

## LPC motives debated on Queens sites

BY BILL PARRY

In a move that angered preservationists across the borough, the Landmarks Preservation Commission announced plans to remove over a hundred sites and historic districts from consideration for landmark status. Eight of them are located in Queens, including the iconic Pepsi sign on the Long Island City waterfront.

See full coverage on Page 4

The agency has scheduled a vote for Tuesday to “de-calendar” the sites and structures, many that have been on the agenda for decades. Calendaring is the first step in the landmarking process and removal from the list puts the locations at risk for possible redevelopment or even demolition.

An LPC spokesman said that the agency was simply “cleaning up a backlog” and “it is purely administrative.”

Wiley Norville, a spokesman for Mayor de Blasio, said, “Cleaning up the backlog will ensure the LPC can much more effectively fulfill its mission of responding to the landmarking issues of today in real time.”

# Boro dismayed at Garner case

Lawmakers angry over no indictment as Justice Dept. investigates

BY JUAN SOTO

Queens reacted with swift disappointment to the decision by a Staten Island grand jury not to indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of black resident Eric Garner.

The decision was announced Wednesday by Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan. In a statement, he expressed condolences to the family of Garner, who died in July during his arrest for selling loose cigarettes.

“I am absolutely disappointed, appalled, and ashamed by the grand jury’s decision not to indict,” City Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) said. “Once again, it has been demonstrated that the threshold for indictment when it comes to black lives at the hands of police has been elevated to an unattainable standard.”

The Staten Island DA said the investigation into the case, which was replayed around the nation as Garner slumped to the sidewalk saying “I can’t breathe,” began immediately and was conducted independently.

The decision comes a little more than a week after a grand jury in Ferguson, Mo., declined to indict police officer Darren

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## SHOP TILL YOU DROP



Shoppers flock to Queens Center Mall to kick off the holiday season and take advantage of Black Friday specials. **See story on Page 5.**

Photo by Bill Parry

## Council divided on carriage ban

BY JUAN SOTO

Horse-drawn carriages in and around Central Park’s roadways have been a part of the city for at least the last century.

But now, the Bill de Blasio administration and some city

councilmen want to erase that metropolitan tourist attraction by banning the industry to fulfill a campaign promise. The controversial bill’s main goal is to phase out horse-drawn carriage drivers by mid 2016.

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights),

lead sponsor for the bill, said the legislation will be introduced at this month’s stated meeting of the Council.

“Horses don’t belong on New York City’s congested streets amid cars and pollution,” he said. “There have been too

Continued on Page 56

# College Pt. Park flap

Businesses want to know how fund fees are spent

BY MADINA TOURE

The city Economic Development Corporation is exploring different options that would enable businesses in the College Point Corporate Park to have more of a say in how the park's funds are being used.

About 50 businesses in the College Point Corporate Park — a 550-acre office park with more than 200 companies and 6,000 employees — are required to pay into the park's improvement fund. The fund finances the park's management and maintenance program as well as business assistance training, beautification projects, such as tree planting, cleanups and signage, and capital improvements.

But the businesses contend that the money is not being used efficiently. Over the last 20 years, the fund has accumulated roughly \$5 million, said Vito Tautonico, director of constituent services for City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside).

"The big issue is that 50 or so of the businesses that are in the corporate park are mandated by the deeds to pay into the improvement fund every year and a lot of businesses were very upset that they weren't seeing any improvements," Tautonico said at a recent College Point Civic & Taxpayers Association meeting. "They're essentially paying a tax that did nothing for them."

The options being considered include the creation of a business improvement district, a board of directors, an advisory board or a nonprofit made up of the businesses, the EDC, community members and members of Community Board 7.

"Conceptually, everyone's on the same page — they want to do something," said Chuck



Businesses in the College Point Corporate Park say the park's improvement fund is not being used efficiently.

Apelian, co-chairman of the College Point Corporate Park Taskforce and first vice chairman of Community Board 7.

Businesses are required to pay one-eighth of the assessed value of their property into an improvement fund, which is intended to use the money for beautification purposes. They pay about \$10,000 to \$20,000 or so per year, Tautonico said.

On Nov. 25, EDC representatives, CB 7 members, College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association members, a representative from the 28th Avenue Homeowners Association and a city Department of Transportation representative met 7.

The EDC representative said they need to have more meetings and determine the

appropriate structure of the group that would be in charge of collecting and allocating the money, according to Diane Kovach, co-chair of the Zone and Land Use committee of the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association.

"They want to reach all the businesses in the corporate park," Kovach said.

The EDC was not available for comment.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

# Bayside serves as lab for local TV station

BY JUAN SOTO

Bayside is about to get an excellent Christmas present.

An effort is underway to launch the more modern Bayside Live TV, a hyper-local Internet channel to highlight places and events in the northeast Queens neighborhood.

Although the video channel is already operational ([baysidelivetv.com](http://baysidelivetv.com)), its promoters will soon unveil a more sophisticated 3.0 version.

"Bayside is the market for a new breed of television," said Gregg Sullivan, head of the effort. "Bayside will become the test market."

Sullivan, with experience in both local and network news channels, said the idea is to create a "micro market station" similar to what NY1 did "when they started."

One of the innovations included in the new version of the channel is the input it would have from viewers, residents, community advocates and high schools and junior high school students.

"Neighbors and students will be able to create content by filming with their iPhones," said Sullivan, a

former executive director for the Bayside Village Business Improvement District.

"This is a way of reconnecting the community to the media infrastructure," Sullivan said.

He pointed out the video channel will be supplemented with a smart phone app, social media, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

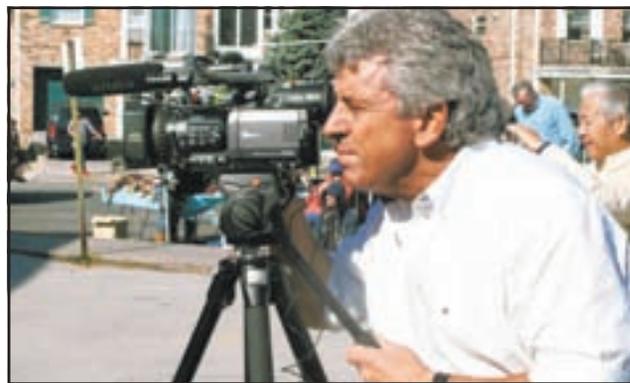
But the project does not stop there. Sullivan is more ambitious. He wants to expand the philosophy behind the TV station until there is an Internet channel for the whole borough of Queens.

"We don't need to get a channel on cable," he said. "The idea is that each community, Whitestone, Bayside, will have its own local channel," said Sullivan at Monday's Community Board 11 meeting.

Although the project would need at least 11,000 viewers to get a cable slot, Sullivan insisted that was not the goal of the local television project.

"There is no need for big TV markets now," said Sullivan. "Everybody is moving to Internet."

He pointed out that profits *Continued on Page 56*



Gregg Sullivan will soon launch a more modern version of Bayside Local TV.

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# Hawthorne apts. become fourth Bayside landmark

## Tudor Revival style complex at 216th Street recognized after years of negotiations

BY JUAN SOTO

Bayside has scored big, again. The neighborhood just got its fourth landmarked property.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission voted unanimously Nov. 25 to designate the Tudor-style Hawthorne Court Apartments, a rental complex at the corner of 216th Street and 43rd Avenue, as a city landmark. The landmarking will not be official until the City Council approves it.

"This charming and ornate complex is a fine example of the Tudor Revival style," said Meenakshi Srinivasan, chairwoman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The residence "provides a critical narrative of Bayside's transformation to a commuter suburb after the completion of the railroad tunnel to Manhattan in 1910."

Landmarked in Bayside are also the Lawrence Cemetery, located right behind the Hawthorne Complex at 42nd

Avenue; the Fort Totten Historical District, home to the Bayside Historical Society; and the Stone House, at 35-34 Bell Boulevard.

The city agency pointed out the Hawthorne Court Apartments, built between 1930 and 1931, exemplified the low-rise suburban garden housing complexes from the 1920 and 1930s, "which contained substantial green space and incorporated ideas from the British garden city movement and the New York City modern tenement movement."

Middle-class housing Architect Benjamin Braunstein designed the units of different size around a courtyard "with meandering paths and set back from the streets."

It had been a long fight. For years, the Bayside Historical Society worked toward the landmark designation with the collaboration of Community Board 11, elected officials, civic groups and other organizations.

"We are very happy," said



The Landmark Preservation Commission designated the Bayside's Hawthorne Apartment Complex as a landmark. It will be official once it is approved by the City Council.

Photo by Juan Soto

Paul DiBenedetto, president of the Bayside Historical Society. "This is a very classy place."

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) supported the efforts that led to the Landmarks Preservation Commission decision.

"I believe this location is a prime example of the historic, award-winning Tudor design

and high-quality development that [Landmarks] must protect," Vallone said. "The Hawthorne Court Apartments have withstood the test of time and most importantly, they are iconic of the character of the surrounding neighborhood."

State Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) also promoted the Hawthorne

Complex, which has about 20 apartments. "I am pleased that (Landmarks) voted unanimously in favor of landmarking the Hawthorne Court Apartments, whose neo-Tudor style design has remained a unique contribution to the Bayside community since 1930," he said.

The lawmaker congratulated the Bayside Historical Society for "its successful efforts over the last several years to achieve this victory."

In 1931, the Queens Chamber of Commerce awarded the ornate complex unit with a price for "excellence in design and civic value."

Michael Feiner, president of the Bayside Hills Civic Association, said "this is a result of lengthy discussions and efforts by people concerned with maintaining our beautiful neighborhood to its very high standards."

He added, "This is a success story for all of the utmost level when it comes to local civic concerns."

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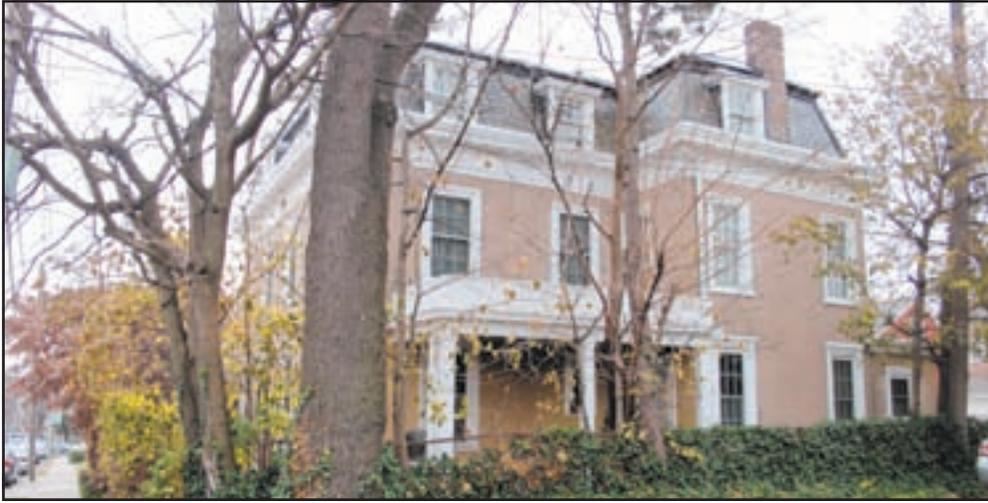
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# Landmarks on hold

## LPC move raises preservationists' anger in Queens



Bayside's Ahles House is in danger of being "decalendared" next week.

Photo by Bill Parry

BY BILL PARRY

The future of the Pepsi Cola sign and seven other historic sites across the borough are suddenly in jeopardy now that the chairwoman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission is proposing to remove them from consideration for protection.

Meenakashi Srinivasan said the agency would vote Tuesday to decide if more than 100 historic structures would be "decalendared," removing them from the first step in the public review process. Her spokesman said the proposed action would clean up an administrative backlog and would not prevent the commission from reconsidering the buildings and sites for recalendaring in the future.

When the LPC "calendars" a structure or site, it means that it is awaiting an official landmark vote. Some have held the designation dating back to 1966.

Now the commission is proposing to remove the designation, leaving the sites vulnerable to redevelopment or demolition, critics charge. Internationally acclaimed New York City tour guide Justin Ferrate put it more bluntly.

"To 'decalendar' these structures is just short, or not, of a cultural and civic crime," he said.

According to the staff at Landmark West, a Manhattan-based preservation commission, the effect would be to wipe the slate clean on the proposed landmarks and historic districts that have been extensively researched, documented, and formally heard by

the Landmarks Preservation Commission over the years.

The eight Queens sites are the iconic Pepsi Cola sign in Long Island City, an extension to the Douglaston Historic District, the Old Calvary Cemetery Gatehouse in Sunnyside, the Bowne Street Community Church in Flushing, the Spanish Towers and the Fairway Apartments in Jackson Heights, the First Reformed Church and Sunday School of College Point and the Ahles House in Bayside.

"This is terrible news," Bayside Historical Society President Paul Di Benedetto said. "Why do you calendar something if it's not worth saving?" Four of the eight sites are in state Sen. Tony Avella's district. He fired off a letter to Mayor de Blasio and the chairwoman of the LPC demanding a different tone.

"I find this action outrageous," he wrote. "The act of calendaring offers properties some immediate protection. Removing them places these locations in immediate danger, with little or no time for the community to act."

City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing), chairman of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, is reminding skeptics that every item on the list is eligible for reconsideration.

"I have spoken with Chair Srinivasan to discuss this issue and have secured her complete assurance that the LPC will work closely with me, my committee, and all stakeholders on this matter in an effort to bring about change, transparency and balance that is needed in the landmarking process mov-

ing forward," Koo said.

Bob Singleton, the executive director of the Greater Astoria Historical Society said, "Although our elected officials can force them to restore the public's voice, we doubt that will happen. Look what the political process has done to far too many places already designated as landmarks. The Steinway Mansion is just the latest entry to this unfortunate list."

The borough's preservationists are alarmed.

"It's a terrible precedent and a rash decision and none of us is thrilled in the preservationist community," John Jay Professor Jeffrey Kroessler said. "To wipe clean all those years of work and start over is dismissive and uncomfortable to say the least."

Kroessler and his wife, the architect Laura Heim, were central figures in the protracted campaign that designated Sunnyside Gardens a Historic District in 2007. "Real estate values have changed remarkably in the last 30 years," he said. "There used to be empty spaces in the city and now that they are gone, they say landmarks are in the way of development, that preservationists stand in the way of affordable housing. It's a change in the economic perspective of the city. Who would have ever thought 30 years ago that property in Bushwick would be valuable? There's not a lot of happiness in the preservation community today, just dismay."

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

# Ex-library trustees drop case vs. Katz

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Six ousted Queens Library trustees dropped their lawsuit against Borough President Melinda Katz, but maintained her view of the court proceeding should not be trusted.

Judge Frederic Block dismissed the former trustees' case from Brooklyn federal court last week after the six filed a motion to drop proceedings.

"It was no longer in their interest as volunteers to spend personal money on litigation," said a statement from Schlam Stone & Donlan LLP, which represented the ex-trustees. "As an attorney, the borough president fully understood that by signing the motion that the plaintiffs voluntarily filed, Judge Block was simply granting the plaintiffs' request and was not, as her press release suggests, a decision by the court on the merits."

The trustees took their bid to get their posts back to court this summer. The group maintained Katz dismissed them for standing by embattled Queens Library President Thomas Galante, who was put on a paid leave of absence in September.

Their case described Katz's reaction to a series of reports alleging fiscal mismanagement and questioning Galante's external income as "a brazen, and unconstitutional, power grab."

The borough president welcomed the case's dismissal.

"The court's action underscores just how specious their claims were," Katz said in a statement. "This lawsuit was a bitter attempt by the removed

trustees at personal retaliation devoid of consideration for the public interest."

Katz praised her collaboration with state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) and Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (D-Corona) to pass legislation in Albany that she said ensures the library is accountable to its patrons.

Under the new law, Katz and Mayor Bill de Blasio dismissed eight trustees in July.

In addition to giving the government more say on library trustees, the law requires the library to comply with Freedom of Information Law requests, to have its key staff members file financial disclosure forms and to set outside employment limits for employees, Katz said.

The trustees, however, contended the FOIL clause fell short.

"Both [Katz] and her newly appointed members of the Library Board are resisting FOIL requests regarding important board actions, including disclosure of the report prepared by former U.S. Judge Barbara Jones regarding a whistleblower complaint about the improper conduct of certain board members," the trustees' lawyers said in a statement.

Katz's office directed FOIL inquires to the library.

Library spokeswoman Joanne King said the trustees' FOIL requests were denied based on an exemption to the FOIL law.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle by e-mail at [strangle@cnglocal.com](mailto:strangle@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.



Borough President Melinda Katz (r.) says she is working on reforming the Queens Library governance as embattled President Thomas Galante (l.) takes a paid leave of absence.

# Black Friday sales weaken in boro

Shoppers turn out for discounts at retail hubs but crowds smaller than in other years

BY JUAN SOTO AND MADINA TOURE

Bargain-hunters came out for the busiest shopping weekend of the year throughout the borough.

According to the National Retail Federation, about 90 million people shopped in stores or online this Black Friday.

Forest Hills resident Andrew Concilio was one of them. It was his lucky day.

Concilio, 45, bought two pants and two shirts at Banana Republic on Austin Street in Forest Hills for his new job the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. But he was told that he could return and rebuy the clothes at a better price on Black Friday.

He did that, and got two sweaters, too. He ended up spending \$130 for clothes worth more than \$350.

"The same day that I was purchasing the items, they told me that if I return them and re-buy them, I get a better discount," Concilio said.

The National Retail Federation said shopper activity from



The parking lot at the Bay Terrace Shopping Center was packed Friday afternoon.

Photo by Juan Soto

Thanksgiving Day through Sunday dropped about 5.2 percent this year from 141 million customers in 2013 to this year's 133 million.

Stores and shopping centers

across the borough were busy, but not as much as last year.

Shoppers did not have to wait for Black Friday.

With stores opening Thanksgiving Day, the magic of the

Black Friday skillful buyer is a thing of the past.

But borough residents still enjoyed spending money from Thursday until Sunday evening.

Queens Center, the largest mall in the city, opened its doors at 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving, but the crowds were surprisingly thin on Black Friday morning. That began to change around 11 a.m. as shoppers started filling the escalators. By noon the giant parking garage was filled and overflow traffic clogged the streets of Elmhurst.

Alissa Mounsey went to the Bay Terrace Shopping Center Thanksgiving night.

"We came to do holiday shopping, and it was worth it," she said, Mounsey got "good deals" from some of the stores at the outdoor mall.

And there was a second round on Black Friday.

"Generally sales are not as good as last year, but we are here to find decent bargains," said Mounsey, who was out shopping with Christine Hannigan, Sandy and 2-year-old C.J.

"The shopping won't stop," said Christine. "We began last night (Thanksgiving) and we will shop until Christmas."

Best friends Ellen Kaznesi-  
*Continued on Page 56*

## Gov't cuts swamp charities, forcing kids to go hungry

BY BILL PARRY

A survey released just before Thanksgiving shows that one in six New York City residents struggles against hunger while food pantries are finding it difficult to meet demands this year.

The study, by the Coalition Against Hunger, shows that nine out of 10 feeding charities face longer lines as a result of federal cuts to SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The report, presented at the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Long Island City last Wednesday, found that the city's food pantries and soup kitchens experienced an increased demand of 7 percent in 2014 and 10 percent in 2013. In fact, the percentage has risen by double digits every year since 2009.



Coalition Against Hunger Executive Director Joel Berg presents a study on hunger at the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Long Island City.

Photo courtesy NYCCA

"The startling new data proves that the Wall Street profit bonanza has yet to aid the most vulnerable New Yorkers," Coalition Executive Director Joel Berg said. "In past recoveries, a rising economic tide lifted all boats, but now it's only

lifting the yachts. It is particularly perverse that Washington has slashed federal food aid. Our data proves that even when Albany and City Hall are taking progressive actions to fight hunger, as they have been, if  
*Continued on Page 52*

## Francis Lewis ROTC tops Defense Dept. list

BY MADINA TOURE

The Francis Lewis High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in Fresh Meadows is the first and only school in its brigade to receive a U.S. Defense Department honor with distinction award with a perfect score for the 2014-15 academic year.

The award, which is granted every year by the secretary of defense, is based on the unit's student performance, community service and a formal inspection. The unit is scored on a scale of 1 to 1,000. The formal inspection is worth up to 600 points, while the unit report is worth up to 400 points.

Francis Lewis is one of 40 JROTC units to earn this award in the second ROTC Brigade, which includes 271

JROTC programs from Maine to Pennsylvania. But Francis Lewis is the only program to receive a perfect score of 1,000.

"What makes this year a little different is that the unit achieved a perfect score of 1,000 points," said Colonel Albert Lahood, senior military instructor at Francis Lewis High School. "It's exceptional to earn the award in and of itself, but to do that with a perfect score, that's exceptional. It's exceptional among the exceptional."

Honor unit with distinction is the highest award, followed by honor unit and merit unit. Programs are evaluated based on factors such as community service, administrative abilities, classroom instruction and students' ability to retain and apply what they learn in the program.

*Continued on Page 52*

# Daily News PR giant John Campi, 75, dies

BY SHAVANA ABRUZZO

Iconic New York Daily News executive John Campi — a marketing genius who enriched “New York’s hometown newspaper” with clever, blue-chip campaigns — died of a heart attack at a New Jersey hospital Nov. 28. The former vice president and director of promotions was 75.

Campi retired two years ago after an illustrious, 50-year career that delivered heart-warming events to New Yorkers, including the Brighton Beach Jubilee, the New York Daily News Stickball Tournament at MetroTech, and the 1986 Daily News Great Blimp Race, featuring four hot air balloons in a 12-mile aerial jaunt along the Hudson River to celebrate the Statue of Liberty’s 100th anniversary — all of them with Campi cheering from the sidelines.

“Anytime we sponsored something, John wasn’t only behind it, but he went to it,” said John Polizano, the current senior vice president of advertising.

Campi was a visionary who built alliances with the city’s Dominican, Mexican, Colombian, West Indian, Ecuadoran, and other communities, and was hailed as advocate of the year by the New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He also traveled to Trinidad in the mid-1980s to check out the Pan American Steel Drum Band and bring it to the Big Apple to perform at Daily News events, and later at Carnegie Hall, while boosting Caribbean Americans in Brooklyn.

“John was supportive of all things Caribbean that were newsworthy, whether it was a parade, giving out college scholarships or working with community organizations,” said Jean Alexander, marketing director of the West Indian Day Parade in Flatbush that Campi often attended. “He was a decision-making person who had a decision for you by the end of your meeting, and you could take his word to the bank.”

Other former co-workers remembered how he loved a challenge. When prominent city hospitals balked at endorsing the News’ prostate cancer screening program one year, Campi brought survivors ex-Mayor Rudy Giuliani and baseball great Joe Torre on board to help promote the life-saving initiative.

“John would say, ‘We’re the Daily News, we can make anything happen,’” said promotions and community affairs manager Brian Adams. “He commanded respect, not demanded it.”

Campi was among the inaugural honorees inducted into the Golden Gloves Hall of Fame in the spring for rescuing the popular competition from financial ruin in the mid-1980s and expanding it to include female contestants.



Celebrated: The New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hailed John Campi as “Advocate of the Year.”

New York Daily News / Ken Goldfield

“His guiding hand made it the world-famous boxing tournament it is today,” said Daily News President and Editor-in-chief Colin Myler.

Advertisers were similarly impressed by the dentist’s son who launched his career in the newspaper’s sales unit when John F. Kennedy was still president, rising steadily through the ranks to become the man to seal the deal on dozens of festivals, carnivals, parades and other spectacles that celebrated the Big Apple’s multiculturalism and attracted critical revenue dollars.

John Campi is survived by his wife, Rosemarie; children John, Joseph, and Lisa; and grandchildren Erin, Joseph, Andrew, Jack, and Harrison. He was cremated and a funeral Mass was held at St. Therese Church in Cresskill, N.J.

“John was the Daily News,” Gary Richard of the P.C. Richard & Son retail chain told the newspaper. “In John’s life, there were no obstacles or hurdles, he just got it done.”

His lack of airs and graces captivated other grass roots gladiators. Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa, who met Campi after winning the paper’s “Newspaperboy of the Year” award in 1969, worked with him for 10 years on the annual “Stickball Classic” benefit for the Police Athletic League.

“He could deal with the average man or woman, and deal with the barons of a Fortune 500 company,” Sliwa said.

Campi’s high standards inspired underlings.

“John always came to work dressed to the nines,” said Yvette Reyes, who was his assistant in the mid-1990s. “He was an elegant man.”

“He did things right,” added Griselda Garcia, his personal assistant of 11 years. “Everyday was a learning experience.”

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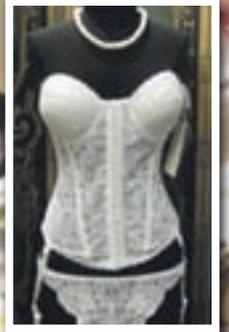
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# POLICE Blotter

## JFK baggage handlers charged with theft:DA

JAMAICA — Seven baggage handlers who worked at JFK have been charged with stealing electronics goods and jewelry from checked luggage between 2012 and 2014, said Richard Brown, Queens district attorney, and Port Authority Chief Security Officer Joseph Dunne.

“The defendants, who were hired to handle the baggage of those traveling in and out of Kennedy Airport, are alleged to have stolen computers, cell phones and other items from checked luggage with many of them selling the pilfered items to a pawn shop or to a ‘fence,’ who was actually an undercover police officer,” Brown said.

According to the criminal complaint, the defendants allegedly stole iPads, iPhones and MacBook computers, as well as Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets, and other computers like Dell and Toshiba.

“The Port Authority will continue to aggressively investigate complaints of baggage theft and arrest those, whether Port Authority employees or outside contractors, who violate the trust given them in handling property of the traveling public,” said Dunne.

Five of the defendants face up to four years in prison if convicted, and two other face up to seven years in jail.



QUEENS DA RICHARD BROWN

## NYPD seek suspect in attempted LIC robbery

LONG ISLAND CITY — Police from the 108th Precinct were looking for a suspect in an attempted robbery. On Monday, at about 4 a.m., a man entered the Citibank ATM vestibule at 1 Court Square and approached a 32-year-old man as he was withdrawing cash. The NYPD said the suspect demanded money from the victim while holding a pink stocking with a brick inside.

When the victim refused to hand over the cash, police said the suspect swung the stocking at the victim, striking him in the head with the brick. The suspect fled the scene without the money and the victim refused medical attention.

The suspect is a white Hispanic male, about 5 feet 8 inches and about 230 pounds. He was wearing a black hat and a black jacket.



Police released this video image of a man who allegedly tried to rob someone inside a Court Square ATM vestibule.  
Photo courtesy NYPD

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# Astoria girl named top youth inventor

BY BILL PARRY

When she accepted the TAGIE award for Young Inventor of the Year in Chicago's historic Navy Pier Grand Ballroom last week, Astoria's Lyla Black stunned the crowd of 400 toy and game industry insiders from 23 countries.

She's only 8 years old.

"She made an absolutely stunning speech, very articulate for such a young person" Chicago Toy & Game Group Founder Mary Couzin said. "That's a very special kid. She's got a very bright future ahead of her."

Speaking to such a large crowd could have overwhelmed Lyla, but she fought through the jitters.

"I was excited to win, but nervous to give my speech in front of so many people," she said. "I am happy I won the award because it means more people will know about Lyla Tov Monsters and buy them so more children will have a good night's sleep."

The TAGIE Awards are the most prestigious toy and game awards program in the country and she won for inventing Lyla Tov Monsters, the "guardians of a good night's sleep." Lyla designed her first plush toy as a holiday gift for her father Eric when she was just 3 years old.

She drew the picture and asked her mother to get some fabric and help to "make it real."

Erin Black, a two-time Emmy Award-winning costume designer for her work on "Sesame Street," made it real. She also turned it into a family project.

"We made a dozen of them for a local craft fare in Sun-

nyside Gardens and they were pretty popular," she said.

Father Eric, who worked extensively in children's television productions, both for the Jim Henson Company and most recently Scholastic Media, got involved with fundraising.

"Last year we did a Kickstarter campaign and it was a great success," he said. "We managed to get 130 percent of our goal. We were able to manufacture our first two Limited Edition Monsters, Charlotte and Forest. Since we met our stretch goal, we also made an illustrated book, Billy & Dak."

The campaign allowed the Blacks to begin mass marketing and the family business, which includes siblings Quinn and Tessa, expanded beyond just their online store. Hundreds of Lyla Tov Monsters are now available at the gift shop at the Jewish Museum, at 92nd Street and Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

They are also available at shops such as Raising Astoria, at 26-11 23rd Ave., and at both Tiny You children's boutiques: one in Sunnyside Gardens at 46-21 Skillman Ave., and the other at 10-50 Jackson Ave., in Long Island City.

"I first met Lyla four years ago and she won a design contest at my shop in Sunnyside Gardens," Tiny You Owner Jill Callan said. "Then they did a book reading at my Long Island City store and now I carry the Monsters in both of my shops."

Lyla Tov means "Good night" in Hebrew and the dolls are designed to be protectors of a good night's sleep. A single snuggle from the plush toy will ward off the most fright-

*Continued on Page 36*

# Smith, Tabone face new evidence: Feds

BY SARINA TRANGLE

State Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) allegedly compared his campaign coffers to an IPO and former Queens GOP leader Vincent Tabone allegedly bartered with the party's endorsement as precursors to the crimes they are charged with at their impending federal corruption trial, prosecutors contend.

Prosecutors submitted a filing last week seeking to introduce as evidence untoward conversations not directly related to the court case against Smith and Tabone. But U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara's office argued the discussions illustrated the two's motivations and would help rebuff potential entrapment defenses.

Smith is accused of attempting to buy his way onto the GOP ticket in the 2013 mayoral elections. Tabone, once the Queens GOP vice chairman, is charged with accepting a suspected bribe in exchange for helping the senator seek the GOP line. The trial begins Jan. 5.

Lawyers for both have maintained their clients' innocence.

In their latest filing, prosecutors zeroed in on an August 2008 fund-raising event in Kingston, where prosecutors claim Smith told lobbyists they should donate to his campaign because he was bound for a leadership position. Later that same year Smith was chosen majority leader of the state Senate, a post he held only briefly.

"Smith told the attendees that they should treat the fundraiser as an (initial public offering) by donating early while prices were low and while there was still an opportunity to participate," the filing read. "Smith's comments implied that those who failed to make contributions to his campaign at the time would find themselves having to pay more later or being unable to accomplish anything with the Senate under Smith's leadership."

Prosecutors also alleged Smith solicited larger donations than he was allowed to accept during the 2012 campaign from a man he believed was a developer, but who was cooperating with the government. The senator allegedly agreed to let this man appoint a key staff member to his team and steer state money to an upstate proj-



State Sen. Malcolm Smith

ect in exchange for these donations. Prosecutors maintain Smith sought the contributions so he could dole money out to fellow candidates' campaigns and buy their support in the Senate's next leadership vote.

Gerald Shargel, Smith's attorney, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Prosecutors also honed in on a March 2010 meeting between then-gubernatorial candidate Rick Lazio, Queens GOP Chairman Philip Ragusa and Vice Chairman Tabone, who was running for the state Assembly at the time.

Tabone allegedly pulled aside Lazio's campaign manager and asked the GOP candidate to provide financial support to his campaign and the Queens GOP in exchange for its endorsement, prosecutors said.

Tabone's attorney, Leo Ahern, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Before a mistrial pushed Smith's and Tabone's case over to 2015, White Plains Federal Court Judge Kenneth Karas permitted prosecutors to introduce similar conversations with jurors, albeit with instructions to only consider them as context to the criminal charges. A jury previously found Bayside's former GOP Councilman Daniel Halloran guilty of brokering Smith's deals and accepting kickbacks. Halloran is scheduled to be sentenced this Friday.

Halloran's case was severed from Smith's and Tabone's this summer.

Their attorneys successfully sought mistrials because prosecutors did not release hours of conversation in Yiddish from a wiretap on a cooperating witness's phone ahead of the trial.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle by e-mail at [strangle@cnglocal.com](mailto:strangle@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.



Lyla Black shows poise in accepting the TAGIE Award for Young Inventor of the Year. Photo courtesy Skirt

# Shannon Gaels proceed with College Pt. field

BY MADINA TOURE

The Queens-based Shannon Gaels Gaelic Football Club's plans to upgrade its field in College Point is moving swiftly, the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association announced at its monthly meeting late last month.

"They're very well-organized. They're all over Queens right now, so they looked for a park where they could build their fields and make it a home," said Diane Kovach, co-chair of the Land Use and Zoning Committee for the association. "They've been playing on there for several years now and except for — occasionally there's some traffic issues — they really haven't been a disturbance in the area."

Community Board 7 approved the plans as they were presented to the board but did not approve the overall plan as they do not have all the city Parks Department permits and the plans could change, she said. The first phase of construction, already fund-

ed and ready to go, will be a smaller training field with an artificial surface with fencing around it and planted trees. The second phase is a full-size Gallic soccer field with stadium-sized LED lights. The third phase will be a parking lot for about 40 cars which people can enter off 14th Road, which will be locked at night and have a porous surface to deter skateboarders.

Established in 2002, the Shannon Gaels received a patch of grass on which to train in Frank Golden Park in 2009. In April, the club signed a 15-year lease with the Parks Department for 7 acres of the park. They then started a fund-raising campaign to turn those acres into a new facility in July.

Also discussed at the monthly meeting at the Popenhusen Institute Nov. 20, were capital budget funding, better bus service, senior housing and the College Point Corporate Park.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz made an appear-



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz speaking at the civic association meeting late last month.  
Photo by Madina Toure

ance, encouraging residents to submit applications for capital funding when her office starts accepting them in March. She suggested that people submit applications based on issues relevant to them, such as education.

"Your child or grandchild's school that needs a new auditorium, needs a new playground, needs computers,"

Katz said, citing possible suggestions. "Computers haven't been updated in five years, seven years. That's a long time for computers."

She added that her office is working on airplane noise, the reconstruction of 20th Avenue from 127th Street to the Whitestone Expressway and flooding on 15th Avenue between 119th and 120th Streets.

Vito Tautonico, director of constituent services for City Councilman Paul Vallone's (D-Bayside) office, said the city Economic Development Corporation, elected officials and members of the civic association and Community Board 7 have discussed plans that would allow businesses that are required to pay into an improvement fund to determine how the money is used.

"We're in the process of hopefully setting up some kind of system where the business owners, the people that they've bled everything into their business, will get the opportunity to say where to put that money," Tautonico said.

He also criticized what he described as a lack of transparency and cooperation from the city Department of Transportation concerning roads that need to be reconstructed in the neighborhood.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cn-glocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cn-glocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.



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# PAPER OR PLASTIC?

The usually unified City Council is divided over a proposal to charge shoppers a dime for each plastic bag or paper sack they use rather than bringing their own carry-all for groceries and other retail purchases.

The movement to target plastic bags, which cost the city \$12 million a year to discard in landfills, is a noble one designed to help heal the abused environment. But asking consumers to cough up a dime for plastic or paper is the equivalent of levying another tax on New Yorkers. And the ones hardest hit by the fee would be those least able to afford it — the low-income and the elderly, although food stamp users would be exempt.

Several large U.S. cities — Los Angeles, Seattle and Washington — have sent the plastic bag packing. But unlike New York, many of the residents in these cities rely heavily on cars to shop. Plastic bags with handles make it easier for New Yorkers to cart their groceries and other purchases along city streets as they walk from the store to their homes.

The bags then can be recycled for many other uses, such as tying up garbage, preventing food from leaking, disposing of kitty litter and storing clothing.

Banning just plastic bags could spark a rush to paper bags, which fall short on these practical applications and can attract roaches.

The alternative to these less than perfect choices of plastic vs. paper is for shoppers to provide their own bags. This is a simple solution in theory but not so easy when it comes to remembering to schlep that string bag to the market.

New York City with fewer plastic bags would probably be a better place. Our trees are choked with bags tossed up into the branches by wind and our landfills are littered with plastic that can last from 10 to 20 years. But what happens to all the household garbage abandoned by the bags?

Outlawing the free plastic bag in most stores would force us to alter our lifestyles, but it should not come at the expense of the people who can least afford to be on the frontier of change, particularly when retailers would keep the 10-cent fees.

The Council should weigh very carefully the impact of a plastic bag tax on all city residents and give serious thought to other approaches to wean New Yorkers off our addiction to the little white sack.

No wonder our lawmakers in Queens are at odds.



## OTHER VOICES

# Whitestone touts shop local

The businesses owners within a small shopping strip in Whitestone got together and financed a holiday lights display, bringing back a longstanding tradition in the community that had gone missing for three years. While many residents had resigned themselves to the “it’s a sign of the times” sense of loss, a new group formed within the community calling itself, “We Love Whitestone” and taking up a

mantra of “Get Up, Get Out, and Get Involved.”

The group has challenged current residents and local business owners to take an active role within their community.

The business owners responded to that call, and led by the owners of Palazzo building supplies, Tees and Tiaras children’s boutique, and Harpells Pharmacy, brought back the much loved and always anticipated holiday lights

along the commercial strip affectionately known as “Whitestone Village.”

In honor of small business Saturday, and as a reminder to all communities, that together things can get done, we urge you to shop locally this holiday season.

*Alfredo Centola*  
Founding member  
We Love Whitestone

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# Obama flourishing in face of voter apathy

Well, the election is over and it went the way we expected. Voter turnout was terrible. Only 36.3 percent of eligible voters cast votes. The worst turnout in 72 years with only the 1942 election lower at 33.9 percent. The result was a combination of systematic politically executed schemes instituting voter suppression by the Republicans combined with naive, lackadaisical, plain laziness by the Democrats. More people went and

shopped on Black Friday than went to the polls — shameful.

I decided to actually look at what has transpired since President Barack Obama's inauguration in January 2009, when the Executive Branch changed hands. Unemployment in 2009 stood at 7.8 percent, and now it is 5.8 percent; GDP Growth in 2009 went from 5.4 percent to 3.5 percent in 2014; deficit GDP in 2009 stood at 9.8 percent compared to 2.8 percent currently; the

Dow Jones Index went from 7,949 in 2009 to 17,573 in 2014; and consumer confidence increased from 37.7 in 2009 to 94.5 in 2014.

Millions of Americans who could not afford health care are now for the first time receiving coverage due to President Obama's Affordable Care Act, which is only just approaching those of all the advanced industrial countries, and the numbers grow daily.

Some of the lows include

Congressional approval at 11 percent (compared to 9 percent just prior to the mid-term election), while the president's approval is at 47 percent — lower than Harry S. Truman, Jimmy Carter, and Gerald Ford.

In six years under President Obama, notwithstanding having to deal with the worst Congress in our nation's history proudly admitting its primary goal is to destroy Obama's presidency and limit it to one term (which failed),

we've made incredible progress as a country. In the face of the incredible obstruction, the president has continued to fight for "We the People" and lead us forward while his opponents fought for the 5/4 Supreme Court "Distortion of People."

That's what a successful presidency looks like.

*Nicholas Zizelis  
Bayside*

## Please, Mr. President, secure all of our borders

I was completely disgusted by the actions of President Barack Obama two weeks ago.

All Americans need is the granting of amnesty to five million undocumented immigrants. I am certain that these immigrants will certainly not be voting for conservative candidates in America anytime soon.

I like a lot of what former Congressman Joe Walsh (on 970AM The Answer) has been saying.

Secure the borders. No amnesty.

It is high time Obama obeys the Constitution and the laws of this land.

*Michael Mullaney  
Oakland Gardens*

## Immigrants must learn our language

The number of illegal immigrants in this country is staggering. About five million people are here illegally.

There must be a legal process to follow for these people. They cannot just simply come here to live illegally.

To be eligible for the same rights as American citizens,

they need to first become citizens. It is time for the Congress to deal with this situation immediately, and in order to do that, the president needs to be able to sit down and work together with Congress.

People cannot just come to live here from other countries and not be bound by our laws.

All of the immigrants who came to America years ago had to learn to speak English in order to become citizens of the United States. The same should be for those people who are here illegally.

*John Amato  
Fresh Meadows*

### Quotes of the Week

The startling new data proves that the Wall Street profit bonanza has yet to aid the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

**Coalition Executive Director Joel Berg**

It's a terrible precedent and a rash decision and none of us is thrilled in the preservationist community. To wipe clean all those years of work and start over is dismissive and uncomfortable to say the least.

**John Jay professor Jeffrey Kroessler**

Bayside is the market for a new breed of television.

**Greg Sullivan on Bayside Live TV launch**

## Ferguson needs forgiveness, not burning

The grand jury in Ferguson, Mo., handed down its decision and police officer Darren Wilson will not be indicted for the shooting of Michael Brown which caused much rioting and burning of Ferguson.

All I can say is that some in Ferguson felt violence made it right because they opposed the decision. That is not the way to go and is not the Amer-

ican way.

There are other ways through an open discussion concerning race relations and through the courts. Burning one's own town to the ground and looting does not get it done.

As Bruce Springsteen in his song "Jungle Land" states, "Outside the street's on fire in a real death waltz, between what's flesh and what's fan-

tasy."

It doesn't have to be like that, so why can't we get along? It's time for the town of Ferguson to rebuild with understanding, discussion, hope, prayer, and forgiveness.

Remember this, too: Evil thrives when good people do nothing.

*Frederick R. Bedell Jr.  
Glen Oaks Village*

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# Keep our mail and jobs in Queens



Bob Harris  
The Civic Scene

Last year the USPS wanted to close the bulk mail processing center in Whitestone to save money. They planned to take all the mail to a processing center in Brooklyn, then bring it back to Queens, but everyone complained, so they shelved the plan. In typical autocratic manner the plan is back.

Postal workers demonstrated outside the Queens Processing and Distribution Center in Whitestone with local legislators supporting them. The plan seems to call for sudden cuts on Dec. 5. Queens' mail would take two days to be de-

livered instead of one day due to the loss of workers and the inconvenience of going from Queens to Brooklyn, then back to Queens. Is it worth the wear and tear on trucks, the gasoline use and pollution and the inconvenience and unhappiness for workers transferred far from their homes? Will this really be a saving?

Actually, the Postal Service makes money because of the rise of e-commerce and the need of package delivery although first class mail has decreased due to the use of e-mail messages. The USPS is no longer taxpayer funded yet in 2006 Congress passed a law calling on USPS to pre-fund retiree health benefits 75 years in advance. This is causing a deficit. It seems that major companies only have to pre-fund for 10 years. Why is the USPS being penalized? A number of members of Congress now want to

study the issue and pass legislation to solve the problem, but this plan to close facilities has still been proposed.

If this bulk processing facility in Whitestone is closed, this would cause a problem for the civic associations, tenant associations, co-ops, and small non-profit organizations of Queens. Many of these organizations bring their newsletters and fliers to Whitestone to be mailed at bulk rate. Going to Brooklyn would be an added burden.

Interestingly, when I brought my own civics' 1,300 newsletters to Whitestone to be mailed last week, one of the workers told me that they may not close this bulk facility but make small bulk mailers go to Brooklyn or lose their bulk mail rights. The extra cost of traveling to Brooklyn to mail bulk mail would be as bad as mailing the newsletters in

Queens at the first class postal rate. Civic associations are volunteer organizations and don't have the money for all this run-a-round. Some of the volunteers do have regular jobs.

**GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK:** The Department of Education has decided to close Achievement, Reporting and Innovation System, which is supposed to track and distribute student scores and other data. It was started in 2007 by former Chancellor Joel Klein whose company Amplify obtained a contract in 2012 to maintain the system. It seems that parents and staff are just not using ARIS.

The DOE spent \$95 million on the system. These systems are an example of "big brother" watching over everything, but they never got it to perform properly. Klein and his friends are the same people who denigrate the public schools and

the teachers and want "accountability" yet they can't seem to get the things they do to function properly. If there was just oversight for the charter schools, then we could see how good they really are!

**BADNEWSOFTHEWEEK:** The MTA wants to again raise transit fares. Why? Ridership is up. If the MTA could only stop those fare beaters, then they would have enough money to improve the system without raising fares.

On a Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. on the E train to Queens I encountered several panhandlers who have us as a captive audience between express stops. One young man asked for money for charity, then proceeded to use every foul word you could think of. When people asked him to be quiet he challenged them to fight. They want us to pay more money for this?

## Specialized HS admissions should be changed



Prem Calvin Prashad  
New Voices

Though there is only one specialized high school in the borough, Queens' students attend Brooklyn Tech, Bronx Science, Stuyvesant and other specialized high schools in massive numbers.

These eight schools offer entrance through a controversial state-mandated competitive examination. Nearly 30,000 pupils take the Specialized High School Admission Test every fall. These dedicated pupils commute to class each morning and the schools have produced many of Queens' political, business and social luminaries.

Yet, in the decades since the Hecht-Calandra Act mandated Brooklyn Tech, Bronx Science and Stuyvesant to offer admission by examination, a troubling trend has emerged. African-American and Hispanic students, representing nearly half of the city's pupils, failed to

secure more than 10 percent of seats across these schools.

Adding five specialized high schools in the previous decade did not slow this trend. In the 2012-13 school year, only 19 of Stuyvesant's 967 incoming freshmen were African-American.

The roots of this disparity differ, though most opponents allege that the prevalence of paid test prep has enabled Asian-American and white students to gain a competitive edge on their peers. Others note a lack of awareness for African-American and Hispanic households about the test and educational options that their children have when choosing high schools.

This disparity, as well as dwindling rates of African-American and Hispanic students at the schools, caused a coalition led by the NAACP to file a lawsuit, challenging the examination as the sole basis for admission.

In addition, proponents of this lawsuit note that state law does not mandate that the five newest high schools, including

Queens High School for the Sciences at York College, offer admission through the SHSAT.

These advocates believe that a more holistic admissions process, including interviews, volunteer experience and recommendations would be able to better identify gifted students that have issues with standardized testing.

Historical evidence shows, however, that when the University of California, Berkeley made such a change from their examination model in the 1920s, Jewish student enrollment dropped dramatically.

Conversely, many alumni worry about the implications that such a change would have for Asian-American students, many of whom also hail from low-income households but do well on the examination. The dominance of Jewish students on the examination had led Berkeley to make this prejudicial "correction."

State law requires that the original three of the eight schools be required by to offer admission by examination, Mayor Bill de Blasio and De-

partment of Education Chancellor Carmen Farina took a quiet, but significant step toward reforming the test.

A private company administers the SHSAT through a contract with the DOE. In a Request for Proposal issued to choose a new test provider, the RFP indicated that any proposal submitted must include an essay section. The proposal, due Dec. 4, would award a contract to provide the test for at least six years, with the first test starting in fall 2016. Potentially, the entity awarded this contract would shape the test for the near future.

A written section could introduce subjectivity to the process, but that has already been a point of contention for reading comprehension multiple-choice questions. Proponents of such a change argue that students that excel in writing and communication skills would also have a foundation to succeed at these schools.

Indeed, written communication is an important career skill and either creative or analytical writing can enable the

student to demonstrate English language proficiency, which is predicative of success at a Specialized Science High School.

Barring action on the state level, scrapping the SHSAT entirely is unlikely. Here in Queens, some test prep providers have taken steps to make their services more widely available.

Khan's Tutorial, a large, locally owned test prep center with 10 locations, including Jackson Heights, Astoria and Richmond Hill, has announced the Dr. Mansur Khan SHSAT Opportunity Scholarship, which will award two students from underserved communities at each of the provider's ten locations.

About 185 students from Khan's Tutorial managed to gain admission to specialized schools, but only 13 were African-American, Hispanic or West Indian, the communities that will be served by the scholarship.

To learn more about the scholarship, visit [khanstutorial.com](http://khanstutorial.com).

# It's still a very small world after all



**Kenneth Kowald**  
■  
**I Sit And Look Out**

Some thoughts for a New Year:

In 1964, the Disney exhibit at the World's Fair in Queens taught our brave new world that "It's A Small World."

That was a hopeful song. Our divisive world was coming to an end because we knew better than to think that anyone was better than anyone else. We knew technology would bring us together. We even learned, later on, that there are only six degrees of separation between you and me, for example.

Yes, it is a small world. We learn about things thousands of miles away in a few seconds. We bear the scars of wars, famine and disease very quickly.

Queens, in all its diversity, is very much a part of our divisive world. I don't know how many residents have ties to the nations that suffer from Ebola and other terrible ailments and disasters, but I am sure there are quite a few.

While we may have heard of Ebola early on, it did not make an impact in this country until it reached here. Would it be too cynical to think that it did not register until the color of the skins of infected health workers on the scene was different from those they were aiding? Let us hope not, but the thought lingers, doesn't it?

Africa: So near, so far,

so exotic, so toxic, so much beauty, so much a part of what we would like to think of as a small, happy world. So much poverty, so much starvation, so much corruption, so much killing for ethnic or religious reasons or no reasons at all.

And, JFK is a gateway to this world, so we in Queens are part of it all, but we do not react until the wolf has entered the dining room and begun to eat the baby in the high chair.

And what of ISIS? In our brave new world of political transparency (please forgive the sarcasm) I don't recall hearing anything about such a group until this past June. Yet, it turns out, our government knew of this barbaric, disgusting and evil organization for years, but we, the people, did not.

Transparency: Now we are engaged in some kind of anti-ISIS action. Of course, the Turks (our ally) don't want to help because the Kurds may benefit. The Iraqis (Mission Accomplished) have neither the forces, nor it seems the will to act to protect their own lands. Is it too cynical to think our other "allies" are there for the record and not for the action?

Maybe there will be "no boots on the ground," from the United States, but men and women from Queens continue to be on the front lines of any action against ISIS, while so many of our allies hold back. The wolf is at the door. The baby is in the high chair in the dining room.

In the 1620s, the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London wrote a book of Devotions.

Many know some or all of one in particular (I use his spelling): "No man is an Iland, intire of itselfe ... Any mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee."

Without planes, without the Internet, without all the technological gains of the last few centuries, John Donne believed in one world and with words like these urged others to do so.

As the wild bells ring out the old year and ring in the new, perhaps we should think about for whom and what they toll.

Do we really believe in one world? And, more importantly, how do we act to show that we do?

Happy New Year!

## Remembering some significant December dates

In 1913, then New York Mayor William Gaynor created a stir when he sarcastically called an elevated line, proposed for the sparsely populated Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, and Corona communities, as the 'cornfield line.'

In 1923, the Star-Journal crowed that he would be surprised at the 'crop' of single and two family homes as well as apartment buildings that had all but covered those communities in the intervening decade. Single family homes of six or seven rooms went for \$9,000 to \$11,000 while larger two-family home of brick, frame and stucco construction were priced between \$12,000 and \$20,000.

In 1923, on Roosevelt Avenue alone, more than 100 stores and upper story apartments were built. The largest apartment building, "The Queensboro," accounted for 200 of that year's 1,700 apartments.



The Greater Astoria Historical Society

Several hundred residents of Queens presented to the Board of Estimate a petition signed by 10,000 people urging the construction of a subway along Queens Boulevard between Long Island City and Jamaica. The communities of Woodside, Winfield, Elmhurst, Nassau Heights, Richmond Hill and Maspeth were represented by sixteen organizations.

On Dec. 14, the head of the Brooklyn Ash Removal Company, Charles Murphy, responded with stony silence when the district attorney's office questioned him on the company's failure to address the community's concerns that

the "smoky, smelly fly-infested" Flushing Meadow dump was a public nuisance. Among other things, ash cinders and coal, sawdust, broken crockery, street sweepings, oyster and clam shells, sewer catch basins, old shoes, mattresses, bottles, paper, carpets, straw, pruned shrubs, horse manure and stable refuse were legally dumped there.

The Queens Grand Jury investigation to conditions of the Corona dumps wanted to know why, despite numerous complaints, the Board of Health seemed to be powerless to take action on this problem. Of particular concern was the rumored connection between

Murphy and business partner James Gaffney, Kings County Clerk and a chief of the Tammany Hall political machine.

Christopher Clarke, chairman of Flushing United Association took the stand and testified that after five weeks of constant urging, the Board of Health brought up a case against the company not as a public nuisance but as a simple case of pollution from a railroad and factory. His anger was targeted in particular at a health inspector who took the stand during the hearing and made apologies for the company.

On a more positive note, on Dec. 15 the public has its first chance to see renderings for the new Queens Boulevard. Clifford Moore, consulting engineer for Queens borough, likened the highway to the great avenues of the world: Avenue des Champs-Élysées of Paris or the Grand Concourse or Eastern Parkway in New

York. Four rows of shade trees (a total of 10,420 saplings), along with special lanes for trolleys, a center limited access road, and two outer service roads would make the highway a state of the art transportation corridor.

Between Van Dam Street and 48th Street, a three track viaduct would carry the elevated train (today the 7 line), while underneath would be a right of way for two trolley lines. Between 48th Street and Union Turnpike, the road was to be 200 feet wide before narrowing to 150 feet between Union Turnpike and Hillside Avenue.

To avoid interruptions from construction, all conduits would be placed under the side service roads.

For further information, call the Greater Astoria Historical Society at (718) 278-0700. Visit our website at [www.astorialic.org](http://www.astorialic.org) for your holiday shopping.

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# New South Asian center open doors to seniors

BY MADINA TOURE

For the past 12 years, Mazeda Uddin, a self-proclaimed “hungry community activist,” has been pressuring elected officials to form a senior center for the elderly Muslim population.

“Nowadays, our children do not want to take care of their parents because they are not comfortable and moreover, they are working day and night,” said Uddin, the national women’s coordinator for the Alliance of South Asian American Labor. “They cannot support their parents. I’ve been working on this issue for almost 12 years. I gave all the elected officials this message: We need a South Asian senior center.”

All that pressure and hard work paid off. On Monday afternoon, City Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest) announced the official opening of the Desi Senior Center at the Jamaica Muslim Center. The center is the first and only full-time senior facility serving the South Asian population.

“It means that every community within the family of New York City has the right to participate fully in government, in political life, in social life, and that the needs of every single community should try to be met to the extent that’s possible,” Lancman said before a crowd of South Asian and Muslim residents and elected officials.

The Desi Senior Center, which whose goal is to serve the growing South Asian community in Jamaica Hills and Briarwood, will be housed at the Jamaica Muslim Center on 85-37 168th St. in Jamaica.

It will operate three days a week from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and include a halal lunch, arts and crafts, exercise classes, speakers and socializing. The center is open to people ages 60 and up. Members of the Darus Salaam Masjid can also sign up for the senior center.

Lancman — whose district has the largest Bangladeshi population in New York City and has more than 23,000 residents of South Asian descent — provided \$100,000 in discretionary funds to support the center.

“It’s open to everybody and so we expect people who are affiliated with other mosques to come here as well as people who are not affiliated with any mosque or are not of the Muslim faith,” he said. “It’s really designed around the South Asian community broadly.”

India Home, a Glen Oaks-based nonprofit organization that serves the Indian and South Asian senior citizen immigrant community, will run the center.

Dr. Vasundhara D. Kalasapadu, India Home’s executive director, said she was surprised when Lancman reached out to her.



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“We all come from, whether it’s India, Bangladesh or Pakistan,” Dr. Kalasapadu said. “We run behind our politicians there, we request them, but do they do anything? We’re not sure about it. But here, the council member is running behind an organization saying ‘Please, do solve this community,’ which is amazing.”

Uddin first wrote a letter to Judy Coyne, deputy commissioner for the Albany County Department for Aging, in 2009 and 2010 and to Kathleen Otte, regional administrator for the Administration for Community Living, requesting the creation of a public Muslim senior center.

Senior centers have to have a location and be run by an organization, Lancman explained. He selected India Home because of its track record of running senior programs and its ability to provide culturally sensitive and relevant programming. He gave the \$100,000 grant to the organization.

The center will allow the Jamaica Muslim Center to better serve its senior population, said Dr. Mohammad W. Rahman, the center’s president.

“This was our dream, and this dream came true today, and this is a historic event for us,” Rahman said. “More than 100 seniors already registered. People will hear about it and they will come. We will try to accommodate as much as we can.”

Because the center is government-funded, anyone can participate. But state Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows), who has worked with India Home for many years, said it is still beneficial to have a center that caters to the community.

“It’s nice to know that there’s a particular senior center that has a certain appeal to the South Asian community, to the Muslim community,” Weprin said. “We feel comfortable knowing that you can eat all the food and also ... the culture, particularly in the Bangladeshi community.”

Lancman also announced the creation of a five-member community advisory committee that would work India Home to ensure that the needs of

*Continued on Page 37*

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# Elmhurst resident pens a tour guide for borough

Thirty new walking tours mapped out for explorers to discover different neighborhoods

BY BILL PARRY

Looking for a unique stocking stuffer for a borough-curious loved one this holiday season? An Elmhurst resident has written "Walking Queens," a handy guide to 30 of the best neighborhood walking tours in the borough.

"There's a lot more to Queens than people think," author Adrienne Onofri said. "When I first started the project, I didn't know if I'd have enough material for a book and by the time I was finished, about a year later, I was surprised at the amount I had to cut out during the editing process."

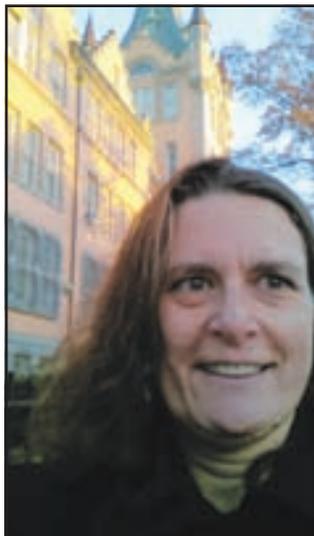
The 254-page paperback explores the diverse communities, historical places and natural treasures of well-known neighborhoods such as Forest Hills, Astoria and Jackson Heights as well as lesser known villages like Warnerville and Meadowmere.

Each chapter features a map with directions for a three-

to four-mile walk through each featured neighborhood detailing distinctive architecture, ethnic background, cultural venues and historical landmarks. The history of each is also told with the help of the Queens Historical Society, Queens Library, the Greater Astoria Historical Society and many others.

One of the more fascinating stories detailed in "Walking Queens" is that of the Imperial Hotel in Rockaway Park.

"In 1880 the largest hotel in the world to date was constructed where you are walking. Bankers, railroad tycoons, and even senators invested in a 1,000-room hotel known as the Imperial, which consisted of a main building facing the ocean that stretched all the way from 109th Street to 116th Street and three wings extending north. It even had a private dock for guests arriving by steamer ... except they never arrived. Mired in debt and lawsuits, the hotel never opened



Adrienne Onofri walks past the Reformed Church of Newtown in Elmhurst.

Photo courtesy Adrienne Onofri

and was torn down in 1889 after standing empty for years," she wrote.

Onofri is a journalist by trade, mostly working on travel guides, but she is a licensed

New York City tour guide as well and brings that expertise to the project. In 2007 she wrote "Walking Brooklyn," which was so well received the publisher, Wilderness Press, asked her to do one about Queens.

"I've been living in Queens since 1988 when I moved to Astoria," Onofri said. "I stayed there 20 years. It got really cool right after I moved out when my husband and I moved to a place on the Elmhurst/Jackson Heights border.

She said she wanted her tour guide to help borough residents, especially the new ones, to discover new areas.

"We all have our routes that we travel frequently but rarely travel outside of that path," Onofri said. "People hear about places but seldom go there because it's so spread out and much of it is inaccessible by subway."

Each chapter begins with directions to the starting point by subway or bus.

"The Long Island Rail Road

can be helpful as well, but I tried to focus on cheaper transit choices," she said.

Onofri found the common gardens and planned communities of Sunnyside Gardens, Jackson Heights and Forest Hills Gardens very interesting but decided that the walk she took along Shore Road in Douglaston Manor was the most surprising.

"There are so many sights to see there. Of course, many of the homeowners would prefer that the secret wasn't out there, especially of the Douglaston-Little Neck Walk," she said.

There is one neighborhood Onofri wished she had known about before buying in Elmhurst.

"It's kind of hard to beat Forest Hills Gardens," she said. "Not only is it charming with all its gorgeous homes, but it's got the subway and it's an express subway just minutes from Manhattan. How could you beat that?"

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# City to reduce number of mentally ill in jail

BY JUAN SOTO

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Tuesday a plan intended to reduce crime and the number of inmates sent to Rikers Island with mental health issues or substance abuse by increasing mental health treatment to individuals throughout the criminal justice system.

“For years, the criminal justice system has been the default for dealing with behavioral and mental health issues, but that approach alone does not best serve the public health or public safety,” de Blasio said.

The \$130 million four-year allocation is intended to put an end to individuals “needlessly cycling” through the system.

The plan to identify individuals who need treatment services rather than jail time for minor offenses “will mean not only safer streets, but stronger neighborhoods and healthier people,” the mayor said.

Part of the plan includes training for police officers that will “enable them to bet-

ter recognize behaviors and symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse.”

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) said the findings of the task force recommending a “shift from punitive sentences to therapeutic services is a welcome departure from the decades-old practice of using the criminal justice system to institutionalize people with mental issues.”

According to a report by the Task Force on Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice System, about 400 people with mental or substance abuse issues were sent to prison at least 18 times in the last five years. This represents more than 10,000 jail admissions.

“We know that many of the issues that ultimately end in time behind bars start well before and last well after contact with the criminal justice system, and implicate many more players than the jail system alone,” said Elizabeth Glazer, director of the mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice. “This is particular true for people with behavioral health



The city plans to reduce the number of mentally ill people it sends to jail for minor offenses.

issues.”

The plan will create a clinical drop-off center in Manhattan to “provide an option for individuals who need neither to be held for arraignment on low-level charges nor emergency room services.”

The center, and another one which is slated to open in early 2016 in another city borough, will prove the police “with a much needed alternative to jail for persons with mental

health issues,” according to the task force.

The city will add 2,300 slots to existing supervised release programs for adults. It will also establish a new science-based risk assessment program for judges and service providers “that accurately identifies and diverts people who do not pose a high risk of reoffending or flight and can therefore be safely supervised in the community,” said the

mayor’s office.

Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli said, “For many with behavioral needs, the criminal justice system is a revolving door leading to multiple costly, short stays behind bars over the course of their adult lives.”

Police Commissioner William Bratton welcomed the city plan.

“NYPD often finds itself to be an agency of last resort in dealing with various issues involving individuals with mental health and substance abuse problems,” he said.

The New York State Nurse Association also supported the task force findings. “People suffering from behavioral health illness ought not to be punished for their health care needs,” said Jill Furillo, executive director of the organization. “Our society is safer in the end when illness is met with compassion.”

Reach reporter Juan Soto by e-mail at [jsoto@cnglocal.com](mailto:jsoto@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.



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# Dromm sponsors bill seeking LGBTQ stats

BY SARINA TRANGLE

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) introduced legislation requiring city agencies to include a sexual orientation and gender identity section on forms and then cull data from them to tailor services for the LGBTQ community.

Dromm said the city agencies' current agnostic attitude toward whether New Yorkers are lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and queer, known collectively as LGBTQ, has led to a disparity in services.

"In today's world, data is everything. Money is based on data collection," Dromm said. "The LGBTQ community has not gotten their share of tax dollars and I feel it's very important that we know what the needs are so that we can allocate funding and provide services."

Dromm said, for instance, he is aware of only one senior center in Queens dedicated to the LGBTQ community and one youth program that works

with that population within the borough.

The bill, which was introduced Nov. 25, came with a memo noting that research suggests LGBTQ people face higher risks for depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicide because of societal prejudices. They are 8.3 times more likely than heterosexual people to be victims of a violent hate crime, according to the civil rights advocacy group Southern Poverty Law Center.

Dromm's bill asks that city agencies factor such statistics and other distinct LGBTQ community needs into policy decisions by providing annual reports on the LGBTQ community and giving city staff related training.

A dozen co-sponsors have signed on to Dromm's bill, including City Council Majority Leader Jimmy van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) and Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria).

Mayor Bill de Blasio's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Councilman Daniel Dromm is pushing a bill that would require city agencies to track services to those who identify themselves as LGBTQ.

Carrie Davis, chief programs and policy officer at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in Manhattan, said the organization has been pushing the government to collect and use data on the LGBTQ community for about 15 years.

The U.S. Census began tracking the LGBTQ community in 2010, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has since announced the state will seek statistics on that population to enhance its interactions with government services.

"They do require computer program services, paperwork changes and that means you can't just do it piecemeal," Davis said. "Dromm is trying to really change the system here, and that's a big deal — that kind of shift moves the bar successfully and quickly."

Dromm said he did not anticipate that implementation of the bill would involve significant investments in technology or paperwork.

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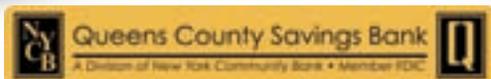
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## Julia K. McKenna Student of Distinction December 2014 Garden School Jackson Heights

High School students perform community and volunteer service as a pre-requisite for graduation. Julia McKenna, an honors student at Garden School, was recently awarded the US Congressional Gold Medal Youth Award. She performed the service with joy, grace and abundance. How abundant? Gold medal recipients require a minimum of 400 hours of documented community volunteer service: Julia logged more than 550! Recipients of this prestigious award are American students who meet goals in community service, personal development, physical fitness, plus exploration and expedition.

The first organization to gain Julia's time and commitment was Special Olympics. She began volunteering in 2009 and continues to volunteer presently. Among her many contributions to Special Olympics are: working with athletes on skills; scoring games; selling merchandise; cheering; distributing medals; and escorting athletes to and from competition points. An avid supporter of Special Olympics, Julia organized fellow classmates to attend the games and hosted two speakers from Special Olympics at Garden School to increase awareness and support for the 'Spread the Word to End the Word' campaign. As part of the campaign, Julia successfully collected over 400 signatures from students, teachers, and parents who vowed to help stop use of the word 'retarded.' In addition, Julia held fundraisers – raising more than \$6,000! – allowing local athletes to train and travel to games. She was the only student representative invited to NYC's conference 'School Climate and Bullying. During 2012 and 2013, Julia distributed over 5,000 postcards throughout the metro area to help market NYC Mud Run, a fundraiser for Special Olympics. In the summer of 2014, she was asked to represent



Special Olympics New York at a race held by Foam Fest.

Summers appear to be a particularly busy time for Julia. During the summers of 2010–2013, concurrent with volunteering at Special Olympics, she volunteered at Dellamonica Senior Center in her hometown, Astoria. At the center, Julia spent several days a week coordinating events, performing meal preparation and clean up and socializing with the members. One of her biggest gifts was bringing technology to the center by teaching members to play the Wii and use both cell phones and computers.

From 2011 to the present, Julia has been involved with two related groups: Bowery Residents Committee (BRC) and Common Ground Outreach. Both groups work with homeless New Yorkers. To increase awareness of the facilities, Garden School hosted Muzzy Rosenblatt, BRC President. Both upper and lower division students became involved as Julia chaired six hat, scarf and glove drives that facilitated the donation of hundreds of items to those in need. She also held two toothbrush and toothpaste drives, resulting in the collection of hundreds of these items. After the donations were made Julia organized a school trip to the BRC's Manhattan facility. In addition, Julia

has held a community sock drive annually with her family since 2011, that allows the donation of hundreds of pairs of new socks to the BRC.

Lastly, Julia chaired school blood drives in 2010 and 2011. As a result of the drives, she and her fellow students collected close to 70 pints of blood for New York Blood Center.

The original guiding force for Julia's good works was her sister Mary (Garden School '10). When discussing why she volunteers so much of her time, Julia says, "I need to do something rather than nothing so I can feel better about myself."

While she is very giving of her time and generosity to the community, Julia also contributes to her school on the athletic field. She was a member of the Varsity Basketball team in 2010, 2011, and 2014. In 2014 she Co-Captained both the Varsity Basketball and Varsity Volleyball teams, for which she played since 2010. This past year Julia also joined the Varsity Tennis team.

Among the clubs she is active in is the Key Club (2011-2015). Key Club is the most popular club at Garden School, with more than 30 dues-paying members in grades 9-12. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of La Guardia Airport, "Key Clubbers" volunteer throughout Queens throughout the year. In recent months, students have participated in Kids' Day at La Guardia Airport, created and distributed Thanksgiving Baskets at Elmhurst Hospital, supported neighborhood clean-ups and provided volunteers for the 78th Street Play Street. Julia is currently the Key Club Treasurer. Julia was also a member of Garden School Diversity Club from 2013 – 2014.

James Gaines, Director of Outreach, explains that "Julia discovered her passion for community service early. She is motivated by a desire to help others less fortunate than herself." Mr. Gaines believes that "the most inspirational thing about Julia is her effort to keep service alive by mentoring younger students. She has taken both an elementary and high school student under her guidance to pass the torch."

We are certain that, under Julia's tutelage, the torch will glow brightly.

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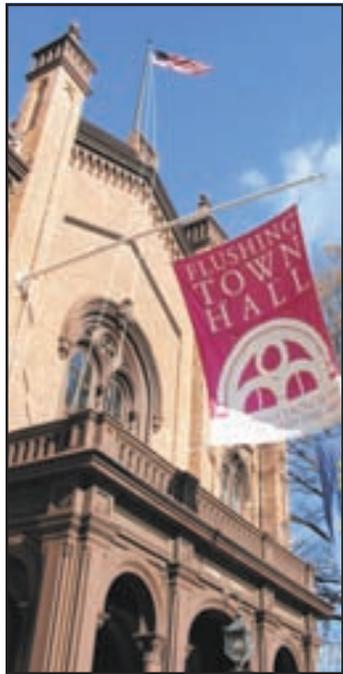


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# Town Hall hosts gift market

BY MADINA TOURE



Flushing Town Hall is hosting its first-ever holiday market Sunday. Courtesy of Flushing Town Hall

tive director, said.

Flushing Town Hall staff decided to start the holiday market to showcase the work of their artists, Kodadek explained.

“As an arts council, we work with so many local artists and our gift shop for five years now has carried the work of local Queens and Long Island-based artists,” she said. “So we thought, ‘Let’s expand upon the items already for sale in the gift shop and invite more local artists to participate and then do a holiday market.’”

The market will run from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Flushing Town Hall is at 137-35 Northern Blvd.

In celebration of Flushing Town Hall’s 35th anniversary, the organization has launched the 35 Challenge Grant for which it must raise \$35,000 by February to match \$35,000 that a benefactor promised them.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglobal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglobal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

stop shopping and buy unique handcrafted items made by local artists,” Ellen Kodadek, Flushing Town Hall’s execu-

Flushing Town Hall is holding its first-ever holiday market featuring everything from Christmas earrings to Korean traditional knotting art Sunday.

The market, which be held in the first-floor gallery at Flushing Town Hall, will highlight creations such as inlaid wood boxes and frames, photographs, wire sculptures, collage art, paintings, knitted items, scarves, ceramics and glass jewelry. The market features the works of 24 artists, 23 of whom are from Queens.

The market coincides with the 27th annual Holiday Historic House Tour, which will include Flushing Town Hall and six other historic Queens sites.

“Flushing Town Hall, for many years, has been part of the Flushing Historic House Tour and because we’re an arts council we thought it would be a wonderful way to showcase local artisans and give shoppers who are buying gifts for this holiday season to do one-

# Ferrereras starts fund for slain mom’s kids

BY BILL PARRY

City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) has opened an education fund and launched a publicfund-raising campaign for the children of Brandee Anastasia Massey, the pregnant mother of four who was shot and killed in front of her LeFrak apartment on the day before Thanksgiving. The baby girl she carried was delivered at Elmhurst Hospital Center but did not survive.

“These innocent children have suffered the greatest loss,” Ferreras said. “And while we cannot save them from a lifetime of pain and difficulty they will face growing up without a mother, as a community we can give them a fighting chance at a better future. We will not lose these children to violence and poverty like we lost her. By helping secure their education, we can put an end to the cycle now.”

All the money, raised online at [www.rally.org/MasseyFund](http://www.rally.org/MasseyFund) will go to the education of the four children. The oldest is just 9.

An initial pledge of \$15,000 toward the establishment of the fund was made by LeFrak City Maintenance Services.

“Our family is slowly picking up the pieces, although my children will never have their lives made whole again,” the children’s father, Joseph Massey, said. “I do not wish this upon anyone — all I hope is that my wife’s killer is brought to justice so that he cannot hurt anyone and my children can have some closure. We’re profoundly thankful to the people who have opened their hearts to us and are supporting us through this tragedy.”

Last Friday, state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) announced that a reward for information leading to the arrest of Massey’s killer had *Continued on Page 38*

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# Meng says she saved college from closure

BY SARINA TRANGLE



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng says she helped mediate a financial aid dispute between Bramson ORT College and the federal government.

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) said Monday she saved Bramson ORT College from shutting its doors, but she and the Forest Hills college would not discuss details of the school's trajectory.

Meng's office said Bramson ORT, a two-year technical college near Austin Street and Queens Boulevard currently on a two-year accreditation probationary period, approached the congresswoman after reaching an impasse with the U.S. Department of Education over funding.

Earlier this year, the DOE placed Bramson ORT under heightened cash monitoring and required additional documentation before giving it access to financial aid funds, Meng said. The congresswoman said the government put Bramson ORT under scrutiny because it had restructured its education program.

Meng maintained education officials received the required paperwork, but did not allocate sorely needed financial aid funding to Bramson ORT until she helped mediate what she called "miscommunications." She said Bramson ORT has received \$175,000 from the government and expects another \$980,000 soon.

"I thank officials from the DOE for working with us to prevent the school from shutting down," Meng said in a statement. "With the school remaining open and this issue now behind it, the institution can move forward to continue the important work it does in educating New York students."

When asked about the restructuring and probationary period, Meng's office referred inquiries to Bramson ORT.

The college did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

But its president, David Kanani, thanked Meng in a statement included in a press release from the congresswoman's office.

"We would like to sincerely thank Congresswoman Meng and her staff for their continued support and guidance in securing payments, and ongoing efforts to restore our financial aid payment status back to the standard method of payment," Kanani said.

The New York State Board of Regents voted in December 2013 to place Bramson ORT on a two-year probationary accreditation period. A report prepared by the Board of Regents'

Higher Education Committee ahead of that vote noted that a peer review team visited the Forest Hills campus in April 2013 and found it to be out of compliance with accreditation standards, including those related to assessing student achievement, public disclosure and addressing complaints.

"The department found that the institution was out of compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation in significant areas of assessment, faculty and resources. The persistence of similar issues cited in the previous accreditation report was noted. The college's response did not include specific plans sufficient to suggest that the institution could reasonably be expected to meet the standards within two years. As a result, the department recommended denial of accreditation," the committee report noted.

The report said Bramson ORT later submitted a road map for bringing the campus into compliance within two years by leasing additional space, getting faculty involved in governance and curricular matters and better assessing student outcomes, which merited a probation period approach.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle by e-mail at [strangle@cnglocal.com](mailto:strangle@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

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# Studio buys Glendale lots for \$19.5 million

BY SARINA TRANGLE

A \$19.5 million property sale has set the stage in Glendale.

Broadway Stages, a full-service film, television and music production facility in Greenpoint, inked a deed with the industrial park bordering The Shops at Atlas Park and announced plans to convert part of the property into studio space.

The deal, signed Nov. 19, covers three commercial lots at 81-80, 82-04 and 82-10 Cooper Ave., which were sold for \$19.5 million by ATCO Properties Co-President Damon Hemmerdinger.

Broadway Stages' spokeswoman Jackie Kessel released a statement describing its plans in Glendale.

"We're excited to turn the existing warehouses at Atlas Terminals into some TV and film studios and create rental space for local mom-and-pops, including retail businesses," Kessel said. "We look forward to working with local officials as we develop our plans



The Shops at Atlas Park, located in Glendale, could benefit from the proposed studio space being planned for the area.

to draw on all of the energy around Atlas Park, bringing new jobs, business growth and economic development to Queens."

ATCO Properties lost Atlas Park mall after it fell into foreclosure in 2009.

The firm retained the old Atlas Terminals industrial parkland. And last December,

the development company Shuckman Realty Inc. released a brochure marketing the area bordering The Shops at Atlas Park while describing plans for a 350,000-square-foot shopping center anchored by a grocery store.

Kathy Masi, president of the Glendale Civic Association, said the community had

been particularly excited by the prospect of a supermarket, but she said it knew too little to comment on Broadway Stages' plan.

"What we're looking for is a good neighbor. That's really the most important thing, that they understand the community," she said.

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo

(D-Howard Beach) said he believed Broadway Stages would be retrofitting structures within the shell of current buildings and not taking on extensive construction work.

"Though we only have preliminary information at this point, I am pleased to hear Broadway Stages could bring a film studio and industry services to our community," he said. "In addition to the cultural advantages, the renovation and upkeep for a studio could provide job opportunities for my constituents."

Addabbo pointed out that he has supported tax credits for film production, "which has significantly increased jobs and revenue."

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Glendale), whose district office is located in The Shops at Atlas Park, said she would work to ensure new development benefited her constituents.

"I am excited for the potential jobs and new cultural opportunities that may come as result of this sale," Crowley said in a statement.

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# Focus

COMPILED BY PAUL JANNACE



## REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Students from the Business, Computer Applications & Entrepreneurship High School in Cambria Heights had plenty to be thankful for this season. (Clockwise from l.) Students visited the Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Citizens Center with Assistant Principal Doreen Sherman. (From l.) Elijah Taylor, Jasmin Quesh, Harry Sutter visit with one of the residents of the center; junior Paschea Williams of the Humanities and the Arts High School celebrated her 17th birthday with balloons. Williams is a dance and acting major and is on the Campus Complex cheerleading team; junior Kelly Ann Soto, of the Humanities and the Arts High School, draws tiles which will support a roof. Soto is following a Fine Arts programs which she hopes will evolve into a career in interior design; students are shown with a banner from the school during the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. (From l.) Ms. Washington, Elijah Taylor, Assistant Principal Doreen Sherman, Zeyad Rasul, and Christian Mallast; and seniors participate in an assembly with college adviser Miranda Smalls, to discuss SAT Prep classes, college fairs, and a trip to Delaware State College.

Photos by Bob Harris



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# Molloy teacher tapped for Holocaust program

BY BILL PARRY

A Briarwood teacher was one of only 25 educators from around the world chosen to participate in a unique professional development program in Poland as part of "Auschwitz: The Past is Present." The program is part of the official observance of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp.

Archbishop Molloy High School's Sabina Kobinski will join teachers from 11 countries representing four continents in attending a four-day workshop designed to deepen their understanding of the historical landscape of Poland before, during and after the Holocaust and increase participants' knowledge of authentic sites including Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Kobinski and the other participants will have the unprecedented opportunity to meet with a large number of Holocaust survivors prior to attending the commemoration ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

"Survivors share their stories because they understand how vital it is that future generations never forget what happened at places like Auschwitz," USC Shoah Foundation Director of Education Dr. Kori Street said. "By bringing teachers to a place where so many atrocities occurred, is a way to show survivors that we take seriously our responsibility of keeping their voices strong forever."



Molloy teacher Sabina Kobinski chosen to participate in a Holocaust remembrance.

Photo courtesy Archbishop Molloy H.S.

The program will begin in Warsaw Jan. 23 at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and conclude at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Jan. 27.

"My journey to Auschwitz is very personal," Kobinski said. "I hope that it will deepen the connection I have with my uncle, who is a survivor of Auschwitz, Gross Rosen, Schsenhausen and Dachau. I will carry this forever into my teaching career and to the benefit of my students."

## Seniors

Continued from Page 16

area seniors are addressed adequately.

The committee consists of one Alliance of South Asian American Labor representative, Mazeda Uddin, who

will serve as chair, as well as three Jamaica Muslim Center representatives and one Darus Salaam Masjid representative.

Lancman said they are aiming for the center to eventually receive funding, expertise and official recognition from the city Department of Aging.

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Photo by Ellen Dunn

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# Garner

Continued from Page 1

ter a grand jury in Ferguson, Mo., declined to indict police officer Darren Wilson, the white officer who shot an unarmed black teenager Michael Brown.

Hours after the DA's announcement, the streets were quiet on a rainy night in Queens, but crowds were gathering in Union Square, Times Square and other spots in Manhattan.

The Justice Department is investigating the Garner death through the office of U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch in Brooklyn.

Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) pointed out, "It is with a heavy heart and sincere disappointment that I acknowledge once more that our judicial system has failed to administer justice on behalf of those most vulnerable. It is imperative now for the communities of color and our allies to collectively voice our concerns on excessive policing and work diligently to enact systemic change."

The city medical examiner's office concluded that Garner had died from excessive force applied during the

chokehold and classified his death as a homicide.

Donovan said the investigation "spanned four months, and focused on locating civilian eyewitnesses with information and evidence to offer."

The district attorney said there were more than 38 interviews conducted during the investigation, including 22 civilians "who reported to have seen some part of the interaction between Eric Garner and members of the NYPD."

The officer involved, Daniel Pantaleo, testified during the grand jury investigation.

Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica), said, "It is unconscionable that in the 21st century, New Yorkers of color continue to live under occupation in their own communities." The lawmaker added that the "system entrusted to serve and protect the people instead serves to breed more distrust and discontent towards law enforcement, and reverses whatever gains have been achieved towards improving police-community relations."

Miller, Richards and Wills represent southeast Queens, which is predominately black.

In Washington President Obama told a news conference on the Garner case "when everyone is not being treated

equally under the law, that is a problem."

Mayor Bill de Blasio said Garner's death "put a spotlight on police-community relations and civil rights." He added that the grand jury's decision to clear the officer "is one that many in our city did not want."

But de Blasio reminded New Yorkers that the case is far from over.

"There will still be an NYPD internal investigation," he said. "And we know the U.S. attorney (Loretta Lynch in Brooklyn) is continuing her investigation. Should the federal government choose to act, we stand ready to cooperate."

He called on New Yorkers to express themselves in a peaceful manner.

"New York City owns a proud and powerful tradition of expressing ourselves through non-violent protest," he said. "We trust that those unhappy with today's grand jury decision will make their views known in the same peaceful, constructive way."

City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst), said the decision was "disappointing and unacceptable." She added, "There is something to be said about the ethics of our justice system when

a man dies at the hands of a police officer and there isn't, at a bare minimum, a fair trial."

New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman also called for peaceful demonstrations. "I understand and respect the anger and frustration that many are feeling right now, but I joined Mayor de Blasio and the Garner family in calling for a peaceful response from anyone who may choose to exercise their right to protest," Schneiderman

said.

In Washington, U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) and several other members of the New York City delegation, including Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria), also expressed their shock at the grand jury's decision not to indict the officer.

"I believe the Justice department should investigate this matter further," Maloney said. "Eric Garner's death was a tragedy."

## LeFrak

Continued from Page 24

been upped to \$6,000. Police said she was shot in the hallway outside her apartment by a gunman who waited as she dropped her children off at PS 206. The NYPD had not made an arrest as of late, and investigators were still searching for Massey's uncle, according to NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton.

"Our community mourns yet another loss to senseless gun violence, another family broken by a life taken too

soon," Borough President Melinda Katz said. "Our hearts and prayers are with the innocent survivors of this terrible tragedy. These children were robbed of their only mother in a most horrific way. As education is the strongest way to break the cycle of violence, let us give their futures and dreams a fighting chance."

Anyone with information is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS.

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# BOROUGH PLAYERS

## COME BEARING GIFTS

**Variations and Titan theater companies present new takes on classic holiday stories**

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

It's the most wonderful time of the theater year.

Two of Queens' more innovative troops — Variations Theatre Group and Titan Theatre Co. — have dusted

off a couple of holiday chestnuts, added a few twists to the scripts and wrapped them up for audiences to rediscover and savor.

Variations is set to open "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" Friday at Long Island City's Chain Theatre, while Titan, the recently named resident company at Queens Theatre, plans to mount a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Although both stories take

place on Dec. 24, neither is a tale written only for those who celebrate the holiday, said the two companies' managers.

"This is not a Christmas play," said Kirk Gostkowski, artistic director at Variations. "The theme is what would the world be like without me? That is a question that everyone has asked themselves."

Across town in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Titan Artistic Director Lenny Banovez also downplays the

Christian aspect of Dickens' 1843 novella. It is not a Christmas fable, but rather one that everyone can relate to, said Banovez.

"It is a story about redemption," he said.

At the Chain, Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life" — which is playing somewhere on cable TV right now — has been transformed into a 1940s live radio drama being broadcast on Christmas Eve.

Gostkowski, stars as an actor portraying George Bailey, along with a half dozen other thespians who inhabit each of Bedford Falls' residents — from Mr. Potter right down to little Zuzu with her crushed rose petals — while also handling the accompanying sound effects.

Although he thought about staging the show last December, Gostkowski said Variations' recent production of "Talk Radio" made it clear the time was right.

"After 'Talk Radio' radio

plays really appealed to me," he said. "They are visually compelling and we get to work with all this cool audio equipment. Plus, we had a bunch of great voice actors who were in 'Talk Radio' who are in this."

The story, primarily remembered for its numerous saccharine turns, is actually a dark tale at its heart with the lead character's contemplation of suicide setting the action in motion. Naturally, everything works out in the end for George Bailey and the audience, but focusing on the more dramatic elements makes the show an ideal choice for Variations, said Gostkowski.

"This is the story of an everyman who is struggling against all odds to find meaning in his life," said Gostkowski. "It deals with the same issues as all the plays we have been doing."

Since its inception in 2009, Titan has been making a name for itself by taking classic

*Continued on Page 49*

Cast members Kirk Gostkowski (l. to r.), Sarah Bierstock and Mark Keeton rehash a scene from Variations Theatre Group's production of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," which opens Friday at the Chain Theatre in Long Island City.

Photo by Kevin Zimmerman

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- Broiled Chicken
- Small Meatballs
- Linguini w/ Red or White Clams
- Pasta w/ Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

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

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

**CHOICE B**  
\$27.<sup>95</sup>

- Any 3 Choices From A  
Any 2 Choices From B  
Chicken Pizzaiola  
Chicken Francaise  
Chicken Marsala  
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Veal Marsala  
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Penne Vodka

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# THEATER CALENDAR

## PRODUCTIONS

**"The Foreigner"** – In Larry Shue's comedy a painfully shy man pretends not to understand English leaving the other characters to speak freely in front of him about things they should keep private. Appropriate for ages 9 and up.

**When:** Through Dec. 6, Friday and Saturday at 8pm

**Where:** Parkside Players at Grace Lutheran Church, Union Turnpike and 71st Road, Forest Hills

**Cost:** \$17/general, \$15/seniors

**Contact:** (718) 353-7388

**Website:** www.parksideplayers.com

**"The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe"** – Barbara Rosenblat, from "Orange is the New Black," stars in a staged reading of Jane Wagner's 1980s critique of modern society in this fund-raising benefit.

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 13 at 8 pm

**Where:** Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City

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

**Cost:** \$30

**Website:** www.variationstheatre.org

**"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play"** – Variations Theatre Group brings the beloved holiday movie to life as a troop of 1940s actors present a "Christmas Eve" broadcast about what it really means to be

"the richest man in town."

**When:** Through Dec. 21, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm – Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 pm only – and Sundays at 2 pm

**Where:** Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City

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

**Cost:** \$18/adults, \$15/students and LIC residents, \$9/children

**Website:** www.variationstheatre.org

**"Fiddler on the Roof"** – The Bayswater Players present the Broadway musical set in turn-of-the-20th-century Russia, which includes classic tunes "Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset."

**When:** Through Dec. 21, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 3 pm

**Where:** Bayswater Jewish Center Theatre, 2355 Healy Ave., Far Rockaway

**Contact:** (516) 239-9500

**Website:** www.angelfire.com/ny/bayplay/

**"Christmas Carol"** – Titan Theatre Co. presents a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of redemption set on Christmas Eve.

**When:** Dec. 11 - Dec. 21

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

**Cost:** \$25 - \$30

**Contact:** (718) 760-0064

**Website:** www.queentheatre.org

# sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #19

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

Hard #19

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

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)  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Week 27

# Jamaica hip hopper raps positive message

Robert Torres aka Sabor Latino uses his talents to encourage youth to do the right thing

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Robert Torres is a stand-up guy who believes in good causes.

He is the spirited rapper known as Sabor Latino, who writes and performs "positive hip hop."

The do-gooder from South Jamaica has made a name for himself in his own Latin American community and beyond, as the dude who creates music to inspire and motivate young people.

Back in the day, when Torres was a Jamaica High School student, he used to rhyme when his buddies got into a freestyle rap battle. He said the crowd they attracted used to say his delivery was full of flavor, i.e. "sabor" in Spanish.

It takes a masterful MC, like Sabor Latino to spit a verse on the spot, so it's not surprising that he sees himself as a musical poet who believes in the power of words. Unlike his fellow rappers, he skillfully injects uplifting life



Jamaica resident Robert Torres, who performs as Sabor Latino, is interviewed at a radio station.

Photo courtesy Sean Thomas

philosophies and anti-violence rhymes into his music.

Sabor Latino's unique sound is gradually resonating with young Latinos, as well as all teens and kids who are numbed by a culture of violence. At a time when many rappers spit hardcore lyrics about violence and sex, the art-

ist's peaceful hip hop rhymes in Spanish and English communicate refreshingly wholesome messages, because he believes many impressionable youngsters look up to rappers as role models. His 17-year-old son included. Like a motivational speaker, Sabor Latino uses just his voice and a micro-

phone to connect with Latinos who he feels "have lost faith and hope."

"I think my music fills a gap in hip-hop music culture today," said Torres, whose debut album, "Sabor Latino," was released in 2013.

He said he based the songs on his latest album, "Observations of My Life, Vol. 1," on the parts of his life he uses to inspire listeners

"I'm real deep when it comes to spitting the truth with these two songs featured on my current album," said Torres.

In "No Mas Violencia," he raps: "It's time to let go of our pistols. How many mothers suffer? How many fathers? How many brothers and sisters are in prison for the rest of their lives? But through everything that's happened, we keep killing each other. When will the pain end?"

Echoes of the artist's tough early years, growing up on Jamaica's rough streets can be heard throughout the album,

which has a positive vibe, and is meant "to inspire children, adolescents, parents and adults to become productive members of society." This message is evident in songs like "Promoción," which "teaches the value of education and a high school diploma."

"Sabor Latino will always stand out from many rappers, as he is just not rapping a verse. His lyrics are all positive and with a purpose to inspire many," said producer Lee Evans.

To be able to fulfill his healing mission, the multi-talented rapper has penned his first book. He said he realized that his life is "more than just a song on the radio," so he transcribed his story into "something the people can read" - an autobiography titled "Sabor Latino: My Life," which deals with a universal topic: everyday struggles.

He said he was inspired to write it so that young people, like his son, will realize that

*Continued on Page 49*

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# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



The Vienna Boys Choir performs at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts on Sunday, Dec. 7. Photo courtesy Lukas Beck

**When:** Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 pm  
**Where:** Astoria Park Great Lawn, 19th Street and 23rd Avenue  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 728-7820  
**Website:** www.centralastoria.nyc

**"The Nutcracker"** –The Maspeth High School Dance Department presents the classic holiday ballet, choreographed by Kate Henry.  
**When:** Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 pm, and Saturday, Dec. 13, at 5 pm  
**Where:** Maspeth High School Auditorium, 54-40 74th St., Maspeth  
**Cost:** \$7, tickets available through Eventbrite  
**Contact:** (718) 803-7100  
**Website:** www.maspethhighschool.org

**Christmas Concerts at St. Francis Prep** – The 11 ensembles from St. Francis will perform holiday music.  
**When:** Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13, at 7:45 pm  
**Where:** St. Francis Prep, 61-00 Francis Lewis Blvd., Fresh Meadows  
**Cost:** \$5  
**Contact:** (718) 423-8810, ext. 255  
**Website:** www.sfponline.org

**Hands-on History: Deck the Halls** – Take a special tour of the museum and learn how the King family celebrated the season. You will also be able to create traditional winter and Christmas decorations.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 13, from noon - 3pm  
**Where:** King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 206-0545, ext. 13  
**Website:** www.kingmanor.org

**Winter Fest at Citi Field** – The New York Mets teams up with Metropolitan Hospitality for the first Winter Fest. Spend the afternoon playing games, noshing on holiday treats, taking part in craft activities and meeting Santa along with Mr. and Mrs. Met. Attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped item that will be donated to Toys for Tots.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 13, from 1 pm - 5 pm  
**Where:** Citi Field, 123-01 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$10/adults, \$7/children  
**Website:** www.mets.com/winterfest

wine, coffee and sweets follows.  
**When:** Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 pm  
**Where:** St. John's Lutheran Church, 86-20 114th St., Richmond Hill  
**Cost:** \$15/adults, \$12/students, seniors and advance tickets, Free/children  
**Contact:** (718) 441-8118  
**Website:** www.richmondhillny.com

**Vienna Boys Choir** – The world-famous choir performs classical and popular Christmas carols and holiday music from around the globe.  
**When:** Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 pm  
**Where:** Colden Auditorium at Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$20-\$30  
**Contact:** (718) 793-8080  
**Website:** www.kupferbergcenter.org

**Bayside Village Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting** –The return of the children's holiday parade highlights this year's Bayside Winter Festival and tree lighting. Meet Santa, sip hot chocolate and enjoy festive activities.  
**When:** Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
**Where:** Parade steps off at 36th Avenue and Bell Boulevard, tree lighting takes place at the Bayside LIRR station  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 423-2434  
**Website:** www.baysidevillagebid.com

**Astoria Park Tree Lighting** –The second annual event includes Christmas carols, Kwanza stories and Hanukkah Klezmer for kids.

**Contact:** (718) 478-8299  
**Website:** www.louisarmstronghouse.org

**Wreathmaking Workshop** – Make an evergreen wreath at these workshops. All materials provided, but bring a garden shear.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7, at 10 am, noon and 2 pm  
**Where:** Queens County Farm, 75-30 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park  
**Cost:** \$20/per person, advanced payment required  
**Contact:** (718) 347-3276  
**Website:** www.queensfarm.org

**Myrtle Avenue Holiday Events** – Enjoy performances by the NYC Brass Entourage, Opera on Tappers Carolers and Music by Silverteeth along Myrtle Avenue. On Dec. 14, visit with Santa – remember to bring a camera – from noon to 3 pm at 71st Avenue Plaza.  
**When:** Sunday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 14, from noon - 4 pm  
**Where:** Myrtle Avenue between Wyckoff Avenue and Fresh Pond Road  
**Cost:** Free  
**Website:** www.ridgewood-ny.com

**Queens Botanical Garden's Winter Solstice Celebration and Tree Lighting** – Kick off the season with tours of the garden, musical

**Welcome Santa to Woodhaven Parade** – The parade steps off at Woodhaven Manor and proceeds down Jamaica Avenue to Dexter Court. Holiday treats and Santa hats will be handed out at the beginning and end of the parade.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 6, at 11:30 am  
**Where:** Woodhaven Manor, 96-01 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven  
**Cost:** Free

**Swingtime Christmas Concert** – Enjoy a Christmas concert with a big band sound. All proceeds benefit the school.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 pm  
**Where:** St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Academy, 88-08 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven  
**Cost:** \$15/adults, \$12/seniors, \$5/teenagers  
**Contact:** (718) 847-3904

**CoolYule! Tree Lighting** – The first tree lighting event at the Louis Armstrong House Museum will feature live jazz by the Ben Flocks Trio and holiday treats.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 6, 4 pm  
**Where:** Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107th St., Corona  
**Cost:** Free

**GingerBread Lane** – The world-record setting 11/2 ton, 300-square-foot village returns to Queens. Special gingerbread house workshops held Dec. 7 and Dec. 28.  
**When:** Through Jan. 11, 2015  
**Where:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., Corona  
**Cost:** \$11/adults, \$8/seniors, students and children 17 and under  
**Contact:** (718) 699-0005  
**Website:** www.nysci.org

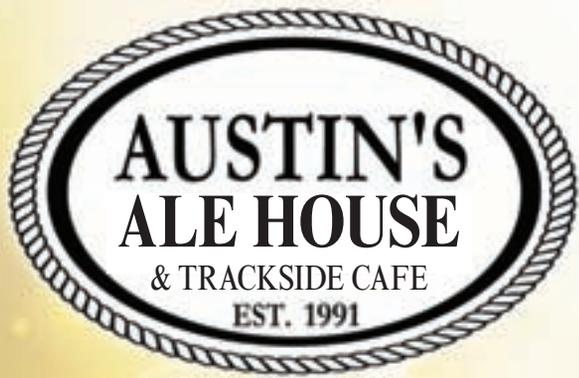
**Breakfast with Santa** – All members of Queens Center's Nat Geo Kids Club are invited to enjoy a complimentary breakfast, music, dancing and games in the Food Court.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 6, from 8 am - 10 am  
**Where:** Queens Center, 90-15 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst  
**Cost:** Free, Visit the mall's Guest Services to sign up for the Nat Geo Kids Club.  
**Contact:** (718) 592-3900  
**Website:** www.shopqueenscenter.com

**Christmas Craft Fair** – Shop for handmade gifts, Christmas ornaments, stocking stuffers and decorations.  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 am - 3 pm, and Sunday, Dec. 7, from 9 am - 2 pm  
**Where:** St. Josaphat's Church, 34-32 210th St., Bayside  
**Contact:** (718) 229-1663  
**Website:** www.stjosaphatbayside.org



Members of the St. Francis Prep band perform during a concert.

Photo courtesy St. Francis Prep Music Department



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# Sabor

Continued from Page 43

despite setbacks, when you give it your all and work hard, your dreams can become a reality.

In his interesting book, Torres talks about his challenging childhood; about fatherhood and his stint as a social worker, as well as the importance of friendships and the value of a college education. He even throws in tips on how to write a book and how to record a CD without music promoters.

"Writing my book was an incredible experience, as it helped me to put closure on a lot of issues in my life," said Torres. "My book will touch many individuals in a good way. More importantly, they will see that nothing in life is easy, but as long as you work hard good things can happen."

Torres, 42, hopes these projects will bring clarity to adults grappling with a variety of issues, and inspire young

minds in today's complex world.

Learning how to navigate life's obstacles in the Queens neighborhood he called home was a daily challenge and Torres said it was poetry and music that saved him. He recalled there were times he felt unsafe.

Torres said his Puerto Rican father, who is a retired teacher, and his Dominican mother, a seamstress, worked hard to make ends meet, but money was scarce. So at age 12, when his creative streak kicked in, he discovered that writing poems and making music made life easier to deal with. The emotional teen, whose favorite sport was basketball, found time to put his thoughts on paper and wrote about his life and what he observed around him.

"I saw my parents go to work every day to put food on the table for me and my older brother. From them, I learned hard work and appreciation for the little things we had. My parents and my son are my inspira-

tion in life," said Torres. "I was fortunate to have good parents who always watched over me and motivated me to do better in life. The most important thing was that we had each other. It was a difficult time, but we survived."

Setting a good example for Latino youth who shared similar experiences growing up, the budding rapper decided to pull himself up by his boot straps and go to college.

Eventually, his life became all about helping others and giving back to his community.

Sabor Latino has performed in the Underground Lounge in NYC, and at other local venues. He has also done some college shows and is involved in a lot of other things, as well, like visiting a women's shelter and donating food to the less fortunate. In the future, he plans to visit high schools and some hospitals for children with special needs.

In his spare time, Torres plays basketball all over the city.

"Me and my friends go where the competition is. I love basketball as much as I like music and writing books," he said.

While working on finishing his master's degree in education and recreation, he started writing his second book, "Sabor Latino's Greatest Poems."

"For now I'm focusing on my author talents and see how far I can take it. I have been meeting great authors around the world on twitter and it's a blessing to be able to learn from them. I really enjoy writing books,"

said Torres. "To all the youth out there, value education, respect your parents and teachers. Find friends that have the same values. In addition, get involved in recreational activities, as it will help you develop your identity. If you are struggling in the classroom, ask for help and never give up on your dreams. Go to college, as it will be a great experience in your life. More importantly, be good to others and always lead by example. Always be the best you can be.

"Use me as an exam-

ple that it doesn't matter where you come from - we can all have success. Never give up on your dreams and always remember that life is not about perfection but progress," he said. "If I can help one child and change his life, I have done my job, which is to continue to motivate the youth of today through my music."

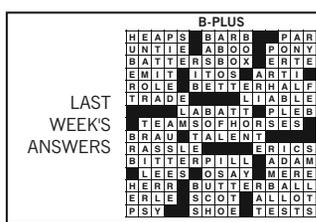
You can hear Sabor Latino's music on iTunes, Amazon and CDbaby.com. His book will be available at Amazon and other online bookstores.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedge Newspapers  
Dec. 5-11, 2014

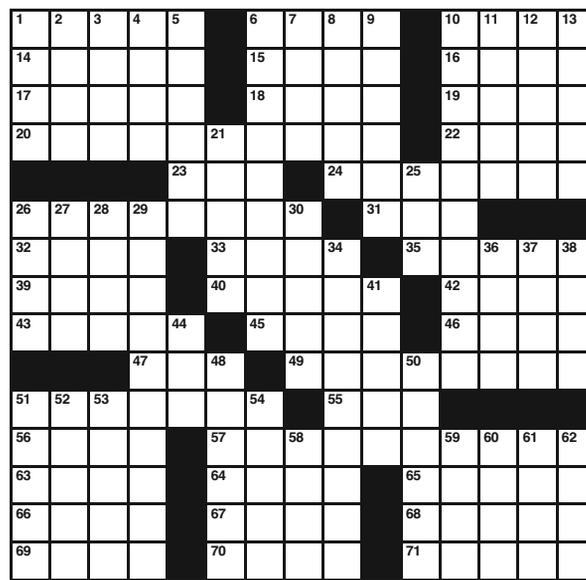
By Pete Canty

### Elementary Symbolism



#### Across

1. Squeaky \_\_\_\_\_
6. Hera's mother
10. Price
14. Back in?
15. "\_\_\_ Lang Syne"
16. Chip in?
17. From the top
18. Prefix with China
19. Half a train track
20. Au + digit
22. Congressional vote subject
23. Pop-ups, e.g.
24. Gives the news
26. Natural environments



31. \_\_\_ Diego
32. Banned apple spray
33. Wolf's sound
35. Snake skin unit
39. New Mexico athlete
40. Sandwich cookies
42. Elevator man
43. Minute
45. Tuna or turkey follower
46. Yeats or Keats
47. Deface
49. Egg-laying mammal
51. Nike, e.g.
55. Ill temper
56. Amos or Spelling

57. Cu + noggin yogurt
63. Course
64. French bread?
65. Mathematical comparison
66. To be, in ancient Rome
67. Subway station
68. Long-armed ape
69. Hammer part
70. Wraps (up)
71. Takes 5
34. Treats on sticks
6. Frequent
7. Like some juries
8. Church officer
9. Idolizes
10. C + ape
11. Broadcasting
12. Circus prop
13. Rats
21. Montana neighbor
25. Mas' mates
26. Sentry's cry
27. Lotion additive
28. Slugger Ruth
29. Fe + inaugural
30. 2004 World Series, e.g.
36. Sitting on
37. In \_\_\_ of
38. Ballpark figs.
41. Look too long
44. Tibetan beast
48. Break
50. Intense fear
51. Throat problem
52. Rope loop
53. Take off the board, say
54. Course
58. Ship's front
59. Tortoise racer
60. J.F.K. postings
61. "If it \_\_\_ broke ..."
62. Hounds, e.g.

#### Down

1. Mountain climber's challenge
2. Block maker
3. Footnote abbr.
4. Rainless
5. Like a dieter's

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# BOROUGH PLAYERS

Continued from Page 1

plays — mostly Shakespeare — and distilling them to the main themes and plot points while discarding the rest.

Queens Theatre audience members should expect more of the same with Banovez's and Emily Trask's new version of "A Christmas Carol." But that's not to say the beloved tale of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and his other-worldly visitors is unrecognizable.

"It is very much about the story," said Bailey Seeker, who takes on the roles of Scrooge's lost love, Belle, and Emily, the wife of his nephew Fred. "And it has very much a classical feel, but the words flow so much easier. It feels very much like I wouldn't feel crazy saying these things nowadays."

Besides more modern-sounding dialogue, another change includes the use of traditional English carols throughout the play and between scenes for dramatic effect. The writers have also set the opening in the present day.

When the curtain rises, the

## IF YOU GO

### "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play"

**When:** Dec. 5 through Dec. 21

**Where:** The Chain Theatre,

**Cost:** \$18/adults, \$15/students and LIC residents, \$9/children

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

**Website:** www.chain-theatre.org

### "A Christmas Carol"

**When:** Dec. 11 through Dec. 21

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

**Cost:** \$25-\$30

**Contact:** (718) 760-0064

**Website:** www.queenstheatre.org

audience encounters a grandfather reading Dickens' book to his grandson. As the story progresses, the two morph into Scrooge and Tiny Tim and take their places among the other actors.

Broadway actor Kevin Loomis, who understudied multiple roles during the 3 1/2-year run of "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," has eagerly stepped into the lead.

In other productions of "A Christmas Carol," Loomis

played The Ghost of Christmas Present and Mr. Fezziwig, young Ebenezer's boss, but he had not been considered for Scrooge.

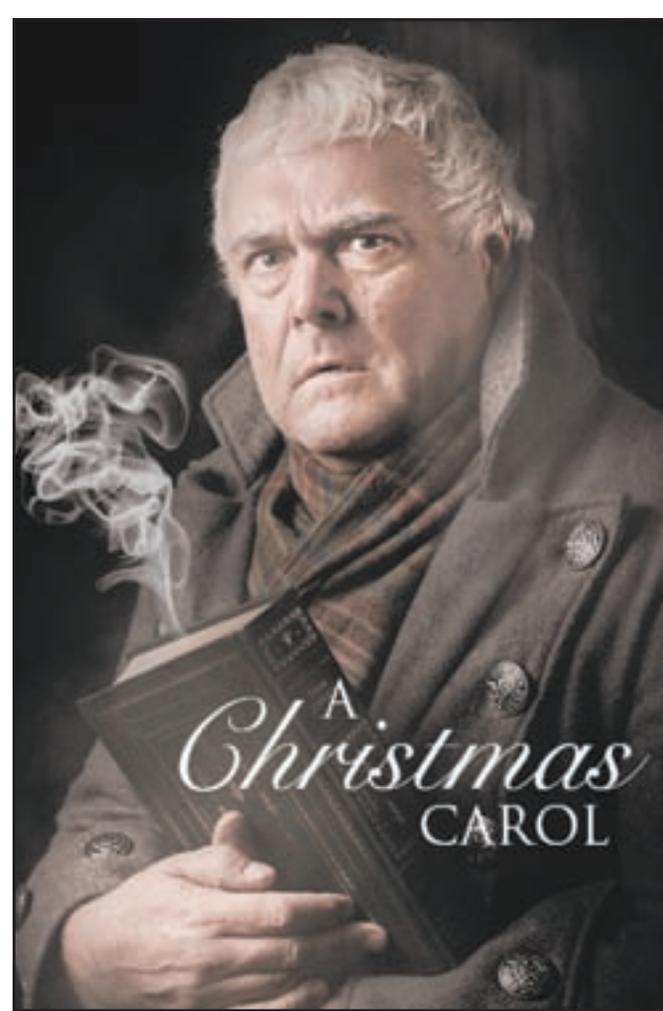
"It is such a transformational character," said Loomis. "He does this complete 180, and you get to play both sides of the coin."

Loomis praised the two Titan writers for their adaptation that pulls more heavily from the original text and includes additional scenes of a young Ebenezer as he begins his descent into avarice and greed.

"We get to see Scrooge meeting Marley when he was a young lad," said Loomis. "You get to see his slow transformation to the religion of money. It's wonderful to see the fruition of this and to see how the seeds were sown."

Loomis is also excited to see how audiences react to one change in particular created for The Ghost of Christmas Future. Without giving too much away, Loomis said it really digs the knife deeper into Scrooge as well as those watching the story unfold.

"There is a little bit of Scrooge in all of us," said Loomis. "And this is just a nudging to remind us to open our hearts the rest of the year. There is nothing wrong with being reminded."



Kevin Loomis is dressed as Ebenezer Scrooge in this publicity shot for Titan Theatre Co.'s production of "A Christmas Carol." Photo courtesy Titan Theatre Co.

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# Gift Ideas

for the special seniors  
in your life

**W**ith lifetimes of experiences and seemingly everything they could ever want or need in life already at their disposal, seniors can be difficult to shop for come the holiday season. Many even insist that their family members save their money and not buy them anything for the holidays.

But if the thought of Grandma or Grandpa not having something to open come the holidays is simply unacceptable, consider the following gift ideas.

### Activity assistance devices

The realities of getting older often mean the body slows down and activities may not be as easy as they used to be.

Many active seniors are not ready to live sedentary lives, nor should they be forced to do so. Plenty of products exist that can make life easier and more comfortable for older adults.

Television-amplifying headphones are one prod-

uct that can be a great fit for seniors, particularly those having difficulty hearing their televisions. The headphones amplify the sound of the programming without disturbing others in the room, and many such headphones even allow users to mute their televisions.

This feature is perfect for someone who likes to watch TV while a spouse is sleeping or reading in the same room.

Other devices that can make life easier for seniors include magnifying products or bookholders. In addition, gel seat cushions can take pressure off of the spine in the car or at home.

### Food

Food is always a handy gift because it doesn't  
*Continued on page 50*

# PREVENT SLIPS AND FALLS THIS WINTER

Winter is right around the corner. That means that most people will be trading in windbreakers and rakes for heavy coats and snow shovels.

Winter can be a beautiful time of the year, but the snow and ice that covers the landscape in a pristine sheet of white can present certain hazards as well.

Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly. According to the National Safety Council, slips and falls are the single largest cause of emergency room visits. Slip and fall injuries also are the third largest cause of workplace injuries, says the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many accidental falls occur from lack of stability or poor physical health. However, come winter, many falls can be attributed to walking on slippery surfaces covered with snow or ice. To avoid

falls on ice, you might want to take certain precautions:

## Change your walk

Adapting to the slippery conditions could help prevent some of the falls caused by snow and ice.

When walking on ice, plant feet with toes facing outward slightly, and then shuffle along.

Hunching over a little and extending arms outward will help to lower your center of gravity and also offer a little more stability.

Take short, flat steps so that the heels and toes of your shoes stay in contact with the ground as much as possible and offer maximum surface contact.

## Switch shoes

Flat shoes with rubber soles are more capable of gripping the ice than other types of shoes. Contrary to popular belief, clunky winter boots may make walking more difficult. Try rain boots instead,



Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly.

as rain boots typically have flatter soles.

There also are many differ-

ent types of shoe ice grips on the market that can be added to the soles of shoes. They eas-

ily slip on to offer more traction. Whenever possible, try to avoid shoes with already slippery soles or high heels. Carry these shoes with you and change after you are inside.

## Remove shoes inside

Slips and falls can happen inside a home as well. Many people have tile or laminate entryways in their homes, and these entrances can become quite slippery when snow-packed shoes warm up and the snow melts, creating a wet, slick surface.

Avoid falls by placing mats by the front door and removing shoes when you enter. Stash a pair of slippers nearby into which you can change.

Falls on slippery surfaces can be quite dangerous, especially for seniors. Avoid trips to the emergency room for broken bones or abrasions by slowing down, dressing appropriately, and walking on paths that have been cleared of snow and ice.

## GIFTS

*Continued from page 49*

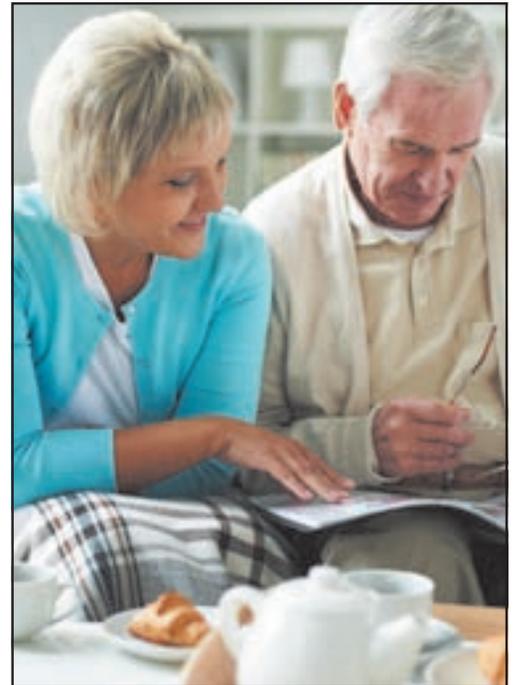
take up much room and can be enjoyed at a recipient's leisure. Perhaps there is something the senior in your life used to enjoy as a child but now finds hard to come by. A search of the Internet may uncover that special treat.

You may be able to ship a specialty soft drink or favorite cookie that is not available in a nearby store. Otherwise, ask a store manager if a particular item that's not in stock in the store can be a special order.

## Photos

What grandparent does not enjoy looking at his or her family members? Computer-savvy men and women can use photo software to design personalized photo books, calendars, mugs, and other photo-related gifts. Just about anything can be emblazoned with a photo, including tote bags and pillows.

Another idea is to collect old photos and compile a memory book. Scan the images so they are preserved digitally and then print out the images in a book that includes the family his-



tory.

## Time

Seniors who truly do not want or need anything probably will likely jump at the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. Treat a friend or family member to a meal out or simply spend a few hours chatting at his or her home. Sometimes the company of a new face and good conversation is the ideal gift.

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# Boxer questioned in Jamaica slaying

BY MADINA TOURE

The Police Department is questioning Trevis Hall, a former Golden Gloves boxing champion, about the fatal beating and stabbing death of Jamaica resident Margarita Rivera near her Jamaica home, a spokeswoman for the NYPD said Wednesday.

Rivera, 31, who lived on 107-49 Watson Place in Jamaica, was discovered with multiple stab wounds in the head and chest at 2:30 p.m. Monday in front of 107-22 Watson Place, according to the NYPD spokeswoman. She was taken to Jamaica Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Witnesses said she was beaten in the head with a metal pipe and stabbed multiple times in the chest. Just hours after the incident, Hall, her ex-boyfriend, was discovered unconscious and intoxicated

in a dumpster three miles away from the crime scene, DNAinfo.com New York reported. He was not injured.

New Legend Boxing, a boxing company based in Bellmore that hosts amateur and professional boxing events, said it was interested in signing him but he recently signed with Dmitry Salita Promotions.

"We had a boxing gym a few years back and he used to come into the gym to practice boxing and he just seemed like a nice kid," said Michael, an office worker at New Legend Boxing, who asked that his last name not be used. "I was very, very surprised to hear what we heard. It was totally out of character for the kid we knew."

Hall was in custody and the investigation was ongoing, the NYPD spokeswoman said.

# Flushing principal faces sexual harassment suit

BY MADINA TOURE

A former teacher at John Bowne High School in Flushing filed a federal lawsuit against the principal, Howard Kwait, over sexual harassment and pressure to inflate grades Monday, court documents show.

Maria Catenacci, who is openly gay, worked as a science teacher at the school for 17 years and also received her master's degrees in education and school administration while teaching full time.

In the suit filed in Brooklyn federal court, Catenacci claims Kwait, who became principal in September 2006, made sexual advances toward her on the school's premises as well as at a retirement party for one of their colleagues.

He also asked inappropriate questions about her relationship with other female teachers, according to the lawsuit. Catenacci, who is openly gay, said she resigned after the city Department of Education failed to respond to her complaints.

Kwait, who is still the principal at John Bowne, could not be reached for comment.

At a colleague's retirement party, Kwait, who was drinking alcohol, asked Catenacci to leave with him, the suit



A former teacher at the John Bowne School in Flushing has filed a lawsuit against Principal Howard Kwait.

said. On another occasion, she alleged he straddled her. Catenacci rejected his advances both times. In a 2010 incident, he told her that he "watched his mother rape his father" and that he "once molested a girl on his sink," according to her suit.

She contended Kwait took away her power to oversee the budget for the Advanced Placement Science Research program she created. He replaced capable teachers in her science research program with less competent ones and

refused to open seats to more accelerated students. The program lost funding in 2005. He also denied her the opportunity to move up in leadership at the school, the lawsuit said.

He also made discriminatory and sexual comments to her and yelled and screamed at her, the lawsuit alleged. He also asked her about her relations with other women, including female teachers at the school and other female DOE employees.

The lawsuit also claims  
*Continued on Page 56*

# Pol demands answer to bridge shutdown

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Breezy Point) has called for an investigation by the MTA and Con Ed into why the Marine Parkway bridge was recently shut down for as long as six hours, stranding tens of thousands of motorists.

"Rockaway families, including my own, are geographically isolated with very limited options to access our homes and community," Goldfeder said in a release. "The closure of the Marine Parkway Bridge, even for a short time, can put our families at risk and is absolutely unacceptable. The MTA and Con Edison need to perform an immediate investigation into this situation and make repairs to ensure that this does not happen again."

Goldfeder's office reported that about noon on Monday, Nov. 24, residents first reported closures on the Marine Parkway Bridge to the assemblyman's office. Damage to one of two Con

Edison-maintained feeder cables supplying electricity to the bridge caused the damage, according to the MTA.

As a result, the electrical drawbridge, which is regularly raised to provide larger sea vessels access to and from Jamaica Bay, was left stuck in the elevated position.

The outage lasted into the evening rush hour, leaving tens of thousands of motorists in long lines of traffic stretching on both sides of the bridge as well as onto the nearby Belt Parkway.

According to reports, traffic across the bridge did not resume until after 6 p.m., at least six hours after the outage began.

In letters to Con Edison and the MTA, Goldfeder called on both to immediately perform an inspection of the bridge's electrical infrastructure and to make all necessary repairs. He emphasized the concerns of residents and civic leaders about the dangers posed by malfunctions during emergency evacuations.

# Queens GOP leader Moder dies

Former Queens Village Republican Club president Harvey E. Moder, 88, died Monday.

Moder, responsible for the club's revival more than 20 years ago, remained active and attended board meetings until his death.

Moder led a life of service to his community, his country, and the Republican Party as a soldier, a teacher, and a leader.

A World War II veteran, Moder served in the Navy in the V-12 Officers Training Program. He also served 21 years in the FDNY and retired from the Fire Department as a lieutenant.

Moder then taught science for 21 years in the New York City public school system, and

also formed a voluntary JHS marching band.

Moder served as president of the Queens Braddock Civic Association and also devoted years of service in leadership training as a Boy Scout leader, earning the Silver Beaver Award — the highest award in scouting.

One of Moder's greatest passions was for the cause of American prisoners of war and Americans missing in action. He pursued this cause during his 50 years of leadership in the American Legion as Queens County commander; 10th district commander, and New York State Department Vice Commander. The Harvey E. Moder Hall was installed on the Creedmoor Campus by the Queens Village American

Legion as a testament to his activism and leadership.

In 1993, Moder was honored by Congress for his heroic pursuit to fully account for the thousands of POW/MIA's who were listed as missing from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts. Moder organized rallies in front of the White House and United Nations to bring awareness to this cause.

A few years ago, Moder received the highest honor of the Queens Village Republican Club at the annual Lincoln Day Dinner — the Lifetime Achievement Award.

A wake will take place from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Sunday at R. Stutzmann & Son (224-39 Jamaica Ave., Queens)  
*Continued on Page 52*

# ROTC

Continued from Page 5

The second ROTC Army Brigade includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Germany.

The other high schools that have a JROTC program are Long Island City High School, Morris High School and Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx, Xavier High School in Manhattan, Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn and Port Richmond High School in Staten Island.

And this isn't the first time that the program has received the distinction. Just three years after its JROTC program was formed in 1994, the school got an award of honor unit with distinction.

The program, which has about 1,025 students, consists of battalions, companies and platoons. The battalions provide organizational leadership. The companies, which are intermediate leaders, provide purpose, direction and motivation to the platoons, which are the executors.

"The mission of the program is to educate students to become better citizens," Lahood said. "In doing so, we work with students to keep them in school, keep them on track and prepare them for graduation. This program has been successful as our students — the cadets that stay with the program — we have a 100 percent graduation rate."

The students' community service projects include partnering with the Qdoba Mexican Grill Restaurant to raise money for Habitat for Human-

ity New York City, partnering with the Applebee's restaurant to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, planting flower bulbs in the Kissena Corridor Park in partnership with the office of U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Bayside) and a food drive for City Harvest. About 500 students participated in this year's Veterans' Day Parade.

The cross-country team, the Raiders, compete in Malina, Ga., every year, competitions in New York City and the Fort Dix competition. The drill team has won the National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla., twice.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

# Hunger

Continued from Page 5

the federal government abandons the fight, the hunger crisis will only worsen."

As a direct result of SNAP cuts, 92.9 percent of New York City food pantries and soup kitchens report that the cuts has "increased the number of our clients and/or increased the food needs of our existing clients."

Nearly half said the demand had risen "significantly" and that they had to turn away clients, reduce the amount of food distributed per person, and/or limit their hours of operation.

The report, released at the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Long Island City, demonstrates how the recent SNAP cuts, nearly \$14 billion over the last year, coupled with a difficult economic recovery for low-income city residents, has made it an extremely tough year for hungry New Yorkers.

"Food insecurity and hunger remain as devastating realities for too many New York families," U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) said. "The release of this data shows

that there is more work left to be done to provide healthy, safe and nutritious food to the one-in-ten individuals who are food-insecure, and to the 1.7 million children receiving subsidized school meals across New York state."

Although Gov. Andrew Cuomo was able to take administrative action to prevent some of the cuts from being implemented in New York state, federal mandates still reduced the household SNAP benefit in New York City by \$19 per month, equaling a \$228 reduction in groceries per year.

"This administration is committed to working on a number of initiatives to increase both access to food and purchasing power for families who are food insecure," Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "From increasing wages to focusing on closing the gap between people who are eligible for SNAP and those getting benefits to substantially increasing participation in free summer meals for over 8 million children this year, we are ensuring that New Yorkers have food on their tables so they can begin to get back on their feet and contribute to our city's growth."

# Moder

Continued from Page 51

Village). The funeral service will be Monday, Dec. 8, begin-

ning with a reception at 9 a.m. and services at 10 a.m. at The Church on the Hill (167-07 35th Ave., Flushing).

In lieu of flowers, Moder's wife, Mary, requests a donation to The Church on the

Hill's "Food for Kids" program. Make checks payable to "Church on the Hill" for the program, which benefits kids in Jamaica elementary schools.

---Paul Jannace

## Do you know a Student of Distinction?

TimesLedger Newspapers and Community Newspaper Group invite your school to participate in our feature highlighting young people who are excellent students as well as role models for their younger peers.

### Nomination requirements are:

- A) That the student excel in academics in addition to participation in extra-curricular school activities.
- B) A nominating letter from your school's guidance counselor and instructors describing the student's abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.
- C) Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

### D) Categories are:

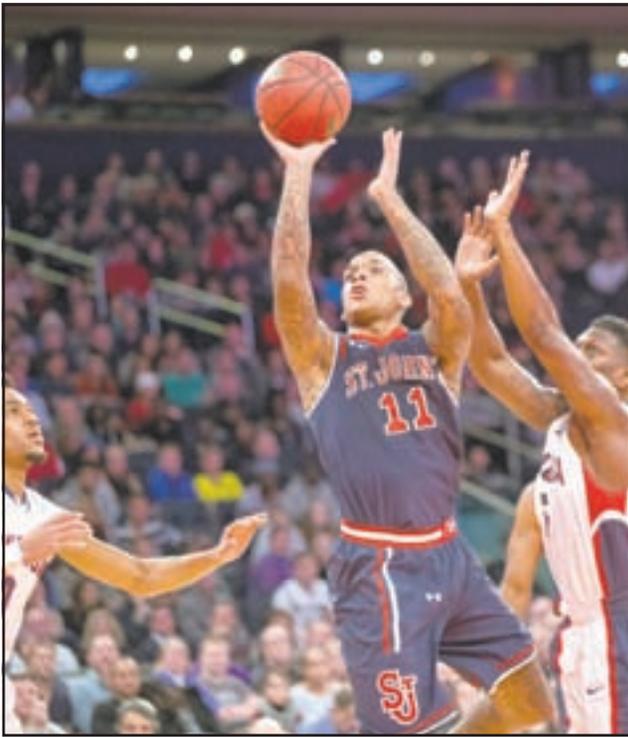
- 1) Middle School 2) High School 3) College

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# Sports



D'Angelo Harrison takes a short jumper during the NIT Pre-Season Basketball Championship between St. John's and Gonzaga at Madison Square Garden in New York City Friday. Photo by Robert Cole

## St. John's falls short against No. 10 Zags

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

St. John's was more concerned with what could have been instead of patting itself on the back for its best two performances of the season and the first real signs it is an NCAA tournament team.

The Red Storm had 10th-ranked Gonzaga on the ropes in the final minutes before falling 73-66 in the NIT Season Tip-Off championship game last Friday night at Madison Square Garden. St. John's, which beat Minnesota in the opener, got as close as 69-66 on a second straight 3-pointer by Phil Greene IV with a minute remaining in the game.

"We felt we should have won the game," said Greene, who scored a game-high 20 points. "We fought. We played hard. It just didn't go our way."

The Johnnies, who trailed by 15 early in the second half, had two chances to draw even.

Rysheed Jordan, who had 18 points and nine turnovers, was blocked near the baseline on a drive with 25 seconds left. Greene forced a turnover to get St. John's the ball back, but Harrison was called for an offensive foul. Harrison had 15 points on just 4 of 16 shooting.

St. John's (4-1) dug itself a hole after center Chris Obekpa picked up his fourth foul with 16:12 to go in the game. It led to the Johnnies, which lack depth in the frontcourt, to go small against a Gonzaga (6-0) team that plays three players 6-foot-10 or taller.

Greene buried a 3-pointer to pull St. John's with three on the next possession, but Gonzaga went on a 13-1 run to go up 53-38. St. John's settled for too many jumpers and Red Storm coach Steve Lavin also didn't like the ease with which Gonzaga got to the basket.

*Continued on Page 55*

## Young and hungry

### Fresh-faced Cardozo eyes second straight PSAL title

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Benjamin Cardozo has no plans for leaving the mountain top after winning the school's first PSAL Class AA city title since 1999.

To get there again the Judges will rely on one of the five boroughs' best backcourts, but will need contributions from a host of players who didn't see a lot of minutes during last year's championship run. Judges coach Ron Naclerio has used that as motivation for this group.

"I say listen, 'The thrill of victory was great last year, just think about what it would be like to get the thrill of victory if you were on the court for 20-30 minutes this year,'" Naclerio said.

If Cardozo is going to raise the banner again, it will need to lean heavily on its backcourt led by Rashond Salnave. The highly recruited junior was an All-Queens First Team selection by the TimesLedger Newspapers last season. Salnave averaged 18 points per contest and hit the winning free throws in the title game.

Backcourt mate Elijah McNeely, a senior, also returns and will be asked to score more after the graduation of Marzuq Jimoh.

Amir Tutt and Tareq Cobourn are also expected to contribute. Junior varsity call up Jalen Burgess should add scoring off the bench. The biggest addition is Archbishop Molloy transfer Aaron Walker. The super athletic junior guard could help form quite a trio with Salnave and McNeely.

"It is going to be hard for teams to guard us," Salnave said.

The Judges will not be as big as they were up front last season with the graduations of Carl Balthazar and Francisco Williams.

Senior forward Armando Dunn, who is 6-foot-5, will be



Rashond Salnave will try to lead Cardozo to a second straight PSAL Class AA boys' basketball title. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

asked to shoulder much of the responsibly in the paint. Malcolm Hendricks and Tarik Howard add frontcourt depth. Dunn is ready to do whatever it takes to keep his team on top.

"I'm going to be that glue guy, the guy that scraps and does the dirty work, anything to help my team win," he said.

Cardozo's returning players understand this season will be different in the sense that the target is on it from the start.

It doesn't want any team to take away its crown and will try to take it a step further. The Judges' overtime loss to eventual state Federation champion Christ the King in the semifinals still sticks with the returning players.

Cardozo plays the Royals Jan. 11 in Middle Village and would love a March rematch.

"We want to run into them as much as we can," Salnave said.

That means winning the PSAL first.

The Judges are by no means a team resting on its laurels with so many players wanting to taste what it is like to lead their school to a crown and just be a part of a championship team.

"I was a role player last year," Dunn said. "Now I have to step up and all the other guys who didn't play as much, we have to step up. It makes the job a little bit harder, but we are trying to work hard and get another city championship."

# New CK stars eager to prove themselves

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI



Dominique Toussaint (l.), along with many of her teammates, is stepping into a much bigger role this season for Christ the King.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

Brooklyn/Queens champion in the CHSAA Class AA state championship before losing to Nazareth final.

This year's group wants to show it can keep the program among the state's elite clubs.

"I think everybody feels that way," Zambrotta said. "I feel like after last season losing to Naz, I feel like we have something to prove to everybody that even though we lost all those seniors I know that we still have a great team."

Toussaint and Zambrotta each saw major minutes last year. They both handled the ball well enough to play point guard, but will each play on the wing instead because Christ the King needs them to score.

Senior Raven Dowling will run the offense at the point. Toussaint has the ability to get to the basket and has worked on her jumper and Zambrotta has proven throughout her career she can fill up a state sheet.

Mackey called athletic forward Kayla Kinder the team's missing link. Her ability to score, rebound and defend girls bigger than her could be a major weapon for the Royals.

Ashlie Howell, a 6-foot-3 center, is fully recovered from a foot injury and is CK's only

true size. That hasn't stopped Mackey from seeing what could be from a team that's going to rely on its speed and versatility.

"When they are all on one page, it is really fun," he said. "We have had a couple of runs where they really got it going. Wow. Maybe we are a lot better than we thought."

Evy Coles is the team's backup point guard and 6-foot-2 July Medna will provide size and rebounding off the bench for a squad that will go eight deep to start.

The Royals will not have dynamic guard Cynthia Perez after an she tore a ligament in her thumb and Mackey doesn't expect her back until mid-January at the earliest.

Christ the King understands this season is about a talented group growing up and flourishing in bigger roles after the departure of a successful senior class.

"We have to step up," Toussaint said. "We were underclassmen last year. We have to prove we are just as good as they are."

# Chiarovano writes special chapter in old rivalry



Joseph Staszewski

Block Shots

extra session to provide the winning score in this year's chapter of the game.

"I was just going for the first down," he said. "I was just going for the three yards and it opened and I was just running."

Xavier (6-7) had to rely heavily on him after its top three tailbacks broke their legs during the season and he was more than up to carrying the extra load. Chiarovano is listed at 5-foot-7 and 170 pounds, but he runs more like 205 pounds, according to Xavier coach Chris Stevens. The Xavier offensive line also dominated the entire game to give him plenty of running room.

"A couple of the plays I could see holes 10 yards wide," Chiarovano said.

He has a knack for getting the tough yards and even bringing a few defensive players with him if need be. He rushed for touchdowns of 1 and 4 yards in the first quarter and burst through defense for an 18-yard gain to set up another score in the third



Xavier's Michael Chiarovano, a Maspeth native, was named MVP of the annual Thanksgiving Day game against Fordham Prep. Photo by Robert Cole

against Fordham Prep (11-3). "He's the toughest runner we have, so when it is close, you better give it to him be-

cause he fights for the extra yard," Stevens said. "He is a physical kid, very hard to tackle."

After all Chiarovano did, he still had to watch from the sidelines to see if his team was going to seal the victory. Xavier needed to stuff Fordham's two-point conversion run in overtime or it might not have been such a happy Thanksgiving. Chiarovano couldn't wait to celebrate.

"I couldn't breathe," he said. "It was crazy. My heart was pounding. I was three yards on the field by the time the play was over."

Without Chiarovano, there likely isn't any joy or a happy end to a season that included a trip to the CHSFL Class AA semifinals. He kept Xavier going after injuries decimated its backfield, just like he never stops running on the field.

"I know from the whole season he is going to make a hit and he isn't going to go down the first time," Stevens said. "You better be ready with a second guy because he is going to keep running."

# Red Storm blow past Wagner

St. John's  
Continued from Page 53

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

In the preseason, the St. John's women's basketball team talked about how its length and athleticism would give opposing offenses trouble and how guard Aliyyah Handford's jumper shot was much improved.

Both were evident in a lopsided 71-49 victory over Wagner at Carnesecca Arena Sunday afternoon. The Red Storm's aggressiveness and quickness advantage stifled the Wagner offense in the first half. SJU held the Seahawks to just seven field goals and 25 percent shooting. The Red Storm led 37-16 at the break and never looked back.

"We came out more ready today than we were the last couple of games defensively," St. John's coach Joe Tartamella said. "I was very happy to see us disrupt what they were trying to do."

As the Seahawks struggled for good looks because of St. John's hands constantly in their faces, nearly everything seemed to fall early for the Red Storm. They jumped out to a 12-0 lead and used a 15-2 run to go up 32-8 with 5:38 to go in the first half. Handford scored a game-high 21 points on 10 of 14 shooting and added eight rebounds. Six of the junior's buckets were quality and in rhythm jump shots.

"I felt great about my shot selections," Handford said. "I didn't rush any shots."

Wagner crept back into the game late. Rockaway Park native Jasmine Nwajei scored a team-high 21 points. Her layup pulled the Seahawks (0-5) within 58-41 with 6:12 to go in the game. St. John's starters came back in to close out the contest.

Amber Thompson scored



Red Storm guard Aliyyah Handford drives to the basket during a win over Wagner College.

Photo courtesy of St. John's Athletics/Vincent Dusovic

14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for St. John's, which got 14 points from its bench. Danaejah Grant, Lyndsay Rowe and Ugo Nwagwe each had eight points for a Wagner team that features four players from Queens.

St. John's (5-0) is off the

best start in Tartamella's three seasons at the helm, including wins over Florida and Marist.

The Red Storm were picked to finish second in the Big East this season after reaching the title game and a fifth straight NCAA tournament a

year ago. There is still plenty of progress to be made, but the strong start has been encouraging to see.

"It's always good to be undefeated," Thompson said. "But we got to work harder and bring more each time to maintain that."

The Red Storm's smaller lineup, which included Jamal Branch, eventually caused problems for the Zags as it became more aggressive. When that changed, so did the game.

"Coach emphasized that we attack the rim just like they were," Green said.

Sir'Dominic Pointer epitomized St. John's attacking mentality and sparked a 19-9 run that made it just 62-57 with 3:24 remaining. He had nine points, nine rebounds, five assists and four steals. The Red Storm managed to be even with Gonzaga on the boards, to no surprise to Zags coach Mark Few.

"They are quick. They are athletic. They are opportunistic and strong hands," he said. "They go after it."

What St. John's wasn't able to get was a second resume-building win for the NCAA tournament. Few thinks the Red Storm have the ability to make the big dance after watching his team battle with them. The Red Storm isn't worried about that just now, just the opportunity it missed.

"We expect to win," Lavin said, "so there is disappointment we didn't finish it off."

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

Week 27

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

Continued from Page 1

many crashes and too many horse deaths and injuries to justify the continuation of this industry.”

Dromm said he, like many animal rights groups, including the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, stands “in this struggle against animal cruelty.”

NYCLASS, a nonprofit animal-rights group, pushed for the horse-drawn carriage ban during the mayoral campaign, bashing De Blasio’s chief rival, Christine Quinn. The group held a rally Wednesday in front of City Hall insisting the ban go forward.

But de Blasio’s plans infuriated horse carriage drivers.

“This is unacceptable because it’s just a matter of a personal agenda,” said Stephen Macome, who has been working in the industry for the past 27 years.

He is the son of a Bayside couple who started in the business in 1964. “This is ludicrous,” he said.

The City Council is up for a strong dialectical battle. A dozen or so members favor the bill, another dozen oppose it, and about 26 members are undecided.

It is unclear if the bill will garner enough support. For the bill to be approved, it needs the favorable vote of at least 26 City Council members.

The mayor will try to lobby councilmen to his side.

“We will begin the process of talking through with council members,” de Blasio told a news conference. Tuesday. “I have a lot of confidence that the common sense will win the day here, that it doesn’t make sense to have horses in the middle of the streets of the busiest city in the country.”

Public opinioned is not that divided. According to four polls conducted by Quinnipiac University between January and September, support for the removal of horse-drawn carriages was between 24 and 28

percent, while between 66 and 61 percent of those polled oppose it.

Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria) is a supporter of the horse-drawn carriage industry. He asked his colleagues in the City Council “to take a strong look at a bill that will put hundreds of families out of work because of a philosophy, because of a feeling.”

Constantinides, noting carriage horse drivers were never convicted of animal cruelty, estimated the industry is the livelihood of about 350 families.

“This is an industry well-regulated, one that has no animal cruelty convictions, so it’s very strange some continue to support the ban,” the lawmaker said.

City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens), also opposes the ban.

“I cannot support the horse carriage ban unless a replacement has been proven to be viable,” he said.

I. Daneek Miller, chairman of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, does not support the ban.

“While the proposed legislation to ban horse carriages has not yet been officially introduced into the Council, I am looking forward to reviewing the provisions in this bill,” he pointed out. “With that said, I am greatly concerned for the 300-plus workforce employed by this industry. Until we have more details about this legislation, I cannot support such a ban.”

Others, like Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez (D-Manhattan), chairman of the Transportation Committee, back the bill. He said the legislation “would ensure that in New York animal rights are in line with human rights.”

The bill allows for the use of horse-drawn carriages on parades and film sets.

Before the legislation comes to a vote, there is a six-month environmental review of the proposed bill.

The proposal would offer the affected industry workers jobs as green-taxi drivers.

Animal-rights supporters, led by NYCLASS, a nonprofit, rallied on Wednesday in front

to City Hall to push for the removal of the horse-drawn carriages.

The union that represents the horse carriage drivers criticized the mayor’s intentions. “This is awful news to give a working family just before the holidays,” said George Miranda, president of Teamsters Joint Council 16. “At least three hundred carriage drivers will be unemployed if this bill is passed.”

Miranda added, “Our members are horse people. It is all they have ever done and all they want to do.”

Macome loves his job. This is the best little business in the world,” said Macome, who also serves as a spokesman for the carriage horse drivers in the city. “My father was in the industry. I have been around horses and carriages all my life.”

Reach reporter Juan Soto by e-mail at [jsoto@cnglocal.com](mailto:jsoto@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

# Black Friday

Continued from Page 5

otis and Maria Kontolemakis noticed that sales were not as deep this year.

“I found the prices a little higher than last year,” Kaznesiotis, a Whitestone resident, said. “But I did find everything I needed, especially Christmas gifts for the family.”

“It’s a hit or miss, basically,” said Kontolemakis, who lives in Bayside. “This was my first Black Friday shopping.”

They were shopping for themselves and for the family, of course. They basically found everything they were looking for Christmas gifts.

“Family is first, but we take care of ourselves, too,” they said.

Since her son has baking camp near Austin Street in Forest Hills, Woodside resident Becky Rumayor, 45, took advantage of the free time to do some

Black Friday shopping.

She got a navy blue hooded winter robe, a couple pairs of gloves, three hats, three black polos and a black T-shirt for gym class for her 6-year-old son for only \$50 at Children’s Place. She also spent \$75 at Victoria’s Secret and bought black skinny jeans for \$24.99 at Ann Taylor Loft.

Bagiculture, a secondhand store that sells designer bags, held a soft opening Black Friday, its second location.

Brand names like Louis Vuitton and Gucci were sold for \$199 or less — bags that typically go for \$500 to \$2,500. The store made \$20,000 in store and online sales. By close to 11 a.m., at least 10 people showed up and more than 100 people were expected to appear.

“There’s a high demand for this,” Sara Bahri, the store’s manager, said. “A lot of people are happy we’re here.”

Furniture stores also joined in on the Black Friday fun. Ron Ruben, manager of Beverly Hills Furniture, was offering

up to 50 percent off furniture. A living room that would normally cost \$3,000 was marked down for \$1,499 and a beige couch that usually sold for \$1,600 was marked down for \$999.

About a dozen people came in by 12:30 p.m., and a total of 40 people were expected to show up, Ruben said. “We just have various price slashes throughout the store,” he said.

Business was a bit slower on Jamaica Avenue in downtown Jamaica, but some business had a little success. Jamaica Avenue Designers was selling three suits for \$200 and 10 percent to 15 percent off of suits and other items.

About 50 people turned up by noon, with more than 100 people expected to show up, said Honore Bernadin Gogoua, the store’s owner.

“Yesterday business was pretty good,” Gogoua said. “People also came yesterday in anticipation of coming today, so we expect to do more as usual but if we have \$2,000, that will be a good target for us.”

action was taken either time, the lawsuit alleges. Catenacci resigned from her position as a result.

She is seeking reimbursement for attorneys’ fees and the cost of litigation in the sexual harassment and discrimination suit.

Former teacher Sally Maya also filed a federal lawsuit against Kwait Tuesday, saying that Kwait turned against her after she went on leave due to her pregnancy in 2009 and ridiculed her in front of other staffers, according to the New York Post.

# CB 11

Continued from Page 2

from the endeavour will be donated to the Bayside Historical Society.

Deputy Inspector Jason Huerta of the 111th Police Precinct spoke at the CB11 meeting and alerted community members to telephone scams whose callers trick them into buying money cards for them. They fall prey to these scams involving Green Dot Money Pak cards. Residents receive phone calls claiming they are

collecting debts from either a utility company or the Internal Revenue Service.

And CB11’s Education Committee members said they have met with Daniella Giunta, the new superintendent for School District 26, covering Bayside and the surrounding area. The committee’s chairmen Laura James and Alim Gafar, said Giunta plans to complete visiting all the schools in the district by the holiday vacation to get suggestions about the current needs of the academic institutions.

# Inventor

Continued from Page 9

ening of dreams and make a child safe and secure, the fam-

ily says.

Erin adds that a significant portion of the proceeds are donated to a children’s charity of Lyla’s choice. “It’s a great learning experience for all my kids,” she said.

# Campi

Continued from Page 6

rience for me because John was committed 100 percent to the job.”

Campi’s love of pranks was the stuff of office legend, said Polizano. He recalled how the good-humored bigwig pulled a fast one on former Co-publish-

er Fred Drasner when Drasner began appearing in television commercials depicting the Daily News as a slick, urban tabloid and rival Newsday as a country bumpkin, complete with city scenes and barnyard animals.

“One holiday, John actually had a cow brought up to Fred as a gift,” Polizano laughed.

# Kwait

Continued from Page 51

that he asked her to inflate students’ grades in June 2010.

Catenacci reported his behavior to the city Office of Special Investigation, but no

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MBA Req'd. Sd res: F. Tortorella  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL

**123-23 LIBERTY AVE LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/31/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 188-06 Soho Dr Holliswood, New York 11423. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**125-02 GROUP LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/16/14. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 33 South Street, Great Neck, NY 11023. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**2025 WOODBINE, LLC** Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 1/3/2014. Off. Loc.: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 2025 Woodbine St., Apt., 1-R, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

**41-15 34th AVENUE LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/08/14. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2114. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 3 Stone Road, Plainview, NY 11803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**42 SPMM LLC, Arts. of Org.** filed with the SSNY on 06/19/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 37-20 Broadway, 2nd Fl, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**First Brokerage LLC Arts of Org** filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/23/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to Cindy Geng, 136-21 Roosevelt Ave Ste 308, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: General.

**GOOD Medical Care, PLLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/17/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 311 St. Nicholas Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: General.

**Healthcheck Medical PLLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/20/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 104-21 38 Dr, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: General.

**Manhattan Metropolitan Regional Center LLC** Arts of Org filed with NY Sec of State (SSNY) on 10/9/14.

### LEGAL

Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 41-60 Main St, #207B, Flushing, NY 11355. General Purposes.

**MATTONE GROUP MERRICK LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/22/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 134-01 20th Ave., College Point, NY 11356. General Purposes.

**Mehaki Otr LLC Arts of Org.** filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 10/21/14. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 40-20 69th St. #3F Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**MUKTI 223 LLC, a domestic LLC,** filed with the SSNY on 10/10/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 223-15 Union Tpke., Bayside, NY 11364. General Purposes.

**Name of LLC:** AdSense Traffic Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 10/28/14. Office loc.: Queens Co. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Business Filings Inc., 187 Wolf Rd., Ste. 101, Albany, NY 12205, regd. agt. upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful act.

**Notice of Formation:** 43-18 Main Street Realty LLC, Art. Of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/14/2014. Office Loc.: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 43-18 Main Street Apt. 12A, Flushing, NY 11355 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of 11-11 Duffield, LLC,** a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/31/14. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 167-41 147TH AVENUE JAMAICA NY 11434. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**Notice of Formation of Architectural Molded Components LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/14/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The

### LEGAL

LLC, 25-12 40th Ave., Long Island City, NY 11101. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**Notice of Formation of CROSSROADS 1 DEVELOPER LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/30/14. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: Douglaston Development, 42-09 235th St., 2nd Fl., 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: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of formation of D&D Investors Group LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on October 27, 2014. Office located in Queens. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to 202-17 43rd Avenue, Bayside NY 11361. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**Notice of Formation of FINETOONER, LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/24/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Rigoberto Lopez, 34-11 93rd St., Apt. 3H, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: 95-42 41ST AVENUE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/07/2014. 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: JOSEPH GIAHN 40-56 JUNCTION BLVD CORONA, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: NORTHSIDE INDUSTRIES, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/27/2014. 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: THE TWO PERCENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/05/2011. 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:

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL

C/O DAVID BEHRINGER 23-51 23RD STREET ASTORIA, NY 11105. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: MSR JACKSON HEIGHTS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/22/2014. 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: MSR JACKSON HEIGHTS LLC 34-11 62ND ST 2ND FLR WOODSIDE, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: SETH PROPERTIES, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on MAY

### LEGAL

01 2006. 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: Dupal Seth 42 Donald Circle Matawan, New Jersey 07747. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: BIG APPLE ROMANCE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/24/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY 80 STATE ST. ALBANY, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

### LEGAL

**NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC).** Name: ABN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2014. 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: RADU NEGOCESCU 89-12 74TH AVE GLENDALE, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**Queens Community Development Group, LLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/13/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 136-20 38th Ave Ste 10F, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: General.

### LEGAL

**Notice of Qualification:** AEROEED LLC Auth. filed with Sec of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/29/14. Office loc: Queens County. LLC formed in California (CA) on 5/21/14. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Bldg #9, JFK Intl Airport, Jamaica, NY 11430. CA addr. of LLC: 2700 S. Grand Ave, #205, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Cert. of Form. filed with CA Sec of State, 1500 11th St, 3rd Fl, Sacramento, CA 95814. Purpose: General.

**Savy Paint, LLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/6/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 215-12 42nd Ave, Bayside, NY 11361. Purpose: General.

# LEGAL NOTICES

## LEGAL

**Notice of Qualification** of TP COURT SQUARE LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/09/14. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/30/14. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 Eighth Ave., NY, NY 10011, also the registered agent. Address to be maintained in DE: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Arts of Org. filed with the DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**SAM WAI LLC, Arts. of Org.** filed with the SSNY on 10/10/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 229-14 53rd Ave., Oakland Gardens, NY 11364. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**TAGMATARXIS REALTY LLC, Arts. of Org.** filed with the SSNY on 10/10/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 3343 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11106. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**TEKNOJIT, LLC, Arts. of Org.** filed with the SSNY on 08/20/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 8401 Main St. Apt. 721, Briarwood, NY 11435. Reg Agent: Nayib Ega, 8401 Main St. Apt. 721, Briarwood, NY 11435. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**TRUE HEART AUDIO LLC, a domestic LLC,** filed with the SSNY on 10/24/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY

## LEGAL

shall mail process to The LLC, 89-39 199th St., Hollis, NY 11423. General Purposes.

## LEGAL

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on OCT 20 2014, bearing Index Number NC-000922-14/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) AIDEN (Last) SHIH. My present name is (First) GORDON (Middle) CHRISTOPHER (Last) SHIH AKA GORDON C. SHIH. My present address is 213-58 36th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11361-1547. My place of birth is ROCHESTER, NY. My date of birth is January 04, 1993.

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on OCT 27 2014, bearing Index Number N924/2014, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Queens, New York, in room 147, grants Zeng Long Qin aka Stanley Long Qin aka Zeng Long Qin the right to assume the name of Stanley Long Qin. Present name is Zeng Long Qin aka Stanley Long Qin aka Zeng Long Qin. The date of birth is May 30, 1998. The place of birth is at The People's Republic of China. Present address is 215-28 47 Ave. 2A, Bayside, NY 11361.

## LEGAL

**QUEENS INDEX NO.:22866/2012- SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Plaintiff Designates QUEENS County as the place of trial based upon the location of the premises herein described having tax map Block 10933, Lot 62 Saint Albans, NY; County of QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, FOR NEW CENTURY HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 2005-3, Plaintiff, -against- MILDRED MAYFIELD, if living, and if either be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or generally or specific lien upon the real property described in this**

## LEGAL

action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs-at-law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through, or under them and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs-at-law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff, ERIC BELLAMY, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, and "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, Defendant(s). YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered against you and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

## LEGAL

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT To the above named defendants: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Leonard Livote, a Justice of the Supreme Court, State of New York, dated October 27, 2014 and filed with the QUEENS County Clerk together with the supporting papers thereon. This is an action to foreclosure a mortgage held by Plaintiff on the premises known as Block 10933, Lot 62, Saint Albans, NY, County of QUEENS, as described in the complaint on file and commonly known as 109-21 196th Street, St. Albans, NY 11412. Dated: Syosset, New York October 14, 2014 Peter T. Roach, P.C. Attorney for Plaintiff 125 Michael Drive, Suite 105, Syosset, NY 11791 516-938-3100 P#1121487 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/2014

**SUMMONS Index No.: 704952/2014 D/O/F: July 16, 2014** Premises Address: 110-04 176th Street St Albans, NY 11433 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS

REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC. Plaintiff, -against- LEWIS DUNNAVILLE AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF RUTH A. WASHINGTON; JOHN DOE 1 THROUGH 50; JANE DOE 1 THROUGH 50, INTENDING TO BE THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DISTRIBUTES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, TRUSTEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF THE ESTATE OF RUTH A. WASHINGTON WHO WAS BORN ON MARCH 12, 1935 AND DIED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2008, A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST IF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED, THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSON, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF ANY, ALL OF

## LEGAL

WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF; CREDIGY RECEIVABLES INC; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; CITY OF NEW YORK, ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION & FINANCE; THE PARONECK FOUNDATION FOR SELF HELP HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INC.; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT;; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises and corporations, other entities or persons who have, claim, or may claim, a lien against, or other interest in, the premises, Defendant(s),

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to an-

## LEGAL

swer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The following notice is intended only for those defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. The present amount of the debt as of the date of this summons: \$152,993.59, consisting of principal balance of \$66,064.10 plus interest of \$32,873.20, escrow/impound shortages or credits of \$37,930.77, late charges of \$0.00; Servicing Fees of \$4,260.00; Mortgage Insurance Premium of \$9,074.90; Broker's Price Opinion, inspection and miscellaneous charges of \$1,040.00; attorney fee \$1,200.00 and title search \$537.69. Because of interest and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive the check, in which event we will inform you. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed: REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC. Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after receipt hereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. If you notify Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. in writing within thirty (30) days after your receipt hereof that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment against you representing the debt and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. Upon your written request within 30 days after receipt of this notice, Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor if different from the current creditor. Note: Your time to respond to the sum-

## LEGAL

mons and complaint differs from your time to dispute the validity of the debt or to request the name and address of the original creditor. Although you have as few as 20 days to respond to the summons and complaint, depending on the manner of service, you still have 30 days from receipt of this summons to dispute the validity of the debt and to request the name and address of the original creditor. TO THE DEFENDANTS: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action. TO THE DEFENDANTS: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law suit is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises. Dated: July 16, 2014

Joshua P. Smolow, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road Plainview, NY 11803 516-741-2585 Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

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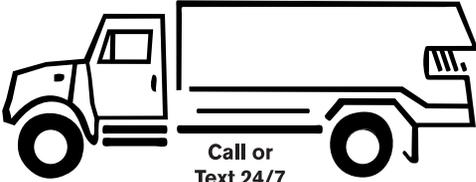
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December 16 - 21, 23 10am-8pm

December 24 9am-6pm

## SANTA'S BREAKS

Monday - Saturday 3-4pm

Sunday 2:30-3pm

Sunday, December 21 3-4pm

Wednesday, December 24 1-1:45pm

# HOLIDAY EVENTS

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