galante, who has come under fire for earning a three-figure salary while the library outsourced union custodial jobs, told reporters at the central li-

brary in Jamaica Monday. "I think people want to see public libraries grow and our services to be expanded and we continue to see that right now."

The library, which receives the majority of its financial support from the city budget and allocations by individual officials, invited reporters to discuss calls for reform and recent moves made by the trustees nearly a month after a series of news reports were published detailing the executive's salary and capital construction projects during a time when the library was contracting out union custodial jobs.

In response to the revelations, a special City

Council committee spent nearly three hours grilling Galante earlier this month, a state lawmaker from northeast Queens called on him to resign and the borough president handed the board of trustees a list of recommendations aimed at reforming the library's operations.

At its Feb. 20 meeting, the library's board of trustees authorized an outside company to review Galante's \$392,000 salary and agreed to restructure his contract — eliminating an "evergreen" clause that had the agreement renew for a five-year period every day.

The company has
Continued on Page 47

JetBlue alone in wage war as competitors OK raises

BY BILL PARRY

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has scored another victory over an airline in its ongoing battle for fairer wages for service workers at the two airports in Queens.

American Airlines has agreed to boost the wages of low-paid workers at Kennedy and LaGuardia airports.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that American will order an immediate \$1 per hour raise for contract workers making \$9 per hour or less.

In addition to the raise, American Airlines will des-
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Flushing organizations seek funding from BP for projects

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Flushing nonprofits appealed to the borough president last week to get their piece of the budget pie.

Community Board 7 asked for a reconstruction of roads, sewers and street lights in a section of Willets Point as one of its budget priorities this year.

"They have extensive flooding problems and the roadbed has sunk, making it impossible for drivers to navigate the area. It takes on the appearance of a third-world country," CB 7 District Manager Marilyn Bitterman said in her testimony.

The area the board is hoping to reconstruct is in Phase 2 of the \$3 billion

redevelopment of Willets Point into a new commercial, retail and residential neighborhood.

The Iron Triangle's lone resident, David Antonacci, also gave testimony on behalf of Willets Point United, and said he has been pushing for the reconstruction for years.

"We emphasize that the Willets Point development plan is not an excuse to refrain from spending to maintain and repair Willets Point streets," he said in his testimony.

The city Department of Transportation surveyed the area in 2012 and determined it would cost approximately \$15 million to reconstruct its streets. Antonacci, however, said a Willets Point contractor,

St. John Enterprises, has offered to do it for a lesser cost.

Another budget application by the Kissena Corridor Park Conservancy was a proposal for a 3/4-acre meditation garden on the site of a former New York Queens Hospital parking lot across from the hospital's Oncology Center.

"The purpose is to provide a respite and healing environment for cancer patients, other patients, seniors and the increasing demand of the general public in Flushing," the conservancy's president, Roland Wade, said in his testimony.

The conservancy has already funded a design and material list for the

Health care is major priority in 2015 NE Qns budget needs

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Several nonprofits in northeast Queens delivered budget testimonies last week in front of Borough President Melinda Katz as they formally requested funding to help maintain vital programs across their institutions.

North Shore-LIJ made one of the most significant requests for more than \$2.7 million for the 2015 fiscal year. The hospital requested funds for three facilities — Forest Hills-LIJ, LIJ Medical Center and Cohen Children's Medical Center — to help ease costs of care and equipment for the hundreds of thousands of patients the hospital says it serves every year.

William Cunningham, who testified on behalf of North Shore-LIJ, requested \$735,883 for its Forest Hills facility that he said would go toward "essential medi-

cal equipment" and a medical support vehicle.

He also requested \$606,418 in grant money to purchase equipment for the Cohen Children's Medical Center in Flushing.

Cunningham also asked for \$1,425,842 for the LIJ Medical Center to purchase new equipment, including an environmentally friendly ambulance and a 37-foot-long emergency evacuation vehicle that would accommodate 30 ambulatory patients, 15 stretchers or 11 wheelchairs.

Community Board 11, which represents Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills, Little Neck and Oakland Gardens, said the majority of calls the office receives involve transportation complaints and asked that the board be granted money to help with road maintenance and curb repairs.

"The crumbling curbs are hazardous to pedestrians," said Susan Seinfeld, district manager of CB 11. "On Union Turnpike, rebar from broken curbs sticks out into the roadway, causing a hazard for motorists."

CB 11's requests heavily favored the area's parks as the board asked for money to remove dead trees and stumps and replace them with new plants.

Queensborough Community College made a formal request for more than \$1.9 million that school president Diane Call said would go toward three major projects.

Call said the school is hoping to build a new kitchen and dining facility, make \$550,000 in roof repairs across campus and install a new underground central chiller plant that would distribute cold water to multiple buildings on the school's grounds.

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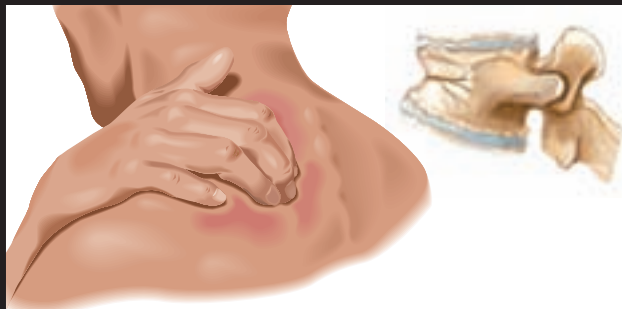
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POLICE Blotter

Fraudster impersonates 109th Pct. commander

FLUSHING — A fraudster tried to con an elderly Flushing man out of \$4,000 by impersonating a commander at the 109th Precinct, police said.

The 75-year-old man received a phone call around 2 p.m. Feb. 13 from a man claiming he was an IRS official, according to cops.

The fake IRS agent demanded the senior put \$4,000 in back taxes on a prepaid debit card, and when the elderly man expressed his skepticism, the man threatened he would have a police officer call back to confirm there was a warrant for the senior's arrest, police said.

The scammer then called back pretending to be Deputy Inspector Brian Maguire and was able to mask his number as one that came from the precinct, police said.

The septuagenarian was still not fooled and reported the phone call to the police.

Police said this is one example of a citywide telephone scam that uses GreenDot MoneyPak cards to bilk its victims for thousands of dollars.



The 109th Precinct's Deputy Inspector Brian Maguire was impersonated by a man trying to bilk a Flushing senior, police said.

Police look for credit card larceny suspect

BROOKLYN — Police were hunting for a suspect who allegedly used a duplicate credit card at a Brooklyn liquor store to charge purchases to the account of a victim from the 109th Precinct, the NYPD said.

The suspect, who police described as a black man with short black hair and brown eyes, allegedly made unauthorized purchases on two days in mid-February at Lucky Ren liquor store using a credit card with an altered magnetic strip containing a victim's credit card information, police said.

The suspect was wearing a black sweatshirt and black pants in both incidents, according to cops.



Police released these images of a suspect in connection with the credit card grand larceny. Images courtesy NYPD

Cops looking for missing Flushing man

FLUSHING — Police were looking for an Asian man who was reported missing Saturday.

Meng Lu, 31, was last seen leaving his home the morning of Feb. 14 around 8 a.m., police said.

The NYPD described him as Asian, 5-foot-6, weighing 140 pounds, with brown eyes and black hair.

Police said he was last seen wearing a green North Face jacket, blue jeans and black shoes.



MENG LU

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and enter TIP577 or log on to nypdcrimestoppers.com.**

Proposed pre-K sites double in boro: City

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The number of city schools and community-based organizations proposing to host pre-kindergarten sites in Queens next school year has more than doubled after Mayor Bill de Blasio requested submissions to help fulfill his goal of providing 21,000 new seats next year, the administration announced earlier this week.

A total of 291 schools and community organizations — up from 130 last year — submitted proposals to provide pre-K sites next year in Queens, the mayor's office disclosed Tuesday as the city said it received more than enough submissions to meet the goal for its pre-K rollout.

"Make no mistake: We can change the lives of tens of thousands of children. We can do it in a matter of months," de Blasio said. "Hundreds of school principals and community leaders — the people who already do this work — have come forward with detailed plans to provide pre-K to more children in their neighborhoods."

The administration said about 930 schools and community-based organizations citywide submitted plans to create more than 29,000 new seats next year,

8,000 more than the target set by the city for September.

Under de Blasio's pre-K plan, the city wants to provide 53,604 full-day seats in the fall, increasing the number to 73,250 by the 2015 school year.

The majority of pre-K seats already being offered are provided by community groups, which have proposed 214 sites in Queens for fall, up from 113 submissions last year. The borough's public schools have submitted plans for 77 sites, more than four times the 17 sites proposed for the current school year.

De Blasio and city Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña touted the results from his administration's request for proposals as proof that the city has the logistical capability to roll out the pre-K initiative.

"We already know demand from families for high-quality, full-day pre-K is exceptionally high, and these numbers confirm that we are ready to deliver," Fariña said. "With high-quality providers and schools across all five boroughs eager to deliver for our 4-year-olds, we know that our plan can be implemented on Day 1."

One of the questions that remains is whether or

Continued on Page 47



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (l.) listens while New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña speaks during a news conference this week.
AP Photo/Seth Wenig

Pastor takes different path

Sunnyside church hosts premiere of 'Freedom Summer' documentary

BY BILL PARRY

A pastor in western Queens turns his church into a community event space once every month, usually for a musical concert. But this past Saturday the Sunnyside Reformed Church hosted something different.

"Freedom Summer," a documentary film about the Freedom Riders 1964 fight for civil rights in Mississippi, had its East Coast premier at the church.

The film's Emmy Award-winning director, Stanley Nelson, screened the movie for the crowd of a hundred and fielded questions for an hour afterward.

How did such a high profile film, which made its debut at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival and will air on PBS in June, end up at the Sunnyside Reformed Church?

The director, grew up with the church's pastor, Neil Margetson.

"We've known each other since we were kids. We're best friends for life," Margetson said.

The event was free and open to the public, something the church does on a monthly basis. Normally the Sunnyside Reformed Church hosts concerts from big band to Chicago-style blues.

"We've had everything from classical music to cowboy jazz. One of these days I'm going to get a real



"Freedom Summer" director Stanley Nelson (l) with Sunnyside Reformed Church Pastor Neil Margetson.
Photo courtesy Arlen G. Margetson

rock'n'roll band to come in here and blow the roof off," Margetson said.

His church is a 100-year-old building known as the "Little Church on the Corner," at 47th Street and Skillman Avenue. His congregation is small, too, with 40 regulars and another 40 "faithful friends."

Margetson likes to have the monthly events as a form of community-building.

"It's good to get to know your neighbors, to get out and socialize. It has happened that visitors have joined the congregation, but that's not the point. We're trying to model Christ here and I don't remember reading anywhere that he was counting heads," he said.

Saturday marked a milestone for Margetson as well.

"That was my five-year anniversary here at the church," he said. "Before

starting here I had only been to Queens maybe 10 times my entire life, didn't really have any reason."

Born and raised in Manhattan, Margetson was a professional musician following college.

"I was a guitarist, a keyboardist, a singer and composer, but alcohol kind of wrecked everything," he said.

Margetson gave up music for academia, getting an anthropology degree from Columbia University and working for the city trying to help solve the homeless problem. Then he spent 17 years doing data-based statistics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

"The whole time I was a 12-stepper and that's how I found my way to Jesus. I grew up in a house without a Bible, never went to church. When I decided I was going to seminary, I heard a voice, but I didn't have a Bible," Margetson

said.

After nine years of seminary and three years of denominational requirements, he had his license, which meant he could apply for a ministry job.

"Everyone told me it was going to be a long wait, but this is the first church that gave me an interview and I got the job. When I saw what they were paying, I said 'This is not going to work,' but I realized God was talking to me so I couldn't say no," Margetson said.

He took early retirement from Sloan-Kettering with a small pension at age 57 and settled in as pastor of the Little Church on the Corner.

Margetson just finished a stint as president of the Reformed Churches of Queens.

"The diversity is amazing. Of the 29 churches in the association 14 were Korean and several more are African-American. Great experience. They wanted me to take over the state association, but my wife and congregation put their foot down," he said.

Margetson is already planning the next events: Vince Anderson March 22 and Carol Sudhalter and her Astoria Big Band May 24.

No word on the rock'n'roll concert yet.

"I've got eight years to get that done. I've got mandatory retirement at 70," he said.

Cause of Avonte's death ruled undetermined by ME

BY ALEX ROBINSON

The mystery of Avonte Oquendo's death did not become any clearer Thursday when the city medical examiner concluded the cause and manner of the boy's death was undetermined.

The 14-year-old autistic boy's remains were

found on the College Point waterfront in January after he vanished from his Long Island City school in October.

Video footage showed Avonte running through his school's halls before bolting through an open door.

After his death was confirmed, a lawyer representing

his mother, Vanessa Fontaine, said she intended to file a wrongful death claim against the city and the Department of Education.

Fontaine recently filed court papers challenging the Police Department's denial of a Freedom of Information Law request her lawyer filed on her behalf

in October that asked for any information about Avonte's disappearance.

The NYPD was waiting to release information until the medical examiner made a determination, according to the family's lawyer.

Call the newsroom:
718-260-4545

MTA's Bus Time program comes to Queens in March

Borough riders will have ability to check location of bus in real time with smartphones, text messages

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

MTA Bus Time, which will enable Queens strap-hangers to determine where their buses are and when they are supposed to arrive, will go into operation March 9.

"MTA Bus Time has added a new dimension to bus travel, completing installation citywide," said Thomas Prendergast, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. "MTA Bus time allows you to use your computer or phone to 'know before you go' to keep you informed of your bus' expected arrival at the bus stop."

Installation of Bus Time on scores of Brooklyn lines will also take place the same day.

Queens routes to get Bus Time March 9 will in-

clude the Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q6, Q7, Q8, Q9, Q10, Q11, Q12, Q13, Q15, Q15A, Q16, Q17, Q18, Q19, Q20A, Q20B, Q21, Q22, Q23, Q24, Q25, Q26, Q27, Q28, Q29, Q30, Q31, Q32, Q33, Q34, Q35, Q36, Q37, Q38, Q39, Q40, Q41, Q42, Q43, Q44, Q46, Q47, Q48, Q49, Q52, Q53, Q54, Q55, Q56, Q58, Q59, Q60, Q64, Q65, Q66, Q67, Q69, Q70, Q72, Q76, Q77, Q83, Q84, Q85, Q88, Q100, Q101, Q102, Q103, Q104, Q110, Q111, Q112, Q113, QM1, QM2, QM3, QM4, QM5, QM6, QM7, QM8, QM10, QM11, QM12, QM15, QM16, QM17, QM18, QM20, QM21, QM24, QM25, X27, X28, X37, X38, X63, X64 and X68.

These additions bring to more than 9,000 bus stops in the MTA Bus Time system and a total of more than 15,000 citywide. Enhanced GPS hardware



Straphangers soon should know when the next bus is arriving, thanks to MTA Bus Time.

has been installed in 5,500 buses operating in all five boroughs.

MTA Bus Time was introduced on all bus routes on Staten Island in January 2012, all bus routes in the Bronx in November 2012 and in Manhattan in

October 2013

MTA Bus Time can be used in three ways:

1. Click It: From any Web-enabled smartphone or desktop computer, go to bustime.mta.info and enter a bus route, intersection, street address, landmark

or bus stop code. You will get an application showing where buses are within the specific route or region you have searched. Click on a bus stop or bus for detailed information.

2. Text It: Text an intersection or street address to 511123 from any cellphone to receive a message listing local bus routes. Choose a route and direction to learn the location of the closest bus stop and how far away the next buses are. Bus distances are given in terms of miles away if the bus is far and in terms of bus stops away if close.

3. Scan It: If you have a smartphone with a QR Code Reader, scan the QR Code printed on the Guide-a-Ride schedules posted at bus stops. Without touching a button, your smartphone will instantly take

you to information about buses approaching the stop where you are standing. Because of Hurricane Sandy, some bus stops do not yet have Guide-a-Rides showing the QR Codes and bus stop codes. They will be updated soon.

"Removing the guesswork from the bus trip through real-time arrival information is exciting for me, and I look forward to seeing every bus in the city equipped with MTA Bus Time," said Darryl Irick, senior vice president for buses for MTA New York City Transit and president of the MTA Bus Co.

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

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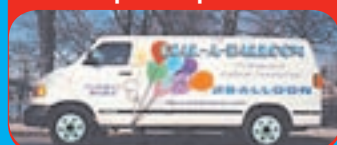
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Linelle Abueg
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It is with pleasure that we focus on the honors earned by four student of The Mary Louis Academy. This week, we will highlight the achievements of Linelle Abueg and Erin Krebs. Both young women have been named National Merit Finalists in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. Those commended by the National Merit Scholarship Program represent the top scoring 15,000 students out of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Linelle Abueg

Linelle Abueg's favorite quote reflects the positive way she lives her life; "Life is a shipwreck, but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats." Linelle has achieved an extraordinary academic record at The Mary Louis Academy.

While continuously taking the more challenging level 5 honors course, Law and Economics, and AP courses in a competitive college curriculum, Linelle made the Principal's List. The AP courses are AP Chemistry, AP Biology, AP English, and AP Calculus BC. Linelle also received three awards for her accomplishments in Latin, and received the St. John's University Women in Science Award.

Her participation on the Robotics team has proven her love of science. In addition to keeping up with her classwork, building robots, membership in the Science club and Photography club, Linelle is also an active volunteer at the local nursing home.

As a first-generation college student Linelle shows deep appreciation and excitement for her upcoming college career. Attending Mary Louis on a partial scholarship, Linelle has made the most of her time. Her love of learning has been spread amongst her classmates when she helps tutor them.



"Her unique ability to turn any situation into something positive has made her a valuable member of the school community," says Guidance Counselor Heather Maloney.

Ms Maloney also believes that "with her high intelligence, determination for success, and positive spirit, Linelle will be a wonderful addition to any institution."

Erin Krebs

Erin Krebs is a student who will be long remembered at TMLA. She is engaging, bright, altruistic and full of life. To encourage and promote academic excellence, it is The Mary Louis Academy's policy to award a scholarship to the student who ranks number one in her class at the end of each school year. Erin was awarded the scholarship at the end of junior year.

She is a remarkable young woman who achieves in all areas of student life. Her dedication to TMLA's student council, the robotics team, and genesians theatre club has helped her to stand out among the other students.

Erin's intense course load shows her love of learning as does her induction into the National Honor Society. Erin has consistently challenged herself since freshman year choosing the most difficult Honor and AP courses. These courses include AP Statistics, AP Physics, and AP English. The three honors classes Erin has taken are Economics Honors, Religion

Honors, and Creative Writing Honors. During her studies at TMLA, she has consistently appeared on the Principal's List.

Along with her love of learning she has a passion for community service. Erin is not only a member of TMLA's Service Homeroom, but she is also the Service Homeroom President. She spends countless hours planning ways to help both the school community and surrounding community. Planning clothing drives, food drives, spending time at the local soup kitchen, volunteering to help victims of Hurricane Sandy, participating in walks for an abundant amount of causes, and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity are just a few of the volunteer endeavors Erin has committed her self to. Her passion for helping other is limitless.

In her senior year, Erin was awarded the Harvard Prize Book, given in competition to an outstanding student who embodies excellence in scholarship, high character and achievements. Erin does not hesitate to seize every opportunity to further her educational and life experiences.

Erin is so highly regarded by both faculty and students alike; she received the TMLA Peacemaker Award. The award was granted to Erin for her strong character, positive demeanor, and active role within the school community.

Ms Heather Maloney, Counselor at TMLA, says, without hesitation, "Erin will be an outstanding asset to any institution. I have the upmost faith that Erin is the type of person who will succeed at every endeavor she embarks on and change the world for a better place." Ms Maloney's faith in Erin is well deserved; Erin has been accepted into Yale University.

Our sincere congratulations are given to both these young women of distinction. We cannot wait to read about the extraordinary things we are confident they will accomplish in the future.

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MAYOR'S SHAKY START

Our new mayor has had a bumpy ride in his first few weeks on the job. Even though Bill de Blasio has been a public figure in his roles as a city councilman and city public advocate, the rules of the road change when you're the top dog in City Hall.

Like his predecessors, de Blasio was thrown a nasty curve when a series of snowstorms hit and stranded some New Yorkers on unplowed streets. He called out the city Sanitation commissioner and the national weather forecasters, but most Queens residents were willing to give him a pass on Mother Nature's bad timing. This is on-the-job training in the toughest city in the world.

The mayor also took a beating from some parents and even weatherman Al Roker for keeping schools open throughout the series of winter storms. Granted this is a thorny issue, with compelling arguments to be made on both sides.

But de Blasio inherited a school system that prides itself on conducting classes under the most challenging of circumstances. Nevertheless, it may be time to revise the decision-making process so more voices are heard beyond the views of the mayor and the city schools chancellor on when school doors should close.

The still green mayor also got flak for calling the NYPD to check on the status of a Brooklyn minister, a political supporter who had been arrested for a traffic violation. De Blasio must have momentarily forgotten that as mayor he is now subject to much sharper scrutiny from the media and the public. His intentions may have been the best, but that call raised many eyebrows in Queens.

On the other hand, he made the call himself and didn't ask a City Hall staffer three times removed from the deputy commissioner of a minor agency to dial it instead. That's points for the mayor.

Now back to the rules of the road.

De Blasio was also nailed by a TV reporter for speeding and running stop signs in Maspeth as he sat next to the police officer driving his SUV. He was spotted two days after he came to Queens to announce his Vision Zero plan on lowering the city speed limit to 25 mph to curb pedestrian deaths.

Yes, our other mayors have sped around the city in their black SUV caravans, but this is one of de Blasio's key initiatives. He should tell his police escorts to lighten the lead on the pedal.

We want de Blasio to succeed as mayor and carry out his ambitious agenda for the city. After a rough start, let's hope he gets back on track.



OTHER VOICES

Replace the Pavilion with grassy parkland

I am old enough to remember visiting the 1964-65 New York City World's Fair and was of the opinion architect Philip Johnson's New York State Pavilion was one of the least interesting structures and not up to his usual high standards.

It was nothing more than a few towers, one of which had a restaurant and an open-sided steel structure with a tile floor. It had little architectural merit when initially constructed and after decades of neglect

even less. The towers in their current condition are incapable of any use.

As for the so-called steel tent, the notion that it is worthy of rehabilitation at a projected cost of \$72 million — if indeed we ignore common sense that nothing is built for the so-called projected cost — makes no sense. What makes more sense is to demolish the current structure, something that should have been done decades ago, at a fraction of the cost it would take to restore it to its initial, un-

interesting state.

Its initial use as a place for people to congregate for concerts and other similar activities can easily be accomplished on a grassed-over area ("Pavilion rescue wins ally," TimesLedger Newspapers, Feb. 14-20, 2014).

While Flushing Meadows Corona Park is the second-most used park in our city, it also has the dubious distinction of being the most abused, suffocated with all sorts of non-urban park structures thanks

to myopic politicians who have not the vaguest idea what urban parks are all about.

Demolition of this eyesore to be replaced with a grassy area is a step in the right direction in recognizing we are dealing with urban parkland. We should face up to the fact that the Pavilion is not the Parthenon.

*Benjamin M. Haber
Flushing*

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Mayor should consider Rockaway line reactivation

An open letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio:

I am writing to you as a citizen, a lifelong resident of the Rockaway Peninsula and president of the Queens Public Transit Committee, whose goal is to improve transportation options throughout the borough.

First, let me welcome you as the mayor of our city. In your campaign you promised positive change to help our city, including, in particular, improving the livelihoods, neighborhoods and opportunities of New York's "90 percenters." I was encouraged that you expressed a commitment to focus on the needs of the often neglected outerboroughs.

It is to help you achieve this goal that I am asking you to support an open, detailed and fair study of the Rockaway Beach Line. The line's right of way, owned

by the city, has remained largely intact since deactivation. State Assemblyman Philip Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park), state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), and U.S. Reps. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) and Hakeem Jeffries (D-Brooklyn) have all called for reactivating the line. In addition, Community Boards 5 and 14 have endorsed reactivation of the line by lopsided margins.

And here is the reason: The Rockaways and south Queens have been neglected for decades. Our communities have been struggling in terms of economic opportunity, access to jobs and in attracting local development, businesses and employment. One of the key reasons is poor transportation. It takes longer to travel from the Rockaway Peninsula to Midtown Manhattan than it does from Long Island, Westchester County

and parts of New Jersey.

Travel between north and south Queens is a nightmare. People must travel either through Manhattan or take several buses to reach destinations in their own borough. South Queens has developed such a reputation for poor access that its location was a prime impediment to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Genting convention proposal. If people cannot get to their destinations quickly and easily, why should they invest here?

Unfortunately, there has been for decades a small, influential group that has blocked the restoration of the Rockaway Beach Line. Many in this group live near and enjoy both Long Island Rail Road and subway access to Midtown Manhattan. Is it fair for a small group of people to block the ability of Rockaway and south Queens

residents to obtain more access to jobs and education and to develop their communities?

For some reason, the news media has focused solely on restoring the LIRR. There are, however, several subway options that would benefit more people from all walks of life. A new subway line could originate from Far Rockaway and Rockaway Park and run along the A line to a point north of the Aqueduct-Conduit Avenue subway station. There is sufficient capacity and no alterations to the A line would be needed.

The new subway line could then proceed on the abandoned Rockaway Beach Line to Rego Park-63rd Drive. There, a station could be built that would be only four minutes away from the IND 63rd Drive station and the Rego Park malls. There is enough

space for a joint LIRR-subway station.

In addition, two limited bus lines could be created. One could head north to Citi Field, the new mall, Fort Totten and LaGuardia Airport, forming a complete north-south Queens link. A second could run along the Long Island Expressway, past Queens College to the busy commercial Main Street-Flushing district. With one fare and one transfer, people could easily travel within Queens, encouraging the growth of small businesses and job creation.

That is why this study is needed. It would look at all options: subway, LIRR and alternatives and adjuncts like Woodhaven Select Bus Service and ferries. It would be similar to the detailed studies for East Side Access and the Second Avenue Subway, which included extensive

public participation.

In conclusion, the opportunity is there to provide jobs and enable local development and access to jobs while at the same time reducing excessive travel times, traffic congestion and pollution. We ask you to endorse this study and urge Cuomo to do the same.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss these issues, hear your concerns and go forward with a consensus that will bring Queens together and enable everyone to share in what our city has to offer.

*Philip McManus
President
Queens Public Transit
Committee
Rockaways*

Reader is correct over inequality

I agree with Tyler Cassell regarding Ed Konecnik. It has been said that we pay taxes to buy civilization. Along with making money, there should also be social responsibility.

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said "we can have democracy or the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, but we cannot have both."

To have a decent, just society, there has to be a sense of proportionality — i.e., there has to be a limit on wealth. The nation's resources belong to all the people, and while those who

contribute more should be better compensated, it cannot be allowed to the extent which forces people to live in poverty.

There is plenty of excess for those more entrepreneurial to keep, and I doubt most would object to it. This country is blessed with more than adequate resources so everyone can obtain the wherewithal to be provided enough for a decent livelihood.

That conditions of impoverishment — recession or depression — occur, not for lack of resources but when there is an oversupply, defies logic and is cra-

zy. Thus, an argument can be made that capitalism as it exists is a failed system not for the haves but a large percentage of the population.

As for the U.S. Constitution, former Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and a few others proposed that we have a convention every 20 years or so so each generation may make changes if and when they may be needed.

*Joe Brooks
Whitestone*

Horse carriages just like child labor

In response to the Feb. 14-20 letter "Horse carriage drivers need to upgrade," Elizabeth Forel makes some good points.

It is the political connections that have left this unsafe, inhumane business in operation. In history, many cruel, antiquated practices have ended, such as child labor. Businesses of old used young children in their employ.

The argument was that the owners could make

more money paying the children low wages. This was not a sufficient excuse to continue to use child labor. Years ago, worker safety was not an issue, as evidenced by the Triangle Shirt Factory fire. Owners made more money by cutting corners on safety.

Again, this can no longer be used an excuse to force people to work in unsafe conditions. The carriage horse industry must go in the same direction.

The inhumane treatment of the horses, and the safety issue of accidents involving horse-drawn carriages, cannot continue to be ignored just because someone chooses to earn their living by driving a carriage pulled by a horse, even when alternatives, such as motor-powered carriages, are available.

*Teresa Russo
Staten Island*

CORRECTION

An article in the Feb. 21-27 issue of TimesLedger Newspapers in one instance should have identified the Queens Village resident who pleaded guilty to defrauding a Home Depot charity program as Alfred Williams.

Contact the newsroom:

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

De Blasio drivers have more of a reason to speed



Tom Allon
■
Mayoral Spin Cycle

Now that we've mostly resolved the city's vexing stop-and-frisk crime policy, the media has now invented a new frivolous issue to focus on: stop and speed.

While Mayor Bill de Blasio is earnestly tackling frequent snowstorms, a battle over pre-K funding with the state and putting together his team of commissioners and agency leaders, CBS News and the tabloids have been dogging him about his team's lack of attention to traffic laws.

The news peg for this

story, of course, is the mayor's ambitious Vision Zero campaign, which seeks to reduce traffic fatalities to the ambitious goal of zero in the next decade. That would be a huge accomplishment, and we should applaud de Blasio's quick action to reduce speed limits and make the city safer for pedestrians.

But veteran CBS News reporter Marcia Kramer did some old-fashioned intrepid reporting and decided to have her news team trail de Blasio's security cars to see whether the mayor's drivers are following the same laws the mayor is supposed to uphold.

This is what we used to call "gotcha journalism," where a reporter tries to catch a public official in a lie or behaving in inappropriate or unethical ways.

Kramer's entertaining television footage showed that the mayor's cars not only exceeded the speed limit consistently, but also failed to stop at a few stop signs, a big violation if you're John Q. Driver.

OK, it was a fun little piece, but this story got way too much momentum as the press hounded the mayor and police commissioner for answers on this and the tabloids had more fun as one got a photo of the mayor jaywalking while speaking on the phone near his Brooklyn home.

Tsk. Tsk.

Let's get back to reality: The mayor's drivers have to whisk him around to many different events and meetings each day, and as long as they're not driving recklessly, we can probably cut them quite a bit

The mayor's honeymoon with the press was short-lived, and now he has to suffer the daily slings and arrows of a large and restless media corps.

of slack if they go slightly above the speed limit.

And haven't we all jaywalked from time to time when no cars are coming or the light is about to change?

The larger issue here is that de Blasio's honeymoon with the press was short-lived and now he, like many mayors before him, has to suffer the daily slings and arrows of a large and restless media corps that constantly tries to

come up with some original stories.

It is hard for the media to stick to serious stories about policy issues, new appointments and attempts to tackle inequality in our city day in and day out without the occasional zinging of people in power who even slightly misbehave, like the mayor and his drivers have appeared to have done in this case.

When I went to Columbia journalism school in

the 1980s, we were taught that the media is supposed to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comforted." Although de Blasio may take umbrage at being lumped in with the "comfortable" — aka the 1 percent — he is now in power and a target of the Fourth Estate.

What can we learn from this? If you're the mayor of New York and you're going to speed, do it the old-fashioned way: Turn on the siren and hit the accelerator.

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@cityandstateny.com.

'Tale of Two Cities' reveals hypocrisy of new mayor



Bob Friedrich
■
On Point

It has become clear what Mayor Bill de Blasio had in mind with his Tale of Two Cities parable. He presented it as an allegory of the haves and have-nots, but neglected to tell us who they are.

Not to worry. His behavior over the past two months has given us a clue. One set of rules for him and his minions, and another for everyone else. Every week yields another demonstration of privilege without responsibility, actions without consequences. The Tale of Two Cities has morphed into "do as I say, not as I do."

The latest example of

this egregious behavior followed the mayor's press conference in which he talked about traffic and pedestrian safety and his Vision Zero plan to make the streets and roadways safer. To accomplish this, new rules were proposed that would be aggressively enforced to reduce pedestrian fatalities.

Even the mayor would comply — at least, that is what he told the press corps when he said he would take personal responsibility.

Just days later, after lecturing the public, de Blasio was caught on video running multiple stop signs, speeding, partially blocking a crosswalk and zigzagging from lane to lane without signaling. Infractions that would cost us our licenses was simply business as usual for the mayor and his security entourage. When asked about it, he shrugged it off.

Next came the pictures of the mayor jaywalking in Brooklyn against the Do Not Walk sign while talking on his phone. An elderly Asian man was shoved to the ground by police and arrested in Manhattan for the exact same infraction less than a month earlier.

Two weeks ago, city Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña stepped out of her chauffeur-driven car during a raging snowstorm to declare, "It's a beautiful day" to the reporter who asked why the schools were ordered to remain open.

Sure, picked up in a warm car and driven by a personal driver will always make it seem like a beautiful day. To everyone else, do as I say, not as I do and be careful of the ice as you drive your kids to school.

The Tale of Two Cities doesn't end there. Last month Pastor Orlando Findlayter, an early sup-

Bill de Blasio would prefer he and his backers live by one set of rules while the rest of the city lives by another.

porter of the mayor, was stopped for a minor traffic infraction. It was discovered he had a suspended license and two outstanding warrants stemming from his arrest in a protest, enough for most people to spend the night in jail. Not so with the pastor. Whether it was the pastor's close ties to de Blasio or the personal phone call from the mayor to the NYPD inquiring about him, it certainly reeked of special treatment that none of us would have been afforded. The next day's front page headlines got it right, "A Bail of Two Cities."

It should be evident by now that the Tale of Two Cities is nothing more than a tall tale in which the mayor and those close to him do as they please without consequence or accountability. Do as I say, not as I do arrogance in such a young administration is destructive and corrosive.

Unfortunately, this behavior is now de rigueur with those normally in place to oversee the mayor. De Blasio's handpicked City Council speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan), and city Public Advocate Leticia James, both longtime supporters

and loyal sycophants of the mayor, are blind to these transgressions and sit by, refusing to question or challenge him.

When Mark-Viverito neglected to report rental income on her tax returns, she simply said sorry and received nary a slap on the wrist. But when city Sanitation worker Lenworth Dixon, 56, accepted a \$20 tip for removing an extra-heavy load of trash, he was not only fined \$1,500 but was also fired, according to the city Conflict of Interest Board ruling. In this Tale of Two Cities, an apology does not carry much weight unless you are among the anointed few.

De Blasio is right about the Two Cities. One is an arena of privilege and perquisites for the well-connected, and the other is inhabited by the taxpaying pawns who receive no special exemptions.

Mardi Gras fun precedes Ash Wednesday, season of penance



Laura
Rahill

Remember
the Date

Catholics and many Christians that we are entering a season of penance.

In my own beloved part of the world, Ireland, Shrove Tuesday is usually called Pancake Tuesday. People will make pancakes and many restaurants will serve them as a one-day special. This tradition began when Christians had to clear out their pantries in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Today, many people will sacrifice one thing they love for Lent, but in the past it was not uncommon for people to give up all meats, eggs, milk and other rich foods for 40 days.

This practice is done in remembrance of Jesus, who fasted in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. Rather than throwing out the fats and eggs, the Irish now make pancakes as a small feast before the fast.

This coming Tuesday and Wednesday welcome a double holiday celebration. Shrove Tuesday is commonly known as the day prior to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is also widely known as the festive celebration of Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras can be simply translated from French to English as "Fat Tuesday." The word "shrove," the past tense of "shrive," is an old English word which means to hear a confession, and in doing so to become absolved from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder to

Mardi Gras can be simply translated from French into English as 'Fat Tuesday.' It is celebrated as Pancake Tuesday in Ireland.

Mardi Gras was first celebrated in the United States in the 1700s, when a colony of French soldiers landed in what is known today as Mobile, Ala. In various spots in the United States, Mardi is marked by festivals and other events.

New Orleans hosts a huge street celebration and parade complete with masquerades and dancing. People throw trinkets, which are often brightly colored beads, to the crowds lining the streets. Mardi Gras is a

big celebration today and is often considered somewhat hedonistic, but like Shrove Tuesday its roots lie in the Christian calendar as the last celebration before Lent on Ash Wednesday.

The day after the celebration of Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day and Mardi Gras is a more reflective observance. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season, considered a time of penance and fasting. Lent ends on Easter, the day of Christ's resur-

rection. It is through this resurrection that Christians attain redemption.

On Ash Wednesday it is common to see many people wearing ashes on their forehead. People are marked with ashes as an act of humility and as a reminder that life ends on earth. This is reiterated in the phrase "man is dust and unto dust you shall return." The ashes are made from the blessed palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

In the past, many Christians who had committed serious sins performed public penance. They would be sprinkled with ashes and turned away from the church just as the first man Adam was turned away from the Garden of Eden for his sins. After 40 days of penance, the sinners would attain redemption and be allowed to return to the church cleared of their sins.

Today, Christians receive the ashes out of devotion. Across the United States, Ash Wednesday is celebrated by many Christian faiths, and more Protestant and evangelical churches are now holding some sort of Ash Wednesday service.

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DiNapoli touts Flushing might at Lunar event

BY ALEX ROBINSON

State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli came to Flushing Monday night to celebrate the Lunar New Year and honor a number of the community's leaders.

Last year the comptroller's first annual Lunar celebration occurred in Manhattan's Chinatown, but this year it moved away from the city's traditional epicenter of Asian culture.

"The wonderful thing about not only the Chinese community, but the Asian-American community in general, is that it's well-represented throughout our city and our state," DiNapoli told reporters before the event at Queens Crossing. "We decided that as we make this an annual celebration that we're going to have the Lunar New Year celebration in different parts of the city and the state."

After dozens of hands were shook and many photos were taken with the comptroller, state Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Flushing) introduced DiNapoli to the

crowd of elected officials and community leaders.

The comptroller spoke about the economic value and importance of the Asian-American community to New York state. He hailed Flushing as an economic engine fueled by its large immigrant community.

"Flushing has had tremendous economic resurgence and entrepreneurship," he said. "We have found in our analyses that neighborhoods in New York City with the highest concentration of immigrant population, in fact, have had a higher level of economic growth. To me, Flushing is an example of the American success story where immigrants come and lay down their roots."

The comptroller's office conducted a study in 2011 that determined Flushing had one of the highest business growth rates since 2005, despite the financial crisis of 2008 and the Great Recession that followed.

DiNapoli voiced his support of the state Dream Act, which would provide state funding for



State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (c.) stands with honorees while dancers entertain the crowd.
Photo by Alex Robinson

the children of undocumented immigrants to go to college. It passed the state Assembly in years past and again Tuesday, but

has never been brought before the Senate for a vote

"I think at a very minimal cost to the state, it would provide

greater educational opportunity and certainly all the studies we've done have shown those that can have a college education are more likely to be successful," he said.

After DiNapoli spoke, the crowd was entertained by dancers who paraded two brightly colored paper lions around the room.

The comptroller then presented six honorees from the Asian-American community with plaques.

Among them were U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing); City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing); Peter Tu, head of the Flushing Chinese Business Association; Steve Choi, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition; Min Sun Kim, founder and president of the Long Island Conservatory of Music; and Liu Tee Shu, owner and chairperson of Shu Enterprise Group.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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Police Officers Adrienne Galvani (l.) and Cory Smith (r.) help Arnold and Theresa Lederer, of Whitestone, dig out their car. Photo courtesy NYPD

109th officers shovel out Whitestone couple's car

BY ALEX ROBINSON

An elderly Whitestone couple got a big hand from two officers from the 109th Precinct who happened to be passing by last week when the seniors were attempting to dig their car out of a pile of snow and ice.

Theresa Lederer, 86, and her husband Arnold, 96, were hoping to go to the pharmacy to pick up a prescription when they were faced with the daunting task of digging out their car, which was enveloped in 2 to 3 feet of snow.

Officers Adrienne Galvani and Cory Smith were driving down Willets Point

Boulevard in their squad car when they saw the Lederers struggling with the snow. They quickly did a U-turn and came to the seniors' aid.

"They saw two old people and figured we needed help, which we did," Theresa Lederer said. "They were very nice."

The officers made short work of the snow, which Lederer feared might take them all day to clear.

"I was extremely gratified. I offered to make coffee for them, but they refused," Lederer said.

The old couple were so grateful they wrote a letter to the cops' commanding officer to thank them for

their service.

"They took our shovels and told us we were not needed. They told us to go in our house and rest and that they would remove all the snow from around our car," they wrote in the letter.

Galvani and Smith even dropped by the next day to check on the couple.

"What can I say? We can't say enough about how nice they were," Lederer said.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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Animal Care

The Alley Pond Environmental Center held a veterinarian training class Saturday in Douglaston. (Clockwise from top l.) Instructor Edna Santana shows her students how to clip a guinea pig's nails, as Jessica Lish holds the animal; Emma Nguyen holds a guinea pig while her partner, Erin Yin, cleans its ears; youngsters (l.-r.) Jessica Lish, Emma Nguyen, Erin Yin and John Rouvelas study a book of animal care instructions; the gender of an Eastern box turtle is able to be determined from the color of its eyes. Males generally have orange or red eyes, while females often have brown ones; and Santana holds a dove named Pacé for her students to examine.

Photos by Christina Santucci



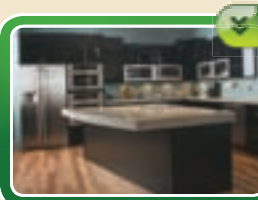


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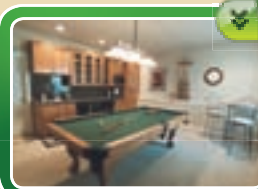
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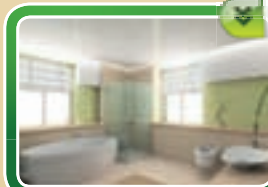
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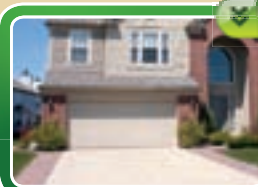
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Second doc pleads guilty in Flushing clinic fraud

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A second doctor pleaded guilty last week to participating in a Medicare fraud scheme at two Flushing clinics, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District in Brooklyn said.

Chang Ho Lee, of New Jersey, faced charges along with two others of fraudulently billing Medicare for more than \$13 million in services they were not providing and were not medically necessary, according to the indictment filed by U.S. attorney Loretta Lynch.

Lee used the people who benefit from Medicare, a federal program that covers the medical costs of the disabled and elderly, to take advantage of the system, Lynch's office said.

The defendants operated out of URI Medical Service PC and Sarang Medical PC, at 35-05 Farrington St., where they would offer seniors free non-medical services so they could use their Medicare numbers to bill for treatment that was never provided, the indictment said.

Hoi Yat Kam, a doctor who operated out of the same clinics, was sentenced in January to 12 months and a day in prison for his part in the fraud.

"The scheme operated with the relentless efficiency of an assembly line," Lynch said in a sentencing memo in Kam's case.

Dozens of seniors would come through the clinics' doors every day, lured by the promise of free massages, facials, meals, prizes and social events, Lynch said.

Patients were told they must see a doctor in order to receive the free services and were then escorted to see Lee and other doctors, who would prescribe unneeded physical therapy that was never administered, the U.S. attorney said.

Seniors would then be given recreational massages and be treated to the promised perks of the clinics, while the doctors filed bills to Medicare for treatment that was never provided, Lynch said in the memo.

Between January 2010 and October 2011, Lee submitted ap-



One of the Flushing clinics where Dr. Lee committed Medicare fraud sits closed.

proximately \$3.2 million in claims to Medicare, the indictment said.

He pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court last Friday to health care fraud and agreed to forfeit more than \$3.4 million in fraud proceeds, Lynch's office said.

Lee and his co-defendants also participated in a kick-back scheme in which they paid individuals for referring Medicare beneficiaries to them, the indictment said. The defendants hid these payments by creating fake invoices for fictional expenses, according to the indictment.

Lee is scheduled to be sentenced June 13 and could face up to 10 years in prison.

His arrest was part of the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, a nationwide operation that has charged more than 1,700 defendants who have collectively bilked \$5.5 billion from Medicare, according to the FBI.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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According to Alan Alford,

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

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

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

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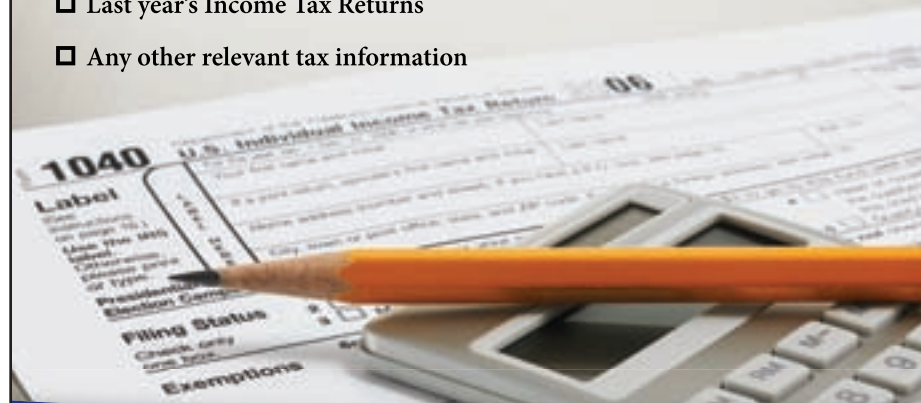
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Popular MetroPlus Health Plan garners 25% share of NYC healthcare exchange shoppers

MetroPlus Health Plan, the insurance plan of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), reported that as of February 10, 2014 more than 32,000 shoppers on the NY State of Health – the official health insurance marketplace in New York -- chose MetroPlus as their preferred health insurance option, making it one of the most popular choices among New York City residents.

According to the New York State Department of Health, more than 400,000 New Yorkers have applied for health care coverage through the state Marketplace. HHC's MetroPlus Health Plan attracted approximately 25 percent of total enrollment in New York City and 8 percent of the statewide enrollment.

"We are particularly pleased to see that over 49 percent of our total Marketplace enrollment is under the age of 35," said Arnold Saperstein, M.D., MetroPlus President and Chief Executive Officer. "It's reassuring to know these young invincibles who have traditionally been so difficult to reach are choosing MetroPlus. We are confident that our combination of low rates, high quality, and committed customer service carry weight with New Yorkers looking for affordable health insurance."

Already the plan of choice for nearly half a million New Yorkers, MetroPlus offers access to a network of over 12,000 primary care physicians and specialist sites across the city and has the most affordable options in three of the four metal level options available on the Marketplace. The plan covers all essential health benefits, including emergency services, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance use services, prescription drugs, and preventive and well-

ness services. It also offers a vision and dental rider for an additional low cost; the rate varies per level. Nearly 67percent of new members shopping on the Marketplace chose this added level of care.

Approximately 42 percent of new MetroPlus members from the Marketplace are age 36 to 59, with nearly two-thirds of this group below the age of 50. People 60 and above (the range just below the age at which people qualify for Medicare), make up 8 percent of the plan's total Marketplace enrollment. This new Membership is distributed throughout the four counties in which MetroPlus is licensed, with 22 percent in Manhattan; 35 percent in Brooklyn; 29 percent in Queens; and 14 percent in the Bronx.

MetroPlus, founded in 1985, has consistently been one of the top-ranked health plans in customer satisfaction in New York City for almost 10 years, rated #1 seven out of eight years consecutively.

"Because we are a subsidiary of HHC, we have a tremendous ability to work together with hundreds of physicians, nurses, specialists, nursing homes and the home health services that are part of the public health care system to manage care for our customers," added Dr. Saperstein. "Our interests are aligned with a focus on prevention, early detection and coordinated care across any health service. We have a culture of caring for our customers where patient satisfaction and their health outcomes come first."

Open enrollment for coverage this year through the state Marketplace closes March 31. There are special circumstances, such as job loss, that allow people to enroll past that deadline. To learn more, contact MetroPlus at 1-855-809-4073 or visit metroplus.org and nystateofhealth.org.

DA charges Jamaica man with arson in mall blazes

BY SARINA TRANGLE

A Queens Criminal Court Judge ordered a 23-year-old Jamaica man charged with igniting fires in a dozen Elmhurst and Rego Park department stores ordered held without bail Wednesday and to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Dereck Sumair faces 12 counts of arson and numerous reckless endangerment and criminal mischief charges after prosecutors accused him of setting ablaze clothing, towels, pillows and shelving in Rego Center, at 96-04 Queens Blvd. in Rego Park, Queens Center, at 90-01 Queens Blvd. in Elmhurst, and Queens Place, at 88-01 Queens Blvd. in Elmhurst.

"These incidents should not be viewed as a



NYPD and FDNY vehicles are stationed along Queens Boulevard.

Photo by Christina Santucci

prank. Arson is a serious crime," Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said in a statement. "The defendant is charged with setting fires that were responsible for causing thousands of dollars worth of damage to many businesses as well

as endangering the lives of shoppers, store employees and responding firefighters."

The DA said it charged Sumair with 12 counts of arson and numerous reckless endangerment and

Continued on Page 49

De Blasio chooses Sunnyside to march in St. Pat's Parade

BY BILL PARRY

Mayor Bill de Blasio will be joined by most, if not all, of the City Council in the 15th Annual St. Pat's for All Parade in Sunnyside Sunday.

De Blasio confirmed with organizers of the inclusive alternative parade Tuesday, the same day that Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan) announced the Council's boycott of the Fifth Avenue St. Patrick's Day Parade citing the traditional parade's exclusion of openly gay participants.

"This City Council is committed to celebrating and respecting the diversity of New York City and that is why we've decided to not participate in the parade," Mark-Viverito said in a statement.

While individual

Council members can still participate in the Manhattan march, they are all expected to join the rest of the city's leadership in Sunnyside.

"They'll all be here at the St. Pat's for All Parade," Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) said. "And why wouldn't they rather be here. Having been a founder of the parade, I can tell you it encompasses the true meaning of the day, that everyone can be Irish on St. Patrick's Day. It's a true representation of Queens, the borough of nations."

The parade kicks off at 1 p.m. at 47th Street and Skillman Avenue and continue to 58th Street in Woodside. This year more than a hundred organizations will march, featuring a wide spectrum of LGBT groups, immigrant com-

munities and civic groups.

Last year, the FDNY Emerald Society Pipes & Drums marched on Skillman for the first time and this year they return with a larger contingent to lead the parade.

"I'm very heartened and proud that this is all happening in Sunnyside," Co-Chairman Brendan Fay said.

The parade's other co-chair, Katherine Walsh D'Arcy, said, "I'm so thrilled with the way it's grown and the way the neighborhood has accepted us."

Walsh D'Arcy mentioned several business groups that have promoted the parade and singled out one, Saints & Sinners, a restaurant at 59-21 Roosevelt Ave. "They've hosted our after-party all 15 years and in the early days it was

Continued on Page 54

Ft Totten site may be named after fallen marshal

23

BT

TIMESLEDGER, FEB. 28-MAR. 6, 2014 TIMESLEDGER.COM

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A deceased Hollis Hills fire marshal who has already had a Manhattan bar named after him might also get his name on a playground in Fort Totten.

The Community Board 7 Parks Committee unanimously voted last week to name the playground in honor of Martin "Woody" McHale, who was driving home from work Christmas Eve 2012 when he suffered a massive heart attack.

"He was well-liked across the board. He was a fireman's fireman and never left the firehouse," said Randall Wilson, commanding officer at the fire marshals' base in Fort Totten, where McHale worked.

Wilson wrote a letter to CB 7 in November asking for support to have the playground renamed.

The play structure, where McHale used to bring

his twin boys, is across the street from the fire marshals' facility.

"Woody always would 'police' the area, picking up any litter and making it safe, not only for his sons but for other children who used the playground," Wilson said in his letter.

McHale served on the FDNY for 23 years before suffering a premature death at 50.

He first joined the Fire Department in 1989 and was promoted to fire marshal in 1999.

McHale was physically a large man and captained the department's football team.

"He was like a kid that never grew up. He always had a smile on his face, but he also took everything he did seriously," said Gene Kelty, chairman of CB 7 and a battalion chief at the Fire Department, who knew McHale. "If you needed



Martin "Woody" McHale died Christmas Eve 2012 after a massive heart attack. Fire marshals are now pushing to have a playground in Fort Totten named after the fallen firefighter.

him, he was always there."

He was so well-loved that a bar on West 14th Street in Manhattan even made McHale their namesake while he was still alive.

"He'd go into a restaurant, become friendly and they would name a sandwich after him. He was that type of guy," Wilson said.

McHale suffered his heart attack while driving in his Chevrolet Silverado in 2012 and crashed into a tree a few hundred feet from his house, police said. He was taken to North Shore University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to cops.

The Fire Department determined McHale's death was in the administrative line of duty since he was on his way home from work, where he first started feeling ill that day, Wilson said.

The full community

board is set to vote on the naming at its March 10 meeting. Kelty abstained from last week's vote due to the conflict of interest.

The spokesman for the city Parks Department said he could not comment on the playground.

"He only had a few short years to spend with his sons. Many of those days were at the playground in Fort Totten," Wilson said. "So what better way to honor a man than to let his children know what they meant to him?"

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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FOCUS ON QUEENS

PFLAG QUEENS CHAPTER HOLDS AWARDS LUNCHEON IN REGO PARK *Photos by Steven Malecki*

1 Anne Quashen, (c.) president of the Queens Chapter of PFLAG, is honored by Councilman Daniel Dromm and Councilwomen Karen Koslowitz during the group's luncheon at Joe Abbracciamento's Restaurant in Rego Park.



2 PFLAG President Anne Quashen (l.) joins (l.-r.) Councilman Daniel Dromm; Bryan Ellicott; Will Harrell; Larry Nelson, who is holding a photo of honoree Cliff Arnesen; Councilmen Corey Johnson and Carlos Menchaca, who were both honored; Councilwomen Karen Koslowitz; and Councilman Mark Weprin.



3 Queens Borough President Melinda Katz (r.) smiles alongside Anne Quashen, from Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

CROWLEY MARKS BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH CELEBRATION IN EAST ELMHURST *Photos by Nat Valentine*

4 U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley presents the city's first lady, Chirlane McCray, with a painting after she delivered the key-note address at Crowley's 15th annual Black History Month Celebration.



5 Queens Borough President Melinda Katz (r.) chats with attendee Carole Kennedy at the East Elmhurst event.



6 Honorees (l.-r.) Monique Johnson, resident council president of Throggs Neck Houses; Kelly Blue, program director at Corona CYO Basketball; and Marvin Jeffcoat, Queens County Council past commander; sit on stage at the First Baptist Church.

QUEENS COUNTY CONSERVATIVE PARTY MEETS IN MIDDLE VILLAGE AMERICAN LEGION POST *Photos by Steven Malecki*

7 Queens County Conservative Party Chairman Thomas Long presides over the group's meeting at the American Legion Post # 1424 in Forest Hills.



8 Thomas Long, (third l.) chairman of the Queens Conservative Party, joins congressional candidates (l.-r.) Nick Di Iorio, who plans to run against U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, and Grant Lally and Stephen LaBate, who both plan to run against U.S. Rep. Steve Israel.



9 Nick Di Iorio addresses attendees at the Queens Conservative Party's meeting.

JAMAICA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER HOSTS "4 LITTLE GIRLS: THE DANCE-OLGY" SHOW *Photos by Nat Valentine*

10 Dancers from the Edge School of the Arts take the stage of the Jamaica Performing Arts Center during the show, directed by Kerri Edge, who also created the choreography.



11 Performers portray the four black girls killed during the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala. church in 1963.



12 Members of ESOTA's Professional Enrollment Program and Teen Class head out into the audience during the Black History Month event.

LIC architect dives into hot restaurant scene

BY BILL PARRY

The founder of a Long Island City architectural firm who specializes in designing restaurants has decided to open one of his own.

Station L.I.C. is under construction above the Vernon-Jackson subway station at 10-37 Jackson Ave. Gregory Okshteyn, the creative director of Studio Go with offices on Center Boulevard, designed the train-themed restaurant/bar and he hopes to have it opened as early as this spring.

"I'm hoping to celebrate my 40th birthday in April and construction is moving quickly," he said.

Okshteyn makes his home on Center Boulevard as well as having moved back to Long Island City three years ago.

"I lived in a loft a dozen years ago while I went to grad school at Columbia. I just fell in love with the neighborhood and always wanted to put down roots here," he said. "I always noticed the area was lacking in nightlife. There are plenty of good restau-

rants with great menus, but no place to grab a drink after work. I just wanted a place where I could hang out with my friends."

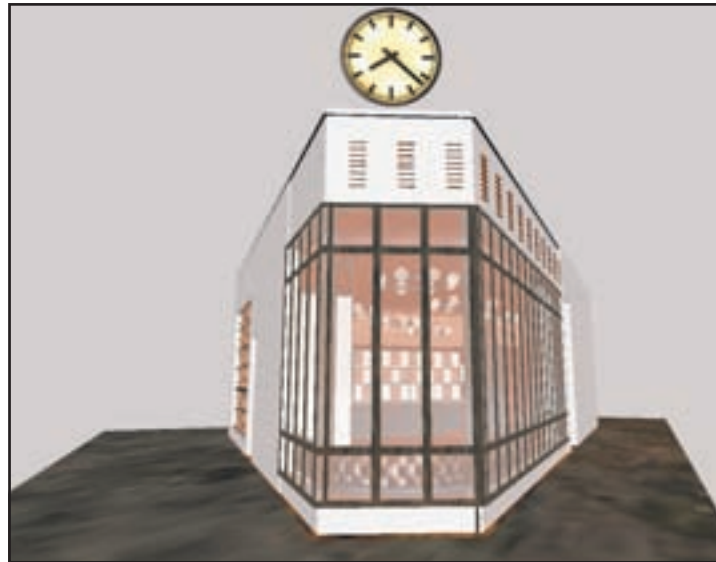
The 2,400-square-foot space will have the feel of a 19th-century European railway station that will be enhanced by the rumbling of the No. 7 subway line below.

"The history of this neighborhood is steeped in the railways. You can still see signs of the old rails down at Gantry. Trains are such a rich aesthetic, so there will be a lot of metal work, and I started antiquing for turn of the century signage and railroad lanterns. It will feel like a baby Grand Central Terminal," Okshteyn said.

The menu will be American bistro fare with European underpinnings.

"The food will be sophisticated but accessible, the prices will be in line with the other area restaurants," Okshteyn said.

Station L.I.C. is taking over a property that has been vacant for more than 12 years. It was most recently a tavern called Blessinger's.



A new restaurant with the feel of an old European train station is in the works for Long Island City. Rendering courtesy of Gregory Okshteyn

"Brian Blessinger reached out to tell me about his family's old restaurant that had to shut down in the '80s because of gambling debts," Okshteyn said. "And then my rabbi, Zev Weinberg, knew the property owner and put me in touch with him. Being a member of the community

really helped out."

Station L.I.C. will have space reserved for local artists to exhibit their work, but there is one thing you will not find in the new hotspot: televisions.

"This will be a place for conversation, to hang out and talk with your friends and make new

ones," Okshteyn said. "However, we will have a projector and screen for the big events like the Super Bowl, the World Cup and the Olympics because I want to see them."

Okshteyn's attention to this year's Olympics was diverted by the crisis in Ukraine last week.

"My family had to emigrate from Ukraine when I was 5. It was then part of the Soviet Union and my great-uncle was (Communist Party Secretary General) Leonid Breshnev's speechwriter," he said. "We had it all, but the memories are bittersweet because of the persecution of the Jews."

He said it was compelling to follow the popular uprising that forced Viktor Yanukovych from power.

"It was difficult to watch the violence unfold, but fascinating at the same time. The people accomplishing freedom — back in the '70s, that was not an option," Okshteyn said.

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538.

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Queens parking garages offer to help snowed-in drivers

Owner of iPark chain starts citywide program to unbury vehicles stranded by winter weather

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Bill Lerner believes that those who have felt the impact of the harsh winter the most are the ones who have to drive in it.

Lerner, owner of the iPark parking garage chain, has started a program to help drivers dig out vehicles that have been buried in snow or ice across the city, including a few locations in Queens, for free.

When motorists call, Lerner will send two of his employees to meet them and help shovel their vehicles out of parking spots on the street.

"Unfortunately, we've seen a lot of people getting stuck in snow and ice banks that you can't shovel out of," he said. "We have these garages all over the city that have managers and workers who have free time on their hands during

non-prime time hours, so I thought, 'Why not?'"

Most iPark garages are in Manhattan, but Lerner operates three in Rego Park and two in Forest Hills that are also participating in the free shoveling program. He said any driver parked within five blocks of one of his garages is welcome to call for assistance and can arrange a time to meet that works for them.

Lerner said he began thinking about helping snowed-in drivers when he began to realize he had seen cars stuck in the same parking spots for weeks at a time.

"I was just feeling bad for the community and wanted to offer services to shovel them out," he said. "The city is going to start enforcing alternate side parking again soon and all these people will be getting tickets and I don't think the



A car is buried in snow on 41st Avenue in Bayside. Bill Lerner, owner of the iPark garage chain across New York City, has started a program to help drivers shovel their cars out after a snowstorm.



city is going to give them a hall pass. We'd like to see them start getting their cars out."

In Rego Park, garages are located at 98-10 64th Ave., 98-33 63rd Drive and

62-60 99th St. The two Forest Hills locations are at 10-25 Gerard Place and 110-45 Queens Boulevard.

Lerner said his staff is just as willing to help as he is and they will accom-

modate callers as much as possible. The only thing he asks, he said, is to call at least 30 minutes before the time you are requesting in order to give his staff time to travel.

The program will continue through the remainder of the winter, Lerner said, and as long as there is snow or ice, he said he and his staff will answer calls from people needing a helping hand. He is also looking to run the free shoveling program next winter, especially if the weather is anything like what has happened this year, he said.

"We just like to help out the community," Lerner said.

The locations of Lerner's garages in other boroughs can be found by visiting ipark.com to see the radius that the garage will extend to, and motorists should call Wender at 917-209-2195 to arrange a meeting time.

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at 718-260-4573.

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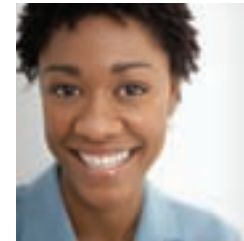
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How to reduce your risk for type 2 diabetes



Though aging increases a person, risk for type 2 diabetes, a healthy lifestyle that includes routine exercise and a healthy diet can help men and women reduce that risk significantly.

Millions of people across the globe suffer from diabetes, a term used to describe a group of metabolic diseases in which a person has high blood pressure resulting from the body's cells not responding properly to insulin or inadequate insulin production. According to researchers at Australia's Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, if the spread of type 2 diabetes continues at its current rate, there will be roughly 439 million adults with diabetes across the globe in the year 2030. Though some cases of diabetes cannot be prevented, a healthy lifestyle can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes, occurring because the body does not use insulin properly. Initially, the pancreas will make extra insulin to account for the body's resistance to insulin, but over time the pancreas cannot produce enough insulin to maintain normal blood glucose levels. The risk of developing type 2 diabetes increases as people age, and while there is no way to halt the aging process, there are many other ways for men,

women, and children to reduce their risks of developing type 2 diabetes.

Shed those extra pounds

Being overweight increases your risk for a host of ailments, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. According to the American Diabetes Association, losing as little as 10 to 15 pounds can make a significant difference for people looking to reduce their risks of developing type 2 diabetes. When attempting to lose weight, recognize that making lifestyle changes is a more effective way to shed pounds and keep weight off than fad diets that may promise quick weight loss but tend to be less effective at keeping that weight off over the long haul. Successful weight loss typically involves a combination of physical activity and a healthy diet. Include physical activity as part of your daily routine several days per week, taking it slow at first if you have not exercised regularly in quite some time. As your body begins to adapt to exercise, you can gradually increase the intensity of your workout routines.

Adopting a healthy diet is another way to lose weight and maintain that weight loss. A diet low in calories and fat is a good start. Men and women who need to lose a significant amount of weight may want to work with a dietitian or nutritionist to create a meal plan that is likely to produce the best results and address any vitamin or nutrient deficiencies they might have.

Focus on fiber

Adding more fiber to your diet is another way to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Foods that are high in fiber tend to make people feel fuller, reducing the likelihood that you will overeat. Fiber also helps the body control its blood sugar levels, and fiber can lower a person's risk of heart disease. Many foods include fiber, but some high-fiber foods include beans, fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

Avoid refined carbohydrates

Studies have shown that diets rich in refined carbohydrates increase a person's risk of developing diabetes, while additional studies have shown that diets rich in whole grains protect the body against diabetes. Researchers examining the results of several studies that explored the relationship between whole grains and diabetes found that eating an extra two servings of whole grains each day can reduce a person's risk of type 2 diabetes by as much as 21 percent. Refined carbohydrates, which can be found in white bread, white rice, mashed potatoes and many cereals, cause sustained spikes in blood sugar and insulin levels, which can increase a person's risk of diabetes.

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2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995
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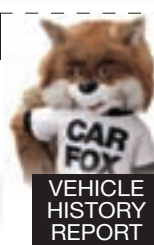
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Abraham Lincoln Impersonator Stuns Flushing House Audience!

Flushing, New York, February 24, 2014 - Robert Costello, an Abraham Lincoln Impersonator par excellence, stunned both guests and residents of Flushing House with his performance on February 22, 2014 that brought the martyred president back to life. His performance was arranged by Flushing House management at the behest of residents, who requested that the retirement community do something to honor Lincoln for President's Day 2014.

The realistic portrayal, held in the Flushing House Rooftop Atrium, included a recounting of Lincoln's life, the Civil War, his involvement with ending slavery, and a remarkable reciting of 'The Gettysburg Address,' which earned Costello a standing ovation. Costello actually gave two performances, one in the glass-enclosed rooftop lounge for fam-



Robert Costello (Abraham Lincoln) & James Driscoll at Flushing House.

ily members and guests, the second in the ground floor game room for Flushing House resi-

dents. Over 100 people felt they were in the presence of the 16th President of the United States.

"Over the years, Robert Costello has appeared before many audiences," said Robert Salant, Flushing House director of community relations. "He looks and dresses like Lincoln, gives speeches of the martyred President, and interacts with the audience. He has won acclaim for portraying one of the most beloved presidents of the United States."

Salant explained that the performance took place because of the residents' interest in U.S. history. On January 28, 2010 James Driscoll became a Flushing House resident. The former Queens Historian, and President of the Queens Historical Society, James Driscoll authored Flushing, New York: 1880-1935 (Postcard History Series), and many

other popular books on history. "When Jim first moved in, he gave history talks to residents," Salant said. "Several residents recently told Jim we ought to honor Abe Lincoln, he brought this to management's attention, and the rest is just history!" Salant added.

Built in 1974, Flushing House is the largest, not-for-profit, Independent Living retirement community in New York State. Visit us at: www.flushinghouse.com.



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GUIDE



CHOOSING *the right* SUMMER CAMP

It can be difficult to envision warm summer days when the wind is blowing and the snow is falling. However, the winter months are a great time to explore summer camp options. In fact, many camps have strict enrollment timelines that require decisions to be made prior to spring.

Attending summer camp has been a tradition in the United States for more than 150 years. Statistics indicate that around

30 million American kids attend summer camp each year. There are many benefits to summer camp. Camp enables children to stay engaged during the summer when there may be limited interaction with school friends. It also gives parents both a safe and viable daycare solution during the summer.

Summer camp pulls together children from different neighborhoods, social

classes, and backgrounds, which can make it a good place to meet new people — some of whom may become lifelong friends. Camps also provide a variety of activities that can challenge children to try new things that go beyond their comfort zones.

Some children are very receptive to the idea of attending summer camp. Others need a little coaxing. But summer camp should never be forced on a child who does

not want to go. In such instances, consider local daytime programs that may fill the void instead of programs that require being away from home. Once the decision for summer camp is made, there are some questions to answer.

- What are your finances like? Do you have a budget for summer camp?

- What size camp do you desire?

Continued on Page 36



Budding athletes should aim for a game-changing summer

For children who have a passion for sports, specialty camp experiences with a sports focus can offer a variety of benefits. Regardless of a camp's specialty area, it is the nature of camp to help children develop into caring, resilient, compassionate, independent people. But especially at sports camp, campers enjoy the community and friendships of peers and role models with similar interests. They are also able to concentrate on and gain confidence in the sport they love!

Some 10 percent of ACA-accredited camps offer a targeted sports focus. By comparison, in 2004, only 3 percent of ACA camps offered a targeted sport focus. That's more than a threefold increase in ten years. You can even find sports at special needs camps, where the activities are geared to campers' abilities.

The diversity of camps today reflects the diversity of America — there is a camp for every ability level and interest, from horseback riding to soccer, race car driving to softball. According to ACA's most recent Sites, Facilities, and Programs Report, 98 percent of responding ACA camps reported

offering at least one sport even if sports were not a targeted focus. The top five sports activities offered are recreational swimming (87 percent), aquatic activities (76 percent), basketball (72 percent), archery (71 percent), and camping skills (67 percent). Unique offerings include fencing, lacrosse, SCUBA diving, windsurfing, and more.

You and your child can search for the perfect camp experience on ACA's Find a Camp database (<http://find.acacamps.org>). This resource allows families to search for camp programs based on location, price, session length, and more — including whether the camp focuses on just one sports activity or multiple activities. When searching for multiple-activity camps, families can also search by intensity level — recreational, instructional, or intense/competitive. Camps are able to serve campers who are just looking to try a new sport, campers who are looking for serious skill building, and everyone in between! Begin searching early. Camps begin taking registrations well before the "camp season" begins.

Beyond the activities offered at a camp, it is also crucial to con-

sider a camp's philosophy. ACA encourages parents to ask camp representatives if the camp is ACA-accredited. If not, ask why. ACA-accredited camps meet up to 280 health and safety standards and are a parent's best evidence that the camp is committed to the safety and well-being of their child. A few other tips for learning more about the camp's philosophy include:

Ask "What is the camp's philosophy and program emphasis?"

Ask "How does the camp handle homesickness and other adjustment issues?"

Visit the camp if possible to see practices first-hand.

Ask for references.

Quality sports camp experiences will not only improve a camper's skills or allow them to explore a new interest, they will nourish a child's social and emotional development as well. Camp experiences help children gain skills they'll use for a lifetime — both on and off the field!

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Getting your child packed for camp

When packing for camp, you should receive information on policies and procedures before your child is ready to go. The following checklist should help you decide what you do or don't need to pack:

•**Bedding:** Sleeping bags, sheets, blankets, and pillows are usually the camper's responsibility. Most beds are twin size or smaller and may be bunk style. Some camps supply linens.

•**Towels:** Usually supplied by the camper.

•**Clothing:** Most camps supply a list of recommended clothing that varies with the climate. Be sure to pack long pants (for hikes and horseback riding) as well as shorts. Comfortable, durable shoes are a must, while special footwear is advisable for certain activities (tennis, hiking, and horseback riding). Use a permanent marker or name tags to identify your child's belongings. Some camps require campers to wear uniforms. Some camps will furnish the uniforms, while others will provide you with ordering information.

•**Toiletries:** A small bag can be handy for toiletries if a camper has to walk to a separate building for showering and bathing. It is wise to pack sunscreen, lip balm, insect repellent, soap,

toothpaste and toothbrush, shampoo, a hairbrush and comb, and deodorant (if your child uses it).

•**Laundry:** Generally, sessions under two weeks don't include laundry service. You might send a pillow case or laundry bag to store dirty clothing.

•**Equipment:** Camps usually provide items such as oars, life jackets, and craft materials, but check with the camp to be sure. The camper may want to bring a tennis racquet, musical instrument, or backpack. Don't pack radios, televisions, portable CD players, stereos, food, or hunting knives.

•**Spending money:** Camps have different policies on children bringing spending money. Some have stores that sell T-shirts, film, candy, and other items. Check with the camp staff.

•**Medicine:** Any medication should be properly labeled in its original container with dosage instructions and given to the camp's medical personnel for safe keeping.

•**Insurance:** Camper health and accident insurance may be provided by the camp. You might be asked to bring information on family health and accident coverage. Be sure to ask the camp director if there are additional charges for insurance.





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How to locate a camp for special-needs kids



tend to cater to the specific needs of their clientele, supported by a long history of service to youth with disabilities and their families.

Some special-needs camps will offer educational support or continue with occupational therapy, physical therapy, or speech therapy. Campers are often enrolled or grouped by age or functioning level to provide an appropriate peer group.

Special needs camps can specifically handle the medical, behavioral, dietary, physical, emotional, cognitive, or social needs of their campers.

Generally, the staff-to-camper ratio will vary from one to one or one to four.

Families choose special-needs camps for a wide variety of reasons. These may include existing relationships with an agency and knowledge of the philosophy and mission of that agency, security in knowing the camp is designed especially for their child, wanting their child to identify with a peer group of kids with disabilities, and security in knowing their child won't be "different" than the other kids.

How can you find the camp that's best for your child, especially if he has a special need? Thanks to the Americans with Disabilities Act, there is access to a wider variety of services and programs for people with disabilities.

What will benefit your child most this summer? Be honest with yourself and clearly outline the specifics of dates needed, length of session required, loca-

tion, supportive services required, and costs.

Many organizations offer day and residential summer camping programs for children and teens with disabilities. The Lion's Clubs, Easter Seals, and disability-specific organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association and American Diabetes Association are among them.

Others are just day programs, overnight camps, or both. Such organizations

CHOOSING

Continued from Page 33

- Should the camp be co-ed or single sex?
- How far do you want your child to travel for summer camp? What are the options in your area?
- Are there any camps that have been recommended by friends or family members?
- What kinds of activities do your children enjoy?

These types of questions will help you narrow down your options. Then you can visit and interview camps to find one that is the best

fit. When visiting camps, go armed with a checklist of questions. Some of these can include:

- What is the philosophy of the camp?
- Can you explain a typical day?
- What are the types of activities and facilities offered?
- What is the camper-to-counselor ratio?
- What is the camp's drug and alcohol policy?
- Does the camp have insurance and security personnel?
- What percentage of staff return each year? How are staff selected and trained?

• What kind of health-care is provided?

• Can you tell me about the policy on phone calls and family visits?

• What do you do in the event of emergencies?

There are many different camps available. Some offer a little bit of everything. Others cater to academics, sports, specific hobbies or even religious preferences. Don't wait too long to research and sign up for camps because many fill up quite early or have an extensive waiting list. That is why choosing a camp should be part of a winter to-do list.



Guidelines for first-time campers

Sending your child away to camp for the first time is a major milestone for most families, one that is often marked by excitement, anticipation, and perhaps even some anxiety. Though camp is certainly about making friends and having fun, it is also about being on your own and being a part of a community. One of the most important things you as a parent can do to help prepare your child for both these aspects of camp is to talk with your child about it before he/she goes.

The following are some sample topics for discussion that will help prepare your child emotionally for their big adventure:

Friends — Camp is not anything if it is not about making new friends. If you are shy about meeting new kids, then learn to get to know others by being a good

listener. Remember also that not everyone in your cabin, bunk, or group has to be your friend, and you don't have to be everyone else's friend. As long as you treat others with respect and they do the same with you, then having one or two friends at camp is fine.

Activities — There are many exciting things to do at camp, many of which you may never have tried before. You may not like all the activities, or you may be better at some than others. That's normal. I, however, hope you are willing to try.

Cooperating — You, like every other camper there, will be part of a cabin, bunk, or group. I hope you will cooperate with others and help out. That's part of what makes camp so special — kids helping each other out. Most kids will help you if you are friendly and help them.

Give yourself time — One thing about camp is that almost everything is new — the kids, the activities, the routines, the bed you sleep in, the bathroom. It takes a few days to get adjusted, so be patient with yourself.

Getting help — Everyone has good days and bad days. If you are having a problem, your counselor is there to help you. You don't have to wait to tell us if you are upset about something. After all, if your counselor doesn't know what might be troubling you, he/she can't help you. Be honest and ask for what you need. If your counselor doesn't seem to be concerned or doesn't help you, then you can go to the unit director, head counselor, etc.

Being positive — It's a great thing to remind your first-time camper about his or her strong points. I would focus not just on what

they do well, but their positive qualities as well, such as what makes them a good friend or the type of person other kids would want to know. Helping children identify their strengths can help them when they are having a setback — one of those inevitable growing pains all children have from time to time.

Talking with your child about these kinds of issues is a great way to show support as your child gets ready to take this important step on the road to being more resilient and self-reliant.

It can give you peace of mind as you allow your child to participate in the broader world.

— Bob Ditter, L.C.S.W.

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Q GUIDE

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STUDIO WITH A VIEW

in Long Island City

The western Queens neighborhood serves as inspiration for artist Violet Baxter's oil paintings

BY ALLISON PLITT

Painter Violet Baxter has spent most of her artistic career painting scenes outside her different studios' windows.

"There are drawings and paintings that I've made complete-

ly from fleeting images," Baxter said. "As the painting is usually a puzzle, the process of having to find a way to resolution can take months or even much longer. By this process, it becomes a work relying on memory, gradually gathering layers of meaning. In

this way then, memory plays a leading role."

For the first 20 years, Baxter captured the views from her studio located at Union Square in Manhattan. Later, she moved her studio to Long Island City where she has accumulated more than

10 years' worth of paintings of sights from outside her windows, including bridges, buildings, trucks, roads and, of course, the sky.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Baxter knew as a young child she would be a painter by all the attention she received from her own artwork. She went to high school at the School of Art

and Design in Manhattan. After she finished, she moved into the city which eventually led to her studying at Cooper Union, where she graduated with honors.

Shortly thereafter, she enrolled at Columbia University to study with artist Ralph Mayer, who was well-known for his research on art materials and tech-

Continued on Page 43

Violet Baxter's painting "Bridge in Yellow Light" (pictured top) shows Steinway Storage and Moving, Mason Tenders Training Center and the roadway leading to the Queensboro Bridge.

Photo courtesy Violet Baxter

Exploring a tale of two theaters here in Queens

Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' and Rabe's 'Hurlyburly' provide strikingly different comical plays

Last week I had the opportunity to revisit two theaters in Queens, both remarkable as the all too rare significant theater venues in our borough of 2.2 million residents. I say significant in that these theaters are dedicated to the performing arts exclusively, and are not in schools or houses of worship or other places where space is shared with many other activities.

Queens Theatre calls itself the premier performing arts venue in Queens. And it's true, since it really has almost no competition. What it does have are three performance spaces: a 472-seat main stage, a 99-seat studio, and a cabaret room. Established in 1989 and officially opened in 1993, Queens Theatre is in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in a



Ronald B. Hellman
■
The Play's The Thing

building erected 50 years ago for the 1964 World's Fair. (This locale was the Theaterama of the New York State Pavilion; the adjacent towers and Tent of Tomorrow have deteriorated over time and there's been some talk of restoring them.) There's plenty of free parking and a free shuttle runs frequently from the Mets-Willets Point Station.

Not far from the East River in the Hunter's Point section of Long Island City is **The Chain**

Theatre, a happening place in a happening neighborhood. Performing in a former factory building since 2012, it features an intimate black box theater with up to 75 seats, plus gallery space and rehearsal rooms. Just a few minutes from Manhattan, the Court Square Station of the No. 7 train is on the corner and lots of new condos and co-ops are within walking distance.

The performance I caught at Queens Theatre was Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" presented by the touring **Aquila Theatre Company** with a cast of seven playing all the roles. Love triumphed once again in this clever production. Managing Director of Queens Theatre **Taryn Sacramone**, on the job for little more than half a year, has lots of

work ahead to revitalize the place after some recent hard times. But with her background, temperament and dedication, we can look forward to many splendid attractions at this major showcase.

At The Chain I saw a rare performance of "Hurlyburly" by **David Rabe**, produced by the resident **Variations Theatre Group**. Run by a couple of Hofstra University graduates, **Rich Ferraioli** and **Kirk Gostkowski** — Rich does a lot of the directing and Kirk a lot of the acting — the ambitions run high. In just three seasons, the group has produced three play revivals, three original works, and four theater festivals. Its catch phrase is "muscular theater" that is accessible and affordable. Off to a great start, Variations Theatre

and The Chain are the wave of the future.

For those of us who value the past, especially when musicals were really musical, the community-minded **Theatre By The Bay** presents "Anything Goes" at the Bay Terrace Jewish Center on the first two weekends in March. The **Cole Porter** score includes such standards as "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're The Top" and the title song, and stars as Reno Sweeny — originally played by **Ethel Merman** and more recently by **Sutton Foster** — a super Queens resident, **Cathy Chimenti**. Who could ask for anything more?

Contact Ron Hellman at RB-HOFC@gmail.com.

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #28

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

Hard #28

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

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

Tips at www.sudoku.com
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Environment sizzles in Queens Museum's show

BY MERLE EXIT

Temperatures may be back around freezing although at the Queens Museum in Flushing Meadows Corona Park things appear to be heating up.

In February, the museum opened "Raising the Temperature: Art in Environmental Reactions," in conjunction with the Rainforest Art Foundation. The exhibition explores mankind's negative influence on the environment.

"I arranged the artists in two trajectories in order to organize our discussion and aid the appreciation of these creations," said curator Luchia Meihu Lee. "One section called 'Conversation with Artists' brings up the issue of the artists' response to environmental senses."

Works by nine artists are featured in the show. Jeremiah Teipen, Pey Chwen Lin, Ki Fei, Hai Zhang and Todd Gavin focus on technological changes that reinforce behaviors which contribute to the ongoing environmental issues. The second group of artists — Marlene Tseng Yu, Sarah Walko, Miya Ando and Kay Lin — share a more intimate or romantic ap-

proach in the second strand.

Ando's works are titled "Obon" and consist of hand-painted leaves from Bodhi trees.

"This is an indoor installation of a traditional Japanese festival honoring the dead," Ando said.

Using about 100 of the heart-shaped leaves from this type of fig tree, Ando paints them with a phosphorescence pigment that changes colors in light. The leaves are then placed in a clear, acrylic box containing water.

"Each fragile leaf appears clear in the light and becomes luminous in the dark," Ando said.

In addition, Ando places her signature leaves atop the installation with a sign that encourages people to take only one. These leaves have been temporarily added to the museum's City of New York Panorama exhibit to make them appear floating along the river.

Kay H. Lin's piece is titled "Sun, Air, Water" and uses a balloon as the centerpiece of the work.

"The balloon is made from a collage of recycled plastic supermarket bags from different countries. The plastic recycled materials demon-

strate conservation and waste reduction while also showing how immigrants from different countries join together in Greater New York as a hot air balloon that lifts us all," Kay H. Lin said. "Below the balloon is a basket of living green plants growing in soil (earth) with their leaves trailing over the edge. They represent the greenery that provides oxygen and gives life energy."

The mishmash of shopping bags and their placement in front of a large window reveals the Unisphere with its shape duplicated in Lin's piece.

Pey Chwen Lin has called his piece "Eve Clone Revelation No. 4."

"Eve Clone is a commentary on human civilization and its dependency on technology as the true cause for alienation and human suffering. The holy light surrounding Eve's head is a golden metaphor for the all-powerful, metaphysical authority," Pey Chwen Lin said. "Eve, both deceitful and sad, inhabits a space in ruins as it gradually fills with water. Eve Clone also sees the water level rise slowly while rotating, even dancing."

This is one of two exhibits that use digital technology so the visitor

Continued on Page 43



Artist Kay H. Lin's stands next to her piece "Sun, Air, Water," which is part of the Queens Museum current exhibition "Raising the Temperature: Art in Environmental Reactions."

Photo by Merle Exit

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THEATER CALENDAR



PRODUCTIONS

"Hurlyburly" – David Rabe's comedy focuses on four men caught up in the hedonistic lifestyle of mid-1980s Hollywood.

When: Through March 1, Tuesday to Saturday at 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm
Where: The Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City
Cost: \$18
Contact: (646) 580-6003
Website: www.chain-theatre.org

"The Uninvited" – This supernatural thriller, presented by the Parkside Players, centers on a charming house in England with a dark secret.

When: Through March 1; Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Where: Grace Lutheran Church, 103-15 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills
Cost: \$17/adults, \$15/seniors, \$10/children
Contact: (718) 353-7388
Website: www.parksideplayers.com

"Richard III" – The Queens Players infuse a punk sensibility into Shakespeare's drama, now set in 1980s punk clubs in England.

When: Through March 15
Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City
Cost: \$18
Contact: (718) 392-0722
Website: www.secrettheatre.com

"Anything Goes" – Theatre by the Bay presents Cole Porter's musical-comedy set aboard a ocean liner from New York to London includes the classic songs "You're the Top," "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "Anything Goes."

When: March 1 to March 16, Saturdays at 8 pm (no show March 15) and Sundays at 3 pm
Where: Bay Terrace Jewish Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside
Cost: \$20/adults, \$18/seniors and children
Contact: (718) 428-6363
Website: www.theatrebythebayny.com

"Hairspray" – The recent

smash Broadway hit musical, staged by the Marathon Little Theatre Group, revolves around perky Tracy Turnblad's push to integrate a 1960s TV dance show in Baltimore, and to find love along the way.

When: March 1 to March 16, Saturdays at 8:30 pm (no show March 15), Sundays at 3 pm
Where: Marathon Jewish Center, 245-67 60th Ave., Douglaston
Cost: \$18/adults, \$16/seniors and children under 13
Contact: (718) 229-4644

"Nonsense The Mega-Musical"

– In this reboot of the original Off-Broadway smash, the Little Sisters of Hoboken put on a variety show to raise money.

When: Saturday, March 8 to Sunday, March 16, Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm
Where: Maggie's Little Theater at St. Margaret Parish, 66-05 79th Place, Middle Village
Cost: \$18/adults, \$15/seniors, \$12/children 11 and under
Contact: (917) 579-5389
Website: www.maggieslittletheater.org

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights



LAST CHANCE TO CATCH 'THE UNINVITED'

Cast members Rebecca Coughlan (l. to r.), Nick Radu and Laura Cetti appear in a scene from The Parkside Players production of "The Uninvited." In the show, brother and sister Roddy and Pam Fitzgerald long to escape the demands of city life in London. They discover a charming home overlooking the Irish Sea, which they purchase for a suspiciously low price. But it quickly becomes clear why they received such a bargain – a murder may have been committed on the grounds and evil spirits seem to be lurking about. The play runs through Saturday at the Grace Lutheran Church in Forest Hills. For tickets and information, visit www.parksideplayers.com.

Photo courtesy The Parkside Players

Circle Meeting – Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion,

workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.
When: Every other Wednesday,

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck
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For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar

EVENTS

Queens World Film Festival

The fourth annual celebration of world cinema returns to the borough with feature films, documentaries and shorts.

When: Tuesday, March 4 to Sunday, March 9

Where: Museum of the Moving Image, Nesva Hotel, The Secret Theatre and PS 69

Cost: \$75/festival pass with opening night, \$50/festival pass, \$10/single programs, \$6/single programs seniors and students

Contact: (718) 429-2579

Website: www.queensworldfilmfestival.com

Open House — Hillcrest Jewish Center, an egalitarian Conservative Synagogue invites you to get to know its community. A light kosher lunch and make your own sundaes will be available with reservations.

When: Sunday, March 30, 11 am - 1:30 pm

Where: 183-02 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows

Contact: (718) 380-4145, or info@hillcrestjc.org

Neal Gillen — The author will discuss how Queens has become the most diverse and ever-changing community in America.

When: Sunday, March 2, 2:30 pm

Where: Queens Historical Society, 143-35 37th Ave., Flushing

Cost: \$8/adults, \$5/members, students and seniors

Contact: (718) 939-0647

Anne Hosansky — The author will discuss her new book, "Ten Women of Valor," focusing on the story of Esther. The Bayside Jewish Center Sisterhood sponsors this program.

Refreshments will be available.

When: Monday, March 17, 3 pm

Where: Bayside Jewish Center, 203-05 32nd Ave., Bayside

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 352-7900

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
February 28-March 6, 2014

By Ed Canty

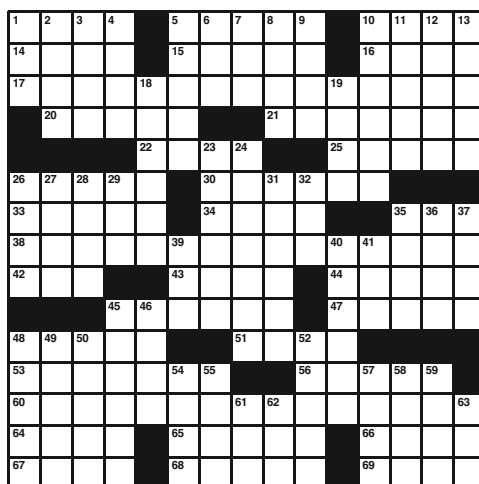
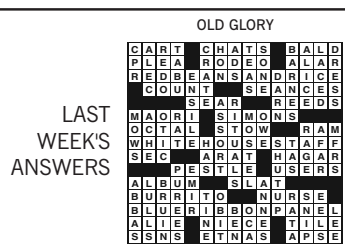
Birds of a Feather

Across

11. Test sites
5. "A ____ Grows in Brooklyn"
9. Bottle filler?
13. A little of a large lot?
14. Bigger than big
15. Bakery treat
16. Which came first?
19. Storm area
20. Well-grounded birds?
21. Civics, e.g.
22. Ladder part
23. Algonquian Indian
24. Owns up to
27. Like some photos
31. "... ____ a good night!"
32. Dog biter
33. Italian monk
34. Post-Thanksgiving meal
38. Fashion letters
39. Granny's other daughter
40. Slang greetings
41. Mukluk material
44. Like bright nights
45. "Put ____ on it!"
46. Gouge or chisel
47. Breakfast beverage
50. A fish that nags?

Down

1. Shoestring
2. Hurting
3. A French cheese
4. "Hold on a ____!"
5. All great crosswords have them
6. Accumulate, as a bill
7. Freudian topics
8. Always, in verse
9. Shots on lots
10. Broke ground?
11. Actress Swenson
12. Cribbage markers
15. Pumps and clogs
17. Whistler in the kitchen
18. Bad place for a frog
22. Jockey shirt material
23. Chin indentation
24. A.B.A. members
25. Drench
26. An ex of the Donald
27. Senator-astronaut
28. "Alas,..."
29. Certain computer message
30. Full of lip
32. Liquid
35. Washington city
36. Armed sea creatures?
37. Lab container
42. Potato pancakes
43. Tarts
44. "And what is -- as..."
46. California border lake
47. Modern info holders
48. "Great" English river
49. Academies: Abbr.
50. Dance for plumbers?
51. Bit of Windows dressing?
52. Adorable
53. Brief guesses?
55. "Apple cider" gal
56. Brazilian port



Continued from Page 39

Subsequent to her work with Mayer, she took a job in the publishing world doing calligraphy and "paste-ups and mechanicals," which involved putting together text and pictures for newspaper or magazine reproduction.

Baxter got married and had a daughter at the dawn of computer publishing, in which she showed no interest in learning. Instead, during that time, she worked for Pratt Institute, where she taught calligraphy in a program called "Classrooms Without Walls," to students at her home.

Returning to the art world full time in 1980, Baxter began her solo career as an abstract artist which meant she focused on color, form and line to create a composition. She moved into her Union Square studio in 1983, creating paintings by using three different mediums — pastel, oil paint and watercolor.

Although some of her earlier and more renowned pieces were made with pastel, she eventually stopped using it.

"I don't do much work with pastel now, though I continue to accept restoration commissions. I have avoided this medium because of not wanting to inhale the pastel dusts," she said. "Many people know my work in pastel, but I'm happy to paint now with oils that sometimes resemble the pastels I created."

Baxter eventually evolved into a representational painter, meaning she depicts in her paintings things people easily recognize. Be it abstract or representational painting, she often starts by sketching a design.

"Drawing is primary for me," Baxter said. "It is an exercise that helps me to understand the problems in the work. Even when I was an abstract painter, drawing remained essential."

Sometimes taking up to two years to



Artist Violet Baxter paints the scenes she sees outside of her Long Island City studio.

Photo courtesy Violet Baxter

finish a painting, Baxter applies layers of color to her canvases because she says subjects change color over time. She also prefers to depict images of subjects that do not remain stationary.

Besides memory, Baxter's work also displays the variations of different lights.

"I'm very affected by light," Baxter said. "I like to watch how it changes and forms whatever I am looking at. 'Night Lights' is the title of a series of paintings based on the view I know so well in daylight. At night this view transforms into mystery with barely caught images of cars and trucks going by,

flashes of light, touches of people and other indescribable things in the dark. This dark fascinates me."

Baxter also works on canvases of varying sizes to experiment with the visual image of her painting.

"I work on small panels that I sometimes make larger," she said. "I also find it useful to shift it onto varying sizes. It's interesting to see how the scale of a piece can alter one's perceptions of the painting."

What Baxter desires most is to create artwork that will leave a lasting impression on its audience. Recalling going to museums as a child, she says she still revisits certain paintings to find something new that recaptures her attention.

"I favor painting that comes to the viewer slowly, that as it is looked at, it develops. I want the painting to keep opening up over the years, that it has lasting power," Baxter said. "As I paint, my work may accumulate layers of meaning, of feeling and memory. From this comes the hope that some of my paintings will be able to remain in one's memory."

For more information about Violet Baxter and her artwork, you can view her work online at www.fedart.org/page%20portfolio/Baxter.htm.

Museum

Continued from Page 41

can view this exhibit in motion.

"Photography has been the tool for me to investigate the context in which we all find ourselves," Hai Zhang said about "Don't

Follow Me, I'm Lost!"

He displays the photos in a series as if the viewer were shopping for a poster.

"It is such an unsettling journey into the understanding of the tomorrow that the new China is leading its people towards," Zhang said. "These revelations raise some of the most

pressing dilemmas of our time. Since 2008, I have regularly traveled to China to photograph the ever-changing and sprawling urbanized landscape."


"Raising the Temperature: Art in Environmental Reactions" will be on exhibit through Sunday at the Queens Museum.

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Queens police pledge to translate for abuse victims

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Police emphasized the NYPD's indifference to immigration status and willingness to translate conversations for those reporting domestic violence at a recent forum hosted by the 102nd and 106th precincts.

Although the NYPD prioritizes quickly translating such complaints, police said there is no formal time limit by which statements and depositions must be put in English.

"Our biggest work in progress right now is to make sure that those second pages that are written in second languages are translated," said Diana Silverstein, the domestic violence sergeant for the 102nd Precinct. "There is no set amount of time."

The NYPD has recently fielded questions about its translation procedures because it was named in a federal lawsuit claiming language barriers routinely prevent police from helping abuse victims. Relatives of a Guatemalan woman killed by her husband in the 103rd Precinct alleged last

week that her reports to police were left in Spanish and not translated before she died, according to the New York Post.

The 102nd and 106th precincts scheduled a meeting on domestic violence at the Fairfield Pavilion, in Richmond Hill Feb. 20 after noticing a spate of such crimes in their commands, which span the area from Kew Gardens to Howard Beach.

Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff, who leads the 106th Precinct, said felony domestic incidents are up 53 percent in his command and by large margins in the 102nd Precinct.

"We're trying to get that message out here to understand, break down some cultural divides and some misnomers," said Deputy Inspector Henry Sautner, who commands the 106th Precinct. "Hopefully, with keeping families together and providing that education and information, we'll see a decrease in such instances."

The evening began with explanations of what constitutes domestic violence — a pattern of



Deisy Garcia, who was murdered along with her daughters, filled out a Spanish-language domestic abuse report that was never translated.

abusive behavior between family members or intimate partners where one person uses physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse to leverage power over an-

other.

Silverstein said police strive to get an officer on scene who speaks the same language as victims. If that is not possible, police attempt to bring them to the precinct, where someone on the other end of a central telephone system can facilitate conversation.

Should it come to a deposition written in the victim's native tongue, Silverstein said police can scan the statement and use computer software to translate it.

Police stressed that officers do not wait for translations to begin investigating crimes.

An officer immediately attempts to establish who started the physical contact. Police said authorities may arrest everyone involved if they cannot establish a primary physical aggressor.

All domestic violence reports are logged in a central database to ensure that precincts are notified about incidents involving people who live in their commands.

Silverstein said domestic violence officers monitor such reports daily and then check on victims to offer them resources

and safety advice.

Many such families are directed to the Queens Family Justice Center, a city-run facility offering free, confidential case management at 126-02 82nd Ave. The center provides help applying for public assistance, moving to shelters, fighting for child support and finding a career.

Alexandra Patino, the center's executive director, said about 59 percent of its clients are foreign-born. She said victims should not hesitate to report incidents if they are undocumented. Victims who work with the district attorney's office may qualify for U visas, which Patino said authorize victims to work in the country and then apply for a Green Card after three years.

"We get a lot of phone calls from people who are afraid that they're going to be deported because that's one of those tools that an abuser will use," she said. "We really don't want that."

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle at 718-260-4546 or by e-mail at strangle@cnglocal.com.



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Borough Beat

COMPILED BY JOSEPH GARGIULO



AND MANY MORE!

Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Howard Beach) visited the Howard Beach Senior Center to celebrate the 80th birthday of Howard Beach resident Connie Pionegro. Ulrich presented a City Council citation to Pionegro and joined her friends and family to mark the occasion.



BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

State Sen. Michael Gianaris, Councilman Costa Constantinides and Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan hosted a celebration of Black History Month in collaboration with the Astoria Houses Tenants Association at Reality House in Astoria. The event celebrated community leaders Tenants Association President Claudia Coger, Bishop Mitchell Taylor, TA Vice President Renee Edwards, Pastor Dwayne Jackson, Detective Darryl Johnson, Minor Miracles Vice President Eric Mathews and Minor Miracles Executive Director of Public Programs Aiysha Mayfield.



FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR

The Clinton Democratic Club held its meeting at Trattoria 35 in Bayside. Councilman Paul Vallone's Community Liaison Malini Shah, (l.-r.) Assemblymen Ed Braunstein, David Weprin and Ron Kim, U.S. Rep. Steve Israel's Outreach Coordinator Michael Stinson, Vallone, NYPD Community Affairs Officer Edward Soto, NYPD Community Affairs Officer Kenyetta McMillan, Catena Vallone, state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's Queens Regional Director George Paralemos, Clinton Democratic Club Vice President Marsha Kahn, Bay Terrace Community Alliance President Warren Schreiber, club past President John Dorsa and District Leader Mary Ann Dorsa.



VALENTINES FOR VETS

Assemblyman Mike Miller distributed items donated to his annual Valentines for Vets collection at the Veterans Affairs hospital in St. Albans.



HOLIDAY HEARTS

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz presented United War Veterans Council Executive Director Patrick Gualtieri and other UWVC representatives with cards and gifts donated by her and her employees during an event at Queens Borough Hall. The UWVC planned to distribute the donated items at the Veterans Affairs hospital in St. Albans. UWVC collected the items as part of its annual Valentine's Day Caravan, which collects and delivers thousands of donated cards and gifts to military members, veterans and their families at hospitals and military bases.



TOYS FOR TOTS

Representatives of Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar present a check for \$270,394 to Sgt. Shane D. Larkin of the U.S. Marines Corps in support of its annual Toys for Tots program. The money was raised during Applebee's annual "Breakfast with Santa" events. Over the past 14 years, Applebee's locations owned and operated by Doherty Enterprises on Long Island and New Jersey have raised more than \$3.3 million for the Toys for Tots initiative.



CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Academy in Queens Village celebrated Catholic School Week in January. The International Festival was hosted by Donna DiGrucio's fifth-graders, who sang "We Are the World." Photo courtesy Christine Thornhill



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Assemblyman David Weprin co-hosted the state Assembly's Asian New Year Celebration with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assembly members Ron Kim, Nily Rozic, Ed Braunstein and Félix Ortiz. Elected officials presented certificates to Qi Chen, Sidi Liang, Tiancheng Chai, Rongrong Wang and Yu Long, who were part of the TESOL China-U.S. exchange program at St. John's University, as well as Stephen Boyanton, Ellen Boyanton and Lei Zhang. Professor Dengting Boyanton and Christopher Kui, executive director of Asian Americans for Equality, were also honored.



VALENTINES FOR VETS

Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) and the law offices of Ann-Margaret Carrozza, along with co-sponsors Dr. William M. Duke and Community Board 11, organized the community's 18th annual Valentines for Vets gift drive. Thousands of donations were received from more than 20 schools, as well as civic and religious organizations, senior clubs and Queens residents. Braunstein is pictured with Victoria Townes, recreation assistant at the Veterans Affairs hospital in St. Albans, and U.S. Air Force veteran James Remias, who served during the Vietnam War.

Potholes

Continued from Page 4

synched with an improved dispatching and routing system. Trottenberg said DOT learns about potholes mostly from 311 complaints and tries to respond to each crater within two days.

"I will admit that the complaints are coming in very fast," Trottenberg said. "But we are not resting easy."

The department's research has led to a new warm weather asphalt mix, which the city said would

require less heat to install and reduce DOT's emissions.

The city also plans to host an engineering competition to solicit ideas that could improve DOT's materials or operations.

A few neighbors watched as the mayor filled his first pothole on the corner of 60th Avenue and 69th Lane.

Kathy Liguori said she did not remember seeing prior mayors in the area.

"It's not that bad here," Liguori said of potholes on her block. "It's bad on the expressway. These things happen. What are you go-

ing to do? It's the weather."

But perhaps the most lasting impression from de Blasio's visit to Maspeth was his motorcade getting caught by a TV news reporter rolling through stop signs and speeding.

The mayor has said he would not question his security detail, which is trained to keep vehicles together and follow the general flow of traffic.

But de Blasio was later bombarded with questions about why his team was not abiding by advice he dispensed while announcing an initiative to improve pedestrian safety last week.

Galante

Continued from Page 5

three months to complete his study, which will compare salaries of presidents at comparable nonprofits throughout the city, and at that point the board plans to redraft Galante's contract.

Chairman Gabriel Taussig told reporters he shared Galante's belief that those who have routinely funded the library will continue to do so.

"I think our elected officials appreciate what the libraries do in their communities, and I think they understand that in order for us to continue to be able

to do that, we need to be properly funded," he said. "And I'm confident that they won't lose sight of that fact when it comes down to budget decisions that they have to make in the next few months."

With a new progressive city government focused on tackling income inequality, Galante's pay has been called excessive and the brunt of the criticism has stemmed from his perceived indifference to the library's staff.

When asked if he would take a pay cut when it comes time to renegotiate his contract, Galante responded, "I can't answer that."

At the Council oversight hearing, Galante

dodged a question asking if he earned outside income, and it was later revealed he earned \$143,000 over a two-year period as a consultant for a Long Island school district.

Galante told reporters he worked at the Elmont Union Free School District prior to joining the library and at different times he worked as a contractor for the school system. He said there was no conflict of interest, explaining all work done for Elmont was carried out either at his home or on site at the school district's offices.

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

Banks

Continued from Page 4

of Garvin. "In choosing to live a life with purpose in public service, and as the first African-American assistant district attorney here in Queens, he paved the way for others to follow in his footsteps."

Banks thanked the DA for the award, whose recipients have included U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, former Mayor David Dinkins and former Gov. David Patterson.

"This country is better off because of pioneers," Banks said. "Against all odds they do it for one reason: They want to leave the world better than it was

when they entered it."

"I'm going to certainly work forward to it and make this man and his family proud," he added of Garvin's relatives, who attended the ceremony.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Pre-K

Continued from Page 9

not the programs can hire the staff in time. De Blasio said the city will evaluate each program to make sure they meet high-quality

standards.

The other big question remaining is how pre-K will be funded.

De Blasio is still at loggerheads with Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who prefers the state pick up the pre-K bill instead of the mayor's

proposal to raise taxes on the city's high-earners to fund early education.

"We can make that a reality, but we need the power to raise our own revenue from our own people to make it happen," the mayor said.

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Source: Scarborough 2011 (1)

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Christ the King High School

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Christ the King Students Join in Psychology Research at Museum of Natural History

Christ the King High School's Psychology and Advanced Research classes recently visited the Museum of Natural History, where they took part in a research class on neurotoxins and the brain. They viewed slides of brain tissue showing how different substances such as the effects of coffee and drugs on the brain.



Pictured from left: Paul Espiritu, Alysha Kahn, and Mervin Bacchus

About Christ the King Regional High School

Christ the King Regional High School is a private, co-educational Catholic High School with a 4-year college preparatory curriculum. Located in Middle Village, Queens, Christ the King Regional High School draws students from all areas. The school is accredited by The Board of Regents of the State of New York and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Christ the King's current enrollment is approximately 900 students. The faculty numbers 45.

Christ the King High School is governed by its Board of Trustees: Serphin R. Maltese, Chairman; Thomas V. Ognibene, Vice Chairman; Robert A. Normandia, Vice Chairman; Bernard G. Helldorfer, Counsel/Trustee; Anthony Como, Esq., Treasurer; Brenda Evans, Trustee; Dolores St. Louis, Trustee; Peter J. Mannarino, Principal; Michael W. Michel, President; Arthur Spankrel, Financial Advisor; and Veronica Cokley, Executive Assistant.

More information is available <http://www.ckny.org/>.

Find Christ the King on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CKCampus.

Business

Jamaica shop going strong for nearly 100 years

Bellitte Bicycles, which serves cyclists of all experience levels, has been continuously owned since 1918



Matt Bellitte is part of the fourth generation running the bike shop his great-grandfather opened in Jamaica.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Innovations in bicycle technology have come and gone in the past hundred or so years, but the basic idea

— two pedals, two wheels and something to hold on to — remains.

The same could be said of Bellitte Bicycles, where old-school-type service has

kept the shop in business pedaling wheels in Jamaica for nearly 100 years.

“People kept coming in and paying to have us fix the less expensive bikes

they bought at other places,” said Peter Frouws, who runs the shop his business partner’s grandfather, Sam Bellitte, opened on Jamaica Avenue near 170th Street in 1918. “Some of them would spend so much on repairs it would have been cheaper to buy a better bike. You get what you pay for.”

And Frouws can certainly expound on what you get for your money.

Are you looking for a road, mountain, or commuter bike? Steel frame or aluminum? If you are planning on veering from the beaten path, you will probably want 26-inch tires, but if your need is for speed, 28-inchers are the way to go.

Frouws said the store — the oldest, continuously owned bike shop in the country — caters to the needs of beginners and pros alike, from tiny tots on training wheels to hardcore cyclists with high standards.

“When it comes to the higher-end stuff, with custom sizing and all that, we can special order that stuff,” he said.

For rides in Queens, the gear-head guru suggested heading to Cunningham Park, where the Concerned Long Island Mountain Bicyclists — otherwise known



Bellitte Bicycles has been in business in the same location on Jamaica Avenue for close to 100 years. Photo by Rich Bockmann

as CLIMB — have built and continue to maintain 6 1/2 miles of off-road trails. Flushing Meadows Corona Park has a 1-mile-long biking path and the Cross Island Parkway offers scenic views as it hugs Little Neck Bay, Frouws added.

He also suggested checking out ridethecity.com, a website that maps the safe, safer and most-direct riding routes around the five boroughs.

Bellitte Bicycles offers service warranties on all of its rides and the staff is knowledgeable and enthusiastic about everything with two wheels.

Whether you are look-

ing for a new bike, bringing one in for a tune-up or just shopping around for a cycling accessory, plan on spending some time talking shop with Frouws or third- and fourth-generation Bellittes who have nearly a century of biking in their blood.

Hanging in one corner of the shop is an 1893 Pierce Arrow bicycle with wooden rims that was given to the shop on its 50th anniversary.

“I wouldn’t ride it, though,” Frouws said.

Bellitte Bikes is at 169-20 Jamaica Ave. For more information, call 718-739-3795 or visit bellbikes.com.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Powerful You! Women's Network
— A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.
When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm
Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch
Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston
Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@

accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009
Website: powerfulyou.com
Power Networking Group — Led by Harvey G. Beringer
When: Every Wednesday, 7 am
Cost: \$10 for breakfast
Where: Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside
Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or (718) 423-0427

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly Meeting — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.
When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12

Willets Point Blvd., Bayside
Contact: Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

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

president, to arrange a visit.
When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am
Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tpk., Fresh Meadows
Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986
Website: bniouterboros.com

The Eastern Queens and Long Island Networking Group — This unique business networking group discusses today's challenges and helps form alliances. Relationships are built.

Facilitator is Gayle Naftaly, rainmaker, entrepreneur, coordinator, leader and organizer with contacts.
When: Second Wednesday of every month
Cost: \$20, includes food from Marcella's Pizzeria of Glen Oaks. Payment benefits the Ronald McDonald House of L.I.
Where: Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park
Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (866) 391-2780
Website: accessoffice.net

Fires

Continued from Page 22

criminal mischief charges stemming from fires lit between Feb. 20 and Feb. 24.

Sumair's attorney did not immediately return a call for comment.

Police took Dereck Sumair into custody after he walked out of Burlington Coat Factory in the Rego Center mall with a lighter in his pocket shortly after fire alarms went off Monday afternoon, according to the DA.

Nobody was injured during the blazes, which were described by officials as small and relatively self-contained.

Firefighters were first called to Rego Center last Friday, where clothing had been set ablaze in Sears, the NYPD said.

The FDNY headed to Queens Center Sunday to put out flames in J.C. Penney and then to Rego Center, where merchandise had been ignited at T.J. Maxx, J.C. Penney, Staples

and Toys "R" Us, according to the DA and FDNY.

FDNY dispatched firefighters to all three malls Monday afternoon, where flames had been lit in Burlington Coat Factory, Sears, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Old Navy, Macy's, Target and Best Buy, the DA said.

Jim Long, the FDNY's director of public information, said Monday's fires consisted of mostly smoke and smoldering material.

He said, however, that the flames in the lower level of Sears activated the sprinkler system and required the use of a fire extinguisher.

"It's more just a lot of water, some smoke. That's all going to take its toll on the merchandise," Long said, noting that the sprinklers watered a roughly 10-by-12-foot area, but the liquid then flowed elsewhere in the store.

Other department store reported finding jeans in flames, customers stomping on lit clothing and a rack of athletic attire on fire, the complaint said. Adasha Sheppard, a Bed

Bath and Beyond employee, said she saw smoke billowing up from the parking lot when she stopped by the Rego Center store Monday afternoon to pick up a few items.

"It smelled," Sheppard said, adding that the scent also permeated Bed, Bath and Beyond. "They said there was some burned merchandise in the back of the store."

The mall was not evacuated, however, most shoppers chose to leave when fire alarms went off or were directed to exit stores, Long said.

Prosecutors also alleged that Sumair shattered windows at the Long Island Consultation Center in Rego Park by throwing rocks in December.

He allegedly told police he broke the windows for fun and to watch officers in action, according to the DA.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle at 718-260-4546 or by e-mail at strangle@cnglocal.com.

JetBlue

Continued from Page 5

ignite Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a paid holiday, meeting the demands of Local 32BJ/SEIU that initiated the heated debate with a protest rally and march Jan. 20 that culminated in a sit-in that closed the 94th Street Bridge approach to LaGuardia Airport.

"On behalf of over a thousand workers who will benefit from this agreement, I commend American Airlines for taking this important action," Cuomo said.

Michael Minerva, American Airlines vice president of government and airport affairs, said, "We appreciate the hard work service employees provide our customers every day. By taking action to improve wages, we are bolstering our commitment to create world-class places to work."

The move makes JetBlue Airways the last airline to defy Port Authority

demands for a fairer wage for airport cleaners, baggage handlers and security guards.

Company spokeswoman Tamara Young said, "JetBlue continues to support an increase in the minimum wage for all employed in our state and not just a select few."

That was a point echoed by the trade association Airlines for America.

"The Legislature, not the Port Authority, is the appropriate vehicle through which to make changes to minimum wage, which would appropriately affect all workers, rather than just those from one industry," spokeswoman Katie Connell said.

A total of 32 union leaders, elected officials and clergy were arrested in the civil disobedience and within days the union had the support of the mayor, the governor and eventually Patrick Foye, the Cuomo-appointed executive director of the Port Authority.

Foye wrote a letter to the CEOs of four air carriers Jan. 27 demanding

higher wages, to which Delta Airlines agreed. Foye wrote a second letter Feb. 10 warning of exclusion from the new 21st Century Terminal Building. United Airlines fell in line followed by American Airlines, leaving JetBlue, headquartered in Long Island City, as the sole holdout.

"This step by American really points up the unfairness of a company like JetBlue, which makes its home in our city but persists in keeping airport workers at poverty wages," 32BJ/SEIU President Hector Figueroa said. "The workers are thankful to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye for staying focused on helping the workers. Ultimately, we think this will help not only the workers but it'll help make ours the world-class airports that they should be."

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538.

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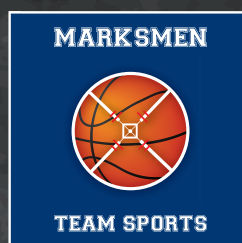
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March 16th	9-10:30am 10:30am-12 noon	JV 9th-10th grade Varsity 11th-12th grade
March 23rd	9-10:30am 10:30am-12 noon	JV 9th-10th grade Varsity 11th-12th grade
March 30th	9-10:30am 10:30am-12 noon	8th grade 6th-7th grade

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D) Categories are:

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Please send nominations and information to:

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If you have any questions, you may contact me at:

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Have a question? Need additional information? Email bbdacsports@aol.com



The Red Storm's D'Angelo Harrison (second l.) sits on the bench with teammates Orlando Sanchez (second r.) and Chris Obekpa (r.).

Photo by Robert Cole

Loss puts Big Dance in jeopardy for SJU

BY PATRICK MCCORMACK

An NCAA tournament berth doesn't seem to be a certainty for St. John's University.

Big plays eluded the Red Storm men's basketball team as they dropped their second consecutive Big East contest 65-53 to Xavier at Madison Square Garden Tuesday. Musketeers freshman Jalen Reynolds scored 17 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

St. John's Coach Steve Lavin thought Xavier made key plays when needed.

"I thought that Xavier played very efficiently on offense tonight," he said. "They had point-blank shots at the rim and high-percentage looks from start to finish. We were disappointed with our lack of resistance on the defensive end of the floor at the rim. Offensively, we struggled to find a rhythm and we couldn't get a string of defensive stops."

Xavier (19-9,9-6) went on a 12-3 run midway through the second half, which put it ahead 51-41. During this spurt, Xavier

held St. John's, which shot 32.3 percent from the floor in the half, without a field goal for 6:23. Junior Phil Greene IV, who had five points, said St. John's ineffectiveness on defense was the key to the game.

"They did what they wanted on their side," he said. "They had layups and dunks while we had zero fast-break points, and that's where we get a lot of our offense. We didn't get enough stops tonight."

St. John's (18-11, 8-8) showed some life when it started finally hitting shots and went on a 10-4 rally to cut the Musketeer lead to 55-51, on a bucket from Ja-Karr Sampson, who led the Red Storm with 14 points.

St. John's still struggled to make enough plays to get ahead. Xavier took a 31-30 lead into the half. It shot 56 percent from the field. Jamal Branch, who had five points for the Red Storm, saw the team's lack of communication on defense as an issue in the first half.

"We didn't do a good job of communicating, es-

Continued on Page 53

Royals routed by Loughlin

Christ the King falls to rival Lions in diocesan title game at Prep

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Christ the King didn't want to point to missed shots and foul trouble as the reasons for its lopsided loss to rival Bishop Loughlin in the diocesan final. Instead, it was their lack of will, hunger and execution as well as the inability to stop Lions star Khadeen Carrington.

"We didn't get any of the 50-50 balls, any of the hustle plays," Royals center Adonis Delarosa said. "We just didn't get to them. They just wanted it more."

Carrington poured in a career-high 42 points to help his team hand defending champion Christ the King a 90-77 defeat in the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queen basketball title game last Friday night at St. Francis Prep. The Seton Hall-bound guard and CHSAA most valuable player shot 14 of 16 from the field and made all 14 of his free throws.

"Khadeen Carrington is so under control and [is] making shots," Christ the King Coach Joe Arbitello said. "He's tough to guard when he is that good."

Loughlin used a 12-1 run to take a 26-15 lead after the first quarter. The Royals' hustle didn't always translate into points. Delarosa had trouble getting started inside the paint amid Loughlin's double teams and missed free throws. Early foul trouble to Andre Walker didn't help the Royals' cause. Delarosa scored 24 points, Travis Atson put up 22 and Rawle Alkins added 17.

Christ the King (19-6) attempted to mount a rally



Christ the King's Adonis Delarosa (c.) tries to make his way to the hoop.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

late in the second quarter even with Walker and Alkin on the bench with foul trouble. Atson connected on consecutive three-pointers to cut the Loughlin lead to 43-33 with a minute to play before the half. Loughlin (20-5) responded by closing the quarter with two missed CK free throws to go up 49-33 at the break. The first was by Williams after he hustled down his own rebound and the second by Darius James at the buzzer off an inbounds play.

"[The Lions] played

See column
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the way they were supposed to play — tough, hard, together," Arbitello said.

"They continue to play that way they are going to win."

Arbitello said his group got a lesson in how hard it is to win a championship and the level teams need to play at. Losing two straight diocesan finals and last year's city title game motivated Loughlin. The Lions' core players have been in big games like this before.

"I think they needed that to let them under-

stand," Arbitello said about his team's loss to Loughlin. "Now we know what it takes to get there."

Delarosa said he and his teammates have already put this loss behind them because they must. Their focus is now defending their city title in the intersectional playoffs. Christ the King awaits the winner of St. Raymond and Stepinac in the quarterfinals March 1 at Fordham University.

"You can't change [anything] about it," Delarosa said. "Now we just have to get into the gym and work."

Mary Louis guard commits to Niagara

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Simone Hobdy understood she had to be patient when it came to her future.

The Mary Louis girls' basketball star was still waiting to nail down a college scholarship offer after many of her fellow seniors had already committed and found future places to play. Hobdy was antsy, but knew her time would come with Niagara and St. Francis (Pa.) showing interest in her.

"I was anxious because I did see that other people were committing, so I was like, 'Why isn't it happening for me now?'" Hobdy said. "I knew I was going somewhere. It was just a matter of where I would go."

She now knows the answers. Hobdy is headed to Niagara.

Hobdy verbally committed to play for the Purple Eagles after her official visit two weeks ago.

She felt a bond with head Coach Kendra Faustin and her staff and saw a chance to get her master's degree in criminal justice through a special program at Niagara.

"I felt at home," Hobdy said. "The staff was very nice to me. I could play basketball, graduate college early and graduate with my master's and not have to go back to school and pay money."

She also has an opportunity to fill a need for Niagara, which plays in the MAAC conference. The Purple Eagles are in need of a shooting guard who can break down a defense off the dribble. Hobdy is certainly capable of doing that.

"The style of basketball they want to play is the style that we play, up and down, get to the basket," Mary Louis Coach JoAnn Arbitello said. "They don't really have a guard like that, capable of that right now."



Mary Louis' Simone Hobdy (c.) takes the ball down the court during a game earlier this year. Hobdy plans to play next for Niagara.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

It feels great to know that all of the hard work that I've put in is paying off.

Hobdy, who also plays her travel ball with Arbitello at Positive Direction, is a proven scorer. She led Mary Louis to the school's first ever CHSAA junior varsity title as a sophomore. This season she tallied a career-high 41 points in a win over Kennedy Catholic. She put up 38 points in a loss to Cardinal Spellman. Her improved jump shot has made her even more difficult to defend.

"I feel like it opened up my game so much more and made me so much more of a threat," Hobdy said.

The season has also

been a learning experience for her as a leader. Hobdy is the Hilltoppers' most veteran player, a role that was amplified when junior star Kadijah Dickson tore her ACL in December. Mary Louis has struggled through a 6-13 season, but the team has never lost focus. Arbitello believes a lot of their perseverance is because of Hobdy.

"Over the last four months she has matured tremendously," the coach said. "Words can't even describe how mature she has become."

Hobdy described what earning a college scholarship meant to her after years of working toward the goal and a little extra time waiting during her senior year.

"It feels great to know that all of the hard work that I've put in is paying off, and all that I wanted to do when I was younger is finally happening for me," Hobdy said. "It's such a great feeling."

Veteran teams stand in way of Christ the King's success



Joseph Staszewski
Block Shots

Bishop Loughlin's makeup should have looked familiar to Christ the King because the Royals have relied on a similar setup to clinch important victories in previous years.

The Royals have been New York City's most successful boys' basketball program over the last five seasons because of their talent and strong roster of seniors who have refused to lose in the post season. For the 2010 state title team, it was Maurice Barrow, T.J. Curry and Dominykas

Milka. Last year it was Jon Severe, Malik Harmon and Jordan Fuchs.

This year it's Loughlin whose nine seniors are tired of losing after the Lions came so close to diocesan and city titles the last three years. It has the killer backcourt in Seton Hall-bound Khadeen Carrington and Mike Williams. The Royals learned what it is like to be on the other side of a team like that during their 90-77 loss in the Brooklyn/Queen title game last Friday at St. Francis Prep. Carrington missed two shots and scored a career-high 42 points.

"They played like they were supposed to," CK Coach Joe Arbitello said of Loughlin. "They played like seniors who wanted to win a Brooklyn/Queens

championship."

Christ the King's squad is still inexperienced when it comes to winning games during this part of the season. Center Adonis Delarosa has been tremendous during the stretch run, but guards Andre Walker and Bryler Paige played supporting roles last year. Junior Travis Atson and sophomore Rawle Alkins are in their first real full seasons where they are seeing major minutes on the varsity level because of an injury and a late call-up from the junior varsity squad. The loss to Loughlin was a learning experience.

"We have some young guys that weren't able to produce at a high level [tonight] because they are so

Continued on Page 53

Branch's three victories on track not enough to win title for Dozo

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

All Denise Branch heard was Benjamin Cardozo Assistant Coach Ray James telling her she was on pace and to keep going.

The Judges' star distance runner was trying to break the league record in the PSAL 3,000 meters in her third try this season. The Illinois-bound senior had just missed the mark at the Yale Invitational in early January, but wasn't going to be denied Saturday.

"I honestly didn't know I was running that fast," Branch said. "At 2K I kind of just blurred out."

Her performance was good enough to break the record with a time of 9:47.25 at the PSAL Indoor city championship at The



Cardozo's Denise Branch races to the finish line. Branch broke the PSAL's record in the 3,000 meters with a time of 9:47.25.

Photo by Steven Schnibbe

Armory Saturday. Branch, who also won the 1500 meters with a time of 4:40.20, broke the mark of 9:52.01

set by former Judges teammate Alexis Panisse in 2012. Branch had to push herself over the weekend, unlike at Yale where she ran against a better field.

"This time I was like, 'I have to do it all by myself so I will just have to go in there, know what pace I have to go and just do it,'" Branch said.

Branch was also a member of the winning 4x800 relay team along with Alana Williams, Nia Lundy and Elizabeth Perez Bossut with a time of 9:43.66.

But her three wins weren't enough for Cardozo to capture a seventh straight PSAL Indoor title. The Judges placed second with 66 points behind rival Medgar Evers. The Cou-

Continued on Page 53

Forest Hills thrower aims for PSAL shot put record

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Oghenakpob Efekoro has enjoyed being the city's best shot putter for most of his career, but the Forest Hills High School senior isn't satisfied with just that. He wants to be the best ever at the event in PSAL history.

His quest is proving more difficult than he thought.

"It hasn't gone quite so well," he said.

Efekoro had his eyes set on the league's longest-standing mark when the season began. Gary Gubner tossed 63 feet 1.5 inches



Forest Hills school senior Oghenakpob Efekoro hopes to become the PSAL's best shot putter in the league's history. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

for DeWitt Clinton back in 1960. Efekoro threw 59-09.00 in late December, a mark good enough for third all-time in the PSAL. Trouble with his footwork has kept him from being able to improve on that throw like he expected. Efekoro sees the positives and the negatives to the struggle.

"It's bad because I'm not throwing well," the UConn-bound Efekoro said. "It's good because I'm still one of the best throwers in the city. If I do fix these things, then I'll be really good."

He won the PSAL Indoor title in the shot put with a toss of 56-11.50 at

The Armory Saturday. Efekoro said the recent bad weather has kept him from being able to get outside and practice. He will have two more chances indoors at the state championship and nationals to set the mark before the outdoor season.

"I still have some time," Efekoro said. "All is not lost."

Whether Efekoro breaks the record or not, he will head to the University of Connecticut next fall, after picking the Huskies over Villanova and UMBC. He said he felt a special vibe when he stepped onto cam-

pus and thinks the UConn coaching staff could get him to the next level. Huskies head Coach Greg Roy, who is in his 24th year, has a throwing background.

Efekoro also hopes to learn from the team's current throwers and considers it an honor to compete for UConn.

"When you have that coaching staff that has been there for a long time, it's great," Efekoro said. "You know things are going to go well."

He is hoping for the same thing for the rest of his senior year.

Branch

Continued from Page 52

gars now own both of the league's track and field crowns after ending the Judges' five-year reign in the outdoor championship last season.

Shaniqua Kirkpatrick also had a strong day for Cardozo. The junior won the 1000 meters with a time of 3:01.83. She executed her race plan to perfection. Kirkpatrick sat in third for most of the race, moved

into second heading into the final turn and pushed past Health Professions' Ariela Sutherland over the final 50 meters for the win. She was also second in the 600 meters with a time of 1:35.03.

"The last 100 meters I knew for a fact that I had to make my move because I have foot speed, so I was able to maintain all the way through to the finish line," Kirkpatrick said of the 1000-meter race.

Cardozo's Sandreka Bancroft was third in the

55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.42. Sophia Mahin of Townsend Harris won the city title in the 1500-meter race walk with a mark of 7:41.9.

On the boys' side UConn-bound shot putter OghenakpobEfekoro placed first in the event with a toss of 56 feet 11.5 inches for Forest Hills. Cambria Height's Dejean Rose was second in the long jump with a leap of 21-08.50. Fredis Baires of Francis Lewis placed third in the 1600 meters with 4:35.48.

SJU

Continued from Page 51

pecially on the backside of screens, and they got a lot of their points off that," he said.

The Johnnies, which have two regular season games remaining, are coming off a 57-54 loss to Villanova on the road, and they saw another good game from freshman Ry-

sheed Jordan and senior Orlando Sanchez, who each had 11 points. But their tallies were not enough for a victory.

Lavin thought his interior defense had to perform better even though it was not a normal week for the team. Sanchez missed the game against Nova because of the birth of his daughter. Jordan was mourning the death of a family member, who was shot and killed last

weekend in Philadelphia.

"It was the most unusual week of my coaching career, but at the end of the day that should not affect our post defense," Lavin said. "We were concerned with not having our normal preparation routine as players and teams are creatures of habit. It was a very disjointed week. I'm disappointed with the lack of resistance tonight of our interior defense."

CK

Continued from Page 52

young," Delarosa said.

The Royals have proven they can beat Loughlin. They shellacked the Lions 67-49 in Middle Village earlier this month. The pieces and the talent are there to win Christ the King's fourth city title in the last five years. The road won't

be easy. The Royals will likely have to beat Archdiocesan champion Cardinal Hayes, another team laden with hungry seniors, in the intersectional semifinals even before it can get another crack at Loughlin.

"We're Christ the King," Arbitello said. "We are not sinking the ship here. They are going to get our best effort the next time."

They will need that effort and then some because the two biggest threats to dethrone them have the intangible quality that comes with having a roster stacked with determined, playoff-tested seniors. The Royals rode that same hunger to city championships in the past. Now they must combat it and overcome it to remain on top.

Easy #28								
6	8	7	5	9	1	2	4	3
3	4	1	7	6	2	9	5	8
5	9	2	8	4	3	7	1	6
7	5	3	2	8	4	6	9	1
8	1	4	9	7	6	3	2	5
9	2	6	3	1	5	8	7	4
4	6	9	1	3	7	5	8	2
1	7	5	6	2	8	4	3	9
2	3	8	4	5	9	1	6	7

Week 36

Hard #28								
2	1	8	5	4	9	7	6	3
3	7	5	6	2	1	9	4	8
6	4	9	3	8	7	5	1	2
1	9	4	2	6	5	8	3	7
8	6	7	4	9	3	2	5	1
5	3	2	7	1	8	4	9	6
4	5	1	8	7	6	3	2	9
7	2	6	9	3	4	1	8	5
9	8	3	1	5	2	6	7	4



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Deng

Continued from Page 1

death of Deng, who died Dec. 8 after suffering a head injury while he was blindfolded and forced to carry a 20-pound bag of sand across a yard while fraternity members tried to physically stop him at a site in the Pocono Mountains, according to a court affidavit filed by the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department.

One fraternity member told authorities that the Oakland Gardens resident was brought into the house where about 20 brothers were staying and was unconscious for more than an hour, the police affidavit said.

The fraternity brothers Googled Deng's symptoms, changed his clothes and then drove him to the hospital, according to the documents, and Deng was pronounced dead from what the Monroe County district attorney described as "major brain trauma."

Deng's death was ruled a homicide earlier this month, according to a spokeswoman for the Luzerne County coroner's office.

"Michael Deng was a brave young man who tragically lost his life due to a hazing incident," Weprin said. "This is a widespread problem on and off campuses and this bill is intended to prevent deaths and serious injuries caused by hazing."

Under New York law, first-degree hazing is a Class A misdemeanor while second-degree haz-



MICHAEL DENG

ing is a violation. Weprin's bill does not change the classifications or the punishment for the offenses, but adds a clause strictly stating physical contact that creates a risk of injury would now clearly be called hazing.

Weprin said with the law as is, it is hard to argue what hazing is and what it is not when incidents occur, but he said he hopes to give a more clear-cut definition with his new legislation to prevent further acts such as the one that led to Deng's death.

"There's no need for an initiation that causes contact because once you have contact it's hard to control the outcome," he said. "The best way for us to honor Michael Deng is to ensure that no student is ever put in a situation where their safety is in jeopardy."

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said later in the week that he was deeply saddened to hear of Deng's death as a result of what he called a "horrible hazing ritual" and applauded the Pennsylvania authorities for their thorough investigation.

Avella agreed with Weprin's legislation and said

that although New York currently has hazing laws, more needs to be done to prevent incidents such as these in the future.

"Despite the current laws already on the books, devastating occurrences of hazing continue to appear throughout the country," he said. "I am therefore glad that the state Legislature is seeking new ways of preventing such tragedies in honor of Michael Deng."

Jacob Chen, a close friend of Deng's who said he served as Deng's mentor for much of his adolescence, joined Weprin at the news conference and said he was happy to see someone working to send a message to fraternities all over the state.

"Michael was a great kid, warm, sunny, smart and charming, and his loss was a terrible tragedy to the world and everyone who knew him," Chen said. "I'm honored to be here and help send a powerful message to fraternities and let them know that these actions are unacceptable."

Weprin said he introduced the bill no more than a few weeks ago and the legislation already has 15 co-sponsors across the state who have backed the assemblyman on the measure. He said he thinks there is great support for the bill so far and hopes it will pass before the legislative session ends in June.

"I just hope that this law does what the state is going for," Chen said. "To let everyone know that these are kids. They're people. Hazing is dangerous and stuff like this can't continue to happen."

in downtown Flushing.

It will be free for participants and open to the public, but seating is limited and pre-registration is required.

The main session will be taught in English, but One Flushing has staff that can speak Chinese and a number of other languages.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Burglaries

Continued from Page 1

said.

"According to the charges, nobody was safe from the crimes allegedly perpetrated by the defendants," Queens DA Richard Brown said.

West faces charges which include burglary and grand larceny, according to four criminal complaints filed by the DA's office.

He was observed on video breaking into a church in Flushing Sept. 7, 2013, and stealing \$2,750 in cash that had been placed in a locked drawer inside a locked office, one of the complaints said.

On the afternoon of Feb. 7, West was caught on video taking \$160 from a social worker's purse at a community center in Flushing, a second complaint said.

West is also believed to have burglarized residential buildings in Corona in February, according to the third and fourth complaints.

Police arrested West near the Boune Streets

Community Center in Corona Feb. 22 and found pry marks on the doors of the center's locked offices, the fourth complaint said.

West was carrying a pry bar, a screwdriver, work gloves and two envelopes with \$310 stolen from the community center in his car when he was arrested, the DA said.

He is next due to appear in court March 10 and could face up to 28 years if convicted, the DA's office said.

In the second case, police arrested Ardila Feb. 21 when he was allegedly acting as a lookout while two unapprehended suspects tried to burglarize residences in Glendale and Ridgewood, according to a criminal complaint filed by the DA's office.

Ardila was then observed by police later the same afternoon allegedly acting as a lookout outside an Ozone Park building as three people left, two carrying bags, got into a gray BMW and drove off, the complaint said.

Before he made his getaway in a Honda, the officer who was watching

Ardila, arrested him and found he had a screwdriver and a container full of change, which belonged to a resident of the building, the complaint said.

Police also recovered a box containing the cremated remains of a resident's mother from the Honda, according to the complaint.

Ardila was charged with burglary, attempted burglary, possession of burglar's tools and criminal possession of stolen property, the DA said.

He was arraigned Sunday and was set to appear in court March 10 and faces up to 30 years in prison if convicted.

Both arrests were a result of an investigation by the NYPD's Burglary Larceny Apprehension Suppression Team, which works undercover to investigate patterns of burglaries.

"While the defendants will be held accountable for their alleged actions, businesses and residents should take adequate precautions by inspecting their premises to see if there is a need for added security," Brown said.

Aqueduct

Continued from Page 4

Park with a hotel, convention center, water park or other services that would create jobs and bring more people to the area.

But Wing said all three racetracks were decades-old and required major maintenance work. He said NYRA had spent \$5 million on a host of projects at Aqueduct this year, including a new simulcasting center slated to open this April, a micro-chip system for monitoring

horses mid-race, improved lighting as well as painting and mural work. Wing said NYRA planned to spend millions at Aqueduct next year.

Goldfeder said he remains open to reviewing proposals to replace Aqueduct with other facilities, but so long as the horses race, the state owes it to the surrounding community to ensure that the facility does not drag down the neighborhood.

"Either we're going to make Aqueduct the world-class facility it deserves

to be or make a decision on what we're going to do for the future," Goldfeder said, adding that he wrote the governor urging him to examine the track's state. "Conditions at Aqueduct Racetrack, the once top thoroughbred site in the country, have recently worsened with crime and violence."

The Queens district attorney charged an Aqueduct patron with sexually assaulting a 40-year-old disabled woman in a bathroom at the racetrack Feb. 2.

Bootcamp

Continued from Page 2

accounts.

These sit-down sessions will give business owners the chance to create the things they would have learned about in the workshop, Choe said.

"If you don't have a website, we want to make sure that by the end of your participation in our boot camp, you'll have one. If

you don't have a Yelp page, we'll create one for you," Choe said. "We're trying to make it less abstract and more hands-on so it has a concrete benefit at the end of the boot camp."

These consulting sessions will be by appointment and will prioritize boot camp participants. Choe said all are welcome to the boot camp, which will take place at One Flushing Community Economic Development Center, at 39-01 Main St., Suite 511,

Parades

Continued from Page 22

tough on them. Woodside wasn't as accepting as they are now," she said.

On Saturday, an even bigger parade takes place in Rockaway. The 39th Annual Queens County St.

Patrick's Day Parade gets underway at 1 p.m. at Beach 130th Street and the route finishes at 101st Street and Rockaway Beach Boulevard.

This march has drawn more than 50,000 spectators in the past but is still coming back from the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

"It's our second parade

since the storm and it's a great way for the community to be together after a tough winter," organizer Michael Benn said. "We've got 23 bands this year from all over the tri-state. Mother Nature was hard on us this winter, but if we could get over Sandy, we can get over the winter."

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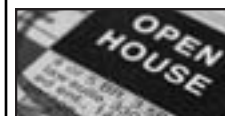
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23-02 FLB, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/4/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 23-02 Francis Lewis Blvd., Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: General.

38 DAFNI, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 01/08/2014. Off. Loc.: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The Limited Liability Company, 38-66 10th Street Long Island City, NY 11101. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

47-44 11th Street Realty LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/27/13. Effective Date: 1/1/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom

process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 166-25 Powell's Cove Blvd, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: General.

AYON LLC, Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 01/02/14. Office Location: Queens County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 143-66 Cherry Ave., Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

Baisley Realty LLC, Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 12/20/13. Office Location: Queens County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 131-25 Baisley Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

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CORAGGIO LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/14/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Patrick Coraggio C/O the Forgiore Law Firm PLLC, 395 Graham Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

FIVE TEN FIVE, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 1/15/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 510 Laguardia Pl., NY, NY 10012. General Purpose.

FOUR SEASONS PRESS LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/3/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designat-

ed as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Legalinc Corporate Services Inc., 8857 Alexander Rd., Batavia, NY 14020. General Purpose.

MAGIC FUMIGATION LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/26/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 125-12 89th Ave., Richmond Hills, NY 11418. General Purpose.

Name of LLC: Cynthia Chung Photography LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/7/14. Office loc.: Queens Co. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Business Filings Inc., 187

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Wolf Rd., Ste. 101, Albany, NY 12205, regd. agt. upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of 1618-1620 FULTON STREET, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/04/06. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 118-35 QUEENS BLVD., 15TH FL., FOREST HILLS, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of DENG LITTLE NECK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/7/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, c/o The UPS Store, 213-37 39th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11361. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of GI MANAGEMENT LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/3/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 41 Charles St., Hicksville, NY 11801. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of GRG HOLDINGS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/21/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Real estate management.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: BRONZE 56K LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/07/14. 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, 77-20 82nd Street, Glendale, New York 11385. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PROP CAMERA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/13/2014. 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: Prop Camera C/O Natali S. Bravo, 57-10 Junction Blvd., Apt. 1E, Elmhurst, NY 11373-5163. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ZACH MITCHELL INTERIORS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/30/2013. 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 United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: NY AUTO-SOURCE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/23/2013. 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 United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of PAWA REALTY LLC. Arts of Org filed with Sec'y of State (SSNY) on 1/19/2014. Office loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agents upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to S. Pawa, 3149 Wilmarth Pl. Wantagh, NY 11793. Purp.: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Ramada Flushing LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/12/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 36-27 Prince Street, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Sen Bo Real Estate, LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 1/7/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 73-28 194th ST, NY 11366. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

TRANZACT, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/15/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 88-02 136th St Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Qualification of S&S Family Holdings, LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 1/2/14. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in DE on 11/21/13. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served

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and shall mail process to: c/o Century Fasteners Corp., 50-20 Ireland St., Elmhurst, NY 11373, principal business address. Regd. agent upon whom process may be served: CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19011. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

Val-U Thrift Shop LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/18/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Anthony Tamboni, 33-11 36th Ave, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: General.

Notice of Formation of APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES L.P. Certificate filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/10/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The Partnership 80-62 188th Street, Hollis, NY 11413. Name/address of each genl. ptr. available from SSNY. Term: until 10/04/2113. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on November 12, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-001013-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) MICHELLE (Last) CULETU. My present name is (First) Mihaela (Last) CULETU (infant). My present address is 143-12 Willets Point Blvd., Whitestone, NY 11357-. My place of birth is Queens, NY. My date of birth is September 27, 1994.

NOTICE OF ACTION BEFORE THE BOARD OF MASSAGE

IN RE: The license to practice Massage of Xia Liu, LMT 4415 Coldern Street, Apt 3-G Flushing NY 11355 CASE NO.: 2012-12934 LICENSE NO.: MA67253 The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Candace Rochester, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 245-4444.

If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by March 29, 2014, the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Board of Massage in an

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informal proceeding. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4444, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS IN TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE-SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF QUEENS - NYCTL 2012-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 2012-A TRUST, Plaintiffs, against NARUL TONY HACK, if living and if he/she be dead, et al., Defendants. Index no. 7012/13. Plaintiffs designate Queens County as the place of trial site of the real property. To the above named Defendants-YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty days after service is completed if the summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Plaintiffs designate Queens County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the county in which the property a lien upon which is being foreclosed is situated. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Hon. Thomas D. Raffaele dated on December 4th, 2013. The object of this action is to foreclose a New York City Tax Lien as evidenced by a certain Tax Lien Certificate No. 4A, dated August 8, 2012, recorded August 20, 2012, CRFN 2012000329364 and covering the premises known as 152-37 14th Road a/k/a 152-37 14th Avenue, Whitestone, New York located at Block 4541 Lot 10. Dated: January 8, 2014

WINDELS MARX LANE & MITTENDORF LLP, Attorney for Plaintiffs, NYCTL 2012-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 2012-A TRUST, By: Rachel Reiser, Esq. 156 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 237-1000.



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