

Ex-prisoner rehab site has renovated LIC digs

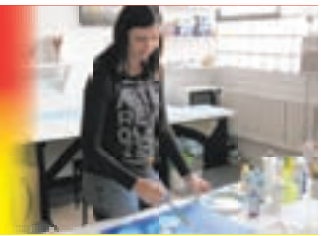
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Painting
for herself

QGuide Page 41



Scarborough's home, office raided by FBI

BY RICH BOCKMANN

State Assemblyman William Scarborough (D-St. Albans) said he had not abused Albany's travel reimbursements after federal agents raided his home and offices Wednesday.

"They only gave me a very small sample of what they thought represented this, and based on that small sample I think it's very refutable," he said in Albany after the Federal Bureau of Investigation executed search warrants at his home and offices in the capitol and southeast Queens early Wednesday morning.

The FBI confirmed the raids and would only say that they were part of an ongoing investigation.

Scarborough, a 10-term lawmaker who serves as chairman of the Assembly Small Business Committee, said he believed the feds were investigating him

Continued on Page 36

FAA approves JFK runway plan

MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS



Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps EMT-B Sarah Elbeyali of Middle Village packs a bag in the organization's ambulance. She was the first EMT-B in the city to successfully administer nasal Narcan to a patient who was having a suspected opioid overdose, the corps said. **See story on Page 26.**

Photo by Roy Renna/BMR Breaking News

Environmentalists pledge to appeal tarmac extension

BY RICH BOCKMANN AND KELSEY DURHAM

Washington has given the Port Authority the go-ahead on a plan to rehabilitate a runway at JFK Airport, but those in adjacent neighborhoods opposed to the construction said they intend to appeal the decision.

The Federal Aviation Administration told the Port Authority March 10 it found no significant environmental impact from the agency's plan to widen and extend runway 4L/22R 728 feet closer toward Idlewild Park in order to build federally mandated safety zones at either end of the tarmac.

"Given your desire to implement this project in the very near future," the FAA wrote, the Port Authority should make a public

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Wills pushes rent subsidies

Councilman says still time for Albany to free up homeless funds

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Advocates for the homeless said there is still time for Albany to approve a plan being pushed by Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) that would free up existing state funds in order to create a housing-subsidy program for those who need it most.

“The argument that there’s not enough time doesn’t seem to make sense to us,” Stephanie Gendell, a policy supervisor at the Citizens’ Committee for Children advocacy group, testified Wednesday before the Council’s General Welfare Committee.

A day after Gov. Andrew Cuomo said it was too late in the budget process to introduce a new proposal, the committee voted to approve a non-binding resolution introduced by Wills that asks Albany to eliminate language from the budget preventing the city from using existing monies to replicate a rent-subsidy program that was eliminated three years ago.

“We know that we need to have a housing subsidy in the city’s tool kit,” Gendell said, “because we’ve seen what happens when we don’t have it in the tool kit.”

Not only did the city’s homeless shelter populations rise after Albany cut funding to the Bloomberg administration’s Advantage program in 2011, but



City Councilman Ruben Wills says there is still time for Albany to free up existing funds for a rent-subsidy plan to help the homeless.

the length of stay climbed, too.

The program, which provided up to two years’ worth of rent assistance, received about 24 percent of its funding from the city and another 19 percent in federal funds contingent on the state kicking in the remaining 57 percent.

The average stay in a shelter before Advantage was eliminated was 258 days compared to 429 days after.

Language introduced into the budget that year prevents the city from using remaining state funds to replicate the program, and de Blasio and his allies simply want this wording removed.

During an upstate news conference Tuesday,

Cuomo, who worked with de Blasio at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said he was concerned about the issue of homelessness, but introducing a new initiative in the budget would have to wait until next year.

“It’s late in the date to put something in the actual budget, because the budget train has basically left the station,” he said. “So to start a new proposal, it’s too late.”

Wills said there had been a “miscommunication” in the way the initiative was being discussed, stressing the city was asking for no additional money from Albany, simply that lawmakers would loosen the reins on existing funds.

“Taking this language

out is common sense,” he said.

Advocates for the city’s homeless said the city’s shelter population broke 50,000 last year for the first time and fear that figure could climb to upward of 55,000 by next year if nothing is done.

“A large part of the reason for that is the lack of housing subsidies,” said Patrick Markee, a policy analyst at the Coalition for the Homeless. “Homeless kids and families in this city can’t wait another year.”

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

Q77, Q31 bus service to resume weekends

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A pair of eastern Queens bus lines that has been running reduced service on weekends since the MTA took a hatchet to its schedule four years ago will soon begin operating seven days a week.

Beginning April 6, straphangers will be able to ride the Q31 from Jamaica to Bayside and the Q77 from Jamaica to Rosedale all weekend long.

The Q31 had been operating weekdays only and the Q77 Monday through Saturday since they and more than 100 other bus and rail lines fell victim to Metropolitan Transportation Authority budget cuts in 2010.

“It’s something that’s been needed for a long time,” said Mark Henry, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union local 1056 representing Queens MTA bus drivers, calling the restorations “well-de-

served and long-overdue.”

The MTA announced last summer it would roll out the expanded services early this year, and last week Henry and eastern Queens leaders gathered at the bus terminal in downtown Jamaica to remind riders of the restorations.

“In my district we don’t have access to subway service and we rely solely on surface transit to get around,” said state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside), who represents the northeastern-most section of Queens. “Many of my constituents have been having a hard time whether it’s getting to work, getting to doctors’ appointments or attending religious services.”

Representing an adjacent district, Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D-Fresh Meadows) called the area a “transit desert” and said that while 2010 was a rough year for riders, next year

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ATU Local 1056 President Mark Henry (r.) is joined by his predecessor, Councilman I. Daneek Miller, and other eastern Queens leaders in reminding straphangers to take advantage of restored bus service.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

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5Pointz artists will have a gallery exhibit of original art

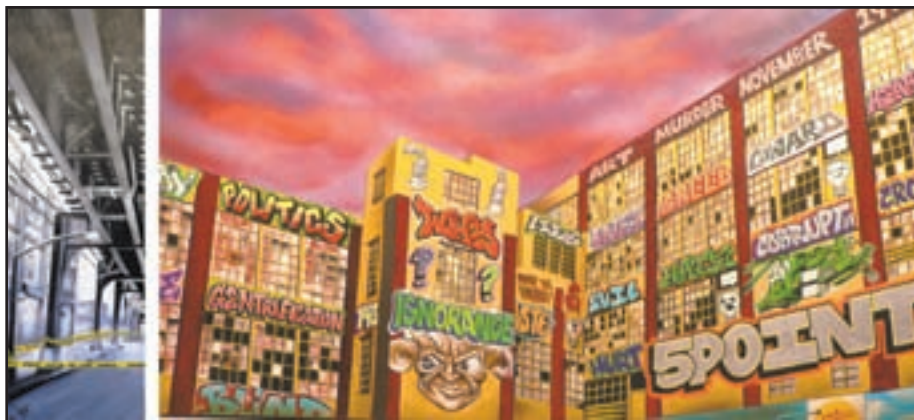
Jeffrey Leder to host Whitewash just two blocks away from graffiti mecca's destruction in LIC

BY BILL PARRY

The artists from 5Pointz will explore the heartache brought on by the destruction of their world famous graffiti mecca just two blocks away from its ghostly shell.

The Jeffrey Leder Gallery, at 21-37 45th Road, will open a unique exhibit called Whitewash April 5 featuring original works from nine graffiti artists and two photographers, all created following the infamous whitewashing of their artwork in November.

5Pointz owners Gerry and David Wolkoff ordered workers to paint over the graffiti mecca during the overnight hours of Nov. 19 following a favorable ruling from a Brooklyn Supreme Court judge that allowed them to prepare the warehouse complex, at 22-44 Jackson Ave., for de-



Nine graffiti artists and two photographers explore their emotions after the demise of 5Pointz in a new exhibit.

Artworks courtesy Jeffrey Leder Gallery

molition scheduled for this spring.

The Wolkoffs will build two residential, high-rise towers in its place.

"Being awakened by that phone call and alerted to what was happening that morning, I would have never expected the emotional impact it had on us," 5Pointz artist spokeswoman Marie Cecil Flageul said. "In

the months and weeks that followed there was a need to do some kind of group therapy — that is how the project came about."

Gallery owner Jeffrey Leder was lamenting the loss of the landmark as well.

"I was affected quite a bit by the whitewashing. I always watched people's reactions to the graffiti from

the No. 7 subway. I used to sit in the Court Square Diner just looking at the art," he said. "I'm invested in and love Long Island City and I realized how much a part 5Pointz was."

The Jeffrey Leder Gallery is home to traditional painting and photography and has never hosted street art in its 10 years in Long Island City.

"Yes, this is something very different, no doubt," Leder said. "I just wanted them to have one last collective project before they move on with their lives."

Leder decided to reach out to Cecil Flageul and curator Meres One.

"I was an observer and an appreciator, but at age 68 I am not in their world," Leder said. "That is why I asked Marie to curate the exhibition."

The 5Pointz artists did have a show at the Gold Coast Gallery, in Great Neck, L.I., over this past winter, but it was from previous works from their own collections.

"This project was all part of a closure process. We also needed to show how the whitewashing affected human beings with feelings," Cecil Flageul said. "The exhibit will be a public conversation about

what we felt, the truest close-up on the feelings we experienced. It's a story of pain, sadness and anger at times and reflection, an epic of an art community and its home coming apart under the pressure of economic trends and waves of gentrification."

Leder said his gallery would feature a store for the first time, selling the works of the artists during the show's duration from April 5 to June 8. He added that the artwork is powerful.

Cecil Flageul calls it a grieving process.

"Every artist, every piece is personal. I pushed them to bare their emotions in their work and it was excruciating for some," she said. "It will be bittersweet the night of the opening because we're leaving Long Island City and moving to Brooklyn."



Christ the King High School

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Christ the King Speech & Debate Team Qualifies for State Championship

Congratulations to the members of the CK's Speech and Debate Team as they competed in their final regular season tournament. The team placed 5 finalists and took the first place team trophy in Student Congress. In addition, the Student Congress Team received the Rev. Sean Ogle Award as the top team in Student Congress in Brooklyn & Queens for the 2013/2014 season.

Up next for the team are the New York State Championships near Cooperstown NY on April 4-6. Earning spots for CK this year are Freshmen Laura Jans and Shania Figueroa (debate), Sophomore Melissa Lent (speech) and Juniors Stephen Lebak, Dominik Makocki, and Kevin Rodriguez (congress).

The National Championships will be held this year over Memorial Day weekend in Chicago Illinois. CK students qualifying this year are Sophomore Krystle Salvati, and Juniors: Stephen Lebak, Dominik Makocki, and Kristen Tully. In addition several other students: Kevin Rodriguez, Laura Jans, Shania Figueroa, Melissa Lent and Mary Yanez are alternates for the national finals.



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.

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Astoria talks traffic safety

Big crowd turns out to hear officials discuss Vision Zero initiative

BY BILL PARRY

Judging by a show of hands, most of the crowd of more than 200 residents who attended a pedestrian safety town hall meeting in Astoria last week knew somebody who had been injured in a traffic collision.

Even the program's co-host, U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), shared that he lost a close friend in a collision last year.

"Marion Kurshuk was a member of my Democratic club in Woodside until she was struck and killed by a motorcycle while trying to cross Queens Boulevard at 58th Street," the congressman said.

Kurshuk was a 78-year-old volunteer who gave her time helping the homeless and the needy. She was just a few blocks away from her 59th Street apartment just before Christmas.

The hot-button issue of traffic safety was also a personal one for the evening's other co-host, City Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria), for a different



Hundreds of Astoria residents attend a traffic safety town hall meeting at the Bohemian Hall.

Photo by Bill Parry

reason.

"I remember growing up on these streets in Astoria; now I'm raising my son here," Constantinides said. "I notice there are more cars, more buses and more pedestrians, and the infrastructure has to keep up with all of this growth."

Crowley offered his

theory for the increased volume of traffic in western Queens.

"We're not living in the [19]50s, '60s or '70s when there was one car for each home. Now it's three or four per household," he said.

Joining the two elected officials on the panel were safety advocates from Make

Queens Safer and Transportation Alternatives and several commanders from the NYPD, including Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney, of the 114th Precinct.

Several representatives from the city Department of Transportation were on hand at the March

Continued on Page 39

Raid on MTA funds will hike fares: Study

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Transit advocates and elected officials have called for the state Legislature to block Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposal to divert \$40 million designated for the cash-strapped MTA, contending it would otherwise bring more fare hikes and service cuts rather than a new era of transit riders.

"Forty million dollars could make a real difference in the commuting lives of hundreds of thousands of transit riders," said Gene Russianoff, attorney for the transit advocacy agency Straphangers Campaign.

Straphangers Campaign and the Riders Alliance released an analysis detailing service improvements that could be made if the state Assembly and state Senate are successful in blocking Cuomo's proposal to take \$40 million now designated for mass transit.

The legislators and transit advocates used the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's own estimates for cost savings achieved during the massive 2010 round of service cuts.

They concluded that if the Assembly and Senate bring about restoration of the \$40 million, the MTA could make the following improvements:

Subways

- Restore mid-day nighttime and weekend service that were reduced on the Nos. 1 and 7 and A, F, J, L and M lines in 2010, bringing shorter waits for 300,000 riders every weekday and 285,000 riders every weekend. (\$3.1 million)

- Add 20 percent more morning rush hour service on the notoriously infrequent and crowded C train. (\$1 million)

- Restore G train service to Forest Hills-71st Avenue in Queens. (\$1.5 million)

- Restore W train one-seat service from Astoria to lower Manhattan. (\$34 million)

Buses

- Add four new local daytime and three new weekend routes in the Bronx. (\$4.2 million)

- Add three new local bus routes and implement weekend hours for three weekday-only routes in Brooklyn. (\$4.7 million)

- Add three bus routes and implement weekend hours for two weekday routes in Manhattan. (\$4.7 million)

- Add three new bus routes with weekday and weekend hours in Queens. (\$6.9 million)

- Add three new weekend routes and three new peak-hour routes in Staten Island. (\$3 million)

Commuter Rail

Continued on Page 50

Kew Gdns. opposes Q10 bus changes

BY SARINA TRANGLE

MTA's plans to tweak the Q10 bus route and fleet have gained little traction in Kew Gardens.

Community Board 9's Transportation Committee invited Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials to its Tuesday meeting after lambasting the MTA's plans to have all three Q10 bus routes — the regular, the limited and the "short trip" that ends before JFK Airport — stop on Kew Gardens Road between 80th Road and 82nd Avenue as a bid to turn the residential strip into a bus terminal.

They also railed



Joseph Raskin discusses various route options for Q10 buses.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

against stocking the Q10 fleet with articulated buses — often called double or accordion buses because of their extended length — which neighbors said take away parking spots, clog

traffic and struggle to turn on tight street corners.

"We're a very small community. We're a village. We're not a thoroughway or a terminus," said Renee Levine, who lives on 82nd

Avenue near Kew Gardens Road, noting that traffic already threatens the balance of the neighborhood. "The traffic in the morning coming down my block extends from Austin Street all the way down. They're lined up."

Albert Lai, director of service design and operation design at MTA, came with revised plans for the Q10 route, which runs from John F. Kennedy International Airport up to the civic center of the borough on Queens Boulevard.

Lai said the MTA currently planned to have buses travel up Lefferts Boulevard, turn left onto Kew

Continued on Page 39



The Straphangers Campaign believes that if \$40 million is returned to the MTA, the W train could be restored from Astoria to Lower Manhattan along with other initiatives.

De Blasio softens stance on charters

After booting SE Queens Success Academy, mayor calls for more civil discussion on education reform

BY RICH BOCKMANN

In the final stretch before Albany decides which direction to take on issues like pre-K and charter schools, Mayor Bill de Blasio tried to find some common ground on both sides of the divisive charter school debate.

The immediate fate of these controversial matters will be sealed - at least in part - when the marathon negotiations over the state budget produce a consensus. The deadline for the new budget is April 1.

De Blasio made an indirect reference to three charter schools his administration pulled the plug on - including one in southeast Queens - during a speech at a Manhattan church over the weekend.

"We made some decisions in the last weeks striving for fairness, but I have to tell you I didn't measure up when it came to explain-

ing those decisions to the people of this city," de Blasio told the congregation at the Riverside Church in Morningside Heights during Sunday service. "So let me start to right the ship now."

The mayor has been on the receiving end of a pro-charter campaign blitz ever since he made the decision last month to pick a fight with long-time rival Eva Moskowitz and boot three of her Success Academy charter schools from space promised in public school buildings by the Bloomberg administration last year.

Print and television ads extol the virtues of charter schools, framing the issue as one of equality among public school students and painting de Blasio as absolutely anti-charter.

But despite nixing three co-locations - including a Success Academy proposed at August Martin



Mayor Bill de Blasio, shown visiting a pre-K site in Sunnyside, is trying to focus on a broader conversation about education reform, rather than the debate over charter schools.

High School in South Jamaica - the de Blasio administration allowed more than a dozen to go forward, including a Success school planned at IS 59 in Spring-

field Gardens.

Speaking at the Riverside Church, the mayor alluded to an existing Harlem Success Academy he evicted from a school serving

AP Photo/Newsday, Craig Ruttle, pool

special education students when he said he would find space for the charter school's students.

"There's a charter school with 194 children.

It's a good school doing good work and we are going to make sure those 194 children have a good home this year, but we will not do it at the expense of our special education children," he said. "And that false choice has been set up as part of a broken system and a broken dialogue and it's time to start ending that kind of dysfunction - not pitting one against another."

De Blasio tried to shift the discussion to a broader one of education reform, saying that instead of arguing over charter schools vs. public schools, the focus should be on raising all children, pointing out that fewer than 20 percent of students reach standards by the time they are in the third-grade.

"Somehow when we consider the education of our children, when we as a society engage in a discourse about the needs of

Continued on Page 50

Brown wants to turn empty jail into office space for prosecutors

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A defunct detention center that has served as a backdrop for shows such as 'Orange Is the New Black' and 'Blue Bloods' would be perfect place to send the borough's prosecutors, according to Queens District Attorney Richard Brown.

Brown is asking the city to consider renovating an empty jail next to his offices at the Kew Gardens courthouse in lieu of spending \$3 million a year to house nearly half of his staff about four blocks away across Queens Boulevard.

"It makes far more sense in my judgment to renovate the Queens House and convert it into office space for my staff instead

of keeping spending \$3 million on an office building four blocks from the court house," Brown testified last week at a City Council Public Safety Committee hearing.

The DA's office employs more than 600 assistant district attorneys, paralegals, investigators and clerical workers, about half of whom already go to work each day at a building four blocks away from the court complex.

Meanwhile, the 10-story former Queens House of Detention has sat empty next to the courthouse since it closed in 2002.

The building, owned by the city Department of Correction, is used as a film production site.

"The Queens House of Detention is a wonderful place to stage your production," reads the website for the mayor's Office of Film, Theater and Broadcasting. In the past year the center has hosted nearly a dozen productions, including an untitled Chris Rock film and the popular Netflix series "Orange Is the New Black."

At the hearing last week, during which the city's five district attorneys and the special narcotics prosecutor made budget requests for the new fiscal year, Brown asked that the Council set aside funding to renovate the building.

"It would eliminate the dangers of having our staff

Continued on Page 50

LIC site for ex-prisoners stages grand reopening

BY BILL PARRY

The Fortune Society, an agency that helps former prisoners re-enter society, celebrated the grand reopening of its newly renovated and refurbished headquarters in Long Island City Tuesday.

The 45-year-old organization helps 4,000 released prison inmates a year turn around their lives through education, housing, employment services, substance abuse and mental health treatment, family services and HIV/AIDS services.

Originally founded in Manhattan's theater district, Fortune Society moved into an office build-



The renovations at Fortune Society's headquarters includes an upgraded reception area.

Photo by Bill Parry

ing, at 29-76 Northern Blvd in 2008.

"This place has taken a beating over the years —

it was always pretty drab," Fortune Society Vice President Stanley Richards said. "Now this space matches the hopes and visions of our clients."

The Robin Hood Foundation provided a \$275,000 capital grant and after three months of construction the headquarters boasts a modern reception area and a 6,000-square-foot common area where critical client services and programs are offered. The face-lift included new flooring and some much-needed furniture.

Now the hallways at the agency are abuzz with activity as former inmates

Continued on Page 50

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QueensWay mapped out at Forest Hills seminar

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Friends of the QueensWay's plan to construct a park hinges on just 3.5 miles of railway, but the controversy around those tracks has reverberated much farther.

Proponents of transforming the abandoned Rockaway Beach branch of the Long Island Rail Road into a green strip modeled after the High Line in Manhattan gathered Monday in Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School's cafeteria to discuss details of the proposal.

Beyond concerns about the QueensWay driving up traffic, eating into parking spaces and infringing on the privacy of backyards, the group heard from those calling for the reactivation of the LIRR line, who came armed with posters and leaflets.

With financing from a national non-profit called The Trust for Public Land, Friends of the QueensWay hired consultants to study the feasibility of turning the tracks stretching from Ozone Park to Rego Park into a pedestrian and biking path buffered by parkland.

After soliciting feedback during two workshops this month, Adam Lubinsky, principal with WXY Architecture and Urban Design, said the group planned to put forth designs plans with financing ideas in June.

"Within a mile, you've got a quarter of a million people, so it's really a big opportunity to give people access to open space," he said.

Lubinsky described several path layouts — some with separate paths for bikers and pedestrians, others shared — and various park components, from pavilions to dog runs, up for consideration.

Attendees, who broke up into groups to share



Renderings of the proposed QueensWay park depict the proposal in various seasons. Renderings courtesy dland studio and WXY Studio

their vision for the railway, used stickers to illustrate their preferences for path configurations and amenities on large maps.

Lou and Jana Richman, of Forest Hills, said they thought the linear park would provide some continuity to nearby neighborhoods and give the borough a more cohesive identity.

"I'm concerned about the southern area," said Jana Richman. "The population is very dense and there are no parks. Unfortunately, the kids don't have backyards."

But the QueensWay mock-ups did not include a 200-slot parking lot that Sue Kasten said her Glendale co-op, at 90-60 Union Tnpk. near QueensWay, relies on.

"What do you do with 200 cars?" she said. "And the children walk on a bridge from the co-op to PS 113. What will happen to the bridge?"

Charles Favreau, also a Forest Hills resident, said he was dismayed neighbors would write off reactivating the LIRR line as the Rockaways continues to reel from Superstorm Sandy.

"For us to take land that could be used for civic use and put it to cardio use — I am appalled," Favreau said.

Phil McManus, founder of the Queens Public Transportation Committee, which is pushing to reincarnate the railway, distributed fliers noting that the city still owns the tracks and the right-of-way is intact. The committee believes southern Queens needs the railway, particularly for economic development, but would accept a park surrounding the tracks.

The Friends of the QueensWay, which has not released any financial information on its plans yet, handed out a memo describing the committee's push as futile.

More than a dozen years after the line closed in 1962, the Port Authority determined spending \$475 million reactivating the railroad was too costly. Today that would amount to \$4 billion, according to Friends of the QueensWay's estimates.

City Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills) opposes reactivating the LIRR branch because nearby constituents would encounter noise, vibrations and other quality-of-life issues, her office said. She does not yet have a position on the park proposal.

Her colleagues, Council members Elizabeth
Continued on Page 37



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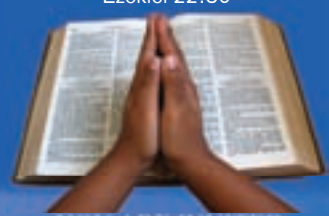


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POLICE Blotter

Cops search for suspect in customs agent's killing

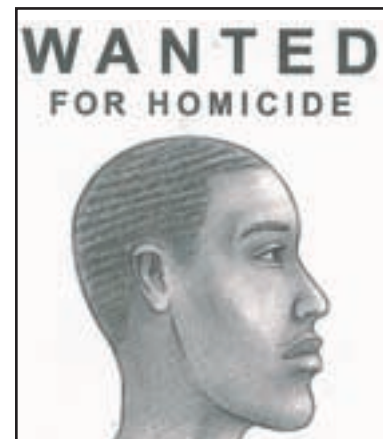
SOUTH JAMAICA — The NYPD Tuesday released a sketch of a suspect wanted in the murder of an off-duty customs and border agent outside his parents' southeast Queens home in 2010.

There is a \$22,000 reward for information leading to the person who killed Maurice Gordon, 33, in the early morning hours of June 21, 2010.

Police said Gordon, a U.S. Customs and Border agent at JFK Airport, was with a cousin at a nightclub in Elmont, L.I. when he was followed back to his parents' home in South Jamaica.

Police said three men approached in a black SUV and someone shot Gordon once in the chest. He died at Jamaica Hospital.

Police describe one of the suspects as a black male between the ages of 28 and 32 who stands around 5 feet, 10 inches tall with a thin build and black hair in waves.



Police are looking for a suspect who matches this sketch in the murder of Maurice Gordon.

Sketch courtesy NYPD

Partially naked man spotted in St. Abans: NYPD

ST. ALBANS - Police were searching for a man who allegedly flashed two females in St. Albans last week.

The NYPD said the women were walking near 120th Avenue and 198th Street around 5 p.m. March 20 when they passed the suspect in his vehicle with his legs and feet on the dashboard. The suspect then began following the two women and parked his vehicle in a spot where they would again pass him, and police said the man was naked from the waist down when the victims saw him the second time.

The women fled the scene and no injuries were reported, according to the NYPD. The suspect is described as a black male who was driving a gray and green 2003 Subaru Legacy.



The NYPD released surveillance images of the gray or green 2003 Subaru Legacy in hopes of finding the suspect.

Images courtesy NYPD

Police hunting for TD Bank robbery suspects

HILLSIDE — Police were looking for two suspects wanted for bank robbery.

The NYPD said the two men, both described as black males in their mid to late 20s, stole \$3,200 from the TD Bank on Hillside Avenue near 188th Street just after noon March 22.



Police are looking for two men who are wanted in the robbery of \$3,200 from a bank on Hillside Avenue, the NYPD said.

Images courtesy NYPD

Got tips?

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

Queens pediatrician splits time as violinist

BY MERLE EXIT

It's hard enough for a woman to have one full-time career, but Fresh Meadows resident Yeou-Cheng Ma has been maintaining two that are totally different as both a prominent musician and a pediatrician.

Born in France to Chinese immigrants, Yeou-Cheng was raised by two parents who were in the field of music. Her mother Marina Lu was a singer, while her father Hiao-Tsun Ma was an established violinist, composer and professor of music.

"I started to learn music at the age of 2 1/2, when my father taught me the violin," Ma said. "At 3, I took piano lessons, but with someone else."

In fact, she accompanied her famous brother, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, for nine years, although not at his concerts.

"We did play together in my father's orchestra and chamber music during college. Now I teach violin at the Children's Orchestra Society that my father founded. Upon his retirement my brother was his first request," Ma said. "However, at that time Yo-Yo was busy touring. He then asked me, to which I replied, 'Yes, but not this year since I'm interning pediatrics and working 120 hours out of 168.'"



Fresh Meadows resident Yeou-Cheng Ma is scheduled to play two concerts in Manhattan in April and May. Photo by Merle Exit

The Children's Orchestra Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching children and teens "the language of music."

Ma grew up in Paris, coming to the United States with her family in the early 1960s.

"I spoke very little English and was most proficient in math and science. Entering college I decided to major in chemistry," Ma said. "I then applied to both graduate and medical school. Accepted in both at Harvard University, I chose medical school first. It was through the advice of a mentor along with my love for children that I opted to be in the field of pediatrics."

Practicing since 1982, Ma specializes in development pediatrics, the care of children with special needs, at Einstein Medical Hospital in the Bronx.

"My focus is on children who have problems communicating," she said.

She described one of her unforgettable memories as a pediatrician when she spent two months in Puerto Rico.

"I was given the opportunity to partake in a free cram course learning to speak Spanish if I wanted to do some practicing in a Spanish-speaking country," Ma said. "As a physician it was much easier to

Continued on Page 37

Reynoso's term begins

Ridgewood's new councilman to focus on housing and education

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Early on in his political ascent, City Councilman Antonio Reynoso (D-Williamsburg) joined his predecessor Diana Reyna's team as her Ridgewood representative.

Seven years later, he seized the 34th Council District, which encompasses Williamsburg, Bushwick and Ridgewood, and entered into a more direct contract to represent the neighborhood.

During a recent interview Reynoso, 30, described his primary goals as improving education and offsetting the exodus of longtime residents amid gentrification by screening developments and scouring for affordable housing.

Environmental issues have also caught Reynoso's attention as chairman of the Council's Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Committee.

Reynoso, a southside Williamsburg resident, said children in his district are not receiving the best education, and he hopes to collaborate with the city Department of Education to ensure all school facilities are adequate and curriculum is infused with arts and cultural lessons.

"It's the great equalizer. It's what gave me the opportunity to stand before my constituents," said Reynoso, who was raised in the Los Sures section of Williamsburg by Dominican immigrants. "My discretionary money is going to speak directly to my priority in education."

The councilman said he worried that residents of many years were getting priced out, noting that close to 10,000 Latino residents had been displaced after gentrification altered the landscape of Williamsburg and Bushwick.

He has discussed plans to downzone parts of Bushwick to prevent



City Councilman Antonio Reynoso calls for the creation of an inter-agency task force to monitor abuses by landlords. Photo by Sarina Trangle

the construction of much larger buildings than those currently in the neighborhood, a move he believes would mitigate an influx of wealthier residents.

And earlier this month, Reynoso rallied with Bushwick residents who allege that their landlord has left kitchens and bathrooms gutted in a bid to force them out of rent-stabilized units and called on the city to pursue criminal cases against abusive landlords.

He also urged Mayor Bill de Blasio to establish an inter-agency task force to monitor and resolve such incidents.

"We see it a lot less in Ridgewood. Ridgewood, fortunately, has a history of homeownership," he said. "But they are dealing with issues of gentrification, increasing rent prices and the same speculation that happened here could happen there. So we just got to be prepared."

Reynoso said he currently is gauging where constituents stand on Ridgewood proposals, but that he intends to push for all developments in the district to include some afford-

able units.

The councilman said he is skeptical of landlords seeking to convert property zoned for manufacturing to residential, particularly in industrial business zones. In an effort to protect industrial businesses, the city used tax incentives to lure companies to such areas and pledged not to rezone them.

"Owners of these industrial properties say they're in hardship," Reynoso said, noting that the Williamsburg IBZ has a wait list. "But they're self-imposed hardships in an effort to convert from manufacturing to residential."

The city budget does not include money for the recently established Ridgewood IBZ, but Reynoso said he was confident the funding would make it into the final fiscal plan.

Reynoso said the Council's Sanitation Committee intends to hold every borough accountable for processing its own waste, which would mean curbing the load processed in the boroughs and adding more processing facilities in Manhattan.

He had not yet heard

from Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions, a group born out of Glendale, Ridgewood and Middle Village residents' concerns about smells, noise and pollution from freight locomotives that run through the borough, particularly those transporting waste.

CURES has requested that the city follow the state's example in putting up money for retrofitting the locomotives with cleaner engines.

Reynoso's housing agenda seems to have overshadowed local issues, with Reynoso saying he was unfamiliar with the Wyckoff Avenue Street Reconstruction project, a long-delayed plan to repair the road, sewers and water mains on Wyckoff Avenue between Flushing and Cooper avenues, or the city's announcement that it needs to build culverts in the Ridgewood reservoir to comply with federal safety requirements drafted after Hurricane Katrina.

"In Ridgewood it's mostly quality-of-life issues, trees, that's always an issue, trash pickups, property taxes," Reynoso said.

Addabbo pushes for member items alternative

BY SARINA TRANGLE

While most legislators are busy haggling over pre-kindergarten funding and campaign finance reform in the state budget, state Sen. Joseph Addabbo Jr. (D-Howard Beach) has renewed his bid to secure money for Queens nonprofits.

Addabbo said he met with Gov. Andrew Cuomo earlier this month and urged him to institute an alternative framework for distributing state funds to community organizations, schools, senior centers and neighborhood projects after the executive curtailed lawmakers' access to member items in 2010 amid a spate of scandals involving the so-called member items.

The state budget once included a lump sum for generic aid to schools, corporations, municipalities or nonprofits, which legislators would direct to local initiatives.

"I said, 'Governor, I don't mind that you took it away from me ... but you never replaced it

and now I have senior centers, veterans posts, after-school programs suffering," Addabbo said, before listing organizations that he once directed funding to that have since closed due to a lack of money, including the Queens Multi-Service Center in Glendale, which provided case management for seniors, and the Forest Park Senior Center.

The senator has reintroduced a bill he drafted last year that would maintain the money once funneled through member items, but continue barring legislators from controlling it by having the state vet organizations and award financing through grant applications.

No senators have signed onto the bill and it does not have a sponsor in the state Assembly.

But Addabbo said he primarily submitted the measure to propose a framework for the governor, who he said already has the authority to institute a mechanism for getting state funding to local groups.

Although Cuomo's office did



State Sen. Joseph Addabbo Jr. says neighborhood nonprofits are suffering without state funding.

not respond to requests for comment, Addabbo described his reaction as somewhat open.

"It wasn't dead in the water," Addabbo said.

Cuomo stopped allocating

money for member items as several abuses emerged.

The city Department of Investigation determined that as former Brooklyn Assemblyman Vito Lopez directed money to the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, the nonprofit falsified documents, double-billed the state and inflated the salary of its executive director, who was Lopez's girlfriend, according to the good government group Citizens Union.

Then Jamaica's former Sen. Shirley Huntley was sentenced to a year and a day behind bars after she admitted in federal court to stealing thousands in member items from one of her sham nonprofits.

The first few years without new discretionary funding were not so bad, according to Addabbo.

He said legislators had access to previously approved but unused member items money. But that financing has since dried up, leaving organizations throughout the state struggling.

Citizens Union, a nonpar-

tisan organization dedicated to improving elections and governance, has historically raised several concerns about member items, but believes legislators should have some role in the allocation process, according to Rachael Fauss, policy and research manager for Citizens Union.

"Funding for AIDS issues in the 1980s was a very political issue and the legislators were able to direct needed funding to those groups," she said. "But at the same time, there needs to be more control over it."

Citizens Union helped state Sen. Jose Serrano (D-Manhattan) and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Westchester County) draft legislation that would require member items to be itemized in the budget and the legislators behind such allocations to sign related conflict of interests forms.

Recipients of \$50,000 or more in state money would have to send documents to the state attorney general detailing how the money was spent.

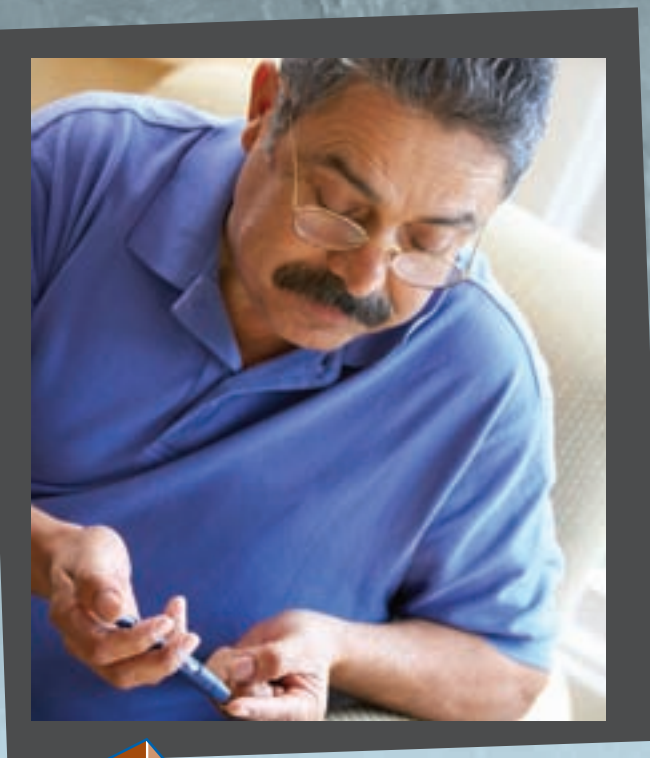
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DON'T STIFF THE MTA

We have a message for our governor: Andrew, remember your Queens roots and keep your hands off the MTA's \$40 million public transit funds that could make travel for city straphangers a whole lot easier.

As the April 1 state budget deadline approaches, Cuomo has proposed plundering \$40 million from the transit kitty to pay for MTA bonds the state had agreed to pay off. Most of that fund is dedicated to mass transit improvements.

Amid the outcry from many state Assembly members, the city's Riders Alliance and Straphangers Campaign waded into the foray with estimates of what the \$40 million could do to improve the commute for thousands of frazzled New Yorkers.

And the possibilities were quite overwhelming for the often frustrated riders in Queens.

The rider advocates said the MTA could use the \$40 million to restore off-peak service on the No. 7, A and J lines, bring back G service to Forest Hills and revive W service from Astoria to Lower Manhattan.

In addition, those salvaged millions could also underwrite three new bus routes in Queens and add 26 new LIRR trains.

But Cuomo's raid on the MTA funds amounts to a staggering \$40 million cut to the transit authority, jeopardizing its already shaky financial footing and setting the stage for a sharp increase in fares.

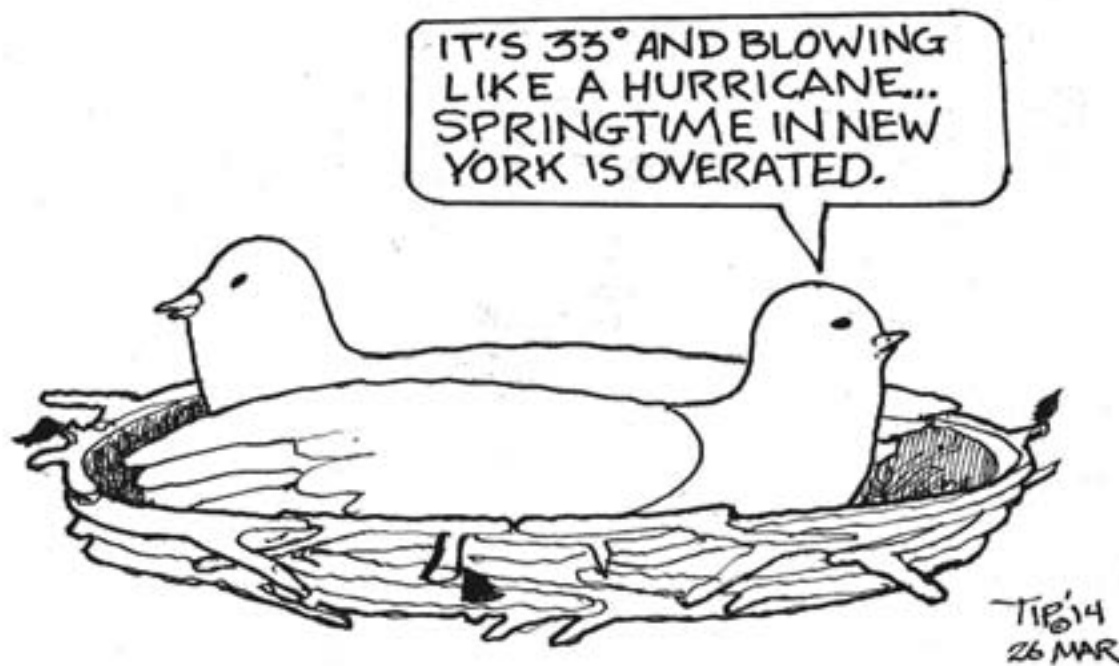
Both riders groups said leaving the \$40 million in the MTA's coffers would enable the agency to reduce the fare hikes planned for 2015 and 2017.

Last year, Brooklyn Assemblyman Martin Golden sponsored a bill to put a lock on the \$40 million transit fund which passed both houses, but Cuomo vetoed the measure.

Since Cuomo graduated from Archbishop Molloy HS back in 1975, it's not unreasonable to suspect he took his share of Queens buses and subways during his formative years. Queens has always been a public transit wasteland, so the challenge of commuting must have made an impression.

Fast forward to today when the same Andrew Cuomo has honed a reputation for being a shrewd negotiator. We're counting on him to play the \$40 million transit fund card to wrest a concession from other interest groups in the state budget game and to restore the dollars to the MTA, which deserves a break from Albany.

The riders have earned a reprieve from service cutbacks and rising fares. Act now, Andrew, and we'll get you a gold MetroCard.



OTHER VOICES

WWII vet finally honored for his service

I am writing to inform your readers about a true local hero.

Staff Sgt. James Dikeman served in World War II from 1942-45 as a member of the 179th Military Policy Co. On June 9, 1943, Dikeman was wounded in Tunisia while defending the Katherine Pass against the German Afrika Corps.

After recovering, he returned home, married his wife Catherine and served a distinguished ca-

reer with the city Parks Department.

But until recently, Dikeman's actions in North Africa went unrecognized because all his military records were destroyed in a fire at the U.S. Army's National Personnel Records Center in 1973. Although his actions and wounds had earned him several medals and awards, at the age of 95 he still had not received them.

Imet Dikeman's daughter last year, and when she

told me his story, I was determined to right this wrong. I reached out to the Army with his hospital records, and it reconstructed his military records.

This past February, I was able to present Dikeman with his well-deserved awards, among them the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the World War II Victory Medal. It had taken 70 years, but Dikeman had finally received the honors he deserved.

I congratulate Dike-

man, who lives in Little Neck, and thank him for his service.

If you know a veteran who has been denied a medal or benefits, please call my office at 718-875-1675.

To date I have secured \$7.2 million in back pay and owed benefits for veterans, and I am eager to continue serving the men and women who protect our nation.

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

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Mayor must not follow in Bloomberg's steps

An open letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio:

The Bloomberg administration ignored small businesses and the needs of the little people, pursuing instead a long romance with real estate moguls. It also did not take the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure seriously nor the public trust doctrine, which requires approval of the state Legislature before any parkland

is given over to non-park use.

In the early stages of your administration, you have an opportunity to distance yourself from Bloomberg's abysmal record as aforesaid and to inform the public if you give great weight to the ULURP procedure and park alienation requirements and if you favor the interests of real estate moguls over that of small businesses and the

little people.

A case in point is the Willets Point project. I am not referring to the original approved 2008 plan, but a scheme hatched by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the New York Mets and its Related Cos. and Sterling Equities and multi-billionaires who violated the law by circumventing park property alienation requirements and ULURP and gave them the keys to

the city treasury and the right to construct a 1.4-million-square-foot shipping mall on the Citi Field parking lot, which is part of Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Litigation is now pending that would prevent the construction of the 1.4-million-square-foot shopping mall at Citi Field until there be full compliance with ULURP and park alienation legislation. It

is to be noted that if there be compliance with these requirements and the project approved, it could then proceed.

But it should not be permitted without full participation of all the affected community boards.

You are not bound by the actions of Bloomberg and you can direct your Corporation Counsel not to contest the litigation (New York County State

Supreme Court Index No. 100101-2014).

Let right be done, demonstrate your respect for the rights of our communities, disdain for any attempts to avoid ULURP and park alienation requirements and join in seeking judicial relief to accomplish that result.

*Benjamin M. Haber
Flushing*

Back universal free school lunch

There is simply nothing more important than the health of our children and families.

Recently, I was joined by a consortium of more than 120 of the city's leading food advocacy, health and parent organizations to announce a plan that will provide universal free lunch for all city public school students.

Today, more than 75 percent of public school students are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch — an estimated 780,000 students — and many students from families just above the income threshold but still struggling.

Unfortunately, in part because of the poverty stigma associated with school lunch — and understandable fears of undocumented families filling out the significant required paperwork to qualify — an estimated 250,000 income eligible city students do not participate in the school lunch program.

That is a quarter million children who are allowed to access free or reduced price lunch but do not do so largely because of the poverty stigma.

The problem gets

worse as children get older and societal pressures increase: 81 percent of elementary school students eat school lunch, but that number drops to 61 percent by middle school and 38 percent in high school.

We know that universal school lunch works because we already have it in select low-income schools in the city. We simply want to expand that accessibility. Boston, Dallas and Chicago already have similar free lunch policies as do New York state cities like Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Hempstead and Poughkeepsie.

The simple fact is that every child must be guaranteed access to healthy food during the school day. We know that when children are hungry, they are less likely to be attentive in class and they are less likely to get the most out of their education.

We have spoken with Mayor Bill de Blasio and city Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña to secure funding for universal free lunch. In my opinion, the simplest option is a direct allocation in the mayor's proposed budget.

The federal government pays the bulk of

the costs associated with school lunch in New York City. For the 2011-12 school year, the federal government paid \$298,121 — \$850 for schools meals and the city made up the difference of \$37,564,748.

If we provide every child with a free lunch in the city, it will only cost an additional \$20 million. We will spend just \$20 more per student each year. This increase will amount to less than one-tenth of a percent of the entire city Department of Education budget, which is nearly \$25 billion.

Universal free lunch does not require legislative action or approval from Albany. Let's work with the mayor, who can institute universal free lunch with a stroke of his pen, and help erase the stigma associated with poverty or immigration status for thousands of New York City children.

The health of our children and families depends on it.

*Letitia James
City Public Advocate
Manhattan*

Reader confused about tax dodgers

Letter writer Ed Konecnik complains about the delusions of the left. It is obvious to knowledgeable readers that his flawed bullet points come from right-wing media and talking heads.

A steady diet of this bunk makes one angry, disrespectful and hateful of those who do not look like you. These folks work hard at distorting the facts to further their agenda.

Take one of Konecnik's points, for example, that "almost 50 percent [the actual figure is 47 percent] pay no income tax." On the surface, it looks like those 47 percent should be arrested by the IRS and have their wages garnished and piggy banks emptied.

The intent of the statement is to make readers angry at those no-good tax dodgers.

Let's look at the 47 per-

cent and see why they fall into this category. Twenty percent of the 47 percent pay no federal income tax, but they do pay payroll taxes for Social Security and Medicare. Most of this group qualifies for enough deductions, earning less than \$26,400 a year, to push their tax liability to zero.

Ten percent of the 47 percent are elderly and retired and have limited incomes. Seven percent of the 47 percent are households earning less than \$20,000 per year and are not required to pay federal tax, but a majority of Americans still pay state and local taxes.

In conclusion, they are not tax dodgers. Nearly half of all Americans have less than \$500 in savings, and two-thirds of us live paycheck to paycheck.

You want to know who the real tax dodgers are?

How about the 10 largest corporations that pay no income tax and get millions in tax rebates, while we pay \$3.85 a gallon at the gas station? Corporations pay a federal tax rate at an average of 13 percent, only about a third of the statutory rate because corporate tax deductions and loopholes are everywhere.

The top-earning Americans have hidden more than \$4 trillion in tax shelters overseas to dodge their full tax liability shifting the burden to honest taxpayers at home.

We should close these loopholes and make them ante up their fair share like everybody else. Beating up on the poor makes no sense.

*Tyler Cassell
Flushing*

CORRECTIONS

In the March 14-20 article about the New York State Pavilion opening to the public for one day to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the World's Fair, the co-founder of Friends of the Pavilion is Mitch Silverstein.

In the March 14-20 edition, the story about the Kitty Genovese case should have run with the headline "Book opens a new chapter on notorious Kew Gardens murder."

Despite the Depression, boro public works boomed in '31

QUEENS LINE

The Greater Astoria Historical Society

It was called the Great Depression, a time that undoubtedly was the worst financial crisis in our country's history. Nearly a third of the workforce was unemployed. A decade wiped off the map, nearly a generation would pass before the country reached the same level of economic activity as the 1920s.

Yet reading the Long Island Star gives one a surprising impression. The city spent a fortune on acquiring land for public parks, newspapers glowed as hundreds of homes were built and sold in one year,

breathtaking civil projects were announced and, in most cases, built.

In March 1931, the Triborough Bridge got its first \$1 million appropriation and major funding was discussed for the Grand Central Parkway. The city purchased, as public parks, the Clearview Golf Course (nearly \$1 million) and 66 acres of Juniper Valley Park (\$400,000).

Plans were discussed to build a third bridge over the East River, this time between Broadway in Astoria and 86th Street in Manhattan. There was agitation to

build a civic center to keep the courts and government in Long Island City, and serious talk to build a cross-town subway line between Whitestone and Jamaica.

The last blocks of undeveloped land were being gobbled up for development. More than \$1 million changed hands in a series of land transfers in Flushing.

The old Lott farm of 53 acres in Fresh Meadows was sold for \$330,000 and was soon made into 660 homes. A few thousand feet north, the 32-acre Schumacher farm, on Rocky Hill Road, was sold at \$15,000 per acre. Also that month, the 63-acre Boose farm, at Hollis Court and Horace Harding boulevards, was sold.

Homes on the Ridge-

wood Plateau were being snapped up. Overlooking the New York skyline, just 22 minutes from Times Square, and near schools, churches, a shopping center and theaters, more than 400 one-family homes with garages, sewers, sidewalks, paved streets and shade trees were sold and completed.

They were priced between \$7,000 and \$11,000. Two-family homes were \$13,000.

Over in Jackson Heights on 90th Street, the Island Housing Corp. offered "solid brick and stone studio homes" with separate garages between \$8,000 and \$9,000. The mortgage was only \$66.50 per month. In one month, 77 homes were sold.

M. Krauss Building Corp., at 51st Street near Skillman Avenue in Sun-

nyside, offered two-family brick homes with heated two-car garages and oil burners for \$15,750. Since the rent from the second apartment covered the mortgage, the homeowner was "guaranteed to live rent free forever."

In what was advertised as the lowest price in the single-fair zone, Baysview Homes, at 20-65 46th St., you could get a nine-room, semi-detached brick home on a 25-by-100-foot lot for only \$9,900 — two-families for \$12,500 — with only \$500 down and a mortgage of \$35 per month.

A girl from Dutch Kills came home to head for fame. Ethel Merman, whose rise to stardom was rapid, was signed by Larry Kent, of Paramount Astoria Studios, March 11, 1931, to make a series of movies.

Merman, remembered as Ethel Zimmerman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zimmerman, was entertaining guests at Astoria Republican Club meetings. Her first performance was at Little Russia, a Manhattan supper club.

In 1927, she appeared at the McAlpin Grill and later at the Ambassador Grill, where she attracted the attention of a producer who suggested she go for a screen test.

The woman who dominated stage and screen for most of the 20th century grew up just around the corner from the recently opened High School for Performing Arts.

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

De Blasio's key to success should be compromising



Tom Allon
Mayor of Albany
Spin Cycle

is budget season in Albany and we're witnessing lots of horse trading to get things done.

Will it produce a compromise on the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, otherwise known as the Dream Act? Probably not, but there's still time until the legislative session ends in late June to get that important progressive vision realized and help our immigrant young get great educations.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been exemplary in his ability to use compromise to move his agenda forward. Some think he sacrificed a lot of important goals over the years — such as independent redistricting — but his signature achievements of marriage equality and capping property taxes came about because of his willingness to wheel and deal.

It is often said that good politics involves the "art of the compromise." To get things done and make progress, which should be the goal of every elected leader, there needs to be give and take.

This lesson seems to have been lost in Washington in recent years, where a polarized Congress has passed fewer and fewer pieces of legislation each session. If Republicans take over the Senate in the upcoming election cycle, we may expect even less during the last two lame-duck years of the Obama administration.

Here in New York, it



Mayor Bill de Blasio is joined by supporters after speaking at a universal pre-K rally in Albany.

AP Photo/Mike Groll

Mayor Bill de Blasio has exhibited his ability to cut deals in his first few months in office. He traded air rights for more affordable housing with the Domino Sugar development in Brooklyn, a move that could serve as a model for

the mayor's future relationship with the real estate development community.

The mayor's signature education initiative, universal pre-kindergarten, is a great idea that many have pursued unsuccessfully in the past two decades.

The governor decided to push this idea forward throughout the state, but he squashed the mayor's plan to raise taxes on high earners to fund it.

The mayor is making a mistake by continuing to push for the tax. Instead, he

should accept Cuomo's compromise and focus his team on implementing this ambitious plan to add thousands of new seats in city public schools for early childhood education.

After all, once kids are in those seats, it won't matter to constituents who is paying for it.

There's an old saying that should apply here for the new mayor: "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."

Compromise is an important skill in life. Let's hope the new mayor's early signs of deal-making continue.

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.



**Laura
Rahill**
■
**Remember
the Date**

If you are the office prankster, then it's almost time to bring out the best you have to offer, as Tuesday is April 1, commonly known as April Fool's Day or All Fools Day.

But the office prankster is not the only one you need watch out for, since it is not uncommon for the media to get involved in the fun in an attempt to pull the wool over the world's eyes.

So where did this silly day originate? Although there are many theories in existence for the day's origin, probably the most cited is that in the 1800s France changed its calendar so the new year would begin in January to coincide with

the Roman calendar. Before that the original new year began at the start of spring in late March or early April.

In that time, word often traveled slowly and many people living in rural parts of the countryside continued to celebrate the new year in springtime. These country folk were so-called "April fools."

Other versions dismiss this theory, suggesting that this day is simply a result of European spring festivals, which celebrated renewal. In these festivals, camouflaging one's identity and pranks were commonplace.

Famously, to name but a few of my favorite renowned April Fool's pranks, in 2008 Burger King released an advertisement promoting its new "Left-Handed Whopper" burger designed for left-handed people. Full-page ads and press releases announced the burger's arrival, which



The weather is apt to play an April Fool's joke on Queens residents with continuing winter temperatures.

reportedly many people requested.

In 1995, writer George Plimpton wrote an exposé in Sports Illustrated about a man named Sidd Flinch, who was said to be a hidden New York Mets prospect who had a fastball recorded

at 168 miles per hour. It was a whole week before Sports Illustrated realized it had been the victim of an April Fool's joke.

Just last year the ever-popular social media platform Twitter announced it would begin charging us-

ers for the usage of vowels while consonants and the letter "Y" would remain free.

Also last year, Google, whose track record of April Fool's Day pranks has been unrivaled, presented "Google Nose," which was

said to provide smells for whatever you type into the search bar. Users simply had to bring their nose as close to the screen as possible and press enter.

Well played, Google. Imagine how amusing that was in some offices.

These media hoaxes are only a snippet of the best, but of course on this day no one can be trusted.

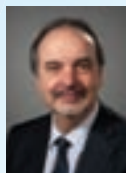
Ifondlyremember even my teachers liked to get involved in the fun, sending unsuspecting students into other classes to ask the teacher to borrow striped paint or rubber nails.

If anything, these past hoaxes and experiences on previous April Fool's serve as a reminder to be particularly aware of curious stories in the media, or in my case, be even more suspicious of TimesLedger office pranksters. (I have a few in mind!)

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Californian rep talks to South Asian youth in Elmhurst

Ami Bera shares his story at SAYA! conference in hopes of inspiring next generation of leaders

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A California congressman who also happens to be the first Indian American elected to federal office came to Elmhurst Saturday to meet with South Asian youths.

U.S. Rep. Ami Bera (D-Calif.) shared his story with teens at a South Asian Youth Action conference in the hopes of engaging them in the political process.

"You can do anything you want to in your life. You really can," he told the crowd of high school students. "A lot of people will come up to you and tell you they don't think you can do something, but if you believe in yourself, you're the only one that holds the key to unlocking your full potential."

A doctor by profession,

Bera was told he would never win his seat as he had never held a lower level of public office and his district was less than 1 percent South Asian.

"Nobody told me I wouldn't be any good in Congress. They just said I wouldn't win," he said. "But my parents instilled in me that you can do whatever you want to do in life."

Bera's parents immigrated to the United States in 1958 to build a better life and raise their family.

"I grew up the youngest of three boys with a strong sense of who I was as an Indian-American kid growing up in California," he said. "I ran on who I am."

Bera stressed the importance of education and talked about how it served as a foundation in his own



U.S. Rep. Ami Bera tells teenagers at the South Asian Youth Action conference about how he pursued his dreams of being a doctor and a politician. Photo by Christina Santucci

life.

"Any young adult like yourselves who wants to

go to college, should be able to go to college. There's no more important investment

that we should be making as a nation," he said.

The freshman congressman put himself through medical school by working part time and taking advantage of federal student loans. He graduated with less than \$10,000 in debt and attributes that to the investment the country made in him.

"Wouldn't it be cool to see the first South Asian president of the United States? That could be one of you out there in this room," he told the group of teens in the First Presbyterian Church of Newtown, at 54-05 Seabury St.

After he finished speaking, Bera answered questions from students about his life and experiences.

"It was very enlightening," said Ralph Yul Valen-

zuela, a senior at Flushing High School who represented the group of students in a speech before the congressman spoke. "He gave us a lot of helpful advice."

SAYA! has served the Elmhurst area for 17 years and provides South Asian students in Queens with enrichment and leadership programs in the hopes of better preparing them for college. Their after-school programs run in 14 different schools daily and include tutoring, essay writing workshops and SAT prep opportunities.

"The kids got really excited about having someone of their own background in public service," said Susan Maher Singh, the interim executive director of SAYA!

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Owner of Z Hotel in LIC dead at 52

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The developer and owner of Long Island City's Z Hotel died earlier this month, TimesLedge News-papers has learned.

Henry Zilberman, the former gypsy cab driver who built his own taxi and limousine enterprise before putting a chic exclamation point on the neighborhood with his boutique hotel, died unexpectedly March 1, a spokeswoman for the hotel said. He was 52.

The spokeswoman but did not provide further information about the cause of death.

The Z Hotel released a statement offering its condolences to the Zilberman family. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

"Mr. Zilberman was the vision and name behind the Z NYC Hotel and he will be greatly missed," it said. "He left us a solid foundation for the continued success of his legacy, the Z, and we will push forward so that we can implement his concepts and grow the brand in the months and years ahead."

A quintessential New York story, Zilberman's ascension to real estate mogul began in 1989, when he emigrated from Israel with \$2,000 in his pocket.

After learning all about the taxi industry

from behind the wheel of his gypsy cab — and a bit about how far tourists prefer to travel between their hotels and the city's hottest destinations — Zilberman culled his money together in 1996 to purchase a warehouse at the corner of 11th Street and 43rd Avenue to serve as the home of his taxi and limousine fleet.

More than a decade later, with luxury condos popping up all around the developing neighborhood, Zilberman would put his mark on the city's skyline with his 11-story, Andre Escobar-designed hotel.

The Z offered Manhattan-like amenities at outerborough prices just minutes away from Midtown at a time when limited-service hotels catering to budget-conscious tourists were driving the market's expansion.

With 100 rooms featuring floor-to-ceiling windows all facing the city's skyline, a 5,000-square-foot rooftop and an eclectic decor matched by any equally idiosyncratic ethos, the hotel is itself a destination.

In the most visible expression of Zilberman's personality outside his building, the hotel shuttled guests between Long Island City and Manhattan via a 1980s-era Cadillac de Ville limo — an ode to its owner's quirky perspective from Queens.



Henry Zilberman, developer and owner of the Z Hotel in Long Island City, died earlier this month.

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Ozone Park street, sewer work slated for fall: City

BY SARINA TRANGLE

It may take state Supreme Court intervention, but the city said it is prepared to make good on three decades of pledging to improve sewers, streets and sidewalks in Ozone Park.

The city published a notice last week saying its lawyers planned to apply April 9 in the Queens branch of State Supreme Court to acquire 600 parcels in the southeast corner of Ozone Park. Once authorized, the court would determine how much property owners should be compensated and the city could begin the long-delayed infrastructure work.

In February, the city initiated court proceedings to condemn stretches of 95th, Centreville, Tahoe, Raleigh, Hawtree and Cochancy streets; Albert and 150th roads; Bristol Av-

enue; and 135th Drive.

The government is not seeking the entirety of any lots or habitable structures, but mostly roads, sidewalks and stretches of yard bordering the street, according to Craig Chin, a spokesman for the city Department of Design and Construction. He said the city wants to acquire some parcels to build new roads and connect dead ends to other streets.

Howard Kamph, president of the Ozone Park Civic Association, said the years of waiting left him lacking confidence in the city's plan to kick off construction in the fall.

"They've been saying this for over 30 years now. How optimistic can I be?" Kamph said. "It's a project that needs to be done. The streets and sidewalks are in terrible condition. With the sewers, there's flooding with heavy rains."



The city aims to acquire streets, sidewalks and nearby pieces of property for a massive infrastructure project in Ozone Park.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) and residents have said the city has been talking about the project for three decades, but the plans date back

nearly 100 years. Court documents show the city Board of Estimate approved the acquisition of the property for "street purposes" Dec. 23, 1915.

Because of a paper-work processing error no one has title to a number of the streets included in the project. It is unclear in what circumstances the city plans to compensate residents for roadways adjacent to their property.

The project was assigned to the DDC in 1999, according to Chin. He said the preliminary design was completed in 2005 and that the process of acquiring close to 600 parcels was extremely time-consuming.

"Land acquisition is a lengthy legal process involving the preparation of property damage maps, conducting environmental reviews and public hearings, obtaining funding for land acquisition, title vesting, and making advance payments to property owners," he wrote in an e-mail.

Kamph said the process was complicated by Bristol Street residents' op-

position to paying the higher rates that come with new sewers and by landowners' encroachment on city property that previously sat neglected.

Chin said the city expects contractors to spend three years reconstructing 12 miles of roadway, including adding asphalt, building sidewalks and curbs, installing lighting and traffic signals and planting trees. The project also entails replacing 2 miles of combined sewers and 3 miles of water mains and adding new bioswales and drainage infrastructure.

DDC does not yet have an estimate for land acquisition, but believes bids for the project will come in at \$45 million or more.

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

Divorce Caribbean Style

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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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Search for compromise on PS 11 busing issue

BY BILL PARRY

The city Panel for Educational Policy decided to delay a final vote on the controversial plan by the city Department of Education to bus 250 children from PS 11 in Woodside to another school 3 miles away while a construction project gets under way.

The DOE had told elected officials that the incoming kindergarten class would be sent to PS 171 in Astoria every day so work on a \$70 million annex, to relieve chronic overcrowding, could begin.

The PEP voted in Brooklyn Tuesday to move the decision on the plan to April 11, allowing more time for a compromise.

"The decision to delay the vote was a bit of a surprise. You could tell the new de Blasio appointments to the panel had something to do with it," a source with knowledge of the process said.

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said, "It's a positive sign from the administration. They've told us that they

will keep looking at all options to keep the students closer to home so it's not the end."

Last month, Van Bramer devised a compromise plan that would send the children across Queens Boulevard and use space in PS 313, currently in the late stages of construction, at 45-46 42nd St. in Sunnyside, and scheduled to open in the fall.

Van Bramer admitted that there was resistance to his plan because the new school is in CEC District 24 while PS 11 and PS 171 are in CEC District 30.

Van Bramer has been in talks with the mayor's office exploring more options and he joined several other elected officials, including U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) and Borough President Melinda Katz, in drafting a letter to send to city Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña.

The letter urged the DOE to consider busing the children from PS 11 to the St. Teresa School, at 50-20 45th St. in Woodside, instead



St. Teresa's School in Woodside is the preferred destination among elected officials for displaced PS 11 kindergartners.
Photo by Bill Parry

of PS 171 in Astoria.

"This option would be much closer to PS 11 and would provide

the adequate space needed for a safe and positive learning environment, as well as address the

concerns of the parents that have communicated with our offices," the officials wrote in the letter.

PS 199, another chronically overcrowded school, rents the first floor of St. Teresa's for its kindergarten class. The second and third floors are unoccupied.

"We feel that this is a reasonable proposal that will lessen the burden placed on children and their parents," the officials concluded.

Fariña declined to comment for this story while attending an event at IS 141 in Astoria.

While Van Bramer signed off on the St. Teresa's proposal, he did not abandon his plan to send the children to the new PS 313.

"I never give up, but it is incumbent on all of us to think outside the box and find a good solution for the good of the children and their parents," he said.

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

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M.I.A. Maspeth-bound

British musician M.I.A. is headlining the Knockdown Center's spring program with concerts scheduled for May 8-9, the arts center's manager said.

Tyler Myers said the musician, known for blending several genres, would be the most high-profile guest yet at the venue, at 52-19 Flushing Ave. in Maspeth.

"She's an artist who is certainly part of the contemporary critical discourse, if not contemporary culture at large," Myers said.

He anticipated the concerts filling the former glass factory up to 70 percent of the building's ca-



Pop musician M.I.A. is scheduled to perform at the Knockdown Center in May.

capacity and tickets costing roughly \$38.

Community Board 5 and neighborhoods near the Knockdown Center have opposed its applications for a liquor and caba-

ret license and 5,000-person public assembly permit.

Based on the events the Knockdown Center has hosted using temporary permits, nearby residents have contested the organization's definition as an arts center and said it serves as a mecca for young partiers, who tend to use drugs and alcohol.

Besides M.I.A., Myers said the Knockdown Center's spring program will feature work by Long Island City sculpture artist Joel Shapiro and performers from choreographers Michou Szabo and Lindsey Drury.

— Sarina Trangle

Majority oppose Dream Act: Poll

Despite Democrats in Albany pushing for the Dream Act, a new poll found that a majority of New Yorkers do not share the legislators' fantasy.

A Siena College poll released Monday shows that 56 percent of voters oppose the measure, which would authorize undocumented students who graduate from high school in New York to apply for college financial aid.

After sailing through the state Assembly, the bill came two votes shy of pass-

ing in the state Senate last week. Its proponents have since been urging Gov. Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders to attach the bill to the state budget.

"Although it passed the Assembly and narrowly failed in the Senate, support for the Dream Act is actually down from last year when opposition was only nine points higher than support," Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said in a press release.

Support fell along party lines, with a major-

ity of Democrats backing the Dream Act, a stronger majority of independents opposing it and more than 80 percent of Republicans disapproving of the bill.

The Siena College poll found that a small majority of city voters support the legislation, while suburban and upstate residents did not.

White voters opposed the measure 2-1, while a majority of Latinos and blacks approved of it.

— Sarina Trangle

Maspeth bar to honor life of Christopher Uhl

A commemoration of Queens native Christopher Uhl, 59, is slated for 7 p.m. Friday at the Club House Sports Bar where he tended bar.

Uhl, who ran The New York Times' printing operation and was a community staple, died of a heart attack March 10, his girlfriend Susan George said.

George said she fell in love with Uhl after they met in Central Park in July and the two began planning a life together.

"He was very positive

and happy, a hard worker," George said. "He was very generous to the people he loved and always out in the community. Chris spoke about his family with love and pride."

Uhl was raised in Sunnyside but later moved to central Queens, where George said he became a part of the community fabric.

He worked and voluntarily coached children at the Forest Hills Community Center. He also donned a Santa Claus costume at the

community center and Forest Hills Tennis Club during the holidays, according to his girlfriend.

Uhl spent his Mondays serving drinks at the Club House, at 61-21 Fresh Pond Road in Maspeth.

George said the community is invited to commemorate Uhl at the watering hole Friday at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Susan George at sgeorge.rotary@gmail.com or 201-304-5135.

— Sarina Trangle

Avonte's brother thanks New Yorkers in letter

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TIMESLEDGER, MAR. 28-APR. 3, 2014 TIMESLEDGER.COM

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Avonte Oquendo's family has broken its silence for the first time since the teen's remains were found on the College Point shore in January.

Avonte's older brother, Danny Oquendo, released an open letter thanking the thousands of volunteers who helped comb the city in search of the 14-year-old autistic boy who disappeared from a Long Island City school in October.

"Overcome with grief and hopelessness, there was only one place we could turn to for help: the people of New York City," Danny wrote in his letter, which he released on the Autism Speaks website.

Avonte, who could not speak, was last seen on video running through the Riverview school's halls before darting out of an open door.

Word quickly spread about the boy's disappearance, and before long thousands of people signed up to help find Avonte.

Missing posters with Avonte's photo were plastered all over the city.

"The community came together for a common cause in such an unparalleled way that it renewed my faith in the kindness of humanity. The people of New York responded to our anguish with a tremendous amount of support and vigilance," Oquendo said. "Thanks to our large numbers of volunteers, we had the ability to disperse teams of people into every corner of NYC equipped with fliers, flashlights and the undying urge to bring Avonte home. No borough was left unturned."

That search ended tragically in February when the city's medical examiner confirmed the remains found in College Point were those of Avonte.

The medical examiner was, however, unable to determine the cause of Avonte's death because his remains were so deteriorated by the time they were found.

Avonte's family announced through their attorney they plan



Danny Oquendo penned an essay thanking the volunteers who helped search for his brother Avonte.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

to sue the city for a wrongful death claim.

"This all could have been avoided if the school system had only ensured that schools were better equipped to handle children with autism," Oquendo said. "While we may never know what exactly happened to my younger brother, what we can do is help to avoid this tragic event from happening again."

In his letter, Oquendo pushed for changes in the security systems of schools to head off a similar occurrence.

"Sadly, our school systems currently don't share the same concerns as the families that raise these children," he said. "Let this tragic occurrence be the surge that builds up enough momentum to provide a real solution to the problematic issues that this hardship has brought to our attention. Let us do what is necessary to allot more funding for schools so they can provide their staff with proper training and implement appropriate security measures that would prevent another incident like this."

He also commended the ef-

orts of U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who pushed for legislation called "Avonte's Law," which would provide funding for GPS tracking devices for children with autism.

The boy's mother, Vanesa Fontaine, filed court papers in January challenging the NYPD to release information about his disappearance.

She hopes to reverse 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 the investigation into Avonte's disappearance.

The NYPD told her lawyer it was waiting for the medical examiner's findings to be released before it shared details of its investigation, but Fontaine still has not received any information, her lawyer said.

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



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(Clockwise from top l.) A white cat looks out from her crate at Heavenly Angels; Diamond was brought to the shelter after staff found her being given away on the street in Brooklyn after just giving birth; Winter the dog is surrounded by four of her five puppies; and Adriano (l.) and Lori (second l.) Carpino, who run the Ozone Park shelter, are joined by volunteers.

Photos by Christina Santucci

Ozone Pk shelter looking for new home

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

The founder of an Ozone Park animal shelter believes she is close to finding a new home for the organization after its lease was not renewed.

"Our lease was up five months ago, and our landlord doesn't want to renew our lease," Heavenly Angels' founder Lori Carpino said Saturday. "I guess he can get more money from someone else than he can from us."

Carpino said the organization has until the end of the month to find a new home, but would stay at the storefront, at 97-14 Liberty Ave., until another spot is found.

"It doesn't take a day to move two floors of a shelter," Carpino said.

She said that she had a "really good lead" but declined to discuss the details until everything was set up.

"We would like to stay in this area," Carpino added, pointing out that a large number of stray and abused animals are found in southern Queens.

Heavenly Angels was paying about \$3,500 per month in rent for its 2,000-square-foot space, and with gas, electric, water and sanitation bills, the organization's overhead came to about \$7,000 per month.

Hundreds of volunteers walk, feed and interact with the animals, and the organization has developed a network of supporters, including elected officials, who do what they can to help.

"But at the end of the day, it's the shelter that has to pay the rent," Carpino said.

Carpino initially founded Heavenly Angels in Astoria about three years ago and the shelter moved to Ozone Park about six months later.

"I started out as a volunteer at another animal shelter and I was the manager there for six years," she said of her previous work with the Animal Center of Queens in Rego Park.

Now her no-kill organization houses more than 100 animals - about 50 cats and 60 to 65 dogs - including a pitbull named Winter and her new litter of five puppies.

"Winter was left by her owners in a foreclosed home sometime in December," Carpino said, explaining that neighbors called the police about the abandoned pup. "Finally, one morning a neighbor called me and said, 'The dog has been out there for three weeks now.'"

When Carpino went over to the Jamaica home, the dog didn't want to leave, so Carpino picked her up.

After a few weeks at the shelter, Winter began getting bigger but not gaining weight. That's when shelter staff found out she was pregnant.

Winter gave birth to five puppies, whose coloring vary from brown to black and white to gray, at Heavenly Angel. Both mom and babies are up for adoption - although one puppy has already been claimed - and the 7-week-old dogs will ready to be brought home in a couple of weeks.

For more information about Heavenly Angels and its animals, email harecue1@aol.com, or visit 97-14 Liberty Ave. in Ozone Park.



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Ridgewood EMTs city's first to employ anti-opiate drug

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps became the first EMS agency in the city to successfully employ a drug to combat opiate overdoses when three EMTs sprayed naloxone up the nose of an unconscious man struggling to breathe at a subway station this past weekend.

Ridgewood EMTs Sarah Elbeyali, Travis Kessel and Abraham Downes were called to a train station where police were assisting the man on the floor, according to Sean Graves, deputy director of operations for the Ridgewood corps.

Once the EMTs determined he was probably suffering from an opiate overdose, Graves said they administered the drug and



Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps EMT Sarah Elbeyali (l.) and Deputy Director of Operations Sean Graves stand near an ambulance.

Photo by Roy Renna

the patient regained consciousness and began independently breathing within 10 minutes.

He was taken to a hospital where he was listed in stable condition, Graves said.

"We were the first EMS agency in the city to administer it successfully," Graves said, noting that the Regional Council of EMS confirmed the Ridgewood corps's pioneering act.

"The state just introduced it about a month ago and we adopted it pretty quickly."

Naloxone is considered an opioid antagonist because it travels to the same places heroin, morphine, codeine, oxycodone and other opiates go in the brain and functions as a shield, preventing them from reaching receptors and potentially causing a respiratory shutdown.

Continued on Page 50

S. Richmond Hill blaze rips through family home: FDNY

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Fire marshals were still trying to determine the cause of a three-alarm fire that ripped through a family's home in South Richmond Hill Sunday morning after it started in the vacant house next door, the FDNY said.

Aiysha Wasi was asleep in her room upstairs when she heard her mother screaming from the kitchen downstairs around 11 a.m. "I came running down the stairs and that was when I saw the fire through a second-floor window," she said.

More than 130 firefighters responded to the blaze near the corner of 120th Street and Liberty Avenue at 11:28 a.m., according to fire officials.

Wasi and her family ran out of the house just in

time before the fire spread to their home.

Neighbors said the house where the fire started has sat vacant for more than five years and that homeless people tend to squat on the property.

"I woke up to firemen banging on our doors," said Loretta Hickson, a neighbor who has lived in the area for 17 years. "There was smoke everywhere."

Hickson said a blaze broke out in January 2013 in the backyard of the same building when she believes a homeless man started a fire in an attempt to keep warm.

"My poor neighbors. They're just recovering from last year's fire," she said. "It's horrific."

Wasi said the 2013 fire damaged her family's garage. She said she thought someone must have broken

into the house to set Sunday's fire as it appeared as if it burned from the top of the house.

The Red Cross was already on scene in the early afternoon Sunday offering shelter to Wasi's family.

The fire was brought under control by 12:35 p.m. and no one was injured by the blaze, the FDNY said.

"Half of the house is gone. It's destroyed. My room, my parents' room — everything is burned down," said Wasi, who lives in the house with her parents, brother, sister-in-law and niece. "It was terrible. You wake up one morning and you don't have a roof over your head. Everything collapsed."

A Fire Department spokesman said the cause of the fire had not yet been determined as it was still under investigation.

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Crowley announces child care bill in Corona

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TIMESLEDGER, MAR. 28-APR. 3, 2014
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BY BILL PARRY

U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) came to Corona to announce legislation to increase access to quality and affordable child care for low-income families.

He announced his proposed Children First Act of 2014 at The Child Center, at 34-10 108th St., March 20, citing a recent analysis of New York City neighborhoods that ranked Corona second in terms of unmet demand for child care.

“For many parents, the skyrocketing costs of child care place a significant burden on family budgets that are already stretched thin,” Crowley said. “Working parents shouldn’t be forced into a corner when it comes to ensuring their children are cared for during the day. That’s why I’m pleased to introduce a measure that will help more

families access affordable, quality and reliable child care.”

Crowley’s office provided numbers that show the average annual cost of child care ranges from \$3,704 to \$16,430 for full-time care depending on where the family lives, the type of care and the age of the child. Often, child care costs are higher than other household expenses and typically exceed the average amount families spend on food, mortgages, transportation and utilities.

Over a quarter of a million fewer children received child care assistance in 2012 than 2006, according to Crowley’s office. The Children First Act would expand funding for child-care assistance for low-income families through the Child Care and Development Block Grant, one of the main federal funding sources that supports early



U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley announces his new Children First Act of 2014 at The Child Center in Corona.

Photo courtesy Joe Crowley

care and education.

Nearly 2.6 million children receive federal subsidies or vouchers to help manage the high costs of child care, according to

Crowley’s office.

Crowley’s legislation would increase funding for these subsidies by \$18.8 billion over 10 years. The increased funding, combined

with other federal sources, would allow 1.4 million more children to have access to safe and affordable child care in the first year alone.

“We are thrilled about this legislation and honored that Congressman Crowley chose to announce it here at our site,” Child Center Executive Director Traci Donnelly said. “By investing in quality early childhood education and child care, we make it possible for parents to go to work knowing their children are safe and cared for so they can build a better future.”

The average price of full-time care in center-based settings total \$14,939 for an infant and \$12,355 for a preschooler annually. More than 40,000 New York City families are currently estimated to be on a wait list for child care subsidies.

“Making child care more affordable for families is just one piece of the puzzle,” Crowley said. “We must also focus our energies on other economic challenges facing women and families today.”

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FRIENDS OF BILL SCARBOROUGH COMMITTEE HOSTS RE-ELECTION KICKOFF FOR THE ASSEMBLYMAN *Photos by Carroll Alvarado*



1 State Assemblyman William Scarborough smiles alongside his wife Andrea Scarborough at a re-election kickoff event at the Family Life Center in St. Albans.



2 Former city Comptroller Bill Thompson (l.) joins honoree Dr. Arnita Fowler; U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks; honorees Ray Cameron and Terryl Ebony DeMendonca; Assemblyman William Scarborough; honoree Andrene Marie Williams; and state Sen. Malcolm Smith.



3 Former city Comptroller Bill Thompson (l.) and Bishop Charles Norris attend the event organized by The Friends of Bill Scarborough Committee.

SOUTH ASIAN LEADERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS ENDORSE ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID WEPRIN FOR ANOTHER TERM *Photos by Steven Malecki*



4 Assemblyman David Weprin (r.) is joined by his wife Ronnie (l.) and daughter Stephanie at a news conference in Jamaica for his re-election campaign.



5 South Asian community leaders and elected officials, including Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks, surround Assemblyman David Weprin during the event in front of the Jamaica Muslim Center.



6 Assemblyman David Weprin (c.) accepts an award from Saleh Ahmed (l.) of the Bangladesh American Public Affairs Front and Dr. Delwar Hossain (r.) as Weprin's brother, Councilman Mark Weprin (second r.) looks on.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE YITZHAK RABIN CENTER HONORS TEAMSTERS PRESIDENT AT MOMI EVENT *Photos by Ken Maldonado*



7 New York state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman speaks at the Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center Dinner held in the Museum of the Moving Image.



8 Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd was honored with the Leadership and Public Service award by the American Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center.



9 City Comptroller Scott Stringer addresses the crowd at the Astoria event.

ITALIAN CHARITIES OF AMERICA HOLDS FASHION SHOW TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NEW ELEVATOR IN ELMHURST BUILDING *Photos by Walter Karling*



10 Italian Charities of America President Rose Sproviero (l.) smiles alongside DressBarn Assistant Manager Rodica Soos at the ICA's Spring Fashion Show.



11 Italian cuisine is dished up by ICA staffers (l.-r.) Marie Lombardo, Roseanne LeFloch and Ramona Rodriguez.



12 ICA board member Barbara Egas; (l.-r.) volunteer fashion models Marie Aveni, Samantha Calderone and Amelia Belcastro; ICA President and organizer Rose Sproviero; models Joey D'Ambrosio, Ana Rivera and Maria Thomasand; and DressBarn Assistant Manager Rodica Soos strike a pose.



13 Model Ana Rivera (l.) joins donors Sue Sernvongsat and Nick Fuscaldo for some refreshments.

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2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995	2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
2012	Hyundai Elantra, 15k	79461	\$8,995	2010	Infiniti G37, 28k	70898	\$18,995
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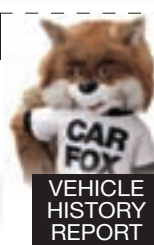
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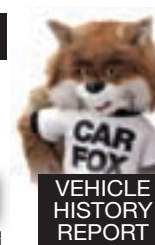
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Coast Guard visits ill boy

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter crew flew into Juniper Valley Park Monday to give an 8-year-old with a life-threatening illness the tour of his dreams.

Colin Flood, who is battling his second round of acute lymphocytic leukemia, had long wished to see the aircraft up-close because he was an avid fan of television shows like "Coast Guard Alaska" and "Deadliest Catch," according to the Coast Guard.

But given his diagnosis, Colin's family was not sure if he would be able to travel and see a Coast Guard helicopter in person.

Working with the Police and Fire departments, the Coast Guard said it organized a visit to the park near Colin's home Monday.

"It meant a lot to us to see the happiness on Colin's face and to be able to fulfill his dream to see a Coast Guard helicopter up-close and personal," Special Agent John Keeley said in a press release.

Besides offering Colin a tour of the helicopter, the Coast Guard gave him a photograph of the aircraft signed by the crew, a Coast Guard cap and T-shirt, unit patches and a name tag.

— Sarina Trangle



Colin Flood poses for photos with members of the U.S. Coast Guard in Juniper Valley Park.
Photo courtesy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jetta Disco/Coast Guard



A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter visits an 8-year-old cancer patient in Juniper Valley Park.
Photo courtesy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jetta Disco/Coast Guard

Fed panel to mediate between MTA-LIRR

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

President Barack Obama has named a second panel of federal mediators in a renewed effort to bring resolution in a dispute involving thousands of Long Island Rail Road workers and the MTA.

Some 5,800 workers represented by the Sheet-metal, Air and Transportation Union, the LIRR's largest union, voted to strike in February. LIRR unions have been without a contract since 2010.

"I appreciate that these dedicated individuals have agreed to devote their talent and years of experience working on labor management disputes to help reach a swift and smooth resolu-

tion of this issue," Obama said in a statement March 20.

Presidential Emergency Board No. 245 will spend 60 days reviewing the final offers from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and LIRR unions and choose an offer that it finds "the most reasonable."

In December a presidential emergency board recommended wage increases for LIRR workers of 17 percent over six years. The MTA rejected it. There was no resolution on work rules which the MTA seeks. LIRR unions could legally call a strike in July if labor and management cannot agree by then.

The LIRR carries some 300,000 passengers daily.



Mets fans can expect third baseman David Wright back in the lineup for Opening Day.

Amazin' Mets to start 2014 season against rival Washington Nationals

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Baseball returns to Queens this week as the New York Mets open the 2014 season against division rival the Washington Nationals at Citi Field Monday at 1:10 p.m.

Right-hander Dillon Gee gets the Opening Day start for the Metropolitan and Washington ace Stephen Strasburg takes to the mound against him.

Offseason acquisitions Curtis Granderson, a for-

mer New York Yankee, and Chris Young, from the Oakland Athletics, will make their debuts in Mets uniforms alongside familiar faces like captain and third baseman David Wright and second baseman Daniel Murphy.

The Mets are hoping their mix of young talent and veterans can help them improve from last year's 74-win season. All fans in attendance are slated to receive a magnet schedule.

Proposal calls for 10-cent fee on grocery bags

BY KELSEY DURHAM

The City Council has received a proposal calling on grocery stores citywide to charge customers for the bags they use to take their groceries home.

The proposal would require stores to charge 10 cents per plastic or paper bag, if customers do not

bring their own reusable ones. The money collected from bag fees would go to store owners.

The bill was expected to be introduced into the Council this week.

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



Shopper Varsha Prajapati lifts groceries into her cart after paying at Patel Brothers in Jackson Heights.
Photo by Christina Santucci

Contact the newsroom:

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

Protesters rally against Willets Point megamall

33
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BY ALEX ROBINSON

Opponents of a plan to build a megamall on parkland adjacent to Citi Field held a rally last weekend on Roosevelt Avenue to reinforce their disapproval of the project.

Queens civic leaders, park advocates and activists joined state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) to decry the plan, which is part of a \$3 billion redevelopment of Willets Point by developers Related Cos. and Sterling Equities, who make up the Queens Development Group.

"Parkland is sacred. It's the responsibility of every municipality and elected official to preserve parkland not only for the people who use it currently, but for future generations," Avella told reporters at a spot on Roosevelt Avenue overlooking Citi Field and the site of the proposed mall. "The fact we have to be here today to protest taking away parkland for a megamall is disgraceful."

Avella, along with a number of community leaders and park advocates who attended the rally, filed a lawsuit last month against the city and developers, challenging the legality of building the megamall on land designated as parkland without the consent of the state Legislature.

The location of the proposed mall is currently a parking lot that was previously the site of the New York Mets' Shea Stadium from 1964-2009 before it was

demolished. Even though the area is now a parking lot, the lawsuit's plaintiffs contend the area is still mapped as parkland, according to city maps, and is still used for recreational purposes.

Any alienation of parkland would require the state Legislature's approval and the replacement of that parkland elsewhere, protesters said.

"The city has violated city and state law to give the owners of this megamall a \$100 million gift in the expense of everyone who uses parkland in the city of New York," Avella said.

The site's developers contend that 1961 legislation that approved the building of Shea Stadium with a provision for parking allows them to build the shopping center on the same location.

"The weekend rally was an unfortunate attempt to obstruct a transformative neighborhood redevelopment from moving forward," a spokesman for Queens Development Group said. "This project will clean up a site that has been contaminated for generations and create thousands of jobs while providing the surrounding communities with amenities that will contribute to the area's bright future. State legislation signed into law over 50 years ago makes it very clear that this project can move forward."

Opponents of the project, however, said the 1961 exception only applied to

construction associated with the building of Shea Stadium.

"Protecting our parkland is critical to the health of our surrounding neighborhoods of Corona and Flushing," said Paul Graziano, an urban planner and founder of Save Flushing Meadows Corona Park. "These neighborhoods have very little open space and Flushing Meadows Co-



Geoffrey Croft from NYC Park Advocates speaks about the lawsuit as he is joined by state Sen. Tony Avella (front r.) and other plaintiffs.

Photo by Christina Santucci

rona Park is the only place they have to have any kind

of recreation whatsoever."

Protesters also voiced concerns the megamall might be detrimental to the survival of small businesses in the surrounding area and called on Mayor Bill de Blasio to stop the project from happening.

"I cannot think of a more disgraceful act," Avella said. "We will fight till the bitter end to stop the city from doing this."

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Two charged in murder of Ozone Park resident

BY SARINA TRANGLE

After a bullet claimed the life of an Ozone Park pizzeria owner's son during a botched home invasion 4 1/2 years ago, one of the two men accused of committing the murder entered a not guilty plea Tuesday in Manhattan federal court.

Leon Whitfield, 23, was detained but remains eligible to make a bail application at a later date, Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara's office said.

A grand jury handed up an indictment earlier this month charging Whitfield and Antoine Burroughs, 25, with attempting to rob Bartolomeo Antoniello in his home Sept. 9, 2009, because they believed the Italian immigrant would have cash from the Romeo's Pizzeria he owned on Cross Bay Boulevard, according to the FBI and Bharara.

Agents contended the duo shot the entrepreneur's son Gerardo Antoniello in the head, taking the 29-year-old's life as he attempted to protect his father.

As of Wednesday, the FBI agents were still searching for Burroughs, who authorities described as 6-foot-1 and about 180 to 190 pounds with a prominent mole on his right cheek. Burroughs, who goes by the names Butter and Youngblood, was last believed to be in Harlem, the FBI said.

"Burroughs and Whitfield had no regard for life," said George Venizelos, assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York field office. "The FBI stands with our law enforcement partners to announce these charges and to reiterate that this case will not be done until all those involved face justice."

Brown also announced in June 2012 that two others — Jason Burrell, of Brooklyn, and Rashod Cowan, of the Bronx — pleaded guilty to burglary and attempted robbery.

Burroughs and Whitfield are charged with murder, discharging a firearm, robbery conspiracy and attempted robbery, according to the indictment.

A total of four men before the latest round of arrests had been charged in the botched home invasion.

The U.S. attorney's office filed a letter in court noting that it planned to make a recommendation as to whether or not prosecutors would seek the death penalty by the end of April.

Whitfield's attorney, Edward Wilford, said he would argue that his client was innocent.

"The case is a very serious case. It involves a potential capital punishment," Wilford said. "We will be litigating the case to establish his non-guilt."

Queen Supreme Court Judge Richard Buchter sentenced Francis LaCorte, of



ANTOINE BURROUGHS

Photo courtesy FBI



GERARDO ANTONIELLO

Ozone Park, to 50 years to life after prosecutors said he recruited a handful of ex-cons to conduct a series of robberies in the neighborhood in 2009.

When LaCorte's crew targeted the elder Antoniello, prosecutors said his son, a school custodian, was shot in the back of the head as he rushed to defend his father from pistol-whipping.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Ozone Park resident Vincent Mineo partnered with LaCorte, who had ties with the Gambino crime family, to orchestrate the attack on the Antoniellos and two other robberies.

Mineo was sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to attempted robbery, burglary and conspiracy, the DA said.

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TIMESLedger
NEWSPAPERS

LIC Spring Stroll to close Vernon Boulevard in May

BY BILL PARRY

The people behind the Long Island City Partnership are not letting the MTA derail their plans for an ambitious, full-scale street festival in May.

The city Department of Transportation will close off Vernon Boulevard between 46th and 50th avenues for the first LIC Spring Stroll.

The event will be held May 17 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. despite the weekend service shutdown on the No. 7 train from Times Square to the 74th Street-Broadway station in Jackson Heights.

"We would've liked to pick a date when the 7 was running, but this neighborhood event will be worth coming to LIC for, whether the subway is running or not," LIC Partnership President Elizabeth Lusskin said. "You can get here with the free shuttle bus from Queensboro Plaza, and at the north end of Vernon we can pull people in from Court Square where the G train will still be running. It's worth a little inconvenience to get to LIC."

Along with the 22 weekends of suspended service on the No. 7, the Met-

ropolitan Transportation Authority plans on shutting down the G line for five straight weeks beginning July 26 for repairs in the tunnel between Greenpoint and Long Island City. The tube was flooded with 3 million gallons of saltwater during Hurricane Sandy, according to the MTA.

There are plenty more travel options available for out-of-towners, according to Dana Frankel, the Partnership's director of economic development.

"We'll partner with the East River Ferry for the event for the folks coming from Manhattan and Brooklyn, and there's always bikes," she said.

Visitors from the other boroughs is not the partnership's chief concern.

"We serve the entire neighborhood and getting the people from the waterfront high-rises to come onto Vernon would be a plus," Frankel said.

LIC Spring Stroll is scheduled to coincide with the annual showcase event known as LIC Arts Open.

"The block party will serve as a pivot point to draw more people to the LIC Arts Open. We're going to pull people in and then

push them out to the other events happening in the neighborhood," Lusskin said. "In fact, we scheduled it from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. so you can come after brunch and before dinner at our area restaurants."

The street fair will include sculpture-making and a stage will be set up for live music performances and comedy.

The LIC Spring Stroll is being coordinated with the DOT's Weekend Walks Program, which will allow restaurants to set up tables and chairs and serve food and drinks along the sidewalks without special permits from the city. Merchants will be encouraged to set up on the sidewalks as well.

"It's not just for the Vernon businesses. This includes anyone from Jackson Avenue, Center Boulevard," Lusskin said. "This is going to be a neighborhood celebration, not just a commercial street fair where you go and buy tube socks."

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718.260.4538.

Scarborough

Continued from Page 1

based on allegations raised in a New York Post article in 2012 that he had abused the Legislature's per diem program.

The southeast Queens Democrat said the report incorrectly claimed he accepted travel reimbursements without actually staying in Albany, and he decried the public way in which the FBI conducted its investigation.

"Because no matter what happens at the end of this, what people will see is what's going on right now," he said. "But I do not believe I have misrepresented the

Assembly. I do not believe that I have misrepresented the voucher system."

Scarborough was in Albany where he and fellow lawmakers were working on budget discussions, which include potential ethics reform legislation in the wake of several political scandals that seem more often than not to come back to southeast Queens.

The FBI nearly a year ago arrested state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) on charges he allegedly tried to steer public funds to a sham real estate project in order to buy Republican leaders' support for his bid to run in last year's mayoral race on the GOP line.

Before Smith, then-

Sen. Shirley Huntley admitted to embezzling member items from a nonprofit she had ties to.

Huntley worked with investigators by wearing a wire and recording a handful of public officials at her home in southeast Queens, although Scarborough was not one of them.

In response to the arrests and what federal prosecutors called a widespread culture of corruption, Gov. Andrew Cuomo created the Moreland Commission to investigate official wrongdoing.

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

Continued from Page 9

communicate with the children in their own language rather than having an interpreter."

Ma finally took on the role of the executive director of the Children's Orchestra Society after getting married and having a child. Her musician husband, Michael Dadap, said he dreamed about having his own music school. It was then that Ma took on the role with Dadap as the artistic and music director.

Musical genes have been passed down to another generation as both of her children are musically

inclined.

"My son has played the cello, piano, trombone and percussion as well as creating his own set of bagpipes," Ma said. "My daughter loves to sing, plays the cello and is pursuing an acting career."

During a tour of Ma's musical basement, she spoke about her fondest memory in music as she played violin with her brother at a fund-raising concert at the Kennedy Center.

"I met Marian Anderson, John F. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Robert Frost, who was reading his poetry, and Danny Kaye," she said. "Yo-Yo and I were so fond of Danny Kaye that it was the

highlight of the evening."

The basement revealed a piano, a recording studio and some rather artistic decor. Ma showed off her skills playing a few bars on the piano and part of a music piece on the violin. She then demonstrated how to hold the violin and bow to produce some decent sounds from the instrument.

On April 27 at 5 p.m., she will be performing with the classical duo Cross Island at the Nicholas Roerich Museum, 319 W. 107th St., in Manhattan.

The Children's Orchestra is holding its next concert, the 20th Annual Discovery Gala, May 3 at Lincoln Center's Tully Hall.

QueensWay

Continued from Page 6

Crowley (D-Middle Village) and Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park), have also stayed qui-

et on the matter.

Crowley's office declined to comment, and Ulrich's chief of staff Rudy Giuliani said the councilman is waiting for firm financial details to consider either proposal.

"He doesn't think anything is going to happen in his term," Giuliani said.

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

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FOCUS ON HEALTH

Patients can defeat cancer recurrence

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

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

Cancer recurrence is defined as the return of cancer after treatment. The same type of cancer may return in the same area of the body, such as breast cancer returning in the same breast. In some instances, the cancer may return elsewhere in the body. But it is still referred to as a breast cancer recurrence, even if the next incidence is elsewhere. The length of time between the first bout of cancer and the next can vary. When cancer gets worse, this is called a progression. Sometimes it can be difficult to discern whether a recurrence is truly a recurrence or a progression. When only a short amount of time has lapsed since the initial diagnosis, then chances are the cancer is a progression.

After cancer goes into



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

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

remission, a doctor usually sets up a schedule of follow-up appointments to check for cancer recurrence. A local recurrence, or one in the same spot as before, may be easy to treat. Many advancements have been made regarding the treatment of cancer. However, for many

cancers, a recurrence at a distant site can mean the chance for successful treatment is not very likely.

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

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

Q10 bus

Continued from Page 4

Gardens Road, drop off passengers near 80th Road, rest for up to 10 minutes between shifts and head up to Queens Boulevard, where new riders would board the bus. The Q10 would then travel along 82nd en route to Kew Gardens Road and Lefferts Boulevard. Lai said this setup would alleviate congestion concerns raised by the community while also easing the commute for riders, who would no longer have to wait for various Q10 buses on Kew Gardens Road and Queens Boulevard.

"Passengers would be waiting along the same thoroughfare so they could see which buses are coming and make a more knowledgeable decision on the bus they're going to get on," he said.

CB 9 Transportation Committee Chairwoman Andrea Crawford said the revisions made sense, but requested that the MTA do

Kew Gardens Road residents are worried about losing parking spaces to the buses.

more research and make tweaks after residents worried about buses traveling near PS 99 or overwhelming the northern stretch of Lefferts Boulevard.

The MTA agreed to return to CB 9, but noted that it intended to alter the route as quickly as possible.

But MTA officials said transitioning to articulated buses in April remained a necessity because Q10 buses were overcrowded. Joseph Raskin, assistant director of MTA government-community relations, said the Q10 was the third most popular bus line in the city.

Crawford said she requested ridership statistics

after noticing several nearly empty articulated buses, but never received them.

"There's got to be a different solution," she said. "Besides the fact that they're the old, dirty, stinky buses that we got rid of ... they're taking away parking spots and the merchants are losing business because of it."

The MTA estimated roughly seven parking spots were lost when bus stops were enlarged to accommodate articulated buses.

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

Astoria

Continued from Page 4

19 meeting, including Commissioner Polly Trottenberg.

"This is the signature issue for Mayor de Blasio's administration and we are committed to outreach," she said.

Trottenberg discussed Vision Zero as an attempt to change the mindset of drivers and pedestrians starting with workshops May 5 and 23 sponsored by the DOT and the NYPD with a time and place to be determined.

DOT Policy Director Jon Orcutt announced a new website, nyc.gov/visionzero, will be devoted to the Swedish plan to eliminate all traffic deaths in 10 years.

"There's a lot more data-sharing that's going to happen between the agencies and to the public," Orcutt said.

This new flow of information and communication was illustrated by safety



Co-hosts U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (l) and Councilman Costa Constantinides (r) discuss the need for the Vision Zero initiative.

Photo by Bill Parry

activist Paul Steely White, who had just attended a TrafficStat meeting at Police Headquarters.

"I hadn't been invited to 1 PP in over five years. There's really been a sea change. It was just very clear that the Vision Zero mandate from the mayor and Commissioner Bratton has been transmitted to the rank-and-file cops," he said.

White also urged residents to become more involved in community board meetings and speak out.

"A properly marked intersection is more importance than one parking

spot. That's the type of battle you'll fight at the community board," White said.

Bob Piazza, the Transportation Committee chairman of Community Board 1 agreed, saying, "When I took over the committee it was nice and quiet, now we've had five meetings already this month and that tells you how things are changing. With the attention this thing is getting, maybe we'll start getting things done."

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

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To thy own ARTISTIC SELF be true

Long Island City's Kathy Ferguson paints to please herself first, knowing an audience will come later

BY ALLISON PLITT

Although Long Island City artist Kathy Ferguson has loved making art all her life, it wasn't until her own children left for college that she was able to devote herself full time to her craft.

Growing up in the suburbs of San Francisco, Ferguson remembers having fun doing arts and crafts in elementary school. It would be years, however, before she was able to take an art class. As a high school senior, she enrolled in a drawing class, and made a piece that impressed



Long Island City artist Kathy Ferguson titled this painting "Circle Invasion." Ferguson works in her LIC studio. Photos by Kathy Ferguson and Allison Plitt

her teacher so much that it was submitted into a state contest.

Ferguson won first place and a partial scholarship to college where she majored in civil engineering.

After a short time working in the engineering field, Ferguson realized she didn't really enjoy it. So she opted to return to college and enrolled in business school where she met her husband. Majoring in marketing, she graduated and went to work in consumer product marketing for a several companies in New

York and Los Angeles. Then, after working a few years, Ferguson became pregnant.

"I had my first of three children and it was at that point, I went back and started taking art classes," she said.

When her oldest daughter was 7, she and her husband headed to the Rockies to raise their children.

"When we moved to Colorado, I took a few art classes, but at that point, I was a little bit more self-taught and started doing a

Continued on Page 46

Breezy Point musician named best in Queens

BY MERLE EXIT

After the roar of rap, rock, blues and jazz quieted down, Annika Scilipote remained and was dubbed the best in Queens at the annual Battle of the Boroughs earlier this month.

Scilipote, 16, a high school student from Breezy Point, will now represent all of Queens in the competition's finals in June.

"I am beyond thrilled to have won!" Scilipote said. "I was up against some amazing musicians, all of whom could have easily won."

About a dozen acts covering nearly every genre of music performed in the Queens bracket of the fifth annual contest, which promotes up-and-coming musical acts in New York City.

At the March 7 show, held at The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space in SoHo, each of the acts was given five minutes to wow the three judges. But just like that other talent search show, people could vote for their favorite performer during an online



Breezy Point singer/songwriter Annika Scilipote won first place in this month's Battle of the Boroughs music contest. Photo courtesy Matthew Septimus

balloting process.

The 12 acts were whittled down to the top five vote getters, and Scilipote earned the No. 1 spot.

"I think the support from my friends, fans, and family is really what helped me to win. My

mom was unbelievable in getting people to vote for me," Scilipote said. "Also, I had a lot of support at school and just in my local community in general. I also have a lot of fans over in Italy who voted for me and spread the word."

The international contingent

of voters was a result of one well-known fan in Italy.

"There is a popular Italian singer named Manu, who found my Youtube channel and has been supporting me," Scilipote. "We did a duet together. It's his arrangement of my original song.

I just sent him a vocal track and he did the rest. Neither one of us did any traveling and my fans there have been so supportive, I'm sure they would vote again for the finale."

But Scilipote (www.annika-music.com) also has plenty of fans on this side of the Atlantic.

Since 2009, she and her sister along with two other friends, have performed as the indie-rock group Still Saffire. The quartet has played at Lincoln Center, The Knitting Factory and the Great South Bay Music Festival, just to name a few.

Scilipote's music incorporates the sound of the classic female singer/songwriters, such as Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon, with a twinge of indie rock spark.

An avid song writer, Scilipote has penned dozens of songs and is currently part of the Real Women Real Songs project, where 22 female songwriters have committed to compose a song a week, which they post to the Internet,

Continued on Page 44

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #85								
1			5		9			7
	2			6			4	
		9				5		
6	4		3		1		7	8
5								3
3	1		9		8		5	4
		4				1		
	7			1			9	
8			4		2			5

Hard #85								
					5	3		
		4	8			9		
	1				2		6	4
6							3	2
5	9							7
9	4		7				5	
		6			1	7		
		8	9					

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
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Theater of the absurd mixes with historical drama

43

TL

TIMESLEDGER, MAR. 28-APR. 3, 2014 TIMESLEDGER.COM

'Uriel Acosta: I Want That Man!' tackles big questions in profoundly deep and humorous ways in LIC

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

In fiction the individual who points out society's hypocrisy and questions the status quo rarely earns a happy ending.

For every member of a dead poet's society, who stands atop a desk shouting, "Oh, captain. My captain," to an unorthodox teacher, there are twice as many Holden Caulfields who finish their tale in the looney bin.

And yet characters continue to rock the boat in hopes of being a rebel with a cause.

Add into this mix the real-life 17th-century Jewish philosopher Uriel Acosta, who questioned the teachings of rabbinical law only to be excommunicated, publicly whipped and left to die at his own hands.

Now, Target Margin Theater's artistic director David Herskovits has created a new version of this story, which was a centerpiece of the 19th- and 20th-century Yiddish theater canon,



Mary Rasmussen (l. to r.), Don Castro and J.H. Smith III, with James Tigger! Ferguson (rear) rehearse a scene from "Uriel Acosta: I Want That Man!"

Photo courtesy Erik Carter

with a rousing production of "Uriel Acosta: I Want That Man!" at the Chocolate Factory Theater through April 5.

Even if you have no idea who Uriel Acosta was, you will find something to love about this experimental theater piece.

Dressed in blue leotards and sporting black super hero capes, the four-member cast — Don Castro, James Tigger! Ferguson, Mary Rasmussen and J.H. Smith III — play multiple roles simply by throwing on a fake beard or metallic colored wig and altering their voice and mannerisms ever so slightly.

Each of the cast members delivers a complement of fully realized characters — ranging from Acosta to activist Larry Kramer to comedian Lenny Bruce, who each questioned authority and collected enemies like Meryl Streep gathers acting accolades.

But Ferguson, who portrays Acosta for most of the production, and Rasmussen, who spends a lot

IF YOU GO

"Uriel Acosta: I Want That Man!"

When: Through Saturday, April 5

Where: Chocolate Factory Theater, 5-49 49th Ave., Long Island City

Cost: \$20

Contact: (718) 482-7069

Website: www.chocolatefactorytheater.org

of time as his love interest Judy, make the most of their parts, which allows them to play intense drama tempered with bursts of schtick.

"Surely, you don't believe that," Ferguson says at one point.

"I do," replies Rasmussen. "And, don't call me Shirley."

Visually the play offers dozens of eye-catching treats ranging from images projected onto streams of fog pouring from a dry ice machine to scholarly books

Continued on Page 46

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THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar

EVENTS

World's Fair anniversaries –

This year marks the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the 1964 and 1939 World's Fair held at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The Greater Astoria Historical Society kicks things off with the screening of "Peace Through Understanding – The 1964 World's Fair."

When: Saturday, March 29, at 1:30 pm

Where: Greater Astoria Historical Society, 35-20 Broadway, Long Island City

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 278-0700

Website: www.astorialic.org

MUSIC

Ron Carter Quartet – Grammy winner Ron Carter is among the most original, prolific and influential bassists in jazz.

When: Friday, March 28, at 8 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-

35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$40, \$32/members, \$20/students

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

Art Faculty – With current issues as the common thread, this show includes works by Queens College studio art professors.

When: Through March 29, Saturday 11 am to 5 pm

Where: Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 997-4747

Website: www.qcpages.qc.edu/godwin_ternbach

The Shatterer – Peter Schumann, founder of the Bread and Puppet Theater, has been chosen for the Queens

Museum first solo exhibition. The show consists of two large-scale immersive installations.

When: Through March 30

Where: Queens Museum, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Cost: Suggested \$8/adults, \$4/students and seniors, Free/children 12 and under

Contact: (718) 592-9700

Website: queensmuseum.org

2013 Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition –

Socrates Sculpture Park presents 15 new commissions that respond to the park's unique waterfront, urban environment with conceptual and formal artworks that are visually compelling, mysterious and provocative.

When: Through March 31

Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 956-1819

Website: www.socratessculpturepark.org

Do you want the cosmetic version or do you want the real deal? Los Angeles Poverty Department, 1985-2014 – LAPD, founded in 1985 on L.A.'s Skid Row, includes homeless or former homeless people in performance art

Continued on Page 47

Boroughs

Continued from Page 42

for an entire year.

The runners-up from Queens include Astoria's Tati Ana (www.ilovetati-ana.com), who describes her music as "electronic, rock and indie." She performed "Four Walls" with her bass player and drummer.

Nick Moran (heyknick-moran.bandpage.com) also of Astoria, plays a mix of what he calls "funky, bluesy, old soul rock 'n' roll." His band rocked the

crowd with the original song "Out of My Control."

Elmhurst-based rock band Born of Scars (bornofscars.com) also placed in the top five.

"It was a great feeling going to the Greene Space and singing," Victoria, the band's singularly named lead singer, said. "The judges were pleased to hear that rock 'n' roll music is still alive."

Rounding out the Queens finalist was South Richmond Hill resident Jessica Rowboat (www.jessicarowboat.bandcamp.com).

She sang her composition "Mirrors."

"It's just great that all of these musicians are so wonderful to listen to," Rowboat said.

Queens musicians made up the first round of the competition, which continues monthly with showdowns of bands from the other four boroughs.

The winners from each of those contests will face Scilipote for the crown June 27.

"I'm so honored to be repping Queens in the final battle," Scilipote said. "I can't wait!"

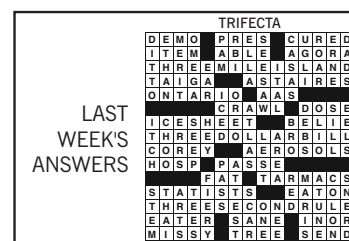
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers

March 28-April 3, 2014

By Ed Canty

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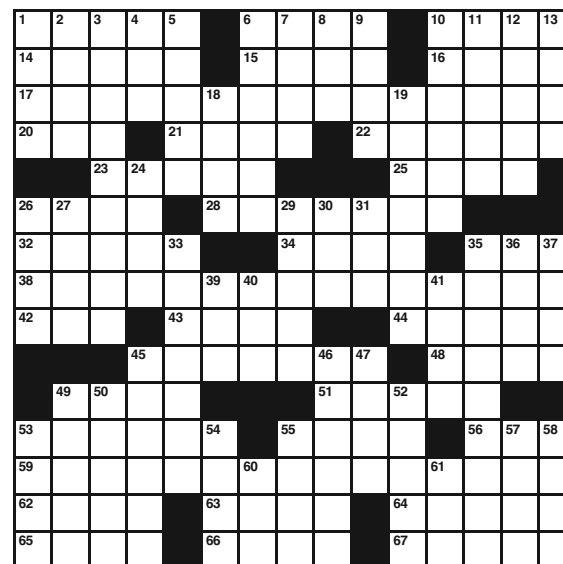


Across

1. Secret store
6. Amusing old guy
10. Like taking candy from a baby?
14. Best way to leave Vegas?
15. Kuwaiti, e.g.
16. A Grimm beginning?
17. C.E.O. protector?
20. Pupil's spot
21. One kind of order
22. Laughed loudly
23. Begin
25. Prevaricated
26. Taxi door info
28. Insect-repelling compound
32. Type of bay?
34. "Attention please..."
35. Bud holder?
38. Gem of a financier
42. Maglie of baseball
43. "Bye now"
44. Chaplin and others
45. Ancient writing material
48. Wound healer?
49. "The ___ thickens"
51. Agents making busts
53. Conversation
55. A shade of beige
56. Leaves in hot water
59. Like Dorothy's traveling shoes
62. Workers' purchase arrangement, for short
63. Kitten's pick-up spot?
64. Makes bread?
65. Board members: Abbr.
66. "Roget's" info: Abbr.
67. German coal city

Down

1. Animal house?
2. Bridge call?
3. Heavenly
4. Taken in
5. Swell subject?
6. Per ___
7. Grueling exam
8. Boat propeller?
9. Apparatus for pullups?
10. Angora
11. Accustom (to)
12. Appeared on stage
13. Financial aid factor
18. A crack investigator?
19. Capital of Sri Lanka
24. Rain cats and dogs
26. Casting requirements?
27. Pavarotti specialty
29. "Hot Lips" Houlihan's rank
30. Beta preceder?
31. Border line?
33. 'You are here' arrow, e.g.
35. Kitchen containers



36. Bachelor No. 1?
37. Wall St. workplace
39. Barely beat
40. Calendar square
41. Campus military org.
45. Sea anemones, e.g.
46. Sam and Tom, relatively?
47. Apology from Indian seamstress?
49. First of 12 popes with a religious-sounding name
50. Motherly business?
52. Indian coin
53. Great Scott?
54. D.D.E. and others
55. Inits. for an armchair quarterback?
57. Another graceful seabird
58. Org.
60. Calendar square
61. Faux finish?

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Penne Florio

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"An Evening with Groucho"

— Actor Frank Ferrante transforms into a young Groucho Marx and shares anecdotes, one-liners and songs, including "Hooray For Captain Spalding" and "Lydia, the Tattooed Lady."

When: Saturday, March 29, at 2 pm and 8 pm; Sunday, March 30 at 3 pm

Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Cost: \$42-\$49/premium seating, \$25/rear seating
Contact: (718) 760-0064
Website: www.queenstheatre.org

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"

— The 1960s Pulitzer prize-winning musical traces window washer J. Pierrepont Finch's rise to the top of the World Wide Wicket Co.

When: Through March 30

Where: The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden,

Rockaway

Cost: \$20/adults, \$15/seniors and children

Contact: (718) 374-6400

Website: www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org

"Uriel Acosta: I Want That Man!"

— This Target Margin Theater production is a new adaptation of one of the central plays of Yiddish history. In 17th-century Amsterdam, Uriel Acosta is excommunicated after questioning the status quo.

When: Through April 5

Where: Chocolate Factory Theater, 5-49 49th Ave., Long Island City

Cost: \$20

Contact: (718) 482-7069

Website: www.chocolatefactorytheater.org

"The Gemini Killer" — Theatre Time Productions presents a new mystery thriller written by a local author.

When: March 29 to April 6.

Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3 pm

Where: Colonial Church of

Bayside, 54-02 217th St., Bayside

Cost: \$16/adults, \$14/seniors and children

Contact: (347) 358-8102

"The Boy Friend"

— Sandy Wilson's spoof of madcap 1920s boy-meets-girl musicals is staged by The Gingerbread Players.

When: March 29 to April 6, Friday at 7:30 pm, Saturday at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm

Where: Saint Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills

Cost: \$12/suggested donation

Contact: (718) 268-7772

Website: www.gingerbreadplayers.org

"King Lear"

— Titan Theatre Co. presents Shakespeare's epic drama about an aging king and his three daughters.

When: April 25 to May 11

Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Contact: (347) 738-5602

Website: www.titantheatrecompany.com

"Allegro" — This Rodgers and Hammerstein musical from 1947 follows Joseph Taylor Jr., son of a small-town doctor, on his

Continued on Page 47



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ARTISTIC SELF

Continued from Page 41

few exhibits here and there of my work," she said.

Nowadays Ferguson is completing her master's in fine arts in painting and drawing online from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

"After going through my MFA and pretty much doing every kind of medium that you could think of, I decided, I liked to do it all," she said. "So now I'm working in mixed media. I'm doing a lot of layering of mostly acrylic paints, collage paper and ink."

Ferguson said her works tend to focus on living creatures and plants, but sometimes she'll throw in an anthropomorphized image, which means attributing human emotions to inanimate objects.

"It's like taking this chair and treating it like it's actually alive and it's going across the room," she said. "I do have a fanciful imagination."

She gives an example of that in a piece titled "Circle Invasion."

"I painted this painting and it was this benign sea of kelp creatures living happily in harmony, but an insidious horde of circles comes in, sends out scouts, takes over and before you know it, the kelp creatures have been overrun in their own community," she said. "So like I said, you may not see that when you look at it, but in my head, there are all sorts of things going on."

In another piece titled "Harbor Town," Ferguson creates an aerial view of the Boston Harbor.

She spent three years in Massachusetts after leaving Colorado, so New England nautical images frequently appear in her art.

"I do a lot of things with water," she said. "I think it's maybe the colors or it's a little mysterious."

New York has been an ideal place for Ferguson



Kathy Ferguson created this painting "Harbor Town" while living in the Boston area.

Photo courtesy Kathy Ferguson

to exhibit her artwork and meet other artists.

She has recently been invited to participate in

several different shows in Manhattan, Brooklyn and

Portland, Ore. This spring, from April 5 until May 10, she will be displaying her artwork at New York Institute of Technology in Long Island in a group exhibit titled, "The Visual Language of Contemporary Art."

"I think the biggest thing is be true to yourself. It's hard to do, especially initially if you're not getting much recognition or you're not making the sales," Ferguson said. "I saw one woman. I think she was 90 and she just got recognized. She's been painting her whole life and they were saying her art was never in vogue and now it's like the hottest thing ever. I was thinking, 'Your art was always good.' Sometimes the public is not in that place with you, but as long as you stay true to yourself, you're enjoying it while you're doing it."

For more information about Kathy Ferguson and her artwork, you can visit her website at www.kathy-fergusonart.com.

Uriel

Continued from Page 43

falling from the sky to an English translation of an actor's Yiddish monologue rolling up his blue leotard like a new type of teleprompter.

Then there are Kathleen Kennedy Tobin's three toy theaters, each the size of a flat screen computer monitor and populated by pint-sized paper characters she maneuvers with strings. Each time a toy theater becomes the focal point of the action, a small web camera broadcasts the proceedings on an oversized piece of white poster board.

The role of Acosta was the Yiddish theater's version of "Hamlet," Herskovits said. Each company tried to outdo its rivals with bigger spectacles and outsized performances.

These delicate and quite beautiful toy theaters allow Herskovits to bring that element into his story through a more unusual way then simply



James Tigger! Ferguson (l. to r.), J.H. Smith III, Nic Adams, Mary Rasmussen and Don Castro appear in a scene from "Uriel Acosta: I Want That Man!" at the Chocolate Factory Theater in Long Island City.

Photo courtesy Erik Carter

having his four actors toss on another wig and develop a different accent.

Herskovitz also adds a touch of meta-fiction into his piece by having actors call each other by their real names at vari-

ous points and allowing them to discuss the story of Acosta as they perform it before the audience.

And Acosta's story has a lot to say about blind faith, making your own way in the world and

sticking to your principles despite what others may think.

As Rasmussen says at one point, "If I'm not supposed to think these things, why does God let me?"



PROM NIGHT FUN

Residents of Flushing House retirement community recently held their second annual Senior Prom. Pictured are this year's king and queen of the prom, Eric Hanson and Julia Donovan (at l.), along with last year's royal couple, Tony Delauro and Miriam Brecher (above).

Photos courtesy Marlo Molano

Arts

Continued from Page 44

pieces.

When: Through May 11

Where: Queens Museum, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Cost: Suggested \$8/adults, \$4/ students and seniors, Free/ children 12 and under

Contact: (718) 592-9700

Website: queensmuseum.org

SculptureCenter – Four simultaneous presentations by artists Rossella Biscotti, David Douard, Radamés “Juni” Figueroa and Jumana Manna. Each exhibit represents the first solo project for each artist.

When: Through May 12

Where: SculptureCenter, 44-19 Purves St., Long Island City

Cost: \$5/suggested donation, \$3/students

Contact: (718) 361-1750

Website: www.sculpture-center.org

Noguchi’s Early Drawings: 1927-1932 – An exhibition of the artist’s nudes made during the period he was developing his singular style.

When: Through May 25, Wednesday to Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 6 pm

Where: The Noguchi Museum, 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City
Cost: \$10/adults, \$5/students and seniors, Free/children under 12

Contact: (718) 204-7088

Website: www.noguchi.org

MoMA PS1 – The Long Island City branch of New York’s premiere modern art institution offers rotating exhibitions and long-term installations. Currently on view: Korakrit Arunonondchai’s video installation “2012-2555”; Maria Lassnig’s self-portraits based on how her body feels from the inside.

When: Through May 25

Where: MoMA PS1, 22-25 Jackson Ave., Long Island City

Cost: \$10/adults, \$5/students and seniors, Free/children under 16

Contact: (718) 784-2084

Website: www.momaps1.org

Year of Brazil: Art of South America – The Godwin-Ternbach Museum highlights South American artworks from its permanent collection.

When: Through August

Where: The Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College Klappper Hall, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 997-4747

Website: qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/



A WEE CELEBRATION

Members of Whitestone’s Fitzpatrick Academy of Irish Dance troupe take a break during their recent pre-St. Patrick’s Day celebration at Bourbon Street in Bayside.

Photo courtesy Laura Altimari

godwin_ternbach

FILM

Harold Ramis Triple Feature

– A tribute to the recently passed screenwriter and director includes screenings of “National Lampoon’s Animal House,” “Groundhog Day” and “The Ice Harvest.”

When: Sunday, March 30

Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria

Cost: Free with admission, \$12/adults, \$9/students and seniors, \$6/children

Contact: (718) 777-6888

Website: www.movingimage.us

See it Big! Comedies – March is a laugh at the Museum of the Moving Images film series. Screenings include “Some Like it Hot,” “Annie Hall” and “Modern Times.”

When: Through March 29

Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria

Cost: Free with admission, \$12/adults, \$9/students and seniors, \$6/children

Contact: (718) 777-6888

Website: www.movingimage.us

Theater

Continued from Page 45

journey to adulthood.

When: May 1 to May 17,

Thursday and Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 2 pm and 8 pm

Where: Astoria Performing Arts Center, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 30-44 Crescent St., Astoria

Cost: \$18/adults, \$12/seniors and students

Contact: (718) 706-5750

Website: www.apacny.org

“Night Must Fall” –

Douglaston Community Theatre Group presents the psychological thriller by Emlyn Williams, which tells the story of a bitter old woman, her niece and a handsome stranger.

When: May 2 to May 17

Where: Zion Episcopal Church Hall on Hall Street, Douglaston

Website: www.

spotlightonstage.com/dct.htm

“Peter Pan” – Travel with the “Boy Who Wouldn’t Grow Up” to Neverland in the musical version of James M. Barrie’s play presented by The Andrean Players.

When: May 9 to May 17, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, and



LAST CHANCE TO SUCCEED

John Panepinto (I.) as J. Pierpont Finch proposes to Rosemary, played by Katherine Robinson, in the Rockaway Theatre’s production of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.” The show concludes its run Sunday. For more information, contact (718) 374-6400.

Photo courtesy Rockaway Theatre Co.

Sunday, May 18, at 4 pm

Where: St. Andrew Avelino Church, Northern Boulevard and 157th Street, Flushing

Cost: \$18/adults, \$15/seniors and children

Contact: theandreanplayers@gmail.com

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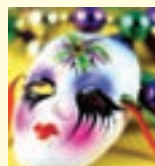


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Transmitter set to become LIC's third microbrewery

Brooklyn duo to produce farmhouse-style ales that pair well with food because of their use of wild yeast

BY BILL PARRY

In the century following Prohibition, Long Island City went without a single brewery.

Now Transmitter Brewing LLC is poised to become the third to open in the last two years.

"We're just waiting on the paperwork from the State Liquor Authority, a license to operate, and then we'll set a hard date, but it's probably about two weeks away," co-owner Anthony Accardi said.

Accardi and his partner, Rob Kolb, two 40-something family men from Greenpoint, Brooklyn, have been home-brew hobbyists for more than 20 years. When their new nanobrewery begins production at 53-02 11th St., they'll turn out French and Belgian country ales that will set it apart from the other LIC suds makers.

"We're unique because we use wild yeast. It takes longer to ferment, but it's worth it because it goes so well with food," Accardi



Rob Kolb (l.) is a full time creative director in advertising while his partner, Anthony Accardi (r.), is a printer for art photographers.

Photo courtesy Anthony Accardi

said. "Transmitter has already drawn the interest of several fine restaurants, we've good feedback where we think our only problem is whether we can make enough beer."

When it's up and running, Transmitter will produce around 10 barrels a week from its space under

the Pulaski Bridge.

"Long Island City is hopping now with great restaurants, it feels like a great community and we're happy to be a part of it," Accardi said.

The partners looked all over Brooklyn for the proper space for a brewery.

"The industrial loca-

tions we looked at with the proper power and water were all too big so we found one in LIC," Accardi said. "My wife was walking across the Pulaski Bridge when she noticed a for rent sign. It's perfect, I can make dinner for the family and take the four-minute walk across the bridge and work



Transmitter Brewery opens in Long Island City this month. Their French and Belgian country ales go well with food.

Photo courtesy Anthony Accardi

for an hour or two tending to things during production," Accardi said.

Transmitter Brewing will produce bottles and kegs wholesale for restaurants and bottles and refillable growlers will be sold retail out of the brewery.

"We won't have a tasting room like they do at Rockaway and Big Alice, but we can supply samples on site legally," Accardi said.

He added that the flavor will change constantly with subtle differences to make it exciting for the consumer.

"We thought we were making some interesting beers and we liked it so we decided to give it a shot," Accardi said. "The bane of starting so small is you can't make enough fast enough. You want to make sure you keep people happy and interested with the product."

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: powerfullyou.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

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 Tnpk., 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

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
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FUND-RAISERS

Queens Taste 2014 – The Queens Economic Development Corp.'s annual event offers food from 50 borough restaurants. Proceeds benefit the QEDC's mission to assist businesses.

When: April 29, 6 pm

Where: Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Ave., Flushing

Cost: \$100/single ticket, \$175/two tickets

Contact: (718) 263-0546

Website: www.queensny.org

Rose Gala 2014 – Honoring Cord Meyer Development, George S. Meyer and the Meyer family
When: June 12, 6 pm

Where: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing
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Contact: (718) 886-3800
Website: www.queensbotanical.org

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JFK

Continued from Page 1

notice of the decision “as soon as possible.”

The PA, which is planning to begin construction next month and wrap up near the end of 2015, published a notice in a Queens weekly newspaper last week of the FAA’s decision and a link to the website where it will be available until mid-May.

Barbara Brown, chairwoman of the environmental-steward group Eastern Queens Alliance, has been skeptical of the proposal since its inception. In an area that has long been beleaguered by low-flying planes, she said, even a slight increase in airport noise has to be taken in context.

“They say their model shows it’s not a significant impact, but in a community already overburdened by noise, to say a little bit more is not going to impact you doesn’t make any sense,” she said. “We are not happy with the decision. We have 60 days from March 14 to file an appeal and we’re re-



Residents near JFK Airport are planning to appeal the FAA’s decision to approve a runway extension. AP Photo/Mark Lennihan

ally going to be moving in that direction.”

It has been a turbulent take-off for the runway rehabilitation project ever since the Port Authority made public notice in May 2012 of its environmental evaluation of the plan.

The 30-day public comment period on the study, which said that moving planes closer to residential neighborhoods in southeast Queens would result in an imperceptible increase in noise, closed without dis-

cussion, and after environmental activists and civic leaders accused the Port Authority of trying to quietly slip the study through, the agency agreed to reopen the comment period in October.

As the agency evaluated the public input and waited to submit its revised draft to the FAA, the city Parks Department went ahead in the fall of 2013 and tagged some 800 trees in Idlewild Park that would have to be either trimmed or removed and replaced if the extension were approved.

This, once again, drew ire from the airport’s neighbors. When the PA came back with its revised draft last fall, it had scrapped parts of the plan that would have brought aircraft in lower over the park and residential neighborhoods.

In its notice to the agency last month, the FAA said approval of the construction project is contingent on those mitigating measures.

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

Lockbox

Continued from Page 4

- Add six new Long Island Rail Road rush hour trains every weekday. (\$2.2 million)
- Add 10 new LIRR trains every weekend day. (\$400,000)
- Add cars to Metro-North Railroad trains to reduce crowding on the Harlem, Hudson and New

Haven lines. (\$2.7 million)

- Add two daily Metro-North trains each on the Harlem, Hudson and New Haven lines. (\$1.9 million)

As for fares, advocates pointed out that the funds could instead be used to reduce MTA plans to increase fares in 2015 and 2017.

State Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) said, “The proposal to deprive the transit system of \$40 million is a nonstarter. This intended raid would only necessitate

further and more dramatic fare raises.”

The lawmakers passed anti-raid legislation, but the governor vetoed it, saying it would go toward paying debts.

The Legislature’s final budget is under negotiation this week and is due at the end of March.

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

Bus service

Continued from Page 2

may present its own difficulties with Gov. Andrew Cuomo proposing to cut \$40 million from the transit authority’s budget.

“That is something we need to be fighting for,” she said. “That is not OK.”

City Councilman I.

Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans), Henry’s predecessor at the Queens bus driver’s union before beginning his first term this year, said communities in eastern Queens that have been “deprived mobility based on their location” deserve to have MTA funds lockboxed so they do not fall prey to the whims of Albany.

And as the union waits to see what next year’s bud-

get will look like, Henry said he would work toward improving other bus service in the borough.

When asked which routes are priorities he said, “Pick a line. Every line needs enhancements.”

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

New HQ

Continued from Page 5

work at computer stations and classrooms, finding effective alternatives to incarceration.

Fortune Society President and CEO JoAnne Page, in her 25th year, used her staff as an example that change is possible. Half of the 200 agency employees were incarcerated prisoners, many of them recidivists.

“We’re doing life and death work here. When this space was dingy, it was unwelcoming. Now it says you matter and we are here to help you become all you can be,” Page said. “When you’ve been a menace to society, it’s a big step to change your ways.”

Staff member Donald Gray, a former inmate in

the state penitentiary system, said, “When I first got here, I thought I was back in a cell it was so drab. Now it’s brighter and more comfortable. You want to be here to do the work you need to change.”

Velma Donovan is another reformed inmate who now serves as the agency’s reception manager.

“The renovation makes a real difference. The clients feel we’ve made an investment in them,” she said.

A majority of the clients at the Fortune Society are released former prisoners from Rikers Island, where the agency operates an outreach program.

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), a frequent visitor to Rikers, said, “The conditions are deplorable. Some of the cells have no windows and the cells are full

of filth and graffiti. A man died there just last week.”

The inmate, Jason Echevarria, swallowed a ball of soap containing ammonium chloride and later died after his cries for help were ignored, the FBI said. An 18-year veteran of the city Correction Department, Terrance Pendergrass of Howard Beach, was charged with one count of deprivation of rights, according to the Manhattan U.S. attorney’s office.

“It’s a hard place where substance abuse and mental health issues are not dealt with,” Dromm said. “Fortune offers second, third and fourth chances to stay out of there. They deal with the mental health issues and that’s a service that’s vitally important to everyone in the community, not just the convicts. We can use 10 more Fortune Societies.”

Brown

Continued from Page 5

cross Queens Boulevard to get to work each day,” he said.

The prosecutor’s office said a case study would have to be conducted in order to determine the cost of renovating the detention center.

The district attorney

also asked that the city restore funding that was cut in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

“We’re still about \$10 million behind where we were in fiscal 2002,” he said. “That’s the equivalent of about 30 new assistant district attorneys.”

In the years following the terrorist attacks, Brown’s office lost \$11.7 million — or about a quarter of its budget. The city has

been making restorations and Brown said he got back on solid financial ground about four years ago, but there was still a way to go in order to get his office back up to full strength.

“They provided us for the first time in many years with some degree of fiscal certainty,” he said. “It’s important to note, however, that we still have a long road ahead of us to rebuild.”

Narcan

Continued from Page 26

Medical professionals say the drug should be administered when people display symptoms of an opiate overdose, which include unconsciousness, inadequate breathing or no breathing and constricted “pinpoint” pupils.

Although the drug was patented decades ago,

Graves said it has traditionally only been used by paramedics. Last year the state began introducing naloxone to EMT teams within the city, which number much greater than paramedics.

He believed Ridgewood’s corps was one of a few volunteer units that had naloxone, but that many volunteer ambulance corps, like the Fire Department’s units and private ambulance crews, did not

have the drug.

Graves said Ridgewood’s corps quickly purchased Narcan, a brand of naloxone that costs \$25 to \$35 per kit, and sent members to training administered by the state Department of Health.

He estimated the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded to about 40 opiate overdoses annually.

“It’s been pretty steady,” he said.

Charters

Continued from Page 5

our children, somehow we too easily pull apart,” he said. “It becomes routine. It becomes even unknowing.

We disconnect. We don’t communicate the way we could.”

“What can unify us is that sense of urgency that we can’t accept the status quo. The answer is not to save a few of our children

only,” the mayor continued. “The answer is not to provide an escape route that some can follow and others can’t. The answer is to fix the entire system.”

Royals win state crown

Walker leads CK to second-straight Federation basketball title

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

ALBANY — Andre Walker spent most of the season letting Christ the King stars Rawle Alkins, Adonis Delarosa and Travis Atson lead the team to victories. But the senior point guard knew he couldn't stay in the background any longer with all three coming up short in the Royals' biggest game of the season.

"I have teammates that click most of the time," Walker said. "But I saw them struggling, so I had to do something."

What he did was score 13 of his game-high 25 points in the third quarter to help lead the Royals to a come-from-behind 58-52 victory over Long Island

Lutheran in the state Federation Class AA boys' basketball final at the Times Union Center in Albany Saturday night.

It was Christ the King's second-straight crown, third in the last five years and fourth in the school's history. The Royals, who rallied from a 14-point second quarter deficit, beat LuHi in last year's title game and also came back from being down 17 points to win against the Crusaders in the final of the Stop-DWI Holiday Classic Dec. 30.

"I told you last game, you don't want to go out with a loss," said Walker, who earned MVP honors. "I can tell this five years from now, 10 years from

now. I have a lot of buddies on [Long Island Lutheran], so I'm going to give them two weeks off and then I'm going to brag."

Walker, who came into the game without a college scholarship offer, wasn't the only senior who stepped up big. Classmate Bryler Paige and Delarosa did the same.

Paige tallied 10 points and came up with a steal that led to CK grabbing its first lead at 49-48 on two Alkins free throws with 4:31 left in the fourth quarter. Delarosa scored six points and grabbed 13 rebounds. His two-handed slam of an Alkins miss capped an 11-2 Christ the King run in the fourth quarter and put his team up 55-51 with 1:45 to

go in the game.

"All three of us stepped up and I think that's why we got the W," Delarosa said.

Chris Atkinson led LuHi with 16 points and Devonte Green, playing on an injured ankle, tallied 10 points and eight rebounds. The Crusaders (22-5) got as close as 55-52 with 21.8 seconds remaining, but Paige and Walker combined to make three of four free throws to seal the victory. The two combined to shoot 15-for-17 from the foul line during the game.

The Royals (25-6) got off to an excruciatingly slow start and trailed 12-4 after the first quarter. Walker then felt it was his time in the third quarter to

Continued on Page 53



Francis Lewis' Robyn Francis (1.) looks to put up a shot.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

Cold-shooting Lewis loses to L.I. Lutheran

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

17 of 31 from the free throw line.

ALBANY — Francis Lewis' youth was never an issue during its playoff run. But Patriots Coach Steve Tsai saw inexperience finally be a factor in the team's season-ending loss.

"Some people say we're young. If anything, maybe today you see a little bit of youth," the coach said. "We panicked a little bit."

Francis Lewis was its own worst enemy, if you ask Chi La Bady. The Patriots played hard and executed on defense, but never got shots to consistently drop, especially at the free throw line.

"I thought we were in a flow," Bady said of the team's offense. "I thought we played actually really well. If we would have made our free throws, it would have been a whole lot different."

Instead, the Patriots suffered a 53-42 loss to Long Island Lutheran in the state Federation Class AA girls' basketball semifinals at the Times Union Center in Albany last Friday night. Lewis shot 22.9 percent from the field and

The misses from the charity stripe kept it from ever building serious offensive momentum in what was most of the players' first trip to the tournament.

"It's all new to us,"

sophomore guard Sierra Green said. "We were just trying to get comfortable and our shots weren't falling. It's just one of those games."

The Patriots did get back into the contest in the second half after trailing 27-18 early in the third quarter. They pulled within 31-29 with 1:56 to go in the frame. A jumper by Dominique Williams, who scored eight points, and a top-of-the-key trey by Green got Lewis to within 36-34 early in the fourth quarter.

With 5:46 to go in the game, the Patriots came within three with a score of 40-37 after a Bady trey, but in the minutes afterward they weren't able to close in again. Bady led Lewis with 11 points and Green had nine points and five rebounds. Chelsea Robinson added eight points and seven boards.

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Related column
PAGE 52



Christ the King players, coaches and staff celebrate their win against Long Island Lutheran in the state Federation 'AA' basketball championship.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

Tsai leads Lewis amid challenges at home

Patriots' coach steers team to first city title since 1979 after unborn twins diagnosed with heart defects



Joseph
Staszewski
Block Shots

ALBANY — This season may have been the most trying as well as the most rewarding for Francis Lewis Coach Steve Tsai.

The sixth-year head man led the Patriots girls' basketball team to its first PSAL Class AA city title since 1979 all while helping to raise a 2-year-old and dealing with the news that his unborn twin daughters have congenital heart defects.

"It comes down to my wife [Roxanne] being able to handle a toddler and letting me do all that," Tsai said of coaching. "It's been really difficult, but at the same time it's been so enjoyable."

The couple found out in January that their twins, who are expected

in May, have tetralogy of fallot, a combination of four birth defects that together affect the structure of the heart and how blood flows through it.

The National Institutes of Health estimates that the condition occurs in five out of every 10,000 babies, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention cites a study that 1,660 children in the United States are born with tetralogy of fallot.

With the defect, not enough blood reaches the lungs to get oxygen, and then oxygen-poor blood flows through the body, according to the NIH. Tetralogy of fallot is repaired with open-heart surgery, and most children born with the condition reach adulthood, but need lifelong medical care from specialists to stay as healthy as possible, the organization said.

Tsai and his wife decided to keep the babies knowing they would require corrective heart sur-



Steve Tsai (r.) is joined by his wife Roxanne Montalvo-Tsai and their son Jordan.

geries. One child will need it immediately after being born and the other within three months, according to Roxanne Montalvo-Tsai.

Then both will likely need another surgery when they are about 15 years old, but doctors expect the twins to have a good quality of life, she said.

"I don't know how Steve was coaching throughout all of this," Montalvo-Tsai said.

But Tsai, a guidance

counselor at Francis Lewis and a Manhattan resident, has managed to carve out time to become a better coach and keep his team prepared. His nightly routine consists of getting home around 8 p.m. and having his son Jordan fall asleep next to him. Tsai wakes up around 2 a.m. to work on basketball game plans, read hoops books and watch DVDs for two hours. He's back at Lewis by 9 a.m.

Photo courtesy Tsai

"Some of these coaches, they have a lot of years under their belt and more experience," Tsai said. "For me, I never wanted to use an excuse of, 'Oh, I don't have as much experience.'"

He has done everything he could to catch up to veterans since his first season in 2008. He took over for then-suspended Coach Mike Eisenberg in December of that year. Tsai, who had been the Patriots' junior varsity boys' coach prior, remembered his girls' varsity team getting blown out by squads led by legendary veterans like Ed Grezinsky, of Murry Bergtraum, and Bob Daggett, of St. Peter's, even as the Patriots' roster was filled with scholarship players. He vowed to become better and tried to learn as much as he could.

Lewis Athletic Director Arnie Rosenbaum sees a night and day difference now.

"At this level, he said [to himself] if you don't put

the time and effort in, you are not going to do well, so he started studying," Rosenbaum said.

Tsai credited his wife and assistant Coach Frank Wilbeck for supporting him and allowing him to do what he loves. He said his fellow guidance counselors even picked him up on days they saw him dragging. His dedication and enthusiasm are not lost on his players either.

"It rubs off on us pretty well," junior guard Chi La Bady said. "I feel like if you don't have a coach who is concentrating on getting the wins, making the team better, each individual better, then what is your team really about? He is a coach that cares a lot about each one of us."

Tsai's efforts helped his young roster develop quicker than expected. The Patriots finished the season 24-4 and ended Bergtraum's 15-year reign over the PSAL. There was no

Continued on Page 53

Red Storm beaten by Tennessee in second NCAA tourney game

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The St. John's University women's basketball team couldn't follow up its last-second victory over USC with an upset of No. 1-seeded Tennessee in the NCAA tournament.

The No. 8 Red Storm kept up with the Lady Vols for 30 minutes before falling 67-51 in the second round Tuesday night in Knoxville. Aliyyah Handford scored 23 points and grabbed four rebounds for St. John's, which was looking to make the second Sweet 16 appearance in program history.

St. John's, which nev-



Tennessee's Meighan Simmons (r.) steals the ball from St. John's University's Jade Walker (c.).

AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

Late lead escapes Cardozo to end memorable season

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

ALBANY — Benjamin Cardozo was starting to believe its dreams of upsetting Christ the King were going to become reality. The Judges led the defending state champion Royals by five points in the final minutes of the fourth quarter after a big run.

"At that point, everybody was excited," sophomore guard Rashond Salnave said. "We had the crowd. Kids were jumping off the bench. When we got into the last timeout, coach was telling us to relax, it's not over yet."

Christ the King made



Cardozo's Carl Edoua Balthazar heads to the basket during the matchup against Christ the King.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

sure it wasn't.

The Judges let their emotions get the best of them. The Royals rallied to force an overtime before holding on for a 54-51 victory in the state Federation Class AA boys' basketball semifinals at the Times Union Center in Albany Friday afternoon. Cardozo was unable to claim another title after winning its first PSAL city crown since 1999.

"I'm not going to take this loss like I've taken losses over the year," Cardozo Coach Ron Naclerio said. "This would have been a tremendous cherry on top

Continued on Page 53

Calhoun preps for McDonald's All American game

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Sierra Calhoun understands she isn't only representing herself and Christ the King when she steps on the floor for the McDonald's All-American game.

The Royals girls' basketball star is part of a strong New York City contingent heading to the United Center in Chicago for the prestigious high school basketball all-star games that will be broadcast live on ESPN April 2.

Calhoun, who is headed to Duke in the fall, will be joined by fellow girls' game participant Bianca Cuevas of Nazareth and Abraham Lincoln boys' hoops star Isaiah Whitehead.

"New York City is definitely the mecca of basketball," Calhoun said. "I think it's great for us to have three going out there."

She was also named the New York State Gatorade Player of the Year. It's the same honor her brother



Christ the King's Sierra Calhoun holds her McDonald's All American certificate.

Photo by Steven Schnibbe

Omar, now at UConn, received as a senior on the Christ the King boys' team in 2012. The state Miss Basketball title unexpectedly went to Michelle Ruff, of Oneonta High School.

Calhoun was surprised by the snub but happy with the Gatorade nod.

"That's a great honor," she said.

Calhoun, a Duke signee, led Christ the King to a 21-4 record and a CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens title this season. She is

eager to experience everything that comes with being a McDonald's All-American and will get to play with and against many of her USA basketball teammates. One of those experiences will be visiting sick children, who are being helped by Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"I love giving back to charities, meeting the younger kids and bringing some light to their day," Calhoun said. "I know they will bring some light to my

day."

She takes pleasure in sharing this honor with Cuevas and Whitehead, whom she watched mature as people and players over the last four years. Their hard work is being rewarded.

"I've known all these kids," Calhoun said. "I've known them since I was younger. So growing up that was everyone's goal and their dream. McDonald's All-American and we all got it."

Queens player helps LuHi win state title

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

ALBANY — Lauren "Boogie" Brozoski, a Cambria Heights native, already knew what it felt like to win a state Federation title, but this victory was different.

Long Island Lutheran's 63-57 win over Ossining in the Class AA girls' basketball final at the Times Union Center Saturday was the culmination of a five-year journey for her and the program. The Crusaders won the Class B crown in 2011 and the championship in the 'A' bracket in 2013.

But this title was even more historic. LuHi became the first Long Island team and private school to win at the highest classification and is just the third team not in New York City to score an 'AA' state championship in the last 12 years.

"It's definitely the best



Long Island Lutheran's Lauren "Boogie" Brozoski (c.) receives high-fives from her teammates.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

because no one believed in us throughout the season," said Brozoski, who has committed to Michigan. "We were always under Christ the King. We were always No. 2. So this proves a lot of people wrong."

She scored a game-high 18 points and added four assists despite getting into early foul trouble. Bro-

zoski also made all four of her free throws in the final 25 seconds to seal the victory. With so much on the line, she knew she couldn't miss.

"We have to win. That's what was going through my mind," Brozoski said with a smile. "Actually, my mind was clear. You can't think about those free throws."

It's that calmness and her ability in clutch plays that has made her such a standout player since she first put on a Crusaders uniform as an eighth-grader. With her at the helm, LuHi has made a rapid ascent in the girls' basketball landscape.

Long Island Lutheran Coach Rich Slater, who has coached her since the fourth-grade, gave credit to Brozoski's work ethic and described her as a player who couldn't have been able to accomplish what she has solely with her raw talent.

Brozoski's combination of grit and skill is a rare commodity in his mind.

"I'm blessed," Slater said. "We have something that other teams don't. You are always going to be in games against teams like that because we have a kid like that. She's special."

Cardozo

Continued from Page 52

of the sundae, but nobody is going to take away the city championship, which is really what they want."

His team nearly had a chance to play for the state championship. Cardozo went on a torrid 12-0 run in the fourth quarter after a questionable offensive foul call on the Judges' Elijah McNeely erased a potential three-point play early in the frame. Carl Balthazar scored all six of his points during the spurt and the Judges went up 48-43 on a McNeely layup with 2:23 left in the game.

Turnovers gave CK, which had led by as much as 10 earlier in the game, the opening it needed to rally. Rawle Alkins hit a top of the key three-pointer off a set play with 50 seconds to go in regulation to knot the score at 48-48 and help push the game into overtime. Naclerio said it was the one play he hadn't prepared for and it shifted momentum back to CK.

Dozo grabbed a 51-48 lead briefly in the overtime before two Adonis Delarosa free throws and a jumper by Andre Walker with 17

seconds left in the game put the Royals up for good at 52-51. Salnave on the next possession drew contact on a jumper, but no foul was called.

"I thought I got hit, a couple of people thought I got hit, but we didn't get the call," the sophomore said.

Salnave led all scorers with 20 points, but took 22 shots to reach that number for Cardozo (30-3). McNeely had 12 points and Francisco Williams added 11. Balthazar chipped in six points and 10 rebounds for the Judges. Alkins scored 18 points and Delarosa had 13 points and six rebounds for CK (24-6).

The Judges took solace in their strong showing after hearing friendly barbs from other teams and some Royals players about how they were going to get blown out in the semifinal matchup. Cardozo went further than most people thought in a year when Abraham Lincoln was expected to win the city title.

"When we started the season, nobody thought we'd be this good," Williams said. "I didn't even think we'd make it here. It was just a blessing being here."

Royals

Continued from Page 51

step up with the usual catalysts struggling to score. He got to the basket at will and buried two three-pointers. He hit another trey early in the fourth.

"Andre Walker saved his best for last and probably earned himself a couple of scholarship offers



The Royals' Andre Walker dribbles the ball.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

tonight," Royals Coach Joe Arbitello said.

The game was another example of Christ the King being able to find a way to win a close game late in the contest. It did so against Cardinal Hayes in the CHSAA intersectional semifinal, the title game against Bishop Loughlin and again in a 54-51 win over Benjamin Cardozo in the state Federation semifinal last Friday.

The Judges led by five points with 3:01 remaining in the game only to see the Royals scratch out a victory. LuHi also could not hold its lead and prevent Christ the King from collecting the championship hardware.

"That's all I wanted this year," Paige said. "I was able to get it. It feels amazing."

Tsai

Continued from Page 52

looking back for Tsai when the season came to a close with a 53-42 loss to Long Island Lutheran in the state

Federation Class AA semifinals Friday in Albany. He wants to get back and get further.

"Each of the girls has to get better," Tsai said. "I have to get better."

History shows he will.

Continued from Page 51

"We cut down the lead and were right in the game," Tsai said.

The Patriots (24-4) proceeded to go scoreless over the next 3:22 and watched LuHi (22-2) extend its lead to 46-37 with two free throws by Cambria Heights native and Michigan-bound junior Lauren "Boogie" Brozoski, who scored 14 points. Katie Lavelle added another 14 for the Crusaders.



The Patriots' Chelsea Robinson prepares to shoot at the free throw line.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

Brozoski believed her team's experience playing in the Federation tournament during the last two years paid off when the game against Francis Lewis got close. LuHi, which won the Class A crown last year, was able to dig deep and hold on.

"Experience is a big thing," Brozoski said. "If you don't have experience, you are not winning ugly games."

While this game wasn't Lewis' best, the Patriots' season was the greatest in program history.

Lewis ended Murry Bergtraum's 15-year reign as PSAL champions and beat top-seeded South Shore for the school's first title since 1979. The state semifinal loss to LuHi leaves this young group hungry to get back to the tournament next year as only one Patriot player — center Robinson — is graduating in 2014.

"It's a great experience," Bady said. "At least we made it this far. We can possibly come this far again."

Red Storm

Continued from Page 52

er led Tennessee, tied the score at 39-39 with 16:59 left in the contest thanks to two Handford free throws.

But the Red Storm wasn't able to find an offensive flow as the Lady Vols' ability to get back to play defense quickly made it hard for St. John's players to score in the paint. They shot five of 24 from the field and committed 13 turnovers after the break and scored just two points over the next nine minutes.

"We were just turning the ball over too much," Handford said. "We were out of it."

Her team went into the half down just 39-35, thanks to a last second three-pointer by Aaliyah Lewis. St. John's used a matchup zone defense to keep itself in the game until late and flustered the Tennessee forwards. Jade Walker scored eight points and grabbed five rebounds for the Red Storm. Cierra Burdick led

Tennessee (29-5) in scoring with 21 points and 11 rebounds and Meighan Simmons had 17 points.

"I thought we played a great first half, outside of the first three minutes," Coach Joe Tartamella said. "I thought we played really well."

St. John's got to the game by knocking off Pac-12 champion and No. 9 seed USC 71-68 in the opening round Saturday, due to a Briana Brown three-pointer with four-tenths of a second left in the game. The

basket was Brown's only hoop of the game.

"Honestly, when I shot it I wasn't really thinking anything," Brown said. "I knew I hadn't made a shot the whole game, but my teammates were behind me the whole way through and you're going to get that shot. You're going to make the next one, and it happened to be the big one."

Junior forward Amber Thompson also tied her career high with 17 rebounds against the Trojans to break the program's single-

season record for rebounds with 304.

St. John's finished the season 23-11 overall and placed second in the Big East during the regular season. The Red Storm lost to DePaul in the conference title game but still scored a spot in its fifth-straight NCAA tournament.

"I'm so proud of these kids right here who just fought their butts off to get to his point from where we started to where we are now," Tartamella said. "I couldn't be prouder."

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on March 04, 2014, bearing Index Number NC-001315-13/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) JESSICA (Middle) KARINA (Last) DORANTES. My present name is (First) JESSICA (Middle) KARINA (Last) DORANTES NORIEGA (Infant). My present address is 153-15 89th Avenue, Apt. #F-1, Jamaica, NY 11432-3818. My place of birth is Oceanside, NY. My date of birth is June 21, 2001.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on March 04, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-000012-14/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) MONIKA (Last) SOSNOWSKA. My present name is (First) MONIKA (Last) ELSAYED. My present address is 8435 Lander Street, Apt. #4H, Jamaica, NY 11435-2031. My place of birth is POLAND. My date of birth is November 10, 1989.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-WMC2, Plaintiff, against ORLENA LAWSON, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 7/7/2008 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse in Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on 04/25/2014 at 10:00AM, premises known as 243-21 CANEY ROAD, Rosedale, NY 11422 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block 13571, Lot 27. Approximate amount of judgment \$407,260.54 plus interest

► **LEGAL**

and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 17170/07. Pamela Jordan, Esq., Referee Gross, Polowy & Orlans, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 540, Getzville, NY 14068 Dated: March 21, 2014 1087134

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: QUEENS COUNTY, THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUSTEE FOR CSMC TRUST 2011-3, Pltff. vs. JAIME PESANTEZ, et al, Defts. Index #703262/12. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated Nov. 1, 2013, I will sell at public auction in Courtroom #25 on Apr. 11, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Queens County General Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY prem. k/a 106-19 95th St., Ozone Park, NY. Said property located on the easterly side of 95th St., formerly Hopkinton Ave. or Chester Ave. distant 150 ft. southerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the easterly side of 95th St. with the southerly side of Liberty Ave., being a plot 82 ft. x 25 ft. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$443,777.29 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. DOMINICK CALDERONI, Referee. COHN & ROTH, Attys. For Pltff., 100 East Old Country Rd., Ste. 28, Mineola, NY. #83900

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSR MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-OA1, Plaintiff against CHANDROWTIE SINGH, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 15, 2014. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County General Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Court Room # 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 11th day of April, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Said premises known as 86-19 125th Street, Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418. Tax account number: SBL #: 9279-110. Approximate amount of lien \$ 394,645.88 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 5323-11. Thomas J. Gra-

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ham, Esq., Referee. McCabe Weisberg & Conway Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street - Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY SUMMONS AND NOTICE Index No. 10699/12 Borough: Queens Block: 9470 Lot: 25 NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs, vs. The heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through JOSEPH J. BEDNARIK, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective wives, or widows of his, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT

ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; ELIZABETH MUNOZ; JOSEPH BEDNARIK, JR., if living, or if he be dead, his wife, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said JOSEPH BEDNARIK, JR., by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective wives, or widows of his, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs; ALEXANDER BEDNARIK, if living, or if he be dead, his wife, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said ALEXANDER BEDNARIK, by purchase, inheritance,

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lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective wives, or widows of his, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs AND "JOHN DOE #4" THROUGH "JOHN DOE #100", the names of the last 96 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the liened premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the liened premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendants. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in the above-entitled foreclosure action, and to serve a copy of your answer on the plaintiffs' attorney within thirty (30) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal service within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Queens County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the subject premises. Dated: January 9, 2014 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an Order of Honorable Rudolph E. Greco, Jr., a Justice of

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the Supreme Court, dated February 25, 2014, and filed with supporting papers in the Queens County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a tax lien covering the property known as 127-11 97 Avenue, Borough of Queens, New York and identified as Block 9470 and Lot 25 (the "Tax Parcel"). The relief sought is the sale of the Tax Parcel at public auction in satisfaction of the tax lien. In case of your failure to appear, judgment may be taken against you in the sum of \$10,626.44, together with interest, costs, disbursements and attorneys' fees of this action, and directing the public sale of the Tax Parcel. Anthony J. Iacchetta Phillips Lytle LLP Office and Post Office Address 1400 First Federal Plaza Rochester, New York 14614 Tel. No. (585) 238-2000

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New Index No. 702334/2013 York, as Trustee for the Certificate holders of CWALT, Inc., Alternative Loan Trust 2006-21CB, Mortgage Pass-.....SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Through Certificates, Series 2006-21CB Plaintiff, - against - Barbara J. Lessey, if living and if she be dead, any and all persons who are spouses, widows, grantees, mortgagees, lienor, heirs, devisees, distributees, or successors in interest of such of the above as may be dead, and their spouses, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom an whose names and places of residences are unknown to Plaintiff, The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as successor Trustee to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee on behalf of the Certificateholders of the CWHEQ Inc., CWHEQ Revolving Home Equity Loan Trust, Series 2006-F, Hillside Manor Rehabilitation & Extended Care Ctr. LLC DBA Hillside Manor Nursing Center, South Nassau Communities Hospital, New York City Environmental Control Board, New York City Parking Violations Bureau, New York City Transit Adjudication

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Bureau, United States of America-Internal Revenue Service, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Defendants. Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the Mortgage premises is situated. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the attorneys for the plaintiff within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this 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. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$280,000.00 and interest, recorded in the Office of the City Register of the City of New York on May 31, 2006, in CRFN 2006000302181, covering premises known as 221-12 134th Road A/K/A 22112 134th Road, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the Mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your Mortgage company will not

► **LEGAL**

stop this foreclosure action. **YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.** Dated: Williamsville, New York November 18, 2013 Stephen J. Wallace, Esq. Frenkel, Lambert, Weiss, Weisman & Gordon, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, New York 11706 (631) 969-3100 Our File No.:01-061978-FOO

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS Index No. 16584/2012 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the Mortgage premises is situated. MidFirst Bank Plaintiff, -against- Syed A. Ahmed, if living and if he be dead, any and all persons who are spouses, widows, grantees, mortgagees, lienor, heirs, devisees, distributees, or successors in interest of such of the above as may be dead, and their spouses, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residences are unknown to Plaintiff, Jamie Joseph, Citibank (South Dakota) NA, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, New York City Environmental Control Board, New York City Parking Violations Bureau, New York City Transit Adjudication Bureau, United States of America-Internal Revenue Service, Gloria Redding, Richard Redding and Carla Penrod Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the attorneys for the plaintiff within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is

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complete if this 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. **NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT** THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$360,000.00 and interest, recorded in the Office of the City Register of the City of New York on August 31, 2005, in CRFN 2005000490298, covering premises known as 25-02 Mott Avenue, Far Rockaway, NY 11691. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. **NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME** If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the Mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your Mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Dated: Williamsville, Ne.w York December 31, 2013 By: Stephen J. Wallace, Esq. Frenkel, Lambert, Weiss, Weisman & Gordon, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, New York 11706 (631) 969-3100 Our File No.:01-057175-FOO



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