

## AirTrain hums to jazz sounds

BY JUAN SOTO

Every Thursday until Nov. 20 jazz will make a delightful sound in the mezzanine of Jamaica's AirTrain station. After all, jazz is to Jamaica and Queens as Elvis is to Memphis.

Jazz musicians will perform at the busy station as part of the AirTrain Jazz Festival, a music program organized by the non-profit A Better Jamaica and others.

"The music is basically for the people traveling and passing by the station," said Greg Mays, president of A Better Jamaica. "It's a cultural greeting, something like the calypso bands greeting you at airports in the Caribbean."

Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, John Coltrane, Louis Armstrong, among others, had strong ties to Jamaica and Queens. Their names appear in the wall and on the kiosk located in the first floor of the station.

"This is about bringing back to life all those names in the wall," Mays said.

The series was inaugurated Oct. 2 by one of the local bands,

*Continued on Page 10*

# Queens on high alert for Ebola

## Hospitals train staff, upgrade isolation rooms as JFK launches flier screenings

BY BILL PARRY

Elected officials at the city, state and federal levels are urging calm in the face of increased tension since the Ebola virus reached

U.S. soil with the sole case in Dallas of a Liberian man who died Wednesday. Mayor de Blasio said Monday that he was "very confident" in the city's preparation for an outbreak of the virus.

"We are very blessed in New York City to have the strongest public health apparatus in the country," de Blasio said. "I feel very bad for what happened in Texas, but I can safely say that we

have a much more aggressive and coherent game plan."

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said, "The federal government, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has done good work thus far, but more common sense at our airports, ports and hospitals should be taken to tighten up protections against the deadly virus's spread in the United States."

Tougher screening procedures for the Ebola virus at all U.S. airports will be instituted within days, according to Dr. Thomas Frieden, the director of the Centers for Disease Control. He added that the CDC has quarantine stations at major airports around the country which can detain passengers who show signs of Ebola while aboard inbound flights.

John F. Kennedy International Airport has one of the CDC's quarantine stations. The U.S. government said it will start enhanced screening of passengers arriving from West Africa at Kennedy Saturday and then four other U.S. airports.

*Continued on Page 10*

## GREENER PASTURES



Mayor Bill de Blasio answers questions after announcing the launch of the Community Parks Initiative during a press conference at Bowne Playground in Queens..

Photo by Chris Palermo

## City explores transit plan for fast-track west Queens

BY BILL PARRY

Capacity crowds have filled three public forums for residents of Community Board 2 in the past week, while more than a thousand people sought information on the application process for units of affordable housing at Hunters Point

*Continued on Page 10*



Chef Cosme Aguilar (c.) and his brother Luis (r.) were surprised to learn their restaurant was awarded a coveted Michelin star.

Photo by Bill Parry

## LIC Mexican eatery wins star

BY BILL PARRY

When New York City's 2015 Michelin Guide was released last week, four Queens establishments were among the 73 city-wide that earned the coveted Michelin Star. Danny

Brown Wine Bar in Forest Hills, Zabb Elee in Jackson Heights and M. Wells Steakhouse in Long Island City were not a surprise among foodies.

But the selection of Casa Enrique, also in Long Island City, surprised everyone including the res-

taurant's owners.

"We couldn't believe it," said Luis Aguiar, who owns the Mexican eatery with his brother Cosme and Winston Kulok. "Everyone from the neighborhood has been stopping by to congratulate us and they all

*Continued on Page 10*

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# City funds legal aid for young migrants

BY JUAN SOTO

Help is on the way for hundreds, if not thousands, of unaccompanied minors facing deportation at immigration court.

In Queens alone, between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 of this year, 676 minors were settled with family members or sponsors, according to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, a federal agency. In New York City, the number of juveniles, most of them escaping gang violence or poverty in Central America, who were reunited with their families in the same period reached 1,552.

Most of them are facing deportation hearings.

In response, the New York City Council, the Robin Foundation and the New York Community Trust will provide legal and other services to these minors facing removal under an accelerated process.

According to the City Council, the new process by the U.S. Justice Department began on Aug. 13. With the "surge docket," the federal government tries to expedite the legal hearings of the minors.

The City Council "will not stand by as this humanitarian crisis unfolds," Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan) said. "This innovative initiative will go a long way towards alleviating the overflow at the surge docket while also providing quality representation to thousands of children."

The City Council will fund the project with \$1 million, while the Robin Foundation, the largest poverty-fighting organization in New York, will donate \$550,000, and the New York Community Trust, which has funded city's nonprofit for decades, will contribute \$360,000.

"In 2014, more than 2,500 children will flee violence in Central America," said Eric Weingartner,

managing director for the Robin Foundation. "Without legal representation, these children are four times as likely to be sent back to the dangerous countries they fled."

Since the middle of August, the number of these court removal proceedings went up from about 100 unaccompanied minor cases a month to about 30 per day, according to the City Council.

The New York Community Trust "is proud to show New York leading the nation with government and nonprofits working together for children who are seeking a better life," said Shawn Morehead, program officer of the group.

The \$1.9 million effort will provide minors with access to legal counsel. Some of the service providers that will ensure due process for minors are The Legal Aid Society, The Door, Catholic Charities Community Services, The Safe Passage Project, Make the Road NY and Central American Legal Assistance.

Lenni Benson, director of The Safe Passage Project at the New York Law School, said that in July, August and some September days, about 800 lawyers attended free training sessions.



A man holds up a sign against deportations during a protest in support of immigration reform.

AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin



The Queens Chamber of Commerce's Energy Committee gathers during its inaugural meeting. Photo courtesy Queens Chamber of Commerce

## Chamber looks at energy

Queens commerce group to examine issues after the '13 vortex

BY BILL PARRY

With winter approaching, the Queens Chamber of Commerce has formed an Energy Committee to inform and educate members who are responsible for thousands of jobs in the borough and region about energy-supply challenges facing Queens, promote solutions to meet demand with local resources, and accelerate regional economic growth.

The committee held its inaugural meeting Oct. 1 at its headquarters in the Bulova Building in East Elmhurst.

"The Queens Chamber of Commerce, through its Energy Committee, is looking to become the city's thought leader when it comes to energy policy and education," Executive Director Jack Friedman said. "All businesses can benefit by taking advantage of new energy saving measures and programs that will not only help our environment, but also increase their bot-

tom lines."

The meeting also launched a speaker series focusing on current energy trends and topics relevant to the borough. Former state Assemblyman Arthur Kremer, who authored the state's original power plant siting law and is now chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance, was the featured speaker.

"Queens carries the bulk of the load for the metropolitan area, Kremer said. "The borough is home to more than 50 percent of the energy manufactured within New York City."

Kremer added that, according to the City Finance Department, "Queens has the most utility properties and receives the most tax revenues from these assets, exceeding \$1 billion annually."

Kremer identified ensuring a reliable energy supply as a critical issue facing Queens due to the increased dependence on electronic devices, such as

smart phones and tablet computers as well as electric vehicles, which are raising demand for electricity but New York is failing to create more supply.

"New York has become No! York' on energy matters," Kremer said. "Communities and environmental groups say no to all forms of power. This includes solar, wind projects, nuclear and infrastructure upgrades to increase access to natural gas on land or out in the sea."

Kremer also noted last year's brutally cold winter, caused by the polar vortex, resulted in spot-market natural gas prices skyrocketing by as much as 1,200 percent because of pipeline constraints. One way to reduce these weather-related spikes and lower gas prices overall, he said, is the Point Ambrose project, a proposed energy platform 20 miles off the coast that would tap into an existing gas pipeline that enters New York via Long Beach.

According to Kremer,

the project would generate \$500 million in economic development and dramatically increase natural gas supplies, while saving consumers at least \$300 million annually.

"The bridge to a bright energy future involves utilizing the electricity generation assets we have today and looking towards new projects like Port Ambrose, while working with incubators and thought leaders to assemble all the pieces to find and nurture the next big thing to meet our energy needs," Kremer said.

The Chamber and the Energy Committee anticipate holding an energy conference in the winter to connect businesses, policymakers and stakeholders to achieve the shared goals of increasing access to affordable, reliable energy sources to fuel economic growth in the borough.

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@cnglocal.com](mailto:bparry@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 7198.260.4538.

# Avonte's mom remains bitter one year later

BY BILL PARRY

Avonte Oquendo was remembered by his mother, Vanessa Fontaine, and a small circle of friends on the first anniversary of his disappearance Saturday. The gathering took place in Hunters Point South Park near where the 14-year-old autistic boy was believed to have entered the water of the East River after he vanished from the Riverview School in Long Island City last Oct. 4.

His body was discovered on the shore of College Point in January. The cause of death has yet to be determined by the medical examiner's office.

"I'm here to honor him today because he was an amazing kid," Fontaine said. "And I just want everyone to know that you know he may be a special needs kid, but he is my baby. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of him."

The people who gathered around her under the pavilion of the East River Ferry, barely sheltered from a driving rainstorm,



Avonte's mother Vanessa Fontaine holds back tears as she remembers her son.

Photo by Jorge de la Barra

were all united during the exhaustive four-month search for Avonte. Everyone clutched pinwheels with ribbons bearing his name. Pinwheels are a symbol of child safety, according to an organizer.

The family's lawyer, David Perecman, referred to the storm, saying, "I think it's Avonte's spirit that brought the clouds over us, just like last Oct. 4 was a dark day. The rain is the tears of

the angels."

The volunteers who joined the search last winter seemed undaunted by the storm.

Steve Divers, an MTA bus driver from Bayside said, "We searched during the worst winter this city's had in many a year. A little rain isn't going to affect us one bit."

There were no police present and only one elected official, City Councilman Robert Cornegy

(D-Bedford Stuyvesant), who introduced Avonte's Law. Signed by Mayor de Blasio in August, the law requires the city Department of Education to evaluate the need for alarms on outside doors at all schools and install them where it has deemed them necessary by next spring.

Cornegy told the gathering that it is a more urgent need and the city should "not wait until May 2015, but do it immediately," he said.

Perecman lamented that the city has not given a nod of recognition by holding someone accountable.

"To date nobody has been disciplined or reprimanded for anything that happened, for the whole confluence of mistakes that brought about Avonte's loss," he said.

When it was time for Fontaine to speak, she grew angrier and through tears she said, "Because they didn't do their jobs I don't have my son, my baby -- because I trusted them and he didn't come home because they didn't do

their jobs."

At that moment, she was interrupted by a blast of a horn from the ferry pulling into the landing. Fontaine regrouped and said, "That's Avonte saying 'Go get 'em, Mom.'"

After prayers, poetry readings and a moment of silence the small crowd released 24 white and blue balloons, the most allowed by a city ordinance. The balloons were blown directly over the river where the fog was lifting as the storm passed.

"It was sad to be here, but it was hopeful because Avonte's family held on, they didn't crack," opera singer Wandelle Saavedra said. "The whole time we searched it was magical how many people from all walks of life were compelled to help us. I'll always remember that."

The bus driver from Bayside, Steven Divers added, "My son is autistic so the outpouring from the people that helped us really touched my heart. I'll be down here every year remembering Avonte."

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# SculptureCenter cuts ribbon on \$4.5 million expansion

BY BILL PARRY

Hundreds of art lovers gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the SculptureCenter's 14-month, \$4.5 million expansion in Long Island City. The popular cultural institution, which opened in 2001 in a former trolley car repair factory at 44-19 Purves St., now has a modern entrance lobby with several amenities.

"It's been a hugely successful decade and this project is part of the SculptureCenter's growth," Director Mary Ceruti said. The 2,000-square-foot structure, built on a vacant lot, provides room for ticketing, orientation and visitors services such as a bookshop, seating and restrooms as well as an enclosed courtyard for outside exhibitions.

The non-profit institution is dedicated to the advancement of the careers of emerging sculptors. The gallery has displayed the works of more than 700 artists after moving to the dead end, underdeveloped street after being in Manhattan's Upper East Side for 70 years.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz gave credit to her predecessor, Helen Marshall, for investing over \$2 million in the project. City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) hailed investment in the arts saying, "Nothing big happens in New York City without culture and the arts being at the center of it, driving the city to excellence every single day."

The SculptureCenter's impact on Purves Street will serve as an example of that.



The SculptureCenter is surrounded by new luxury high-rise residential towers. Photo by Bill Parry

The gallery's former associate director, Frederick Janka, explained that there was virtually nothing on Purves Street when the SculptureCenter moved into the former Derrick and Hoist Co. Inc. Building. "It was pretty desolate here -- nothing but rats and hookers back then," he said.

Now the SculptureCenter is surrounded by the construction of several luxury high-rise residential towers with a hotel planned for the street as well. City Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl said, "I worked in Long Island City for 12 years. Back in the '80s the entire Jackson Avenue area was rough and a little dangerous at night. It is so much better now."

Feniosky Pena-Mora, the commissioner of Design and Construction, agreed saying, "This area was difficult and rough, but that's part of our history." He pointed out that the old trolley repair shop with a

modern entrance lobby creates a portal into the past.

"When you come here, you see that you are in a different place because if all of these buildings were glass towers, it might be Beijing, Shanghai or London," Pena-Mora said. "This design and expansion project helps maintain our past and future all in one place and I find that highly significant."

Just prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Van Bramer unveiled a new sign on the corner co-naming Purves as "Sculpture Street" recognizing the SculptureCenter's role in the area's rebirth.

"Everytime people look at that new sign they'll want to know what's going on here," BP Katz said. "It will show the rest of the city that Long Island City has taken the lead in many cultural events. We're showing that folks come from all over the world to show their works right here in this great borough."



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# Flushing targets abuse

Hundreds join Korean nonprofit's annual rally against domestic violence

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A few weeks after murder suicides claimed five lives in downtown Flushing, hundreds of purple-wearing marchers weaved through the neighborhood's streets to take a stand against domestic violence.

The Korean American Family Service Center organized the annual demonstration, which took place last Friday, for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Two separate murder suicides rocked Flushing's Asian community in two days in early September. A man shot and killed his girlfriend in broad daylight before taking his own life in downtown Flushing on the afternoon of Sept. 8, according to the NYPD. Early the following morning, police found the burned remains of a father who had slit the throats of his wife and son before cutting his own wrists and setting their Roosevelt Avenue apartment on fire.

A number of community leaders and elected officials marched in the demonstration to join the fight against domestic abuse.

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) announced last week that she helped secure \$300,000 in federal funds for KAFSC and the Garden of Good Hope,



Korean American Family Service Center Executive Director Grace Yoon speaks to the crowd.

Photo by Nat Valentine

another Flushing-based group that provides services to victims of domestic violence.

"These critical funds will significantly help these two organizations continue the great work they do to help victims of domestic violence," Meng said. "It is critical that groups like these have the resources they need, and I am pleased to help bring these federal dollars back here to Queens."

KAFSC, which recently marked its 25th anniversary, helps low-income victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Korean and Asian immigrant community. The organization provides domestic violence counseling as well as a scholarship program for struggling mothers. It also offers a number of different educational programs for adults, children and youth seeking refuge from violence and

helps victims get back on their feet.

"This timely funding will enable us to outreach to local businesses such as nail and beauty salons and continue providing a directly accessible, culturally familiar, safe haven of support and resources towards healing and self-sufficiency," said KAFSC Executive Director Jungsook "Grace" Yoon.

# CB 11 OKs variance for auto repair shop

BY JUAN SOTO

An auto repair business at Francis Lewis Boulevard got what it was looking for during this month's Community Board 11 meeting.

By a 19-vote-margin (28-9), the board extended an approved variance from five to 10 years to Prela Enterprises, which was set to expire in November 2017.

The Auburndale Improvement Association opposed the extension, arguing that the 10,020-square-foot shop's lot has excessive signage and commercial vehicles park overnight.

"We oppose the extension at this time," said Terri Pouymari, president of the Auburndale Improvement Association. "If they meet the conditions in 2017,

then we will be okay for a 10-year extension."

The business opened in 1957, when the board granted a variance to permit the construction of the service station at 42-42 Francis Lewis Blvd.

According to a representative from the business, Prela Enterprises had a letter of support from about 300 residents of the community.

"Prela is a good neighbor," he said. "And it is a good business."

The approval of the extension comes with the condition that parking on the site be limited to vehicles waiting for service, signage be limited to the city Board of Standards and Appeals requisites, and a no parking sign be installed in the shop's fence.



CB 11 gives approval to a 10-year variance extension for Prela Auto Repair at Francis Lewis Boulevard.

Photo by Chris Palermo

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# Acclaimed novel stars Woodside and Jax Hgts

BY BILL PARRY

A first time novelist raised in Jackson Heights has set the book publishing world on fire with the Aug. 19 release of "We Are Not Ourselves", an epic chronicle of a multi-generational Irish family in Woodside.

Matthew Thomas' book, 10 years in the making, was published by Simon and Schuster for a \$1 million advance and immediately hit the bestsellers list with reviews and interviews from coast-to-coast, a national book tour, and comparisons to the literary likes of Jonathan Franzen and Chad Harbach.

The book has since been translated into 14 languages and last week the movie rights were sold to Hollywood producer Scott Rudin.

"I'm thrilled," Thomas said in an interview. "You have to be surprised at the reviews. I wrote it in long-hand on legal pads, throwing out hundreds of pages along the way. After a decade you just hope to finish a project like that."

Thomas' family settled in Woodside as Irish immigrants in the 1950s before moving to a Jackson Heights co-op apartment to raise a family in what was considered to be "the bedroom community of the professional class," he said. But Thomas was always drawn back across the BQE. "I went to Woodside for Irish step dancing classes in the rectory basement at St. Sebastian's. I was always uncomfortable wearing that powder blue outfit. My family often went to dinner at Donovan's," he said.

Woodside power brokers the likes of Martin Trainor would convene nightly in the restaurant's bar area. In fact, the street outside, 58th and Roosevelt Avenue was co-named Martin M. Trainor Way in



MATTHEW THOMAS

Photo courtesy Beowulf Sheehan

2012 for the co-founder of the respected non-profit Woodside on the Move and a longtime member and chairman of Community Board 2.

Big Mike, a central figure in "We Are Not Ourselves" is that type of man. "Big Mike is a local fixer and a sage that helps integrate the neighborhood," Thomas said. "People will recognize that character as a gravitational force that organizes a changing neighborhood becoming the center of people's lives."

The story of the Leary Family, named as a tip of the hat to Shakespeare's King Lear, follows Ed, Eileen and their son Connell as they move from several Queens neighborhoods to Bronxville in pursuit of the American dream. Eileen is the daughter of Big Mike, the unofficial patriarch of Woodside, and falls in love with a scientist and professor, Ed Leary. The journey goes awry with Ed's gradual deterioration due to Alzheimer's.

"It presents the very reality of these characters not being at their best, not being allowed to be themselves," Thomas said. "They're always learning

and evolving. People can learn from their experiences, they learn we need each other to exist, we are not ourselves. I find that richly evocative."

The story unfolds in such a way that columnist John Podhoretz called it the first great novel of Queens. "That's a huge compliment, but let's face it, there haven't been too many books that feature Queens," Thomas said. "Novels are always about Manhattan and Brooklyn, but I see Queens as a well-kept secret, a great and organic backdrop for fiction."

Thomas' debut novel is also deeply personal in that he lost his father to Alzheimer's.

"I tried to preserve my father's humanity in the character," he said. Thomas has since given up teaching at Manhattan's Xavier High School so he can dedicate more time to his future projects. "That job took 80 hours a week," he said.

The 39-year old married father of twins is determined to produce more novels quickly because he is very aware that Alzheimer's is hereditary.

"I'm certainly trying to be as productive as I can because there may be a time when I don't see things as clearly," Thomas said. "So now I get to spend more time with my family and work on my next project, I promise it won't take me a decade. I should be able to turn out one every two years."

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

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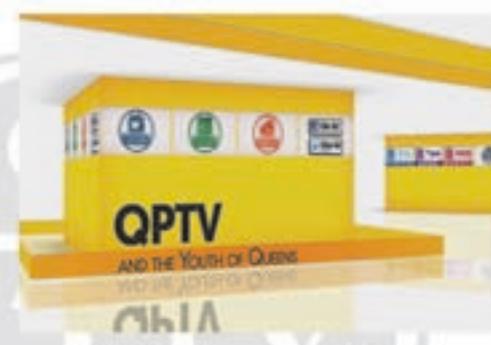


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Daniel J. Leone, John Collins, Bob Strahle



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QPTV Presents:

Noel - A Night Of Everlasting Love

Daniel J. Leone, Roslyn Nieves, Bryan Chan

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For more information contact

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# AirTrain

Continued from Page 1

The Eric Lemon Trio.

"This is an spectacular idea," said Freddy Dugard, leader of the local Freddy Dugard's Hit Squad, "This keeps jazz music alive, it keeps alive all the great masters."

Dugard grew up in Cambria Heights, one of the so-called Jamaica funks neighborhoods. "Music is the best relief from a day of work," he said.

Freddy Dugard's Hit Squad will be performing with Dugard on drums, Yayoi Ikawa on keyboards along with Japanese saxophonist Yaz and bassist Dave Peligrino.

"Jazz is the American music," the Queens drummer said. "But jazz is universal, all cultures enjoy it."

Dugard invites everyone to enjoy the performances.

"One should take 10 or 15 minutes, have a drink or a soda, and listen to some music."

Other locals bands that will be featured in the music series, among others, are the Bills Jacobs Ensemble and the Bayo Fayemi



The Eric Lemon Trio performs at the Jamaica AirTrain Station as part of a jazz series program.

Photo by Nat Valentine

Group.

"Both Jamaica and the rest of Queens are steeped in jazz history," Mays said. The AirTrain Jazz Festival "gives us a chance to share some of this rich history with folks traveling to and from New York City."

The music series is also organized by the Sutphin Boulevard

Business Improvement District, the Port Authority and the Jamaica Arts Council.

"Bringing to life the rich history of jazz in Queens just made sense," said Simone Price, executive director of the Sutphin Boulevard BID.

"It is a nice program," said Mays.

The performances will be live every Thursday between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., some of the busiest times at the AirTrain Station. Each band will play two sets, with a break in between.

"There is nothing better than listening to jazz music from the neighborhood," Mays said.

# Michelin

Continued from Page 1

say how pleasantly surprised they are."

Casa Enrique is the only Mexican restaurant in the entire city to be awarded a star. Luis credits his brother Cosme for his Chiapas-influenced menu. "Cosme is the real star here," he said.

Last year Casa Enrique was on Michelin's Bib Gourmand List that recognizes restaurants with high-quality cuisine at reasonable prices, generally two courses and a glass of wine or dessert for \$40 or less.

"When I checked the Bib Gourmand List and saw we weren't on it, I was very upset," Cosme said. "But later in the week we found out we got a star, so I wasn't upset anymore."

The Michelin Star has already translated into a steady flow of new customers at 5-48 49th Ave. "The phone's been ringing off the hook," Luis said. "They're calling from Manhattan and they're even coming down from Astoria to check us out."

# Ebola

Continued from Page 1

Jamaica Hospital, the closest to JFK, is working closely with the CDC and the city Department of Health in case the spread of Ebola reaches New York.

"All patients with signs consistent with Ebola will be properly screened, isolated and treated," said Jamaica Hospital spokesman Michael Fink, who pointed out the hospital has ongoing exercises to train the staff so they all can recognize the symptoms of the contagious disease.

The city Health and Hospitals Corporation, which oversees two hospitals in Queens Elmhurst Hospital Center and Queens Hospital Center --- has also been training their staffs on CDC guidelines. As of earlier this week 24 people had been placed in isolation at some of the 11 city hospitals, although none had Ebola -- just other illnesses with similar early stage symptoms like ma-

laria.

Early identification of the signs is the key to fighting the spread of Ebola, Dr. Ross Wilson, HHC's chief medical officer, told the Wall Street Journal. "If a patient does not get identified early on, you have what happened in Dallas," he said referring to the case of Thomas Eric Duncan, who died. "The first thing is that you get more people in the community in contact with Ebola. The second thing is that you can increase the risk to health-care workers."

At all 11 city hospitals, the HHC is conducting test-patient drills where an employee acts as a patient who recently traveled to West Africa and returns with symptoms. The fake patients enter the emergency room complaining of fever, headaches and abdominal pain. A nurse asks the patient a series of questions and if the patient answers yes, emergency protocols are implemented. Health-care workers would immediately don protective

equipment as the patient is put into isolation.

Following each drill there is a complete debriefing followed by regular discussions behind the scenes.

"The response to the training has been very positive," Wilson said. "We're getting it right with pretty much every step,"

If HHC determines that a patient tests positive for the Ebola virus, that patient would immediately be transported to Bellvue Hospital, which has upgraded its isolation rooms and is in the process of building a separate laboratory dedicated exclusively to Ebola cases, should any present themselves. Wilson believes it is unlikely any of the city hospitals will get an Ebola case and he finds it extremely unlikely that there will be an uncontrolled breakout in the United States because the health-care system is better prepared than in West Africa where the mortality rate is at 50 percent to 70 percent.

# Building

Continued from Page 1

South. The buildings, still under construction on Long Island City's waterfront, will begin moving in residents in the spring and when the project is completed, Hunters Point South will have 5,000 units.

Meanwhile, CB2 approved a long-delayed \$1 billion expansion plan by Silvercup Studios that would add a thousand more apartments at the LIC waterfront. Then the board voted to begin a feasibility study to put a deck over the Sunnyside Rail Yard to provide space for more affordable housing development.

With the Halletts Point project about to begin construction on 1,921 apartments and the Astoria Cove development plan awaiting approval from the City Council with its additional 1,700 units, the Department of City Planning Chairman Carl Weisbrod



The nearly finished Hunters Point South housing complex is expected to be occupied in the spring.

Photo by Bill Parry

knew something would have to be done with the transportation system in order to move many thousands of new residents to the area in the coming years. Just days after approving the Astoria Cove project, DCP released online a preliminary report entitled "Western Queens Transportation Study."

"For more than a year, the Department of City Planning has been examining western Queens' current and future transportation needs as population in the area continues

to grow and new developments are envisioned, especially along the East River waterfront," a DCP spokesman said.

In consultation with various city and state agencies like the city Department of Transportation, the MTA and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, among others, the study explores linking existing and new development from Steinway Street west to the East River and from Astoria Cove south to Newtown Creek.

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