

**Flushing family honored  
for promoting gay rights**

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## City nixes plan for high school in Whitestone

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A rumored plan to build a high school on a six-acre lot in Whitestone, which drew significant community opposition, has been dropped by the city School Construction Authority.

SCA officials announced they would no longer be pursuing the site at an April 17 meeting of the Queens delegation of City Council members, Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) said.

"This is a major victory for  
*Continued on Page 54*

## *Race to challenge Israel turns into GOP slug fest*

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Congressional candidates Stephen Labate and Grant Lally are butting heads after a Long Island family that volunteered for Labate's campaign filed a police report last week claiming Lally harassed them outside their home. Lally's campaign office has dismissed the allegations as false and said it believes the alleged incident was orchestrated in response to a lawsuit challenging hundreds of signatures on Labate's petitions. The race is for U.S. Rep. Steve Israel's seat.

*See story on Page 20*

# 9/11 responder honored in Bayside

Muslim-American family wins fight for street renamed after Salman Hamdani



Talat Hamdani holds a street sign in memory of her son, Salman Hamdani, who was killed after responding to the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center in 2001. The corner of 35th Avenue and 204th Street was co-named for the late Bayside resident.  
Photo by Christina Santucci

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Talat Hamdani has spent the last five years fighting for her late son, Salman, to receive the proper recognition he bravely earned Sept. 11, 2001.

In an emotional ceremony held this week, Salman was finally honored by the city of New

York for his sacrifices as a first responder to the World Trade Center attacks by having 204th Street in Bayside renamed after him at the intersection right outside his childhood home, at the corner of 35th Avenue.

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) joined Salman's family and elected officials who

represent the area as he unveiled the new street sign in honor of Salman, a Pakistani-American who was serving as an EMT and an NYPD cadet when he lost his life responding to the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

When Salman died in the attacks, he was originally accused of being a terrorist who was be-

lieved to be involved in the tragedy because he was of Muslim faith and his body was not found until five months later.

After Salman's family was notified, his name was cleared by police and he was given a proper burial with full police honors in April 2002, but his mother has

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# Flushing mourns with Korea

## Electeds hold candlelight vigil to grieve for young ferry victims

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Community leaders gathered in downtown Flushing last week to mourn the victims of the South Korean ferry tragedy that claimed the lives of at least 188 people.

State Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Flushing) organized a candlelight vigil at the Daniel Carter Beard Mall, an area across the street from Flushing Town Hall.

"In this time and age, whenever there is a tragedy, everyone in an entire community mourns together," he told the huddled people on the mall April 23.

"Flushing, one of the most diverse communities in the entire world, has come together to embrace and mourn the tragic accident that happened in South Korea."

The ferry was carrying more than 300 high school students when it capsized April 16.

Divers were still retrieving bodies from the wreckage Wednesday afternoon and more than 100 people were still missing at that time.

The ferry sinking has draped the country in a deep gloom while it grieves for the hundreds of lives lost.

"Our hearts are aching and we want to send the message that we do care," Kim said.

A number of people have been arrested over the



Ambassador Se-Joo Son (l.), consul general of South Korea, joins community leaders at the Daniel Carter Mall to mourn the victims of the South Korean ferry tragedy. Photo by Alex Robinson

handling of the accident, including the boat's captain. Video footage released by the South Korean coast guard showed the captain leaving the ship on a rescue boat with his crew while hundreds of passengers remained on the boat.

The South Korean government's response to the sinking has also sparked criticism, resulting in the resignation of the country's prime minister, Chung Hong-won.

"As a parent, my heart was simply crushed as I watched how this terrible tragedy has unfolded," said Ambassador Se-Joo Son, the consul general of South Korea, who attended the vigil. "As a Korean citizen, as a grown-up who should

be looking out for the safety of our children and as a public servant interested to safeguard the interests of the public, I can't help but feel a sense of guilt that we could not provide the best future for these students."

He added that although the South Korean government is doing everything it can, its efforts will never be able to alleviate the grief suffered by the victims' families.

"The government will be steadfast in its efforts in drastically improving public safety measures and correcting past wrongs," he said.

Dr. Uma Mysorekar, president of the Hindu Temple Society of North America, and the Rev. Pe-

ter Song, of the Mok-Yang Presbyterian Church, said prayers for the victims and their families before a moment of silence was held.

A diverse group of community leaders gathered at the vigil to show solidarity and offer their condolences to Queens' Korean community.

"Seeing the faces of our American friends gathered here to share the pain and show support, I feel we are one at heart. Regardless of ethnicity, nationalities or religious beliefs, we are one human family," Son said.

A number of elected officials also attended the ceremony, including U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) and state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside).

# Rozic begins study of greener Bayside

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Elected officials from northeast Queens celebrated Arbor Day last week by gathering at Capt. Dermody Triangle in Bayside Hills to launch a "Greening Eastern Queens" study aimed at repairing the worn-down parks and greenspaces around the area.

Through the project, initiated by state Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D-Flushing), elected officials and volunteers will document sites throughout Bayside Hills where sidewalks, park areas or shrubbery need to be repaired. The program is the second round of the initiative that Rozic started last year after receiving multiple complaints about unsightly plants and trees that were devastated by the extreme weather the city had been experiencing.

"After Sandy hit and because of the other weath-

er incidents, there were a lot of tree stumps and pits that were overturned and rotting," Rozic said. "So last year, we started to identify them."

Rozic, whose 25th District stretches from Flushing Meadows Corona Park to the Cross Island Parkway in Little Neck, said she started Greening Eastern Queens last year in Hillcrest, where 92 locations were cataloged to receive new trees in that neighborhood alone.

The results of the canvass were turned over to the city Parks Department, and so far the agency has replaced 85 of those stumps with new trees since the start of the spring planting season in March, Rozic said.

The study now set to be evaluated in Bayside Hills will cover the area from 211th Street to Bell Boulevard between 48th Avenue

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State Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (l.) talks with a volunteer last week after announcing the Greening Eastern Queens initiative for Bayside Hills. Photo by Kelsey Durham

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# Gay rights pioneers honored with Flushing street naming

## Daniel Dromm heralds Manford family's house as pivotal place in American LGBT movement

BY ALEX ROBINSON

For Jeanne Manford, it never mattered that her son, Morty, was gay.

The teacher and her family, regarded as pioneers in the American gay rights movement, were posthumously honored last weekend outside their old house in Flushing.

Elected officials joined gay rights advocates, community leaders and neighbors to remember the Manfords and unveil a sign co-naming 171st Street in their honor.

"We wanted to do this street renaming so that everyone would know who lived here," said openly gay City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), who was instrumental in getting the street co-named. "The beautiful thing about this story today

is it is not only about LGBT history. This story is about a family's love."

Jeanne Manford first became vocal in the gay rights movement when her son, who was a prominent gay rights activist, was beaten up while handing out fliers at the 1972 Inner Circle dinner. She wrote a letter to the New York Post expressing her outrage at how Morty was treated and then became the first mother to march in the New York City Pride Parade with her son that year.

Jeanne and her husband, Jules, made several television and radio interviews in the following weeks to advocate gay rights.

The Manford family opened their house to other gay New Yorkers who were outcasts from their own homes.



City Councilman Daniel Dromm unveils the co-naming of 171st Street in Flushing as "Jeanne, Jules, Morty Manford PFLAG Way."

Photo by Alex Robinson

"Jeanne was to what many gay people don't have: their mother and Jules was their father," Dromm said. "Many of my own friends have never come out to their parents or never had the opportunity and their parents are gone. So Jeanne opened that door."

The Manford house, which was on 171st Street

off 35th Avenue, became a refuge for many whose own families were not willing to accept them in the 1970s.

Former State Sen. Tom Duane was one of the people who found safe haven at the Manford house.

"When things got unbearable, we would walk here, to the Manford house. We were always welcome.

We had dinner here all the time," said Duane's brother, John, a former state assemblyman who attended the ceremony.

Duane said he and his brother got their inspiration to enter elected office from the Manfords.

"When I look at what my brother has accomplished and I look at where it started, I have to say thank you Manford family," he said.

The street will also now bare a sign that reads "Jeanne, Jules, Morty Manford PFLAG Way."

Jeanne Manford's daughter, Suzanne, who grew up in the Manford house but now lives in San Francisco, attended the ceremony.

"This house was a wonderful place to grow up," she said. "My parents were ordinary people. They

were schoolteachers and they loved their gay son. They caught the attention of other families and children who were looking for someone to talk to. They got the conversation started."

Morty Manford was a founding member of the Gay Activists Alliance, which he was heavily involved with until he died from AIDS in 1992.

Jeanne and Jules Manford founded a support group for parents of gays and lesbians, which turned into an international organization called Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and now has more than 200,000 members worldwide.

Jeanne Manford was awarded the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal by President Barack Obama for her work and died at the age of 92 last year.

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# DA funding formula sought

Crowley questions whether Queens gets fair share of city budget

SARINA TRANGLE

The Queens district attorney's budget averaged out to \$2,029.20 per major felony, far lower than the \$3,078.29 afforded to Manhattan prosecutors or rates at other borough DAs, according to calculations by the TimesLedger Newspapers based on NYPD crime statistics and last year's city budget.

Not that crime rates are necessarily how prosecutors' budgets are calculated anyway, City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) said.

The councilwoman said baseline budgets for the five DAs have held steady since a 2011 Independent Budget Office analysis found there is no standard formula used to allocate city and state funding among the offices.

Crowley said she wants to change that this budget season and has introduced a resolution calling for the city and state governments to examine arrest rates, prosecution statistics and



City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley wants a funding formula for allocating money to the five district attorneys' offices.

population size and synthesize the study into a formula for equitably distributing money to the five DAs and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's office.

"Looking back to 1980, the amount of funding as

it's distributed between the five boroughs has been relatively unchanged. Yet here we are the fastest growing borough and we have demands," Crowley said.

The 2011 IBO report found that the portion of

city tax revenue directed to each DA office has lingered around the same percentage since the 1980s, with the Manhattan DA receiving 31 percent of the money in 2011, Brooklyn 25 per-

*Continued on Page 40*

# Francis Lewis fears losing trailer space

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Francis Lewis High School in Fresh Meadows has a capacity of about 2,100 students, but today more than 4,000 are enrolled and many attend classes in one of the school's eight outdoor trailers.

As Mayor Bill de Blasio tries to make good on a promise that dates back to the Bloomberg administration to rid New York City of its school trailers, Francis Lewis is one of many schools across the city left to worry about where to put those students.

"I would love to eliminate [the trailers], but if we do that, then we have nowhere to put our kids," said Arthur Goldstein, chapter leader of the United Federation of Teachers at Francis Lewis. "That's a big problem for us."

In 2009, enrollment at Francis Lewis was at more than 200 percent capacity. Teachers were working from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and at one point were teaching 13 periods in one day in an attempt to serve all students, Goldstein said.

"After 12th period, I remember the principal used to play the 'Hallelujah Chorus' over the loud speaker," he said. "Seniors and juniors came in early and sophomores and freshmen came in late, and we had adults fighting over who would be put on the late schedule because nobody wanted to be. It was horrible."

That year a meeting

with officials from the city Department of Education led to an agreement to limit new student admissions at Francis Lewis, Goldstein said, and the school began shedding about 200 students a year.

But five years later, Goldstein, an English as a Second Language teacher, is still one of a handful of faculty members who runs his classroom out of a trailer.

"We're overcrowded and that's a fact, but we're living with it," he said. "It's not as horrible as it used to be, but it's still pretty bad."

Goldstein said the high school currently has about 250 teachers and the average class size is 34 students. More students with special needs are now being admitted, creating a greater need for smaller classes and more dedicated personal teaching time.

Francis Lewis is recognized as one of the best high schools in the city, and Goldstein said it is to be expected that so many parents want to send their child to a thriving educational institution.

He said the school has become accustomed to its 4,000-student enrollment and has learned how to survive with the resources it has, but Francis Lewis now lives in fear of having its trailers taken away without being given anything to compensate for the space it would lose.

"What we need is more space," he said. "We do need

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# Meng looks back at Dhaka tragedy

BY ALEX ROBINSON

In the year since a deadly garment factory disaster killed more than 1,100 workers in Bangladesh, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) said not enough has been done to prevent a similar tragedy from happening again.

The congresswoman held a candle-lit vigil last week with other elected officials, union leaders and the Bangladeshi community in Jamaica to mark the first anniversary of the collapse of the Rana Plaza Factory in Dhaka. About 2,500 workers in the shabbily constructed building were injured.



Elected officials mark the anniversary of the Rana Plaza factory tragedy.

Photo by Alex Robinson

"It's sad we are gathered here today to talk about so many more issues that need to be resolved," she told Bangladeshi community leaders in the basement of the Taj Mahal restaurant, at 148-01 Hillside

Ave. "What makes this tragedy particularly offensive is that three other Bangladeshi factories have caught fire since."

The factory accident April 24, 2013, brought heightened attention to the

labor practices in Bangladesh's garment industry, which makes products for Western markets and retailers.

Shortly after the Rana Plaza factory cave-in, Meng sent letters to a number of large American retailers who sell products made in Bangladesh, urging them to take a leading role in protecting their subcontracted employees abroad. She said only Wal-Mart responded, saying it would improve standards for fire safety.

Meng, who represents a sizable Bangladeshi community, said many international retailers have been able to get away

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Francis Lewis High School students fill the hallways between classes in 2010.

# CB 7 OKs Whitestone school expansion

Holy Cross Church's proposal will double size of existing building to make room for more students

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Community Board 7 approved an expansion of a Whitestone Greek Orthodox church's school at a meeting Monday night by a vote of 35-1.

Dozens of parents and educators flooded the meeting to voice their support for the proposal, which will more than double the size of the existing Holy Cross of Whitestone school from 5,870 square feet to a 14,201-square-foot building.

"My son has seen his parents, his teachers and community coming together to not only build his school, but also his future," said Dina Skokos, a Holy Cross parent whose son is in the first-grade. "I know that will have a profound impact on the boy he is today and the man he will be tomorrow."

Holy Cross, located at 150-05 12th Ave., first

opened as a nursery and daycare center in 2002 and became a school with a kindergarten class in 2008. The school, which has had to bring in trailers to accommodate its growing student population, now offers third-grade classes and is going to add fourth-grade in the fall.

The proposed enlargement will enable the school, which currently has 180 students, to add a fifth-grade and to grow its capacity to 250 students.

No one spoke out in opposition to the expansion at the meeting, but Kim Cody, a CB 7 member and president of the Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association, quietly voted against it.

Cody, who lives near the school, said in an interview later that he had concerns about traffic in the area, as there is also a preschool on the same cor-



Holy Cross school in Whitestone is proposing an enlargement that would more than double its current size.

Rendering courtesy Giannopoulos Architects

ner called Qsac Preschool, in addition to a number of public and private facilities, such as the Whitestone Academy and the Whitestone Community Volunteer

Ambulance Service.

"It's very chaotic at 8:30 in the morning or 2:30 in the afternoon around there," he said. "We're concerned for the safety of the

children and the parents that pick them up, as well as the residents of the community."

Paul Graziano, an urban planner who was

involved in discussions between the church and community leaders in Whitestone, said in an interview that the enlargement would make the school out of character with the neighborhood and cause worsening traffic problems.

"They have a terrible traffic issue already," he said. "It's just going to make things untenable in that intersection."

In order to alleviate traffic concerns, the community board laid out a number of conditions to win its approval that the school agreed to meet. These included working to put a stop sign at the corner of 12th Avenue and 150th Street, having a one-way sign at the school's parking lot entrance on 12th Avenue and having the students dismissed 15 minutes earlier so that they would leave the school at a different time

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## Tennis Club discusses concerts slated for Forest Hills Stadium

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The Forest Hills Stadium's revival as a concert venue has gotten rave and raw reviews alike from the surrounding community.

The West Side Tennis Club, which owns the stadium at 1 Tennis Place, invited neighbors to share feedback on last summer's Mumford & Sons concert with the company hired to put on shows, Madison House Presents, as it finalizes this summer's lineup.

Madison House Presents has booked Zac Brown Band, an Atlanta-based folk group, for June 21 and Modest Mouse and Brand New, two indie bands, for Aug. 9. The concert promoters

aim to plan up to four more shows this summer.

Close to 70 people packed into Our Lady of Mercy Church Monday to share their thoughts. Complaints ran the gamut, from a "pop-up shop" hawking gear on front lawns to throngs of concert-goers clogging the path to subway stations.

But others spoke passionately about the need to preserve a structure built in 1923 to host the US Open and went on to welcome music giants such as Bob Dylan and Barbra Streisand. The city considered landmarking the structure, but decided restoring it would be too expensive.

Mike Luba, of Madison

House Presents, said selling roughly 16,000 general admission tickets for the Mumford & Sons concert proved too many. Going forward, he said Madison House Presents would limit admission to roughly 13,000 for seated concerts and 14,000 for standing concerts. An assigned seating system will be used to discourage attendees from arriving early in pursuit of good spots.

Luba said neighbors would be given access to advanced ticket sales and deals.

He noted that a permanent stage would be arriving within weeks. Reinstalled seats, wider aisles

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## No. 7 to run in Jax Hgts this weekend in sked shift

BY BILL PARRY

The No. 7 subway line will be in service for customers in Sunnyside, Woodside, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights this weekend after the MTA decided to postpone track work until the end of May.

"We have modified the schedule as a result of community input," MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said without offering any further details.

The weekend service shutdowns, which have plagued residents and business owners in Long Island City since the end of February, were supposed to roll east and include every station between Times Square



The No. 7 subway line is running this weekend, catching some in Jackson Heights by surprise.

and the 74th St-Broadway stop in Jackson Heights.

Several straphangers leaving the 46th Street station in Sunnyside Tuesday were surprised to hear that the subway would be running this weekend. "That's news to me, that's good news," said Joe Mack.

The MTA did put out any press release announcing the change. The agency posted the information on its website and relied on its own system.

"We have a robust public information campaign that involves station and

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# Foodies taste Queens at 12th annual culinary event

From truffle orzo to piña colada flavored cakes, restaurants show off savory and sweet dishes

BY ALEX ROBINSON

More than 700 people flocked to Queens Taste Tuesday night to sample food from some of the borough's newest restaurants.

Queens foodies navigated a sea of people at Flushing's Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel to taste many savory and sweet treats that were offered by the event's 49 vendors.

The annual event, in its 12th year, showcased a diverse array of food, from artisanal meatballs to freshly made sushi.

A panel of judges awarded best appetizer to Sunnyside's Murphy's Seafood Grill for its oysters. Zenon Taverna, a Greek and Cypriot restaurant in Astoria, received the honor of best entrée for serving a Mediterranean octopus dish, lamb meatballs and



Foodies could choose from a large number of desserts on offer. Photo by Alex Robinson

taramosalata. DF Mavens, which served ice cream, won best dessert.

Newcomers Pa-Nash, a Rosedale restaurant that serves what it calls "Euro Soul" food, the fusion of Mediterranean and Moroc-



Elena Papageorgiou (l.), from Zenon Taverna, and Franwon Francis Zalewski, from DF Mavens, accept their awards for best entrée and dessert. Photo by Alex Robinson

can cuisine with Caribbean and soul food influences, proved to be particularly popular as most of its food was gone an hour before the event ended.

"A great time was had by all," said Seth Born-

stein, executive director of the Queens Economic Development Corp., which organized the event. "The food, the beverages, the networking and the upbeat atmosphere were simply fantastic. I'm already look-



Paella from O Lavrador Restaurant sizzles in the pan. Photo by Alex Robinson

ing forward to next year." QEDC also took the opportunity to announce the winners of its eighth annual StartUP! business plan competition, which it gives to entrepreneurs who participated in a five-month challenge-and-instruction course.

Gamal Byfield, who runs a Rosedale martial arts studio called the Branch of Life, won first place.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at [arobinson@cnglocal.com](mailto:arobinson@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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# POLICE Blotter

## Man sought in attempted abduction of teen: NYPD

COLLEGE POINT — Police were looking for a man who they said tried to drag an 18-year-old woman into his car early Sunday morning in College Point.

The suspect, a stranger to the victim, asked the teen if she wanted a ride from a gray sedan at around 12:15 a.m. while the woman was walking westbound on the north side of 25th Avenue near 126th Street, according to cops. The victim said no and kept walking, the NYPD said.

The suspect then parked his vehicle at the corner of 25th Avenue and 124th Street, got out and allegedly grabbed the woman's waist and put his hand over her mouth, while trying to pull her into his car, police said.

Two unidentified passers-by heard the woman's muffled screams and yelled "what's going on?" at which point the suspect let her go, ran back to his car and fled, the NYPD said.

Police described the suspect as a 5-foot-6 Hispanic man between 30 and 35 years old with short, dark, spiked hair and a slim build. Authorities said he had a light beard and mustache and was wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt.

The four-door sedan he was driving had damage on the passenger side, according to cops.



Police released a sketch of a man believed to be the suspect in the attempted abduction.

Sketch courtesy NYPD

## Flushing man found dead at karaoke bar: Police

FLUSHING — A 49-year-old man was found dead in a Flushing karaoke bar late Saturday night after he dozed off and never woke up, police said.

Jimmy Yu, of Flushing, a patron of Alibarbar, at 41-06 College Point Blvd., fell asleep and could not be roused, according to cops.

Authorities responded to a 911 call at around 11:20 p.m. and declared Yu dead at the scene, the NYPD said.

Police said Yu's death appeared to be from natural causes, but officials were waiting for the medical examiner's office to confirm the cause and manner of death.



The NYPD says Jimmy Yu was found dead in Alibarbar in Flushing.

Photo by Christina Santucci

## Firefighter arrested in 109th Precinct: Cops

FLUSHING — A firefighter was arrested Monday morning for allegedly obstructing the breathing of his girlfriend, police said.

Michael Shields, 32, was arrested at around 10:33 a.m. within the confines of the 109th Precinct and charged with criminal obstruction of breathing and harassment, according to the NYPD.

Police could not confirm whether Shields was off-duty at the time of the alleged harassment.

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# Port Authority needs big changes: Schumer

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) has called for major reforms in the Port Authority and restoration of the agency's original mission.

"Over the past several decades, the fabric binding the Port Authority to its core mission has frayed, slowly unwinding as states saw an opportunity to use authority funds to cover budget shortfalls and finance pet projects," Schumer told the Partnership for New York Monday.

"More frequently now than ever," he continued, "the Port Authority has come to be seen as the proverbial honey pot, a cookie jar, a rainy day fund — whatever metaphor you prefer — for state projects outside the port's core mission."

The Port Authority operates John F. Kennedy International, LaGuardia, Newark Liberty, Teterboro, Stewart International and Atlantic City International airports and has its own 1,600-member police force.

It maintains some bridges and tunnels, owns the World Trade Center and operates the East Coast's premier marine terminal in Elizabeth, N.J.

Schumer said he was proposing a package of reforms that the Port Authority should consider. Any such changes would be subject to approval by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, of New York, and Gov. Chris Christie, of

New Jersey, since the PA is a bi-state agency.

"We need substantial, permanent and lasting reforms, and I believe that with a largely forgotten act of Congress in 1921, we have a way to achieve just that," Schumer said.

"You see, most people don't know it," he continued, "but the Port Authority itself is an animal of Congress. It came into being by an act of Congress and it is still governed by it. For nearly 93 years, the Port of New York Compact has not been comprehensively evaluated. Now, for the better conduct of commerce, we should look to reform the Port Compact."

Schumer maintains that the power to select leadership in the Port Authority should go to its board of 12 commissioners from the two states rather than from selection by the two governors.

Schumer's proposal came after months after members of the Christie administration were accused of carrying out traffic lane shutdowns to deliberately cause a monumental traffic jam in downtown Fort Lee, N.J., near the George Washington Bridge.

Some sources said it was a retaliatory act by some members of Christie's office against Fort Lee officials.

"Bridgagate was a symptom, not a cause, of the Port Authority's dysfunction," Schumer said.



U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer wants the Port Authority to enact reforms, which would be subject to approval by both the governors of New York and New Jersey.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

# Comrie makes Senate bid

Joe Crowley, Rev. Norris, Councilman Miller endorse Albany campaign

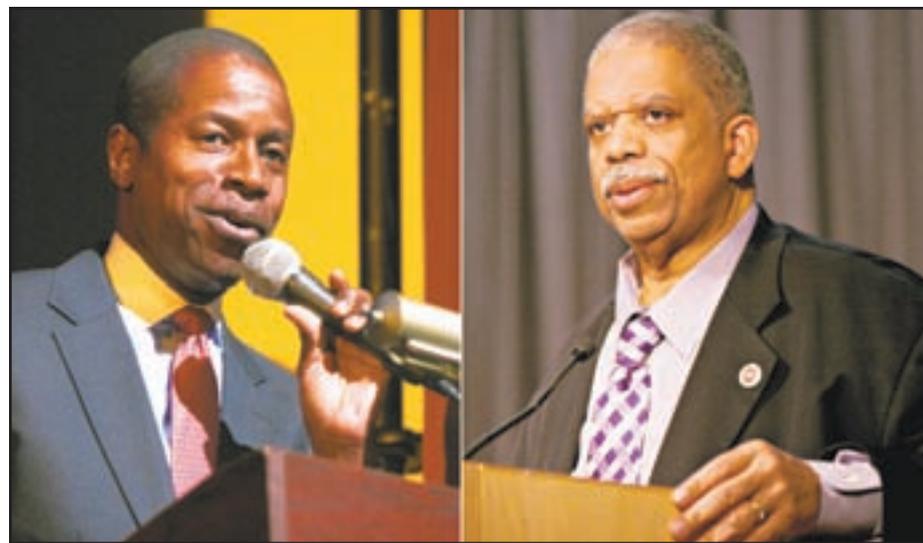
BY RICH BOCKMANN

Former City Councilman Leroy Comrie lined up a handful of endorsements as he made the announcement earlier this week that he will challenge embattled state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) for his southeast Queens seat.

U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), the Rev. Charles Norris and Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) all publicly pledged their support Monday for Comrie's Democratic primary run against Smith, who is awaiting trial on federal corruption charges.

Comrie said he was pleased to have their backing.

"I am truly humbled to have this strong show of support so early on. It simply means people are ready for a change," he said. "The 14th District will not be sidelined waiting for a leader to do the right thing. I've received a lot of positive feedback from a lot of people and I am honored



State Sen. Malcolm Smith (l.) and Leroy Comrie are set to square off in a primary after the former city councilman threw his hat into the race.

that they are putting their faith in me."

Comrie threw his hat into the Democratic primary Monday to challenge Smith, who is waiting for his trial to begin in June on charges he allegedly tried to use state money to buy his way into the 2013 mayoral race on the Republican line.

Crowley is chairman of the Queens

Democratic Party, although he was speaking for himself when called Comrie a "dedicated public servant who has delivered for his community and the people of Queens."

"Leroy has been on the forefront of building better schools for our children, protecting our seniors and helping to create thousands of jobs across

New York," Crowley said. "Now, we need Leroy in Albany delivering for us on the issues that matter most."

Comrie sat on the Council for three terms from 2002-13, serving as chairman of the powerful Land Use Committee and leading the Queens delegation. Facing term limits, he made a run for Borough

*Continued on Page 58*



# Doors remain open at Borough Hall

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Former Deputy Borough President Leroy Comrie will stay on as a special assistant at Borough Hall as he campaigns for a spot in Albany, according to a source who hinted the doors in Kew Gardens may be open should his bid fall short in the crowded southeast Queens race.

Comrie stepped down from his position at Borough Hall Friday and after the weekend he threw his hat into the Democratic primary challenging incumbent state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis), who is awaiting trial on federal corruption charges.

A source with knowledge of the situation said Comrie will serve as a special assistant to Borough President Melinda Katz as he vies for a seat in the state Legislature's upper chamber.

Katz has not yet lined up a replacement and in the meantime her staff will pick up the extra slack, according to the source, who intimated Comrie would be welcomed back at Borough Hall if things do not pan out for him.

"If you know Leroy, you know he is welcome just about anywhere," the source said.

Comrie, who sat on the City Council for three



Borough President Melinda Katz will keep former deputy Leroy Comrie on as a special assistant as he runs for state Senate, a source said.

terms representing an area that makes up a large part of Smith's Senate district, is considered the odds-on

favorite in the race and is likely to receive the support of the Queens Democratic Party.

In a competitive field, however, it is still anyone's guess as to how things will play out. Democratic attorney Munir Avery, U.S. Navy veteran Bernadette Semple and attorney and small businessman Clyde Vanel have already started campaigning for the seat.

Vanel almost pulled off an upset in September when he lost by fewer than 3 percentage points in the Council primary against Comrie's hand-picked successor, Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans).

# Queens Impact Awards to honor boro's unsung heroes

TimesLedger event will recognize 27 people who dedicate themselves to improving their communities

BY KELSEY DURHAM

More than two dozen people who have helped shape Queens over the years will be honored at TimesLedger Newspapers' inaugural Queens Impact Awards May 15.

At a dinner to be held at Douglaston Manor, at 63-20 Commonwealth Blvd., 27 borough heroes will be recognized for the work they have done behind the scenes as volunteers and professionals to make life better for people in Queens. Winners were chosen based on nominations from a six-member committee and the TimesLedger staff to represent the entire borough.

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Bayside), who made history in 2012 when she was elected as New York state's first Asian-American congressional member, will

serve as the guest speaker.

Andrea Adams, a Douglaston resident, was chosen for her volunteer work in Jamaica Hills, and Bayside resident Susan Agin was selected for the decade she has spent as executive and artistic director of the Queensborough Performing Arts Center.

Bellerose couple Ronnie and Hank Arond were acknowledged as winners for the volunteer work they have done in Bellerose, and Jamaica Hills teacher Carl Ballenas will be awarded for keeping Queens' history alive by working with the Richmond Hill Historical Society.

Filmmaking couple Don and Katha Cato, of Jackson Heights, were cited for organizing the Queens World Film Festival, while Long Island City restaurant owner Gianna Cer-



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng will be the special guest speaker at the TimesLedger's inaugural Queens Impact Awards May 15.

bone-Teoli will be awarded for the assistance she gave to her neighbors after Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

The Rev. Phillip Craig won for his work as senior pastor at the Greater Springfield Community Church in Jamaica, and in

Bayside longtime Sacred Heart Church parishioner Virginia DeMillio will be tapped for the 31 years she has spent coordinating the church's Meals on Wheels program.

Carmine DeSena was chosen for the more than three decades he has dedicated to Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, and Laskia Echols, of Far Rockaway, will be recognized for founding the Make My Mother Proud youth program.

Audra Fordin is an auto mechanic who runs the Women Auto Know nonprofit in Flushing, and Lily Gavin, a Sunnyside restaurant owner, advocates for other small businesses by serving on various foundation boards.

Lucy Hossain, of Flushing, is a bank manager who has volunteered with sever-

al organizations, and Mandy Gor Kelso was chosen as a winner for organizing an arts program for children at the Ridgewood YMCA.

Kwanghee Kim is a winner for founding the Korean American Family Services Center in 1985 and helping victims of domestic violence. Tenor Andrew Koslowsky was selected for founding The Josephine Foundation and Dr. Joseph Lieber, of Elmhurst, will be honored for teaching about the medical field.

Rockaway Beach resident Salvatore Lopizzo was chosen as a winner for his work to help the neighborhood recover from Sandy in 2012. Greg Mays, an activist in Jamaica, will be honored for his volunteer work in the community, and Sunnyside bar owner Michael McCreesh was chosen as a winner for raising funds

for charity through his business.

Carly Rose Nieves, the youngest honoree, is a cancer survivor who organizes a yearly blood drive at her Maspeth high school. Rodney Pride, of southeast Queens, has served as a mentor to young African Americans for years as a social worker.

Hakeem Rahim was selected for his work as a motivational speaker on mental illness, and George Subraj is president of a fund that helps the Indo-Guyanese community. Mandingo Tshaka, of Bayside, won for his activism that helped improve the quality of the neighborhood.

Tickets for the event, which runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., are \$90 and can be purchased by calling 718-260-4521.



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# NEW VENUES NEEDED

Across the borough, the caliber of Queens-based theater groups continues to evolve and produce shows that would fit nicely below 23rd Street in Manhattan.

Productions from Titan Theatre Co., Variations Theatre Group, Queens Players, the Astoria Performing Arts Center and the Chocolate Factory have lifted the designations of productions in Long Island City and Astoria from Off-Off-Broadway to Off-Broadway.

Now it's time to focus attention and money on the borough's smaller community theater groups.

Specifically, as TimesLedger theater columnist Ron Hellman writes this week "we need in Queens more theater buildings, venues with the look and feel and state-of-the-art technology of real theaters."

It is a good thing the U.S. Constitution makes no mention of separation of church and theater since the dozen or so amateur companies in Queens make their homes in places of worship.

Granted, APAC is in the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on Crescent Street, but its space feels like a theater with a good-sized stage, excellent sound and lighting systems and sloped seating via risers.

Contrast that with the Andean Players at St. Andrew Avellino in Flushing, Maggie's Little Theater at St. Margaret Parish in Middle Village and The Gingerbread Players at St. Luke's in Forest Hills.

Queens' list of makeshift theaters also includes the Free Synagogue of Flushing, the Colonial Church of Bay-side and the Zion Episcopal Church in Douglaston.

Anyone who has had to sit under a basketball net or been stuck in the last row of folding chairs on the same level knows that has the makings of a so-so night at the theater even before the (non-existent) curtain goes up.

None of these groups are grumbling about their performance spaces. The people we have talked to are grateful to the churches and synagogues that allow them to use the space to put on their shows.

Without the support of these congregations, many of the groups would be hard-pressed to find a suitable or affordable location, and Queens would be poorer for it.

Hellman is correct in his assertion that Queens' civic and artistic leaders need to take their cues from their Brooklyn and Manhattan counterparts and offer up naming rights to pay for some new theaters.

If it's good enough for Lincoln Center and Theatre for a New Audience, it is reasonable to do it here.

Queens has the talent to create top-notch theatrical productions. It just needs better places where these artists can prove it.



## OTHER VOICES

# World's Fairs are big to-dos over nothing

I may well be in a minority, but I have difficulty understanding the media hoopla about a 50th anniversary commemorating the 1964-65 World's Fair ("A Bright Tomorrow," April 25-May 1).

I am old enough to recall attending the '39 and '64 fairs, and while there were interesting exhibits in the '64 fair, the Unisphere and several others, it was not spectacular. Even use of the word "World's" could be questioned since many of the western European countries declined to par-

ticipate.

It was a financial disaster, as was the '39 fair. The '39 fair returned bond holders 40 cents on the dollar, whereas the '64 fair returned 19.2 cents on the dollar.

At the conclusion of the '64 fair, ignoring the fact its venue had been Flushing Meadows Corona Park, a part of the city park system, it was left with a plethora of structures that did not belong in an urban park and would not have been allowed in Central, Prospect or Bronx parks

and rightfully so.

As a result, politicians have over the past 50 years used them as an excuse to dump more structures and permit park misuse. Notwithstanding Flushing Meadows is the second most-used park in the city, it is the most abused, treated as real estate and not a park.

Lost in the euphoria for this celebration is the fact that to construct the fair and its use, FMCP was shut down for about five years, depriving people of its use. A proper remem-

brance of the '64 fair would be to remove those alien structures and insist the city allocate funds to make FMCP the park Robert Moses promised when he took it for the fair but never delivered.

Indeed, if while walking around Meadow Lake one wanted to sit down on a bench to admire the lake, he or she could not because there are no benches, nor have there been any for 50 years.

*Benjamin Haber  
Flushing*

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# Third time's the charm in enrolling for Obamacare

In 1969, Robert Lamm of the rock group Chicago sang:

"Does anybody really know what time it is?"

"Does anybody really care?"

In 2014, these are the questions which I am asking myself after my experience signing up with NY State of Health.

There are some people out there who care, who are trying to do a good job and help you out.

But as far as the time is concerned, that is another story.

Are prescription benefits covered from Day One or do I have to meet a deductible first? Are there any plans that cover dental and vision? Does anybody really know what time it is?

Healthcare Navigator 1 — of three — did not.

In the middle of a crowded hallway in the science building of a college campus, she is sitting behind a tiny folding table set up next to a soda machine. During the next

three hours, students will randomly interrupt our meeting in order to ask for change of a dollar. Her laptop will crash multiple times, then it will run low on battery power.

There is no outlet where we are sitting. I suggest unplugging the soda machine. We eventually move to a nearby lecture hall. She plugs in her laptop. Her computer is working again, but she has no answers to my questions.

She is a polite, soft-spoken, middle-aged lady, the type of person it is difficult to get angry with ... except that now it has been more than two hours. The hallway is empty and my application is still incomplete. There will be no discussion about Gold vs. Silver, Platinum or Bronze. No discussion about what each specific plan has to offer — only more failed attempts at communication.

And as it is becoming clear to me that my questions will not be answered, that my application will not be finished on this day

and as I am still struggling to understand how the tax credits work, she tells me I am going to qualify for Medicaid.

She has only asked me for paystubs from Jan. 1 to the present, paystubs that reflect another bleak winter in the seasonal occupation of being a professional musician. For a moment, I am delighted at the thought of having free, state-paid health insurance, but I know it is a mistake.

I explain to her that my work is seasonal and I will make more money later in the year. It does not matter. It has been three hours and it is time to go. The campus is quiet now and her kids are calling on the cellphone. She is running late for a dinner appointment. That application would never get finished.

The following week, after a futile effort of obtaining and faxing paperwork to Navigator 1, I decide to start from scratch.

I will reach out and meet with Navigator 2. I will find myself sitting next

to the same soda machine, with different students asking us for change, but the result will be better the second time around, and for a moment I will feel sane.

But the end of the meeting with Navigator 2 is rushed, and I do not have adequate time to properly select a specific plan. It does not matter, I am told, because I can change my coverage at any time.

No one seems to be able to agree on what time it is, whether it is a navigator, an insurance company, or NY State of Health.

Not even a supervisor. When I called 1-855-355-5777 April 1, less than 24 hours after open enrollment had ended, I was looking for guidance and insight from a healthcare reform professional who could point me toward the right plan.

I did not expect to be told that I cannot change plans because open enrollment was over, nor that a supervisor would tell me that I needed to file a report that would indicate I had had a "life-changing event"

that would qualify me for "special circumstances." Huh?

The following day, Navigator 2's voice mailbox is once again full and I cannot leave a message, so I call the insurance company directly: "There is nothing we can do, but why don't you reach out to Navigator 3?"

Navigator 3 is sympathetic to my plight but tells me there is nothing she can do, that I will have to wait for a "determination" to be made.

Everyone agrees that none of this makes sense, yet no one can do anything! And so I am resigned to await the outcome of the report which I have made at the behest of a NY State of Health supervisor.

Navigator 3 does something, though, that not many people do. She calls back. She cares. She has the answer. After spending the next hour digging through an inbox inundated with e-mails from no-reply@nyexchange.org, I will find the elusive "invitation code"

and wrestle nine times with the captcha lettering.

Finally I am in! Click on "Plan." There it is. The magic button. The button that no one seems to know about. "Change Plan."

At the end of the day, I will end up paying roughly the same for health care as I have done for the past 15 years. Some will pay less, some more.

The state Health Department announced that more than 865,000 residents across the state are now enrolled in health insurance through the U.S. Affordable Care Act, and that 38,000 people successfully enrolled March 31 alone.

The system is far from perfect, but it will improve, as will my mood.

And so I ask myself, "Does anybody really know what time it is?"

Yes. Time to find a new doctor.

*Jeff Lubin  
Little Neck*

## Facts get in the way of beliefs

As painful as it may be to the chronically misinformed, but President Barack Hussein Obama II has not only not overused his executive orders, but he has through his second term used it less than any president from Dwight Eisenhower on.

Two exceptions, those who have used them slightly less, are former

Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, and that is only because they were one-term presidents. In fact, Eisenhower, whom I voted for, exercised it 484 times.

Facts can be such a nuisance.

But who needs fabricated facts when you can use obfuscating opinions. Points in fact, the detractors: "Obama is a bully/

Obama is a coward, Obama is a thug/Obama is wimp; Obama is a dictator/Obama is a weakling."

To paraphrase a quaint derogatory quip, these despicable, desperate, delusional people are so frustrated that they "don't know whether to sit or go blind."

*Nicholas Zizelis  
Bayside*

## Thank you, strangers, for kindness

I would like to send a shout-out to two Good Samaritans. About a month ago they were driving along an avenue in North Flushing when they noticed an elderly man hitchhiking.

It was not only sometime near midnight that evening, but we were also experiencing another cold spell. These kind, young people, who I understand

were in their late teen or early 20s, pulled over and brought the man into their car.

He was confused, as someone with Alzheimer's can be, and although he told the pair he wanted to get into Manhattan, they did the responsible thing. They brought him home and solicited the aid of his neighbor to help him get safely inside his house.

Sadly, the neighbor did not get the name of the two young people before they left. It is my hope that a friend or family member of these young people reads this and can express my family's gratitude for their selfless act.

Thank you.

*D. Iskaros  
North Flushing*

**Contact the newsroom:**

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

# A third World's Fair in the city would spur economy



**William Lewis**  
Political Action

With the World's Fair anniversary at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, it is time to look at the possibility of a third world's fair in the not too distant future.

Having a world's fair in New York City would give all kinds of benefits to our city and state, and especially to Queens if the event was again held in Flushing Meadows.

This could lead to millions of visitors coming to New York City and tens of thousands of jobs being created. It would be a tre-

mendous incentive for improving the city and state economies as well.

The counter-arguments against another world's fair would be centered on the fact that the first two fairs did not do well financially. This time we could improve from the past and do better in making the event profitable and provide assistance to growing a stronger economy in New York.

If this type of event could be put in place, New York would be emphasized everywhere, nationally and internationally.

At this particular time, with the job market in question and the financial investments not where they should be, a world's fair could stimulate our economic system throughout our city and state.

Queens and especially

Flushing Meadows would become known everywhere.

Some of our news media coverage of the event would be constant and enduring. New York City will have its reputation enhanced as the great city that it is.

It is hoped that during the world's fair anniversary period that our media, including most radio and television news broadcasts and talk shows in New York City, will call for a third world's fair. It is also hoped that most of our city's daily and weekly newspapers will eventually support another world's fair.

If the function comes to pass, it could mean tremendous input by America's large corporations displaying their latest products and inventions.

It could also mean

many foreign countries setting up exhibits of their historical and cultural background as well as products that they produce economically.

This event would also feature the latest technologies for the present and future.

As indicated, this type of event would be a big help to our city's economy. The help this would give to the Queens economy and favorable status if the event is held in Flushing Meadows would be very good.

If ever there was a time to hold this event, now is the time. If there is a united effort made, it can be successful with society at large gaining.

During the last 10 years in some New York City political circles, there has been some discussion about having legal non-cit-

izens being able to vote in municipal city elections.

The argument is that residents of our city who are not citizens pay at least sales taxes and are affected by education, police, medical and other programs of the city government. That being the case, they should have some say in how these programs are implemented by voting in these elections for City Council and city-wide races.

Voting for public officials to represent us in the executive and legislative branches of government is the right of a citizen, for if non-citizens can vote it brings into question the validity of the voting process.

From the early days of Greece to the present time, in order to vote people had to be citizens. This concept has rarely if ever been questioned anywhere.

Once a person has achieved citizenship, voting rights are obtained as they should be, but voting rights are not being used as much as they should be when we look at the low voter turnout in the last few citywide elections.

The 2014 election should bring a much larger turnout than in recent past years.

If citizens want the government to adopt certain policies, then they have to become active in politics to some extent. That includes voting in every election.

If there ever was a time to hold this event, the time is in the near future. If a united effort is made, it can be made successful with society at large gaining.

## Testing event increases HIV awareness in Rich Hill



**Prem Calvin Prashad**  
New Voices

On April 18, volunteers from the LGBT community and their allies collaborated with the Gay Men's Health Crisis to set up a mobile HIV testing unit outside the Lefferts branch of the Queens Library, at Lefferts Boulevard and Liberty Avenue.

The event was aimed at increasing HIV awareness in the Caribbean community in Richmond Hill in advance of the GMHC's 2014 AIDS Walk NY May 18.

Team Sundari — led by Sundari, The Indian Goddess; Nalima Amin; and Mohamed Q. Amin — encouraged community

members to get tested, know their status, be empathetic to those affected by HIV/AIDS and live healthy lives.

Sundari, The Indian Goddess is an LGBT rights activist who uses performing arts as a platform to advocate for equality and inclusion for LGBT individuals of Caribbean descent.

"This is the first time [testing] been done openly here in the community," said Sundari.

Reaction from the community was largely positive, though a few passers-by were perturbed by the idea of being tested for HIV.

Still, Sundari continued, "this is for the community, so we can have the conversation about it."

People with HIV/AIDS face a stigma in the Caribbean, and that stigma often carries over to immigrant



Members of Team Sundari stand at their table in front of the Lefferts library during their screening day May 18.

Photo by Prem Calvin Prashad

communities in Queens. This stigma inhibits people from getting tested and marginalizes those who are HIV-positive.

Sundari thanked the NYPD and Queens Library for allowing the group to secure the permits and space to carry out the event.

Kenneth Curry, of GMHC, administered the tests from one of the mobile testing units. The test con-

sists of an oral swab that provides a result within 20 minutes. A possible positive result will lead to further testing to confirm a preliminary result.

The test checks for the presence of HIV antibodies, which are present three months after infection. A negative test means the individual is HIV-free as of three months ago.

During the 20 minutes,

those undergoing the test will be provided counseling by Curry, with questions about the individual's support network, habits, behaviors and other risk factors as well as review of a questionnaire. GMHC provides counselling and other services to those diagnosed with HIV.

Paired with the outreach event, Amin, Sundari and other volunteers

hosted the Live Yuh LIFE fund-raiser April 26 at Naresa Palace, in South Ozone Park. The Caribbean-themed event channeled Carnival and featured several dance performances from the Caribbean LGBT community.

Team Sundari will wear Carnival-themed attire at the AIDS walk and Sundari noted that the team wanted to "still represent the culture, because we are Caribbean, but we want to do it in a way that we raise awareness [and] be who we are as well."

Beyond the AIDS walk, the group plans to engage the community through HIV-positive speakers and other educational and advocacy events.

For more information on Team Sundari, visit [awny2014.kintera.org/sundari\\_lgbt](http://awny2014.kintera.org/sundari_lgbt).

# Obamacare fails to deliver lofty goals for middle class

15

TL



Bob  
Friedrich  
■  
On Point

The U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, as some refer to it, has not lived up to the promise made by elected officials to millions of middle-class workers and families.

Many of these middle-class folks, including myself, were promised a rose garden but have received only thorns. It is distressing to find that if I liked my doctor, I cannot keep my doctor and if I liked my old plan I cannot keep my old plan.

Like millions of Amer-

icans, I received a termination notice from my insurer advising me that my carefully selected health insurance policy has been rendered “noncompliant” by the ACA and is terminated. As a self-employed individual, I heeded the advice of President Barack Obama and sought out a healthcare policy for my family, and I thought that would work as well as my old policy.

What a journey it has been.

Like myself, millions of other self-employed individuals have been forced into the healthcare exchanges, as they are called, with the promise of lower costs and better coverage. In reality, just the opposite has happened, especially if your annual income exceeds \$46,000.

That is the income

level at which premium-lowering subsidies are no longer available. Without those subsidies, health insurance costs soar. The middle-class working stiffs are the real losers here, as they experience crushing increases in their health insurance premiums.

If my previous and affordable “Chevy” policy served me well for years, why am I now being forced to purchase a “Mercedes” policy with all kinds of bells and whistles that at my age I do not need? Sure my “Chevy” policy did not have child dental care, maternity benefits or access to “free” birth control, all requirements of ACA policies.

But my old policy allowed me to keep my doctors and access to all hospitals. Given the choice, I

If you get your insurance through work, your day of reckoning is coming soon as the implementation delays expire and the employer mandate kicks in.

suspect most would choose a plan with the doctors they have trusted for years, a choice of hospitals and affordable deductibles.

If you receive your health insurance through work, you have probably escaped the turmoil of this law, but your day of reckoning is coming soon as the implementation delays of the law expire and the employer mandate kicks in.

Employers will find the cost of employee health coverage so expensive that the only affordable alternative will be to move their employees onto the health-

care exchanges. That is when the rest of the middle-class families will experience the Obama-shock that self-employed individuals are now confronting.

If you are lucky enough to find a healthcare exchange policy that you like with a doctor you are happy with, you are still not out of the woods. I was shocked to learn that many of New York’s finest hospitals, such as Memorial Sloan Kettering, Weill Cornell and others, have opted out of most if not all of the healthcare exchange plans.

How disturbing is it

that at the most vulnerable moment of your life your hospital of choice does not accept your insurance. This scary scenario is not imaginary and the ramifications are even more frightening. Losing access to top-quality hospitals means more patients will be pushed into fewer and less-desirable hospitals, at a time when specialized care is needed most.

The glaring failure of Obamacare is in its one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare, a system imposed upon us by Washington bureaucrats who in their hubris have exempted themselves from the provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

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

TIMESLEDGER, MAY 2-8, 2014 TIMESLEDGER.COM

## Cinco de Mayo commemorates Mexico’s victory over France



Laura  
Rahill  
■  
Remember  
the Date

Mexicans will observe the holiday of Cinco de Mayo Monday. This observance commemorates the Mexican army’s victory over France in the 1862 Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.

Contrary to popular belief, the “Batalla de Puebla” is not the celebration of Mexico’s independence day, which is Sept. 16 to commemorate Mexico being freed from Spanish rule in 1810.

In the mid-1800s, Mexico was in a state of crisis economically, and otherwise having been defeated by the Americans. Under terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico was forced to hand over all of California, Nevada and Utah and parts

of Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado to the United States.

This humiliating defeat left Mexico divided on how to get back on track. The liberals and conservatives fought a bitter civil strife, with each refusing to recognize the other as leader. The liberals eventually won just before a French invasion.

The civil war meant Mexico was still in ruin and debt, owing money to foreign debtors including Spain, France, Britain and America. The president, Juarez, suspended payment of all foreign debt for two years, which caused a backlash, particularly from France.

About 6,000 French troops marched on the capital, backed by vanquished conservatives. President Juarez put together a 4,000-strong but under-armed force against the French.

On May 5, 1862, the outnumbered and poorly



Reyes Xinastle shows his Mexican pride during Cinco de Mayo festivities at Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

armed Mexican army led by Texas-born Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza, defeated French forces in what became known as the Batalla de Puebla.

Today, this commemoration is more commonly known as Cinco de Mayo

which translates to “fifth of May.” This was a great symbolic victory for the Mexican government and a huge morale boost. Six years later, thanks to military support and political pressure from its neighbor the United States, the French

withdrew from Mexico.

Today, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has come into its own as a huge, festive celebration of Mexican culture, heritage and pride. In New York, there are large Mexican-American populations, so the fes-

tivities are widespread.

Music and street festivals are not uncommon in both towns across Mexico and the United States. Of course, like many holidays celebrated in the United States, there is a commercial element to the occasion with businesses promoting Mexican services and goods, particularly food, drinks and music.

Those who wish to join the celebration can do so in our own Queens neighborhoods. Queens’ biggest park, Flushing Meadows Corona, hosts a free, annual cultural and music celebration featuring entertainers, food and activities.

Queens Museum will also hold a hands-on, interactive experience with great exhibits of Mexican culture.

The Jamaica Center for the Performing Arts and Learning will also host a Cinco de Mayo fun-filled, family day with art activities and musical performances.

# Parks employee sentenced to 25 years in slay

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A former city Parks Department employee was sentenced to 25 years in prison Monday in the fatal 2012 stabbing of a colleague at a recreation center in Flushing.

Robert Swann, 51, of Ozone Park, admitted to police he stabbed Ezra Black, 31, in the torso at the Al Oerter Recreation Center, at 105-02 103rd Ave., during a fight between the two Sept. 4, 2012, the Queens district attorney's office said.

In a bizarre coincidence, the incident happened four hours after then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg held a news conference at the same facility.

A jury acquitted Swann of murder charges but found him guilty of first-degree manslaughter in April.

Queens Criminal Court Judge Ira Margulis handed Swann the maximum sentence after the defendant's attorney sought a sentence of five to six years.

"I don't believe that you have taken full responsibility for your actions in this case," the judge told Swann in a packed court-



EZRA BLACK

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

room. "There is no justification for what happened here."

Prosecutors asked for a sentence higher than 20 years, which had previously been offered to Swann in a plea deal. Swann main-

tained that he had been harassed by Black.

"The defendant believed he was justified in what he did that day," said Assistant District Attorney Denise Tirino. "There is no amount of time that equals



The children of slain Ezra Black - Joshua, Izaiah and Nakiha - stand outside the courtroom sporting T-shirts in memory of their father.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

a human life."

Swann's defense attorney, Michael Siff, argued a lighter sentence was appropriate, as the offers the DA's office had given were based on murder charges.

"I think had my client been tried on manslaughter, the offers would have been different," said Siff, who also contended his client had shown remorse for his actions and had never

shaded his testimony during the trial.

"My client was a model worker," Siff said. "It wasn't until Mr. Black came on the scene that problems started happening."

Before Swann was sentenced, the court heard statements from the victim's relatives.

"I pray that none of your family ever go through this pain and suffering," said Mildred Black, the victim's mother, as Swann looked down and wiped tears from his eyes. "It's been one year and months and I cry every single day."

Black's family and friends took up nearly half the courtroom and a handful of friends were there to support Swann. A number of Black's relatives started to cry when the sentence was handed down.

"He got what he deserved," said Azariyah Black, the victim's brother outside the courtroom after the sentencing as family members consoled each other. "I think we got justice."

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at [arobinson@cnglocal.com](mailto:arobinson@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4566.



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# Avonte bills packaged

BY ALEX ROBINSON

In the wake of Avonte Oquendo's death, a package of bills aimed at providing additional services for disabled children was highlighted at a joint hearing last Friday.

Among them was City Councilman Paul Vallone's (D-Bayside) bill that seeks to expand U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer's (D-N.Y.) Avonte's Law.

Schumer's legislation proposed expanding a U.S. Department of Justice program that provided GPS tracking devices for people with Alzheimer's to include



AVONTE OQUENDO

Photo courtesy NYPD

children with autism as well as other disorders in which running away from parents and caregivers is common.

Vallone's bill seeks to

expand that further to include all children with any disabilities.

Other bills in the package proposed creating a registry for disabled people and amending the city's silver alert program to include missing people with disabilities. A fourth bill called on the DOJ to fund projects that work to find missing people with autism.

The 14-year-old autistic boy's remains were found on the College Point shore in January after he disappeared from his Long Island City school three months earlier.

## Weprin seeks to protect carriages

State Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) has introduced a bill aimed at protecting the city's horse carriage industry by stopping the city from lowering the number of permits it issues this

year.

The bill also prohibits the city from raising the fee to apply for a carriage permit.

Weprin said he is in favor of keeping the industry alive, despite the campaign

launched by Mayor Bill de Blasio to put an end to the practice that he says is dangerous for the animals.

— Kelsey Durham

## Beware of ATM scam: 11th Precinct

The NYPD was warning the public about an ongoing scam that hacks personal banking information from ATMs using a device inserted into the machines.

Police said account information and passwords could be stolen from a machine plagued with a dupli-

cate card reading camera that transmits information to a remote hacker.

The NYPD was asking the public to be cautious, to inspect all ATMs before using them and to be suspicious of any machine that has anything loose or crooked attached to the card reader or keypad.

Scratches, tape or other residue are also signs that a machine has been tampered with. The NYPD is asking anyone who sees a machine with one of these devices to call 911 immediately.

— Kelsey Durham

## Bayside Anglers plan to clean waterfront park

The Bayside Anglers plan to spruce up the shoreline of Little Neck Bay Sunday during the group's 20th annual cleanup.

"We have 100 people come down," said Anglers member Jack Morderno, of the expected turnout. "This is our big year."

Bayside Anglers Waterfront Day is expected to kick off at 9 a.m. and run until about noon.



Connor Ng, 15, pulls trash out of a plastic can left on the Little Neck Bay shoreline. Ng, a student at Queens School of Inquiry, joined classmates to help the Bayside Anglers clean the 3-mile stretch of shoreline in 2011.

A tent will be set up at the Bayside Marina, at 28-05 Cross Island Pkwy., where organizers will keep track of participants working within the 3-mile stretch of waterfront park bordered by Little Neck Bay and Cross Island Parkway.

The group usually picks up about 250 bags' worth of garbage during its effort.



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# GOP candidates lash out over police complaint

BY KELSEY DURHAM

The two Republican candidates vying for a congressional seat in northeast Queens are facing off over a police report filed against candidate Grant Lally for allegedly intimidating a family that took part in the petitioning process for his opponent, Stephen Labate.



"Filing a false police complaint is a crime," said Robert Nori, Lally's campaign manager. "Mr. Labate has again made false charges against Grant Lally and is using them in his fund-raising solicitations."

Both men are seeking the Republican Party line to oppose U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Melville), who represents Little Neck, Glen Oaks, Douglaston and Whitestone in addition to parts of Long Island.

Labate's campaign

manager posted a narrative on his website earlier this week stating that a family on Long Island had filed a complaint with the Nassau County Police Department after allegedly being stalked and harassed at their home by two men, one of whom they believed to be Lally.

According to a letter written to the Nassau GOP Chairman by the father of the Bellmore, L.I., family, who asked to remain anonymous, a man in a dark gray SUV was seen driving by his home April 22 at a slow pace and staring down his wife as she left, causing her to worry he was scoping out the property for a home invasion or burglary.

The letter says the woman later identified the man in the vehicle as Lally after being shown a photograph of him.

The next day, the father



Congressional candidates Stephen Labate (l.) and Grant Lally (r.) are squaring off over a police complaint alleging that Lally harassed a family that volunteered for Labate's campaign. Lally denies being involved in the incident.

said, another man claiming to be a private investigator approached the family's home with papers on which his 19-year-old daughter had gathered signatures in support of Labate's run for Congress. The letter says the man, whom the family believed to be working for Lally in some way, harassed the daughter and accused her of having forged her signatures.

The father of the fami-

ly said he filed a police complaint about an "unusual or suspicious incident," but the records obtained from the Nassau Police Department do not make any mention of Lally.

Lally's staff said flatly he was not involved in the incident in any way and they had no idea who the men the family claims to have seen are. A representative at his office said that to Lally's knowledge no one

working for him took part in the reported incident.

Labate issued a statement on his website calling the actions "contemptible" and said that as a former soldier in the U.S. Army, he would not back down to the so-called bullying.

"This is a well-orchestrated campaign by Lally for Congress to intimidate my volunteers," Labate said. "Since Grant Lally can't win on the issues, he has embarked on a sleazy campaign to attack and bully. This is a desperate act on the part of a desperate candidate whose campaign is imploding and it is an affront to our election process."

Lally's office also said it believes the accusations against him are in response to a lawsuit filed against Labate April 24, claiming Labate fraudulently obtained and forged signatures on the petitions he filed to run for office. Lally's campaign

office said they viewed the complaint against Lally as an apparent act of revenge.

John Ciampoli, the attorney representing Lally for Congress, also issued a statement calling Labate "delusional" and said he is suborning perjury with his false complaint.

Nori added, "People who make bizarre false charges are not serious candidates."

Lally's office said there is no hearing date scheduled yet to answer the lawsuit filed against Labate's signatures.

Isaac Goldberg, Israel's campaign manager, said the congressman has not gotten involved in the allegations swirling around his two opponents.

"While Grant Lally and Stephen Labate battle each other, Congressman Israel remains focused on fighting for New York's middle-class families," he said.

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Residents enjoy the Bayside Arts and Crafts Festival at the corner of 41st Avenue and Bell Boulevard.

Photo by Alex Robinson



A handful of local artists sold crafts, artwork and jewelry at the festival, which was organized by the Bayside Village Business Improvement District.

Photo by Alex Robinson

# City budget office re-examines library's construction receipts

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city is giving a second look at the receipts the Queens Library submitted for reimbursement on its controversial renovation of the central library in downtown Jamaica.

The “pass-through” funds, as they are called, go directly to the library in cases when city funds are combined with those from outside sources such as state monies or private donations for construction projects and renovations. In cases when the majority of construction money is city funding, the city Department of Design and Construction holds the purse strings and manages the project.

A spokeswoman for the Office of Management and Budget said the agency has



The city's budget office is giving extra scrutiny to Queens Library's requests for reimbursements on construction projects.

asked the library for more documents relating to its request to be reimbursed to the tune of \$16.2 million for its renovations of two libraries.

“Approvals of the Queens Central and Cambria Heights pass-through projects are pending fur-

ther documentation requested by OMB,” the spokeswoman said.

At a City Council hearing Monday members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and representatives from the Design Department held a discussion on pass-through contracts, which have little oversight compared to construction projects managed by the city.

“That money has not been paid to Queens Library. That is currently at the budget office. It has been stopped,” DDC Deputy Commissioner David Resnick said. “As of now we are not issuing any pass-throughs of any sort to Queens Library.”

The committee's chair-  
*Continued on Page 58*



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# Elderly Bayside couple injured in break-in that shocks electeds

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Bay Terrace lawmakers expressed shock and sadness this week after an elderly couple was injured in a violent home invasion that shook the normally quiet neighborhood.

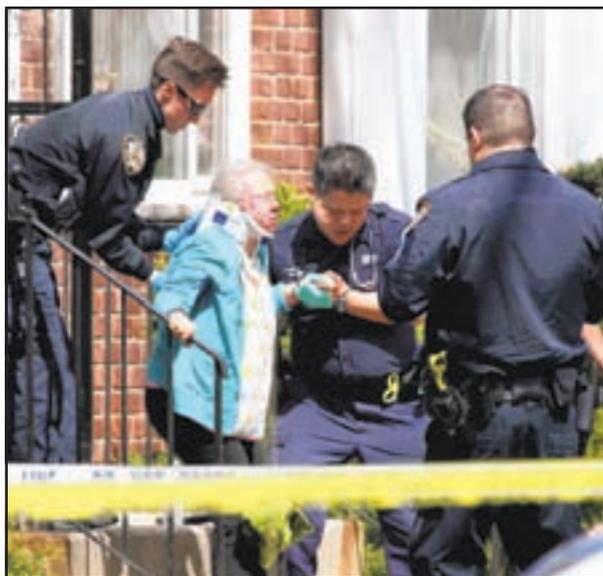
The NYPD said two suspects, described only as Hispanic males, forced their way into a home near 212th Street and 15th Avenue in Bay Terrace around 2:30 p.m. April 23 by posing as maintenance workers.

The couple who live there, an 86-year-old man and his 85-year-old wife, were both assaulted by the men and were taken to New York Hospital Queens with serious bruises to the hands and face, police said.

Police were still trying to identify the suspects as this week and said they had not yet determined if anything was taken from the home.

After hearing of the incident last week, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said he was "saddened and disturbed" by what he called a horrific crime and urged other residents in his district to be careful about who they open their doors for.

"Whether individuals pose as maintenance, Con Edison or city agency workers, we can never be too careful when a stranger rings our doorbell," Avella said. "Call the authorities, your landlord or your man-



Emergency responders assist an elderly home invasion victim to an ambulance in Bayside. Photo by Ellis Kaplan

agement company to confirm their identity prior to opening the door. Personal vigilance is key to helping stop these incidents from occurring in the future."

The victims were expected to recover from their injuries, and Avella said he was confident the 109th Precinct, which patrols the northern part of Bayside, will make arrests soon.

In the wake of the alleged attack, state Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) reminded his constituents to be vigilant about deception that could lead to crime and said he has also asked police to step up their presence.

"The brutal attack on the elderly couple in Bay Terrace was unconscio-

nable and I am hopeful that the perpetrators will be swiftly brought to justice," he said. "In light of this crime, I reached out to the 109th Precinct and requested increased patrols in the Bay Terrace area."

Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) also issued a statement.

"This is a strong reminder that we must remain ever vigilant in our communities as well as work with and support our Police Department and senior community to prevent this from happening again," Vallone said.

The NYPD was asking anyone with information about the incident to contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS.

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# Kaufman Astoria plans to build 10th sound stage



Kaufman Astoria Studios gets bigger with a plan for yet another sound stage.

Photo by Bill Parry

BY BILL PARRY

Kaufman Astoria Studios, one of the largest film production centers on the East Coast, is about to become even larger.

Construction on a new \$24 million, 18,000-square-foot sound stage will break ground early next year. Stage N will be the studio's eighth self-contained production facility.

"When you add them to the open-air back lot, and our music recording studio that can be used as a stage, that gives us a total of 10," Studio President Hal Rosenbluth said. "When you compare it to Warner Bros.'s 40 stages, it seems small, but remember, Hollywood is an industry town. No. 2 to L.A. is not such a bad thing."

"Men in Black 3" and "Goodfellas" as well as TV shows like "Sesame Street," "Orange Is the New Black" and "Nurse Jackie" have all been filmed at Kaufman Astoria Studios.

"Film and television production in New York City has never been stronger," Rosenbluth said. "With Stage N, we'll be able to accommodate even more projects and continue to make New York the film and television capital of the world."

Steady growth has been part of a long-term plan to reinvigorate the neighborhood with the studio as an anchor. Last month, it was the centerpiece of the newly designated Kaufman Arts District, a 24-block area that contains the Museum of the Moving Image, the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts and the Queens Council on the Arts.

"After the Army vacated in the '70s this whole area was abandoned and overrun with vandals," Rosenbluth said, referring to the era when the military made training films on the site. "When owner George Kaufman took over in 1982, his goal was to make the studio a big part of the neighborhood — not to own everything but to facilitate growth in the neighborhood."

Further expansion may include hotels and residential buildings in the future.

"If we're involved in residential projects, the arts district allows us to bring more traffic. That helps all the landlords and restaurants and all the small business owners," Rosenbluth said. "All this is economic growth and it must be sustainable and we're building on that."

That is one of the reasons that a flea market is opening on the studio's back lot starting Sunday.

"The flea might bring more people to the area who might not have been here. They might think, 'That's a neat place, maybe I'll get an apartment there instead of Queens Plaza or Court Square,' That's how all businesses are gaining from our growth," Rosenbluth said.

More than a few eyebrows were raised when it was announced the flea market would take place on the back lot. The whole block of 36th Street between 34th and 35th Avenues was de-mapped and turned over to the studio in a deal with the city Economic Development Corp. in 2012.

"There has been a voice of some concern, but I assure you I am not in the flea market business," Rosenbluth said. "It's just five hours on eight straight Sundays. We're just trying to do as many things possible to grow the studio and the whole neighborhood as well."

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@cnglocal.com](mailto:bparry@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718.260.4538.



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## *Little Leaguers celebrate start of season in northeast Queens*

The College Point Little League and Hollis-Bellaire-Queens Village-Bellerose Athletic Association kicked off their seasons with parades over the weekend. (Clockwise from top l.) Ray Lavare, 10, carries the American flag on College Point Boulevard; Matthew Jackson, 8, leads a chant for HBQVB; youngsters from the Lost Boys team march in formation; dozens of people walk along Hillside Avenue; and players, including Anthony Roller Jr. (third r.), hold a banner in memory of Anthony Roller, an assistant coach who died between seasons.

Photos by Erin Edwards and Christina Santucci



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## CENTER FOR WOMEN OF NEW YORK HONORS QUEENS LEADERS AT DOUGLASON MANOR LUNCHEON *Photos by Nat Valetine*



**1** Cheryl Wills, an anchorwoman at NY1, is joined by husband John Singleton at the Center for the Women of New York's 27th anniversary luncheon. Wills was honored as a Woman of Distinction.



**2** Center for Women of New York Founder Ann Juliano Jawin (fourth l.) and President Sue Salzberg (sixth l.) are surrounded by honorees (l.-r.) Nancy Chen Balwin, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley, Don Gelestino, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Michele Stoddart, Cheryl Wills, Alexandra Rosa, Lawrence Litwack, David Fischer, Dr. William Duke and Gary Babad.



**3** Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, (l.) who was honored as a Woman of Distinction, smiles alongside former Assemblywoman Ann Margaret Carrozza and U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley.

## QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS HOLDS NINTH-BIENNIAL CEREMONY AT ANTUN'S IN QUEENS VILLAGE *Photos by Christina Santucci*



**4** Queens Borough President Melinda Katz (l.) lauds Murray Berger of the Kew Gardens Civic Association as he holds up a clock from the Queens Civic Congress.



**5** Honorees (l.-r.) Barbara Larkin from the Belle Harbor Property Owners Association, Murray Berger from the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association, Paul A. Kerzner from the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association and Seymour Schwartz from the Briarwood Neighborhood Association are joined by Michael Cohen from Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz's office and Queens Civic Congress President Richard Hellenbrecht.



**6** Assemblyman David Weprin (l.) introduces Seymour Schwartz from the Briarwood Neighborhood Association with his award as Richard Hellenbrecht presents Schwartz with a clock from the Queens Civic Congress.

## FRIENDS FOR GREGORY MEEKS PRESENTS AWARDS DURING GALA IN SOUTHEAST QUEENS *Photos by Nat Valetine*



**7** U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks smiles beside his daughter, Nia, at the Friends of Gregory Meeks Recognition Awards Gala at Antun's in Queens Village.



**8** Bess DeBetham is given a surprise award by U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks in recognition of her community work.



**9** Broad Channel residents Dan Mundy Jr. (l.) and Dan Mundy Sr. (r.) are presented with Community Service Awards during the gala.

## REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION HOSTS 24TH-ANNUAL ASSEMBLY IN MANHATTAN *Photos by Walter Karling*



**10** Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer and former Councilman Archie Spigner attend the Regional Plan Association's 24th-annual Assembly held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Manhattan. The RPA is an urban research and advocacy group.



**11** The Flushing, Willets Point and Corona Development Corporation's Alexandra Rosa (l.-r.) and Claire Shulman, the former Queens borough president, join John Young from the NYC Department of Planning.



**12** Greater Jamaica Development Corporation Board Secretary Calvin Lawrence, Board Vice Chairmen Jonathan White and Peter Kulka, Regional Plan Association Chairman Elliot Sander and GJDC Chairman Daniel Greene share a light-hearted moment. The GJDC was a sponsor of the event.

# Tips from Cohen's Fashion Optical

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## EYE EXAMS

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## ANNUAL EYE EXAMS

Annual eye exams are recommended as a part of preventative health care. Individuals can be unaware of problems because there are often no obvious signs or symptoms. It is important to detect and treat vision problems early in order to maintain good vision and eye health. Eye exams may include:

**Patient History** – Checks the patient's general health, medication usage, family history and symptoms, etc.

**Visual Acuity** – Evaluates how clearly each eye is seeing. Also known as the "Snellen Chart", this tests distance and near vision. Normal distance visual acuity is 20/20. If you have 20/20 vision, you are seeing clearly at the appropriate distance. This is only an indi-

cation of visual clarity and other skills that contribute to overall vision.

**Preliminary Tests** – Evaluates specific aspects of visual function and eye health.

**Keratometry** – Measures the curvature of the cornea, the clear outer surface of the eye. This is important for determining the "base curve" for the contact lenses.

**Refraction** – Determines the appropriate lens power to compensate for nearsightedness, farsightedness or astigmatism.

**Eye Health Evaluation** – Examines the external parts of the eye, including the cornea, eyelids, conjunctiva and surrounding eye tissue. In addition, the patient's pupils may be dilated to evaluate the internal parts of the eye, including the lens, retina and posterior section. Doctors will also measure the pressure within the eye to detect glaucoma.

**Supplemental Testing** – Additional testing to confirm or rule out possible problems, and to provide clarification or further assessment.

## VISION CONDITIONS

Following are Vision Conditions that regularly scheduled eye exams can prevent or allow for early detection and treatment.

**Myopia (Nearsightedness)** – Condition in which near objects are seen clearly, but distant ones are out of focus. This occurs if the eyeball is too long or the cornea has too much curvature. Nearsightedness is very common. Eyeglasses or contact lenses can correct nearsightedness and may be necessary for certain activities, including watching a movie or TV screen.

**Hyperopia (Farsightedness)** – Condition in which distance objects are seen clearly, but close ones are out of focus. This occurs if the eyeball is too short or the cornea does not have enough curvature. Symptoms include difficulty focusing on close objects, eye strain, fatigue and/or headaches, aching or burning eyes, discomfort after long-term concentration.

**Presbyopia** – Loss of flexibility in your eyes' crystalline lens, causing difficulty focusing on close objects. This is a natural part of aging,



typically occurring in the early to mid-40s. Signs include reading at arm's length, blurred vision and eye fatigue. Presbyopia is not a disease and cannot be prevented.

**Astigmatism** – Causes blurred vision due to the irregular shape of the cornea or the curvature of the lens inside the eye. The irregular shape prevents light from centering on the retina and creates blurred vision at any distance. This is a very common condition and often occurs with other vision conditions, such as nearsightedness and farsightedness. Astigmatism can be treated with eyeglasses and contact lenses.

**Strabismus (Crossed Eyes)** – Occurs when one or both of the eyes turns in, out, up or down. This is often caused by poor eye muscle control. Treatments include prescription eyeglasses, prisms, vi-

sion therapy, and sometimes, surgery. If detected early, it can often be corrected.

**Amblyopia (Lazy Eye)** – Loss or lack of development in one eye. Often associated with crossed-eyes or large differences in degrees of nearsightedness and farsightedness between the two eyes. Treatments include prescription eyeglasses, prisms, vision therapy and eye patching.

**Spots and Floaters** – Small cloudy specks or particles within the vitreous (clear fluid that fills the inside of the eyes), caused during formation of the eyes before birth, deterioration of the vitreous fluid from aging, or some eye diseases or injuries. This condition rarely has an effect on vision and typically found to be harmless.

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# Four dispatchers suspended after Far Rock fire: FDNY

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The FDNY said it suspended four staffers at the Queens dispatching center after a preliminary investigation found they mishandled calls during a fatal Far Rockaway fire.

The city Department of Investigation began reviewing the FDNY Queens Center of Operations, where dispatchers work, after questions arose about delays in sending ambulances to a basement blaze in Far Rockaway April 19.

The flames claimed the lives of two 4-year-olds staying at their grandfather's house, the Police Department said.

During the first 72 hours of their probe, investigators found that two of the six people working at the Queens Center of Operations were not in their seats just before the emergency arose.

Firefighters reported there was an active fire to dispatchers at 11:57 p.m., but the first call to EMS from the Queens Center of Operations did not go out



The city is investigating delays in dispatching ambulances to a Far Rockaway fire that killed two children.

until about seven minutes later, at 12:04 a.m., according to a memo DOI Commissioner Mark Peters sent to Mayor Bill de Blasio and FDNY Commissioner Salvatore Cassano April 25.

"The supervising fire alarm dispatcher both failed to ensure proper coverage and failed to appropriately supervise the response by the three fire alarm dispatchers who were working on the response," Peters wrote. "Each of these three [fire alarm dispatchers] either failed to properly notify EMS when required or failed to take steps that

would have prompted/facilitated such notification."

Peters wrote that preliminary personnel records show the four have previously bungled responses and failed to comply with department guidelines.

He recommended that the city immediately remove the dispatchers and supervisor from their day-to-day duties while the investigation continues.

The FDNY said it responded by suspending the employees for 30 days without pay.

Peters said investigators believe FDNY's training for dispatcher supervisors does not comply with state and industry standards and that the Queens Center of Operations has a history of "operational weakness."

The FDNY agreed to review personnel records at the Queens Center of Operations and place any staff with call-related disciplinary histories on administrative assignment pending further investigation, according to the memo.

Continued on Page 58

# Board of Elections eyes new site in Forest Hills for boro offices

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city Board of Elections is planning to move its front offices up Queens Boulevard from its current location at 83rd Avenue in Kew Gardens to Muss Development's 17-story office tower at the corner of Union Turnpike.

The city plans to lease more than 28,000 square feet in the Forest Hills Tower, at 118-35 Queens Blvd.

"We're taking two floors: 10, part of 11 and space in the lobby," Board of Elections Facilities Manager Nick Squicciarini told

the city Planning Commission last week. "Basically we're at 126-06 Queens Blvd. The landlord wanted to reposition the building, so now we came across this great space and we hope to, you know, occupy this space in the future."

The board currently occupies about 34,000 square feet at 126-06 Queens Blvd., paying a base rent of \$996,600 a year with an additional \$8,704.32 for four parking spaces, according to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services. The current lease expires in August and the

department said the city plans to renew for another year.

Squicciarini said the BOE will continue to use the space for warehousing purposes and the offices in the Forest Hills Tower will be used for voter registration, poll-worker training and other front-office uses.

"The new address will be posted on the website so everybody will have a fair warning where we're moving to," he said. "And again, it's only a few blocks down from where we currently are."



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2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995	2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
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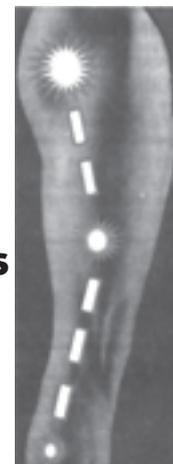
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According to Alan Alford,

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

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

at \$895, with other options raising the price to as high as \$1,500. All of the divorces, Alford says, are completed within a few days and the clients are then free to remarry or otherwise continue with their lives as single persons. Anyone interested in more details about the Divorcefast offerings should access the company website: [www.divorcefast.com](http://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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# EXERCISE AND THE OLDER WOMAN

**T**he aging process has a way of making people risk-averse. Financial advisers typically recommend that men and women steer clear of risky investments as they age, and men and women over 50 often make lifestyle choices to reduce their risk of developing certain medical conditions. As women age, some may feel exercise is simply too risky. Hormonal changes brought on by aging decrease a woman's bone density, and that fact makes many women over 50 hesitant to embrace exercise. But exercise plays

a key role in helping women over 50 secure their long-term health and reduce their risk of injury.

### **Exercise promotes independence**

Some women think that exercising after 50 increases their risk of injury, which can make them overly dependent on their loved ones. But exercise, in particular strength training, slows bone deterioration, helping bones stay stronger longer and reducing a woman's risk of suffering a potentially debilitating injury. Independence

is especially important to seniors, many of whom spent years planning their retirements and awaiting the day when they would be free to travel at their leisure. Daily exercise can help women maintain that independence by reducing their risk of injury and other ailments that can be confining.

### **Exercise can improve sleep**

Some women who are fighting fatigue may believe that routine exercise will only make them more

*Continued on Page 38*

# Advice for aging athletes

Retired professional athletes often speak about the difficult moment when they knew it was time to retire from professional competition. The transition can be easy for some but far more difficult for others. But aging amateur athletes know you need not be a professional to realize there comes a time when your body is telling you it's time to ease up.

Athletes are used to pushing themselves and stretching their limits, but some limits are best not pushed. Such is the case with the limits posed by aging. While athletes don't have to completely fold up shop and hang up their cleats, tennis shoes, or other athletic equipment as they approach senior citizen status, there are steps aging athletes can take to ensure they aren't pushing

their bodies too far as they grow older.

## Recognize your new recovery time

Veteran athletes tend to have a sixth sense about their bodies, knowing how long they need to recover from common ailments like ankle sprains, knee pain, back pain, and shin splints. Despite the body's remarkable ability for recovery, it's not immune to aging, and that recovery time will increase as the body ages. Whereas a sprained ankle might once have been as good as new after a few days or rest, aging athletes must recognize that the same ankle sprain now might require more recovery time. Returning too quickly from an injury can only make things worse for aging athletes, so don't push yourself.

## Take more time to warm up

As the body ages, its response time to exercise increases. This means the body needs more time to prepare itself for cardiovascular and strength-training exercises. Increase your warmup time as you age, gradually increasing the intensity of your warmup exercises until your body feels ready for more strenuous exercise.

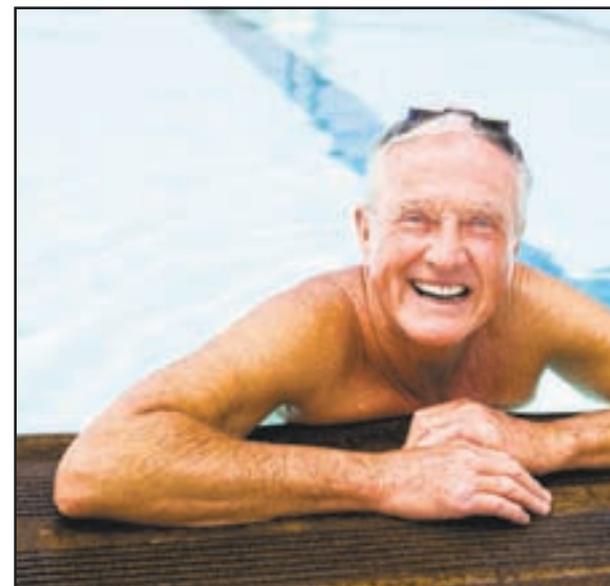
## Focus on flexibility

The more flexible you are, the more capable the body is of absorbing shock, including the shock that results from repetitive activities. But as the body ages, it becomes less flexible, which makes it less capable of successfully handling the repetitive movements common to exercise. Aging athletes should focus on their

flexibility, stretching their muscles before and after a workout. In addition, activities such as yoga can work wonders on improving flexibility for young and aging athletes alike.

## Don't stop strength training

Some aging athletes mistakenly think they should stop strength training as they get older. No longer concerned about building muscle, aging athletes might feel as if they have nothing to gain by lifting weights and continuing to perform other muscle strengthening exercises. But the body gradually loses muscle mass as it ages, and that loss puts the joints under greater stress when aging athletes perform other exercises. That stress can put people at greater risk for arthri-



Older athletes should stretch their muscles before exercising to improve flexibility.

tis, tendinitis and ligament sprains. While you no longer need to max out on the bench press or challenge yourself on the biceps curl, it is important to continue to make strength training a part of your fitness regimen as you age.

Older athletes need not associate aging with ceasing their athletic pursuits. But recognizing your limitations and the changes your body is going through is an important element of staying healthy as your approach older adulthood.

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## Don't Panic When Your Family Member Needs Assistance to Remain At Home

BY ALLEN ROSEN, M.A.,  
SPECIAL CONSULTANT WITH PROGRESSIVECARE

I am a member of the baby boomer generation who has been fortunate enough to have parents who lived long, relatively happy lives. My father passed away at age 87 and my mother, who is still with us but has severe dementia, is now approaching 97. Both of my parents' later years have been supported through personal care in their home. This care has been funded through long term care insurance, private funds and finally, Medicaid.

My career for the past 34 years has been focused in New York's Home Health Care Industry. Despite my expertise in the field, I and my younger sister have had to struggle with the emotional, financial and general stress of ensuring that our parents received the care they needed to safely remain in their home.

It's often difficult for us or our loved one to accept the fact they need assistance to remain at home. An unsteady gait, deterioration in hygiene, forgetfulness in taking prescribed medications, inability to purchase, prepare and eat nutritious meals are all signs that assistance may be needed to safely remain at home. A supportive, united family can help the loved one finally accept the fact that this assistance is necessary.

Once you have determined that help is needed, look for a Home Care Agency that is licensed and regulated by the New York State Department of Health. This ensures that the Aides sent to the home are appropriately trained, adequate-

ly supervised, legally approved to work in the US, checked for criminal backgrounds along with being properly insured and bonded. Additionally, they relieve the family of the responsibility of Government mandates to withhold taxes, pay into Social Security, Worker Compensation, and other requirements. Additionally, the family should choose Agencies that have NY State approved training programs and have earned accreditation status, a voluntary action that signifies the highest level of recognition of quality approval in the United States.

While most seniors have Medicare, it is important to understand that Medicare does not cover long term care, but Medicaid can cover this care. New York has one of the best Medicaid Home Care benefits of any state in the country. Even if the care recipient owns his or her home or has assets, they may still qualify for Medicaid. There are Elder Care Attorneys and other professionals who can assist in the Medicaid application process.

Each family's situation is unique. An important first step is to reach out and contact someone knowledgeable about accessing these services. Don't panic - quality help and peace of mind are available for you and your loved one.

For a referral to a quality Joint Commission Accredited Licensed Home Care Services Agency that specializes in both private pay and government funded services, you can call ProgressiveCare at 212.273.5678 or visit us on the web at [www.phhs.com/private](http://www.phhs.com/private).

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Your family's troubles only start with the funeral. Even if you think you've taken care of your family with a will or a living trust, recent legal activity shows your family could lose most or all of your estate. Our free workshop will reveal if your family is at risk and how to fix the problem if they are.

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## FREE WORKSHOPS ON WILLS & LIVING TRUSTS

# Queens Law Firm Reveals 3 Major Mistakes That Could Cost Your Family Everything!

### Act Now to learn the secrets to protecting your family home and nest egg from lawsuits & creditors

#### EXCLUSIVE

by Michael Davidov and Ilana Davidov  
Davidov law group

The funeral is only the start of your family's problems. Even though you've worked hard your entire life and saved up something you'd like to pass on to your family, they may end up with nothing. You can spare your family a second round of grief. Keep reading and we'll share just 3 critical reasons your family may be facing difficulties.

Our names are Michael Davidov and Ilana Davidov, and we have reviewed countless wills and trusts here in New York. Recent legal trends cause us great concern.

In this article, we'd like to highlight just some of the issues which may affect your family.

#### Risk #1 - Lost in Probate Court

Chances are high your estate is going to wind up in probate court. In probate court they decide if your will is valid, try to settle disputes, distribute your assets to your heirs, and settle any outstanding issues. Probate is a lengthy process, and it may take some time until your will clears probate. Another problem is everything about your will is in the public record so virtually anyone has access to every single detail of your finances.

For example, in New York, assets over 2 Million may be subject to estate tax. But there is a way to pass on your entire estate regardless of its size— to your loved ones while legally avoiding probate and minimizing or eliminating New York and Federal Estate Taxes.

#### Risk #2 - Not Protecting Yourself or Your Estate

You've worked hard your entire life and you'd like to pass on your estate to your loved ones. But unless you quickly take action, there may be nothing left for your family. Statistics reveal you are six times more likely to become disabled before you die. The US Government Census Bureau expects the disability rate to double in the next decade. Yet most people plan their wills for what will take place after their death. This is a serious mistake. Very frequently we see plans people have made for their heirs become undone because of the need for long term nursing care.

The average nursing home stay in NYC exceeds \$137,076 per year. It's been reported that more than 500,000 seniors a year go broke because of these long-term care costs. Before Medicaid picks up a dime, your assets may be exhausted. You may die and leave nothing to your heirs.

#### Risk #3 - Not Protecting Your Family

Most people fear once they're gone their spouse and kids will be taken advantage of by creditors, lawsuits or divorce or squander the estate with foolish financial decisions. Most wills and trusts we've examined do nothing to protect against

these risks. Many wills and trusts give your assets outright to your heirs when you and your spouse are gone. This is a huge mistake. If one of your goals in establishing a trust was to protect your family, your work may have been in vain. There are three principal issues of concern with regard to protecting your family.

#### Skyrocketing Divorce Rate

With the divorce rate hovering at 50%, you cannot afford to ignore another very real danger. In New York, a divorcing spouse can walk away with 50% of your assets if things are not properly handled. You worked your entire life to build up a nest egg and planned carefully to make sure it was transferred into the right hands. You don't want a sizeable chunk of it to end up in the "soon to be ex" in-law.

#### Irresponsible Behavior

Sometimes protecting your family means protecting individual members from their own irresponsible behavior. Perhaps there is a young person in your family who has not fully matured yet and may take the money you saved and squander it in one afternoon. There are simple ways around this problem we will detail at our free seminar.

#### Special Needs Relatives

If you have a child or grandchild with special needs and this child inherits wealth from your estate—all of the government benefits will stop immediately. Your gift may cause them a double problem—first the loss of services, and then when their money rapidly runs out, the inability to arrange for a resumption of government services. We'll show you how you can look after your special needs family member even after you are gone.

#### Free Workshop reveals a Better Way

If you are concerned about making sure the money you've earned goes to your loved ones without going through probate you owe it to yourself to attend our upcoming Free Legacy Wealth Planning Workshop. At this workshop we'll highlight some of the most common risks you'll want to consider and show you how to protect yourself and your family.

#### Here's What You'll Discover

We'd like to invite you to join us at an upcoming Legacy Wealth Planning presentation. In this workshop, you'll find out what a "bare-bones" estate plan is and how dangerous it can be for your family. The most common remark we hear after these seminars is that most people are amazed at how exposed their family was. Some people might even be a little angry their planner didn't advise them of many of these issues. The good news is that it's not too late to fix the problem and get the real peace of mind you deserve.

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# Bathroom falls can be prevented



Falls cause many injuries inside a home. Seniors are especially susceptible to harmful falls in the bathroom, where slippery tiles can prove too difficult for older men and women to navigate.

A 2011 study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that nearly 234,000 Americans ages 15 and older were treated in an emergency department for nonfatal bathroom-related injuries in 2008. That adds up to roughly 640 people per day. More than 80 percent of bathroom-related injuries were caused by slips and falls, mostly while getting in and out of the tub or shower, and about 30 percent of those injuries included cuts, scrapes, and bruises.

Bathrooms can be more

dangerous than other rooms in the house for a variety of reasons. The bathroom is generally comprised of hard surfaces that can become slippery when wet or exposed to high humidity. A bathroom may become hotter than other rooms because of the steam that accompanies a hot shower. Heat may dilate peripheral veins and lower blood pressure in some people. This may lead to dizziness that can result in falls. Furthermore, people tend to rush in the bathroom as they get ready for work or school. Rushing around can lead to slips and injuries on wet surfaces.

Installing safety features in the bathroom is a key way to reduce the risk of accidents. Many manufacturers have even designed these features so they blend with bathroom decor.

When renovating bathrooms for safety, consider the following options.

- Anti-scald features: Burns can be serious business. Anti-scald showerheads and faucets prevent sudden bursts of hot water.

- Nonslip mats: Bathroom injuries often occur when people are getting in and out of the shower. Having a non-slip mat on the inside of the shower or tub as well as one with a grippable surface and plush top layer on which to step after exiting the shower can reduce falls.

- Bath bench: The elderly or those prone to lightheadedness in the shower may want to invest in a bench or seat to put into the shower. This enables sitting while washing.

- Safety bars: Safety bars with a brushed surface for traction are recommended.

Grab bars need to be securely attached to a wood stud in the wall and not into drywall or the tub enclosure.

- Raised toilet seat: A raised toilet seat reduces the amount of squatting and the distance that has to be covered to sit on the commode. Grab bars on the raised seat itself will provide added safety.

- Telephone: The bathroom may seem an odd place to install a telephone, but having one nearby in the event of injury can ensure help gets to the injured party more quickly.

- Regular cleaning: Routinely ridding showers and tubs of soap scum and mildew can reduce the slippery coating that forms as a result of these substances. Also, be sure to keep clutter in the bathroom to a minimum to help prevent falls.

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## Exercise

*Continued from page 35*

tired. But exercise actually improves energy levels and makes it easier to get a better night's rest. Numerous studies have shown that routine exercise can improve sleep quality and even increase energy levels throughout the day, something that should raise an eyebrow among women who do not exercise but routinely find themselves fighting fatigue. A better quality night's rest improves

vitality, making it easier for women to exercise and make it through the day without feeling fatigued.

### Exercise benefits those with limited mobility

Women over 50 with limited mobility may think that exercise serves no purpose because of their disability or physical condition. But even women confined to wheelchairs or those forced to walk with a cane or walker can benefit from cardiovascular exercise and even light strength training. Such exercises can

improve a woman's range of motion while reducing her risk of heart disease.

### It's never too late to start exercising

Many aging women feel their time to embrace exercise has long since passed. But it's never too late to start exercising. Women should take a conservative approach when exercising after a long hiatus, beginning with a slow walk around the neighborhood or a local park. Walking is a great beginner's exercise, as it provides a good cardiovascular workout while working a variety of muscle groups. As your body readjusts to physical activity, gradually increase the intensity of your exercise sessions, adding some strength training, ideally under the supervision of a professional. Always stretch immediately after each exercise session, and give your body ample time to recover, especially when you begin your new regimen.

# Powerstrip sparked flames in Bruson Building: FDNY

BY BILL PARRY

The FDNY reported that the massive five-alarm fire in Jackson Heights that destroyed so many offices and stores in the Bruson Building was sparked by an overloaded power strip.

It was not yet known where in the building, at 74-09 37th Ave., the power strip was located, the Fire Department says.

The April 22 blaze broke out on the third floor April 21 and spread through the fourth floor. More than 200 firefighters from 39 units needed nearly six hours to bring the fire under control.

Following an inspection, the city Department of Buildings said the Bruson Building is stable enough that it did not have to be



Firefighters douse the Bruson Building in Jackson Heights with water. Fire marshals say the five-alarm blaze started with an overloaded power strip.

torn down immediately. The front and side walls are stable, but a sidewalk shed was erected around a rear wall which was in danger of collapse.

The building's owner retained a professional en-

gineer to monitor the rear wall, according to DOB Press Secretary Kelly Magee.

"The property owner has sealed the building as per the department's or-

*Continued on Page 58*

## Apartment in Astoria rents for record \$5,000 a month

BY BILL PARRY

A three-bedroom, 3 1/2-bathroom apartment has set a new record for rentals in Astoria at \$5,000 per month, according to an agent at Douglas Elliman, which had the exclusive listing.

The Greek owner of the townhouse, on 35th Street, lives in Geneva, Switzerland, and did a wholesale renovation of the property with European-style finishes.

"The apartment is amazing, an exquisite gut renovation of a pre-war building," registered agent Justin Kinslow said. "There is no other renovation that comes close to this in all of Astoria."

Nor do the rents, Kinslow added.

"In terms of reported rents, the only thing close

to it is \$4,000 per month," he said.

The townhouse is fully customized with the latest technological innovations, from central air-conditioning and in-floor heating controlled by remote with an iPhone application. There is also a 500-square-foot media room in the basement, right next to the heated underground parking garage.

Each room features European design with exposed brick walls, white cedar floors, stylized windows with double-paned glass, recessed lighting with dimmers, Paggen Pohl black granite counters, Hans Grohe sinks and high-end appliances including a Sub-zero wine refrigerator. The apartment came equipped with a video-linked intercom and alarm system.

The unit was listed in

late January and Kinslow had his tenants lined up less than two months later.

"They are three guys in their mid-20s, all Ivy League graduates who work in finance and were looking for more space," he said. "They really like the feel of the community, having moved from the East Village where they say everyone is there to just party."

Kinslow had record-making success with the townhouse's second apartment as well.

"The second floor is 500 square feet and it's renting for \$2,750 per month. That's the highest rent per square foot in Astoria," he said.

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@cnglocal.com](mailto:bparry@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4538.

From the president, students, faculty and staff of York College/CUNY

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## Funding

Continued from Page 4

cent, the Bronx 18 percent, Queens 16 percent, the special narcotics prosecutor 7 percent and Staten Island 3 percent.

But arrest trends were not so steady, with Manhattan's share of felony arrests falling from 35 percent in 1980 to 25 percent in 2009 and the outer boroughs' portions rising.

"The existing workload formula is almost five years old and must be revisited by the City Council to insure that we are getting our fair share of the criminal justice dollar. We are still about \$2 million behind where we started in fiscal [year] 2002 — or the equivalent of about 30 new full-time attorneys," Queens DA Richard Brown said in a statement.

The city's preliminary 2014-15 fiscal plan does not break with tradition. It sets aside \$85,012,000 for the

Manhattan DA, \$82,748,000 for the Brooklyn DA, \$52,254,000 for the Bronx DA, \$48,322,000 for the Queens DA and \$8,752,000 for the Staten Island DA.

The Council's budget priorities urged the de Blasio administration to have the Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office recalculate its workload analysis to ensure that each DA is given the resources it needs.

NYPD arrest statistics do not offer a complete take on prosecutors' workloads because DAs spearhead their own investigations and make arrests and a number of cases are disposed.

The IBO report found a growing number of cases were not being taken to court, with the number of felony cases the Queens DA declined to prosecute increasing from 1 percent in 1980 to 7 percent in 2009.

Still, using 2013 NYPD statistics as a barometer, the Queens DA had less funding last fiscal year to work with than prosecu-

tors in other boroughs.

The Police Department noted it made 24,108 major felony arrests in Queens last year. The borough's fiscal year 2014 adopted budget of \$48,920,000 left about \$2,029.20 per case.

In Manhattan, the NYPD logged 27,617 such arrests and the DA's adopted budget included \$85,013,000, which amounted to \$3,078.29 per case.

The other boroughs fell somewhere in between.

The Manhattan DA's budget is boosted by settlement payments, which must be shared with the other offices when they surpass a certain threshold, and asset forfeitures.

The IBO found that the Manhattan office brought in 95 percent to 98 percent of settlement payments citywide.

It also received close to \$10 million in revenue from seized assets in 2010.

Queens got nothing from such actions that year, according to the IBO report.

## Green

Continued from Page 2

and the Horace Harding Expressway.

Susan Seinfeld, district manager of Community Board 11, said that calls about forestry and parks maintenance are some of the most frequent requests CB 11 receives, and the board requested additional funding from the city during this year's budget process to help beautify Bayside and its surrounding neighborhoods.

"It's amazing the

amount of calls that come in," she said. "We know we need a lot of cleaning in the area and this is a great way to get these stumps removed and get some trees."

Aside from the aesthetic aspect of the program, some civic leaders who joined the launch last week, said there are plenty of other benefits to focusing on replanting damaged shrubbery in the area.

"We welcome any kind of green activity in the area because it's a win-win situation," said Armando Cortino, vice president of the Bayside Hills Civic Association. "It makes the

area beautiful but it also alleviates flooding if we have more trees."

Immediately following the announcement Friday, Rozic led a group of volunteers to begin surveying the area and identifying the greenery that needs rehabilitation. She said she hopes the areas the canvass points out will be repaired by the Parks Department during the fall planting season this year.

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at [kdurham@cn-glocal.com](mailto:kdurham@cn-glocal.com).

## Lewis

Continued from Page 4

to get rid of the trailers, but we need more space. There's been talk about getting rid of the trailers but nothing about where we're going to put all these kids."

The state Assembly has also urged the city to

find a way to eliminate school trailers and provide a proper learning environment for students. Since taking office, de Blasio has suggested spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a plan to remove trailers from school yards, but Goldstein said he is more interested in what comes next.

He wonders how the city plans to make up that space.

"If you take away our trailers, where do we go?" he said.

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at [kdurham@cn-glocal.com](mailto:kdurham@cn-glocal.com).

# Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



E. N. Kamarados, who performs magic as Kamarr, shows off one of the wands he uses in his show. Photo by Merle Exit

## NOW YOU SEE IT, *now you don't*

### Slight-of-hand professionals honored for their role at World's Fairs with '105th Annual Salute to Magic'

BY MERLE EXIT

Plenty of visitors to Queens World's Fairs might have called the experience magical, but for at least one young man, magic summed up his entire trip to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in 1964.

E. N. Kamarados, who goes by the stage name Kamarr, billed himself as a prestidigitator, and

came to Queens to perform magic as part of the entertainment at the Greek Pavilion.

Now, 50 years later, Kamarr returns to the site of the Fairs to take part in the Society of American Magicians' "105th Annual Salute to Magic," at the Queens Theatre May 17 to relive some of his World Fair experiences.

"I worked at night and had all day free. As I was walking

**IF YOU GO**

**"105th Annual Salute to Magic"**

**When:** Saturday, May 17, at 8 pm  
**Where:** Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
**Cost:** \$45  
**Contact:** (718) 760-0064  
**Website:** [www.queentheatre.org](http://www.queentheatre.org)

around, I saw the Hall of Magic sponsored by the General Cigar Co. and talked to the general manager," Kamarr said. "Do you remember the expression, 'Should a gentlemen offer a Tiparillo to a

Lady?' That's where it started."

After he demonstrated his magical skills, the general manager offered him a job at the Hall of Magic, where he stayed until the Fair ended in 1965.

"It was promotional magic," Kamarr said. "I had to do something having to do with a cigar, specifically the Tiparillo."

He would place a coin into a box and a cigar would pop out. Then he would put a second coin into this large box and a Tiparillo would appear. Finally, after putting a third coin into the box, a woman would magically materi-

alize.

"Everything was created by the great magician Mark Wilson, who had a television show," Kamarr said. "Music was played in the background and we didn't talk. Some of the things we did included levitating a woman and cutting a woman in half. There were assistants as well as two other magicians. We had to do two shows and three on Saturdays and Sundays."

Kamarr was about 13 when a magician came to his Greek school to entertain the students.

*Continued on Page 47*

# New exhibition takes root in downtown Flushing

Queens Botanical Garden explores its germination as part of the creations for the 1939 World's Fair

BY MERLE EXIT

If you've ever ventured on over to the Pitch and Putt at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, you might have just seen a plant known as a perennial, one that seems to grow year after year.

It might even date back to 1939, when it would have been planted at the approximate location of the original Queens Botanical Garden, then known as "Gardens on Parade" during the World's Fair.

Beginning this Tuesday, the horticultural institution opens a new exhibit, "Harvesting Our History — The Story of Queens Botanical Garden," as part of the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the '64 and '39 Fairs.

"The exhibit in our gallery is only a fraction of what we have," Darcy Hector, QBG's director of marketing and development, said. "We are trying to provide a good

representation of the era. Materials were mostly from our archives, which contain about 20 notebooks worth of material, the majority being photographic, as well as information from the New York Public Library."

On May 18, 1939, a five-acre exhibit opened a few weeks after the Fair's first day of business. By March 1954, the garden had been expanded to cover 15 acres in the heart of Flushing Meadows Corona Park. But when talk began about Queens hosting a second fair, the garden was shuttered in October 1963 and relocated to its present location, 43-50 Main St. in Flushing.

In its new home it was enlarged again, this time to 39 acres.

Harvesting Our History will tell that story in photos, memorabilia and documents in an exhibition conceived, designed and produced by Ed and Joyce Morrill, founding

## IF YOU GO

**Harvesting Our History**  
— The Story of Queens Botanical Garden

**When:** May 6 to Sept. 28,  
Tuesday to Saturday from 8  
am - 5 pm, Sunday, 9 am - 5  
pm

**Where:** Queens Botanical  
Garden, 43-50 Main St.,  
Flushing

**Cost:** Included in garden  
admission — \$4/adults, \$3/  
seniors, \$2/students and  
children

**Contact:** (718) 886-3800

**Website:** [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org)

members of QBG's Gallery Committee.

After gathering the notes and photos, Darcy turned all the information over to the Morrills, who selected what would be in the exhibit.

"Maureen Chen digitalized some of our most sig-

nificant archives over the past year," Darcy said. "We certainly wouldn't have been able to do this without her assistance."

Darcy then focused on writing the text that appears on the 15 panels that make up the exhibition.

"The inspiration for this exhibition is the boroughwide celebration and commemoration of the two World's Fairs, but the Harvesting Our History project has a dual purpose," Darcy wrote. "It is a project of visual storytelling that integrates the collaborative efforts of the designers and Queens Botanical Garden staff, particularly the Gallery Committee and World's Fair Committee members. The Harvesting Our History exhibit celebrates the past and looks to the future of Queens Botanical Garden, the place where people, plants and cultures meet."



Visitors to the 1939 World's Fair at Flushing Meadows Corona Park could tour Gardens on Parade, which later evolved into the Queens Botanical Garden.

Photo courtesy Queens Botanical Garden



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# Dear Madame President Katz: Let's talk theater

It is time to build new venues specifically created for live theatrical performances in the borough



Ronald B. Hellman

*The Play's The Thing*

If I get the chance, I'd like to sit down with Borough President **Melinda Katz** to talk to her about theater in Queens. She should be interested, not only as our newly elected leader, but as someone with artistic genes — her mother, **Jeanne Dale Katz**, started up the **Queens Council on the Arts** in 1966, and her father, **David Katz**, was founder (in 1953) and maestro of the **Queens Symphony Orchestra**.

To establish some kind of connection, I'd point out to Ms. Katz that she and I are both na-

tives of Queens, she growing up in Forest Hills and me in Jackson Heights. I was on the Board of the Queens Council for 24 years, three of which as president. We're both attorneys — she's in politics, I vote. I'm a local theater producer and actor, she sings.

With that out of the way, I'd ask the Beep if she has heard of any of these women: **Claire Tow**, **Mitzi E. Newhouse** and **Vivian Beaumont**. They are the names on the three theaters at **Lincoln Center**. How 'bout **Linda Gross**? She's got her name on the **Atlantic Theatre** on West 20th Street. A couple of guys come to mind: **Leonard Polonsky** (a Townsend Harris High School graduate) and **Samuel H. Scripps**. You'll find their names behind the **Polonsky Shakespeare Center**, new home for **Theatre for a New Audience**, in the Fort Greene section

of Brooklyn.

The point being that there are a number of wealthy people who support the performing arts to such an extent that they get to perpetuate their names on theaters. Well, said a friend of mine, that's Manhattan, that's Brooklyn. Meaning, I guess, that that's where the action is. I say, what's wrong with Queens — we have nearly one-third the land area of New York City, more than 25 percent of its population, and we're the fastest growing county in the state?

So what we need in Queens, I would urge the borough president, are more theater buildings, venues with the look and feel and state-of-the-art technology of real theaters, to equal or surpass what our more established neighbors already have. The Polonsky Center, where I recently

saw a production of "King Lear," is a good model, a high rise courtyard theater with 299 seats, all of them good, and a stage and seats that can be configured in various ways.

Where will the money come from is always a key question. With the 50th anniversary of the 1964-65 World's Fair upon us, there's been a lot of talk about saving and restoring the remnants of the New York State Pavilion, with a price tag in the tens of millions. Knowing that site quite well after my many years at **Queens Theatre**, I wonder why? The remaining structures are a decrepit mess, and what good use could possibly come from their restoration? Better a new theater or two. And don't forget those wealthy donors who crave naming rights.

What do you say, Ms. Katz?

Making do with the Good Shepherd United Methodist Street on Crescent Street is the **Astoria Performing Arts Center**. If it's spring then Artistic Director **Tom Wojtunik** — who announced this will be his last show at APAC — will have come up with another seldom produced musical. This one is "Allegro" by **Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein** no less. When they first collaborated in the 1940s, R&H gave us four musicals: "Oklahoma!" "Carousel," "South Pacific" and, yes, "Allegro." APAC is known for its outstanding production values and talented performers, so this show is certainly worthy of your attendance. And maybe you'll get a chance to say hello to its new executive director, **Erin Moore**.

Contact Ron Hellman at RB-HOFC@gmail.com

## sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #90

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

Hard #90

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

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](http://www.sudoku.com)  
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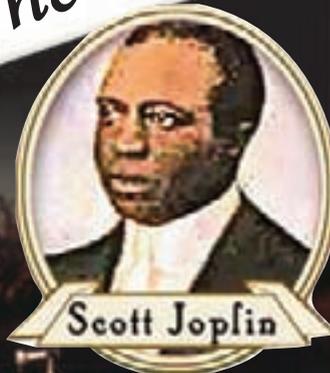
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# Titan delivers a monumental 'King Lear'

Queens Theatre's new resident acting company joins the big leagues with Shakespeare's tragic play

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

## IF YOU GO

### "King Lear"

**When:** Through May 11  
**Where:** Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
**Cost:** \$18  
**Contact:** (718) 760-0064  
**Website:** www.queenstheatre.org or www.titantheatrecompany.com

Any man who offers to give his children their inheritance only after each one proclaims how much they love him would be lucky to get a tie on Father's Day.

He also shouldn't be surprised if a few of his heirs lie about their true feelings toward the old man.

It sounds like a story line from "Dynasty" or a Telemundo soap, but most people know it's really one of William Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, "King Lear."

From Frank Langella at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, to Michael Pennington at Theatre for a New Audience to this summer's planned Central Park production starring John Lithgow, Lear and his offspring continue to pop up all around town,

Now for its first show

as the resident company at Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Titan Theatre Co. brings its uniquely fresh take on the classics in a first-rate production that stands alongside those other recent Lears.

Director Lenny Banovez once again works his editing magic and trims "King Lear" down to a more manageable two hours

show. But Banovez's real trick is making cuts that don't take away from the story or scuttle the Bard's prose.

If you saw Titan's last show, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," you already know what Banovez and his band of merry actors are capable of creating. However, unlike that last piece, "King Lear," is not a breezy evening of theater, but a bloody tale that examines concepts of loyalty, the nature of mankind and madness.

A quick recap, Lear tells his three daughters — Goneril, Regan and Cordelia — he wants to step down from the throne and will divide the kingdom between the three of them, giving the largest portion to the one who loves him most. Goneril and Regan spout flattering lies while Cordelia offers nothing.

"Nothing can be made of nothing," Lear tells her.

But the youngest daughter insists there is nothing to compare her love to, nor words to properly express it.

With that, Lear tosses Cordelia out, then slowly begins his descent into madness.

As Lear, Broadway veteran Terry Layman delivers a magnificent performance expressing the king's wide range of emotions, which run from anger and vitriol to light-heartedness and joy.

Lear is an old man, made more feeble in the body and brain as the realization of what he has done — rewarded the two evil daughters and punished the only one who really loved him — becomes clear.

Layman is able to convey regalness at the onset  
*Continued on Page 48*



Near the end of "King Lear," Greg Oliver Bodine (clockwise from l.) as Albany, and Brendan Marshall-Rashid as Edgar, attempt to comfort King Lear, played by Terry Layman, over the death of Cordelia, portrayed by Susan Maris. Photo courtesy Kevin Scott Thomas

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- Broiled Chicken
- Small Meatballs
- Linguini, w/Clam Sauce
- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

**CHOICE B**

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Any 3 Choices From A  
Any 2 Choices From B

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

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# NOW YOU SEE IT, now you don't

Continued from Page 14

That's when he decided to do magic.

"I was so fascinated and asked if I could assist him," Kamarr said. "Because of our Greek hospitality, I asked my mother if she could put him up for a week while he toured. He taught me my first lesson on how to make a coin disappear. After that I would go to shows and watch other magicians."

After attending a Greek drama school, Kamarr secured roles in films and television. Once settled in New York, he made the talk show rounds, including more than 40 appearances on "Late Night with David Letterman" and over 100 appearances on Joe Franklin. He also starred in revues and stage shows in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and various venues in Europe.

At the performance May 17, Kamarr will be receiving an award. Most likely he will be asked to



These two photographs show Kamarr during his days of performing in Las Vegas.

Photos by Merle Exit

perform.

"If asked, I will be doing a trick that I invented," he said.

"We were excited to be approached by Society of American Magicians," Taryn Sacramone, executive director of Queens Theatre, said. "The World's Fair featured a variety of performances, including magic shows, and I just knew it would be a really unique show that our audience will enjoy. The fact that this is the longest-running magic show in the

world is really special. I'm proud that they've chosen to bring it to Queens Theatre."

Joining Kamarr are headliner Jeff McBride, Master of Ceremonies Jay Scott Berry, conjurers Joe and Bronwyn Devlin and David Oliver. Close-up magic will be performed before the curtain and during intermission by members of the Society of Young Magicians. Sol Stone will be honored as 2014's Magician of the Year.

## THEATER CALENDAR

### PRODUCTIONS

**"King Lear"** – Titan Theatre Co. presents Shakespeare's epic drama about an aging king and his three daughters.

**When:** Through May 11

**Where:** Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
**Cost:** \$18

**Contact:** (347) 738-5602

**Website:** [www.titantheatrecompany.com](http://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:** Through 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](http://www.apacny.org)

**"Night Must Fall"** – Douglaston Community Theatre Group presents the psychological thriller by Emyln Williams, which tells the story of a bitter old woman, her niece and a handsome stranger.

**When:** Through May 17

**Where:** Zion Episcopal Church Hall on Hall Street, Douglaston  
**Website:** [www.spotlightonstage.com/dct.htm](http://www.spotlightonstage.com/dct.htm)

**Boogie Stomp!** – Pianists Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza tell the story of boogie woogie, its origin, its ongoing development and how it relates to all of American music.

**When:** May 8 to May 31

**Where:** Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$45/general, \$95/VIP includes post-performance reception

**Contact:** (646) 580-6003

**Website:** [www.variationstheatregroup.com](http://www.variationstheatregroup.com)

**"Peter Pan"** – Travel with the "Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" to Neverland in the musical version of James M. Barrie's play presented by The Andean Players.

**When:** May 9 to May 17, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, and Sunday, May 18, at 4 pm

**Where:** St. Andrew Avelino Church, Northern Boulevard and 157th Street, Flushing  
**Cost:** \$18/adults, \$15/seniors and children

**Contact:** [theandeanplayers@gmail.com](mailto:theandeanplayers@gmail.com)

**"Moon Over Buffalo"** – Ken Ludwig's backstage comedy revolves around a not-so-

Continued on Page 49

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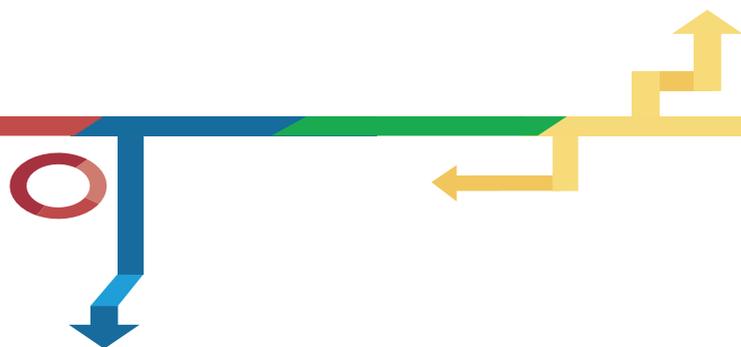


# QUEENS BUSINESS EXPO & BREAKFAST



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\$25 per person

## Lear

*Continued from Page 46*  
as equally as he expresses insanity toward the end and nowhere does he make a false step or hit an unrealistic note in his thrilling performance.

The other two standouts — in a uniformly excellent cast — are Tristan Colton as the conniving Edmund and Laura Frye as the worst of the two rotten daughters, Regan.

As the illegitimate son of Gloucester, Edmund plots against his half-brother Edgar. Through lies and manipulations, Edmund succeeds in having Edgar disowned and turned out into the woods, where he becomes a wild man.

Colton, as he did in his role of John Wilkes Booth in Titan's "This Prison Where I Live," straddles the line between charming gentleman and maniacal villain brilliantly.

As the equally repulsive Regan, Frye effortlessly makes the transition from dutiful, albeit lying, loving daughter to murderous goon. It is a change that becomes chillingly apparent as her husband, Cornwall, lays dying and asks her to take his hand. Realizing he is of no more use to her, Regan ignores the request and walks out of the room.

Alexis Carrington would have been proud.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLeder Newspapers  
May 2-8, 2014

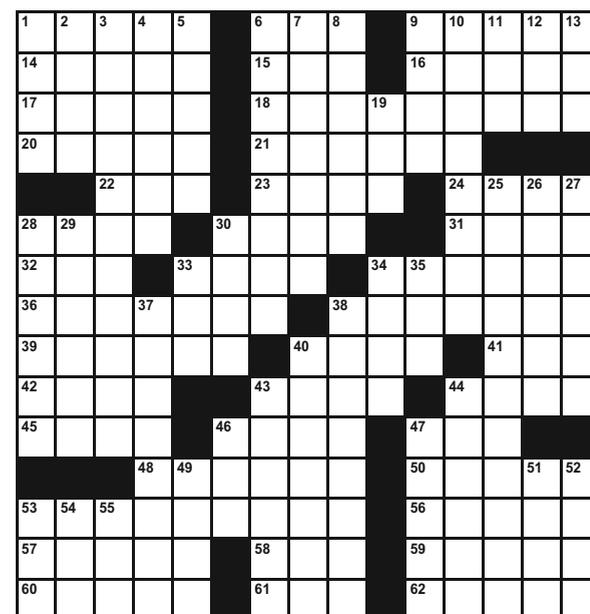
By *Pete Canty*

### Going Green



#### Across

1. Fiesta fare
6. "\_\_\_ be my pleasure!"
9. Increase
14. Rumble
15. Revolutionary leader
16. Liqueur flavor
17. Part of an act?
18. Green drink
20. Search party
21. Hilo hellos
22. Arctic bird
23. Dashed
24. Taj Mahal city
28. Distort
30. Mongrels
31. Small fastener
32. Pop-ups, e.g.
33. \_\_\_ d'oeuvre
34. Germany neighbor
36. John Lennon classic
38. Goalie's gig
39. Fragrant flowers
40. Yard component
41. Easter preceder?
42. Baseball stats
43. Brink
44. Workout sites
45. Start over
46. Low voice
47. Trigonometry abbr.
48. Famed TV collie
50. Easy wins
53. Green animal
56. From the East
57. Left Bank locale
58. Suffix with persist
59. D.C. subway
60. Voice, slangily
61. 27-Down or 53-Down sound
62. "I don't buy it"



#### Down

1. Recipe amt.
2. Big oil company
3. Green appetizer
4. Confesses (to)
5. Polished
6. Childish
7. Some sewers
8. Blood driver visitors
9. Indian royal
10. Worthless
11. Zero to a soccer buff
12. Expend
13. Type of band
19. Everyday article
25. Green apple
26. Type of note
27. Venomous snakes
28. Bob Marley back-up
29. Look up to
30. Hustles
33. Sot's sound
34. Chick's sound
35. Frequently, in verse
37. Jaguar juice
38. Pie and pudding, e.g.
40. Ford models
43. Social strata
44. Energizes
46. Troop grp.
47. Runner's ailment
49. Eons
51. Legal intro
52. Winter blanket?
53. Venomous snake
54. Island ring?
55. Back talk

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at [www.gfrpuzzles.com](http://www.gfrpuzzles.com)

3 pm; and Sunday, May 18, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Where:** Church of the Resurrection, 85-09 118th St., Kew Gardens; St. Joan of Arc Parish, 82-00 35th Ave., Jackson Heights; and First Presbyterian Church of Newtown, 54-05 Seabury St., Elmhurst  
**Contact:** (212) 995-5260  
**Website:** www.nylandmarks.org

**Manifest in the Garden** – Welcome spring in the traditional German way with an evening of music, food and drink, art and friendship in a garden setting.  
**When:** Saturday, May 17, at 5:30 pm  
**Where:** Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$30/all inclusive, \$25/members  
**Contact:** (718) 359-6227  
**Website:** www.vomuseum.org

## MUSIC

**Queens Music Fest** – The Queens Symphonic Band hosts an afternoon of Latin, big band and jazz groups.  
**When:** Sunday, May 4, from noon - 4 pm  
**Where:** Queensborough  
*Continued on Page 50*

## Theater

*Continued from Page 47*

happily married couple performing "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "Private Lives" in repertory.

**When:** May 9 to May 24, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm  
**Where:** Rockaway Theatre Co., The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway  
**Cost:** \$15/adults, \$12/seniors and children  
**Contact:** (718) 374-6400  
**Website:** www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org

### "We Women Do It Better!/ Nosotras Hacemos Mejor!"

– This one-woman comedy focuses on a sexy, funny and adult workshop about professional growth as taught by an attractive psychologist. Performed in English by Kathy Tejada and in Spanish by Soledad Lopez.

**When:** May 23 to June 29, Friday at 8 pm and Saturday at 3 pm in English, Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 4 pm in Spanish.  
**Where:** Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside

**Cost:** \$27, \$25/seniors and students  
**Contact:** (718) 729-3880  
**Website:** www.thaliatheatre.org

## AUDITIONS

**"Bye, Bye Birdie"** – The JC Players announces auditions for its upcoming musical. All roles are open. Men, women, teens and children over 10 are wanted. Sheet music is necessary to audition.  
**When:** Sunday, May 4, from 3 pm - 6 pm; and Monday, May 5, from 7 pm - 9 pm  
**Where:** Community United Methodist Church, 75-27 Metropolitan Ave, Middle Village  
**Contact:** jcplayers95@yahoo.com or babba0310@gmail.com

**"Gypsy"** – Auditions for Rockaway Theatre Co.'s summer production take place in May. Bring a resume and headshot if available and come prepared to sing.  
**When:** Saturday, May 10, from 10 am - 2 pm; and Monday, May 12, from 7 pm - 10 pm  
**Where:** Rockaway Theatre Co., The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway  
**Contact:** (718) 374-6400

## MEETINGS

**North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting** – Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.  
**When:** Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
**Where:** Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck  
**Contact:** Muriel, (718) 225-7382

**St. Andrew Avellino Theatre Group** – The Andean Players in Flushing has been staging high-quality theater for half a century. It is now recruiting to fill various positions, including director, set-designer, choreographer, lighting and sound director. There are openings for make-up, costumes, fund-raising, ticketing and refreshments.  
**Contact:** theandeanplayers@gmail.com, put "support" in the subject line. Include contact information and how you might like to volunteer.

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

## EVENTS

**Cinco de Mayo Festival** – A day of family fun includes piñata making, Mexican dance and music workshop and traditional folk music performance by Mariachi Real de Mexico.  
**When:** Saturday, May 3, workshops begin at 12:30 pm, concert starts at 2:15 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.  
**Cost:** \$15/adults, \$12/children and members, \$10/member children  
**Contact:** (718) 463-7700, ext. 222  
**Website:** www.flushingtownhall.org

**Mario Cantone** – The "Sex and the City" actor brings his stand-up comedy act to Bayside for one night.  
**When:** Saturday, May 3, at 8 pm  
**Where:** Queensborough

Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside  
**Cost:** \$40  
**Contact:** (718) 631-6311  
**Website:** www.qcc.cuny.edu

**NYC's Rising Stars** – QPAC's second annual fund-raiser brings young talent from the city's most prestigious performing arts schools together.  
**When:** Saturday, May 10, at 8 pm  
**Where:** Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside  
**Cost:** \$35  
**Contact:** (718) 631-6311  
**Website:** www.qcc.cuny.edu

**Sacred Sites Open House Weekend** – New York Landmarks Conservancy's fourth annual event allows visitors to explore the art and architecture at religious institutions across the city.  
**When:** Saturday, May 17, 11 am -







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# Mother's Day Menu

## APPETIZER (choice of)

- » Chicken Orzo Soup
- » Baked Clams
- » Fried Calamari
- » Fresh Mozzarella Caprese
- » Baby Arugula w/  
Gorgonzola Cheese,  
Tomatoes

## FIRST COURSE

- » Lobster Ravioli w/  
Vodka Sauce

## ENTRÉE (choice of one)

- » Surf & Turf
- » Lamb Osso Buco
- » Rib Eye Steak
- » Veal Scaloppini alla Ducale
- » Red Snapper Marechiaro
- » Swordfish Piccata

All of the above served with mixed vegetables and potatoes. Includes One Glass of Champagne. Choice of Coffee or Tea. Choice of Cheesecake, Tiramisu, Spumoni or Tortoni

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## Arts

[kupferbergcenter.org](http://kupferbergcenter.org)

Continued from Page 49

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

**Cost:** \$10/general, \$8/seniors and students

**Contact:** (718) 631-6311

**Website:** [www.qcc.cuny.edu](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu)

### Happy Mother's Day Concert

— Mother's Day Eve show includes solo and group musical performances, solo and group dance numbers, and famous Chinese songs and dances.

**When:** Saturday, May 10, 6 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

**Cost:** \$15/general, \$10/seniors, \$5/children 7 and younger

**Contact:** (718) 463-7700

**Website:** [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org)

**Barbara Cook** — The Broadway legend, who originated roles in "The Music Man," "Candide" and "Carousel" brings her silvery soprano to the Kupferberg Center for the Arts.

**When:** Saturday, May 10, at 8 pm

**Where:** Colden Auditorium, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

**Cost:** \$45 - \$69

**Contact:** (718) 793-8080

**Website:** [www.kupferbergcenter.org](http://www.kupferbergcenter.org)

### "To Bird & Dizzy With Love"

— The Queens Jazz Orchestra pays musical homage to Charlie "Bird" Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. The evening begins with a 30-minute discussion with Jimmy Heath, music director/conductor of Queens Jazz Orchestra.

**When:** Friday, May 16, at 7:30 pm

**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

**Cost:** \$40/general, \$32/members, \$20/students, \$120/reserved table for two with wine and snacks, \$100/members reserved table

**Contact:** (718) 463-7700

**Website:** [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org)

### Queens College Choral Society

— The 73rd annual spring concert features the Queens College Choir, Queens College Women's Choir and Queens College Orchestra performing Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

**When:** Saturday, May 17, at 7:30 pm

**Where:** Colden Auditorium, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

**Cost:** \$20, \$5/Queens College students with ID

**Contact:** (718) 793-8080

**Website:** [www.kupferbergcenter.org](http://www.kupferbergcenter.org)

### Oratorio Society of Queens

— For its annual spring concert, the group performs Anton Bruckner's "Mass in F minor" as well as highlights from the American choral experience.

**When:** Sunday, May 18, at 4 pm

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

**Cost:** \$30/general, \$25/seniors and students, \$10/children 12 and under

**Contact:** (718) 279-3006

**Website:** [www.queensoratorio.org](http://www.queensoratorio.org)

**Mets Concert Series** — This year's Mets concert series kicks off June 14 with a performance by 50 Cent. Concerts take place following that day's game, and the show is included in the price of the game ticket.

**When:** Saturday, June 14 — 50 Cent; Saturday, July 12 — Huey Lewis and the News; and Saturday, Aug. 16 — Boyz II Men

**Where:** Citi Field, 123-01 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing

**Cost:** \$17 — \$163

**Website:** [newyorkmets.mlb.com](http://newyorkmets.mlb.com)

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## The Whispers and Jeffery Osborne

Annual 'Mother's Day Weekend Concert' at the NYCB Theatre at Westbury

Live Nation in association with Marquee Concerts is pleased to present The Whispers and Jeffery Osborne at The NYCB Theatre at Westbury on Saturday, May 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$59.50, \$49.50, and \$39.50 and are available online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), charge by phone at 800-745-3000 or at the Westbury box office. Event, date and time subject to change. All ticket prices are subject to applicable service charges. For further information, please visit [www.thetheatreatwestbury.com](http://www.thetheatreatwestbury.com). The Whispers and Jeffery Osborne will also appear at New Jersey's Newark Symphony Hall on Friday, May 9th.

One of R&B music's



most legendary and beloved groups, The Whispers began their timeless career in 1963, perfecting their tight harmonies on the street corners of Los Angeles and in nightclubs around the San Francisco area. With an impressive catalogue of hits over the course of forty years, they continued to rack up seven gold albums, two platinum albums, and twelve top twenty singles. Their quintessential hits include "And the Beat Goes

on," "Rock Steady," and "It's a Love Thing."

Launching his professional career in 1969 with the popular funk & soul group L.T.D., Jeffery Osborne always knew that R&B was for him. After a decade with the band as the lead vocalist, he decided to pursue a solo career, which produced such Top 40 hits as "Don't You Get So Mad," "Stay With Me Tonight," and a duet with Dionne Warwick, "Love Power."

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# Business

## New Asian fusion eatery proves popular in Astoria

The Bao Shoppe offers an inventive take on Chinese steamed buns with non-traditional ingredients

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A new Asian fusion restaurant in Astoria, which takes a fresh approach to bao, has already started to gain a loyal following in a matter of weeks.

First-time restaurant owner Johnny Shek opened the Bao Shoppe, at 30-66 Steinway St., at the end of March and he is already starting to recognize faces.

"People in Astoria have really taken to us," he said. "We already have a good amount of regulars, who we see every day. People who work and live in the area are starting to come by a lot."

The restaurant serves bao, traditional Chinese steamed buns, with a creative assortment of toppings, many of which one would not usually see on bao.

"It's just a very whimsical menu. We're trying to have fun with everything," Shek said. "We're trying to use not just Asian-style ingredients."

The restaurant's menu has six core buns, which include braised pork belly,



smoked brisket, smoked pulled pork and fried chicken. There are also a number of vegetarian offerings on the menu, including the Hungry Buddhist bao, which has crispy tofu with daikon and kimchi.

The buns, open-style

buns, are also topped with a variety of slaws, kimchi and homemade sauces. The menu also offers a number of side dishes and bubble teas.

"It's fun food and something different that people don't see a lot of," Shek



Shek's bao sandwiches are filled with an assortment of home made toppings. The Colonol Bao (pictured) is topped with fried chicken, coleslaw and fresh pickle.

The Bao Shoppe opened at 30-66 Steinway St. March 22.

Photo sby Alex Robinson

said. "We try to put a lot of combinations together."

The Bao Shoppe has also started introducing specials every week, some of which have evolved into permanent fixtures on the menu because of their popularity.

Shek chose to open the Bao Shoppe in Astoria because the neighborhood has a vibrant and diverse

restaurant scene that is quickly changing.

"I wanted to do it somewhere the food scene is changing and up to date," he said. "In Flushing, it wouldn't be as unique as there are already so many steamed buns places you can go to there."

The new restaurateur grew up in Fresh Meadows and is a lifelong Queens

resident. He received his formal training from the Institute of Culinary Education in Manhattan and worked in a number of restaurants, including his uncle's catering hall, before venturing out on his own.

"I decided to open my own business rather than work for someone else for the rest of my life," he said.

As the summer approaches, Shek said he is going to start introducing seafood buns to the menu. He said a new crab cake bao will soon be on the menu as a special. The store will also be unveiling a new Nutella milk shake with chocolate-covered pretzels in May along with a number of new smoothies and drinks.

"There are a lot of different things we're developing," he said. "We just want to see what we can do and what we can get away with."

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at [arobinson@cnglocal.com](mailto:arobinson@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4566.

### BUSINESS CALENDAR

#### Powerful You! Women's Network

— A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

**When:** Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

**Cost:** Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

**Where:** Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston

**Contact:** Gayle Naftaly, [gnaftaly@accessoffice.net](mailto:gnaftaly@accessoffice.net), (718) 217-0009

**Website:** [powerfullyyou.com](http://powerfullyyou.com)

**Power Networking Group** — Led by Harvey G. Beringer

**When:** Every Wednesday, 7 am

**Cost:** \$10 for breakfast

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

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

#### BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans)

**Weekly Meeting** — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Kooos to arrange a visit.

**When:** Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

**Where:** Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12

Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

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

#### BNI Peak Professionals Chapter

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

**When:** Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am

**Where:** Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows

**Contact:** Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986

**Website:** [bniouterboros.com](http://bniouterboros.com)

#### The Eastern Queens and Long Island

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

**When:** Second Wednesday of every month

**Cost:** \$20, includes food from Marcella's Pizzeria of Glen Oaks. Payment benefits the Ronald McDonald House of L.I.

**Where:** Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park

**Contact:** Gayle Naftaly, [gnaftaly@accessoffice.net](mailto:gnaftaly@accessoffice.net), (866) 391-2780

**Website:** [accessoffice.net](http://accessoffice.net)

### FUND-RAISERS

#### Queens Impact Awards

— TimesLedger Newspapers will honor 25 borough residents whose volunteer efforts make a difference in the community.

**When:** May 15, at 6 pm

**Where:** Douglaston Manor, 63-20 Commonwealth Ave., Douglaston

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## SCA

Continued from Page 1

our area,” Vallone said. “Not because we do not support or need another high school in our district, but because the SCA has clearly taken local input and concerns into their consideration.”

SCA President Lorraine Grillo told Council members at the meeting that the area did not have the necessary infrastructure or transportation to support a high school, according to Vallone.

She also cited strong objections from the community and the potential negative effects the school would have on their quality of life as reasons for abandoning the plan, Vallone said.

Neighbors first noticed SCA officials surveying the site, at 150-33 6th Ave., where Whitestone Jewels once operated, in fall 2013, spurring an outcry and a well-attended protest led by



Councilman Paul Vallone (second l.) and Whitestone residents rally last year against a proposal to build a school at the vacant Whitestone lot.

then-candidate Vallone.

“The community was adamantly opposed to it,” said Kim Cody, president of the Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association. “It was not the right location to build a school and it would have brought immensely more traffic into the area.”

More than 500 people signed a petition opposing the plan, which Vallone submitted to SCA.

The community has long pined for another high

school in District 26 to alleviate its overcrowding problem, but this was not the right place for it, Vallone said.

“There was no infrastructure there. It was just small streets without bus routes,” Vallone said in an interview. “How were you going to get 3,000 students in there?”

Vallone commended what District 26’s schools have been able to accomplish while functioning at overcapacity. The council-

man said he sent a letter to the city schools chancellor requesting a hearing to stop the overcrowding in the district’s schools and is going to sit down with the SCA to find a suitable location for a new school.

“We’ve got to find a place for a high school out here,” he said. There are four high schools in District 26.

Cody said he knew the community would be relieved to hear the news the SCA had decided against the Whitestone Jewels site.

“I thank Lorraine Grillo and the School Construction Authority for listening to our community,” he said. “As we’ve always said, the Whitestone Jewels is simply an inappropriate site for a high school, as it completely lacks the infrastructure and transportation options to support the large population the high school will bring.”

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at [arobinson@cnglocal.com](mailto:arobinson@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4566.

## Meng

Continued from Page 4

without taking responsibility for their workers’ safety abroad by hiding behind layers of subcontractors.

Following the tragedy, more than 100 large retailers, including H&M, agreed to sign an accord on fire and building safety, a legally binding agreement between retailers and international labor organizations to maintain certain safety standards and compensation in Bangladesh.

Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, traveled to Dhaka last year after the factory collapsed to observe working conditions and speak to survivors and their families.

“They made it painfully clear to me that another factory tragedy would happen unless we work to prevent it,” he said at the ceremony. “We must demand that all workers, whether

here in NYC or Bangladesh, be treated with dignity and respect.”

Appelbaum called out large retailers who have not yet signed the accord on fire and building safety. These included Wal-Mart, Target, the GAP, The Children’s Place and JCPenney.

“You need to step up and join the accord,” he said. “Until you do, your words of concern for survivors of Rana Plaza will ring false and hollow.”

Other elected officials who attended the vigil included city Comptroller Scott Stringer, city Public Advocate Letitia James, state Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Little Neck) and City Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows).

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## No. 7

Continued from Page 5

street level communications with posters at entrances, turnstile areas, brochures, maps and info on both our on-the-go kiosks and digital panels — all of which is updated with a new schedule,” Ortiz explained. “There is also signage on the trains with updated information.”

Ray Tappas, another Sunnyside resident, said, “I was looking for information today on the 7 but I didn’t see anything on the subways or in the stations.”

David Becker, the general manager at Woodside’s Big Six Towers complex, said, “High-tech info systems don’t help many of our residents. We have so many in our 1,000 units that don’t even own computers. We have a significant elderly population and other people of limited means who still depend on broadcast TV and newspapers for all of their information.”

Several elected officials were unaware of the service change on the No. 7.

Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) said, “I understand the need for track repair, but they have got to find a better way to inform people. It’s amazing to me because commuters will be totally confused. We need to make riders more aware, we need better transparency. This is everything that’s wrong with the MTA.”

The ongoing project, which will disrupt weekend service on the No. 7 in varying degrees through the summer, is actually three projects being done at once.

A 90-year old signal system is being replaced with a \$550 million state-of-the-art system in one project that will not be completed until 2017. Track Panel replacement is another project that relies on cranes and other heavy equipment to lay new tracks.

The third project is repairwork on the Steinway Tube that runs under the

East River. The 100-year-old tunnel was originally built for trolley cars and is too narrow to move trains when crews are working. The tunnel flooded during Hurricane Sandy with saltwater that caused damage to its infrastructure.

At a town hall meeting in Long Island City last month, MTA President Carmen Bianco went to great lengths to explain why the three projects were so important. “We are cognizant of the impact this has on our customers. It’s inconvenient, but it’s necessary work in order to meet increased ridership,” he said.

Dromm agrees, but he still thinks the MTA does not fully appreciate the economic impact it has on communities.

“When the 7 is shut down on June 1, that’s the day of the 22nd Queens Pride Parade, a day when 40,000 people come to Jackson Heights and spend their money in our stores and restaurants,” he said. “When you disrupt the 7, it really hurts the neighborhood.”

## Stadium

Continued from Page 5

and new handrails are also in the works.

“It was a good learning experience for us all,” Luba said of the Mumford & Sons concert. “It’s a little tricky getting a 100-year-old stadium back up and running.”

But the changes did not appease everyone.

Alex Tola, a Forest Hills Garden resident who owns a business on Austin Street, said last year’s concert was annoying because it made his commute excruciating and then brought people using marijuana onto his lawn.

“You’re bringing that element into our garden. You’re inviting them in. I mean, what’s next, Jay-Z?” Tola said, referencing a rap star.

Other neighbors countered that transforming the stadium into a thriving concert venue would ensure that its legacy would be preserved and benefit local businesses struggling to at-



Roland Meier, president of the West Side Tennis Club, discusses upcoming concerts at the Forest Hills Stadium.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

tract customers. They said concerts were much preferred to the Tennis Club’s previous plans of selling the stadium to developers interested in building condominiums.

The club, starved for revenue, needed to address close to 30 years of deferred maintenance work, its president said.

Aly Baite said the stadium helped put For-

est Hills on the map and provided generations with fond memories, including her mother, who saw The Beatles there.

“This is a public venue space. It has been since 1923, be it for tennis, concerts,” said Baiter, who lives across the street from the stadium. “That’s what it was created for.”

City Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills) praised the club for initiating a dialogue with the community and for the orderly operations last summer.

“They have been very cooperative,” Koslowitz said, emphasizing that neighbors should be flexible about music content. “Mumford & Sons, this isn’t really my kind of music. I like Jay-Z. And my grandson just e-mailed me today that July 11 they’re going to be at the Giants’ stadium, so Jay-Z’s not coming here.”

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Holy Cross Coach Tom Marchesini is stepping down from his role as varsity hoops coach. Photo by Robert Cole

## Marchesini steps down as Cross hoops coach

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Holy Cross will be looking for its third boys' basketball coach in the last three years after Tom Marchesini stepped down following his second season leading the team because of time constraints.

He led the Knights to a 23-27 record in his short tenure, but felt he no longer could dedicate the time and attention needed to run the program the right way.

Marchesini, who teaches physical education and health at the school, saw a large part of his time taken up by studying to get his master's degree. He also has three children to raise and he bartends at night for extra money. It became apparent that coaching would be too much.

"If I had the time, I definitely wouldn't give it up," Marchesini said. "I'd still do it, but I just don't have the time. There is a right way to run a program and a wrong way to run it."

The school's former freshmen team coach was promoted to the job in the fall of 2012 after longtime headman Paul Gilvary was removed for alleged improprieties, the New York Post reported. Marchesini, a Holy Cross alumnus, said he didn't want the job at that point because he thought he would not have enough time, but the school was in a bind.

He stayed on for a second season to give it another try and keep continuity in the program.

"I just figured I'd help them out," he said.

Marchesini said he would not completely remove himself from the program. He will stay on in a moderator's role and handle logistics, including helping with scheduling and arranging practice time. He will not have a say in who the next coach is.

Knights Athletic Director Ron Vallar did not return phone messages requesting comment.

*Continued on Page 57*

## Molloy slugs way past Prep

Stanners score seven runs to beat Terriers in fourth-straight win

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Consecutive hits haven't come with regularity for Archbishop Molloy this season — that is, until the fourth inning of a pivotal game against rival St. Francis Prep.

In that six-run frame, the Stanners collected seven hits, including four straight with two outs. It was enough to power them to their fourth-straight league victory with a score of 7-2 against the host Terriers in CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens girls' softball Monday.

Molloy, which moves into sole possession of second place, found its timing against SFP starter Alyssa Siess and began hitting her pitches hard.

"Back-to-back singles we haven't seen, not like five in a row, six in a row," Stanners Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said. "Not like that. We've had a couple of back to backs. We haven't had a long rally. It was great. It was all line drives."

Siess, who had a no-hitter through 6 1/3 innings against Fontbonne Hall April 23, appeared as if she might be able to get out of the inning unscathed when she got Holy Cross-bound first basemen Taylor Moss to pop out for the second out with two runners on.

Stanners ace Alex Yule then delivered a two-RBI single to left center that scored Kristen Maurer and Camille Sears to make it 2-0. Molloy (5-3) got another run when St. Francis Prep tried to catch Jamie Durso, who had singled, stealing second.

A long two-run triple by Ally Klesin brought home Durso and Grace Crockett and broke the inning open by giving Molloy a 6-0 lead. The hit put Klesin at ease after not making contact with the ball recently to her liking.

"When I had that shot, it felt really good," she said. "It was nice. It was a relief. It was like, 'OK, I got it back.'"

The Terriers (5-5), which had eight hits in the game, scratched a run across the bottom of the frame, thanks to an RBI single from Anna Prisco. They then loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the fifth only to see Briana Emanuele line a ball hard to Yule that turned into a double play. Kelly Licul popped out to end the threat.

"I was a little scared, but probably the happiest line drive I ever had," said Yule, who struck out four.

Molloy tacked on a run with an RBI single from Gabby Bruno in the top of the sixth and St. Francis Prep added a sack fly by Jessica Menna in the bottom of the frame. Terriers Coach Anne Maria Rich, who watched her team top Fontbonne earlier in the week, saw the squad miss its chance to get back in

*Continued on Page 57*

Related column  
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Molloy's Maria Bruno (r.) slides into home plate for a run during the Stanners girls' softball matchup with St. Francis Prep. Photo by Ken Maldonado

# Commodores crush Construction team

Pitcher Heidi Gomez powers Bayside to statement victory over defending PSAL softball champions

BY PATRICK MCCORMACK

Up until this point in the season, it looked like Construction was the top PSAL girls' softball team in Queens and arguably the best in the city.

That was until visiting Bayside showed it could top the defending city champion Red Hawks with a 13-1 victory in six innings Monday. The win put the Commodores into a tie for first place with Construction in the Queens A division.

Bayside was led by senior ace Heidi Gomez, who was able to shut down a powerful Construction lineup. Gomez gave up just one run on two hits, walked four and struck out six in six innings.

"I was relaxing," she said. "I was trying not to overthink or going ahead of myself. I was taking it

one pitch at a time. I wasn't thinking about what was going to happen next, just every pitch at a time."

Bayside Coach Steve Piorkowski didn't expect anything less from Gomez. She came into her own this season with an under two ERA and 102 strikeouts to just 18 walks.

"She has been doing this all season long," he said. "She is throwing strikes. She's challenging batters and the defense is doing their job. She has been pitching spectacular all season long."

Gomez also went one-for-two with four RBIs and pitched in with her bat. In the fourth inning, she hit a triple to right center that brought in three runners and gave Bayside (11-1) a 6-1 edge. Gomez knew she had to get a hit and looked for the proper pitch to drive.



Bayside High School pitcher Heidi Gomez takes the mound for the Commodores.

Photo by Yinghao Luo

"I knew she was throwing me outside," Gomez said. "I eased up, relaxed and didn't think home run, didn't think out."

Bayside was able to put the game away with a six-run sixth inning, thanks to two hits, four walks and two errors. Piorkowski sees an improvement in his team since the Commodores' 9-7 loss in the first meeting with Construction (11-1) March 24. Tara Berstein and Jacqueline Perno each drove in a run for Bayside.

"My kids were very selective," he said "They had very intelligent at-bats. They walked when they should have walked, and they attacked when they should have attacked. They went down swinging on what would have been Ball 4 at times but I'll take that."

Red Hawks head Coach

Marco Migliaccio said the game was a bad one for his team, especially coming off a big 5-3 victory over Tottenville April 25. Construction made six errors against Bayside.

"It got sloppy, every aspect of our softball," Migliaccio said. "We knew this was a tough team. This is one of the top teams in the league and they should get the respect."

Piorkowski sees this victory as a stepping stone for his program. His team knows what it takes to be a top club in the PSAL.

"You know the team is undefeated. You know they beat Tottenville," Piorkowski said. "My team has never beaten Tottenville ever. It's the fact we haven't been there, and now we know that we are capable of doing it."

## Well-matched teams compete for top spots in CHSAA league



Joseph Staszewski  
*Block Shots*

Ann Marie Rich gets a reminder on a daily basis of just how competitive her league is this year.

Still, the St. Francis Prep coach and CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens division softball chairwoman continues to be amazed as teams vie for the top spots in a league that usually features a clear hierarchy.

"To be in charge and when I get the scores to be like, 'What? Really?' I have to look at it a second time like, 'Are you kidding me?'"

she said.

For nearly a decade St. Francis Prep and Archbishop Molloy have dominated the division. Either one or the other has won eight of the last nine diocesan crowns, until Fontbonne Hall took home the regular season and playoff titles last year.

You usually knew before the season started which teams were supposed to meet in the diocesan championship series, and predictions usually ended up being correct. The Bonnies were again supposed to be the CHSAA's front-runner, but have fallen on tough times in the last two weeks.

"There is really no distinguished team, no No. 1 team yet," Archbishop Mol-

loy right fielder Alyssa Kleisin said. "I believe it's us."

You can make the case for the second-place Stanners, winners of four straight victories, including recent wins over Fontbonne (8-3) and St. Francis Prep (5-5). Molloy (5-3), though, has lost to both of those teams along with Mary Louis (5-5) this season. The Terriers appeared to be on the rise with a win over the Bonnies, before losing to Molloy 7-2 Monday.

Mary Louis and first-year Coach ToniAnne Campuzano have beaten Molloy, SFP and Fontbonne, but have also been defeated by last-place Christ the King.

"It is more open than for as long as I can re-

*Continued on Page 57*

## Red Storm bashes Hoyas during three-game sweep

BY PATRICK MCCORMACK

St. John's University and its bats remained red hot.

The Johnnies clobbered visiting Georgetown 15-5 to complete a three-game weekend sweep in Big East baseball Sunday afternoon.

The Red Storm, which has won seven straight games and 10 out of their last 11, improved to 19-1 at Jack Kaiser Stadium with the victory. St. John's Coach Ed Blankmeyer sees things starting to come together for his team during their winning streak.

"Once you get a comfort level and guys know where they are batting and know what they expected to



The Red Storm's Chris Kalica prepares to release a pitch.

Photo by Christina Santucci

do, I think they get a little more comfortable," he said.

The Johnnies were led by their offense, which had 22 hits Sunday and got solid starting pitching from Chris Kalica. He gave up three runs on five hits and struck out seven in 6 1/3 innings to improve to 6-1 in the season.

St. John's' offense was led by first baseman Matt Harris. He had seven RBIs in the weekend, including a career-high four RBIs in Saturday's 12-4 victory. Harris, who had two RBIs Sunday, has a simple but effective approach when he is at the plate with runners on base.

"When there are people on base, I try to hit the ball hard and put it in play," he said. "Hopefully, I can end

*Continued on Page 57*

# Holy Cross defensive slipups hurt Knights' record

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Holy Cross continues to be its own worst enemy against the top teams in the CHSAA boys' baseball league.

The Knights have proven they are talented enough to play with any club in the division, but they haven't been able to overcome errors in the field that have allowed for close games to get away.

"The beginning of the season was rough," junior first baseman Brandon Simone said. We are in a lot of games now. We always have that inning that just messes us up for the rest of the game."



Holy Cross starter Jimmy Curran delivers the ball to the plate during the game against Xaverian. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

The mistakes bit Holy Cross again in an eventual 10-1 loss to visiting Xaverian, the defending division champion, in CHSAA baseball April 23. The Knights trailed just 2-1 until the Xaverian scored six runs in the fourth inning. Two Holy Cross errors set the stage for the big frame.

"Today we made a couple of bad plays in that one inning and we just [fell] apart," Knights Coach Steve Adams said.

Holy Cross (4-4) is still an inexperienced team. Only three seniors — centerfielder Chris Moussa, catcher Nick Milata and second baseman Jack Thorsen — are part of the

starting lineup. Only Moussa, a three-year starter, has seen significant playing time.

Holy Cross made five errors in a 3-2 loss to Xavier and slipups cost them in a 4-2 defeat at the hands of St. Francis Prep.

Starting pitcher Anthony Sigismondi stifled the Holy Cross lineup for Xaverian (6-2). The Knights' lone run came on a single to right field by Frankie Tribble that drove in Milata to make it 2-1. Simone added two hits. The team's miscues are something the Knights think they can reduce as the season goes on and the players gain more experience.

"The more we work in practice, the more we will figure it out," Simone said.

One of Holy Cross' biggest assets so far has been its pitching. Starter Jimmy Curran threw strikes and allowed eight hits, five in the fourth over 3 2/3 innings of work. Reliever Marcus Mari surrendered two runs on two hits in his 2 1/3 innings on the mound. Their defense needs to begin helping them out more.

"We've pitched well," Adams said. "The pitching has been a surprise. We've pitched pretty well this year. We are just letting our team down defensively. We are just making too many errors."

## CHSAA

Continued from Page 56

member," Molloy Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said. "Fontbonne had a runaway lead in the beginning as defending champion, but it appears people are gaining on them."

The parity should make for an interesting final weeks of the regular season, especially with Molloy

headed to Fontbonne Hall Friday with first place on the line, and the Terriers need to beat TMLA on the road to remain in third.

There are reasons for the close play. There is a lack of consistent dominant pitching besides Fontbonne's Nicolette Trapani. The Terriers are relying on sophomores Alysa Siess and Monica Zhivanaj, and Molloy junior Alex Yule is just beginning to come into

her own.

Mary Louis has two seniors in Nicole Hubert and Angela Pfeffer, but plenty of inexperience behind them in the field.

It leaves the door open for inconsistency, uncertainty and likely plenty of drama to unfold.

"It's anyone's game on any given day, it seems to be," Rich said.

It's a welcome change.

## Molloy

Continued from Page 55

the game in the fifth with Emanuele's hard-hit ball.

"She's been struggling at the plate, and low and behold she gets a hold of a good one and there it goes," Rich said.

Molloy, on the other hand, is getting an opportu-



Molloy's Camile Sears takes a swing during the game against the Terriers. Photo by Ken Maldonado

nity to move into a tie with Fontbonne at first place when they travel to Bay Ridge Friday. The Stanners appear to be playing their best right now.

"We always like to peak late, but a little luck helps out, too," Rosenbaum said. "The schedule brings us a lot of late games this year. Hopefully, we are peaking at the right time."

## Red Storm

Continued from Page 56

up scoring some runs."

Second baseman Robert Wayman added three RBIs for the Johnnies Sunday. He drove in what turned out to be the winning run when he hit a two-RBI single in the second inning to make it 7-0. Robbie Knightes also had three RBIs, adding to the Red Storm offense with an RBI double in the first and a two-run triple in the third that made the score 10-1.

St. John's scored 34 total runs in the three games against the Hoyas.

"We swung the bats very well today," Blankmeyer said Sunday. "We jumped them and it cer-



Outfielder Michael Donadio makes a grab near the wall. Photo by Christina Santucci

tainly paid dividends for us. Over 20 hits in a col-

lege baseball game — that is swinging the bat pretty well."

The strong performance against Georgetown gives St. John's momentum heading into the Big East series against first-place Creighton and Xavier, with which the Red Storm is tied with for second place. Blankmeyer said his team needs to take things a game at a time, and if they play well and rack up victories, they can achieve their goal of winning the conference.

"Our goal is to play good baseball every weekend," Blankmeyer said. "When we play in conference, we want to win our series. If we continue to do those things, we will get to the tournament and we would like to win the tournament."

## Marchesini

Continued from Page 55

Despite his time limitations, Marchesini said he does not regret taking the job. Marchesini en-

joyed being back around the CHSAA coaches and said there is still no better feeling than winning a big game. He did not rule out a return to the bench after he finishes his master's, but not as a varsity coach.

"I'll be done next May,

maybe in a year or two come back and help the freshman or something," Marchesini said. "That's something that would interest me. Having strong coaching on the lower levels makes it easier on the upper levels."

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# Renaming

Continued from Page 1

been fighting ever since to right the remainder of the wrongs.

After a five-year battle that Talat Hamdani said was prolonged because of his race and faith, Salman's mark was finally placed on the community to forever display the courage he showed.

"While the rest of us were in shock that day, others ran and performed heroic deeds," Vallone said. "On this day, we ask everyone to remember the heroism of the family and what Salman Hamdani did for us, going into the building and rescuing without care or concern for himself."

Salman came to New York with his parents when he was 13 months old, would later graduate from Bayside High School, and had just earned his degree from Queens College a few months before he died. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was on his way to work when he heard of the tragedy taking place at the Twin Towers and immediately made a detour to see what he could do to help, his mother said.

His remains were later



Zeshan Hamdani speaks about his older brother, Salman Hamdani, who was killed on 9/11, as his mother, Talat Hamdani, looks on.

Photo by Christina Santucci

found outside the North Tower, next to his medical bag.

Since about 2009, Talat said she had written dozens of letters to the city and made even more phone calls, trying to get her son the recognition she said he was denied because he was a Muslim. Last year, after receiving a resolution, Community Board 11 voted unanimously to approve the renaming of the street where Salman lived for 11 years.

Talat said Salman's name is still not listed on the first responders memorial at Ground Zero, but

the five-year-long battle to secure the street renaming is the first step toward rectifying the injustice she said has been done.

"None of the first responders questioned the race or faith of the people they were going to save," Talat said. "Salman learned to walk and talk here and he was a very proud American and I knew one day he would make a great name in the world."

Talat said her son was a kind and compassionate man — a man who loved "Star Wars" so much that the license plate on his car read "Young Jedi." She said

he was a humble person who would be happy to see the honor being given to him only because it made his mother proud.

Salman's brother, Zeshan, was one day shy of his 18th birthday when he lost his older brother, and he said he is happy to see Salman's name forever implanted in the Bayside community.

"He went there that day not as an EMT or an NYPD cadet, but as a human trying to help," Zeshan said. "We have to remember people like him. It's the only way to better ourselves and our future."

Talat said she will continue fighting to amend other memorials that left out her son's name because of his religion, including the one at Ground Zero. But she said the street renaming was a small victory not only for her family and her son's legacy, but for Muslim-Americans who she said have suffered a stereotype long enough.

"To challenge an injustice is patriotism," she said.

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at [kdurham@cnglocal.com](mailto:kdurham@cnglocal.com).

# Holy Cross

Continued from Page 5

than Qsac students.

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) has already introduced a piece of legislation to obtain the stop sign and he attended the meeting to express his support of the expansion.

Before CB 7 members voted, Joseph Sweeney, chairman of the board's Subcommittee on Land Use, also reminded them that Holy Cross could use the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act to challenge any disapproval of the plan.

RLUIPA is a piece of legislation that was passed by the federal government in 2000 that "protects re-

ligious institutions from unduly burdensome or discriminatory land use regulations," according to a U.S. Department of Justice guide on the law.

In essence, the law gives religious institutions additional protections to challenge municipal zoning laws if those rules have been determined to impose substantial "burdens on the ability of congregations to exercise their faiths."

Chuck Apelian, the board's first vice chairman, said he was going to vote in favor of the proposal regardless of RLUIPA.

"This has been a spirit of cooperation," he said.

The proposal will now go to the city Board of Standards and Appeals, which reviews variance and special permit applications.

# Comrie

Continued from Page 9

Hall and, after abandoning the bid, took a position as deputy borough president under Melinda Katz.

Comrie stepped down from the position late last week but will stay on as a special assistant, according to a source.

Norris is a political power broker in southeast Queens and a longtime supporter of Smith who was rankled early last year when the senator jumped to the Independent Democratic Conference.

Norris said southeast Queens "suffers when it cannot depend on an elected official to leverage his rela-

tionships on our behalf."

"We appreciate Leroy Comrie's ability to get things done," he said. "Throughout his public service, Leroy Comrie developed and maintained good relationships with others in government and at nonprofits. The people of southeast Queens will benefit through Leroy's ability to work successfully with others in government and in the nonprofit arena."

Miller, Comrie's successor on the Council, said, "Southeast Queens will reap the benefits when Leroy Comrie enters the state Senate. Leroy enjoys the respect from all of his colleagues in government to deliver what southeast Queens needs from Albany."

# Jax fire

Continued from Page 39

ders. A full vacate order is in effect," Magee said.

More than 50 businesses and stores will not be allowed back into the building for the foreseeable future.

Plaza College, the four-year school based on the building's third floor, is

hoping to resume classes in a temporary space in a Forest Hills site where it planned to move its campus this summer.

Meanwhile, Queens Community House had to find new spaces for four of its programs that were burned out of the Bruson Building. The nonprofit immigrant service provider was able to place its Adult Education English classes

at Sunnyside Community Services, at 43-31 39th St.

The QCH Center for Gay Seniors will operate out of the Kew Gardens Community Center, at 80-02 Kew Gardens Road. Staff members from CASP and Immigrant Services programs will be temporarily housed at QCH's Forest Hills site.

"We will need some help getting all four pro-

grams housed in a new location as soon as possible, hopefully in the Jackson Heights or Elmhurst neighborhoods, where the majority of the program participants live," QCH Executive Director Irma Rodriguez said.

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@cnglocal.com](mailto:bparry@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4538.

# Rock fire

Continued from Page 30

The department also pledged to examine its training protocols and ensure they comply with state and industry protocols, Peters wrote.

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village), chairwoman of the Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services, reiterated her call for the FDNY to change its proto-

col and dispatch EMS and firefighters immediately after a call is received.

Dispatchers currently "wait for FDNY to confirm the flames before an ambulance is sent.

"Lives are always at risk when a fire occurs, whether it's a person trapped in the building or an emergency responder doing their job," Crowley said in a statement. "The fact remains that EMS should have been dispatched immediately after the initial call was placed."

# Library

Continued from Page 22

man, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), said he thought that was the right move considering the controversy over Galante's use of capital funds.

"I just want to say I think that's the prudent thing to do given where we find ourselves," said Van

Bramer, a former Queens Library employee who has held a number of hearings on the library's management.

Library President Thomas Galante is under investigation for the way he managed contracts on the Central Library job and has come under harsh criticism for his executive compensation and outside

employment.

The pass-through process was designed to encourage the libraries to seek outside funding, but Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria), chairman of the Subcommittee on Libraries, said it was hard to determine whether the trade-off in transparency was worth it.

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**COLOR POP EVENTS, LLC**, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 2/25/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Leah Weinberg, 10-17 Jackson Ave., Apt. 5C, Long Island City, NY 11101. General Purpose.

**FAMILY CREATION, LLC**, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/22/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 88-59 240th St., Bellerose, NY 11426. General Purpose.

**GOTHAM TRADING PARTNERS #2 LLC**, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/11/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 159-16 Union Tpke., Rm. 301, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366. General Purpose.

**HILLBURN CONWELL I.P., LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 4/11/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 133-21 Rockaway Blvd., South Ozone Park, NY 11420, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**MKS TRANS LLC**, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has

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been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Mohammed A. Khaleque & Shamim Gafur, 87-79 172 St. Fl. 1, Jamaica, NY 11432. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**NATHANIEL SERVICES LLC**, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 1/30/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Ravi Shankar Singh, 86-40 110th St., Richmond Hill, NY 11418-1629. General Purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.** NAME: MEGARA NY, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/20/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 30-06 29th Street, Unit 2R, Astoria, NY 11102. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**Notice of Formation of 42-17 164TH STREET, LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/01/14. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: 10 Manor Rd., Douglaston, NY 11363. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Real estate.

**Notice of Formation of Bruno Roosevelt Filmproduktion LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/18/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Legalinc Corporate Services

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Inc., 8857 Alexander Rd., Ste. 100, Batavia, NY 14020, also the registered agent. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**Notice of Formation of DEKA Management 50, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/17/14. 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, 345 E. 52nd St., 4E, NY, NY 10022. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of Future Industries LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/24/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 251-25 Hand Road, Little Neck, NY 11362. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of HOLLIS AVE. STARK PROPERTIES, LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/25/14. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: 198-10 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica, NY 11423. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC at the princ. office of the LLC. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: ROOTS TO TIPS HAIR SALON LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/31/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Rahel Yizgaw, 190-01 Palo Alto Ave., Hollis, NY 11423. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: BREAK 7 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/13/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: CMT ENTERPRISES, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/24/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Shirley Boykin, 2960 Waters Rd SW, Atlanta, GA 30354-2030. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.** NAME: GDK REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/28/14. 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, 45-50 Utopia Parkway, Flushing, New York 11358. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: PREDUN MERCHANTS & TRADING COMPANY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/07/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served.

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SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC)** Name ADO BILLING SERVICES, LLC Articles of Organization filed by the Department of State of New York on: 02/21/2014 Office location: County of Queens Purpose: any and all lawful activities. Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 107-59 114th Street South Richmond Hill, NY 11419

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: HVAC DIAGNOSTIC AND REPAIR LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/17/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: James F. Goodwin, Jr., 83-55 Woodhaven Blvd., Apt. 6H, Woodhaven, NY 11421. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: RAINBOW SPIDER PRODUCTIONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/31/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 6048 Palmetto Street, #3C, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**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:

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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 SAUERKRAUT SOUND LLC.** Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/15/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 2357 19 St. 2 Fl., Astoria, NY 11105. 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.

**PAINTED THRU THE GRAPEVINE, LLC**, a domestic LLC, filed with the

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SSNY on 2/21/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Heather Cohen, 53-29 194th St., Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. General Purpose.

**San Calogero Di Torretta, LLC** Arts of Org filed with NY Sec of State (SSNY) on 4/16/14. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 151-43 25th Dr, Flushing, NY 11354. General Purposes.

**SJ HU PROPERTIES LLC,** Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/28/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 53-19 193rd St., Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**Techi Communications LLC** Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 2/3/14. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 3068 45TH St. #3RR Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful activity

**Unity Gallega Casa Galicia LLC** Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 3/14/14. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to c/o Casa Galicia 37-09 31st Ave. Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful activity

**Zane Properties, LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/18/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Nabil Kassem, 650 Grove Rd, P.O. Box 309, Thorofare, NJ 08086. Purpose: General.

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**Notice is hereby given** that an on-premise license, #TBA has been applied for by Wan Hao Restaurant Inc. db/a Royal Queen to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in an on premises establishment. For on premises consumption under the ABC law at 136-20 Roosevelt Avenue, 3rd Floor Flushing NY 11354.

**NOTICE OF ACTION BEFORE THE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY IN RE:** The license to Massage of Yan Yang-Gonzalez, LMT 4137 Parsons Boulevard, Apt B3 Flushing, New York 11355 CASE NO.: 2012-14000 LICENSE NO.: MA 64585 The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Jennifer L. Friedberg, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32309 - 3265, (850) 245-4444.

If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by May 22, 2014, the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Massage Therapy in an informal proceeding.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4444, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.



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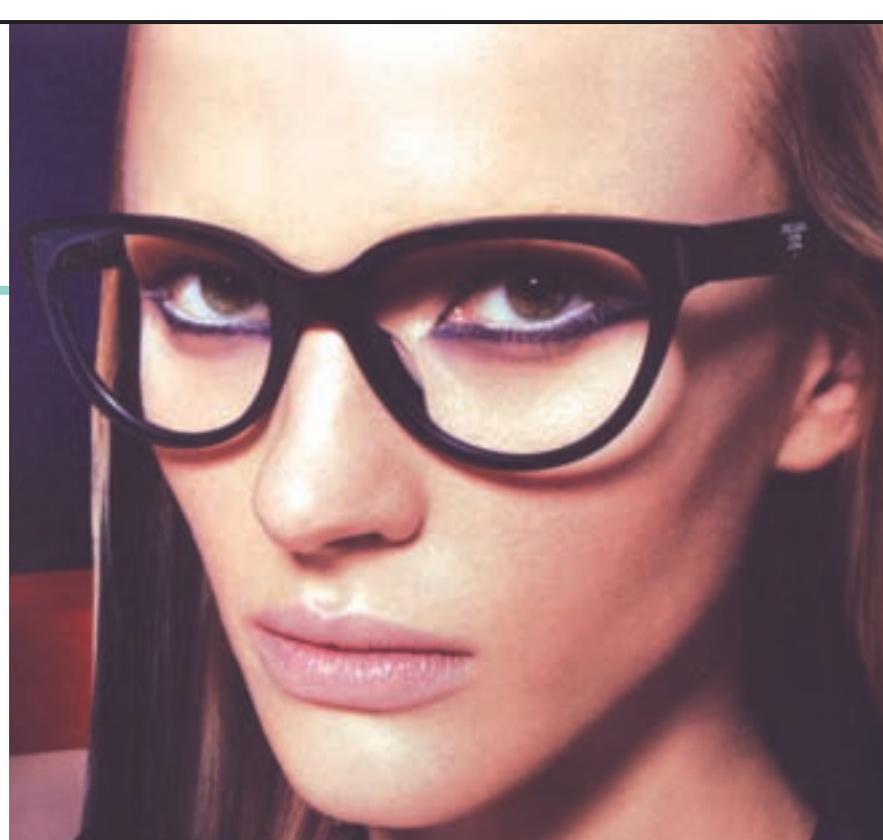
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