

Avella jumps from Dem ship to rogue caucus

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

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BUNNY CARE



Melina Pappas, 13, holds a lop-eared rabbit named Butterscotch at the Alley Pond Environmental Center during a veterinarian training program.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Racino funds should go to Aqueduct: Pol

NYRA urged to give track its fair share

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 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

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SE Queens schools receive \$1.5M Mandela tech grant

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A city councilman from southeast Queens wants Nelson Mandela to continue to inspire young students.

Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) met with students and school staff in Spring

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

Photo by Kelsey Durham

TV crime series shot in Bayside

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

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Galante addresses salary controversy

Queens Library's board of trustees authorizes consultant to review CEO's three-figure annual pay

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 library 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



Gabriel Taussig (I.), chairman of the Queens Library's board of trustees, and library CEO Thomas Galante discuss the flap over the executive's salary.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

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 ex-

ecutive'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 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.

Young man recalled at vigil year after death in Queensbridge

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Relatives of a Japanese student who authorities say was fatally struck by an NYPD cruiser responding to an emergency last year in Queensbridge have been waiting for a year to find out the circumstances of Ryo Oyamada's death. And they believe a federal court ruling directing the city to release materials from an investigation into the fatal accident by mid-March could provide some of the answers they have been looking for.

The decision by U.S. Magistrate Judge Cheryl Pollak on the federal civil suit filed by Oyamada's family against the city and the NYPD requires the city to produce records on a

"rolling basis," and all of the documents should be available within 30 days. This material includes surveillance video from the Queensbridge Houses, which is located across the street from where Oyamada was struck on 40th Avenue and 11th Street, according to her ruling.

A spokesman for the city's Law Department said in an e-mail that the case is in litigation, and a spokeswoman for the Police Department said the Internal Affairs Bureau investigation into the officer who was behind the wheel at the time of the accident has been closed with no misconduct noted.

A court conference on the case has been scheduled for March 13.



Friends and relatives remember Ryo Oyamada on 40th Avenue in Queensbridge, where authorities say he was hit and killed.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Christopher Fitzgerald, the family's attorney, said the Oyamadas had

filed the \$8 million suit in May in part to find out if the NYPD cruiser driven by an

officer assigned to Police Service Area 9, which covers most of the public housing projects in Queens, had its lights on or was speeding when their 24-year-old son was hit.

"As defendants in the lawsuit, the NYPD has the obligation to comply with the court's directives and produce the documents that have been demanded by the Oyamadas, but equally as important is the NYPD's duty as a city agency to be transparent and to disclose matters that relate to issues of public safety in a timely manner, especially when one of their own has killed an innocent pedestrian," Fitzgerald said.

He joined more than a dozen of Oyamada's family and friends to mark the

one-year anniversary of his death huddled on a damp sidewalk a little after midnight last Friday.

Tomoko Suzuki, 35, one of Oyamada's two sisters, who both traveled from Japan, recalled how her brother had dreamed of riding a bicycle across the Brooklyn Bridge but had not found time to do so in the three months he was living in Queensbridge.

"Of course, I worried about him as a sister," she said when asked what she thought of her younger brother moving nearly 7,000 miles away.

"After he moved here, it seemed like he was so happy and enjoying his life. I was relieved to know that he was doing well," Suzuki said through a translator.

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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 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 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



Fire personnel work at the top of an escalator leading to the lower level of Sears.
Photo by Christina Santucci

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 sprin-

klers 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.

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Queens police pledge to translate for abuse victims

QUEENS WEEKLY, MAR. 2, 2014

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



Miguel Mejia-Ramos (l.) is charged with the stabbing deaths of his wife Deisy Garcia (r.) and daughters, Daniela and Jocelyn.

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


age power over another.

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.



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6 Pals denounce DOE plans

Busing Woodside kindergartners to Astoria school draws criticism

BY BILL PARRY

U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) joined several elected officials and parents of students at PS 11 in Woodside to denounce the city Department of Education's final recommendation to send the school's kindergartners to PS 171 in Astoria.

The plan calls for the incoming kindergarten class to be bused 3 miles away to the other side of CEC District 30, during the construction of a \$70 million annex, beginning in September.

"I urge the DOE to go back to the drawing board," Crowley said.

The city School Construction Authority will begin demolition of a 200-seat mini-building this summer and start the two-year process of building an 850-seat replacement. The DOE decided to send the incoming kindergarten class to PS 171 for the first year of construction and then move the class into the new PS 339 the following year.

Many of the parents complained that the children would have to go to three different schools in three years at the start of their education.

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Jackson Heights), who represents the parents, said, "We're



The Department of Education angers parents and elected officials over a plan to bus Woodside children to a school in Astoria.

Photo by Bill Parry

Children would be sent 3 miles

grateful for the expansion, but this is not the solution in the short-term. Taking 4- and 5-year-olds and shipping them 3 miles away is such a hardship and it doesn't make sense."

State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (D-Ridge-wood) said, "There has to be a better solution. We have to get some answers soon because people are getting anxious."

The group of political leaders was informed of the DOE's decision by government affairs people Monday. Crowley and Nolan joined state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) and Assemblywoman Margaret Markey (D-Maspeth) in drafting a letter to city Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña urg-

ing the DOE to reconsider the plan.

The letter was ignored.

"We're taking lemonade and turning it into lemons," Gianaris said. "All of us here today are ready to work together to find a solution without making parents' lives harder, but the DOE does not seem interested in listening."

Van Bramer, who was not asked to sign the letter, devised a plan of his own. He asked the DOE to consider using PS 313 in Sun-

nyside once it opens this fall, a scenario that would keep the children closer to home, just a quarter of a mile away.

The problem is that PS 313 is being built in CEC District 24.

"There is resistance to 313. The DOE is looking at other uses and coming up with changes in District 24," Van Bramer said. "We're hoping they'll reconsider."

PS 171 is a half-hour bus ride away from PS 11 and is more than seven blocks from the nearest subway station, according to Crowley's office. It creates a large inconvenience for parents who need to travel to the school in case of an emergency.

Teen runaway escapes from three pimps: DA

BY RICH BOCKMANN

trafficking.

A teenage runaway allegedly forced to work as a prostitute in southeast Queens for three months was able to escape when her captors let their guard down and she called her grandmother as well as 911, authorities said.

Police responding to the 14-year-old's cry for help earlier this month found her in tears running out of the South Jamaica building where she was being held.

Inside, they found two of her suspected captors and a loaded handgun, according to Queens District Attorney Richard Brown, who said a grand jury last week returned a 28-count indictment variously charging the trio with rape, prostitution and sex

"Two of the defendants are accused of enslaving a young teenager and, together with the third defendant, forcing her to work as a prostitute and to turn over all the money she earned to them through the threat of physical violence," Brown said. "Unfortunately, for the victim, she discovered all too late that running away from home does not solve any problems and that few activities are as brutal and dehumanizing as prostitution."

The three defendants — Lindsay Archibald, 31; Quanesha Hunte, 23; and Stephen Garrison, 25 — were arraigned on the indictment charges Feb. 21 before Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard Buchter, who set their next court date for May 1.



Authorities say a teenage runaway who was forced into prostitution was rescued by police from a home in Jamaica.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

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8 CB 9's Esposito indicted in Social Security fraud

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Community Board 9 member Saverio "Sam" Esposito has been indicted in connection with a massive Social Security fraud scheme the Manhattan district attorney has accused his father of orchestrating.

Prosecutors accused Esposito, a retired police officer and Ozone Park resident, of participating in a 134-person scheme allegedly spearheaded by his father, Joseph Esposito, and three others, in which Fire Department and Police Department employees were coached on how to lie about their mental health in order to collect Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, the DA said.

The CB 9 member entered a not guilty plea in Manhattan State Supreme Court Monday night, according to the DA's office.

He could not immedi-

ately be reached for comment.

Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Jr. said the ring bilked the government out of hundreds of millions of dollars during a nearly 25-year period by directing city employees to describe symptoms of depression, anxiety and related disorders and then claim to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder while filing for benefits, according to the criminal complaint.

Many participants noted that they rarely left their homes and had little interest in social activity on Social Security paperwork, but according to the criminal complaint, they were otherwise shown to live active lifestyles by flying a helicopter, playing blackjack in Las Vegas and performing martial arts moves set to music.

The DA alleged that the senior Esposito, a retired member of the NYPD,



Sam Esposito attends a Community Board 9 meeting.

and his three partners took a cut from the retirees once they received benefits, which usually amounted to between \$15,000 and \$50,000 annually.

"These defendants are accused of gaming the system by lying about their lifestyle, including their ability to work, drive, handle money, shop and socialize in order to obtain benefits to which they were not entitled," Vance said in a statement.

The indictments claim the younger Esposito applied for Social Security Disability benefits around January 2007.

CB 9 District Manager Mary Ann Carey declined comment. CB 9 Chairman James Coccovillo could not immediately be reached for comment.

Borough President Melinda Katz's office declined to comment on an inquiry into whether the bylaws of the community

board outline a process for handling such situations. Her staff also would not immediately disclose whether Esposito was appointed by a City Council member or a former borough president.

CB 9 discussed dismissing Esposito this winter. The board voted to retain the longtime board member after he was accused of making anti-Semitic remarks to three board members.

The trio had requested Esposito's removal because they said he sent an e-mail criticizing them for complaining that food served at a meeting was "not kosher enough."

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

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Avella

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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 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.

Aqueduct

Continued from Page 1

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 paying 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 racetracks."

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 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 microchip 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.



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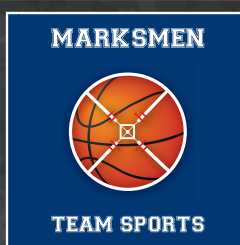
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Donovan

Continued from Page 1

field Gardens earlier this week to announce he had allocated \$2.5 million to schools in his district in the name of the late civil rights activist.

"I thought it was fitting to name it after Nelson Mandela because he stood up for equality and freedom," Richards said Monday inside the auditorium shared by MS 355 and MS 356 at the campus, at 145-00 Springfield Blvd. "There are not as many computers in these classrooms as there are in some of the wealthier parts of the city."

Richards said the Nelson Mandela Technology Grant set aside at least \$50,000 in discretionary funding to each school in his Council district.

At the Springfield Gardens campus, formerly the home of IS 231, \$500,000 was designated for upgrading the playground.

"Right now there's just blacktop," said MS 356 Principal Tamra Collins. "The kids need more options outside. It keeps them engaged and also fit. They need the break, too, because they're going all day long."



City Councilman Donovan Richards speaks with students in Springfield Gardens as he announces new funding for technology in the classroom.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

The eighth-grade classes at the two middle schools will be the first to graduate and head on to high school at the end of the year.

The Bloomberg administration began phasing out what had been IS 231 Magnetech at the beginning of the 2010 school year, citing English and math proficiency levels that had fallen to 25 percent or below, and replacing it with the two smaller schools.

Breaking larger institutions up into smaller ones was one of the more controversial aspects of Bloomberg's education agenda, and while recent studies show students at

the smaller schools perform better than their peers at the larger, traditional schools, the jury is still out on the long-term effects of the educational reforms implemented over the last 12 years.

Neither school had an English or math proficiency rate higher than 10 percent last year, the first time that students were tested on the more rigorous Common Core standards. Citywide proficiency rates dropped to the low 20s.

About three-quarters of students at MS 355 and MS 356 receive free lunch.

www.Timesledger.com

TV show

Continued from Page 1

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 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@cn-glocal.com.

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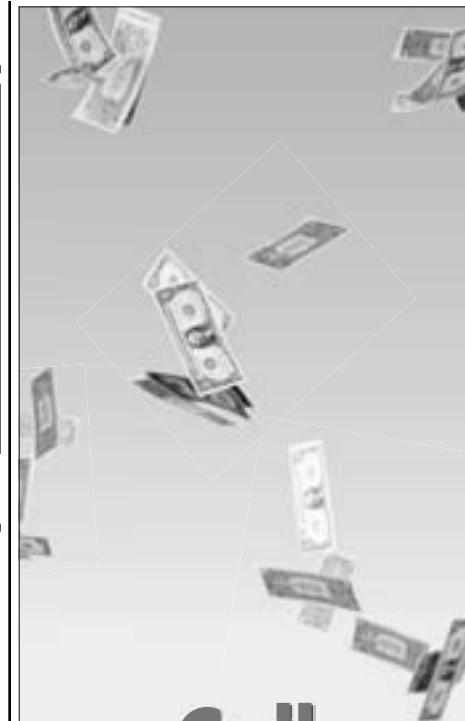
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