

Beep urges Galante to take leave from library

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Shall we dance?

QGuide Page 43



Weprin bill asks schools to teach anti-bully class

BY KELSEY DURHAM

City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) has introduced new legislation he hopes will tackle an increase in bullying among schoolchildren that he believes has become a dangerous epidemic.

Weprin introduced a bill last week calling for all city public schools to institute required anti-bullying education for students as young as the grade school level, with lessons tailored to meet each

Continued on Page 58

Murray Hill plumber stabbed to death: Cops

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A Murray Hill father was murdered in front of a Korean Restaurant Tuesday evening, police said.

Arun Sachdeva, 44, was stabbed to death on 149th Place in his neighborhood just after 6 p.m., according to the NYPD.

Emergency Medical Services took Sachdeva to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police are still investigating the murder and had not arrested anyone for the crime as of Wednesday afternoon.

See story on Page 8

Katz starts Flushing task force

Boro prez sets up forum for small biz to discuss Commons plan with developers

BY ALEX ROBINSON

The first meeting of a task force on the Flushing Commons development left some business leaders with lingering questions.

Borough President Melinda

Katz launched the task force in March to create a dialogue between the Flushing Commons developers and community business leaders worried the impending construction might have a negative effect on their stores.

"It's great that Melinda Katz put together a special task force so we could have communication with the developers. We didn't know when it was going to happen or how it was going to happen," said Ikhwan Rim, president

of the Union Street Merchants Association. "But we still have a lot of questions."

The \$850 million development was originally proposed eight years ago and passed by the

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BAYSIDE VISIT



Olympic gymnast Nastia Liukin smiles after snapping a selfie with youngsters (l-r.) Lance, Stephanie and Annie during her visit to St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children in Bayside.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

Meng hosts cultural panel

Koreans, Jews find common ground at Bayside Holocaust center

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Leaders of key Jewish and Korean-American organizations gathered at Queensborough Community College Monday night to bridge the gap between their cultures.

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) hosted a panel discussion at the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center on the Bayside college's campus, at 222-05 56th Ave.

"Whether we're talking about foreign issues, or whether we're talking about local issues that are important to our families, there are a lot of commonalities," Meng said. "Tonight is just a one-time event, but I really hope it's an opportunity for us to meet new people, collaborate and to work together to make this country a better place to live for our children."

The fact that both communities suffered through atrocities committed during World War II created a unique bond and understanding between the two, panelists said.

"I express my gratitude to this wonderful community. We are people who should be brothers and who should work hand-in-hand," said Rabbi Moshe Faskowitz, of the Torah Center of Hillcrest. "We have shared so much struggle. We all know what suffering is. Dialogues like this will make it very clear there are more than commonalities that



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (r.) addresses the panel discussion at Queensborough Community College.

Photo by Alex Robinson

we share."

Faskowitz said he felt a deep respect for the Asian community because his parents, who had fled occupied Poland in 1941, found refuge in Japan and China while the Holocaust raged in Europe.

During that time, Korean women were forced to serve as sex slaves inside "comfort stations" for officers in the Japanese army. Hundreds of thousands of young women and girls were forced into slavery and the Japanese government has never apologized for the atrocity.

"There are many survivors who testified what they suffered at the comfort stations from Japanese soldiers," said Dong Chan Kim, president of advocacy group Korean American Civic Empowerment. "However, Japan is continuing to

deny. Japan should accept their responsibilities of their past war crimes."

In addition to the fact their cultures both suffered crimes during the same historic period, panelists found there were common issues and concerns both communities face, including government relations, safety and social services. A lack of culturally sensitive social services, such as kosher meals on wheels for Jewish seniors, is an issue both communities have to deal with.

"Only by sitting down at the same table, looking at the same issues together, understanding we have deep bonds of commonality and strength, can we begin to solve some of these problems," said Rabbi Rob Kaplan, of the Jewish Community Relations Council. "The issues before us are

common and only by building communities together will we be able to deal with this."

Both communities also share worries about nuclear threats from North Korea and Iran, panelists said.

Panelists concluded that only through educating the youth will cultural differences overcome and problems be solved.

The speakers were also joined by Ambassador Se-Joo Son, the consul general of South Korea, who stressed the importance of dialogue between the two communities and hailed the work being done at the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center.

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

Q13, Q16 bus routes return to Ft. Totten

BY KELSEY DURHAM

The MTA restored service to Fort Totten on the Q13 and Q16 bus lines last week after the city Department of Transportation completed a nearly 10-month construction project that restricted turn-around access within the Fort Totten parking lot.

The DOT began a project last June to repave Duane Road off Fort Totten Avenue in Bayside, where bus drivers complained that road conditions were so poor that they were no longer able to use the stretch of parking lot to turn around after completing their routes.

Instead, the buses were forced to use residential roads, which did not sit well with many community members and civic leaders.

"When I received a call from the community regarding the MTA buses using local streets instead of Fort Totten to turn around, I found out from the MTA

that because of the potholes, they needed to use the streets," said Marilyn Bitterman, district manager of Community Board 7, which oversees Beechhurst to the west of Fort Totten. "The potholes, which were extremely deep, would ruin the undercarriage of the buses."

Now that renovations are finished, the Metropolitan Transit Authority will allow buses to return to using Duane Road inside Fort Totten as a turn-around area. Elected officials who represent the area expressed relief and gratitude after hearing that construction was completed and the buses would return to their normal routes.

"The decision by the NYC Department of Transportation to repave the Q13/Q16 turnaround will keep buses off residential streets," said state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside). "This is good news for our constituents

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The MTA recently restored service to Fort Totten on the Q13 and Q16 buses, which will return to using the fort's parking lot as a turn-around area.

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Fresh Meadows teen opera singer dreams big at the Met

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Soprano Regina Fierro participates in prestigious four-day voice intensive for High School students

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Most teenage girls would rather dream of becoming Beyoncé than Maria Callas, but not Regina Fierro.

The 16-year-old Fresh Meadows junior recently took part in a four-day intensive program at the Metropolitan Opera for High School students, in the hope of one day becoming a professional opera singer.

"It's really unlike any other type of music, which is what I love about it," she said in an interview. "Often times operas are about myths and folklore. They're very basic and translate to modern life very fluidly. People don't realize that operatic music and themes are much more applicable to everyday life than some modern music is."

Regina has been singing since she could talk. She

sang in the Sacred Heart School Bayside Children's Choir from first- to eighth-grade and began training with an instructor in classical singing at 12. Since then she has developed a deep love of opera.

"I really like how classical music is so thoughtful," she said. "Everything from the music to the words on the page is so meaningful."

The teen, whose favorite composer is Mozart, said she did not truly appreciate the art form until she saw her first opera in her freshman year. Her dad took her to go see "L'Elisir d'Amore" ("The Elixir of Love") by Donizetti at the Met.

"When I started watching opera and listening to whole productions of opera, everything really came together," she said.

She had to submit an audition video for the Met's



Regina Fierro, a soprano and aspiring opera singer, sings at a performance.
Photo courtesy Fierro

High School Opera Singers Intensive Program, which runs at Lincoln Center in Manhattan. The program only admits 12 students and

runs once a year.

"The kids I was in there with were all so talented and all just real kids, too, which was probably

People don't realize that operatic music and themes are much more applicable to everyday life than some modern music is.

Reina Fierro
Singer

the best part. I gained some friends there I'll never forget," she said. "The best thing was everyone there was so humble, which is the great thing about opera singers. It's not about yourself. It's about celebrating this great music."

The program was designed for high school students who are seriously preparing to study music at college. Regina got to take classes and workshops that provided her with audition tips as well as training in diction and dramatic tech-

nique.

Regina is now focused on finishing her last year at Loyola School, a Manhattan private school, and applying to colleges where she can study singing. Her next performance will be with her school choir, which will compete in the Heritage New York City Music Festival in May.

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

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Albany to foot pre-K bill

Borough parents stand with mayor as he celebrates budget agreement

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Parents have until the end of the month to enroll their children in the first phase of the city's pre-kindergarten expansion, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced at a Ridgewood school Wednesday.

"The bottom line now is that we need to get the word to parents that it's time to sign up," he said during a news conference at PS 239 after the state passed a budget sending \$300 million to the city for pre-K.

Students at PS 239, where only a half-day program is offered, "have only had the advantage of a few hours a day in a pre-K setting," the mayor said. "Now every one of the seats will become full-day seats and that's going to allow so much more for the children of this school."

Parents have until April 23 to apply for a seat in one of the public school programs that will be available in September. The city will announce plans later



Isaac Carmigniani, president of Community Education Council 30 in Queens, calls the pre-K deal "an investment."
Photo by Christina Santucci

for further phases, de Blasio said, which will include programs at community-based organizations and charter schools.

Leaders of Queens parents groups stood by the mayor earlier this week as he lauded what he called a "historic" victory — albeit not the one he was hoping for — following a deal in Albany over the weekend to provide funding for an

expansion of pre-kindergarten.

"Now every child has access to high-quality, full-day pre-K. That half-day thing just doesn't quite work when you're a full-time working parent," Isaac Carmigniani, president of Community Education Council 30 in western Queens, said at a news conference at Citi Field Monday morning. "It's an

investment in our future, and this is a day that was a long time in coming."

The centerpiece of de Blasio's mayoral campaign was a proposal to fund an expansion of nearly 40,000 pre-K seats in two years through an increase on the income tax paid by the city's wealthiest earners.

That proposal hit a roadblock in Albany when
Continued on Page 54

State accord clears way for SE Queens charter

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The new state budget effectively reverses Mayor Bill de Blasio's decision to deny space to a previously approved charter school in South Jamaica, and the City Council Education Committee is planning to hold a hearing on the effect Albany's decision will have on traditional public schools going forward.

The education component of the budget agreement rewrites the state's law so the city will have to get approval from a charter school in order to make a change to a co-location approved prior to 2014.

Earlier this year, Mayor Bill de Blasio reversed course on a decision made by the Bloomberg administration to allow a Success Academy charter school to open next year inside the August Martin High School building in South Jamaica.

The protection is one of several moves made by Albany to strengthen and protect charter schools, and Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), the Education Committee chairman and a vocal critic of charter schools, said he has scheduled an oversight hearing on charter schools for next week.

"We're going to look at the whole business of charter schools and hold them accountable for what they

do," he said.

Dromm said it was unfortunate that the agreement "really in many ways supports charters over public school students," noting an increase in per-pupil funding at charter schools while the city is still owed more than \$4 billion from Albany stemming from a 2007 equal-funding agreement.

On the flip side of the charter debate, Gov. Andrew Cuomo praised the "significant protections" the budget adds to the charter school movement across the state.

"We address the issue of co-locations and the alternatives to co-location," he said during a conference call with reporters. "So we make sure charter schools do have alternatives, which will provide reasonable space accommodations and funding to provide that space."

The law also requires the city to provide facilities access to new or expanding charter schools that request a co-location inside a public school building or otherwise pay the charter's rent and an additional 20 percent increase in funding per student.

The budget will give an additional \$500 in per-pupil funding to city charters over the next three years. Charters currently receive
Continued on Page 58

Wills hails cooperation on homeless deal

BY RICH BOCKMANN

More than 10,000 homeless families — including 22,000 children — will get a helping hand to land back on their feet now that the state has agreed to free up money for a city rent-assistance program, City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) said.

"Now what we have to do is we have to devise a plan that the state will go along with in the scope and in the requirements of the plan to make sure we come up with something that's sustainable and measurable," said Wills, who authored a resolution asking Albany to remove language



Councilman Ruben Wills is hailing the cooperation among his colleagues in city and state government in successfully lobbying Albany to free up funds for a rent-subsidy program for the city's homeless.

from its budget preventing the city from using state funds to help the homeless with rent.

When the state cut funding in 2011 forcing the Bloomberg administration to end its Advantage program, lawmakers added language that prohibited the city from using state funds to provide rental assistance to the homeless.

After the Council's General Welfare Committee held a hearing last week on Wills' resolution, the councilman and homeless advocates worked with Albany lawmakers — including state Assemblywomen Vivian Cook (D-Jamaica) and
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The state budget deal effectively clears the way for a Success Academy charter school to open inside the August Martin High School building in South Jamaica in September.

Matching funds plans fumble in capital

County's state pols say public campaign financing pilot for one official too limited, too last minute

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Several of Queens' state legislators lamented that a public campaign finance pilot program approved in the New York state budget was limited to the state comptroller's race in 2014.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Albany's legislative leaders heralded the move in a joint memo, noting that the pilot would attempt to test how a system modeled after the city's matching funds program would fare statewide.

City candidates who opt into the public financing program receive \$6 per every \$1 raised from a city resident, with the city's disbursements capped at \$175 per contributor.

The public financing, often called matching funds, is only released if candidates surpass fundraising thresholds meant to suss out who is a viable can-



Gov. Andrew Cuomo (c.) and state legislative leaders praise a public campaign finance program pilot included in the New York budget.

AP Photo/Mike Groll

didate. The program aims to reduce the influence of money in politics and help make city elections more competitive.

The pilot program, which became effective

with the budget's adoption, would require state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to forfeit money he has previously raised for his re-election campaign if he decided to participate in

the test run.

DiNapoli, who has been pushing for public financing in state elections, described the last-minute budget deal as a fumble, in part because it set the

maximum amount a candidate participating in the pilot could accept from one contributor at \$6,000 rather than the \$2,000 he had proposed.

"The new proposal fails to set reasonable limitations on donations and assigns implementation to an organization that the Moreland Commission found dysfunctional," DiNapoli said of the state Board of Elections in a statement. "There are also questions on whether this new proposal can be fairly and reasonably implemented in such a short time frame or whether it was set up for failure."

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) shared the comptroller's concerns, noting that at least one good government group had been calling for comptroller candidates not to partake in the pilot to protest its limited scope.

"You can't have a pilot

program on one race for one election cycle," he said. "If it's not used, those who are against it will say, 'See, we tried. It failed. We can't use it.'"

The senator said early negotiations had focused on building up a fund for the public financing system for a few years before enacting pilots or a permanent system.

He and Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing) said they believed a public financing system would temper the influence of large donors in Albany.

"The current proposal is a poorly disguised stalling tactic that puts New Yorkers at least another year from fair, equitable, publicly financed elections," a statement from Stavisky's office read.

Avella echoed other legislators in saying he would push to enact more comprehensive campaign finance reform.

Activists blast gov for taking \$30 million from MTA fund

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The New York State budget, replete with tax advantages for businesses and taxpayers but helpless against Gov. Andrew Cuomo's ability to dip into \$30 million earmarked for mass transit, has passed the state Legislature and is now a done deal.

Transit activists were not comforted by the fact that the \$40 million kitty meant for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority had lost \$30 million to the governor and was shorn of its hands-off status.

Seven transit activist organizations said the governor's move to raid the transit fund could mean



Transit advocacy organizations warn that the MTA may have to raise fares now that millions in funds have been diverted from the agency.

higher fares and few improvements for the city's bus and subway riders.

"Sadly, our elected officials have sent a clear message that they can and will use the MTA as a piggy

bank, siphoning dollars out of the pockets of transit riders," the transit groups said.

The transit activists thanked two Brooklyn leg-

Continued on Page 53

Pair of Glendale freight trains slated to get \$3 M for upgrades

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Citizens United for Railroad Environmental Solutions rejoiced when state legislators secured \$3 million in the New York budget to retrofit a locomotive with a newer, cleaner engine for the second consecutive year.

CURES, a group mainly comprised of Middle Village and Glendale residents living along the railroad tracks leading to the Fresh Pond Rail Terminal, said the \$6 million collectively allocated for overhauling two of the 11 locomotives used to haul goods and garbage would help abate noise, odor and pollution.

"Our vision of cleaner,

quieter locomotives for the health and welfare of our neighborhoods is coming to fruition," CURES Chairwoman Mary Parison said in a statement. "We are elated."

The Long Island Rail Road currently leases a fleet of 11 locomotives to companies that haul freight throughout the city and state. The locomotives' diesel engines are exempt from the Clean Air Act of 1970 and currently classified as Tier 0, a designation that indicates they produce the most emissions, according to Alexander Schnell, state Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi's (D-Forest Hills) chief of staff. Schnell said the first \$3 million

was used to examine which parts of the engine could be replaced with Tier 3 and 4 components that meet more modern emissions standards. A custom engine is expected to be constructed and installed in a locomotive by the end of 2014.

The second \$3 million would go toward putting this newer engine in a second train.

Hevesi said he would continue petitioning for state money until the entire freight fleet has been upgraded.

"It is encouraging that great strides are being made to fight for, and protect, the health of countless families," Hevesi said in a statement.

Six-month celebration set for World's Fair anniversaries

Series of events designed to rebrand Queens as cultural destination and site for tourists of all ages

BY BILL PARRY

Borough President Melinda Katz has announced an ambitious six-month-long schedule of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 World's Fair in Flushing Meadows Corona Park beginning later this month.

The 75th anniversary of 1939 World's Fair will also be commemorated with film and lecture series at the Noguchi Museum and the Museum of the Moving Image.

"Both were seminal events that had wide impact locally, nationally and internationally," Katz said last Friday. "It's a symbol of the borough and we're going to keep the spirit alive, especially among the young people who never saw it. We'll rebrand Queens as a tourist destination with

world-class cultural institutions and other attractions that people from around the city and the world should explore."

Surrounded by members of the new World's Fair Anniversary Committee in the cavernous lobby of Queens Museum, Katz said, "We are the world's borough, the most ethnically diverse borough on the entire planet. It is our asset, it is our strength and the World's Fair knew that all those generations ago."

An official opening ceremony will take place at the New York State Pavilion April 22. The Pavilion, closed to the public since 1987, will be open for three hours beginning at 11 a.m. allowing for limited access for public viewing and photographs. Hard hats will be provided.

Other events are sched-



The newly formed World's Fair Anniversary Committee announces the festivities in the lobby of the Queens Museum.

Photo by Bill Parry

uled at Queens Theatre, the Queens Botanical Garden, the Museum of the Moving Image and the New York Hall of Science. Queens Museum President Tom Finkelpearl announced

a summer-long series of exhibits beginning with an Andy Warhol showing April 27.

Warhol's "13 Most Wanted Men" mural, which hung on what is

now Queens Theatre in the Park, will be recreated. The original collection of mugshots was covered over by World's Fair officials so as not to offend visitors to the 1964 event.

A full list of events throughout the borough can be found online at itsinqueneens.com/worldsfair and it will be constantly updated during the entire six months of events, according to Rob MacKay, of the Queens Economic Development Corp.

State Assemblywoman Margaret Markey (D-Maspeth), and co-chair of the Anniversary Committee with Katz, has a theory on why the 1964 World's Fair's 50th anniversary has created so much excitement around the borough.

"A lot of people from around the world that came to work at the Pavilion

liked Queens so much they moved here. It's one of the reasons this borough is as diverse as it is today," she said.

Katz agreed, saying, "As borough president, there isn't anybody I speak to about the World's Fair that doesn't have a story."

Brent O'Leary, president of the Hunters Point Civic Association, told a favorite story of his late father's, Frank O'Leary.

Before he owned the Old Barn pub in Jackson Heights, the senior O'Leary managed the Texas Pavilion at the World's Fair, a favorite of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

"The thing my dad remembered most was he had two dancers," Brent O'Leary said. "One had talent. She could dance and sing. The other was Goldie Hawn."

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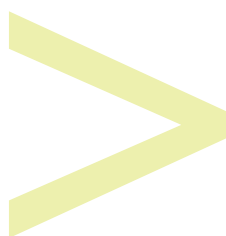
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POLICE Blotter

Murray Hill father found fatally stabbed: Police

A 44-year-old Murray Hill father of two was stabbed to death a few blocks from his home Tuesday evening, police said.

Arun Sachdeva was found with multiple stab wounds to his chest outside a Korean restaurant on 149th Place just after 6 p.m., according to cops.

He was rushed to New York Hospital Queens, where he was pronounced dead on arrival, police said.

Nothing was taken from Sachdeva and he did not appear to be robbed, the NYPD said.

An employee of a corner store on the same block where the stabbing occurred said he saw Sachdeva come into the store around 15 minutes before the incident.

His wife was too distraught to speak about her husband when she answered her door Wednesday morning.

Relatives said Sachdeva was a plumb-



Police said Arun Sachdeva fell victim to a fatal stabbing in Murray Hill Tuesday evening.

Photo courtesy Sachdeva family

er and father to an 11-year-old daughter and an 8-year-old son.

Police would not confirm whether they have a suspect but said someone was being questioned about the murder.

No arrests had been made as of Wednesday afternoon, police said.

NYPD looks for suspected bank robber

FLUSHING - Police are looking for a man in connection with a string of seven bank robberies across the city over the last two months.

In every incident the suspect entered banks and demanded money before fleeing, police said.

The most recent robbery in the string was at Flushing Savings Bank on Roosevelt Avenue, according to cops.

Police described the suspect as black, 25 years old, 5-foot-9 tall and weighing 160 pounds.



Authorities are looking for a suspect wanted in eight bank robbery attempts, police said.

Image courtesy NYPD

Cops search for Flushing iPhone robbery suspect

FLUSHING — Police were seeking the public's help finding a man they said stole an iPhone from a teen on the No. 7 train at the end of February.

The suspect approached a 15-year-old boy on the train at around 3:30 p.m. Feb. 27, swiped his phone, punched him in the face and fled at the Main Street station, police said.



Police are looking for a suspect who allegedly snatch a teen's iPhone on the No. 7, punched him in the face and fled, the NYPD said.

Image courtesy NYPD

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Beep asks library big to step aside for a bit

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Borough President Melinda Katz called on Queens Library President Thomas Galante to take a leave of absence Monday following more than two months of criticism over the nonprofit executive's compensation and the library's operations.

"In order for the library to operate effectively and more importantly, to continue to receive taxpayer money, I believe it is best for the institution that you take a leave of absence effective immediately, and continuing until the various investigations and audits into the library's operations are resolved," she wrote in a letter dated March 31.

The library receives the majority of its funding from the city budget and allocations made by elected officials, and Katz said she was concerned that as the city works through its budget process, she was afraid the library would get short changed due to the controversy.

"Elected officials must have faith in the integrity of the institution and its leadership in order for the library to continue to receive city money," she wrote. "Given the current state of uncertainty and turmoil, I don't believe you will be able to successfully lead the institution through this budget cycle, and the

library will suffer, which is an outcome nobody wants."

The library declined a request for comment on Katz's statement.

Katz is not the first Queens leader to call for Galante to step aside.

Following the borough president's request, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) doubled down on the call he made for Galante to resign after a special City Council oversight committee grilled him on his \$391,549 salary and the library's spending on construction projects while he was outsourcing union custodial jobs.

Since then, Galante has been under close watch with the city comptroller conducting a high-profile audit of the library's operations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation looking into construction contracts the city awarded to an associate of Galante's at the Elmont School District.

Over the weekend a Daily News report claimed records obtained from the Nassau County school district where Galante works as a consultant show he billed his second job for an average of 28 days a month, seemingly contradicting what he had told Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) in a letter about his income from an outside job.

Crowley did not weigh in.

Continued on Page 53



Borough President Melinda Katz is asking Queens Library President Thomas Galante (pictured) to take a leave of absence amid allegations the nonprofit executive mismanaged funds.

Pol's law firm may have bias

Prosecutors claim attorneys for Tabone might face conflict of interest

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Prosecutors are asking a federal judge to consider whether the political aspirations of a Republican attorney seeking a northeast Queens congressional seat conflict with his firm's representation of a GOP operative on trial in a borough corruption case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Justin Anderson filed papers Monday asking White Plains District Court Judge Kenneth Karas to probe the "potential conflict of interest" in Republican congressional candidate Grant Lally's Mineola, L.I.-based law firm, Lally & Misir LLP, which is representing ex-Queens GOP Vice Chairman Vince Tabone in his federal corruption trial.

Earlier this year Deborah Misir, Tabone's lead defense attorney and Lally's wife, requested the court delay her client's June trial until the fall, arguing that Republican election efforts could be unfairly hampered if party leaders are called to testify.

The lawyers prosecuting the case out of the Manhattan office of U.S.



Prosecutors are questioning whether there is a conflict of interest for the law firm representing Vince Tabone in his corruption trial.

Attorney Preet Bharara, a Democrat, claim the request brings up a possible conflict of interest.

Any attorney working for the Lally & Misir firm, they argue, could conceivably put the partner's political interests ahead of their legal obligation to fairly represent their client.

"Under council's reasoning, it might be the case that calling a particular witness would be helpful to Tabone's defense but cast Mr. Lally's political party or his interests in an unfavorable light," the prosecutor wrote. "Under that sce-

nario, the decision to call such a witness might be influenced — consciously or unconsciously — by Mr. Lally's concern for his electoral interests."

Misir told TimesLedger Newspapers she found the prosecutor's claims entirely baseless and accused the office of trying to deny Tabone effective counsel.

"No court has ever found that a female attorney, by virtue of being married to a congressional candidate, would be barred from representing a client," she said. "We've litigated this case very hard in pre-

trial proceedings and I suspect they're very worried about losing."

Karas, a Republican appointed to the court by President George W. Bush in 2003, has given the law firm until Monday to respond to the feds' claims.

Misir said not only will the firm make its case to the judge, but she plans to file a counter motion asking the court to discipline the prosecutor's office.

Lally launched unsuccessful bids in 1994 and 1996 to unseat then-U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Queens).

Continued on Page 53

Obamacare signups hit 865K in NYS

BY KELSEY DURHAM

With the passing of the March 31 deadline, the state Department of Health announced this week that more than 865,000 residents across the state are now enrolled in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

The Health Department said that of the 865,487 who were insured as of April 1, more than 38,000 people successfully enrolled on March 31 alone, and nearly 134,000 enrolled in the last week of the sign-

up period.

Health Department officials also said that more than 70 percent of people who enrolled were previously uninsured at the time they submitted their application.

"Year One on the Marketplace has been a great success, and we're thrilled that more than 865,000 New Yorkers have enrolled in quality, low-cost insurance," said Donna Frescatore, executive director of the New York State of Health website where residents enrolled. "Under the

leadership of Gov. Cuomo, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers have the peace of mind and security that come with having quality, affordable health insurance."

The Health Department said it believes it is on track to meet or exceed a goal of 1.1 million enrollees by the end of 2016. In New York City, where January 2014 numbers showed that more than 37 percent of statewide enrollees at the time lived, the enrollment numbers are "proof that the new law is work-

ing," according to U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing).

"No longer will Americans and New Yorkers be at the mercy of insurance companies," Meng said. "No more denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions. No more lifetime caps, no more dropping those who get sick."

Meng praised certain stipulations of the ACA that she said help further protect Americans, such as allowing parents to keep their children on their plans until age 26 and im-

Continued on Page 54

Parade committee names chairmen to lead plans

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Two leaders have been named to chair the new committees that have taken over the organization of the 2014 Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade.

Neighborhood volunteers Douglas Montgomery and Charlie McBride were appointed to oversee the planning of the 87th annual event and will work closely with the United War Veterans Council, the non-profit that is helping to put together this year's parade after the previous leaders stepped down last year.

With new chairmen in place, the volunteers met at the Community Church of Little Neck March 27 to continue organizing the details of the parade.

Geraldine Spinella, a former parade board member who is leading the new Finance Committee, said the volunteers have started looking at how much mon-

ey is needed for this year's parade and how it can be raised. She said there are two fund-raisers currently being planned on April 16 and May 4 to bring in money.

"We think we need about \$30,000 for this parade," she said. "We have a few thousand in donations already and I think we'll see more in the coming weeks."

With the 70th anniversary of D-Day coming up this June, the committee chose to focus this year's parade on a World War II theme and the community has already named three veterans who will be honored during the parade as grand marshals.

The chairmen said they are still looking for a woman who served in the war and for a veteran who was stationed in the Pacific to add to this year's honorees.

Montgomery said one



Organizers gather to continue planning the 2014 Little Neck Douglaston Memorial Day Parade.

Photo by Kelsey Durham

of the major things the committees have been working on so far is planning a closing ceremony this year that would feature food and drinks at the end of the parade route.

"We really want to have something to give back to all the military who give their day for us to be in the parade," he said.

The volunteers have established a new website,

Indmemorialday.org, where the community can get information about the May 26 ceremony, and Montgomery said he was also able to regain the old phone number that once led to the pa-

rade information hot line but was temporarily disconnected when last year's leaders walked away.

For information about the parade, residents can call 718-279-3200.

Vince McGowan, founding president of the UWVC, said he thinks the parade has picked up a considerable amount of support in the last few weeks, despite initial rumors that it would not be taking place, and he thanked the community for coming together to help save the tradition.

"We are simply the stewards here," he said. "The neighborhood owns this and we just feel compelled to help, but the community has obviously spoken and the future is that we're going to have a parade."

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

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HORSE SENSE

As the battle rages over whether the Central Park horse-drawn carriages should be banned, the politics involved confound the debate. Add to the mix a recent poll which shows that nearly two-thirds of New Yorkers want the horses to keep their jobs ferrying tourists around midtown Manhattan.

At issue is Mayor Bill de Blasio's determination to end the carriage trade — at least the horse end of it — and the drivers' resolve to stay in business with 300 jobs on the line.

Many of the drivers live in northeast Queens, home to state Sen. Tony Avella, who has sided with the mayor.

De Blasio is aligned with the animal rights activists group NYClass, which helped win him a berth in City Hall with its strong financial support for the "anybody but Quinn" campaign in the 2013 mayoral race. The drivers organized several years ago under a local chapter of the powerful Teamsters union, which has clout in the city's power-sharing dance.

At the center of the debate is the well-being of the horses, which ply Manhattan's clogged streets in all kinds of weather and stand in long lines waiting for riders along Central Park South's fabled gold coast.

Back in the late 19th century, when horses were an integral part of the city's daily life, Central Park welcomed horse-back riders and horse-drawn carriages with a network of bridle path. This is a long tradition that should be honored but only if good working conditions are guaranteed for the horses.

The ASPCA recently turned oversight of the carriage industry over to the NYPD, which has years of experience with its own police horses. The department should be able to enforce acceptable working hours, weather limitations and other regulations already in place to protect the horses after dealing with every kind of miscreant on two legs.

In a further move to save the industry and safeguard the horses, we would like to see the city explore building a stable for some of the carriage horses in Central Park and restricting the carriage rides to the park. The horses should not have to vie with trucks and SUVs while delivering a romantic trip in the city.

Compromise is needed at this point to satisfy the mayor, the animal rights activists, the union and the drivers. Each group has a compelling argument to make.

But in our view humane regulation is the best solution rather than proposed electric carriages, which would ignore the city's equine history, consign the idled horses to an uncertain future and deprive residents of a tradition cherished by many as essential New York.



OTHER VOICES

Keep Rockaway Beach branch closed

The subject of the reactivation of the Rockaway Beach branch of the Long Island Rail Road has been debated and discussed ever since the discontinuance of service in 1961.

Although some of the arguments made by the proponents for reactivation may have evolved over the years, my reasons for steadfastly opposing this idea have not changed.

Impact on Quality of Life

The negative impact reactivation would have on residents whose property

abuts the rail bed cannot be overstated. Currently, there is an LIRR railroad line which cuts through my district.

For those whose windows face the rail bed, conversations have to be stopped in mid-sentence when a train goes by. Sleep is interrupted. Dinnerware vibrates on tables. Windows facing the railroad can never be opened.

The effect of this reactivation would be even more severe. This rail bed, unlike the above-mentioned rail bed, runs right to the property line

of homes. The noise level to be endured would be even greater. Train vibrations would destroy the structural integrity of people's homes. Windows would never be opened but have to be covered for privacy considerations.

Loss of Parkland

Seven acres of dedicated parkland in Forest Park would be lost to residents. The Rockaway Beach branch rail bed in Forest Park is currently the property of the city Parks Department.

This rail bed is now parkland. Even if one were

to consider swapping this parkland for new parkland, where is 7 acres to be found close by to replace the lost 7 acres? There is simply no suitable replacement for this parkland.

As a representative for the residents of my district, I find no benefit to be derived from the reactivation.

Therefore, as always, I oppose reinstituting service on the Rockaway Beach branch.

Karen Koslowitz
City Councilwoman
(D-Forest Hills)

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Congress must raise the minimum wage to \$10.10

It has been more than four years since Congress last raised the federal minimum wage. Hardworking families are doing all they can to make ends meet during the worst economy of our lifetime — through no fault of their own — and feel like they are slipping further behind.

When adjusted for inflation, the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 today is much lower than its peak in 1968. Too many working, poor families are below the poverty line, which not only holds these families back, but also holds back our local economy from its full potential growth.

New York City is home to three of the nation's Top 10 areas with the highest

cost of living, according to the Council for Community and Economic Research. Queens ranked seventh in the country. For Queens residents, it is getting harder to make ends meet with the rising cost of groceries, rent, transportation and basic necessities.

Last year, New York state passed legislation increasing the wage to \$9 an hour by 2015. It is no coincidence that of the 10 states with the lowest wage gaps, seven have set a minimum wage higher than the federal rate.

Now it is time for Congress to follow New York's lead and take action. It is unacceptable that a single parent working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year to

support a family earns \$290 a week. That is \$15,000 a year without any time off. That salary is \$3,000 below the poverty line for a family of three in New York.

We need an economy that rewards hard work. Raising the federal minimum wage would give working men, women and families the power to raise themselves into the middle class and benefit the entire economy through stronger consumer confidence and more customers for local small businesses.

In fact, increasing wages to \$10.10 an hour would boost incomes for millions of American workers and generate billions in new economic growth, according to the Economic

Policy Institute.

And this is not just about teenagers working part-time summer jobs:

- Close to 90 percent of the lowest wage earners who would see their paychecks increase by raising the minimum wage are over the age of 20.

- 62 percent of minimum wage earners nationwide are women, who also happen to be a growing percentage of family breadwinners.

- Nearly one-third of all single parents in America would see an increase in pay with a minimum wage raise.

- Raising the minimum wage would help more than 15 million women in America.

Last year, I stood with state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst), Make the Road New York and Queens businesses in Jackson Heights pushing for federal legislation to help millions of workers move from the working poor into the middle class with more money in their pockets being spent in our local economy.

The U.S. Senate is expected to finally vote on legislation raising the wage to \$10.10 an hour over the next three years and indexing it to inflation moving forward to allow the rate to keep up with the rising costs of living.

The bill has broad support from business leaders — including the U.S. Women's Chamber of Com-

merce, the Main Street Alliance and employers like Costco — because they know strong wages lead to a stronger workforce, higher productivity and a growing business.

This common-sense measure is long overdue. Boosting wages would not only lift working poor families above the poverty line and onto stable ground, but it can also drive economic activity, boost Queens businesses and strengthen local economies.

*Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator
(D-N.Y.)*

Blacks need to understand politics

An open letter to MSNBC:

I watched your "Morning Joe" show March 12 from around 6 a.m. to 6:25 a.m. as it reported on the win of David Jolly in the special election in Florida's 13th congressional district.

I do not believe any of the men on that show mentioned that there was a third person running in that special election. And possibly that person got the differential vote that could have prohibited Alex Sink from winning that race.

Most of the men reporting highlighted the loss as a defeat of the U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Near the end of the reporting, the woman gave the information from several graphs that were in opposition of President Barack Obama and the negative outcome for his legacy

as president.

I could not believe my eyes when I saw this. To me, it was a media blitz of damning the legacy of the first black president. I would think that with a Republican, a Democrat and an independent in a three-way race that even the late Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder and the loving five Blind Boys could have seen the outcome of that race.

I wonder if this is the same fate that will fall to the dean of the New York state delegation, U.S. Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-Manhattan) — who used to represent a small piece of Astoria — in his run for reelection with a Latino state senator and a black Baptist church preacher running against him.

To add to Rangel's problem, the City Council speaker who supported him two years ago when she was

just a councilwoman has left Rangel and is now supporting the senator.

I wonder if the black Baptist preacher really believes he can win or if he is in the race to make sure that Rangel does not win. What a sad commentary among us blacks who still cannot get it right in helping each other. Instead, they are still acting like crabs in a basket.

It is not my intention to lambast or demean anyone only to try to show that we still have not learned to play the game to benefit those who we serve. When we do, I pray the Lord lets me stay around long enough to see my hope come to full fruition.

*Charles L. Norris Sr.
Pastor Emeritus
Bethesda Missionary
Baptist Church
Jamaica*

Columnist spot-on over religion

An open letter to TimesLedger Newspapers columnist Ken Kowald:

I want to thank you for the Feb. 21-27 column "Religious holidays should not be recognized by gov't." Your type of article is rare, and I ap-

preciate the principle on which it stands.

I am 50 and am trained in engineering and medicine. In college I started an Asian-American magazine.

I am interested in writing some opinion pieces. Can you point me in the

right direction? I can meet with you at your convenience. I would appreciate your advice and counsel.

*John Lim
Oakland Gardens*

Ban city horse-drawn carriages

Leave it to the always-sensible and intelligent state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) to dismiss the most recent Quinnipiac University poll showing support for keeping the carriage horses on Manhattan's dangerous streets ("Poll shows New Yorkers support horse carriages," March 21-27).

Let us recall that for more than a year, until a week to 10 days before the mayoral primary, the same Quinnipiac polling had a certain former City Council speaker as a "sure thing."

I am active in the campaign to ban horse-drawn carriages and was dedicated to the defeat of the Christine Quinn campaign. My

polling takes place on the streets, and the great majority of people I speak with want the carriage horses to join Quinn in early retirement.

*Mickey Kramer
Upper East Side
Manhattan*

CORRECTION

An article in the March 21-28 edition of TimesLedger Newspapers about a congressman inspiring Asian youth should have said that U.S. Rep. Ami Bera (D-Calif.) was the third Indian American elected to Congress.

Ex-mayoral hopeful Catsimatidis hosts radio show



William Lewis
■
Political Action

On March 16, a new radio show began featuring John Catsimatidis as the moderator. Catsimatidis ran for mayor last year in the Republican primary. The program is on station WNYM 970 AM at 9 a.m. and runs for one hour.

The program began with Catsimatidis interviewing Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo and then interviewing former Republican Gov. George Pataki. Both of them spent a good deal of their time discussing charter schools and the positive effect these schools

have on our present student population.

It is interesting that the present and former governors agreed on furthering the concept of charter schools. They also indicated their desire to control taxes.

The following Sunday, March 23, Catsimatidis had as his guests the chief executive of Westchester County, Republican Rob Astorino, and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani. As the governor a week earlier, they also supported charter schools. Astorino referred to cutting the budget in Westchester County.

Giuliani was pleased that Bill Bratton had been appointed police commissioner. Bratton had been one of Giuliani's police commissioners. The former mayor also spoke in favor of maintaining the horse and

carriages in Central Park, as a majority of New York City residents do.

Catsimatidis has plans for his show's future. He intends to have leading public officials as guests to discuss today's issues. He will also have candidates for office appear and inform voters of their views.

During his campaign for mayor, Catsimatidis enjoyed meeting people and listening to their views on various issues. He is now continuing those practices. He will be having people call in and ask questions of the guests. There will be guests from both major parties.

Catsimatidis believes the recent experience in running for citywide office has helped prepare him for running a radio show. As for the future, he hopes to gradually increase his au-



JOHN CATSIMATIDIS

dience. There will be a lot more interest in politics, especially in New York, as we approach the 2016 presidential campaign.

Catsimatidis came to our country as an immigrant when he was a young child. He achieved the American Dream of financial success, but has always identified himself with the

working middle class, and he campaigned last year with that in mind.

In his radio program he speaks about common sense being used in determining how to resolve critical policy issues. He has indicated that ideals for improving society are fine, but these ideals should be tempered with practical consideration through the use of common sense.

Catsimatidis has a great appreciation of New York City. He wants to improve the quality of life in our five boroughs. His new radio program can help him do that.

In the Queens Republican Party, the battle for control at the county level has ended for the time being with a state Supreme Court ruling in favor of Chairman Phil Ragusa and the incumbent county orga-

nization.

In recent times they have been going through this inter-party warfare every two years. As before, it is hoped that the Queens Republican Party will now be able to unite and work together. It would be a shame if the insurgents initiated another battle against the county organization next year.

Such inter-party conflicts will only lead to manpower and financial resources being used for party primaries when these things should be used for the fall general election in November.

The Queens Democratic Party has not had any serious inter-party fights in years. Efforts will be made to unite the Queens Republican Party. Hopefully, these efforts can be successful.

Queens Civic Congress opposes development on parkland



Bob Harris
■
The Civic Scene

The Queens Civic Congress is an umbrella organization of approximately 100 civic associations, co-ops and other groups. The aim of QCC is to protect the quality of life for Queens residents. When necessary, it works with other groups in other counties in New York City and state. Richard Hellenbrecht is the its president.

One current issue which QCC is involved with is the proposal to build a megamall in Willets Point and a six-story parking garage on the current Citi

Field parking lot. Other development plans are to build a hotel and retail and office space where auto repair shop businesses are in Willets Point.

Opponents of the megamall and a six-story parking garage contend that the parking lot is still mapped as Flushing Meadows Corona Park and cannot be given to developers without the permission of the state Legislature.

In addition to QCC, other groups and individuals opposed to use of the parkland are NYC Park Advocates; state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside); urban planner Paul Graziano; civic activist Benjamin Haber; tenant leader Susan Cleary; Marty Kirchner, of Queens Neighborhoods United; Mike Gruen, of the City Club; business owners Irene Prestocoma and Lenny Chucka; and Henry

Euler.

There are two lawsuits against the proposed development. Two interesting facts are that the city sold the developers the 47-plus acres of Queens parkland for only \$1 and that the developers are asking for \$42.6 million in tax subsidies from the city Economic Development Corp., but this latter information was a secret until recently and never available for the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure hearing.

Protesters at a rally and march recently contended that parkland should be for people and not developers. The megamall land was originally given to the owners of Shea Stadium for parking, but now they are selling it for development. A flier put out by NYC Park Advocates and Avella contends that current events held on the lot

would be displaced.

These include the Hermanos Vasquez Circus, the Wheelchair Softball Tournament and Electric Daisy Carnival.

At another event, QCC members stood with state Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) when he held a press conference asking Mayor Bill de Blasio to help the homeowners faced with rising water rates. Since 2005, the water rates have jumped 89.8 percent.

It is sad that last year's 5.6 percent increase is considered an improvement. Other city councilmen who support Lancman's views are Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) and Paul Vallone (D-Bayside).

Another issue QCC has given its support to is the request from Fresh Meadows civic associations that the city punish the viola-

tor who cut down trees and paved over a 100-year-old circular driveway on the old Klein Farm, which is in a Special Planned Community Preservation District.

The city Environmental Control Board judge fined the violator, who is the tenant there, but the punishment as set by law was so little that the civic leaders want the city to set much higher fines and require repair of any damage.

Incidentally, the violator did the same thing in Staten Island in 2005.

Other issues which QCC is opposed to are the proposal to legalize some basement apartments, creation of a row house zoning district and stopping the building of hotels in residential neighborhoods.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS: It seems that the multimillion-dollar ad-

vertising campaign by the charter school lobby has paid off in the new state budget. Money which should go to public schools seems to be going to charter schools.

It is interesting that the charter school lobby stopped the state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli from auditing them yet they pressured for more public money.

I wonder if he would have discovered exactly how few English as a Second Language, special need and problem children are in these schools. The lack of these children make their scores look good.

It is interesting that 15 charter school heads earn more than \$200,000 a year, and that does not include perks.



Kenneth Kowald
■
I Sit And Look Out

There is a tendency among too many public officials these days to ignore or denigrate the good work their predecessors may have done. I fear our new mayor is an example of that. That does not make for effective governing.

As spring has arrived, the mayor at last named a new city Parks commissioner. Mitchell J. Silver, a native of Brooklyn who called Prospect Park his front yard, is a well-known urban planner who recently served as president of the American Planning Association.

He is a graduate of Pratt Institute and has a

master's in urban planning from Hunter College. He worked for the city for some years, had a private practice that involved New York City projects and was a top planning official in Washington, D.C., and Raleigh, N.C.

Adrian Benepe, the city's longest-serving Parks commissioner, is now a top executive in the prestigious and effective Trust for Public Land, but he continues to live and work in New York and is involved in the study of what to do with the forgotten spur of the Long Island Rail Road. During his tenure, he had fine support from Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Let us hope that kind of help from City Hall will continue.

During Benepe's tenure, we had the largest program of park improvements and renovations since the days of Robert Moses in the



Mayor Bill de Blasio (r.) introduces new city Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver earlier this month.

Photo by Rob Bennett/mayor's office

1930s. Volunteers, civic organizations and community groups aided the effort. We are nearing the end of the Million Tree Project.

Benepe once said, "What separates a great city from an OK city are great parks and public spaces."

We have many of these

in Queens but not nearly enough, and keeping them usable and inviting is a constant job.

Parks serves 29,000 acres, 730 added in the last decade. There are more than 1,000 playgrounds, 660 ballfields, 550 tennis courts, 63 swimming pools, 35 recreation centers, 14

miles of beaches and more than 2,500,000 street and park trees.

Imagine if every one of those had local people helping to care for them all. Queens has been a place of civic involvement. Every sitting area, every greenspace — large or small — should have that kind of concern for its existence.

The new Parks commissioner — backed by the mayor — should make it a priority to get that kind of civic engagement throughout the city. There should not be a Tale of Two Cities about the greenery we all need.

In this respect, Queens could lead the way in showing what civic involvement can do.

Let's start, for example, with all the greenspaces around Borough Hall — once all the construction is finished, of course. Let's get that fountain going again,

even without Civic Virtue guarding it.

Let's look at places like Atlantic Avenue, which cuts through so much of our borough and could use a good deal of green help. All the communities along that route, working together, could make it a green boulevard.

It can be done. It should be done.

But will it?

We are a great city. In my jingoistic view, the greatest in the universe. Let's show it in our greenspaces. In One Greener and Greener city.

As Benepe commented on Silver's appointment, he said of the mayor's comments about inequity, "If there is a perceived lack of equity in how funding is spread around, that's easy to fix. It can be done by the mayor talking to the Parks commissioner."

Group looks out for voting rights of Asians in Queens



Prem Calvin Prashad
■
New Voices

Queens' political nature has changed dramatically from a decade ago. A year after a round of redistricting has been completed, immigrant communities in the borough continue to flourish and old City Council districts have grown or shifted with new residents.

I spoke with James Hong, civic participation coordinator at the MinKwon Center for Community Action, about the community-based frustrations with the redistricting process, as well as policy initiatives that could potentially improve the enfranchisement of immigrant communities in Queens.

The MinKwon Center in Flushing, along with a dozen other Asian-American community organizations, formed the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy to present a unified platform on redistricting of neighborhoods with concentrations of Asian Americans.

"We put together a pan-Asian coalition because we saw that many neighborhoods with flourishing Asian-American communities were being effectively left out of the democratic process," said Hong, describing ACCORD's efforts.

The coalition had brought large numbers to various public hearings on Queens' federal, state and Council districts.

Regarding the Council process, Hong expressed concerns over the impartiality of the city Districting Commission, which

was comprised of 15 individuals, eight picked by the Council and seven by the mayor's office. He believes incumbency and political considerations shaped results in Bayside, where there is a large Korean-American community.

"Bayside was one of the parts of Queens that was most disrespected by this process," Hong noted.

Hong thinks former Councilman Dan Halloran, who was vocal about the area, influenced the commission's decision on the district lines for Bayside, which was split into the 19th and 23rd Council Districts.

"It was clearly by someone who didn't have the community's best interests in mind," Hong noted, referring to the subsequent indictment of Halloran on corruption charges after the redistricting process was complete.

Richmond Hill, another Queens neighborhood targeted by ACCORD, had more of a mixed result.

Richmond Hill, which had been historically and arbitrarily divided by two districts, had its lines adjusted to better reflect the cultural and economic nature of the neighborhood. Lefferts Boulevard no longer serves as the boundary and the core of the neighborhood is now captured in the 28th Council District.

"The lines there are not perfect," said Hong, "but it clearly took into account of the community's concerns around Lefferts Boulevard."

Speaking from his current role at MinKwon Center, Hong lauds Mayor Bill de Blasio's initiative to issue municipal identification cards to the city's residents, including undocumented immigrants. A lack of identification pre-

vents access to a number of city services and banking, as well as opening an individual to potential abuse by employers who benefit from exploiting workers who cannot provide a form of identification.

A continuing priority for organizations such as MinKwon is ensuring compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

"Korean-American voters are among the least likely to be English proficient," said Hong. "We are glad that the Board of Elections has made greater effort to recruit bilingual interpreters and poll workers."

Hong also tackled the thorny issue of allowing legal permanent residents the right to vote in local elections.

"In a place like New York City, where so many individuals are here and are invested in being here,

the representation is for everyone and the mayor is the mayor of all," he continued. "When such a huge segment of your population has no say in the representation but are being governed by them, you have to think about ways that people can have representation."

"The designation of who can vote has always been a reflection of political and cultural norms," asserted Hong. "Women were not voting only a few decades ago, and before that blacks and other minority populations were disenfranchised. It's being forgetful to think that today's 'citizen' status is somehow an immutable law in terms of voting rights."

For neighborhoods that grow or change, the enfranchisement of immigrant voters would change the way political representatives regard their districts.

Drivers must fight city’s plan for congestion pricing



Bob Friedrich
■
On Point

The highway robber barons are at it again. “Congestion pricing” has now morphed into the euphemistic “Fair Tolling and Transportation Reinvestment Plan.”

Call it what you will, but it is the same heavy-handed, tax-collecting scheme as proposed in the past, except the current iteration is far more insidious. Proponents of the fair tolling plan are relentlessly pushing for this new fiscal burden to be placed on the shoulders of the motoring public.

Instead of seeking to reduce the outrageously

high tolls we now pay to travel within our own city, the architects of the “unfair” tolling boondoggle are seeking to impose them on the free East River bridges and forever end the few remaining toll-free crossings that have survived for more than 100 years.

Will this be the year it ends? The proponents of this plan are methodically building support while the motoring public is asleep at the wheel. This is your wake-up call.

The smoke and mirrors being used to sell this scheme is the promise of lower tolls on some of the lesser-used bridges in our city. How long will it take before those tolls are raised again to satisfy the city’s insatiable appetite for more revenue?

Only then, we will be trapped with the same high tolls we have now, but

they will also be on our previously free East River crossings. Do not be fooled by the snake oil salesmen promising you lower tolls and a new revenue stream for transportation. We have heard it before.

First it was the \$15 city Auto Use Tax imposed on every vehicle registration in the city to help fund local transportation. Soon that was not enough, so they added another \$25 to it and called it the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District Supplemental Registration Fee.

When this was no longer sufficient to provide a sustainable funding source, the MTA Sales Tax surcharge was imposed and added to the city’s already high sales tax. We were told this would finally create the sustainable revenue stream that was needed.

Soon, it was not enough

and the “MTA Mobility Tax,” an income tax burden on self-employed individuals, was created to provide the revenue stream. Fast forward a few years and here we are again, being told that the Fair Tolling and Transportation Reinvestment Plan will provide the sustainable funding stream the Auto Use Tax, MTA Sales Tax, Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District Supplemental Registration Fee and the MTA Mobility Income Tax have failed to do.

If we have not learned the lessons from the past, we are sure to repeat them again in the future.

And this tolling shake-down does not stop at the bridges and tunnels. An invisible toll booth will be erected along 60th Street in Manhattan. Every time you cross it, you will be hit with an additional \$7.50 toll.

Travel into Manhattan for a show, doctor’s appointment or to visit while crossing 60th Street, and it will cost you \$7.50. Cross it again on your way to an uptown restaurant and it is another \$7.50. Cross it again once more on your way home and your total Manhattan toll is \$22.50!

This is highway robbery and the robber barons are our elected officials who are poised to support this insanity. City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens), a senior member of the Council and previously a reliable opponent of congestion pricing, now favors the toll plan, saying it will bring transportation improvements and lower tolls on the lesser-used bridges.

He should know better and understand that the well is dry and we simply cannot afford to hand over

more of our money through higher tolls. Many of us in the other outerboroughs do not have reliable transportation alternatives and must use our own vehicles.

The proponents of this plan are methodically building support for it. Do not remain asleep at the wheel. It is imperative that every driver reading this must call their Council member and tell them to oppose this tolling boondoggle and keep our East River crossings free.

If you do not know who your Council member is, visit council.nyc.gov/html/members/members.shtml.

Let’s make sure the days of the highway robber barons do not return.

Bob Friedrich is president of Glen Oaks Village and a civic leader.

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Queens Vietnam Vets organize blood drive for Pat Toro

Longtime advocate requires three blood transfusions weekly in fight against Agent Orange illness

BY SARINA TRANGLE

After years of advocating for fellow veterans, Pat Toro is turning to the troops for support in fighting off an illness stemming from Agent Orange.

Pastor "Pat" Toro Jr., former president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 in Queens, was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, a precursor to leukemia, six months ago.

His daughter, JoAnn Marie Toro, said the syndrome likely was caused by Agent Orange, a herbicide the military sprayed on vegetation during the Vietnam War that has been linked to cancers, birth defects and other diseases.

Despite months of treatment and chemotherapy, Toro still currently requires about three blood

transfusions a week, his daughter said.

VVA Chapter 32 President Paulie Narson said the group has organized a blood drive in Toro's name at its Whitestone headquarters, at 19-12 149th St., on April 15 from noon to 5 p.m. All donations will be sent to Orange Regional Medical Center upstate, where Toro is being treated. In exchange, the hospital will supply Toro with the blood he needs.

"He's going through a lot of blood. He went through 20 pints in six weeks," Narson said. "I'm hoping for more, but if we get 40 donors we'll be happy. Forty will make it all possible."

Toro, 65, was deployed to Da Nang, Vietnam, for 13 months during his four years with the U.S. Marine Corps. He went on to work



Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (l.) presents Pat Toro, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #32 president, with an award during a ceremony at the conclusion of the third-annual Queens Veterans Day Parade in Middle Village.

for the city Police Department and the Port Authority police department, before retiring in 1991.

The longtime Forest Hills resident led VVA

Chapter 32 from 2001-10. He became known for helping to bring a mobile version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., to the borough and spearheading an initiative to bury indigent veterans with all the trappings of any military ceremony, Narson said.

"We bury indigent veterans with honor and dignity along with Hess-Miller Funeral Home in Middle Village. They're our partner," said Narson, who leads Chapter 32, a boroughwide organization that has about 256 members.

Toro relocated upstate in recent years, but remained involved in veterans affairs as the southern district director and government affairs chairman for the VVA New York State Council and director-at-large to the VVA National

Board of Directors and its Government Affairs, Minority Affairs and Veterans Benefits committees.

Toro, a decorated war veteran, was inducted into the state Senate Veterans Hall of Fame in 2006.

"They've been asking him and asking him if they could do something for him," JoAnn Marie Toro said of Chapter 32. "He is sort of humble and he didn't want to ask anybody for anything Once he realized how frequently he would need transfusions and that they're always in need of blood, he spoke to the hospital and decided to let the chapter go ahead and have a blood drive."

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

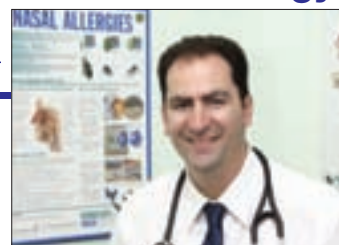
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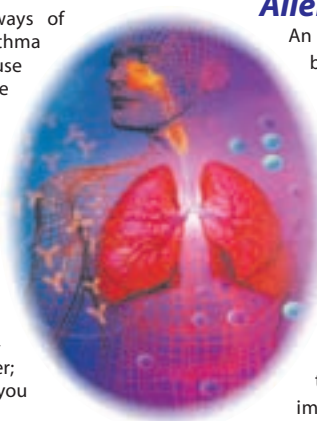
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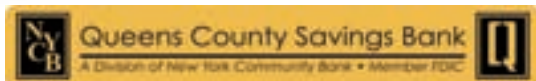
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Student of Distinction

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Aura Agudelo Rivera
Student of Distinction
April 2014
Cathedral High School
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This month's Student of Distinction, Aura Agudelo Rivera, was originally from Colombia and came to New York when she was nine years old. Unable to speak a single word of English, the tenacity and desire to acclimate into the culture and language of her new home was met with success. She says that initially, "I would stay longer after school studying new words and would improve my pronunciation by talking in English at home."

Her efforts have been rewarded tenfold. Today, Aura is the top-ranked student and a proud earner of an Advanced Regent's Diploma at Cathedral High School. She has maintained a 4.0 average and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Aura was also selected for membership into Cathedral Scholars, a club that focuses on exploring enriching academic programs.

Aura chose to apply to Cathedral H.S. due to its strong health program. Cathedral High School offers a special program – Medical Gateways – for college-bound students who wish to pursue a profession in a health care field. Students in the program are required to take yearly health classes, maintain an 80% average, and complete volunteer work.

Through Medical Gateways, Aura received first-hand experience in a variety of health care settings. These include Beth Israel Medical Center Surgical Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and NYU Medical Center, and Cornell Medical College.

At Beth Israel, according to Alice D'Orazi, RN MS, "Aura completed a year-long internship where she was lauded for her professionalism, caring, and dedication to the patients and staff. While there, she was invited to observe multiple surgeries including cardiac bypass and mitral valve



replacement, allowing her integration of academic learning with bedside care." She also witnessed a mastectomy, and a laparoscopic procedure.

At NYU Medical Center she was a member of the Explorers Program. While there, explains Danielle Tourdo, Guidance Counselor, "Aura was exposed to the responsibilities of a nutritionist and laboratory pathologist."

The third health-related program in which she was engaged was Cornell Medical College Health Professions Recruitment Program. During her participation, Aura enhanced her knowledge of medical terminology and basic medicine, while rendering desiccated cadavers and anatomical structures.

Aura was also accepted to and attended the highly competitive The Cooper Union Summer Internship Program. Her study at The Cooper Union Summer Internship Program centered on comparing the movement of heat in a computer simulation and in an experimental level.

Aura's drive, motivation and determination are not limited to the sciences. During the school year, she participates in the Art club and is a member and contributor of the school newspaper, Arbutus, and the yearbook.

In addition, she was a member of the Upward Bound Program at John Jay College. Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits.

It is with pleasure that Ms D'Orazi says, "Ms Agudelo Rivera is a grounded, well-rounded student maintaining her GPA while participating in several school programs. Her many qualities and accomplishments shine through her quiet demeanor. Her colleagues find her most approachable and hold her in high regard."

Guidance Counselor Tourdo also holds Aura in high regard. She says, "On a personal level, I have found Aura to be a warm, caring and thoughtful individual. She is highly respected and liked by both her peers and the faculty. Aura is to begin her studies in pursuit of her dreams. Knowing her drive and uncompromising commitment to academic excellence, I am confident that she will continue to excel in her academic work and will be successful in all her future endeavors. She is a true student of distinction."

And what does Aura see for her future? She explains, "When stability comes, I hope that I can give back to the community, so that girls and boys who have the same dreams as me will one day accomplish them, too. As a surgeon I plan to be involved in the development of better ways to reach out to those in need of medical assistance but who cannot afford it. One of my goals is to join an aid organization in the United States where doctors volunteer and travel to different third-world countries to help those who need them the most. I hope to bring a grain of change to this world that so very much needs it."

We are confident her hope will be realized.

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Black women's congress sets roots in Flushing

BY KELSEY DURHAM

A national organization promoting the progress and development of African-American women will soon be heading to Queens to establish the group's first chapter in the borough.

The National Congress of Black Women, a nonprofit dedicated to the educational, economic and cultural development of black women and their families, is looking to start its first boroughwide chapter in Flushing.

Although there are more than 100 chapters nationwide, the NCBW, based in Washington, D.C., has just one New York City chapter, based in Brooklyn, and the group now wants to expand to another borough.

Pauline Murray, a longtime Flushing resident, led a group of 12 other

women Sunday who attended a meeting at the Flushing branch of Queens Library to show their support for bringing the NCBW to Queens.

Murray, who has been a part of the organization for 20 years, said she has long seen the need for new chapters not only in Queens, but in New York as a whole, and said she is thrilled at the possibility of having one right in her own neighborhood.

"I'm so elated that we're starting out in Queens," she said. "There's such a rich history, particularly from an African-American standpoint, in this area and now we can say that we can bring it out as a chapter."

Dr. E. Faye Williams, national chairwoman for the NCBW, said the organization has always had members in New York, but the city did not have a true



Dr. E. Faye Williams (l.), national chairwoman of the National Congress of Black Women, speaks with Omarosa O. Manigault (r.), membership chairwoman of the National Congress of Black Women's Los Angeles chapter.

Photo courtesy Dr. E. Faye Williams

chapter office until the Brooklyn location opened just this year. Before then, Buffalo was the only location in the entire state.

"What we're doing now is breaking it down into

smaller geographic areas," Williams said.

Williams said the NCBW focuses on issues important to black women and their families and on matters that could affect

them, such as immigration, education, child labor and voter registration.

With a chapter coming to the heart of Queens, the organization will be able to focus on things that have a direct impact on communities throughout the borough and find solutions for them.

"We're an organization about acting and doing as opposed to meeting and talking," Williams said. "I often tell people to remember that a lot of the issues important to them are right in their own communities. We involve ourselves in whatever our community needs."

The NCBW requires that 10 members must be interested in starting a new chapter before it can be formed, a threshold that was met by the 13 women who showed up at Sunday's gathering. Although this was the first meeting to dis-

cuss the new chapter's formation, Murray said there was a lot of support shown by those involved and said the chapter is well on its way to planting roots in Queens.

Williams took over as chairwoman in 2005 and said there were six chapters when she began her time as leader. The Flushing chapter, when established, would be the NCBW's 111th across the nation, which Williams said shows the commitment and growth the organization has had in the last decade.

"It means we're growing," she said. "We can have more of an impact on the lives of black women and their families because we're located in more places."

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



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The students who are recognized are (in alphabetical order): Ashley Avila, Brenden Berger, Amanda Capobianco, Dajour Davis, Karol Gajewski, Justine Gerace, Dan Golban, Wen Yi Guo, Camden Carole-Hall, Lukasz Janik, Lourdes Jaquez, Jakub Kasza, Michael Kow Lessar, Melissa Lent, Nicholas Lume, Christopher Masullo, Sharon Nolan, Cassandra Pantelidis, Diana Paravatos, Ariana Prashad, Danielle Rodrigo, Krystle Salvati, Matthew Scheider, and Matthew Varela.



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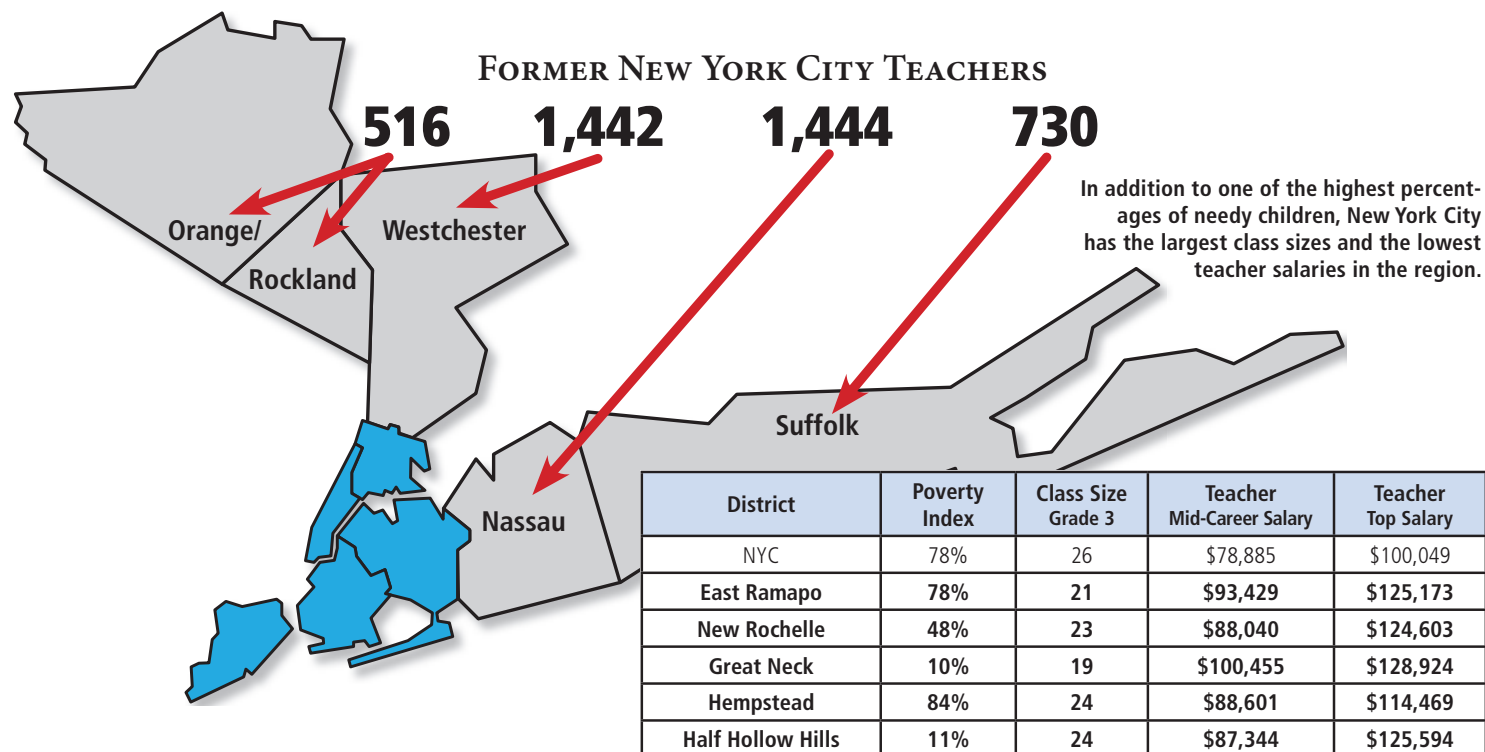
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New York City is in the midst of a teacher exodus. More than 32,000 teachers walked away from jobs in New York City classrooms in the last eleven years, with more than one in eight leaving for jobs in nearby suburban systems that have higher pay, lower class sizes and better teaching conditions.

The previous mayor claimed poverty while rolling up multi-billion-dollar surpluses. His Department of Education raised class sizes, focused instruction on test prep rather than real learning, and forced teachers to generate reams of unnecessary paperwork. Tens of thousands left, and more than 25 percent of all city teachers are now contemplating leaving within three years.

For me as an educator, the most troubling part of this teacher exodus is that the number of resignations among mid-career teachers (6-15 years of experience) nearly doubled between 2008 and 2013, even

in the teeth of the recession. These are teachers who have honed their craft, know how to reach struggling students, and are invaluable as mentors for their newer colleagues.

But under the circumstances it's hard to blame the thousands of teachers who left our classrooms for the suburbs – or the

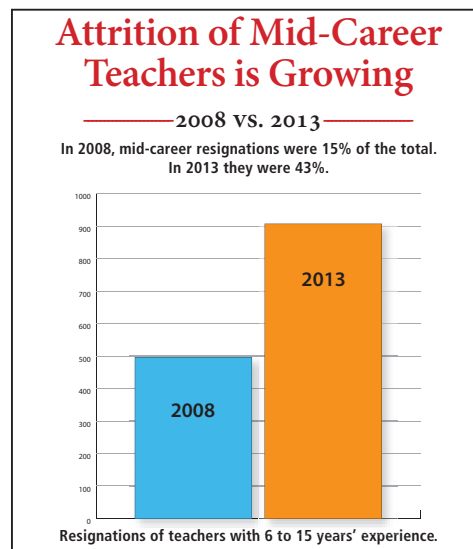
teachers who say they are now planning on leaving. Or the thousands of highly qualified graduates who will choose one of these districts rather than New York City for their first teaching job unless conditions improve.

Obviously teachers have a personal stake in this. But so does every public school parent. If New York City is serious about having a first-class school system, it has got to find a way to slow the loss of teachers, particularly to the suburban areas where pay and working conditions are so much better.

The city's economy is steadily improving, and honest budgeting will show that new resources are available from the city and the state.

Critics keep saying that New York City cannot afford to treat its teachers and students fairly. But the real question is this — **can we afford not to?**

— Michael Mulgrew



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Avella moves 2011 bill weeks after joining IDC

BY SARINA TRANGLE

After campaigning his way to Albany on pledges to push for longer legislative terms and limiting lawmakers' time in office, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said he made headway on his first state bill, which would extend legislators' terms to four years, by joining the Independent Democratic Conference.

Avella joined the IDC, a breakaway group of Democrats that controls the Senate through a coalition with Republicans, Feb. 26.

On March 11, the Rules Committee moved a measure extending state lawmakers' terms from two to four years, which Avella said he introduced shortly after getting elected to the Senate four years ago.

"The fact that it passed the Rules Committee is very significant because it could come up for a vote at any moment," Avella said, noting that he attributed the measure's progress to him signing onto the IDC. "It would not have come up otherwise."

But a companion bill Avella introduced calling for the implementation of 16-year term limits for legislations stalled. A revised version cutting term limits to 12 years or three consecutive terms — whichever is longer — has not fared well either, sputtering in the Judiciary Committee since being drafted in 2013.

"There is a little more discussion this session than there has been in the past," Avella said. "Term limits is a harder lift because the

members have to, in fact ,agree to term limits."

Avella said both bills were designed to reform the state Legislature, which he characterized as too easily swayed by donors and lawmakers' need to fund-raise and campaign because of their two-year terms.

"Part of the dysfunction in Albany is they're constantly running for office, and because of that, of course, they're constantly raising money," Avella said. "It would increase the likelihood that we would take up more of the state's business rather than having some of my colleagues worry about the next election."

The senator has said entrenched legislators became stagnant, arrogant

Continued on Page 58

Census stats indicate borough draws most immigrants in city

BY SARINA TRANGLE

When it comes to attracting immigrants, the borough reigns supreme.

Population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau March 27 show Queens continued to attract the most international migrants — 24,324 — among New York counties from July 2012 to July 2013.

Queens' population grew 20,286 in the last year, mostly due to "natural" increases buoyed by residents giving birth to enough babies to more than double the number of deaths in the borough. Newcomers accounted for about 7,605 of the additions to Queens last year, with international migrants believed to have vastly outnumbered those leaving for other parts of the country.



The Unisphere in Flushing Meadows Corona Park is illuminated with blue light. Queens attracted the most international migrants — 24,324 — of New York counties over one year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Queens, now home to 2,296,175 people, according to census estimates, was second to Brooklyn in terms of which counties grew the most over the past year.

Andrew Beveridge, a professor of sociology at Queens College, said the data suggests a return to

the pattern of more people moving to Queens than moving out, which was interrupted by the Sept. 11 attacks and 2008 financial crisis.

A drop in the net migration out of Queens underscores the pull on young Americans from new hous-

Continued on Page 54

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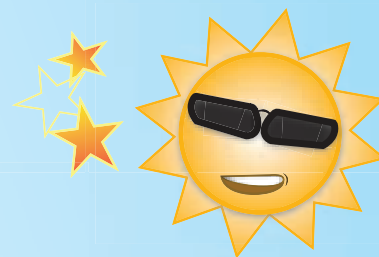
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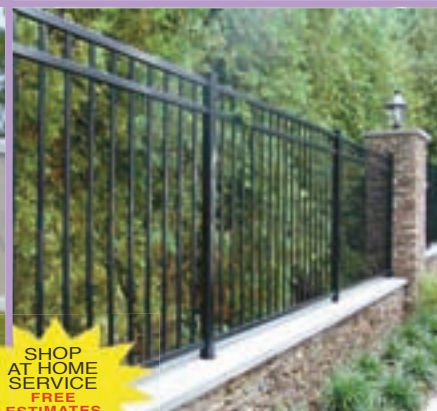
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Boro reps want immigration vote

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Queens immigration advocates joined federal and state lawmakers in front of Flushing Town Hall last week to rally for comprehensive immigration reform.

"Comprehensive immigration reform is good for our economy and is the right thing to do to help those who play by the rules but risk being deported through no fault of their own," U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Melville) said. "The votes are there to pass the bill, but Speaker Boehner must allow us to vote on it."

The U.S. Senate passed a bill last year that would provide undocumented im-

migrants with a path to citizenship, but House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) never brought the legislation to the floor for a vote.

Israel announced 170 House Democrats have signed a petition, demanding Boehner allow a vote.

"We cannot wait another day, another year to fix our broken immigration system. The time is now," said SJ Jung, a Flushing business owner and president of the MinKwon Center for Community Action, who participated in an eight-day fast in Washington, D.C., last year to raise awareness of the issue.

State lawmakers joined Israel to voice their support of federal immigration reform and to renew

their push to get the state Dream Act passed.

The state Dream Act was voted down in the state Senate last month.

"Immigrants are the very embodiment of the American Dream. They came to this country in search of better jobs, better schools and a better future," state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) said. "It is our responsibility as legislators to make sure that our laws give them a fair and equal chance to make that dream a reality."

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) was scheduled to attend the press conference to voice her support, but could not because of a death in her family.

Hillside teacher busted in sex sting

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Cops posing online as a teenage girl arrested a teacher who works at the Jamaica High School campus earlier last week on charges of being a sexual predator, the Queens district attorney said.

Police claim Monsur Khan, 30, allegedly showed up to meet "Sara" after sending numerous explicit messages in February and March over the Internet to a person he believed to be a 14-year-old girl but who was actually an undercover vice detective, DA Richard Brown said.

"This case should once again serve as a reminder that sexual predators are

cruising the Internet in search of vulnerable victims," Brown said. "Despite numerous publicized arrests for exactly this type of alleged behavior, sexual predators continue to be relentless in searching the Internet for victims. Do not let your child become one of them. Parents must monitor their children's online activities to ensure that they are not being lured into dangerous situations."

The DA's office said Khan allegedly chatted with his interlocutor about having sex in a hotel and made arrangements to meet Wednesday for the first time, only to have pizza.

But when he allegedly showed up at the Queens

location in the afternoon, Khan was met by an undercover officer and was arrested on charges of attempted statutory rape and criminal sex act, sending indecent material to a minor, endangering the welfare of a child and resisting arrest, the DA said.

Khan has been a science teacher at Hillside Arts and Letters, one of the schools on the campus, since 2011 and was reassigned away from the school following his arrest, the city Department of Education said.

If convicted on the charges, Khan faces up to four years in jail, the prosecutor's office said.

SJU student hacked by online date

Police are reportedly investigating an incident involving a St. John's University student who had her phone stolen and hacked at the end of a date with a Brooklyn man she met on a dating website.

The New York Post reported Wednesday that a 22-year-old St. John's student went on a date with a man from Williamsburg

she met on OKCupid, a popular dating site.

The man allegedly invited her back to his apartment at the end of the date, but grew violent when she declined, according to the report.

The woman told police the man followed her into the subway station and threw a water bottle at her as she tried to leave.

The man got away with her cellphone, which he later hacked and sent text messages and made Facebook posts posing as her, the report said.

The student reportedly shared the man's dating profile with police, who are now looking for the suspect, according to the report.

— Kelsey Durham

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Opening Day

Fans flocked to Citi Field for the Mets' home opener Monday. (Clockwise from top l.) The color guard from the U.S. Navy marches off the field as veterans attempt to roll up a giant American flag; Thomas Zappalla sports an orange and blue wig as he tailgates; Eddie Boison, better known as "Cow Bell Man," leads the cheers in the upper deck; Phil Alessi of Ozone Park adjusts his multiple hats as he looks out at the ballpark; and first baseman Lucas Duda runs past an Opening Week logo on the grass.

Photos by Christina Santucci



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Amazin's open 2014 season with 9-7 loss to Nationals

Mets fans nonetheless remain hopeful after game where late broadcaster Ralph Kiner, 91, was honored

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The New York Mets opened their season to tempered optimism.

General Manager Sandy Alderson reaffirmed that he expects the team, which won 74 games last year, to capture 90 victories this season after offseason additions of outfielder Curtis Grandson, pitcher Bartolo Colon and reliever Jose Valverde to a maturing young core.

Flushing native Patrick McLoughlin, who attended the game with his wife Christine and their sons Patrick, 2, and Aidan, 1, believes Alderson is right on the money and thinks there has been too much negative talk around the club.

"I don't think it's lofty," McLoughlin said, as the toddlers began to doze off in their stroller. "I think

people out there are predicting 74. I think 90 can be done. I think 90 is reasonable. I think this is a team that can get 90 wins."

McLoughlin, wearing a Daniel Murphy jersey, was able to treat his children to their first Mets game, but not their first victory. The Mets blew a one-run, ninth-inning lead and fell 9-7 in 10 innings to the Washington Nationals in front of a crowd of 42,442 at Citi Field Monday afternoon.

Anthony Rendon drove in four runs and hit a three-run homer in the top of the 10th for Washington. The Mets bullpen allowed five earned runs.

"You never like to lose Opening Day, but the last couple of years we have won Opening Day," Mets Manager Terry Collins said. "It's one game of 162. We have to remember that We just have to do a bet-



Patrick McLoughlin smiles alongside his wife Christine and their sons Patrick, 2, and Aidan, 1.

Photo by Christina Santucci

ter job of coming up and shutting the game down when we have a chance."

Mets fans are hoping for a season filled with fonder memories than the past few seasons.

Some are skeptical the

team can live up to Alderson's expectations, especially with ace Matt Harvey out for the season after undergoing Tommy John surgery last October.

Glendale native Brian Newman, who has been to eight of the last nine Opening Days, has more toned down goals for the Amazin's this season, hoping for the team to just go .500.

Newman is, however, happy to have Granderson in blue and orange.

"The Grandy Man is awesome and we took him from the Yankees, baby," Newman said before Granderson struck out three times.

The chilly Opening Day, with game-time temperature at 44 degrees, was filled the pageantry of introducing the new team and a huge American flag was stretched across the outfield as the national

anthem was sung. Harvey, Granderson and David Wright were met with the biggest applause and first basemen Ike Davis and shortstop Ruben Tejada received a mix of boos and cheers.

"We are hoping for the best and we always support them," said Corona native and season ticket holder Janneth Bascayan, who attended the game with her sister Jackeline.

The Mets remembered longtime announcer and Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner with a pre-game moment of silence. Kiner, who died last month at the age of 91, has a logo in his honor behind home plate and on the left field wall. A special "Kinners Korner" exhibit was unveiled in Citi Field.

"Everyone is going to miss Ralph Kiner," said longtime Mets fan Gary Thomas, 58, of Springfield

Gardens.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, a known Red Sox fan, threw out the first pitch joined by five children from an East Harlem tutorial program that was leveled by a gas explosion last month.

The mayor said before the first pitch that he was fine with whatever response the crowd gave him, but he had been "working on his knuckle curve at the Park Slope Armory."

"I think everyone is going to be too cold to respond, but whatever it is it is," de Blasio said. "Sports fans have a right to express themselves anyway they want."

De Blasio was able to toss a strike on the outside corner, before and after which he was loudly booed.

But de Blasio wasn't the only one on the receiving end of fans' disapproval.

Continued on Page 54

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City Councilmen Peter Koo (l-r.) and I. Daneek Miller and Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer join 10 other Council members in the new Policy Working Group. Photos by Christina Santucci

Speaker taps three Qns pols to join policy working group

BY ALEX ROBINSON

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan) named three Queens Council members to her new Policy Working Group last week.

Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), as well as Councilmen Peter Koo (D-Flushing) and I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans), will join 10 other members on the new panel, a group that will vet bills and was created in the hope of making the Council's legislative process more democratic, the speaker's office said.

"Our goal from Day 1 has been to open up the Council and to make it more accessible to everyone, and that's just what this Policy Working Group will do," Mark-Viverito said. "I look forward to helping build consensus on our shared priorities for New York City."

The speaker's office

said the new group will work to gain consensus on priority bills and will offer a chance for members to collaborate to help set the agenda.

"Through this transformative Policy Working Group, the New York City Council will help usher in a more transparent legislative process, which promises to advocate for public policy initiatives that will improve the lives of all New Yorkers," Van Bramer said.

The working group will also provide Council members with a way of petitioning the speaker to get their bills passed, Koo's office said.

Council members will not be required to go through the working group to get their bills through committee or up for a vote.

The group's members will convene twice a month and their meetings will not be public.

"This group will allow for a new, more inclusive

process for members representing diverse constituencies to help steer the direction of policy in the City Council," Miller said.

Of the three Queens councilmen appointed to the working group, Koo is the only one who sided with Mark-Viverito's opponent during the speaker's race.

Koo's office said his appointment to the working group is a sign of his growing legislative clout on the Council.

"This group is being empowered to review, prioritize and build consensus on legislation in the City Council as well as identify and build support for policy initiatives," Koo said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and to bringing my expertise and ideas to the group."

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

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FERRERAS PRESENTS WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH AND FASHION EVENT WITH THE COCA-COLA COMPANY AND ELMCOR *Photos by Ken Maldonado*



1 City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito addresses the crowd at the third-annual Women's Heart Health & Fashion event in Corona.



2 Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, (l.) Public Advocate Letitia James, (fourth l.) and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (fifth l.) receive "Outstanding Woman Awards" from Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (third from l.).



3 Models showcase clothing from JC Penney during the festivities at Elmcort Youth and Adult Activities Center.

RICHARD HONORS COMMUNITY LEADERS AT WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION IN ST. ALBANS *Photos by Christina Santucci*



4 Councilman Donovan Richards (l.) introduces women who were presented with proclamations during a Women's History Month celebration at the Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center in St. Albans.



5 Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (fifth l.), Councilman Donovan Richards (sixth l.) and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz (seventh l.) gather with honorees (l.-r.) Annette Bradley, a representative of The Edge School of the Arts, Valerie West, Doris Jacobs, Marcia O'Brien, Bess DeBethem, Lilly Lucas, Khadijat Oluwo and Silaka Cox.



6 Deputy Queens Borough President Leroy Comrie (l.) is joined by Councilman I. Daneek Miller, who was elected to his seat.



7 Dancers from The Edge School of the Arts perform a tap dance number for the crowd.

ELECTED OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE DESIGNATION OF KAUFMAN ARTS DISTRICT IN ASTORIA *Photos by Walter Karling*



8 Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, (l.-r.) joins Kaufman Astoria Studios President Hal Rosenbluth, state Sen. Michael Gianaris and Executive Director of the Museum of the Moving Image Carl Goodman in Astoria as the neighborhood is designated the Kaufman Arts District.



9 Queens Council on the Arts Managing Director Lynn Lobell, (l.-r.) State Assemblywoman Marge Markey, Kaufman Astoria Studios President Hal Rosenbluth, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, state Sen. Michael Gianaris and the Executive Director of the Museum of the Moving Image Carl Goodman hold the arts district proclamation.



10 Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer tries on a ringmaster outfit from the Kaufman Studios.

SANDY RECOVERY TEAM APPOINTED BY MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO *Photos by Christina Santucci*



11 Mayor Bill de Blasio, (l.) is joined by (l.-r.) state Sen. Joseph Addabbo, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, Councilman Donovan Richards and Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito in the Rockaways to announce new Sandy recovery leadership.



12 Appointees Daniel Zarrilli, Amy Peterson and Bill Goldstein applaud during the news conference, held in the Seaside branch of Queens Library.



13 U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (l.) shakes hands with Dan Mundy Sr., a member of Community Board 14 and founder of the Jamaica Bay Eco-Watchers.

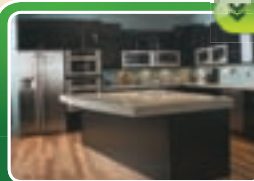


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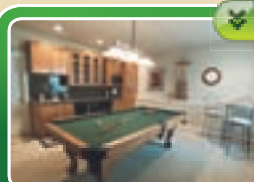
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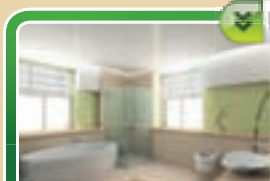
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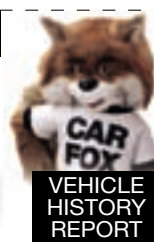
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Avonte's teacher knew he was a runner: Mother

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Avonte Oquendo's mother broke her silence last week for the first time since her son's remains washed up on the College Point shore in January.

"Someone has to pay for this mistake," Vanessa Fontaine told reporters at a news conference in her lawyer's Manhattan office last Thursday.

Fontaine reacted to a new report by the special commissioner of investigation for the city's schools, which revealed Avonte's teacher, Julie Murray, had been warned by Fontaine that the autistic teen was a runner before he disappeared and failed to share this information with the school's administrators.

Murray had made a point of obtaining information about her students enrolled in the Riverview School in case there were

any safety concerns parents had, the report said.

"Please make sure you keep an eye out. He likes to run," Avonte's mother wrote to Murray.

But Murray never told this to the paraprofessionals who came into daily contact with Avonte, nor did she reveal it to any of the school's administrators, the report said.

"The assumption I had was that she was sharing this," Fontaine said. "Everyone was to look out for my child, not just her, but whoever was taking care of him."

The report included the testimony of school staff members who came into contact with Avonte Oct. 4, the day he vanished from the Riverview School, at 150 51st Ave., near the East River.

The 14-year-old, who could not speak, had been in Murray's class that



Avonte's mother, Vanessa Fontaine, reacts to a new report that revealed new details on the autistic boy's disappearance.

Photo by Alex Robinson; inset courtesy NYPD

morning.

Murray, with the help of a paraprofessional, had lined up her students at 12:05 p.m. and escorted

them to the cafeteria for lunch.

Between 12:30 p.m. and 12:40 p.m., the report said two paraprofessionals and

another teacher lined the students up again to take them back to class. By the time they had reached the classroom on the second floor, they noticed Avonte was gone, the report said.

Video footage showed Avonte exiting a stairwell and entering a first-floor hallway at 12:37 p.m.

A security guard who was signing in a parent at the time said she saw Avonte running past the elevators and toward the women's bathroom, the report said. She told investigators she called out, "Excuse me" to the boy, but she could not chase him as she was the only one at the security desk.

A video that recently surfaced showed that Avonte then headed down a corridor and darted out of a door, which was left open by an unidentified man.

Fontaine filed court papers in January, hoping

to reverse the Police Department's denial of a Freedom of Information Law request her lawyer filed on her behalf requesting information about the NYPD's investigation into Avonte's disappearance.

Fontaine's lawyer said the mother now intends to file a wrongful death suit against the city and city Department of Education, but is waiting until the NYPD releases the information she asked for.

Avonte's mother said she has not heard an apology from the mayor or any other city official.

The special commissioner's report has been referred to the Queens district attorney, the city DOE and the state Education Department for review.

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

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Activists help women get checked for breast cancer

In December 2010, Darcy Novick was diagnosed with breast cancer. A year later she was on a lunch break from her job in Long Island City, and she happened to notice a bus from the American Italian Cancer Foundation. They were offering free mammograms and breast cancer screenings. As a result she started the Bosom Buddies Organization.

To date Bosom Buddies has raised \$100,000 for the American Cancer Association through fund-raising events like Bowling for the Cure, Laugh for the Cure, Walk

for the Cure, Eat for the Cure, Dance for the Cure and Rally for the Cure. Novick is a bubbly, enthusiastic, energetic woman who gives much of her time to support ACS. Her mission is to make sure that every woman, regardless of means, gets a yearly mammogram and breast exam as well as ultimately finding a cure for cancer.

Along the way, she has partnered with Stephanie Gonzalez of the American Italian Cancer Foundation, Allison DeRosa of NY Family Docs and Linda Marr, vice president of community outreach at NY Community Bank.

Collectively they are organizing a number of future events and organizers offered mammograms to women in Corona last week.

The American-Italian Cancer Foundation's Mobile Care Clinic was parked in the Queens County Savings Bank March 26. The test was available to women age 40 and older, who have health insurance, and age 50 and older, with or without health insurance. For more information and information about upcoming events, visit thebosombuddies.com.



Linda Marr, (l.) vice president of NY Community Bank, smiles alongside Darcy Novick, founder of The Bosom Buddies.

Photo by Sherri Rossi



Linda Marr, (l.-r.) vice president of NY Community Bank, joins Stephanie Gonzalez of American Italian Cancer Foundation and Toby Sabo, a mammogram technician with Multi Diagnostic Services.

Photo by Sherri Rossi

Divorce Caribbean Style

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

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

According to Alan Alford,

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

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

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

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Lancman to keep an eye on new NYPD watchdog

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city Council's Public Safety Committee is hoping the new NYPD inspector general can effectively walk the line between deterring crime and protecting civil liberties.

Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest), one of two borough lawmakers on the committee, said he wishes the new appointee the best of luck and will be keeping a watchful eye on his progress.

"Our new inspector general, Philip Eure, has a tough job ahead of him — to make sure that the Police Department is using best practices to keep us safe from a myriad of threats without compromising our civil liberties," he said. "I wish him well, but I intend to closely monitor his work



PHILIP EURE

Eure, executive director of Washington, D.C.'s Office of Police Complaints, to be the first inspector general to oversee the NYPD.

Eure, 52, said he would work to restore the "public's confidence" in the city's police force, mirroring the language the City Council used last year when lawmakers pushed through a package of controversial measures to provide more accountability with the department in the wake of backlash over its stop-and-frisk practices.

"Providing oversight that enriches police work and fosters greater understanding between law enforcement and the public has been the focus of my career," he said. "I will ensure that we conduct thorough investigations to effect re-

Continued on Page 53

to ensure that he is helping the police department accomplish both of these objectives."

Mark Peters, Mayor Bill de Blasio's pick to head the city Department of Investigation, Friday announced he had chosen

111th Pct. singles out two officers for series of drunk driving arrests

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Two members of the NYPD were honored by their commanding officer at the 111th Precinct this week after they racked up more than two dozen drunk driving arrests over a three-month span.

Officers Anthony Giordano and Michael Miron were presented with awards from Deputy Inspector Jason Huerta at the precinct's monthly community council meeting Tuesday night.

Huerta said the two officers, recognized as Cops of the Month for February and March, made 25 DWI arrests within the precinct from January to March.

"As you know, Bayside is a nightlife attraction and one of our responsibilities at the 111th is to make sure people are safe from drunk

drivers," Huerta said. "Too often, lives are cut short by drunk driving, and these officers were progressive about the issue."

Huerta said DWI arrests are an important part of what the precinct does and praised the night patrol officers for consistently being alert and catching offenders. Miron said the majority of their arrests were made along Bell Boulevard near Northern Boulevard, where a stretch of restaurants and bars often have patrons in and out until the early morning hours.

Huerta also thanked the highway units that patrol the Clearview and Long Island expressways as well as other highways that surround the Bayside area and said their extra enforcement also helps keep the streets safe from drunk drivers.

"We have very active officers here and we're always very on top of this problem," he said.

During the monthly meeting, Huerta also warned of the ongoing Green Dot pay card scam that he said the precinct continues to have a problem with.

He said callers contact people, posing as an agency, and ask for money, usually telling the person that they owe money on a bill or a family member is in trouble. The caller then convinces the victim to purchase a Green Dot card and put money on it before they cash it out and steal the dollar amount put on it.

Huerta said the perpetrators running the scam usually target the elderly but advised everyone to be careful if they receive a

Continued on Page 54



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Christ the King Musical Theatre Group to Open Two Week Production of Guys and Dolls

Chris the King High School's Musical Theatre Group is set to open their tenth major musical production, *Guys and Dolls*. The show is one of the most popular in musical theater history and is currently planning for another major revival.

The CK Musical Theatre Group has been hard at work for several months to perfect this adaptation of the show which features such popular tunes as "Luck Be a Lady", "Sit Down you're Rocking the Boat", "I've Never Been in Love Before" and the title tune. The musical is a much-loved theater classic with hummable tunes, colorful action and hilarious situations.

In the past years, the CK Musical Theatre's Production group has put on performances of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*, *Grease*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Pippin*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

The CK Musical Theatre Production will open their six show run of *Guys and Dolls* on Friday, April 4th. The production will conclude its performances on Sunday, April 13th. Tickets are available for general public purchase by visiting www.showtix4u.com or www.cknny.org

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

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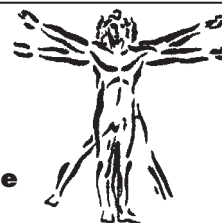
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Pets often make ideal companions. They are around when a person needs support, they can provide protection for those living alone, they're always willing to lend an

ear to problems, and many tend to offer unconditional love. Seniors facing an empty nest or the loss of a spouse may find pets can buoy their spirits. Studies have shown that seniors

can benefit both mentally and physically from having a pet around. Pets can alleviate anxiety, depression and boredom.

While pets can provide comfort and companion-

ship, they remain a significant responsibility. Seniors should find an animal that will fit in with their lifestyles. This is an important consideration for those seniors who travel frequently

or have mobility issues. In addition, men and women living in senior communities or assisted living facilities should determine if there are any pet restrictions in place.

Those seniors who have decided that a dog will be the best fit can choose among several breeds that may be a good match for their needs. When selecting a dog, consider both size and temperament. Smaller dogs tend to be easier to handle and will need less maintenance. They are easily carried and won't take as long to bathe and groom. Smaller dogs also consume less food than

Continued on page 40



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DOG

Continued from page 39

larger breeds, reducing the expense of dog food and the hassle of hauling large, heavy bags of chow. Temperament is also important, as some breeds tend to be more easygoing than others. Larger breeds may be preferable to a smaller breeds, which tend to be hyperactive. However, always remember there are pros and cons to each breed, and each dog will demonstrate his own personality traits. The following are some dogs that can be especially compatible with seniors.

Pug: Equally playful and willing to be a lap dog, the pug requires little exercise and grooming. The breed is typically nonaggressive and submissive. Pugs are good-natured and playful; they don't often bark and are easy to train.

Shih Tzu: The Shih Tzu lives for attention, but this breed can be dominant and difficult to train. The Shih

Tzu will be alert to its surroundings and, despite its small stature, can be a good watchdog.

Always remember there are pros and cons to each breed, and each dog will demonstrate his own personality traits.

Pomeranian: Pomeranians look like big balls of fur and can bring a smile to an owner's face. The breed tends to be perky, can display dominance and can be difficult to train. Because Pomeranians can be dog-aggressive, they may be best as the only pet in the house.

Yorkshire terrier: The Yorkie is a diminutive breed in size only, as they tend to have exuberant personalities that dwarf their stature. The ideal lap dog,

Yorkies want to lie around and lounge, though some do like to bark. If the fur is kept short in a "puppy cut," the dog can be easy to maintain.

Pembroke Welsh corgi: This medium-sized dog hails from Wales and typically requires only moderate exercise and little grooming. They are easy to train and moderately dominant. They don't bark excessively, and they often get along with other dogs.

Schnauzer: Available in three sizes, schnauzers are good companions and protectors. This is an intelligent and loyal breed and will need to be kept amused to stave off boredom.

Brussels griffon: These dogs do not shed, but they will require professional grooming at least once every three months. If socialized early, the griffon can be a good companion but will likely remain wary of strangers. They are good watchdogs and devoted to their owners.

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Li Ping joins Councilman Daniel Dromm to share her experience as and immigrant victim of violent crime.
Photo by Bill Parry

Asian immigrant wins U-Visa as crime victim

BY BILL PARRY

Li Ping traveled to Jackson Heights from her home in Flushing to be the face of City Councilman Daniel Dromm's (D-Jackson Heights) new campaign to raise awareness about the merits of U-Visas for immigrant victims of violent crime.

After the 66-year-old emigre from China was brutally attacked in 1997 and had her throat slashed, she had a difficult time securing her U-Visa until Dromm intervened.

In October 2000, Congress created the U-Visa with the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. The visa grants immigrants who are victims of serious crimes up to four years of temporary working status that can lead to a green card and eventually citizenship.

"Ms. Li was the victim of a violent crime not far from where we stand today," Dromm said outside his office on Monday, at 37-32 75th St. "The NYPD initially gave her a hard time when she asked for certification of the crime. When they finally gave her the certification, it had the

wrong birth date on it."

Dromm said he got no cooperation from the Bloomberg administration, particularly Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.

"The NYPD should not be putting obstacles in people's way of getting a U-Visa," Dromm said.

In 1997, two men assaulted Li in Elmhurst and slit her throat. Throughout the investigation she cooperated with the NYPD in an effort to catch her attackers, who were never apprehended, but her efforts went unrewarded until the de Blasio administration took over in January.

She was finally granted her U-Visa earlier this year and is finally on the path to permanent citizenship, a process that will probably take four more years.

"This happens often and it's time for a change," Dromm said. "I admire her for her bravery and courage. She was willing to do this press conference so other immigrants become aware that if they are the victims of violent crimes, they should cooperate with police investigations instead of fearing deportation."

LiPing's attorney, Daniel Worontzoff, said, "Without the protection that a U-Visa offers, undocumented immigrants would be easy targets for predatory criminals. With the dedication of individuals in law enforcement and government, like Councilman Dromm, the U-Visa program can operate effectively."

Carrey Wong, an attorney with the New York Asian Women's Center who helped with Li Ping's case, said, "The U-Visa is a powerful option for undocumented survivors. It helps reclaim power from their abusers, many of whom dangled the survivor's immigration status in front of them as an ongoing threat. The U-Visa also empowers the survivor to be a part of the solution by taking perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault off the streets, preventing them from harming others."

Wong's New York Asian Women's Center is based in Elmhurst but never gives out its address so perpetrators cannot track down their victims, according to Dromm.

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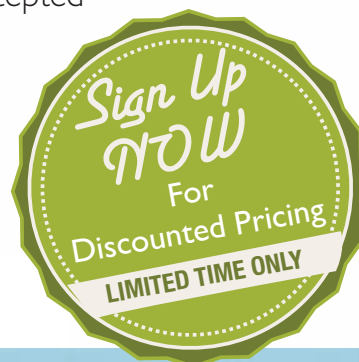
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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



SPRING MOVES

AT DANCE STUDIO

New season's arrival is celebrated at 8th annual Green Space Blooms Festival in Long Island City

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

If you've never seen buckets of water used as creative props in modern dance or dancers' bodies birthed out of fabric cocoons, then you shouldn't miss the eighth annual Green Space Blooms Festival. It is a four-night, multi-cultural entertainment experience in Long Island

City, showcasing 28 diverse choreographers.

Each evening will feature a new lineup of dance companies representing a different genre, followed by a reception with live musical guests, honoring Queens' ethnic and traditional communities.

"The Green Space Blooms Festival is highly regarded in

providing a greatly valued resource to the dance community, and has become a Queens highlight, allowing audiences to witness new and emerging talent in an intimate venue," said Valerie Green, executive director and founder of Green Space Studios. "The reception provides an excellent opportunity for artists and audience to interact and lis-

ten to live music, all while enjoying Green Space's spectacular view of Manhattan."

Highlights of the festival include a performance of "The Bargain of a Lifetime" by Chris Ferris & Dancers on Thursday, April 10.

This Jackson Heights-based dance company is known for its fearless action, physical indulgence and elegant design.

"Fists pound the floor, bodies spiral with tactile awareness, and the planes of raw space are rearranged again and again, until you are dancing in your seat," choreographer Ferris said.

Her work is based on an exploration of movement from a sculptural, dynamic and emotional point of view. Its focus is to bring you design in space and time with a human element. Her pieces incorporate sculptures that hang, swing, glow and illuminate, creating ethereal forms

in a forest of moving architecture, and corporeal presences.

The company has been performing at Green Space since it has come into existence, and has taken part in all of its programs.

"GreenSpaceBloomsbrings together a variety of dance styles and choreographers at various stages of their careers. The audience will get a taste of many approaches to dance, and there is bound to be something they will love and something they have never seen before," said Ferris. "It is important to have dance in Queens. There are not many venues in Queens producing dance and providing opportunities for choreographers and audience at this level."

Then on Saturday, April 12, Azul Dance Theatre/Yuki Hasegawa perform their contemporary dance work, "Night Rainbow."

Choreographer Hasegawa
Continued on Page 49

Thomas/Ortiz Dance member Mark Taylor performs "Marked in a Region of No Origin."
Photo courtesy of Lois Greenfield



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THEATER CALENDAR

PRODUCTIONS

"All's Well That Ends Well" – Shakespeare's comedy is a mix of fairy tale logic, gender role reversals and cynical realism.
When: Through April 6
Where: The Performance Space at

Rathaus Hall, Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: \$16/adults, \$10/seniors and students with Queens College ID
Contact: (718)793-8080
Website: kupferbergcenter.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.targetmargintheater.com
Continued on Page 48



THESE GUYS ONLY DOING IT FOR SOME DOLLS

Middle Village's Christ the King Musical Theatre Group slips back to 1950s Broadway with its production of "Guys and Dolls." The story of an unlikely romance between gambler Sky Masterson and Salvation Army Sgt. Sarah Brown includes such memorable tunes as "Luck Be A Lady," "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat" and the title song. The show runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from April 4 to April 13. For information and tickets, check out www.ckny.org.
Photo courtesy Christ the King High School

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #86								
	7					8		
	5	9	4			1		
		8			2		3	4
5				7	3			
			1		4			
			6	5				1
3	8		9			2		
		6			5	3	9	
	1						6	

Hard #86								
			7		8	2		
8		9		3	4		1	
4								6
		4						3
		7				9		
6						1		
1								2
	9		3	4		5		1
		6	2		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
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Hibino heads north to open second site in LIC

Home-style cooking à la Kyoto, Japan and house-made tofu are stars of new restaurant's menu

BY SUZANNE PARKER

Hibino, in Long Island City, is the second location of the similarly named Cobble Hill, Brooklyn Japanese restaurant.

It specializes in house-made tofu and obanzai ryourei. Obanzai ryourei is the traditional home-style cooking of Kyoto. It is made up of multiple small simple dishes with an emphasis on local seasonal ingredients (where have we heard that before?)

Although Hibino was only open less than two weeks, every table was filled on a recent Thursday evening. The hostess confided that Queens patrons, delighted by not having to make the schlep to Brooklyn anymore, were arriving in numbers. That, combined with the fact that there are only about 30 seats to be had, either at a long communal table or a row of closely spaced two-tops along one wall, meant that we



Beef kakuni combines beef short ribs with a block of house-made tofu and then is topped with a sweet soy sauce and chopped Tokyo scallions.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

endured a 45-minute wait.

When the four of us were finally seated around three sides of one end of the communal table, we discovered that

the seats were backless metal stools, and there was no place for coats. When we tried to order tea, we were told that it was served in individual pots, and

there were only two available at the moment. The third pot didn't arrive until nearly the end of the meal. Although we made it clear from the outset we were sharing everything, we had to plead for serving implements, which consisted of one set of silverware wrapped in a paper napkin. Clean plates were never offered, even though many dishes were sampled.

The obanzai are the undisputed stars of the menu. These vary from day to day. Hotate and renkon, steamed scallops and lotus root slices served with a spicy miso sauce were sweet and salty, a little briny and a little nutty. Atsuage, thick cuts of fried homemade tofu arrived hidden under a mound of a cole slaw-like salad, lubricated with sesame dressing. Shrimp Toji Maki is described on the menu as "Spring Roll Kyoto style." We could see little in common with a spring roll. It's made of a clump of

Continued on Page 50

IF YOU GO

Hibino LIC

10-70 Jackson Avenue
Long Island City
(718) 392-5190

www.hibino-lic.com

Price Range: Obanzai: \$5, Appetizers: \$6-12, Entrée: \$14-20

Cuisine: Japanese, feature obanzai (Kyoto style small plates)

Setting: Small and spartan.

Service: A work in progress

Hours: Monday-Saturday 5:30 pm-10 pm, closed Sundays. Lunch coming soon.

Reservations: No

Alcohol: License pending

Parking: Street

Dress: casual

Children: Welcome

Music: No

Takeout: Yes

Credit cards: Yes (will not split bill between more than two credit cards)

Noise level: Acceptable, considering the close quarters

Handicap accessible: All on one level, but close quarters between tables.



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A high-flying storm is now brewing in Flushing

This spring Cirque Du Soleil's 'Amaluna' wows the crowd with amazing aerial stunts over at Citi Field

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

If the Flying Wallendas attempted to stage a version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," it would probably look a lot like Cirque du Soleil's "Amaluna."

The latest production from the French-Canadian performance troupe, which recently pitched its tent at Citi Field for a two-month run, combines the slightest slip of a story line, with girl-powered rock 'n' roll music and jaw-dropping aerial stunts to create a crowd-pleasing theatrical experience.

Set on a mysterious island ruled by women, the show begins with Queen Prospera preparing her daughter, Miranda, for a coming-of-age ceremony.

The older woman removes a red, long-flowing cape from her outfit, then she places it in a vortex of wind, created by a circle of fans around the stage's edge. She watches as the red cloth dances like a flame.

Miranda then slips into the oval and moves with the material as it soars and drops with the wind.

Eventually, Prospera



A performer in Cirque du Soleil's "Amaluna" balances precariously on a hoop high above the stage.

Photo courtesy Cirque du Soleil

works up a storm that shipwrecks a boat filled with sailors onto the shores of the island.

No surprise, one of the young sailors, named Romeo, falls for Miranda, and she for him, as soon as the two lay eyes upon each other.

The rest of the show revolves around a series of trials and tests the two young would-be lovers face before they can be together.

Of course, it could

have been the story of Lucy and Ricky navigating their way through a set at the Copacabana, as long as the backup singers regularly perform more than 50 feet in the air.

But it's not the story that attracts an audience to a Cirque du Soleil show. They are there to be wowed by contortionists, gymnasts and trapeze artists.

To that end, "Amaluna" does not disappoint.

Things start off slowly

if still interestingly enough with one of the island goddesses who demonstrates her agility with the Hula hoop. She begins with one, then keeps adding more until she has five going in sync on her arms, legs and waist.

Another goddess climbs onto a hoop hanging from a wire and performs a series of twists and flips above the stage. As the hoop revolves in a circle and rises and falls, she continues

her gymnastic show.

After that the tricks come quickly each one topping the last.

Much of the action occurs above the audience as performers fly through the air with the greatest of ease, but not on a traditional trapeze bar. Instead the aerialists wrap these heavy-duty bands — which are hooked up to a series of pulleys — around their wrists and hang on for dear life as they are hoisted above the stage.

But plenty of amazing feats occur on the surface of the stage — well, they begin on the ground anyway.

Two oversized sets of uneven parallel bars are rolled onto stage so a group of petite and agile gymnasts can perform an Olympics-on-steroids routine that has bodies tucked into tiny balls flying in all directions.

Although "Amaluna" celebrates the strength of women — and includes Cirque du Soleil's first all-female band providing the show's soundtrack — the guys are not completely left out of the fun.

The second act begins with the shipwrecked sail-

IF YOU GO

Cirque Du Soleil's "Amaluna"

When: Through May 18
Where: Citi Field, 123-01 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing
Cost: \$55-\$145/adults, \$45-\$135/children, Family four packs starting at \$230
Contact: (800) 450-1480
Website: www.cirquedusoleil.com

ors playing with a giant see-saw sending each other soaring into the air. And Romeo earns his own show-stopping bit as he attempts to climb a large pole in hopes of finding Miranda, who was snatched away from his embrace.

As he climbs to the top, using only his hands to propel himself, Romeo contorts himself around the pole, barely remaining in contact with the object.

When he nears the top, he wraps his legs around and uses his arms to keep him in place. But then quickly, and with an audible gasp from the crowd, he eases his gripe and plum-

Continued on Page 50

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

George Washington Johnson plaque unveiling

— The first African-American recording star will be honored with the unveiling of a historic plaque at his burial site. The event includes a lecture, children's workshop and unveiling.

When: Saturday, April 12, at 2 pm

Where: The Center at Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens
Cost: Free
Contact: (347) 878-6614

MUSIC

Flamenco, Zarzuela & Boleros

— Thalia Spanish Theatre presents two concerts celebrating Spanish operettas, romantic Latin songs and the music of Spain's most famous art form.

When: Zarzuela & Boleros, Sunday, April 6, at 4 pm; Flamenco, Sunday, April 13, at 4 pm

Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside
Cost: \$35, \$64/for both concerts
Contact: (718) 729-3880
Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

The Manhattan Transfer

— The jazz-pop quartet brings its distinctive sound to Bayside.

When: Sunday, April 6, at 3 pm

Where: Queensborough Performing Arts center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside

Cost: \$40
Contact: (718) 631-6311
Website: www.qcc.cuny.edu

The Osmond Brothers

— Experience Osmondmania as the musical family brings its "Up Close and Personal Tour" to Bayside.

When: Sunday, April 27, at 3 pm

Where: Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside

Cost: \$35
Contact: (718) 631-6311
Website: www.qcc.cuny.edu

TALK

Derek Walcott

— The Nobel Prize-winning poet will

read from his work and be interviewed by Leonard Lopate.

When: Tuesday, April 8, at 7 pm

Where: LeFrak Concert Hall, Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: \$20, tickets available at door
Contact: (718) 793-8080
Website: www.qcreadings.org

The 1964-1965 New York World's Fair

— The Long Island City Forum Lecture Series discusses the 50th anniversary of the fair, best remembered as a showcase for mid-20th-century American culture and technology.

When: Monday, April 7, at 7 pm

Where: Greater Astoria Historical Society, 35-20 Broadway, Long Island City
Cost: \$5, Free for members
Contact: (718) 278-0700
Website: www.astorialic.org

GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

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 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

Continued on Page 50

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- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

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- Chicken Francaise
- Chicken Marsala
- Chicken Pizzaiola
- Veal Cutlet Parmigiana
- Penne Vodka
- Tortellini Alfredo

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Any 2 Choices from B

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 - Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

CHOICE B

\$25.95

Any 3 Choices From A
Any 2 Choices From B

- Chicken Pizzaiola
- Chicken Francaise
- Chicken Marsala
- Veal Cutlet Parmigiana
- Veal Marsala
- Tortellini Alfredo
- Penne Vodka

CHOICE G

\$26.95

Sit Down Dinner
1 of 3 Choices

VEAL CUTLET

- Marsala
- Picatta Parmigiana
- CHICKEN
- Marsala
- Parmigiana Francaise

FISH

- Filet of Sole
- Broiled
- Parmigiana
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A Queen's Monument to Honor an Early Music Industry Star

Over 120 years ago, a singer and performer by the name of George Washington Johnson recorded songs on some of the earliest recording instruments of the day, becoming one of the earliest recording stars in music history. George recorded songs first with the Metropolitan Phonograph Company of New York in 1890 and later with Thomas Edison. His recordings were the earliest musical hits in the United States. It was reported that over 50,000 copies of his songs were sold by the late 1890s. Many of the earliest recordings, he had to sing each song over and over again, as duplicating machines were not yet invented to keep the popular wax cylinders in stock.

George Washington Johnson began life as a slave from Virginia born in 1846. After the Civil War he journeyed north to New York City to make a better life for himself. He made a living in the music field using his powerful voice, robust whistling ability and hearty laugh. He was able to whistle and laugh while keeping time with certain musical songs. Two of his earliest musical hits were the *Laughing Song* and the *Whistling Song*.

George sang during a time period that discriminated and suppressed people of color. The lyrics of some of his songs are offensive to us today but were the standard from that time that mocked and humiliated. Through it all, George remained professional and built a substantial career. He was known for his friendly manner, hard-working ethics and was well liked in the music industry. He made history as a singer and recording artist and opened wide the doors for the many black performers who followed him with less offensive materials.

After some misfortunes, George moved to a small tenement room in Harlem. On January 23, 1914 he died at the age of 67, forgotten and alone. George's final resting place was an unmarked grave in Maple Grove Cemetery, Kew Gardens, Queens.

In 2004, Tim Brooks, noted television and radio historian wrote *Lost Sounds: Blacks and the Birth of the Recording Industry, 1891-1922*. The first three chapters of the book devoted to the life and career of George Washington Johnson. A double-CD companion to the book won a Grammy Award in 2007 for Best Historical Album.



The Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery made it their goal to erect a monument over the unmarked grave of George Washington Johnson. The Muses Cares Department of the Grammy Foundation, Inc., provided the funding. A bronze plaque including an engraving of George Washington Johnson by celebrated artist David Ostro has been made. The text for the plaque was written by students of the Aquinas Honor Society of the Immaculate Conception. The plaque will be unveiled by Tim Brooks and others during a ceremony at the grave of George Washington Johnson at Maple Grove Cemetery on April 12, 2014 at 2 PM. Further information will be found on the Friends of Maple Grove website www.friendsofmaplegrove.org

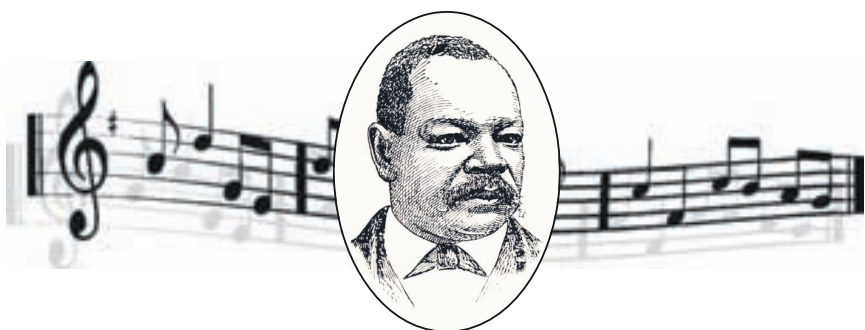
Plaque text by the Aquinas students is printed below

George Washington Johnson (1846 – 1914) the first successful African-American recording star in recording history. Although born a slave in Virginia he was taught to read and write and learned music. Traveling to New York City in the 1870s he developed a musical career with a strong voice and a talent for whistling and laughing in time with music. He performed on the streets, ferries and public places. One of his early songs was the *Laughing Song*. He recorded songs in 1890 for the Metropolitan Phonograph Company and with Thomas Edison on wax cylinders. The early recordings were done individually by George. Best sellers in the United States, selling over 50,000 copies. "He never thought of himself as a pioneer but as the first black recording artist he made history." Tim Brooks *Lost Sound*.

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The Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery

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Theater

Continued from Page 44
chocolatefactorytheater.org

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

When: Through 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: Through 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

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

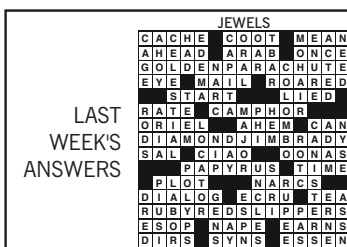
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers

April 4-10, 2014

By Ed Canty

Continental Canines

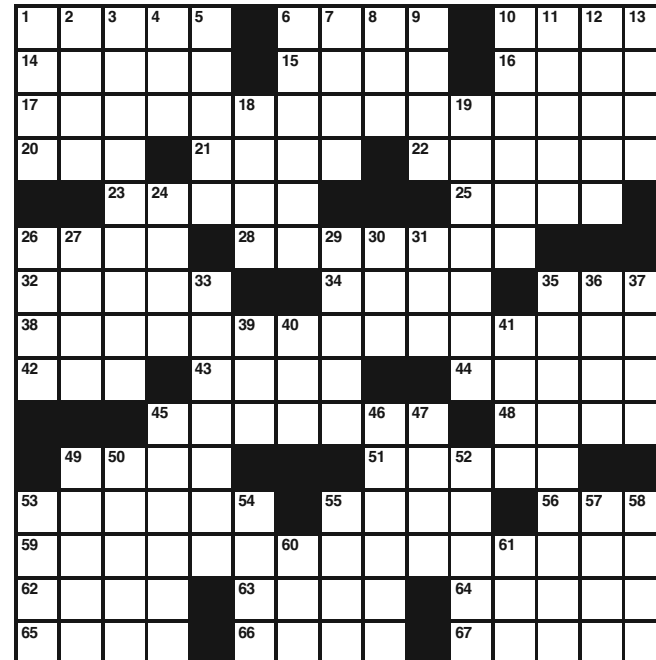


Across

1. Not home
5. Color-full device?
10. Actor Lugosi
14. All there
15. Give actors a second signal
16. Scottish port
17. Farm equipment
18. Separated
19. Transmit
20. Great pet for Grace Kelly
23. Do a 5K, say
24. Army member?
25. Belfry sound
27. "Poly" add-on
29. Wanes
32. Animal house
33. Deodorant type
36. "Charlotte's Web" girl
37. Great pet for Angela Merkel
40. Religious ritual
41. Watched over
42. Abbr. with a ring to it
43. Kind of chair
44. Very short
48. Thoughts
50. Parseghian of football
52. NYC subway line
53. Great pet for Winston Churchill
58. Disturb follower
59. Wealth
60. Grimm villain
61. It's on the house?
62. "Sunflowers" setting
63. "Cold one"
64. Manhattan Bridge river
65. Subway
66. Bookie's quote

Down

1. Yearn
2. Whiskered creature
3. Consecrate



4. Evergreens
5. Shrimp kin
6. Transplant the fern
7. Suffix with poet
8. Catch a ride to the beach?
9. Prot. religion
10. Deck officer
11. Mr. Scrooge
12. Fred Mertz to Lucy
13. Connecting word
21. Women's group
22. Approvals
26. Actor Chaney
28. Hearing aids
29. English exam finale, often
30. Nobel physicist Niels
31. Shook down
34. Shankar melody
35. Millstone
36. Wash out
37. Corsage flower
38. Perfumes
39. Part of 37 down
40. 2001 in old Rome

43. Lang. course for aliens
45. Like corduroy
46. Slept sound-ly
47. Trimming tools
49. Broker
50. One of the Yokums
51. Rene of film
54. Prayer leader
55. Dehydrated
56. Sentry's cry
57. Timber wolf
58. Pub provision

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

Continued from Page 43
is a Japanese native who lives in Astoria. In 2004, she founded her company of international dancers, who hail from the United States, Canada, Austria, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

This is the third appearance of Azul Dance Theatre in the festival.

Hasegawa strives to synthesize various styles, such as traditional Japanese dance, contemporary/jazz modern improvisation and Japanese traditional sword fighting, into her work. She believes this helps to convey themes of Eastern philosophy into her works.

A newcomer to the festival, Thomas/Ortiz Dance brings its signature blend of urban athleticism and Latin sensuality to the Green Space.

"I'm looking to expand my relationships with other dance organizations that share my love of this

IF YOU GO

Green Space Blooms Festival

When: April 10 to 13 at 8 pm, Family matinee is Sunday, April 13, at 1 pm

Where: Green Space Studio, 37-24 24th St., Suite 301, Long Island City

Cost: \$15/in advance, \$20/at door, \$10/family matinee

Contact: (718) 956-3037

Website: www.greenspacestudio.org

art form, while sharpening and nurturing my choreographic vision," Ted Thomas said.

In 2001 Thomas and Frances Ortiz started their company, which includes a dozen dancers from diverse backgrounds, to explore thought-provoking and socially relevant themes.

Other performances include Valerie Green/Dance Entropy's "Echo of



"Elements," choreographed by Astoria resident Yuki Hasegawa, is performed by members of the Azul Dance Theatre/Yuki Hasegawa troupe.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Crousillat

a Trace," in which a trio of dancers create goddess-like imagery of female knowledge, intricate sensuality and awkward aggressiveness, and its family matinee of "Wild Kingdom,"

which includes audience participation.

California choreographer Leyya Tawil and her Dance Elixir troupe will present its work "KoolAid," which shows dancers con-

tending with questions in real time that determine the outcome of the performance.

"Valerie Green and her programming at Green Space have acted to pro-

mote many artists at different stages of their careers," Tawil said. "Her curation is inclusive and at the same time well-articulated because of her vision and mission."

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Hibino

Continued from Page 45
solid shrimp, wrapped in yuba (tofu skin) and fried. The wrapper is pliable and the filling is solid shrimp. Very good, but the only thing in common with a spring roll is the roll part.

Warm house-made tofu is charmingly served in a miniature glass creamer. This dish is mostly about its lovely silky texture, as the flavor is as blank slate-ish as any tofu. Happily, grated ginger and scallions and soy-dashi sauce are provided for flavor enhancement to taste. Still, we think a better way to enjoy the tofu is by ordering the beef kakuni.

Beef kakuni is offered either in appetizer or en-

tree-sized portions. This dish combines a braised hunk of beef short rib with a block of the house-made tofu. The sauce is thick, sweet and very beefy, being made from sweet soy broth and Tokyo scallion (bunching scallion, more like slender leeks). The tofu was the ideal vehicle for this luscious gravy. The texture of the beef was perfection — fork-tender (or chopstick as the case may be) — without the slightest stringiness.

The salads and sushi were the least memorable menu items. Tuna tataki, a platter of raw vegetables, avocado and slices of seared tuna sashimi was pretty to look at, but lacking in flavor. Seaweed salad was visually arresting with various shades of red

and green seaweeds, but mostly tasted fishy. The Kyoto style Futomaki was a kitchen sink of a sushi roll, managing to include tuna, shrimp, eel, avocado, cucumber, tamago and tomiko all in one zaftig roll. Other sushi we sampled was run-of-the-mill except for uni, which had a pronounced bitter after-taste, making us wary of finishing it.

The Bottom Line

Hibino LIC sets itself apart from the competition with its obonzai and homemade tofu. These toothsome tidbits are worthy of exploration. But if it's creature comforts you crave, you'd do better to look elsewhere.

Cirque

Continued from Page 46
mets toward the ground, stopping himself at the last possible second.

Near the end of the

show, the character Cali, a half-man half-lizard creature, takes center stage and performs a juggling act that at one point includes a flaming ball.

The story wraps up with a nice bit of symme-

try as the two young lovers go off to begin their lives together, Prospera removes a blue cape and places it into the wind vortex where it dances and flits about the stage.

Twice the art as shows team up in Kew Gdns.

BY SHANICE PUNNETT

Two Kew Gardens community art shows will merge to celebrate International Day of Peace and Earth Day.

All are invited to view the Global Art Project for Peace exhibition and The Potter's Wheel Artists exhibit "Off The Wall" through April 22 at Austin's Ale House, at 82-70 Austin St. in Kew Gardens.

Carol Lacks, coordinator of the event, said she has organized small art shows in the past, but this is her first time working with the Global Art Project.

"We don't have galleries in the community and we would like to give artists a chance to show their work," she said. "PS 99 has a group project that will be on display. It's very exciting."

The Global Art Project for Peace Exhibition will include 18 Queens artists and two groups that have registered online with the Global Art Project — an award-winning international organization that has linked 115,000 participants in 82 countries.

This month, participants worldwide and from Queens are creating a work of art expressing their vision of global peace and goodwill. The art will be displayed locally in each participant's community



Artist Carol Lacks piece, "WINDOWGAP," which is part of the current Kew Gardens show was inspired by a Langston Hughes' poem.

Photo courtesy Carol Lacks

during the first three weeks of April, and then mailed to an assigned global partner in another country or state in the USA as a gift of global friendship.

For The Potter's Wheel Artists Exhibit, numerous potters have created a diverse grouping of wall art. These are three-dimensional, in some cases touchable and also functional, meaning they are useful in many ways, inviting you to take them "off the wall" and put them into pleasurable use.

The Potter's Wheel is a teaching studio and gallery which has been in existence for more than 35 years.

Owner Grace Anker said the Wheel worked with Global Art Project as a way of bringing people together.

"Last year we did a

pottery show with wall pieces," she said. "I felt comfortable doing it again. It's a nice way to bring people together."

Anker expects a good turnout after more than 100 people attended last year.

The International Day of Peace is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations, while Earth Day is a day of collective environmentalism for a sustainable future, and locally a multicultural celebration of global peace and goodwill through art titled "Peace, Love and Pottery."

The show is a free event and Austin's Ale House will be hosting another show in October displaying the artwork received from all the global partners.



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Arts

Continued from Page 46

offers rotating exhibitions and long-term installations. Currently on view: Korakrit Arunanondchai'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.momapsl.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 Klapper Hall, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 997-4747

Website: qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach

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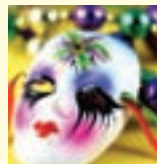


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Urban farm pushes park soil cleanup

Queens nonprofit proposes remediation project for Flushing green space to remove ground toxins

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A Flushing nonprofit is hoping to start a soil remediation program this summer that would treat soil in a section of Kissena Corridor Park by planting rice and different types of grass.

Green Earth Urban Gardens is appealing for Community Board 7's permission to start the project, which will teach high school students how to clean up an acre site near the intersection of 56th Avenue and Main Street.

"It's a way of getting young people to look at the environment and to get them to think of ideas to fix environmental problems," said Maureen Regan, president of Green Earth Urban Gardens.

Students will use a process called phytoremediation to clean up toxins and heavy metals that



Green Earth Urban Gardens is proposing to hold a student soil remediation program at Kissena Corridor Park.
Photo by Christina Santucci

could be present in the soil in the Flushing park, said Regan, who has recruited John Bowne High School students to participate in the project.

Regan first thought of

the idea after she realized all of the city's urban gardens use raised beds. This is because growing crops directly in the ground is not advisable as the city's soil is largely contami-

nated with heavy metals, she said. Through her research, Regan found the phytoremediation process, which uses plants to uptake contaminants.

In the proposed proj-

ect, students will test the soil before they plant rice and different types of grass. They will then harvest and burn their crops before they test the soil again to see how much toxins were absorbed by the plants. Regan chose rice for the project because she has experience growing the crop as her father is a farmer in Guyana.

Half of the site will be used for the phytoremediation and the other half acre will be used to educate students in the environmental testing of other plant materials that could be used in the next harvest, Regan said.

"The new Parks commissioner is very much open to utilizing our parkland and not just letting it sit there. This is a new way of looking at our soil in New York City," she said.

The program still needs CB 7's approval before the city Parks Depart-

ment gives it the green light.

A Parks spokesman said the project will likely get Parks' blessing if CB 7 supports it.

If approved, the group is going to schedule after-school and summer youth programs, and each session would have at least 15 to 20 students. During the summer, the program would have at least 25 to 30 students. Site preparation would be done in the months leading up to July, when the program would likely start.

As the project progresses, more schools and libraries in Queens will be welcome to participate, Regan said.

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

24 blocks in Astoria designated boro's first art district

BY BILL PARRY

Queens has its first arts district.

Several leaders of cultural institutions joined elected officials on the Landmark Portico of Kaufman Astoria Studios last Friday to celebrate the official proclamation of the Kaufman Arts District, a 24-block area of Astoria that includes the Museum of the Moving Image, the Queens Council on the Arts and the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts.

"This corner of Queens has quickly become a vibrant community of cultural venues and art organizations that have attracted some of our generation's greatest artists," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said. "Today we solidify

the Kaufman Arts District as one of New York City's premiere destinations for arts and culture. With the borough's first official arts district, our goals will be to nurture the existing artists and arts organizations; to draw additional, cutting-edge arts groups here; and to create an environment in which artistic work will flourish."

The new district is bounded between 31st and Steinway streets and 34th and 37th avenues. It is an area that was neglected and rundown until George Kaufman bought the underused property, at 34-12 36th St., in 1982.

Kaufman was away on vacation and missed the designation ceremony, but when his studio opened the city's first open-air soundstage in December, he said,

"I knew that we had the potential to turn this neighborhood into a thriving production, arts and cultural district for the city."

Institution leaders approached Van Bramer with the idea and, as chairman of the Council Cultural Affairs Committee, he was able to push the proclamation through.

Van Bramer remembers what the neighborhood looked like, having grown up on 44th Street.

"This place was a dormant ghost town. No people and no business, and now it's thriving," he said.

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), who grew up a little further north, said, "I have loved watching this neighborhood change. When I was young, you would never come here unless you didn't

This corner of Queens has quickly become a vibrant community of cultural venues and art organizations.

Jimmy Van Bramer

City Councilman

want to be seen."

Like the Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District surrounding the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the district will become eligible for funding that would draw more art-related businesses and further economic development bringing in hotels, affordable housing and artists spaces.

"Investing in the arts is good for neighborhoods," Van Bramer said.

Instead of looking to the future, Assemblywoman Margaret Markey (D-Maspeth) remembered

former Borough President Claire Shulman's role in the genesis of the district. Shulman made a deal with the federal government for the 5 1/2-acre lot that would become Kaufman Astoria Studios.

"She brokered the deal for \$1. It was a real-life dollar and a dream and the dream came true," Markey said.

Union leaders, desperate for jobs during the financial crisis during the late 1970s, approached Shulman with the idea of making movies in Queens.

"City University had the lease for the old Army Pictorial Center, but had no money to do anything with it and it was sitting there abandoned and vandalized," Shulman said.

The former beep formed what she called a dream team with Mario Biaggi, Geraldine Ferraro and even socialite Kitty Carlisle to form a nonprofit called the Astoria Motion Picture and Television Center Foundation that secured a 99-year lease for \$1.

The property would later be sold to real estate developer George Kaufman in 1982.

"We turned Queens into the Hollywood of the East," Shulman said, "from an area that made zero into the \$7 billion in economic activity that you see today."

Continued from Page 37

form that strengthens this city's law enforcement efforts and the public's confidence in its police force.

"It is an honor to lead New York City's first Office of Inspector General for the Police Department and to work in one of the greatest cities and with one of the premier police departments in the world."

With a majority of the Queens delegation supporting the measure, the Council in August overrode Mayor Michael Bloomberg's veto of Local Law 70, which created the watchdog position to review and made

recommendations on the Police Department's policies in order to increase "the public's confidence in the police force."

The law, along with another that expanded the definition of racial profiling, was drafted at a time when the department's stop-and-frisk policies were coming under harsh attack. Political hopefuls, including then-candidate de Blasio, were making stop-and-frisk stances part of their political platforms as a federal judge had recently ruled the practices unconstitutional.

Manhattan federal Judge Shira Scheindlin has appointed a federal monitor who will work in tandem with the new inspector gen-

eral to oversee the department.

Peters, head of the Investigation Department, said the new IG comes with the experience needed.

"Phil Eure is a nationally recognized police accountability expert who also has years of experience in government law enforcement," he said. "His tenure leading and shaping an independent oversight agency and working with a major, metropolitan police force gives him extraordinary insight as he works to build DOI's first NYPD Office of Inspector General."

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

Continued from Page 9

in on Galante's future with the library, but said the nonprofit's CEO should be held to a higher standard of transparency.

"For the protection of our tax dollars, people like Mr. Galante, with the power to award city-funded contracts, must be held to the [city Conflict of Interest Board] standard of transparency," she wrote in an

e-mail to the TimesLedge. "This is not unreasonable."

Katz also wrote a similar letter to the library's board of trustees, asking that it take action on her request at its meeting this week.

"As an elected official charged with allocating taxpayer dollars, I must ensure they are appropriated wisely — and I cannot do that while the library's sitting president faces a federal investigation," she wrote.

"I know the board

agrees that ensuring the library's continued operation, growth and success, along with its constant funding, must be our highest priority," she continued. "I believe that these goals can only now be achieved by temporarily removing Tom from leadership."

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) and Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (D-Corona) planned to make an announcement Thursday on proposed legislation that would reform the library.

Continued from Page 5

isolators in particular for fighting for the cause of straphangers—Democratic state Assemblyman James Brennan and Republican state Sen. Martin Golden — as well as the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian caucuses.

But the transit advocates also pointed out that "despite budget resolu-

tions by both houses that removed Gov. Cuomo's ill-conceived raid on dedicated transit funds, the House and Senate failed to protect transit riders."

Gene Russianoff, attorney for the transit advocacy group Straphangers Campaign, and Riders Alliance said that the tens of millions of dollars set aside in the fund to improve transit could have ushered in a new era for transit riders, who now face fare increas-

es and service cuts.

In October, the MTA is scheduled to present its five-year capital plan to the Legislature to cover an estimated gap of at least \$15 billion for repairs to the transit system.

The transit agency will also be getting ready to hold hearings on the fifth fare increase in six years.

The budget has a number of breaks for taxpayers, including for the first time one for renters.

Continued from Page 9

Bayside), who retired in 2012.

He is now challenging U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Melville), who picked

up part of the northeast Queens district after Ackerman retired in 2012.

It has been a year since Tabone was arrested along with several others, including former City Councilman Dan Halloran and state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) in an alleged

plot to rig the 2013 mayoral race.

Their trial is set for June 2.

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

Do you know a Student of Distinction?

TimesLedge Newspapers and Community Newspaper Group invite your school to participate in our feature highlighting young people who are excellent students as well as role models for their younger peers.

Nomination requirements are:

- A) That the student excel in academics in addition to participation in extra-curricular school activities.
- B) A nominating letter from your school's guidance counselor and instructors describing the student's abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.
- C) Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

D) Categories are:

- 1) Middle School 2) High School 3) College

Please send nominations and information to:

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Pre-K

Continued from Page 4

Gov. Andrew Cuomo came out in opposition to the tax hike, and when lawmakers reached an agreement on the budget over the weekend, it was the governor's plan that prevailed with \$300 million headed toward the city.

That figure fell about \$40 million short of what City Hall wanted for pre-K and did not include \$190 million de Blasio sought for an expansion of after-school programs for middle schoolers.

But despite the political setback early on in his administration, the mayor was looking on the bright side.

"This is one of the things that I came here to do as mayor, and now when

that vote is taken, it will be a reality. It is truly historic," he said.

Some had proposed the idea that Cuomo's opposition to the tax increase was political posturing as he gets ready to run for re-election and de Blasio said returning to the issue in the future is not off the table.

"Look, I'm going to speak from a hopeful perspective, because this is such a clear and substantial victory," he said. "I am going to speak from the perspective that we believe, if we all keep our eye on the ball, that this full commitment will be met over five years.

"If that's the case, we've achieved the mission. Something changes — all options are on the table," the mayor added. "But right now we feel very good about where we stand and the tra-

jectory that we're on."

It is now up to the city Department of Education to approve programs and staff in order to have the expanded offerings available in September.

Alicia Hyndman, president of the Community Education Council for District 29 in southeast Queens, said a lot of parents will sleep easier now.

"Because as a single parent, a parent in southeast Queens and a parent leader for so many years, one of the dilemmas always is childcare," she said. "What do parents do? And this — I have to tell you that filling out the application at 5 o'clock in the morning when it came online with the DOE was frustrating when you see the choices and how the limits are and which programs are full-day and which programs are half-day."

put money on a Green Dot card.

The NYPD is asking anyone with information about the scam to contact

their local precinct or the Crime Stoppers tip line at 1-800-577-TIPS.

111th

Continued from Page 37

phone call asking them to

Population

Continued from Page 22

ing developments in western Queens, according to Beveridge.

"Queens will get more yuppified," he said. "They'll be able to afford it."

But Beveridge said he did not believe the influx or its anticipated inflation of

housing costs would threaten immigrant enclaves in the borough.

"A lot of the New Yorkers that come in are quite accomplished," he said, noting that foreign-born Asians tend to be born better off than native whites in the borough.

Borough President Melinda Katz said the population increase shows the borough remains an attrac-

tive place to live and raise a family.

"The data also underline the fact that we need to act quickly to provide our fast growing population with more housing opportunities, better transportation and improved services for our immigrant community," Katz said in a statement. "I will continue to strive to address these important priorities."

Mets

Continued from Page 28

The crowd gave the Amazon's a bit of the Bronx cheer after pitcher Bobby Parnell blew a ninth-inning lead.

Mets fans want their

team to improve on five straight sub-.500 seasons since 2008.

Thomas, dressed in a full Mets uniform, has been a fan since 1964 and a regular at most Opening Days since 1972. He said he hopes to be pleasantly surprised this year, but would also be

ready to pitch in to help his team if called upon.

"I came ready to play," Thomas said, looking down at his own uniform. "If you need a utility player to get out there in the late innings, I'm your man."

Obamacare

Continued from Page 9

proving the coverage offered to senior citizens.

"I applaud the president for proving the naysayers wrong and for not backing down from those who sought to derail this law," Meng said. "It's time for them to realize that the

ACA is here to stay."

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

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Alkins named best in boro

Cardozo's Ron Naclerio picked as All Queens Coach of the Year

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Queens had one of its best boys' basketball seasons in recent years.

Christ the King won its fourth CHSAA intersectional championship in the last five seasons and its second-straight state Federation Class AA crown. To do so, it had to beat Benjamin Cardozo in the state semifi-

nals. The Judges took down four Brooklyn schools to win their first PSAL city title since 1999.

All-Queens Player of the Year: Rawle Alkins, Christ the King

The sophomore guard made clutch plays at the biggest moments of the Royals' state Federation title run. He scored 24 points, buried a huge three-pointer and contained Loughlin star Khadeen Carrington in the CHSAA final.

Alkins, who averaged 17 points per game during the regular season, also hit the tying trey with 50 seconds to go in state semifinals against

Cardozo. Alkins has lived up to the hype about him.

All-Queens Coach of the Year: Ron Naclerio, Benjamin Cardozo

The longtime Judges coach broke down crying after winning his first PSAL city title in 15 years. The victory washed away years of frustration for Naclerio, who takes each loss to heart.

He turned in one of his best coaching jobs this season. Naclerio picked his team back up after losing in the borough final and brought out the best in star sophomore Rashond Salnave and his hungry group of seniors.

All-Queens First Team

F Travis Atson, Christ the King

Atson burst onto the scene and emerged as one of the city's best and most consistent players. The junior won the MVP of the Stop-

DWI Holiday Classic and of the CHSAA intersectional final, where he scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Atson did all the little things to help CK succeed.

G C.J. Davis, Archbishop Molloy

The Columbia-bound point guard was again one of the five borough's most well-rounded players. For Davis, posting a triple double — double digit in points, rebounds and assists — was not uncommon. He averaged 16 points per game and helped the Stanners to a third-place finish in CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens.

C Adonis Delarosa, Christ the King

Delarosa was a dominant presence in the paint and excelled in the big moments. The 6-foot-10 senior scored 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds against Bishop Loughlin in the CHSAA championship. His charge, on which a foul was called on Hayes, and late three-point play sealed a stunning CK comeback in the league semifinals vs. Cardinal Hayes.

G Ray Salnave, Benjamin Cardozo

The super sophomore arrived this season, proving he was worthy of being called the city's next great guard. Salnave poured in 31 points in the PSAL quarterfinal against South Shore and hit two free throws with 2.5 seconds left to win Cardozo the city title. He is determined to make sure this year's title isn't his last high school crown.

F Francisco Williams, Continued on Page 57



Christ the King's Kollyns Scarbrough heads to the hoop during the Mayor's Cup. Photo by Robert Cole

CHSAA stars shine at Mayor's Cup game

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Kollyns Scarbrough had four fouls and knew Coach Bob Mackey was saving her on the bench for an important moment.

She just didn't know when and what would get her back in the game.

The Christ the King basketball forward's number was called when Michigan-bound wing Maria Backman fouled out late in overtime of the Mayor's Cup all-star basketball game. It didn't take long for Scarbrough to make an impact and earn her CHSAA team bragging rights in the annual matchup against the PSAL.

"Why was I going to have her play the first couple minutes and pick up a cheap foul," Mackey said about overtime. "It was going to come down to the last couple of minutes anyway."

Scarbrough, who is headed to Siena next season, put the CHSAA up for good with the put back of a missed Nyasha Irizarry free throw. She scored 12 of her 17 points in the second

half to leads the Catholic league team to a come-from-behind 85-80 victory over their PSAL girls' basketball counterparts during the Mayor's Cup at City College Saturday. Scarbrough was awarded most valuable player honors.

"It's bragging rights, you know," Scarbrough said. "New York City is big for basketball. The PSAL is strong; so is Catholic. It's kind of like a rival."

Scarbrough entered the game with 2:44 left in overtime and the score still tied at 78-78 after Backman, who put up a game-high 25 points, was called for an offensive foul and had to exit.

Irizarry, a Manhattan College commit, missed her second free throw with 59 seconds left, but Scarbrough flew in along the left side to grab it and put it back in. The basket gave the CHSAA an 81-80 lead.

"I was just trying to get to the basket," Scarbrough said. "I just threw it up there and luckily it went in."

She followed that
Continued on Page 57

Christ the King's Rawle Alkins tops TimesLedger Newspapers' All-Queens basketball team. Photo by Ken Maldonado

Construction sets sights on PSAL crown

Defending champs Red Hawks hope to fill gaps left by graduating players during this softball season

BY PATRICK MCCORMACK

It is always difficult to defend a championship, but it may be harder to do so at the high school level because teams lose key members each season.

Construction will be without big pieces from last year's PSAL Class A championship squad, but will return two key softball players who are aiming for another league title.

The defending champion Red Hawks bring back pitcher and top hitter Britney Rodriguez, TimesLedger Newspapers' reigning Queens Player of the Year, along with All-Queens senior shortstop Amy Pirozek. Construction is already off to a strong start this season, and Coach Marco Migliaccio sees Rodriguez and Pirozek, both seniors, as keys to the Red Hawks' success.

"Britney is a top player in the state," he said. "She dominates on the mound



Construction's Britney Rodriguez prepares to release a pitch.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

and at bat. Amy is the captain and our leader."

Rodriguez showed she deserved the recognition last year in the circle by putting up a 20-1 overall record and posting a 1.37 ERA. She also displayed her talent at the plate, blasting eight home runs and collecting 52 RBI in 21 games. She wants to win the title again with Construction as well as staying on top of her

own game.

"We are playing as a team and we are playing to defend our title," Rodriguez said. "Personally, I want to keep up what I did last year this year. I finished last year strong, and I am playing to be remembered."

Getting back to the top will present some challenges for Construction. It lost four position players, including All-Queens first



Construction Coach Marco Migliaccio directs his team from the dugout.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

team catcher Kailan Luciano and Katherine Valle at first base.

Pirozek, who batted .680, scored 40 runs and collected 34 RBI last season, wants to help the players who may not have as much experience to take the Red Hawks back to the top of the league.

"I think I can use last year to influence the team," she said. "We lost a

lot of players, but I will use the season to influence the team to be the best that we can be."

Migliaccio already sees players stepping up to fill the void. He described freshman Lizul Portugal as one of the team's top hitters and noted first baseman Nicole Ovelheira was making contact with the ball well. Portugal knows she is an important part of the

team and believes she can compete at the varsity level because of her time on the summer travel ball circuit.

"I just have to contribute and use my skill," she said. "I have enough experience through tournament ball."

Migliaccio also sees senior outfielders Karina Aquino and Jayleen Ovals stepping up for the Red Hawks. Construction has started this season 4-0 and has won three of the four games by 10 or more runs. As the team continues to grow and work hard, Migliaccio envisions this club as being as good as last year's.

"We need to work hard, work on fundamentals, make sure our chemistry is working the same as last year," Migliaccio said. "If we work hard, we will be fine. We expect to do our best and whatever happens happens. If we do our best, good things will happen."

Opening Day gives fans glimpse at Amazin's flawed roster



Joseph Staszewski

Block Shots

Mets fans, get used to this.

The Metropolitan gave you a look on Opening Day of what the 2014 club could be and it should give supporters cause for concern. The Amazins' received an above average start from Dylan Gee, hit three home runs, struck out 18 times and watched the bullpen implode in a disappointing 9-7 loss to the Washington Nationals at Citi Field Monday.

The Mets made im-

provements from 2013, but they were minor ones at best with the addition of outfielders Curtis Granderson and Chris Young, former Detroit Tigers closer Jose Valverde and veteran starter Bartolo Colon.

Not enough was done to truly justify General Manager Sandy Alderson's expectation of a jump from 74 wins to 90. Still, I applaud him for at least trying to raise the bar of mediocrity in Flushing.

The Mets have more power in their batting order with Granderson, Wright and Young, who missed Opening Day with a right quad strain. They also raise the team's propensity for strikeouts, and that's even before we consider Ike Davis, Lucas Duda and



Pitcher Bobby Parnell throws to first in an attempt to catch a runner off the base.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Rubin Tejada. Granderson, Wright and Young were fanned a combined 446 times in their last injury-

free seasons.

The Mets' starting pitching will do enough to keep them in games despite

the loss of ace Matt Harvey to Tommy John surgery. I have confidence in putting Zach Wheeler, Gee, Colon, Jenrry Mejia and a healthy John Niese on the mound. Top prospects Noah Syndergaard and Rafael Montero are still in the minor league.

Whether the bullpen can hold on to leads for them is the issue. Opening Day didn't provided a vote of confidence outside a strong outing from Valverde in the setup role and closer Bobby Parnell being a close call away on a pitch to Danny Espinosa from ending things in the ninth.

The Mets bullpen allowed five runs and walked four in 3 1/3 innings of work. These are mostly

guys from the same relieving core that suffered 31 losses in 2013, tied for the fifth most in the majors.

Opening Day is one game. You should never overact, but based on players' past histories, it gave us a picture of the worst-case scenario for the Mets this season.

There is still time to improve but are there enough resources?

The Mets payroll is \$74 million, 22nd out of 30 Major League teams. The small-market Minnesota Twins, Kansas City Royals and Pittsburgh Pirates are all spending more.

If you are the Mets, you can try to squeeze the most out of what you have, but more often than not you get what you pay for.

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Former Archbishop Molloy guard Russ Smith saw his stellar four years at Louisville come to a close in the No. 4 Cardinals' 74-69 loss to No. 8 Kentucky in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA men's basketball tournament Saturday.

Smith scored 23 points in his final game as a Cardinal, but was unable to move his team closer to a second-straight national championship March 29. His potential tying three-pointer came up short with four seconds left. The play was originally designed to get teammate Luke Hancock the ball, but Smith had to improvise.

"I tried to take a three-pointer to tie it up, and it just missed," he said. "Everything went the right way, but Luke was just

face-guarded and that was my first option. And I just decided to take a three-pointer."

Smith was gracious in defeat by going to shake the hands of the Wildcats players in their locker room after the game. The Cardinals had captured the American Athletic Conference title earlier in the season and their senior class is one of the most successful in school history.

Smith ends his career averaging 14.3 points per game, including 18 points per contest his last two seasons. He chose to forgo the NBA draft to come back to Louisville for his senior season and is now projected to be a second-round pick this year. He couldn't have been happier with his decision to return.

"I had a chance to have senior night at the Yum!



Louisville's Russ Smith shoots over Kentucky's James Young. AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Center and things like that," Smith said. "Means a lot to me. I got a chance to help some freshmen and new guys develop and just become a person, become a changed man, that's really

important to me." **Former Royals star Edwards, Penn State fall in Sweet 16:** Ariel Edwards, a Christ the King alum, turned up her game in the NCAA tournament,

but was unable to get the Nittany Lions to the Elite Eight.

The senior wing scored a team-high 22 points in No. 3-seeded Penn State's 82-57 loss to No. 2 Stanford in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA women's basketball tournament Saturday. It was Edwards' fourth 20-point game in the last six contests.

"My coaches kept telling me that they needed me to be aggressive this game," Edwards said. "After I got a little bit of the jitters out, I felt like I settled in a little bit and was able to be more aggressive."

Edwards was Penn State's second leading scorer this season with 15.7 points per game to go along with 5.7 rebounds per contest. She is part of a senior class that finishes second in school history with a 101-31 overall record.

Penn State Coach Coquese Washington was pleased with Edwards' play in the season finale.

"I think she played like she's been playing the last 10, 12 games of the season," Washington said. "When she's really aggressive and attacking the basket, you know, and her mid-range game."

Smith, Louisville fall short of Final Four: Former Christ the King guard Bria Smith and her team were the darlings in last season's tournament, when they reached the national championship game.

But their trip back was cut short when No. 3 Louisville fell 76-73 to No. 4 Maryland at home in the Elite 8 Monday night.

Smith, a junior, did not score a point in the game, but averaged 7.6 points per contest this season.

All-Queens

Continued from Page 55

Benjamin Cardozo

The senior forward was a major reason the Judges can call themselves city champions. Williams averaged 11 points and six rebounds during the regular season and tallied a game-high 21 points in the final against Jefferson. Cardozo will miss his rebounding, defense and leadership skill next season.

All-Queens Second Team

F Marlon Alcindor, Construction

Alcindor, who came over from St. John's Prep, was a force in the PSAL. He averaged 18.6 points and 5.1 rebounds per game. The senior tallied 25 points to help the Red Hawks win the Queens title.

G Jermaine Bishop, Holy Cross

The junior point guard had a dynamic influence on the Knights this season. Bishop, who could score in multiple ways, averaged 16.9 points and led a mid-season resurgence as Holy



Cardozo Coach Ron Naclerio communicates with his player earlier in the season.

Photo by Yinghao Luo

Cross had a big January.

F Jason Cethoute, Archbishop Molloy

Cethoute was a Mr. Everything for the Stanners. The senior was a major contributor in the paint and on the glass and the team's second scorer behind C.J. Davis with 16.3 points per contest.

G Andre Walker, Christ the King

The senior quietly went about his business as other Royals grabbed the headlines. He then delivered his best game when it

mattered most, scoring 25 points in CK's state Federation Class AA final victory over Long Island Lutheran.

G Justin Wright-Foreman, Construction

The Christ the King transfer made an immediate impact at Construction. He averaged 21.6 points per game during the regular season. The junior had a huge third quarter in a 23-point performance against Dozo in the Queens final.

All-Queens Honorable Mention

G Moaiz Ahmad, Bay-side

F Carl Balthazar Cardozo

G Nhoel Deverson, Monsignor McClancy

G Michael Fields, St. Francis Prep

G Gabe Kilpatrick, Archbishop Molloy

F Luis Hernandez, John Bowne

G Shane Herrity, St. Francis Prep

G Travis Raynor, Springfield Gardens

G Noah Vickers, Campus Magnet

F Joshua Wallace, Holy Cross

Mayor's

Continued from Page 55

with a transition layup, and Irizarry, who scored nine points, made two free throws with 17 seconds left to seal the win for the CHSAA. Murry Bergtraum's Joella Gibson, led the PSAL in scoring with 18 points and Truman's Marika Gordon added 16.

The Catholic league trailed for most of the game, and was down 60-54 early in the fourth quarter. Irizarry admitted the team

didn't pick up its intensity until late in the game to make sure they picked up a bragging rights win.

"In the fourth quarter we realized we have to get this game," Irizarry said. "Just to prove, we think our league is better."

Molloy duo helps power CHSAA boys to rout of PSAL: Archbishop Molloy senior forward Jason Cethoute poured in 17 points and Columbia-bound teammate C.J. Davis added 12 in the CHSAA's 108-86 victory over the PSAL in the Mayor's Cup boys' basketball game.

Cethoute enjoyed getting to play alongside Bishop Loughlin guards Khadeen Carrington (18 points) and Mike Williams (13 points) instead of competing against them for a change.

"It was fun not having to guard these guys," he said. "I just had fun."

The game gives the Catholic league some bragging rights after the PSAL held on for a win in last year's contest.

"Now they know we are the best in the city," Cethoute said. "They were talking the whole time."

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WEEK 42

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

Task force

Continued from Page 1

City Council in 2010, but faced years of delays as the project ran into financial trouble.

The multi-use complex will have residential, retail and commercial space. It will also house a 62,000-square-foot YMCA and 1,600 parking spaces.

The developers' construction plan calls for the complex to be built in two phases in order to preserve the existing 1,144 parking spaces on Municipal Lot 1, at the corner of 39th Avenue and Union Street.

A four-level underground parking structure will be built in the first phase to allow for the bulk of the above-ground construction to take part in the second phase without disrupting available parking.

Construction was set to begin in March after the project's developers, Rockefeller and TDC Development, closed on a deal with the city to buy the property Dec. 30, 2013.

A spokesman for the developers said preliminary work on the first phase of the development started in mid-March. This included electrical work, changes to ramps and other internal updates necessary for excavation, he said.

The developers expect

construction to start in late May or early June and predicted Phase 1 would be finished in early 2017.

"We will update local stakeholders and the community once a more definitive construction timetable is set," he said.

Adjacent business owners have worried that construction on the development will deter people from their businesses.

"Once the construction starts, there is going to be a lot of dust and we're going to have problems with transportation. Everybody is worried," Rim said.

The Economic Development Corp. said the city is funding a \$2.25 million program called the Flushing Small Business Assistance Program, which is to be administered by Asian Americans for Equality. An EDC spokesman said the program is designed to help area small businesses during construction by providing business planning and other technical assistance.

Rim said he was not satisfied with the answers he got in response to questions about the \$2.25 million fund. He said not enough details were provided at the meeting as to how exactly these monies would be spent.

Although he still had concerns about the development, Rim heralded Katz's attempt to bring the

developers and community leaders together to create a place for discussion between the two.

Attendees said the meeting was cordial and that the developers presented their updated plan to the meeting.

"I thought it was helpful that the developers and the city understand the concerns of the local business people because we certainly want to limit the damage to their businesses as small business is the essence of Flushing," said state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing) who attended the March 14 meeting.

The task force will hold its next meeting in May.

"Our Flushing Commons Task Force is intended to bring all of the stakeholders in this project together in one room so the impacts of project-related construction can be brought to everyone's immediate attention and addressed in real time," Katz said. "I and all the other stakeholders represented on the task force are committed to making sure any construction-related problems experienced by Flushing residents and business owners are solved very quickly."

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

Avella

Continued from Page 22

and resistant to change, often focusing on advancing to key committee positions rather than the public's priorities.

It is unclear how much support Avella's bills will garner.

Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), deputy

leader of the chamber's mainstream Democrats, declined to comment on the measures.

Sen. Joseph Addabbo Jr. (D-Howard Beach) said he could not imagine legislators considering extending terms without delving into term limits, salaries and other parameters of the position.

Even Avella signaled some reservations about

the measures' progress, noting it would be difficult to pass controversial bills with elections approaching and he did not think public sentiment for term limits had reached the critical mass necessary to compel legislation.

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

Charters

Continued from Page 4

about 30 percent less in funding than do traditional public schools.

The city comptroller's office will also be authorized to conduct financial audits of charters.

Comptroller Scott Stringer earlier this year said he would audit charters, though at the time his office's ability to conduct

such reviews was legally questionable.

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

Bullying

Continued from Page 1

students' age group.

Students would be required to complete a course on the consequences of bullying and the effects it can have on children who are picked on.

Weprin, who has two high school-age children himself, said he was personally motivated to pen the bill because he saw firsthand the effects of bullying when one of his son's classmates attempted suicide last year.

"It's become an epidemic and I know the Department of Education has made efforts to teach about understanding and respect, and those are all good programs, but they're not working well enough," Weprin said. "So what we need to do is take every kid and sit them down and teach them how to react to bullying, what the effects are on others and how they can step in and stop it from happening."

One of Weprin's major concerns is cyberbullying,

which his bill defines as "bullying that takes place using electronic technology such as cellphone texting, e-mail and social media Internet sites."

He said this newest form of intimidation has made it easier for children to say things they would not normally say to someone in person while making it harder to see the aftermath or to intervene and help.

"When I was a kid, someone might get picked on in the schoolyard, but there was always a point where you realized you went too far, whether it was when somebody else stepped in to help, the principal came outside or you could see the emotion on their face," Weprin said. "Today, bullying happens in the privacy of people's homes or online and sometimes you have no idea that you've crossed a line. It's more ferocious than when I was a kid and the consequences are much more deadly."

The councilman said that after students have completed the mandatory anti-bullying course, they would be tested on the ma-

terial and then required to sign a certificate saying they completed the training. His bill also calls for the establishment of a procedure for investigating bullying complaints as well as strict punishments that are attached to the offense.

Although the bill is still fairly new, it is already being sponsored by Council members from four of the five boroughs, including Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica), Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) and Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) in Queens.

Weprin said he has not yet had a lengthy discussion with DOE officials about his proposal but said he is hopeful that it will send a message about the dangers of bullying.

"This is not something that can be treated lightly and we can't just let it go as kids being kids," he said. "We need to take serious action and make sure that young people are given the tools to combat it."

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

Homeless

Continued from Page 4

Social Services Committee Chairwoman Michele Titus (D-Far Rockaway) — to lobby legislative leaders to adopt the change.

The budget passed Monday has dropped the language, and Wills said the next step is for city and state agencies to work to-

gether to roll out a program that will focus on families with children.

The push to gain Albany's support came down to the wire. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, apparently unclear on the city's request, said it was too late in the budget process to add a rent-subsidy program and at least one newspaper reported Mayor Bill de Blasio's office had requested a meeting on the issue through a text mes-

sage.

Wills said the Council and the mayor's office worked independently on the issue but with the same end-goal in mind.

"Everybody worked with the same end-of-day motive," he said.

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

Buses

Continued from Page 2

in Bay Terrace."

Other area leaders, including City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside), said he understood the safety concerns involved with

the buses using residential streets as turn-around areas, especially near schools. Vallone and Bitterman thanked the offices of other elected officials in the area for listening to the concerns of residents to make safety a priority while ensuring the necessary repairs were made to

the bus routes.

"I am happy to have been able to help facilitate this repaving," Vallone said.

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

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: BRONZE 56K LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/07/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 77-20 82nd Street, Glen-dale, New York 11385. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: 11 EAST 7th ROAD, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/14/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 184 Lawn Lane, Oyster Bay, New York 11771. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of MPH28 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/21/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 81-21 Kent Street, Jamaica Estates, NY 11432. Purpose: any lawful activity.

► **LEGAL**

Notice of Formation of Nu World Builders LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/06/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 195-11 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY 11412. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of formation of PAWA REALTY LLC. Arts of Org filed with Sec'y of State (SSNY) on 1/19/2014. Office loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agents upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to S. Pawa, 3149 Wilmarth Pl. Wantagh, NY 11793. Purp.: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Ramada Flushing LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/12/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 36-27 Prince Street, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of TEKTON USA LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/25/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 35-20 Utopia Pkwy., Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of W 314 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 3/5/2014. Office location: Queens County. Princ. bus. addr.: 451 Seneca Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, regd. agent upon whom process may be served. Term: until 12/31/2099. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of ZN PROPERTIES LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/11/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 89-16 175 St #3A, Jamaica, NY 11432. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

OYU PROPERTY LLC. Articles of Org. Filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) on Feb. 18, 2014. Office in Queens Co. SSNY Desig. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 32-35 Murray Lane, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: Real Estate Holding & Management.

► **LEGAL**

Notice of Qualification of 865 Lex Realty Associates LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 2/12/14. Office location: Queens County. Princ. bus. addr.: 118-35 Queens Blvd., 16th Fl., Forest Hills, NY 11375. LLC formed in DE on 1/27/14. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The Corporation Trust Co., 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011. DE addr. of LLC: c/o The Corporation Trust Co., 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

Notice of Qualification of codeMantra U.S. LLC Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/06/14. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/26/13. Princ. office of LLC: 107 Hawthorne St., Port Jefferson, NY 11777. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. DE addr. of LLC: 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Arts. of Org. filed with DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

TRANZACT, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/15/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 88-02 136th St Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Vera Natural, LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 12/18/14. Office:Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 87-15 258th St. Floral Park, NY 11001. Purpose: any lawful activity

WORLD HOLDINGS LLC. a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 2/11/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 85-17 215th St., Hollis Hills, NY 11427. General Purpose.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on March 11, 2014, bearing Index Number NC-000059-14/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) ALEXANDRIA (Middle) MORGAN (Last)

► **LEGAL**

DALGISH-CHOI. My present name is (First) ALEXANDRIA (Middle) MORGAN (Last) CHOI AKA ALEXANDRIA MORGAN DALGISH-CHOI, AKA ALEXANDRIA DALGISH-CHOI. My present address is 217-06 75th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11364-3034. My place of birth is MANHATTAN, NY. My date of birth is September 13, 1995.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on March 04, 2014, bearing Index Number NC-001269-13/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) ZHI (Middle) PING (Last) YANG. My present name is (First) ZHI (Middle) PING (Last) WU AKA ZHI PING YANG, AKA CHI PING WU. My present address is 140-33 34th Avenue, Apt. #5D, Flushing, NY 11354-3010. My place of birth is CHINA. My date of birth is December 03, 1951.

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY SUMMONS AND NOTICE Index No. 303054-13 Borough: Bronx Block: 4859 Lot: 79 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 SYLVIA KAYE A/K/A SYLVIA MILLER, DECEASED, 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 husbands, or widowers of hers, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs; EDWARD HAVERTSTONG; CITIBANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO CITIBANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; 1199 SEIU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; JONAS MILLER and "JOHN DOE #2" through "JOHN DOE #100", the names of the last 99 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being un-

known 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 amended complaint in the above-entitled foreclosure action, and to serve a copy of your answer on 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 amended complaint. Queens County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the subject premises. Dated: January 13, 2014 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an Order of Honorable David Elliot, a Justice of the Supreme Court, dated February 24, 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 Landing Road, Borough of Queens, New York and identified as Block 13844, Lot 1 (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 \$2,876.79, 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

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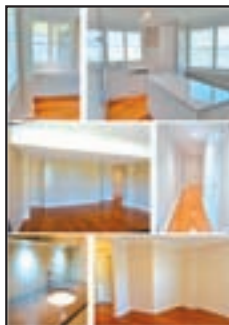
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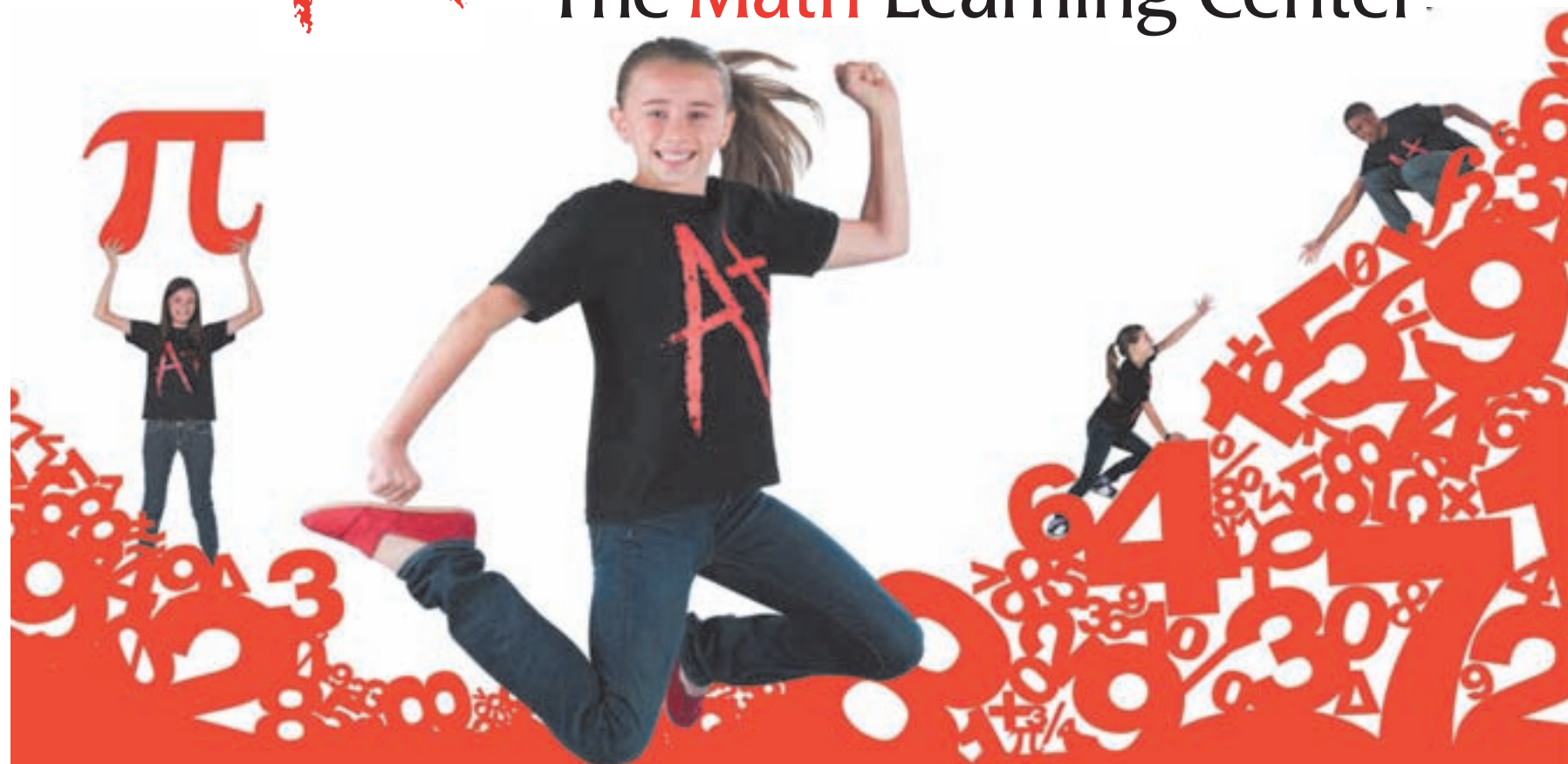
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