

No. 7 riders endure worst in ice storm

BY JUAN SOTO

Service on the 7 train was back on track early Wednesday morning after an umbrella, cold weather and freezing rain converged on Monday to shut down the busy line that stretches from Flushing to Times Square.

When an umbrella fell on the third rail at the 52nd Street station during rush hour, service was halted “for a short period of time,” the Metropolitan Transit Authority said.

A spokeswoman for the MTA explained that to “get the burning umbrella off the third rail” it was necessary to cut the power to the system.

And it was during that period of “less than 10 minutes,” according to the MTA, that ice accumulated on the third rail of the mostly elevated line.

The electrified third rail then lost power because of the cold weather and the freezing rain falling on the tracks.

“The umbrella was a causal effect,” the spokeswoman said.

The episode stranded thousand of frustrated straphangers and hundreds of riders were stuck on trains between stations.

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Granny guilty of child abuse

Flushing woman endangered young kin in her house of horrors: DA

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

A Flushing mother has been convicted of endangering the lives of her son and two granddaughters who were between 2 and 8-years-old by failing to provide them with a habitable environment, the Queen district attorney said.

Katherine Vartholomeou, 48, of 147-09 41st Ave. was convicted Jan. 29 after a four-day jury trial before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice John Latella on three counts of endangering the welfare of a child, the DA said. Vartholomeou has been free on \$2,500 bail since her arraignment last January.

“As a mother and caregiver to the children, she endangered their welfare by raising them in deplorable and unsafe living conditions that included no running water or electricity. The house in which they resided, which was missing exterior walls and part of the roof, was literally a ‘house of horrors’ infested with vermin, refuse and human waste,” District Attorney Richard Brown said.

According to trial testimony, police were investigation a pattern of burglaries and Vartholomeou’s son, Dimitrios Vlahakis, 24, became a prime suspect. After obtaining a court-authorized search warrant for stolen prop-

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A DAY AT THE OFFICE



Take Your Child to Work Day comes early for Borough President Melinda Katz, who had to juggle 6-year-old Carter and a press conference at her office announcing the opening of four LGBT support centers in Queens. **See story on Page 2.**

Photo by Michael Shain



Vallone plans July 4th fireworks

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) announced during an interview with TimesLedger Newspapers that this 4th of July Fort Totten will host a fireworks show, allowing borough residents to enjoy the festivities without having to travel to Manhattan.

During his first year in office, the lawmaker also pointed out that he was glad the Department of Homeless Services rejected the idea of setting up an emergency shelter in Bayside, and that the US Open will renovate the tennis courts near Bayside High

School.

During the interview, Vallone said he called on the Department of Transportation to crack down on heavy commercial trucks traveling on 32nd Avenue.

See story on Page 5

Fresh Meadows redux

Author of photo history book returns to her hometown

BY MADINA TOURE



An architect's rendering of the main entrance to Bloomingdale's on 188th Street around 1950.. Photo by Drix Duryea

When 60-year-old Debra Davidson left Fresh Meadows in 1976 to attend graduate school in Manhattan, she never thought she would return to her hometown.

But after adopting her now 16-year-old son when she was 44 years old and marrying her second husband in 2012, Davidson — who co-authored a photo history book on the area titled “Fresh Meadows” published in 2011 — realized she needed more space, which led her back to Fresh Meadows.

In August 2013, Davidson and her family moved into a two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment in a 20-story high-rise building, also known as the 6700 building.

Moving back to Fresh Meadows went in sync with the book she published, she said.

“I had really immersed (myself) in research about the community for a couple of years,” Davidson said. “I really looked at Fresh Meadows in perhaps a different vein than prior to that and it was certainly on my mind. It was kind of an interesting epilogue to the book that I wound up moving back here. That was never my intention.”

Noting that she feels some nostalgia for her youthful years spent in Fresh Meadows, the area continues to have high quality education, but the neighborhood's character changed, she said.

The area has more of an Asian population compared to before, when it was mostly Caucasian and Jewish.

“The composition of demographics has pretty much reflected the changes in Queens overall over these years,” Davidson said. “Queens is the most diverse county in the

country and Fresh Meadows pretty much reflects that.”

She also said the retail establishments have almost completely changed: the Kohl's store used to be a Bloomingdale's and there is now a complete lack of supermarkets in the neighborhood.

In 1962, Davidson, then 8, along with her mother, father and sister, moved to what is now known as Fresh Meadows since her father bought a kosher deli on Fresh Meadow Lane. They lived on 180th Street, right outside the Fresh Meadows Housing Development, built by New York Life for returning World War II veterans.

Davidson attended PS 173 in Fresh Meadows and the George J. Ryan Middle School. She received her bachelor's degree in economics at Queens College in 1975 and earned her MBA in marketing at Columbia University's Business School in 1978.

Davidson and attorney Fred Cantor compiled a photo history book titled “Fresh Meadows,” published by Arcadia Publishing in 2011, which covers the start of the Fresh Meadows Housing Development in the 1940s to the 1970s.

Fresh Meadows was developed in 1946 after the New York Life Insurance Co. bought the Fresh Meadows Country Club to build housing.

Cantor and Davidson first met unofficially vis-à-vis the “Fresh Meadows Rules” Facebook group. Cantor and his family left the area when he was a child.

“We made a very good pair because he had the experience of being here from his infancy through right before adolescence,” she said. “I had the other experience of coming here as an 8-year-old and going through school here.”

Although she lived in Forest Hills for about two years and New Jersey for five years, she spent her whole adult life in Manhattan, though she did go back and visit Fresh Meadows regularly.

With Manhattan requiring a long commute to the office for her husband, who works in Farmingdale, and their need for more space, Fresh Meadows ended up offering the best solution. Her son attends the Summit School in Fresh Meadows.

Fresh Meadows may have changed over the years,

Continued on Page 46

LGBT center set for Little Neck location

BY GINA MARTINEZ

Elected officials gathered at Queens Borough Hall Tuesday to announce the opening of centers throughout the borough of Queens to serve LGBT families.

Councilmen Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), Paul Vallone (D-Bayside), Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria) and Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) showed their support for The Queens LGBT Community Center's plans to establish the community centers in their districts.

The LGBT Network said it has been providing services for over 22 years for LGBT communities on Long Island and operates four LGBT Centers. Since July 2014, the LGBT Network has grown strong roots in Queens and is providing programs and services to hundreds.

The LGBT Network's Q Center has been working with middle schools to establish gay-straight alliance clubs and provide education and training for students, parents, and faculty in both middle and senior high schools.

The Q Center's first location will be The Samuel Field YMCA at 58-20 Little Neck Parkway in Little Neck. The goal is to open LGBT Centers in Astoria/ Long Island City, Bayside/ Whitestone and The Rockaways within the next three years.

LGBT Network CEO David Kilmnick, talked about why centers like these are necessary.

“LGBT seniors who grew up in a society where discrimination was legal feel like they must go back into the closet in senior and assistant living facilities. Gay and

bisexual men, particularly young men of color, are the fastest growing group in HIV infections,” he said. “LGBT people of color face the challenges of dual identities and double stigmas in discrimination. LGBT-headed families --- and there are more and more LGBT people raising families right now --- are facing new challenges for their children to have equitable treatment in their schools and in their local communities.”

Kilmnick contended that LGBT people of all ages are prime targets of hate and bias-motivated violence.

“All these factors combined contribute to a great sense of isolation and not feeling part of the community and that's why the LGBT network is opening its first center, the Q Center, in Queens and will be on a fast trajectory to open more centers throughout the borough,” Kilmnick said. “Many lives depend on it and we have to do it.”



DANIEL DROMM

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Bell Blvd. tattoo parlor inks money for veterans

Mean Street shop auctions custom-painted helmets to benefit Wounded Warrior Project

BY JUAN SOTO

One motorcycle helmet has a traditional Japanese mask painted on it offering protection.

Another one has a reddish devil face. And a third one imitates the helmet that appears in Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket" poster.

These are just some of the custom-painted helmets up for auction on eBay as part of a fund-raising effort by Bayside's Mean Street Tattoo parlor.

The initiative's goal is to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that provides programs, services and benefits for wounded war veterans following the 9/11 attacks.

Tommy Murphy, co-owner of the store, pointed out he was interested in cooperating with war veterans and always tried to think of ways to accomplish that objective.

"Veterans need help and we can't fight," he said. "We

are artists, we have fragile hands."

So, instead of fighting, Murphy decided to help out the best way he knows, with art.

Now, the 20 custom-painted helmets are up for grabs in a bidding process that ends Feb. 11 at 1 a.m.

"We are just trying to do something good," Murphy said. He designed two of the helmets available in the auction.

One of them is covered in an American flag with a Purple Heart, the oldest military award given to soldiers wounded "by an instrument of war."

Murphy noted he spent about 10 hours painting the Purple Heart helmet.

"The designs are outstanding," said Amado Aracena, a Flushing resident and member of the U.S. Army Reserve who dropped by the gallery. "This is a great opportunity."

Murphy and his business partner, Johann Florendo, bought the blank 20 helmets



Tommy Murphy (l. to r.), Johann Florendo and Christine Murphy, pose with the helmets they designed for the Wounded Warriors benefit.

Photo by Michael Shane

for \$20 a piece. And that's the starting bidding price on eBay.

Most of the artists who donated their time and talent to paint the helmets are from New York City, but there was also art that came from Canada and London.

The helmets were on dis-

play in the parlor's window, and many neighbors stopped by to take a look at them.

"It was a big stopper," Murphy said.

"We will try to get as much money as possible, and all of it will go to the Wounded Warriors," Murphy pointed out.

The artistic, custom-paint-

ed helmets may be also a turning point for the art scene in Bayside.

Murphy and Florendo hope the Wounded Warriors Project benefit "will bring artists together in hopes of organizing three or four art show a year in Bayside."

Florendo said that "Bayside need more arts and entertainment, and not just bars, restaurants and stores."

He pointed out the neighborhood has a lot of artistic talent, and maybe one day, Bayside "will become the next Williamsburg or Manhattan."

Florendo added that he hopes this art show and benefit will get more people involved.

"We will try to bring some of that flavor here, and maybe next time more people will volunteer their time to put up art shows," Florendo said.

Aracena said he will be bidding on a few of the helmets.

"It's a way to support the Wounded Warriors and get a nice helmet," the Flushing resident said.

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Cathy Nolan drops out

Queens Dems fail to back her bid to become speaker

BY BILL PARRY

Knowing she lacked the support of her own colleagues, state Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (D-Ridgewood) stepped aside Monday in the race to replace disgraced former Speaker Sheldon Silver.

The move cleared the Democratic field, enabling Bronx Assemblyman Carl Heastie to overwhelmingly defeat Republican Minority Leader Brian Kolb and become the state Assembly's new leader.

While Nolan thanked members of the borough's Democratic conference for their "support and encouragement" during the process in a statement and acknowledged "those who were forthright in telling me that they prefer another candidate," she said "our Assembly Democratic Majority Conference is strong because we are candid with one another."

Although Nolan has won 16 campaigns and has carved out a distinguished record on education in the Assembly, when it came to the powerful speaker's post, the Queens Democratic Machine did not back her, Queens political observers said.

Nolan rejected the notion that she dropped out of the race because she didn't have



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan pulls out of the running to replace Sheldon Silver as Speaker of the Assembly. Facebook

enough votes against Heastie, who had the backing of several Democratic county organizations.

"I did not drop out of this process even as many reported various vote totals and withdrawn candidacies, because I think, in this crisis, it is essential that all members of the state Legislature examine our rules and look closely at proposals for reform and openness," she said. "Indeed, I would have preferred a vote on Feb. 10 which would have allowed for discussion and review of proposals for reform

and perhaps have allowed some new rules to go forward in tandem with the election of a new speaker."

Nolan had positioned her bid as a challenge to the male-dominated culture in Albany, which has never had a woman speaker.

"I am aware of the historic nature of Assemblyman Carl Heastie's candidacy as I am of my own," she said, referring to the fact that he is black. "I believe that I have put at least a scratch in the glass ceiling for women. I congratulate Assem-

Continued on Page 34

Boro to implement community policing

BY JUAN SOTO

The patrol beat just got a new definition, and Queens will be a testing ground for the new police initiative.

Police Commissioner William Bratton announced during a speech at the annual State of the NYPD Police Foundation that cops on the beat will spend more time with community members in an effort to get to know them and learn about their concerns.

Bratton said the "highly localized neighborhood policing plan" will be implemented in two unidentified police precincts in the borough and two additional ones in Manhattan.

"The plan calls for a new patrol model for how to deploy our precinct sources," Bratton said.

He pointed out about half of the police officers in the precincts focus on specialty roles or they are "indentured to the radio, running from call to call."

Bratton noted, "We are going to reduce specialty roles."

The police commissioner acknowledged that for years the authorities said that cops were asked to get involved in the community, "but we've never given them the time to do it."

The new model is part of an overall effort to improve police-community relations, specially after the Eric Garner case, a Staten Island man who died in a police chokehold during his arrest for selling loose cigarettes.

City Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Lautelton) welcomed the new policy geared towards building better relationships between the communities and their police.

"The ground swell of support for black and brown lives after the lack of indictments in the Brown and Garner cases highlight the shortcomings of conducting business as usual," Richards said. "Any effort to integrate precincts with the community they serve is more than welcome."

The lawmaker added that establishing "community-based partnerships with officers is an important part of combatting and preventing

crime and rebuilding trust."

Bratton also turned to Queens to begin testing body cameras on cops at Jamaica's 103rd Police Precinct. The measure came as the public reacted with protests to Garner's and other police confrontation deaths.

"This plan establishes an entirely new set of expectations for patrol officers," Bratton said. Cops will follow up on past crimes, meet with community members and "work as an active problem solvers" in their assigned beats. "The cops will know their sectors and the citizens they serve," he said.

In another policy move, Bratton said that in a few months, a new 350-member unit to handle large protests, like the ones that followed Garner's non-indictment decision, and anti-terrorism missions, will be in place.

The Strategic Response group "is designed for dealing with events like our recent protests, or incidents like Mumbai or what just happened in Paris," he said.

Bratton was referring to India's 2008 coordinated shootings and bombings that resulted in more than 160 people killed and January's terrorist attacks in the office of satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebbo that left 11 people dead and dozens injured

"They [police officers] will be equipped and trained in ways that patrol officers are not," Bratton said, noting that the cops assigned to the unit will have heavy machine guns and protective gear.



WILLIAM BRATTON

Drivers target Rainbow Limo

BY MADINA TOURE

A group of former Rainbow Limo drivers and the Flushing Workers Center held a boycott outside the Bank of Tokyo last week to protest the bank's involvement with the limousine company, which drivers say has committed acts of violence and wage and hour violations.

The drivers and the Flushing Workers Center called on the state attorney general to investigate the arrangement between the Bank of Tokyo and Rainbow Limo and to revoke the company's franchise license and city Taxi and Limousine Commission permit if its continued its alleged sweatshop practices.

"We had appealed to them in the past numerous times,



Rainbow Limo drivers and the Flushing Workers Center held a boycott outside Bank of Tokyo. Photo Courtesy Sarah Ahn

alerting them of these labor violations at Rainbow Limo, but they continue to do business with them and so the workers were kind of fed up with waiting around," said Sarah Ahn, an organizer at Flushing Workers Center, a membership-based organization that

seeks to improve working and living conditions in Queens.

Through a spokeswoman, Bank of Tokyo declined to comment.

Two of the five drivers who filed the group lawsuit are from Flushing.

In a wage-and-hour lawsuit, the drivers say they were classified as franchisees, or independent contractors. They allegedly paid \$10,000 to start working despite not being given an opportunity to read through the contract. They also claim they were not given protection under the labor law, having to pay for all of their expenses, including the cars, the gas and uniforms.

The Bank of Tokyo, they said, is Rainbow Limo's larg-

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Fort Totten to get July 4th fireworks

Councilman Paul Vallone also unveils plans for tennis courts renovation along 32nd Avenue

BY JUAN SOTO

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) completed his first year in office on a high note when he gathered hundreds of people at the Children's Christmas Parade in Bayside.

"It was a perfect symbol for where I want to go next year," said the lawmaker during an interview at the TimesLedger Newspapers offices. The parade was about "all holidays in December," he said. "It was cold, but you saw a thousand people marching on Bell Boulevard."

He pointed out the holiday event "set the tone for things I want to do this year."

Among those is a fireworks show for the 4th of July holiday weekend, he said.

"This event will give Queens residents an opportunity to enjoy their own pyrotechnic exhibition," Vallone said. "Looking west to Manhattan for fireworks celebrating America's independence will no longer be required."

Vallone said the pyrotech-



Councilman Paul Vallone reviews his first year in office during an interview with TimesLedger Newspapers.

nic display will be held at Fort Totten Park.

"We are getting the permits and we already included the show in the budget," he said. "It's going to be great,"

he noted, adding that he will try to get local bands to play a concert at the park before the show comes on.

Spectators will be able to enjoy the fireworks show along

Little Bay Park in Fort Totten and the shore.

He said the show will be held either July 1 or July 2.

Vallone pointed out the Bayside Historical Society, the Bayside Village Business Improvement District and the Bay Terrace Civil Alliance, among others, "are going to partner with us to do it."

He is having fun in his first year as a legislator and his colleagues call him "the smiley councilman," the freshman councilman said, but Vallone is not all smiles when it comes to defending his district and his principles.

He has said no a few times to City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan) and to Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Vallone noted, for example, that he opposed the paid-sick leave bill and some public safety bills, but fortunately, there is no bad feelings from the top elected officials in the city.

In fact, he said the district received \$7 million in city funds, up from about \$2 million last year.

"Originally we did not sup-

port her [Mark-Viverito] as the speaker, but she treated all districts equally. Unity is one of her strengths."

He added, "We were the forgotten district in the eyes of the City Council."

The councilman was also outspoken when word came around that Bayside was on the Department of Homeless Services' radar to receive an emergency shelter.

"We are happy" the idea was rejected, Vallone said. "But it was a lot of phone calls and decisions going on on the background, where we were calling up saying 'This is not the right spot,'" he said.

He explained the Bayside is not against homeless shelters, but he said it was necessary for people to take two trains and a bus to get to northeast Queens, and then a bus and two trains back the following day.

"It is a delicate balance because everyone deserves a chance to get back on their feet," Vallone pointed out. "But it's location, location, location."

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Mets plan ferry to Citi Field with US Open for their fans:

BY MADINA TOURE

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) said he is working on getting a full-time ferry from Citi Field into Manhattan that would be privately funded by the Mets and the US Open.

"It would be a great way to get into Manhattan, drive into Citi Field, take the ferry down," he said. "Especially in the spring, it would be nice."

He is also looking to have weekend ferry service from Fort Totten into Manhattan for recreational purposes, such as visiting the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center.

This came just as Mayor Bill de Blasio announced in his second State of the City speech a new citywide ferry service that would unite East



City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) reveals plans for a full-time ferry from Citi Field to Manhattan.

River routes with new landings and services to Astoria, the Rockaways, South Brooklyn, Soundview and the Lower East Side.

De Blasio said the ferry service will launch in 2017 and be supported by a \$55 million capital commitment.

Vallone also said businesses in the College Point Corporate Park that pay into the park's improvement fund can

now determine how its money is used.

During meetings with Vallone, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and the Mayor's Office, the businesses that currently contribute to the fund and have been for decades, "never saw a dollar," Vallone said.

"We put in an immediate halt to all funding down there

Continued on Page 34

Cop car vandals to face new penalties: Avella

BY JUAN SOTO

Although it is in its early stages, the PBA already welcomed the idea that calls for a bill to establish a new crime category for people who vandalize law enforcement vehicles.

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said he will introduce a bill to create that new charge for suspects who damage cars owned by law enforcement personnel or agencies.

The lawmaker noted the legislation is in response to an incident that occurred in Brooklyn, where police discovered one of their cruisers and several cars owned by them with lug nuts removed or loosened.

Avella said it appears this act of vandalism was caused by just one person, but "the

incident has raised serious concerns about the potential targeting of the officers."

According to the senator, the bill will create a new provision under the current penal code section for criminal mischief in the second degree. Vandalism of police cars will be a D class felony, punishable by up to seven years in jail.

"When law enforcement becomes a target, it is time to take action," Avella said. "After I learned of the incident in Brooklyn, my office immediately began looking into legislation."

The police union is behind Avella's push to introduce the bill in the state Legislature. The union's president said vandalism against police cars has become a grave matter.

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Record tourism in city fuels borough hotel boom

Long Island City, Flushing and Jamaica lead the way in construction of 50 more by 2019

BY BILL PARRY

The Big Apple is booming. The city's tourism industry shattered the all-time high with 56.4 million visitors in 2014, generating a record \$61.3 billion in economic impact while supporting 359,000 jobs and \$21 billion in wages.

"From Soho to Soundview to Sunnyside, New York City offers visitors hundreds of unique neighborhoods and communities to explore," Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "Our five boroughs are brimming with new enclaves of diverse food, performances and art shows around every corner. Our excellent quality of life, low levels of crime and constant dynamism continue to attract record tourism each year and 2014 was no exception.

The city's hotel sector provided 102,000 hotel rooms last year, while selling a record 32.4 million total room nights, an all-time high. The tourism industry also generated \$3.7

billion in local taxes.

These numbers, reported by the mayor Monday, help explain why Queens is expected to add 50 more hotels by 2019, including 20 in Long Island City alone.

"LIC is a great option for travelers due to its proximity to Midtown Manhattan, the airports and relative value, but we're excited that the area is now being recognized as a destination in itself," LIC Partnership President Elizabeth Lusskin said. "With some of the best cultural institutions, restaurants and parks anywhere, it's the perfect place for visitors from near and far to explore, offering unique experiences and opportunities for discovery outside the typical tourist hubs. And we're seeing more and more business travelers staying in LIC and doing business in LIC, not just Manhattan. Combining all of this with the amazing cultural, culinary and commercial opportunities that all of Queens



The Hotel Indigo on Main Street in Flushing is one of fifty hotels expected to open in the borough by 2019.

has to offer, we can see why the demand is there to fill the many hotels here and the ones on the way."

When the 176-room Aloft Hotel opens, as expected in September, it will bring the total of hotels in Long Island City to 25.

"While LIC is marketing to Europeans and South Americans, Flushing is aiming all their marketing at Chinese travelers," MacKay said. "And there's more construction underway around JFK and the AirTrain is bringing a luxury hotel to Jamaica. It's remarkable what's going on. It's our hotel era."

There were over 2 million more visitors in New York City than the year before, making the Big Apple the No. 1 big city destination, the No. 1 port-of-entry for foreign visitors and the No. 1 city for tourism spending. The city also has the highest share of overseas visitation to the United States, accounting for nearly one-third. Top market performers continue to reflect the strong pull of New York City in the international arena, where visitors stay longer and spend more. The other leading international markets are United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil, *Continued on Page 46*

"That's quite a boom considering just seven years ago there was only one hotel in LIC," Rob MacKay, the director of Marketing and Tourism at the Queens Economic Development Corp., said adding that Flushing is experiencing a buildup as well.



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Public Notice

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application from Aldrich Management Co., LLC for a site known as 77-57 Vleigh Place, site ID #C241168. This site is located in the neighborhood of Flushing, within the County of Queens, and is located 77-39/63 Vleigh Place. Comments regarding this application must be submitted no later than March 13, 2015. Information regarding the site, the application, and how to submit comments can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html>, or send comments to the Project Manager, MD Hoque, at NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Remediation-Bureau B, 625 Broadway-12th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-7016; md.hoque@dec.ny.gov; or call 518-402-9767.

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New York, NY 10018 F: 646-219-2601

POLICE Blotter

Man injured after punch on Bell Blvd: Police

BAYSIDE — Police were looking for two suspects who assaulted a man on Bell Boulevard Jan. 25.

The assault occurred in front of the Safari Bar, at 40-45 Bell Blvd., about 2:55 a.m., police said.

The NYPD said the victim was punched in the face, causing him serious injuries.

Last August, a man was stabbed at the Bell Boulevard establishment during a dispute with another patron. Days later, police arrested a White-stone man in connection with the knife attack.



Police were looking for two men they said assaulted someone on Bell Boulevard.

Pedestrian struck and killed in Middle Village

MIDDLE VILLAGE — A driver was arrested and charged after he allegedly hit a man who was crossing Metropolitan Avenue at 62nd Street just before 8 p.m. Tuesday, police said.

Kamil Gorski, 36, was found by police with severe head trauma at the location. He was taken to Elmhurst Hospital Center where he was pronounced DOA.

Police said Brooklyn resident Raul Reyes, 53, hit Gorski with his 2007 white Ford van and fled the scene. Gorski fell into

the westbound lane of Metropolitan, where he was struck by a second vehicle whose driver remained at the scene, according to the NYPD.

After an investigation, police arrested Reyes and charged him with leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death, authorities said.



At the scene of a fatal hit and run on Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, cops piece together evidence that leads to the arrest of a Brooklyn van operator the next day.

Photo by BMR Breaking News

Barber sentenced in Cambria Hts. stabbing

CAMBRIA HEIGHTS — A Cambria Heights barber was sentenced to 19 years in prison for stabbing a customer to death who sold him Bluetooth headphones, District Attorney Richard Brown announced Tuesday.

The barber, Cedric N. Simpson, 35, was convicted of manslaughter last month.

“The defendant has been held accountable for having taken the life of a young man over the cost of a pair of headphones,” Brown said in a statement.

Simpson slashed Carl Richardson, 19, in the neck, upper back and chest with a pair of scissors from his workstation at Select Stylez Barbershop on Merrick Boulevard, Brown said.



Cedric Simpson

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

Queens pols applaud ferry, housing plans

BY MADINA TOURE

Queens lawmakers praised Mayor Bill de Blasio's plans to push for more affordable housing in his second State of the City Speech Tuesday morning but spoke in more cautionary terms about his proposals for a citywide ferry service and affordable housing in Sunnyside Yards.

Speaking before New York City lawmakers, community and business leaders and residents at Baruch College, de Blasio said his administration's approach would mandate affordable housing as a condition of development in areas re-zoned for residential use.

It would also guarantee that those living in affordable housing remain there and create more affordable housing by adding density to appropriate parts of the city.

In 2014, 56 percent of rental households in New York are spending more than 40 percent of their income on shelter, de Blasio said.

"This administration is taking a fundamentally different approach," de Blasio said, "one that not only recognizes the need for more affordable housing but demands it."

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) said she appreciated the mayor's focus on homeless veterans.

"I am also pleased that the mayor has made housing homeless veterans a priority, an issue for which I've strongly advocated," Meng said. "Nobody who put their lives on the line to defend our country should be living on the streets."

The city's affordable housing plan, which seeks to build and preserve 200,000 afford-

able homes within the next decade, includes a mandatory housing inclusion policy and plans to build affordable housing at Sunnyside Yards in Queens.

The city plans to unite local stakeholders, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Amtrak and private owners to conduct a feasibility study this month that would look into the costs and infrastructure needs necessary to redevelop the rail yards.

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) said any discussion concerning Sunnyside Yards should include the community and focus on providing additional infrastructure needed in the area.

"Any future development must bring with it more and better schools, new parks and open spaces, and vastly improved mass transit, particularly on the 7 line," Gianaris said.

Melissa DeRosa, director of communications for Gov. Andrew Cuomo, for her part, said Sunnyside Yards is only to be used for transportation purposes.

"The MTA uses Sunnyside Yards as an important facility for our transportation system, and it is not available for any other use in the near term," DeRosa said. "The state and the MTA are studying several potential future uses of the site from a long term planning perspective."

De Blasio also announced a \$55 million capital commitment and city-operated support to fund a citywide ferry service in 2017 that would bring together East River routes with new landings and services to Astoria, the Rockaways, South Brooklyn,

Continued on Page 34

Black women prevail

Nonprofit's Flushing chapter tackles personal finance



The Flushing chapter of the National Congress of Black Women announced new programs.

Photo courtesy Dr. E. Faye Williams

BY MADINA TOURE

Less than a year after the National Congress of Black Women announced plans to start a boroughwide chapter in Flushing, the nonprofit already has some programs in place and others in the works.

The chapter is focusing on personal finance and budgeting and engaging people more politically, said Pauline Murray, chairwoman of the Flushing chapter and NCBW's New York State coordinator.

The chapter expects to launch a program on banking, personal finance and budgeting around March in conjunction with Carver Federal Savings Bank.

Murray said many black people, including those who go on to become rappers or entertainers — and individuals in general — do not know how to manage their money.

"Some of them will die as paupers because in our schools, we have not emphasized personal finance," she said. "We have emphasized mathematics ... many of them do not even know how to write a check. Many do not know the difference between net income and gross income."

The Flushing chapter currently has 12 members and is seeking to get a few more members. The group meets at the Flushing Library every fourth Sunday.

In April, the nonpartisan nonprofit announced plans to start a boroughwide chapter in Flushing. The group is working on getting the Bronx

and Brooklyn chapters established. The nonprofit has more than 100 chapters throughout the country.

Since November, the chapter has been running a food cooperative program with Long Life Unity Food Buyers Collective in Brooklyn.

"It helps defray unnecessary costs for them for delivery to Queens," Murray said.

A full order, which consists of 20 different fruits and vegetables, costs \$35. A half order, which consists of more than 10 different fruits and vegeta-

BLACK HISTORY

bles, costs \$18. The order consists of fresh food. Members can also choose from a variety of fish options, including a 10-pound box of tilapia for \$33, a 10-pound box of whitefish for \$35 and a 22-pound box of whole red snappers for \$92.

About 20 people currently participate in the program. Anyone can take part. The program's cycle is every two weeks.

Starting in March, members will be required to pay an annual membership fee of \$25. The fee would be waived if members participated in the budgeting and personal finance program.

Murray said she hopes to establish a relationship with black farmers' markets and that she would like to expand the program to include non-perishables such as flour, corn meal and maple syrup.

The chapter also started working on a proposal for a

recycling business in August that would employ formerly incarcerated individuals. The business would also include job readiness.

The chapter would have the individuals go through assessment phases, which would include general assessment, data collection, questions about their skill sets, their health condition and their housing status. They would also help them get accustomed to resume writing.

The nonprofit will target 15 to 30 people for the first year and then explore the possibility of growth in the future.

The chapter is also supporting Macedonia A.M.E. Church's Healing Hearts Ministry, a Flushing support group for incarcerated individuals or family members of those who have been imprisoned or still are.

"These young men that might have gotten caught up in robbing and they'll say, 'Ms. Murray, I did it because my baby needed milk,'" Murray said. "I'm not saying it was right for them to do that, by no means, but I can understand what they're saying."

For Black History Month, Murray says the congress hope to support other events and programs as opposed to creating their own in an effort to encourage unity.

"Let's come together now," she said. "Let's stop feeling our greatness is strictly about what I can do or what I have done. Let's do it as a people and work together."



Mayor Bill de Blasio announced plans to build affordable housing on Sunnyside Yards.

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3/10/2014

St. John's saves costs

BY MADINA TOURE

St. John's University announced it would be freezing tuition, fees, room and board costs for the 2015-16 academic year at its Queens, Manhattan, Oakdale and international locations.

"St. John's is aware of the significant financial challenges facing college students and their families," St. John's University President Conrado Gempesaw said in a statement. "We are taking this action in an effort to help alleviate those burdens."

The tuition freeze will allow current full-time undergraduate, part-time undergraduate and graduate students to save the planned 3 percent tuition increase, about \$1,140, for the 2015-16 academic year. Base tuition for undergraduate students at the Queens and Manhattan campuses as well as for online learning is \$37,870 per year for traditional and distance learning students at the Queens and Manhattan campuses.

The tuition freeze will go into effect at the beginning of the 2015 pre-summer session in May. The entire student body would save about \$14 million, according to Dominic Scianna, a university spokesman.

"Dr. Conrado Gempesaw, felt it was a priority to alleviate the burden for parents and certainly students," Scianna said in an interview with

The basic undergrad tuition at St. John's in Queens is \$37,870 a year.

TimesLedger. "We wanted to be certainly available to give those savings to our students and future students."

Incoming freshmen will save at least \$4,560 on the cost of tuition over the course of four years, Scianna added.

On the Staten Island campus, tuition for current and incoming undergraduate students will be decreased by \$10,370. Scianna said the tuition was reduced at the campus given that the campus does not have the same amenities as the Queens campus.

"The tuition is more structured toward the academic offerings now in Staten Island and that's why the reduction was felt to be made at this time," he said.

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

Flushing to get translators

BY MADINA TOURE

Cyacom, an Arizona-based language interpretation services company, will be opening its first New York City contact center in Flushing this summer.

Muss Development signed a long-term, 23,000-square-foot lease for CyraCom at Flushing Plaza, the developer's 266,618-square-foot, office/professional building on 41-61 Kissena Blvd. The new office is expected to open in July. It will have anywhere from 325 to 340 employees, including interpreters, a central manager and supervisors as well as Human Resources and Information Technology personnel.

"CyraCom's new contact center is a great addition to Flushing Plaza, which is centrally located within a neighborhood known for its booming Asian community," Jason Muss, Muss Development principal, said.

"The building's close proximity to several major hospitals and medical centers, including New York Hospital Queens and Flushing Hospital Medical Center, also makes this an ideal outpost for the growing company," Muss continued.

Best Iheborow, vice president for

contact center operations, acknowledged that there has been an influx of Asian immigrants into the United States but said immigration factors were merely a contributing factor in the decision to open a contact center in Flushing.

"It helps us diversify our time zone," Iheborow said. "However, the New York City area itself is just a large concentration of talent that we can pull from. It's a highly diverse environment and location for us to be able to better support our customer base."

He also said the area is centrally located, noting the ease of using public transport and the fact that employees who may be from New York City would be able to come to the office more easily.

In operation since 1995, CyraCom is a language services provider that specializes in over-the-phone interpretation, video remote interpretation, document translation and other language-related services. The company is based in Tucson.

The office will be CyraCom's sixth contact center. The company currently has two centers in Tucson, one in Las Cruces, New Mexico, one in Phoenix and one more in Houston, Texas.



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WEATHER WOES

The "Tale of Two Storms" is the latest urban adventure to hit Queens

The Blizzard That Wasn't roared into the Big Apple last week on the back of meteorologists' dire predictions of record snowfall, prompting the governor to lock up the entire transit system without consulting Mayor de Blasio ahead of time. Gov. Cuomo is the big man at the MTA, so the buck stops with him, but it would be nice if our mayor had been given more advance warning. That way he could have shared the public's ire and occasional praise with his Albany overseer.

The shutdown and the curfew for cars on city streets worked like magic, creating a winter wonderland as the storm dumped a foot or so in Queens---far short of the crepe-hanging forecasts. Straphangers were inconvenienced and the economy suffered, but the next day the giant transit system rumbled back to life and was running normally within 24 hours.

Whether the governor should have closed down the city's transit lifeline is open to debate, but this week's storm raised serious questions about the MTA's ability to operate during challenging winter weather.

The nasty snow and ice number swept into the city Monday, saving weather forecasters' tarnished reputations by delivering a few inches of snow, freezing rain and bone-chilling temps as they had predicted. Queens remained open for business, schools and shopping, but the MTA was not ready to serve the riding public.

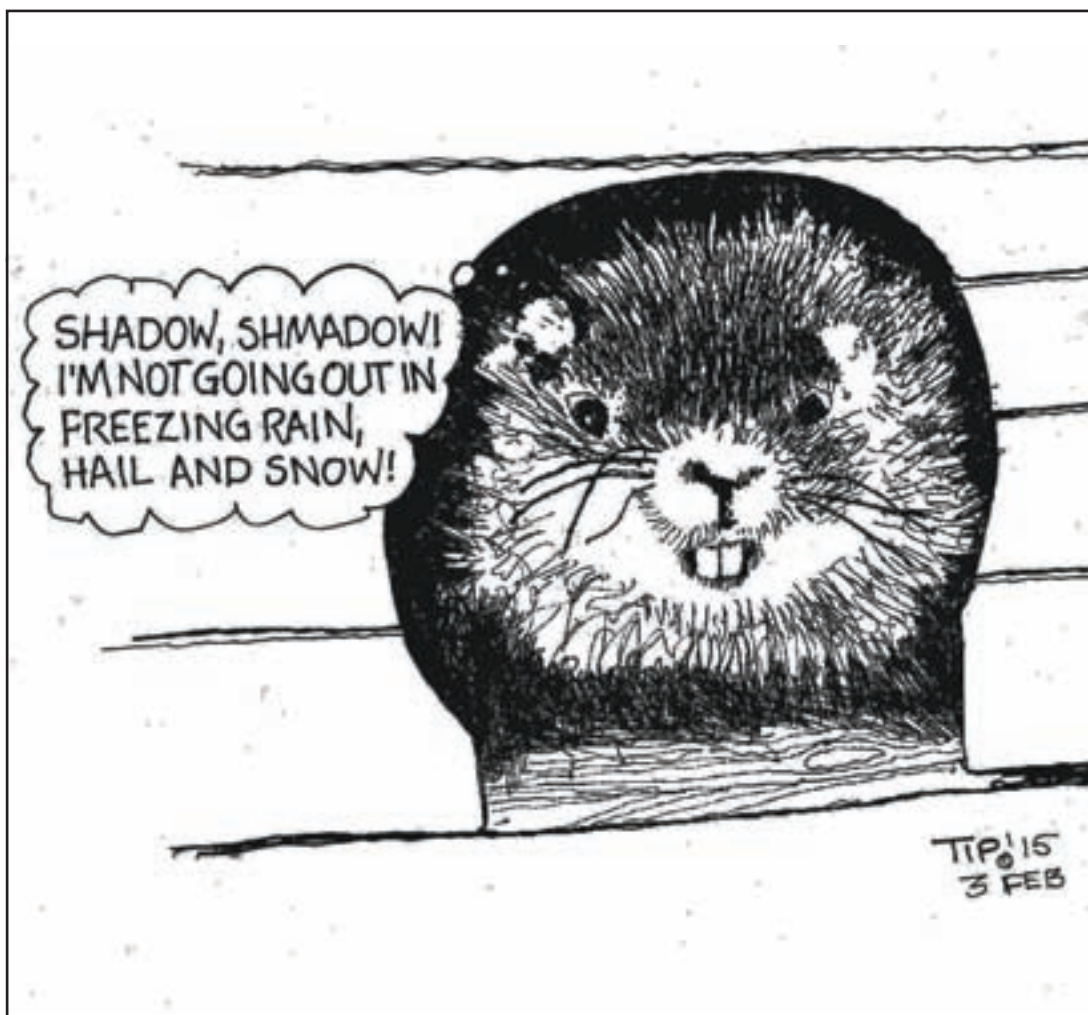
It was a transit nightmare for Queens commuters trying against all odds to travel to and from Manhattan -- not to mention within the borough.

Somehow an umbrella caught fire on the third rail of the Manhattan-bound No. 7 line outside Woodside Monday, forcing MTA workers to shut off power as they removed the item only to have the rail freeze. Thousands of passengers were stranded in outdoor stations and in halted No. 7 trains for hours.

How could an errant umbrella cause such misery? The MTA owes us an explanation.

Adding to the chaos, LIRR trains were running with major delays and cancellations were routine. Some buses in Flushing never showed. Frozen signals stopped subways dead in their tracks at points in Queens.

Both storms brought grief to the borough. But we want to know why the MTA was not better prepared for the second rather unremarkable winter event.



OTHER VOICES

Big thanks to MTA on Lunar service

We at Flushing Town Hall would like to thank the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for suspending its 7 line construction work on the Feb. 21-22 weekend of the annual Lunar New Year Parade in Flushing.

The parade not only is a culturally vital celebration, but a popular attraction that draws visitors from across the city and region. The impact on our area's businesses and neighborhood's cultural and his-

toric sites cannot be overstated.

It is why Flushing Town Hall has scheduled a Lunar New Year Dance Sampler and an exhibition of dynamic calligraphy, some created by 103-year-old Flushing resident Chao-Lin Ting, on that Sunday.

We applaud Assembly Member Ron Kim, Council Member Peter Koo, Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, state Sen. Toby Stavisky, and our Asian-

American community leaders for appealing to the MTA to ensure the 7 train would keep running.

The MTA's decision has given us much to celebrate as the Lunar New Year approaches.

*Ellen Kodadek
Executive & Artistic Director
Flushing Town Hall*

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Gov. Cuomo's bill violates right to life

No worse a political charlatan exists than Gov. Andrew Cuomo, whose signature Woman's Equality bill obfuscates the historical feminist philosophy of rights for all persons without exception in proposing that abortion be embedded in the Constitution of the State of New York.

In her speech and essay, "The Feminist Case Against Abortion," Serrin M. Foster, president of Feminists for Life of America, points out that the founder of the feminist movement, Mary Wollstonecraft, in

"A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (1792), condemned the pro-choice advocates who would "either destroy the embryo in the womb or cast it off when born."

She died due to complications consequent to the birth of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, whose allegorical novel, "Frankenstein," projects the moral disorder of violating the laws of nature.

More poignant, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, co-editor of Susan B. Anthony's radical newspaper, The Revolution, consid-

ered abortion to be the "murder of children, either before or after birth," an abuse due to the "degradation of women."

Victoria Woodhull, the first female American presidential candidate of 1872, stated that "the rights of children, then, as individuals, begin while they yet remain the foetus."

The fact of the matter is that two male founders of the National Association to Repeal Abortion Laws, Larry Lader and Dr. Bernard Nathanson, popularized abortion as a "right" before the second wave

feminist movement. The Roe v. Wade decision of 1973 legalizing abortion, violates the fundamental human right to life from the moment of conception until death and perpetuates the injustice of pregnancy discrimination educationally and occupationally, especially among the poor (69 percent of abortions) and minority women of color.

Embedding the "right" to abortion in the New York State Constitution as per Cuomo's Woman's Equality bill denies the right to life of each per-

son, in particular the more vulnerable, and is a failed Frankenstein experiment on women, which not "even Dante could not have conceived" (Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin Shelley, Frankenstein Or, The Modern Prometheus, 1831).

Andrew Cuomo is a disgrace to his Roman Catholic alma maters of Archbishop Molloy High School and Fordham University.

Joseph Manago
Flushing

NYC worn down by lack of state funding

New York City is an abused prostitute, and New York state is the abusive pimp.

How else can you explain the fact that the state receives money from the city and then doles out an allowance back to the city? The state's revenue has increased by 16 percent in the past five years, yet the state decreased funding to New York City by 10 per-

cent. In 2014, the city received \$1.2 billion less than it did in 2009.

New York City is the engine that feeds New York State, yet we have to beg for funds to repair infrastructure and fund the MTA, etc.

Robert LaRosa
Whitestone

NY legislators rated worst in the country

The Brennan Center for Justice, a public interest law center at NYU School of Law, rated the New York State Legislature the worst in the nation and considering the plethora of misdeeds that have emanated from it, the charge may well be justified.

Sheldon Silver is entitled to a presumption of innocence of the charges filled against him, and it will be for the courts to determine his guilt or innocence.

Independent of any criminal aspects, Silver, the long-time assembly speaker, and indeed the vast majority of the state Legislature, must be held accountable for the decades they permitted

the Legislature to function without a rule that requires each member to not only yearly file an affidavit listing all outside income, but its source, a description of the work performed and the time entailed.

All legislators seeking Silver's speaker seat should be rejected unless they agree the first order of business will be a change in the rules to reflect greater transparency as above. It may also be a good idea to consider term limits not just for the speaker, but for all legislators.

Benjamin M. Haber
Flushing

LIBERTY COULD USE A COAT



The pink marble World War I monument in the middle of Northern Boulevard may not be dressed right for the weather, but Lady Liberty is still doing a heroic job protecting the Queens North Task Force headquarters (a converted armory) in Flushing.

Photo by Michael Shain

Correction

In the Jan. 23 issue, a story about Queens Borough Melinda Katz donating books honoring the African-American experience to the Queens Library should have stated that the ceremony was co-sponsored by the Queens Borough President's African-American Heritage Committee.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten, and those longer than 300 words may be edited for brevity and clarity. All letters must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. Names may be withheld from publication if requested, but anonymously sent letters will not be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday noon to appear in the next week's paper. All letters become the property of Queens Publishing Corporation and may be republished in any format.

Pro football could use a new playbook



Tom Allon
 ■
Mayoral Spin Cycle

I have a love-hate relationship with pro football.

When it is played well and has heightened drama — like the fourth quarter of last Sunday's Super Bowl was — there is no more thrilling spectacle. It is not only a game of intense physicality, with balletic twists by receivers often followed by bone crushing hits by linebackers, but also a strategic battle of wits akin to chess.

But America's favorite spectator sport also has a dark side, when the violent culture leads to heightened brutality perpetrated by NFL players. So events like the heart-wrenching scene of domestic abuse by former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice caught on camera for the world to see make me step back and acknowledge it is not all hunky-dory.

And it isn't just inside the

home (or nightclubs) where this macho and violent game leads to unnecessary harm — it is also inside the skulls of longtime players, who suffer repeated head injuries that lead to irreparable brain damage. How many ex-pro players do we have to see succumb to dementia or self-inflicted injury before we realize that there is an epidemic of brain injuries that is too high a price to pay for the mere viewing and rooting pleasure of millions of Americans?

When this football season started last fall, there was a drumbeat of bad news that thundered down on the NFL: scientific studies that proved a high percentage of ex-players suffer from brain injuries followed by the Ray Rice video and the league's bungling of his punishment. I stopped watching games for a while.

I was ready to write football's premature obituary. I would tell friends and colleagues that watching football these days reminded me of watching professional boxing in the 1980s, when sports' most iconic figure, Muhammad Ali, started slurring his words and walking around like he was,

ironically, "punch drunk" and boxing started its slow fade.

Could that be the fate of professional football, I thought, a multibillion-dollar industry that would be toppled because the metaphorical surgeon general's warning was finally being heeded?

It is still possible that in the not-too-distant future, football will head over the cliff and begin its slow descent. Like empires and powerful civilizations, no industry or professional sport is immune from the vagaries of excess and overreach.

But after watching Sunday night's Super Bowl, which included two star-studded teams that I have only a casual interest in, I am reminded of the powerful hold that professional football has on America's collective psyche. For one night, a large chunk of our country congregates around a big screen, all at the same time (because no one waits to see the Super Bowl on Netflix a week later), and we watch these larger than life figures go toe-to-toe for 60 minutes in a winner-take-all match.

ToparaphraseMarkTwain, reports of the NFL's death are

greatly exaggerated.

In an era where much of life exists in the gray zone, it is comforting to have one night where everything is on the line and will be decided definitively.

And for the next 48 hours, there is endless chatter picking apart the coaches' decisions, analyzing the key plays and making comparisons to Super Bowls past. There is a unifying aspect to this collective discussion; for once, red states and blue states recede; black and white and brown and yellow fans vehemently argue for their favorite team or favorite player. The dysfunction of Congress, the sluggishness of the economy, the growing inequality in our society — it all fades into the background as people of all races and classes talk about "The Game" or "The Pass" or "That Coach's Awful Decision."

Professional football, the closest thing that modern society has to the Roman Coliseum, is our metaphorical civil war, our fight to the death, our gladiators fighting ferociously for the coveted gold prize. It allows millions of us to at once express and sublimate our vio-

lent and hostile emotions in a controlled and socially acceptable way.

In short, football is both metaphor and the bluntest expression of American violence and rugged individualism. It is as purely American a pastime as anything that still exists; we don't see the Chinese or the Russians adopting football as their own and it's not likely that this unique game will spread globally in the same way that basketball has in recent decades. It is ours and we get to keep it all to ourselves.

But I still wish they could manufacture helmets that make concussions obsolete. And that high-school and college players would be required to learn feminism and gender studies so they will become less testosterone-fueled and more progesterone sympathetic.

That would be a real game changer.

Tom Allon, president of City & State NY, was a Republican and Liberal Party-backed mayoral candidate in 2013 before he left to return to the private sector. Reach him at tallon@cityandstateny.com.

Fixing schools will require more than teacher evaluations



William Lewis
 ■
 Political Action

five years of effective ratings instead of the present three years.

In recent years the main responsibility for student progress has fallen on the teaching profession. There seems to be much less attention paid to other factors such as student interest, motivation, learning ability and good educational environment. Without these factors present, no matter how well the instructor teaches, students will have a difficult time learning. It only takes one or two disruptive students to prevent other students in the class from learning.

It will be difficult to evaluate teachers fairly from the standpoint that different areas of the state have communities with students from different socio-economic backgrounds. This will affect teacher evaluation in different ways.

The system has to develop

to the point where school administrators, teachers and parents work together to improve student performance.

More attention should be given to students who do not show that much interest in an academic education or in going to college by the state providing vocational school training. That type of education seemed to work well in the period of the 1940s and '50s. It may be time to bring it back.

A public school that gives both academic and vocational training can encourage students to stay in school with fewer dropouts.

Teachers have always been shown respect for their efforts. There is too much emphasis on using terms like failing schools and failing teachers. The proper tools and support should be given to our teachers.

If vocational education can

become an integral part of our city educational system, it could go a long way toward improving our education methods and increasing our students learning.

This year our state Senate and state Assembly will be considering the governor's plan for teacher evaluation. It can be hoped that they will be taking an interest in bringing into being vocational training in our public schools.

The governor's plan also included a call for more charter schools statewide, boosting the number from 460 to 560 schools. New York City would have additional charter schools to open. The charter schools have had some success during the last few years. This trend can continue if encouraged.

Charter schools together with vocational schools can improve our city and state-

wide education.

There have been many experiments in education over the years. It is time to work with charter and vocational schools, however.

The year 2015 will be a political year in Queens with little activity. There will be no general election except for Queens district attorney and some judgeships.

In the Queens Republican Party, there will be elections for district leaders and county committee in September. The elected county committee will elect a county chairman and county officers.

This year for all political parties in Queens will be a year of preparation for the major elections of 2016, including the presidential race.

Just because you disagree doesn't make it wrong



Kenneth Kowald
I Sit And Look Out

The E train, as I remember it, was between Queens Plaza and Jackson Heights, where I would change for the GG (I believe it was called that in those days) for the Grand Avenue station in Elmhurst, where I lived on 57th Avenue.

I was reading a book and suddenly I closed it, with a sharp snap. I may have muttered something at the same time. In any event, people were staring at me. I was embarrassed and silent. I was on my way home from CCNY, where I attended the Evening Session.

The book was "Ulysses," by James Joyce. If I recall correctly, I was on Page 26.

I was taking an elective English course. We read just three

novels and wrote papers on each one, after many hours of class discussion.

The first was "Swann's Way" by Marcel Proust. I did not like it and have not read another work by Proust.

The second was "The Magic Mountain," by Thomas Mann, which I greatly admired. I reread it years later and many other of Mann's work.

I had a hard time with the teaching of our very fine professor. He was a follower of the cult of "explication of the text" (from the French) in which every minor punctuation mark, among other things, was supposed to have a meaning.

Gradually, you lost sight of the work itself, in my opinion.

I decided to try Joyce again and forget about the teaching. I found the work to be a masterpiece of lyricism and observation. I read some of it aloud. In my final paper, I defended the work and attacked the teaching method. To his credit, the professor said my analysis was well done and gave me an A-plus.

"Ulysses" had been published in separate chapters in the early '20s and the book version, printed in France, came out in 1924. But it was banned

(I thought "Doctor Atomic" a great bore, although there are some minutes in "Nixon in China" that are not bad) and will not pay to see "The Death

I do not intend to see "The Interview," the comedy about the North Korean dictator. Not my kind of a film. But I will defend (almost) to the death the right of anyone to see it or not.

I don't want anyone to tell me what I can or cannot choose to see or hear in the privacy of my own mind.

So, let's hear it for "Ulysses," "Huckleberry Finn" "The Death of Klinghoffer" and "Madama Butterfly" and so many others. Even "The Interview."

And, try to forget that we put Japanese Americans in guarded camps after Dec. 7, 1941.

Censors, go back to your black caves of ignorance and let us gauge what is right for ourselves.

And in case I have not hammered the message enough:

I am not a joiner, but I am delighted to join millions around this planet who proudly proclaim: "Je Suis Charlie!"

Remember, the bell tolls for all of us.

See my blog, *No Holds Barred*, at TimesLedger.com

Censors, go back to your black caves of ignorance and let us gauge what is right for ourselves.

as obscene in the United States and the United States Post Office burned imported copies. Sound familiar?

In 1934, federal courts threw out the ban and it was printed here. Obscenity? Does anything match what we can hear on stage, screen, the Internet and TV now?

But this censorship was not unique. Even now, there may be libraries where "Huckleberry Finn" is banned. In today's world there are censors ready to spring for their own stuff and bar the rest of us from reading or seeing some great work.

I am not a fan of John Adams

of Klinghoffer," but if the Metropolitan Opera wants to stage it and people want to see it, so be it.

It was bad enough that during World War II, when the Met would not play "Madama Butterfly," based on a work by an American and a play by an American, with music by an Italian, Giacomo Puccini.

But — horrors! — the heroine was Japanese and very sympathetic.

However, the Met did put on many of the works of that great composer and anti-Semite Richard Wagner during the conflict. Go figure.

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LIC's Citiview center marks its 20th year



MISSING METADATA CONTENT

BY BILL PARRY

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Citiview Connections Clubhouse, Director Russell Roten opened the doors to community leaders who are dedicated to de-stigmatizing beliefs about mental illness. The Long Island City center for adults with psychiatric disabilities held its open house last week to generate interest about its mission to help those suffering from mental illness reclaim their lives and realize their potential through work and the support of a caring community.

"It was zen-like to see our community partners mingle with our members," Roten said. "That kind of interaction helps our members build confidence and self-esteem while the community gets a better idea of what goes on inside here."

Citiview is operated by Goodwill Industries, one of the oldest and largest providers of vocational training and employment services in New York City. The goal is for 114 members with chronic mental illness to learn new skills, forge friendships and access employment and educational opportunities.

Members also participate in educational, recreational, social and vocational activities, and take work-related roles to carry out daily operation of the clubhouse.

"It's a community of people who really understand each other," Roten said. "Everything is voluntary, it's not like a treatment program. These people have been told all their lives that they couldn't succeed because of their mental illness or be productive members of society. Being a member of this clubhouse is very empowering for them. The clubhouse offers a place for someone to come and be a part of a team with no head coach, and no longer isolate themselves."

The center features a business computer lab, a transitional employment unit, a cafe where the members prepare and eat their own meals three times a day, and a living room. The four staff

facilitators assist the members, who are age 18 and up, with job searches, resume writing and practice interviews. Members are then placed in part-time positions in the community for six to nine months earning minimum wage or more.

"It allows a person who on their own would not be able to get a job because they don't have the support system that we provide," Roten said. "The fact that employers don't want to let them go at the end of their stint really says a lot."

Guests including City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), Commissioner Tom Finkelppearl of the City Department of Cultural Affairs and Richard Hinojosa, the Educational Director at Queens Theater, talked with the members of the clubhouse at the Jan. 29 event and came away with a better understanding.

"Most social services are so protective, but Russell sees the benefit of inviting people in," Chocolate Theater Executive Director Sheila Lewandowski said, "people who are doing things in the community that can be a benefit to his members. It opens up a connection with the community going there and seeing firsthand what they do."

Citiview member Tommy Radman called the evening a "bright and festive affair, nothing like the ominous portrayal of the mentally ill you see so often on the news. It was an evening where 'mentally ill' was no more a barrier between people than their taste in hors d'oeuvres."

Radman watched a performance by the Village Playback Theater, a company dedicated to telling the stories of people who struggle to be heard, about a woman on a heroic quest.

"There are many stories like this passing through the doors of Citiview," Radman said. "People who refuse to be stigmatized and herded into a life of meek complacency by a society, for the most part, that does not understand them. People who want to reach out towards a future of their own and who expect to find it."



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Baldeo to appeal 18-month jail sentence

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

A former Queens district leader and City Council candidate, Albert Baldeo was sentenced in Manhattan federal court to 18 months in prison for tampering with witnesses during the FBI's investigation of his campaign finances.

Last year Baldeo, 54, was convicted of six counts of obstruction of justice, each relating to a separate instances of witness tampering, and one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice in Manhattan federal court after a two-week trial. He was found not guilty of three fraud-related counts. His sentencing date was scheduled for Dec. 16, but due to his having heart-related medical issues, it was rescheduled for this past Monday.

In addition to his prison term, U.S. District Judge Paul Crotty also imposed two years of supervised release, including three months on home confinement. He was also ordered to pay a \$15,000 fine.

"Albert Baldeo tried through intimidation and ha-

arrassment to obstruct the government's investigation of his alleged fraudulent campaign practices. The obstruction of justice by a political official has no place in our politics, but it shows how officials who see fit to hold themselves above the rules will inevitably see fit to hold themselves above the law, and finish not fit to hold office. This has been all too common in New York City and New York state," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a statement.

Baldeo, an Ozone Park Democrat, ran for City Council in 2010 for the seat now occupied by Ruben Wills, who was indicted for the second time this week.

"Today's sentence is a fitting punishment for Baldeo's crimes and a reminder that this office and its law enforcement partners will continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute political corruption," Bharara said.

In 2010, Baldeo, then a Queens Democratic district leader and an attorney, participated in a scheme to defraud



Former Queens district leader, Albert Baldeo, was sentenced in federal court to 18 months in prison for tampering with straw donor witnesses during the FBI's investigation of campaign fraud.

the city that involved the funneling of multiple illegal campaign contributions to his ultimately unsuccessful campaign for City Council, accord-

ing to court documents. On various occasions, Baldeo, and in at least one instance one of Baldeo's employees, provided money orders or cash to individuals to contribute to the campaign in their own names, even though Baldeo supplied the funds and these individuals did not contribute any of their own money or reimburse him for these donations.

As part of this scheme, Guyana-born Baldeo gave each donor, commonly referred to as a "straw donor," a campaign contribution card in which he or she wrote his or her name, address, employment information, and the amount of money purportedly donated to the Baldeo campaign. Baldeo instructed the straw donors to sign the contribution cards, falsely affirming that the contribution was being made from their personal funds and was not being reimbursed in any manner, the court papers said.

"The bedrock of the prosecution's case is based solely on a handful of contradictory witnesses, all of whom were

coerced to change their statements by the government in return for non-prosecution agreements," a statement released by Baldeo's friends and family support group said Tuesday. "There is not a scintilla of independent or reliable evidence against Mr. Baldeo on these misconceived charges."

The court papers said city Campaign Finance Board relied upon the information contained in the fraudulent contribution forms to determine whether to release public matching campaign funds to Baldeo's 2010 campaign. As part of this scheme, Baldeo instructed several of these straw donors to sign affidavits, at least one of which was actually provided to the CFB in connection with Baldeo's efforts to obtain matching funds.

After learning of the FBI's investigation, prosecutors said Baldeo obstructed the investigation by repeatedly instructing certain straw donors to provide false information or not cooperate, with the

Continued on Page 34

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Two Queens men indicted in gambling venture: DA

BY MADINA TOURE

Seven men from Queens, the Bronx and upstate New York were indicted on charges of illegally operating a sports betting enterprise in Queens County, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown announced last week.

Luigi Caminiti, 34, of Whitestone, and Mirsad Dedic, of Astoria, were charged with promoting gambling through a venture related to a sports betting enterprise in Queens that five other individuals were operating unlawfully, the DA said. If convicted, they each face up to four years in prison, according to Brown.

The individuals operating the betting enterprise — three Yonkers residents, one Mount Vernon resident and one Bronx resident — were charged with enterprise corruption, money laundering, promoting gambling and conspiracy, the DA said. If convicted, they each face up to 25 years in prison.

“By taking advantage of toll-free numbers and Internet websites as ‘wire rooms — where bets were accepted and gambling accounts were maintained — the defendants allegedly were able to reap huge profits through their unlawful gambling operation,” Brown said in a statement.

The investigation was a joint effort by the Queens DA’s office and the Police Department’s Organized Crime Investigation Division.

“Illegal gambling rings, like the one announced in today’s indictments, profit by exploiting victims who are unable to pay their debts and often result with the victims owing large sums of money and facing threats of violence for not making payments on time,” NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton said in a Jan. 29 statement.

Caminiti and Dedic allegedly engaged in bookmaking, receiving or accepting more than five bets totaling more than \$5,000 in any one day on Nov. 4, 5, 11, 12, and 13 of 2013, accord-



The Queens DA said two Queens residents and five other individuals were indicted in a gambling crackdown. AP

ing to the indictment.

The other five men were charged in a 34-count indictment involving 33 pattern acts, including enterprise corruption under the state’s Organized Crime Control Act, Brown said.

The five men are allegedly members and associates of an organized criminal enterprise that operated in Queens and elsewhere and promoted illegal sports betting in the borough and other places between February 2013 and April 2014, according to the indictment.

They were also said to have been involved in nontraditional computerized wire rooms, the indictment added.

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

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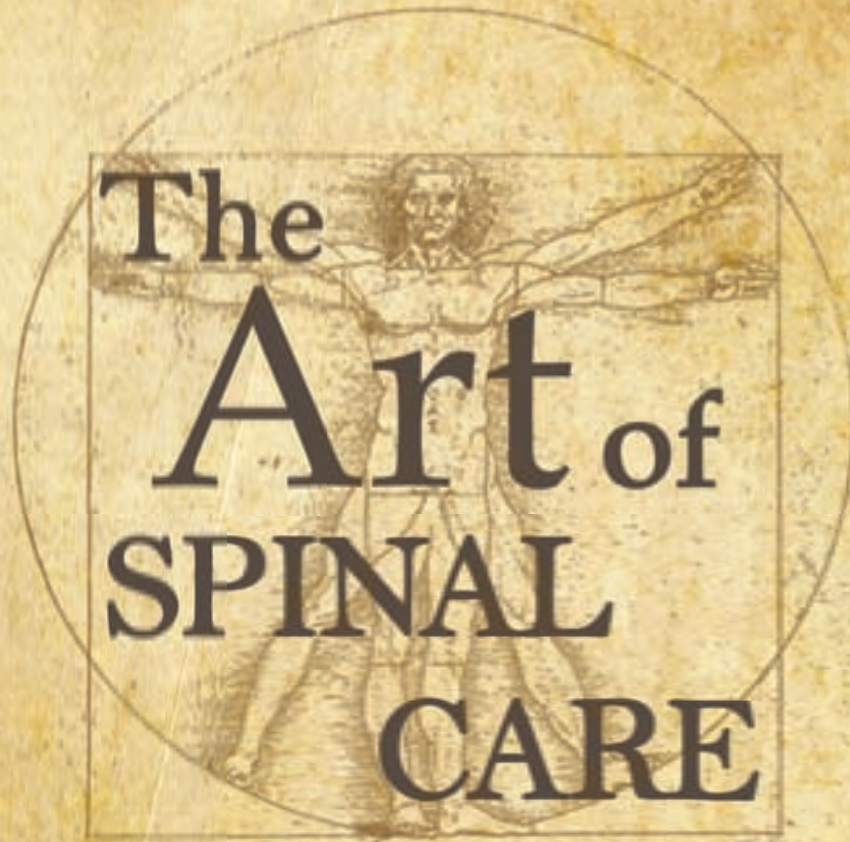
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Ferreras wants to add on to AirTrain plan

BY BILL PARRY

Gov. Cuomo's plan for an AirTrain connecting LaGuardia airport with the No. 7 subway line doesn't go far enough in. City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras' book.

The East Elmhurst Democrat said the Long Island Rail Road should operate an expanded schedule to the Willets Point train station and create a new transportation network that would alleviate traffic in an area that includes, East Elmhurst, Corona and Flushing.

"I spent many months last year negotiating the future of Willets Point, and I continue to be deeply dedicated to its development," she wrote in a letter to the governor. The area will be home to a future \$3 billion development with commercial, retail and residential space, all of which will need expanded transportation services, according to Ferreras.

"The LIRR station at Willets Point, a seasonal-use station, and the connection to LaGuardia Airport should be



Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras asks Gov. Cuomo to make the LIRR train station at Willets Point and the proposed AirTrain connection to LaGuardia Airport accessible 24/7.

Artwork courtesy of NYS DOT

accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure everyone who lands, departs and works at the airport has the same ease of travel," she wrote. "As it stands, parking is difficult for airport employees who work around-the-clock shifts

and vehicular congestion is a growing concern in the residential area that surrounds the airport. A speedy and dependable alternative to driving, like a 24/7 train service going in multiple directions, would be a great improvement

to meet the demands of workers, visitors and residents."

The LIRR station at Willets Point is currently open for Mets games, the US Open and major events in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The station is part of the Port Washington

branch of the LIRR.

Ferreras also suggested renovation of the bridge that connects the No. 7 subway line and the LIRR as well as elevators.

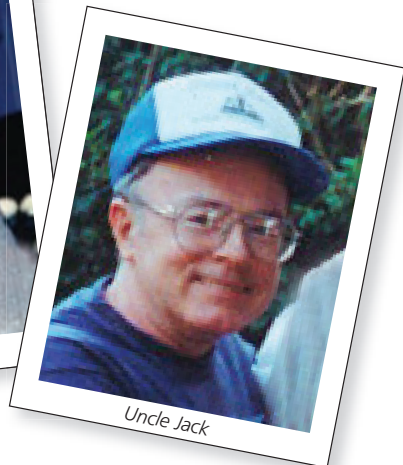
"Most all high traffic train stations have elevators to help move passengers along, particularly those in wheelchairs or with strollers," she wrote.

Cuomo presented his plan for the AirTrain on Jan. 20, saying it would offer better access to the airport's 27 million passengers each year. The elevated tracks would run a mile and a half along the Grand Central Parkway and cost an estimated \$450 million and take five years to complete.

"Again, I am delighted that you are prioritizing the growth of Corona and the services it offers," Ferreras' letter concluded. "I look forward to the development of this project and to assisting you any way I can."

There has been no response to the letter, according to a Ferreras spokeswoman.

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– Joe Hall

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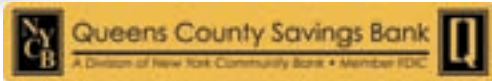
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Our Students of Distinction typically are members of the Senior class. This year, we begin with a member of the Junior class. Our luminary, Zainab, is a member of Academy of Media, Arts & Music, a small school within Hillcrest High School. She is an active participant in a wealth of honors academic programs as well as extra-curricular activities. Her high standards have propelled her into the role of President of Media, Arts & Music. As such, she represents her peers within Hillcrest. She is also Vice President of the Hillcrest High School Student Council, where she participates in decisions affecting the student community.

Within her short high school academic career, Zainab has already earned many awards and commendations. Included among these is membership in the Principal's Honor Roll, an achievement earned throughout her high school years. While a Freshman in 2013, she was selected Freshman Student of the Year. Also in 2013, Zainab received the following awards: Academic Excellence in Living Environment, Academic Excellence in English, Academic Excellence Award, City Council Citation.

She is not content to simply follow; Zainab also dips her feet into the waters of leadership. For example, while she began as one of many students in Journalism, it wasn't long before she established herself as Editor-in-Chief. In that capacity, Zainab edits articles written by other student journalists. This requires exceptional writing ability, and both knowledge and application of grammar. As EIC, she also helps her staff manager their time.



Brian Panepinto, Advisor for the school newspapers and Director of the Academy of Media, Arts & Music, has nothing but praise for all that Zainab has accomplished. He says, "I have had the pleasure of having Zainab in my classroom for her entire high school career. Her leadership, intelligence, and dedication to knowledge has been an immeasurable asset. She has attained a 99 cumulative average despite a full slate of Honors, Advance Placement, and College Now classes.

"In my College Now English classes, she was the best writer. Her ability to drive discussions provided an enhanced learning environment for her peers."

Other teachers agree with Panepinto's assessment of Zainab's capabilities particularly relating to ability to help peers. As a result, she has been referred by several teachers to become a Peer Tutor in English, Science, and Math.

Panepinto enthuses, "Zainab transformed my classroom with new protocols and a new infrastructure. She worked with several editors to create new layout and a website. Through Google Apps for Education, Zainab created documents and group folders that allowed for immediate collaboration and date-tracking of articles."

One result of Zainab's contagious enthusiasm is that students are more invested in their

newspaper. The newspaper has gone on to receive nominations for articles in the New York Daily News-Baruch College Newsies NYC High School Newspaper Competition.

Other activities include GirlUp Club, Youth Take Charge, and Model UN. She is on the Model UN Executive Board, which prepares students to attend the annual Model UN Sessions. Hillcrest's team won Best Delegate Honorable Mention Library Conference Award at the 2014 event. In Fall 2014 Zainab also attended the Model New York City Council Project at Guttman Community College.

GirlUp Club raises awareness of global women's issues in the developed and developing world. An active member of GirlUp Club has resulted in Zainab participating in fundraising events. A current fundraiser is dedicated to raising money to purchase bicycles for Ethiopian girls. The bikes will permit them to get to and from school safely and easily.

Another program involved with women's issues is Youth Take Charge wherein the school works with NYU to raise awareness about human trafficking. Zainab attended the 2014 social summit where she met and listened to guest lecturers, engaged with other students, and shared her experiences with Youth Take Charge.

Zainab is also on the Executive Board of the Muslim Student Association within Hillcrest High School. Members of the association discuss Islam and what it means to be a Muslim as well as interact with Non-Muslims in order to provide a better understanding of her religion. On the flip side, Zainab is interested in learning how non-Muslims perceive the things Muslims do.

Looking forward, she is currently enrolled in Medical Anthropology through College Now. Her hope is to become a General Practitioner and work with Doctors without Borders. We wish her future success in all her endeavors!



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Keeping marriage going strong into your golden years



The trend of long-married couples calling it quits has been growing. However, there are some steps couples can take to keep their relationships going strong.

According to the AARP, divorces among people over the age of 50 have doubled since 1990. According to Susan Brown, co-director of the National Center for Family and Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University, one out of three baby boomers will face their golden years unmarried.

There are a number of reasons why divorce rates have skyrocketed among the over-50 set. Understanding just why these divorces are taking place and taking proactive steps to alleviate some of the divorce triggers can be a recipe for a happy marriage that continues throughout a couple's golden years.

Increase accountability

Ours is a transient society where families no longer bat an eyelash over moving great distances away from other family members. As a result, boomers may feel like they are not connected to children or grandchildren. With this in mind, they may feel less attached to their marriage or their responsibilities, or believe that no one will get hurt by a divorce. Keeping families close and remaining in frequent contact can increase accountability and reduce the propensity for divorce.

Get things out in the open

A major reason for a failed marriage is years of avoiding significant issues, rather than addressing problems. Couples should make time to talk to each other about anything that might be bothering them,

rather than letting too many things slide. If these conversations turn into shouting matches, there is always the option of bringing in a third party to serve as a mediator.

Spend time apart

After retirement, couples may find themselves spending hours upon hours in each other's company. While togetherness can be beneficial, too much time spent together may lead to feelings of suffocation and the perception that each member of the relationship is no longer his or her own person. Individuals can remedy this by doing more things on their own, whether spending time apart with friends or engaging in hobby time without your spouse. After all, absence makes the heart grow fonder. Brief periods of separation can make the time married couples do spend together

feel more meaningful.

Recommit to your vows

After 30 or more years, the vows you shared on your wedding day may be a distant memory. Some people may have different views on the permanence of vows, putting personal happiness ahead of the happiness of the couple. Take stock of what you promised one another on your wedding day and stick to those words.

Become a comedian

Laughter has a way of dissolving a tenuous situation. Focus energy on laughing at mistakes instead of pointing blame. Couples can make fun of themselves and resolve to not take things too seriously.

Act like you're dating

Couples often become

complacent after many years of marriage. They may forget about the little details that made the relationship fun in the early years. The personal notes and cards and other surprises may fall by the wayside after being together for some time. Make an effort to go on dates, write love notes, and think of what was appreciated by your partners when you were in the dating stage.

Practice selflessness

Sometimes all that is needed to rekindle a relationship is a selfless act that shows how much you care for your partner.

Couples who are on the fence with regard to divorce can make an effort to improve the relationship rather than simply see divorce as the best option.

Successful ways to stretch retirement savings

Many budding retirees plan to travel, relax, and enjoy the company of their spouses when they officially stop working. But such plans only are possible if men and women take steps to secure their financial futures in retirement.

According to a recent survey by the personal finance education site MoneyTips.com, roughly one-third of Baby Boomers have no retirement plan. The reason some may have no plan is they have misconceptions about how much money they will need in retirement. Successful retirees understand the steps to take and how to live on a budget.

Have a plan

Many people simply fail to plan for retirement. Even men and women who invest in an employer-sponsored retirement program, such as a 401(k),

should not make that the only retirement planning they do. Speak with a financial advisor who can help you develop a plan that ensures you don't outlive your assets.

Set reasonable goals

Retirement nest eggs do not need to be enormous. Many retirees have a net worth of less than \$1 million, and many people live comfortably on less than \$100,000 annually. When planning for retirement, don't be dissuaded because you won't be buying a vineyard or villa in Europe. Set reasonable goals for your retirement and make sure you meet those goals.

Recognize there is no magic wealth-building plan

Saving comes down to formulating a plan specific to your goals, resources, abilities, and skills. Make saving a prior-

ity and take advantage of employer-sponsored retirement programs if they are offered.

Don't underestimate spending

You will need money in retirement, and it's best that you don't underestimate just how much you're going to need. No one wants to be stuck at home during retirement, when people typically want to enjoy themselves and the freedom that comes with retirement. Speak to a financial planner to develop a reasonable estimate of your living expenses when you plan to retire.

Pay down or avoid debt while you can

Try to eliminate all of your debts before you retire and, once you have, focus your energy on growing your investments and/or saving money for retirement.



Many budding retirees have misconceptions about how much money they will need in retirement.

Helping elderly parents or relatives from afar

Today's families are more geographically diverse than ever before.

Whereas it was once common for families to remain in the same city or state for generations, nowadays families routinely spread out across the country, if not the world. Thanks to technological advancements that make it easier than ever before to stay in touch, families today can still thrive and stay close even if they live hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away from one another.

One issue facing many families that have chosen to spread out is how to help Mom and Dad when they reach the age where they need their adult children's help. While this wasn't a problem for the families of yesteryear, it is a genuine concern for adults who live far away from their parents. Fortunately, there are ways to be there for your elderly parents even when you can't physically be there for them.

Speak to your parents about what they need. While some parents might not be able to realistically assess their needs, children should speak to their parents when making decisions about their care. Adults who live far away from their parents might not know ex-

actly what their parents need, so discuss the problems they might be having on a day-to-day basis to determine the level of care or assistance they will need.

Examine finances. Managing money is often difficult for seniors who have had an accident or are dealing with a serious medical condition. Seniors might forget to pay bills or be struggling to manage money with the escalating costs of prescription medications and health care in general.

To help avoid missed bills, adult children can utilize online bill paying offered by many banks, wherein bills are automatically paid each month on their due date by simply being deducted from a given account. Adult children can also consult a financial advisor to develop a plan that allows seniors access to their money while ensuring it will still be there when they need it.

Research community resources. Many communities provide adequate resources for the elderly who might be incapacitated or otherwise need assistance. Programs such as Meals on Wheels can be a great assistance to long-distance caregivers concerned about their elderly parents.



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2005	Chevy TrailBlazer, 81k	J1066	\$5,995	2004	Toyota Highlander, 101k	6771	\$7,995	2007	Toyota 4Runner, 86k	9610	\$12,995
2005	Ford Expedition, 122k	8789	\$5,995	2007	Acura MDX, 104k	10125	\$8,995	2006	Cadillac Escalade, 100k	10464	\$12,995
2006	BMW X3, 128k	11286	\$6,995	2006	Honda Ridgeline, 135k	4629	\$9,995	2007	Toyota FJ Cruiser, 70k	11842	\$16,995
2006	Toyota Rav 4, 114k	2554	\$7,500	2006	BMW X5, 85k	11851	\$9,995	2008	GMC Yukon, 62k	65921	\$17,995



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2003	Honda Accord, 91k	A72885	\$3,995	2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$9,995	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995	2011	Honda CRV, 24k	4923	\$13,995
2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 20k	1226	\$13,995
2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
				2012	Chevy Traverse, 50k	1260	\$12,888	2012	Nissan Murano, 12k	5822	\$16,995

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YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL/MILES	STOCK /VIN	PRICE
2011	Honda Accord, 31k	2651	\$9,995	2013	Chevy Malibu, 3k	1382	\$13,995
2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2011	Honda Odyssey, 35k	4830	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2009	Infiniti G37x, 52k	1255	\$14,888
2012	Honda Accord, 32k	1223	\$10,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 8k	1030	\$15,995
2013	Dodge Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995	2012	Nissan Maxima, 20k	3788	\$16,400
2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995				

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REMEMBERING OUR HEROES



Councilman Eric Ulrich (third from l.) is joined by Councilman Philip Goldfeder, state Sen. Joseph Addabbo and members from the Rotary Club of Southwest Queens at Cozy Bowl in Ozone Park to raise funds benefiting various veteran charities.

Photo courtesy Councilman Eric Ulrich's office



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz (r.) honors fallen officers at a vigil organized by the precinct councils in Patrol Borough Queens South. Katz addressed a crowd of more than 200 at the vigil outside of the 107th Precinct stationhouse to honor fallen NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu.

Photo courtesy Borough President Melina Katz's office



Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer joined Mayor Bill de Blasio in honoring Officers Corey Sarro and William Caldarera of the 108th Precinct with a proclamation on behalf of the New York City Council for saving a senior's life in Long Island City in December.

Photo courtesy Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer's office

QUEENS OFFICIALS MEETING AND GREETING



Queens legislators attended the Legislative Breakfast at the Queens Jewish Community Council. The QJCC is an umbrella, non-political and non-partisan organization for about 100 Queens organizations.

Photo by Bob Harris



Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (r.) with former Congressman Bob Turner (l.) and Steve Greenberg (middle), chairman of the Breeze Point Disaster Relief Fund, at the 14th annual Dinner Dance and Fundraiser at El Caribe Country Club Caterers in Brooklyn.

Photo courtesy Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder's office



Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (second from r.) attended the Astoria/Long Island City Chapter of the NAACP's annual gala at Riccardo's By the Bridge in Astoria. At the annual event, in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., attendees paid tribute to the life and legacy of the late civil rights leader.

Photo courtesy Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer's office

SUPPORTING IMPORTANT CAUSES



Councilman Paul Vallone hosted a breast cancer mobile care clinic outside his district office. In partnership with the American-Italian Cancer Foundation, clinical breast exams and digital mammograms were provided to women at no cost.

Photo courtesy Councilman Paul Vallone's office



Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (c.) joined fellow council members and affordable housing advocates on the steps of City Hall to stand against illegal hotels in New York City multiple-dwelling buildings.

Photo courtesy Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley's office



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (r.) presented a check for \$327,098 to The Floating Hospital in Long Island City to bring the total federal dollars to \$18 million for the facility. Maloney is pictured with Cynthia Davis of Community Outreach.

Photo courtesy Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's office



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Punish sex traffickers with tax laws: Maloney

BY JUAN SOTO

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) warned pimps and sex traffickers that the Internal Revenue Service is watching over their businesses.

The congresswoman is pushing a bill that would give the IRS funding and resources to go after “johns” and traffickers for violating tax laws. Maloney said the new law would focus on the “willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay tax where the taxpayer is an aggravated non-filer.”

Congress passed the bill last week, and is now waiting for Senate approval.

“Trafficking is an industry that rakes in hundreds of millions of dollars every year,” Maloney said. “But the pimps and traffickers rarely pay taxes.”

The legislation would fund the IRS with about \$4 million to prosecute sex traffickers for tax law violations.

Maloney made the announcement next to a sex trafficking survivor.

“The bill... is very important because it offers the promise to support survivors of human trafficking,” said Shandra Woworuntu, who came to the United States for a job in Chicago, but instead was kidnapped at JFK, had her passport stolen and was forced into sex slavery in New York for about one year.

She escaped from her trafficker in Brooklyn.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act will also provide protection for whistleblowers and financial assistance for the victims.

The new law “allows survivors to receive benefits to empower them to be able to reintegrate into the community to fulfill their dream,” said Woworuntu, an East Elmhurst resident.

The U.S. representative also said she will reintroduce the Human Trafficking Fraud Enforcement Act, also known as the “Pimp Tax,” legislation that would provide protection for whistle-blowers.

Maloney pointed out that Al Capone, an American gang-



U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (L-R), Shandra Woworuntu, Dorchen Leidholdt and Carol Smolenski are promoting a new bill to curb sex traffickers.

Courtesy of Rep. Maloney's Office

ster, was busted, thanks to tax laws.

“Similarly we should be using tax laws to trap the monsters that earn millions off the misery of victims of this modern day form of slavery,” Maloney said.

She noted the bill gives prosecutors “another tool to crack down on traffickers.” Maloney said Congress also passed the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act she introduced with U.S. Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.).

Melina Lito, trafficking program officer for Equality Now, an international organization that advocated for the human rights of women and girls, welcomed the bill.

“We strongly believe that combating commercial sexual exploitation must be grounded in targeting the demand which fuels sex trafficking,” Lito said. “We are encouraged by the act’s emphasis on criminalizing traffickers and pimps, as well as those who pay for sex with victims of trafficking.”

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"The George Polk Awards recognize outstanding contributions from the most respected communicators of our time," said Dr. Kimberly R. Cline, president of LIU. "Their standards are re-

flected in LIU's journalism teaching and training that emphasize ethics, journalistic inquiry, entrepreneurial skills, and professional practice in a fast-changing news media."

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- Julia Talanova, associate producer at CNN. As journalism major, Julia received a scholarship to intern at the Moscow bureau of The New York Times.

- Justin Grant, digital content editor at Fidelity Investments. Grant has reported for ABC News' investigative unit, Good Morning America, National Public Radio, and Reuters as well as The New York Times and Washington Post. He was editor of the campus newspaper Seawanhaka.

- Debra Lewis-Boothman reported and wrote for People magazine where she interviewed celebrities and politicians and covered the music beat. She now teaches a course in entertainment journalism at LIU Brooklyn.

- Curtis Stephen, adjunct pro-

fessor for news reporting and advisor to the campus newspaper Seawanhaka, is a regular contributor to the urban affairs magazine, City Limits, and has worked for Newsday, Newsweek, CNN in Atlanta, and WNBC-TV in New York.

- Rocco Parascondola, police bureau chief at the New York Daily News, is one of New York City's top crime reporters.

Educators and communications professionals who are members of LIU's faculty and alumni comprise the Polk Awards Advisory Committee. Winners are named each year from among hundreds of entries.

The 2014 awards will be conferred at a luncheon held in spring 2015. For more information visit polk.liu.edu



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polkawards.org

Nolan

serve.”

Heastie promised to create a new office of ethics compliance and restore the chamber's reputation.

“We will change the cynicism into trust,” Heastie said. “Our state deserves a government as good as its people.”

While Heastie has not been accused of wrongdoing, his spending was examined by the Moreland Commission, the anticorruption panel that was disbanded by Gov. Andrew Cuomo in March 2014.

On Monday, Cuomo outlined his own ethics reform agenda during a speech at NYU's School of Law.

“This has been a difficult month for the state of New York, the reputation of the state of New York,” Cuomo said. “The headlines have been ugly.”

Cuomo went on to present a plan to “clean up Albany and restore trust” that would ban outside income for lawmakers and force the Legislature to work full-time, or enact new rules for outside pay. He also called stricter limits on lawmakers' use of expense allowances and campaign funds.

“The bottom line is that New Yorkers will never trust the government's authenticity until they know the who, what and where of outside employment,” Cuomo said. “Either end it entirely or thoroughly disclose it. There is no middle ground.”

He vowed not to sign the budget this year unless ethics reforms are instituted.

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

Ferry

Continued from Page 5

and now the College Point Corporate Park is going to have control over its own money for the first time,” he said. “And the city's actually going to hand it over to them.”

The College Point Corporate Park is a 550-acre office park with more than 200 companies and 6,000 employees. Of the 200 companies, 57 are required to pay into the park's improvement fund.

The fund supports the park's management and maintenance program, along with business assistance training, beautification projects and capital improvements. But over the last 20 years, the fund has accumulated about \$5 million.

The city Economic Development Corporation is in the process of establishing a new steering committee that will help determine the future of the investment funds, an EDC spokesman said.

Options that were being considered included the creation of a business improvement district, a board of directors, an advisory board or a nonprofit composed of the businesses, the city Economic Development Corporation and members of Community Board 7, Chuck Apelian, co-chairman of the College Point Corporate Park Taskforce and first vice chairman of Community Board 7, previously told TimesLedger.

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

Baldeo

Continued from Page 18

FBI agents who were looking at contributions to his campaign.

“The jury dismissed the foundational basis of my charge and I will be appealing

this case,” Baldeo, who is out on bail, said in a phone interview. “We believe there is a good chance to succeed with the appeal.”

He added, “Unfortunately the establishment is going after me. There are many more who have done much worse and never been prosecuted.”

Baldeo also ran for the state Senate in 2006 and lost the election by a small margin to former Republican Sen. Serphin Maltese. His Richmond Hill law practice has served small businesses in housing, real estate, public benefits, and corporate immigration law for the last 25 years.

De Blasio

Continued from Page 9

Soundview and the Lower East Side.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz praised de Blasio's selection of emerging neighborhoods like Long Island City and Flushing West in his mandatory inclusionary housing policy and his commitment to create 10,000 units of senior affordable housing.

She said Queens is “elated” over the city's plans for a five-borough ferry service.

“Mayor de Blasio has laid forth a real capital commitment and a 2017 launch, while the restored Rockaway Ferry will be a boon for residents as an economic generator and an affordable transit option,” Katz said.

State Assemblyman Philip Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Beach) said he is optimistic about the proposal but that families and small businesses need service implemented immediately.

“Our ferry dock at Beach 108th was disassembled and shipped away overnight,” Goldfeder said. “It should

not take two years to bring it back. Our struggling families deserve equal access to transit just like every other resident in the city and I will not stop fighting until this is a reality.”

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) agreed.

“While I warmly welcome the announcement of this new system, my Rockaway constituents still need immediate help regarding transportation, perhaps by temporarily reinstating the former Rockaway Ferry service or improved bus service,” Addabbo said.

City Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria) commended de Blasio's affordable housing plans as well as the plans for citywide ferry service.

“We are a city surrounded by water and we need to take advantage of the water's resources, especially as we work to reach our commitment to reduce our carbon emissions by 80% by 2050,” Constantinides said.

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

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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

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QUEENS THEATRICALS EARN OUR KUDOS

TimesLedger honors the best of borough's performances in 2014

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

When people think of New York theater, it often takes a lot to convince them the best of the city's performing arts doesn't only happen in a roughly 50-square-block area of Manhattan.

Queens is lucky to have more than a dozen community theater groups and about a half-dozen professional level troupes, which consistently entertain and enlighten audiences with everything from Neil Simon to William Shakespeare.

Once again, TimesLedger Newspapers looks back at the past year to single out those individuals who delivered the most memorable, thought-provoking performances and productions to play the borough.

Five nominees were selected for each category: lead actor, lead actress, supporting actor, supporting actress, director and best production. Any show that opened between Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 and was approved as an Actors Equity Showcase was eligible.

In Queens, those performances take place at The Chain Theatre, The Secret Theatre, The Chocolate Factory Theatre, the Queens Theatre and the Astoria Performing Arts Center.

Here are the winners for the 2015 Queens Kudos Awards:

• **Outstanding actress in a lead**



Michael Selkirk, dressed as the Ghost of Christmas Present, also played Mr. Fezzwig in the Titan Theatre Co. and Queens Theatre production of "A Christmas Carol." The show was named the best production in the borough last year. Photo courtesy Titan Theatre Co.

role — When it comes to performing both comedic and dramatic roles, few people can pull both off at the same level. This year's choice for lead actress is one of those extremely talented few. **Laura Frye** delivers not one but three memorable performances in "A Christmas Carol" at the Queens Theatre.



As Mrs. Cratchit, Frye beautifully shows the anger she feels toward Scrooge, who she believes is the cause of her family's misery, without letting the bile dictate her interactions with others. Earlier in the show as the Ghost of Christmas Past, Frye portrays the spirit without pity or judgment toward Scrooge and

his probable fate. With sort of a Jack Webb, just the facts ma'am approach, Frye merely shows the miser why he is the way he is. But it may have been the slip of a bit as Sally, a partygoer at Scrooge's nephew's home, that clinched this award. In a handful of lines, delivered with a lusty and drunken furor, Frye walks away with the show.

• **Outstanding actor in a lead role** — The five men nominated as outstanding lead actor this year presented radically different yet nuanced performances in both comedies and dramas. But **Terry Layman**, in the title role of Titan Theatre Co.'s "King Lear," managed to set himself apart from the tough competition with a brilliant turn as the doomed monarch. Layman's magnificent performance expresses the king's wide range of emotions, which run from anger and vitriol to light-heartedness and joy. Lear is an old man, made more feeble in the body and brain as the realization of what he has done — rewarded the two evil daughters and punished the only one who really loved him — becomes clear. Layman is able to convey regalness at the onset as equally as he expresses insanity toward the end and nowhere does he make a false step or hit an unrealistic note in his thrilling performance.

• **Outstanding actress in a supporting role** — As the clichéd saying goes, there are no small roles, only small actors. Being able to leave a lasting impression in just one or two scenes is a hard trick to pull off. But **Jacklyn Collier** in Variations Theatre Group's "Hurlyburly" manages to do just that.

Continued on Page 38



Queens Future of Energy Business Summit

Thursday, February 12, 2015 | 8:00AM-2:00PM

Queens College Science Building / Rosenthal Library

Register at www.queenschamber.org/events
Attendance is free

PRODUCTIONS

"Seussical Jr." – The world of Dr. Seuss set to music by Lynn Aherns and Stephen Flaherty comes to life with a group of young actors.

When: Through Feb. 8, Friday at 7 pm, Saturday at 2 pm and 7 pm, Sunday at 2 pm

Where: Rockaway Theatre Co., The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway

Cost: \$10

Contact: (718) 374-6400

Website: www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org

"Lend Me a Tenor" – First String Players stage Ken Ludwig's comedy, set at the Cleveland Grand Opera Co. in 1934 when world famous tenor Tito Merelli II is set to perform "Otello," but through a series of mix-ups, including a double dose of tranquilizers, the star passes out just before the curtain is set to rise.

When: Through Feb. 8, Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm

Where: Our Lady of Mercy, 70-01 Kessel St., Forest Hills

Cost: \$10

Contact: firststringplayers@gmail.com

"Charlotte's Web" – As part of Queens Theatre's Family Series, Theatreworks' presents its version of the beloved children's book about a pig named Wilbur and a spider named Charlotte.

When: Sunday, Feb. 8, at 1 pm and 3 pm

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

Cost: \$14

Contact: (718) 760-0064

Website: www.queentheatre.org

"Vanities" – Parkside Players presents this comedy-drama follows three Texas cheerleaders from high school through college up to a bittersweet reunion as they face turning 30.

When: Feb. 21 - March 1, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm

Where: Grace Lutheran Church, Union Turnpike and 71st Road, Forest Hills

Cost: \$17, \$15/seniors

Contact: (718) 353-7388

Website: www.parksideplayers.com

"Spank! The Fifty Shades Parody" – You've read the book and the movie is on its way, so in the meantime check out this adult comedy with musical numbers skewering the best-selling novel.

When: Thursday, March 5, at 8 pm

Where: Colden Auditorium, Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Cost: \$25 - \$45

Contact: (718) 793-8080

Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

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sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #28

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

Hard #28

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

Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There should be no repeats; which means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

Tips at www.sudoku.com
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Week 36

LaGuardia students develop exhibit about Muslims

'Faces of Islam' photo display at Queens Museum shows religion's diversity in borough

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Last fall LaGuardia Community College photography students and faculty devoted two semesters to a project they fervently embraced.

They wanted to illuminate the various life experiences of the American Muslim community, so they captured the "Faces of Islam," through thought-provoking portraits. While several images were shot by students as individual projects, other works were the result of photos that were taken of subjects who modeled in the classroom.

The unique exhibit, which opens Saturday, can be viewed at the Queens Museum through March 1.

"The premise of this photo project is to document the diversity within the Muslim community and show that they are not a monolith," LaGuardia's Alexandra Ben Othman said. "My role was to bring in the subjects, many of whom I've known for several years; others, I was introduced to through people who were photographed."

Folks included in the "Face of Islam" project range from politicians to students, activists and even a princess.

"When selecting my subjects, my first instinct was to reach out to those groups who one wouldn't necessar-

IF YOU GO

"Faces of Islam"

When: Feb. 7 - March 1

Where: Queens Museum, New York Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

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

Contact: (718) 592-9700

Website: www.queensmuseum.org

ily think of as Muslim," said Othman. "Many of my earlier subjects were from Central and South America, since Latinos are the fastest-growing convert group in America."

Because African Americans are the oldest and one of the largest Muslim groups in America, she said it was important to represent them as well.

"And then of course, we have people from India, Pakistan, Egypt, Morocco and Palestine," she said. "Some other groups include a woman from Kazakhstan, a Tanzanian of Indian descent, a white convert and a Filipino from the island of Mindanao, who is the daughter of a sultan."

Two LaGuardia students, who captured images that are on display in the



When she was in high school Aliya Latif played basketball while wearing the Hijab. This recent photo is part of the Queens Museum-LaGuardia Community College exhibit "Faces of Islam."

Photo courtesy LaGuardia Community College

"Faces of Islam" exhibit, share their unique experiences.

Gianni Sanchez Cruz, 27, was born in Ecuador and lives in the Bronx.

"As a newcomer in this country, working on this project was an exciting experience and helped me grow as a photographer. Before taking these pictures I didn't have a clear idea about the Islamic religion or its followers," he said. "Where I come from we don't have enough information about Islam. I grew up watching stereotypes of Muslims and those images do not give the correct concept about it."

Cruz recalled that he was very nervous when he first started the project because he didn't know what to expect or how to talk to his subjects. Since his subjects were politicians and writers, Cruz's idea was to photograph them in a corporate way, to give them a professional, but also natural look. He said the experience gave him an opportunity to expand his understanding of Islam and its followers and was a great way for him to learn about different cultures, languages, values, and beliefs.

"Now I can come to my own opinion about Islam. I can erase all the Muslim stereotypes that the media built in my mind," he said.

Continued on Page 43

Making a triumphant return to Queens Theatre, BALLET HISPANICO is a world-wide phenomenon, having offered over 3,000 performances to audiences of over 2 million throughout 11 countries. Their flamboyant work fuses Latin dance with classical and contemporary techniques to create a new style in which theatricality and passion propel every move. "This company can wake up the neighborhood with a brassy shout or croon softly in your ear, whispering words of love."
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Queens Theatre

Ballet
Hispanico

KUDOS

Continued from Page 35

As Bonnie, a stripper and part-time prostitute, Collier provides a slap of reality to the motley crew of Hollywood sad-sacks and sociopaths in this wickedly funny version of David Rabe's dark comedy. As Bonnie stumbles in with torn stockings, bloody knees and missing one shoe, after being tossed out of a moving car by another character, Collier's deadpanned response to the question of what did she do to prompt this, speaks louder and longer than any five-minute monologue could. "I smiled," she said. Bonnie sees the absurdity of the situation and the self-delusional lifestyles the others promote and calls it out for what it is. In those two words, Collier anchors the entire play in reality and encourages the others to join her there.

• Outstanding actor in a supporting role — Picking one or two actors who present a complete performance worthy of praise is often pretty easy. That is not the case this year in this category, where we easily could have selected 10 nominees. But in a season



Jacklyn Collier (front row, far r.), shown surrounded by the rest of the "Hurlyburly" cast, earned a Kudos Award for Outstanding Actress in a Supporting Role. Photo courtesy Variations Theatre Group

thick with complex, funny and even disturbing turns, **Tristan Colton** in "The Prison Where I Live," was, in a word, phenomenal. As John Wilkes Booth, Colton is funny, foul-mouthed and smart. Forced into the family business — which just happened to be acting — Booth was less interested in craft and more geared toward meeting and bedding women. The historic Booth was not a nice guy. But Colton actually turns his nasty

man, who nearly destroyed the nation after killing Abraham Lincoln, into a charming and likeable character. That says a lot. He is able to take one of the world's greatest villains and make him into somebody you would want to hang out with. And in the end, Colton does this in a believable way that makes the audience rethink what they thought they knew.

• Outstanding director — The man — and in Queens this year they were all men — who

starts with a vision of what a show should be and works to ensure that happens is often left out of the praise. Clearly, when a play fails, everyone points to the director, but when a production shines, the audience may think about the actors, the playwright or even the costumer. A great director should work with a light touch and create something that seems to have sprung to life organically. In another tough category, the 2015 Queens Kudos for directing goes to **Alberto Bonilla** for the Queens Players' "Richard III." Bonilla took Shakespeare's tragedy and transported it to Margaret Thatcher's England of the 1980s. The show was loud and in your face, which

makes perfect sense for this story of a borderline psychopath, who murdered his way to the throne. Including a band on a stage within the stage helps add another level of complexity to this bloody tale. Punk anthems from The Clash, Billy Idol and The Sweet move the plot along in a fresh and exciting way. Some of the actors even turn parts of their monologues into songs. Bonilla also elicits incredible performances from the entire cast. When they handed earplugs out to the audience at the start of the show, we actually thought about leaving. Luckily we stayed and were rewarded with a brilliant production.



The 2015 Queens Kudos for Outstanding Lead Actor goes to Terry Layman, who starred in "King Lear" last spring. Photo courtesy Titan Theatre Co.

Continued on Page 42



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with Madeira Mushroom Demi-Glace

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with Mint Sauce

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with Seafood in Scampi sauce

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with Port Wine sauce



Dessert



Chocolate Hazelnut Turnover | 6.95

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EVENTS

Nature Exploration Hike – The Urban Rangers lead a moderate hike – longer, faster paced and on rugged terrain – through Forest Park.
When: Saturday, Feb. 7, at 11 am
Where: Forest Park Visitor Center, Woodhaven Boulevard and Forest Park Drive, Woodhaven
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 352-1769
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

Winter Birds of Prey – Join the Urban Rangers as they lead a group through Flushing Meadows to look for wild raptors like hawks, eagles and owls.
When: Sunday, Feb. 8, at 11 am
Where: The Unisphere, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 352-1769
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

Winter Birds – Rangers head to Ridgewood to check for winter birds near the reservoir.

When: Saturday, Feb. 14, at 11 am
Where: Ridgewood Reservoir, Highland Park
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 352-1769
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

MUSIC

Hugh Masekela and Vusi Mahlasela – The South African music icons come together to mark 20 years since the end of Apartheid with a concert of Freedom Songs.
When: Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 pm
Where: LeFrak Hall, Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: \$35 - \$55, \$20/Queens College students with ID at box office only
Contact: (718) 793-8080
Website: kupferbergcenter.org

KIDS & FAMILY

Hands on History: 19th Century

Valentines – Decorate a picture frame and create 19th-century inspired Valentines. Families and children of all ages are welcome.
When: Saturday, Feb. 14, from noon - 3 pm
Where: King Manor Museum in Rufus King Park, 150-03 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 206-0545, ext. 13
Website: www.kingmanor.org

Community Conversations for Kids: Democracy – Part of the New York Council for the Humanities' Conversations with Kids program, this event focuses on democracy and will include reading Arthur Levine's book "Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand" along with a discussion.
When: Saturday, Feb. 14, from 1 pm - 2 pm
Where: Kingsland Homestead, 143-35 37th Ave., Flushing
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 939-0647
Website: www.queenshistoricalsociety.org

Family Badminton – Grab a racket and birdie and head out for an afternoon of badminton fun. Center membership is required for children.
When: Saturday, Feb. 14, from 2:30 pm - 4:45 pm
Where: Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center, 93-29 Queens Blvd., Rego Park
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 263-1163

Website: www.nycgovparks.org
Noguchi Open Studio: Drop-In Program for Families – On the first Sunday of every month, families can explore the galleries and then spend time in the education room making art. Educators will be on hand to discuss gallery connections, introduce materials and assist in art making. No registration is required.
When: First Sunday of each month, 11 am to 1 pm
Where: Noguchi Museum, 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City
Cost: \$10 per family/includes museum admission and materials
Contact: (718) 204-7088
Website: www.noguchi.org

DANCE

Emerging Choreographer Series No. 2 – Works by nine up-and-coming choreographers and performances by Graham 2 and Valerie Green/Dance Entropy will be presented.
When: Monday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 pm
Where: Little Theatre at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, 31-10 Thompson Ave., Long Island City
Cost: \$5
Contact: (718) 482-5151
Website: laguardiapperformingarts.org

Tango Buenos Aires – Direct from

Argentina, this company presents its latest program, "Song for Eva Perón," which traces the life of the country's former first lady through the national dance.
When: Thursday, Feb. 12, at 8 pm
Where: Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside
Cost: \$35 - \$42
Contact: (718) 631-6311
Website: www.qcc.cuny.edu/qpac

Ballet Hispanico – This company combines Latin dance with classical and contemporary techniques to create its own style.
When: Saturday, Feb. 14, at 2 pm and 8 pm, and Sunday, Feb. 15 at 3 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Cost: \$25 - \$42
Contact: (718) 760-0064
Website: www.queenstheatre.org

"Beauty of Ballet" – The School of American Ballet presents an introduction to the world of ballet with excerpts from classical pieces and demonstrations.
When: Sunday, Feb. 22, at 1 pm and 3 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Cost: Free, no reservations first come, first served
Contact: (718) 760-0064
Website: www.queenstheatre.org

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DOZEN BAKED CLAMS - \$12.50	COMBO: BAKED ZITI, RAVIOLI, LASAGNA, AND CHICKEN PARMIGIANA - \$17.95
MUSSELS, WHITE OR RED - \$11.95	
STUFFED PORTOBELLA MUSHROOM - \$8.95	
ASSORTED ANTIPASTO - \$9.95	
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CHICKEN MELISSA: SAUTEED CHICKEN BREAST, SPINACH, ROASTED PEPPER, AND FRESH MOZZARELLA IN A SHERRY SAUCE - \$16.95	SHRIMP ELEGANTE: SHRIMP AND SPINACH IN A LEMON, BUTTER, AND WHITE WINE SAUCE SERVED OVER LINGUINI - \$18.95
VEAL: PARMIGIANA, MARSALA, OR PICATTA - \$16.95	SHRIMP DE NIRO: SHRIMP SAUTEED W/ MUSHROOMS AND FRESH MOZZARELLA IN MARSALA SAUCE OVER LINGUINI - \$18.95
VEAL ANTHONY: BREADED VEAL CUTLET TOPPED WITH RICOTTA AND EGGPLANT, SERVED PARMIGIANA STYLE - \$16.95	SEA BASS DI MARE: CHILEAN SEA BASS, SHRIMP, CLAMS, CALAMARI, & MUSSELS MARECHIARA - \$21.95
EGGPLANT: PARMIGIANA OR ROLLATINI - \$13.95	
Dessert	
CHEESE CAKE - \$6.25 TARTUFO - \$6.25 TRUFFLES - \$6.25 OR BICOTTI (2) - \$5.50	

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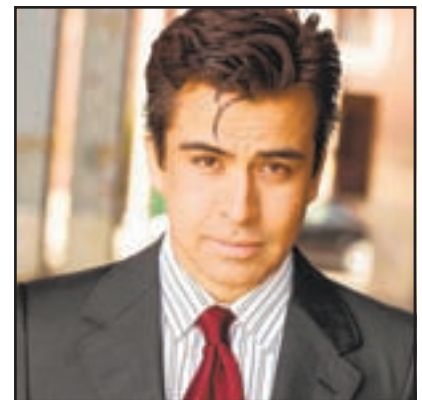


Laura Frye (r.), in a scene from "A Christmas Carol" with Kevin Loomis, earned a Queens Kudos as best actress. Photo courtesy Titan Theatre Co.

KUDOS

Continued from Page 38

• **Outstanding production** — When it comes to tripe and treacle in the theater, you probably don't have to look further than a Christmas-themed show aimed at the heart and your wallet. But when Titan Theatre Co. announced it would present "A Christmas Carol" at Queens Theatre, we knew things would be different. Titan and director Lenny Banovez have never failed to amaze and entertain at the highest level found in the borough. Banovez and co-adaptor Emily Trask manage to clean up a lot of the show's clutter without losing any of the powerful emotions that arise from Sroogee's redemption at the final curtain. Once again Banovez has assembled an eclectic group of actors — this time from elementary schoolchildren to Broadway veterans — who gloriously bring to life this story. From the spot-on period costumes to the inclusion of some lesser-known Christmas carols, this show was near perfection. And the best part? As Titan settles into its role as the resident troupe at Queens Theatre, Banovez and company will deliver this yuletide present to audiences annually for years to come.



Tristan Colton (top) earned the nod as Outstanding Actor in a Supporting Role for his performance as John Wilkes Booth in Titan Theatre Co.'s "This Prison Where I Live." Alberto Bonilla was named Outstanding Director for his production of "Richard III" at The Secret Theatre. Photos courtesy Queens Players and Lloyd Mulvey

Reach News Editor Kevin Zimmerman by e-mail at kzimmerman@cnglobal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4541.

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Theater

Continued from Page 36

"The Sound of Music" – The hills are alive with arguably the world's favorite musical as Theatre by the Bay presents the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic.

When: March 7 - March 22, Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm

Where: Bay Terrace Garden Jewish Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside

Cost: \$22/adults, \$20/seniors and children under 12

Contact: (718) 428-6363

Website: www.theatrebythebayny.com

"The Threepenny Opera" – Oh, the shark dear, has such teeth dear. Queens College's Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance present Bertolt Brecht's ground-breaking musical – a socialist critique of capitalism.

When: March 19 - March 29, Thursday -

Friday at 7 pm, Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm

Where: Goldstein Theatre, Kupferberg Center for the Performing Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Cost: \$16, \$10/ QC students with ID and seniors at box office only

Contact: (718) 793-8080

Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

AUDITIONS

"The Dining Room" – Douglaston Community Theatre is holding auditions for its spring production of A. R. Gurney Jr.'s comedy.

When: Monday, Feb. 9 and Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 pm

Where: Zion Episcopal Church Hall, Church Street, Douglaston

Contact: Linda Hanson at (516) 374-7921 or linbhan36@yahoo.com

Islam

Continued from Page 37

Student Jorge Luis Rodriguez, 21, lives in Washington Heights and came to the city from the Dominican Republic.

He and classmate Cruz had the opportunity to photograph many people on their own.

"This past (fall) semester, as part of my Studio Lighting 1 class, I had the good fortune to work on the 'Faces of Islam' project. My classmates and I were really excited about the project. Most of us didn't know what to expect," he said.

So, when the subjects arrived at their classroom for the first day of shooting, the students were surprised to see such a diverse group.

"We had Muslims from around the world: Iranian, Pakistani, African Americans, whites, Salvadorian, and Mexican," he said. "I was really not expecting a Dominican Muslim lady, but there she was; that was just amazing."



LaGuardia Community College photography students Gianni Sanchez and Jorge Rodriguez took this photo of Councilman Daneek Miller in his office for the "Faces of Islam" exhibit.

Photo by Gianni Sanchez and Jonge Rodriguez

He said seeing so many people from so many parts of the world that follow the same religion was a beautiful experience.

"Together, we photographed a lot of important people, which was a bit nerve-racking at first, but after that first session, we had it locked

down." Rodriguez recalled that every location photo shoot from then on went smoothly.

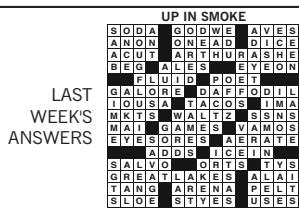
He said the project taught them a lot: "From coming up with creative ideas on the spot to understanding and appreciating the Islamic religion more and more."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Feb. 6-12, 2015

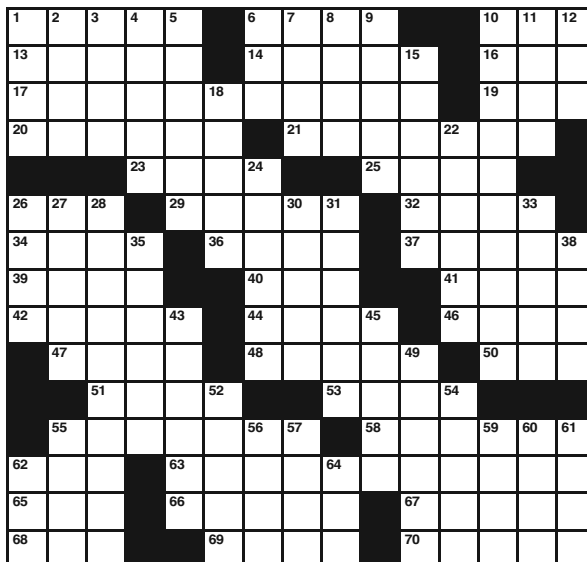
By Bill Deasy

Play on Words



Across

1. Cobra kin
6. Lap of luxury
10. FX's The Americans topic
13. Cousin of aloha
14. Reads quickly
16. That Geller feller
17. Hate + a Jet Blue employee
19. Outlaw
20. Main course
21. With distinction
23. Be in a huff
25. Cork locale
26. 19th hole
29. Got off the bottom?
32. Mil. org. on campus
34. Like good cheese
36. Refine, as a skill
37. Marble-cake pattern
39. Weapon for Colonel Mustard
40. Capital of Syria
41. Portico for Plato
42. Mustang not yet broken
44. Key feature?
46. Poetically black
47. Nutmeg coat
48. Remove, as paint
50. Word with tail or back
51. Links hazard
53. Barbershop offering
55. Couple
58. Pants



62. ___ Lanka
63. Before + an NBC show
65. Teflon item
66. "Gedoudahere!"
67. Unadulterated
68. "OK," to Popeye
69. Rope-fiber source
70. One with a check

Down

1. Like a neat bed
2. City of Yemen
3. Diamond accessory?
4. One side of a turn-of-the-century war
5. Stocks and bonds
6. Clairvoyant claim
7. Related (to)

8. ICBM's place
9. Act the drama queen
10. Renting option + a Beatles song
11. Implore
12. ___ and yang
15. Domestic flights?
18. Saw things?
22. Look without buying
24. They come to court
26. Pointed remark
27. Ancient Greek market
28. Essay + a glass of merlot
30. Starting point
31. Leave in the lurch

33. Emulate Crosby
35. Awakenings Oscar nominee
38. About 30% of the Earth
43. Holds tight
45. Low grade?
49. Traffic snarler
52. Veranda
54. Mediterranean island nation
55. Built-in airplane server
56. Hardly more than
57. Big cheese in Holland
59. Mayor's domain
60. "Trick" joint
61. Really dry
62. Baden-Baden is one
64. Arena blaster

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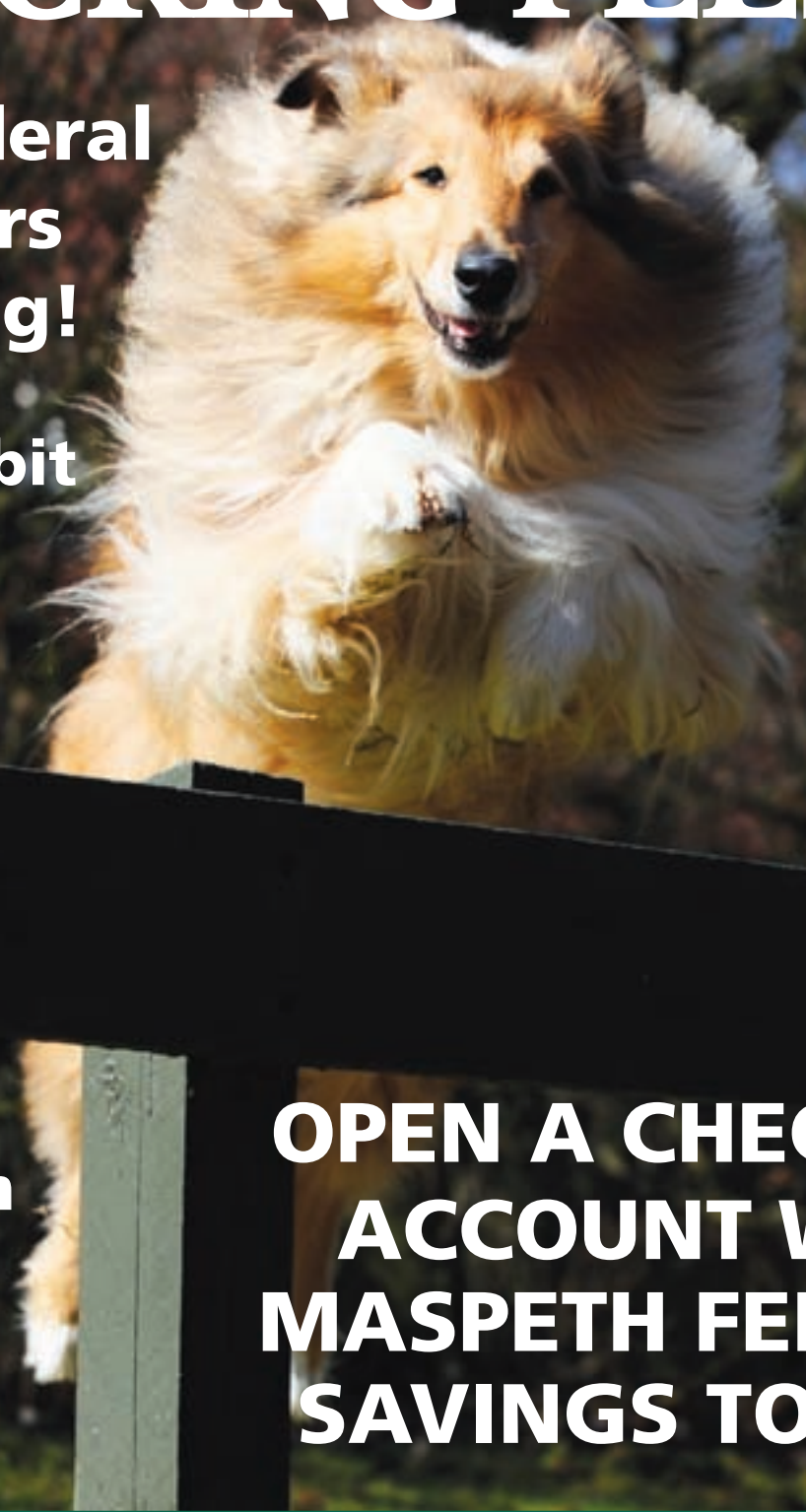
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Snow

Continued from Page 1

It took more than one hour to pull back the trains struck between stops into stations in order for straphangers to leave the subway cars and try to commute to work using alternative routes.

“Because of the precipitations and the cold weather we had a flash freeze,” the MTA said. “This was a very unusual thing.”

Limited service was restored late afternoon Monday between the Main Street and 74th Street stations. The full route was operating by Tuesday at 1:59 a.m. Express service was suspended all day

Tuesday.

The spokeswoman for the MTA pointed out that express service on the 7 line was back on track Wednesday at 4:30 a.m. right in time for the morning rush hour.

Last week, when storm Juno was supposed to drop between two to three feet of snow, Gov. Andrew Cuomo shut down subway and bus service for about 10 hours. After Juno hit the city and the snowfall was much less than expected, the governor ordered service restored in the subway by about 9 a.m. the following morning.

Riders had to deal with problems on other subway lines this week.

The MTA suspended service Tuesday for several hours

on the N and Q lines between 57th Street in Manhattan and Queensborough Plaza “due to a smoke condition” at the Lexington Avenue station, the spokeswoman said. And the R train, she added, was running on the F line from 57th Street in Manhattan to the 36th Street station in Queens.

Service on the LIRR experienced serious delays all day Monday because of icing on the tracks, with some trains being canceled. The performance improved Tuesday as the day wore on.

Some bus riders also complained about long delays on some lines Monday and Tuesday as they tried to get to work.

Vandals

Continued from Page 5

The proposed legislation “addresses the cowardly and dangerous act of sabotaging police vehicles and the personal automobiles of police officers, which has become

a serious problem given the anti-police climate of late,” said Patrick Lunch, president of the PBA. “These actions can result in serious injury or even the death of a police officer and the penalty should be tough.”

Lynch said the PBA will support the bill throughout

the legislative process until it becomes law.

Avella said that this is only the first of a series of bill he will introduce in the state Senate in this legislative session.

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

Horrors

Continued from Page 1

erty at Vartholomeou’s 41st Avenue residence, which had been the scene of a fire, officers found three younger children living in squalor and hiding in the refuse. The youngsters were identified as Vartholomeou’s two granddaughters, ages 2 and 3, and her 8-year-old son.

Officers described objects piled several feet high and covered in garbage, while extension cords were running to lights dangerously close to

items that could have caught fire, according to court records. Furthermore, the house was missing some exterior walls and part of the roof, had no electrical service other than extension cords running into the house from a neighboring house, and no running water. And to add to the filth, police observed buckets of human waste scattered throughout the house, as well as rodents and insects, the court papers said.

“This conviction underscores this office’s commitment to the prosecution of those who fail to act responsibly in caring for helpless, in-

nocent children,” Brown said.

The three children are presently in the custody of family members.

Dimitrios Vlahakis, 24, pleaded guilty to criminal possession of stolen property in 2014 and was sentenced to 90 days in jail. Katherine Vartholomeou, who faces up to one year in jail, has her sentencing scheduled for March 19th.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at skully@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

Tourism

Continued from Page 6

France, China, Australia and Germany in that order.

“That’s why everyone

wants to put a hotel in Queens, because you have the two airports and the close proximity to Manhattan,” MacKay said. “Plus it’s a wide variety as well from a no-frills places to spend the night to boutique hotels to international chains

to extreme luxury hotels with swimming pools and top-rated restaurants.

MacKay added that there is no end to the hotel boom in sight “unless there’s another terrorist attack or the crime rate goes up.”

Meadows

Continued from Page 2

but it is still a “lovely neighborhood” and a “really good

place to live and bring up children,” Davidson said.

“I occasionally still run into an elderly parent that is the parent of somebody I grew up with, which really fills my

heart,” she said.

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

Vallone

Continued from Page 5

He said the idea was to establish emergency homeless shelters in some of the hotels along Northern Boulevard and the Cross Island Parkway.

“If you call and say use my hotel, they guarantee money for a night. It’s a win-win situation,” the legislator said.

Bayside, he added, has become the top zip code for senior citizens to call home.

As the chairman of the subcommittee on Senior Centers, he said the City Council created a senior task force to recommended changes to the laws and policies in relation with the Adult Protective Services.

He also said Bayside was tapped as an “age friendly district,” which will bring more funding to build more park benches, more speed bumps, more transportation alternatives and more senior services.

He said the voting is coming up to chose the projects to be funded through the Participatory Budget. The lawmaker noted that he is narrowing down the ideas to 10, and people are going to be able to vote from April 11 to April 19. “We are picking spots throughout the district so people can get to and vote,” Vallone said.

“It’s the first time we are

doing it, but we will do it every year form now on,” he said, referring to the \$1 million program in which constituents vote on their own ideas to fund capital projects. “It’s a million less for us to allocate, but it will work out.”

Vallone pointed out the bill he introduced in the city’s legislature aimed at curbing the illegal truck traffic, especially on Bell Boulevard and 32nd Avenue. As part of the legislation, the idea is to install “No thru truck commercial” signs, but the Department of Transportation said, “We don’t want negative signage,” Vallone said.

He noted 32nd Avenue, that stretches Bell Boulevard to College Point Boulevard, ranks in the top 10 “abused spots” in the city in relation to illegal truck traffic.

During his first year in office, he said he visited all schools in the district several times, and funded each academic center with \$50,000.

“This district should be proud of the strength of the schools,” he said. “Kids are amazing.”

He added that the tennis courts at Bayside High School will be renovated, thanks to a program led by the USOpen.

“The tennis courts along 32nd Avenue are completely broken,” he said. “It will be a great resource for the summer.”

Rainbow

Continued from Page 4

est client. Employees use Rainbow Limo for their transportation needs and take no responsibility concerning wage and labor violations, they argued.

In a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court March 2, 2012, against Rainbow Limo and SUK Incorporated, former Flushing resident June-il Kim, 71, who worked for Rainbow Limo from 2000 to 2010, was seeking unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid spread of hours compensation, compensation for all unauthorized deductions and full compensation plus interest for all payments he made for an illegal franchise.

Rainbow Limo could not be reached for comment after several phone calls were placed to the company and its legal counsel. SUK Incorporated would not comment in

time for the story. “It really is about one employee, one worker standing up to this company that’s doing illegal things and getting away with it and finally him saying, ‘I can’t take this,’” said Hyo-Sung Bidol-Lee, Kim’s lawyer. “He’s not just doing this for himself either. He really does believe the way drivers are treated in this industry is wrong.”

Another group of drivers — Kevin Lee, Richard Lim, Clifford Kim, Jong Sun Chung and Hwa Ten Shih — also filed a complaint in Manhattan federal court back on July 1, 2013.

The drivers were seeking compensation for wages they legally earned, including minimum wages and thousands of hours of overtime pay and reimbursements for employment-related expenses.

The two cases were eventually consolidated given that they had similar issues.

Sports

SJU's Smith is back

Women's basketball standout coaches South Shore



Joseph Staszewski
■
Block Shots

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Experiencing basketball from a different perspective has revived Shenneika Smith's passion for the game and possibly given her a different future in it.

The former St. John's University women's basketball standout and Canarsie native saw her professional playing career take her from being drafted by the New York Liberty, to stints playing overseas in Spain and Portugal. She returned home for a tryout with the Connecticut Sun before deciding to give playing a rest outside of competing with the Jamaican national team. Smith was also a bit homesick after leaving the New York area for the first time.

"At first it was rough, but I adjusted," Smith said. "Basketball just wasn't the same for me. I lost a little bit of my love for it. It wasn't my joy anymore."

She had wanted to try coaching at some point and was offered the chance when she ran into South Shore head coach Anwar Gladden at the St. John's tip-off event in October. He jokingly told her to come down and help. Once she did, it quickly became serious.

"When I got here and it worked out, I was like this is something I can do," Smith said.

The job of assistant coach has fit her well and she has meshed well with the team. Smith has known Gladden since her high school days at the now closed St. Michael Academy and the Exodus trav-



New Role: Former St. John's University star and Canarsie native Shenneika Smith has brought a fresh perspective South Shore as an assistant coach.
Photo by Joseph Staszewski

el program. Smith's time on the bench has made her think of the lessons she learned from coaches Apache Paschall to Kim Barnes Arico and Joe Tartamella.

"I now understand why Apache use to yell at me in high school," she said "You see things differently."

Smith is just the second female coach Gladden has had in his 13th season at the helm. She made just too much sense.

Smith was one of the best players ever at St. John's. She averaged 13.5 points per game in her career. She helped lead St. John's to four straight NCAA tournaments and its first ever Sweet Sixteen. Smith hit the most memorable shot in

program history as a junior, a 3-pointer to end the University of Connecticut's 99-game home winning streak.

"There is not a young lady on the team that can't say they don't want to do what she has accomplished with her career," Gladden said. "The young ladies are getting advice from someone who has been where they want to be."

Smith has brought plenty to the table. She has rolled out some plays and drills from her St. John's day and provided Gladden with a better perspective of what it's like to be a female basketball player.

"She's brought this team together more," McDonald's
Continued on Page 48



CK coach Joe Arbitello and his team try to figure out Iona opponents.
Photo by Steven Schnibbe

Best league shooters defeat Royals, 64-50

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

A poor shooting night against the league's best shooting team isn't a recipe for success.

That is exactly what happened to Christ the King in a 64-50 home loss to Iona Prep in a battle between arguably the two best teams in CHSAA Class AA boys' basketball Saturday night. The Royals shot just 2 of 26 from behind the 3-point line as the Gaels packed in their zone to keep CK out of the paint. Iona has won 10 straight games and snapped Christ the King's string of four consecutive wins.

"There is this thing. It's round and the object is to put it in the other round thing and we didn't do that tonight," Royals coach Joe Arbitello said.

Iona Prep focused its defensive attention on CK star Rawle Alkins (21 points) and sophomore point guards Jose Alvarado. Virginia-bound guard Ty Jerome and back-court mate Tom Capuano dis-

rupted the Royals' offense.

CK didn't move the ball well enough to beat the traps' Alkins and Alvarado's teammates never got going to ease the pressure. Arbitello, who believes CK and Iona will meet again for the city title, said his team needs to do a better job running its offense moving forward.

"We all played hard, but nobody got into rhythm," said Royals guard Jared Rivers, who had eight points. "Nobody could put the ball in the basket."

CK, which beat Holy Cross 53-48 Friday, only trailed Iona 28-21 at the half despite its struggles. Jerome caught fire after the break and scored 17 of his game-high 24 points. Consecutive threes from Alex Belbusti and Jerome put the Gaels up 37-24 with 4:33 to go in the third quarter. Ryan had 11 of his 12 points in the first half and Capuano added 15 for Iona. Yashawn Bright added eight points for CK.

The Gaels (16-3, 11-2) felt beating the two-time defend-
Continued on Page 48

Hot-shooting Bayside loses game by a point

BY STEPHEN ZITOLON

A close game again got away from Bayside.

For the fifth time this season the Commodores boys' basketball team lost a game by five points or less, this time falling to Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School 73-72 at the Cardozo Classic Saturday.

"I'm always proud of what these guys do," Bayside Coach Steve Scharf said. "They always fight back. We pride ourselves on playing hard."

Bayside had a chance to send the game to overtime when sophomore forward Robert Chiddick was sent to the line for two free throws with three seconds left and his team down two points. Chiddick hit the first, but missed the second free throw and Washington Heights (13-6) secured

the rebound for the win. The Commodores (11-10) were on the cusp of getting an impressive victory over one of the top teams in Manhattan, but felt it needed to be better defensively to do so.

"We had a good offensive game, but they had an even better one," Bayside senior guard Daniel Hernandez said. "Our defense doesn't usually allow 72 points in a game."

Washington Heights senior guard Emile Lewis scored a game-high 31 points, and sophomore forward Jessy Jimenez added 24 points. Bayside was led on the afternoon by a career-high 16 points from Chiddick and 24 from Hernandez.

"I felt like I played well," Chiddick said. "But we can still get better as a team."

Bayside did have opportunities to win the game, but they couldn't follow up their

own scoring runs with continuous stops on the defensive side of things. They went on a 23-12 run over the first and second quarter, but allowed Washington Heights to jump right back into it with a 14-6 run going into halftime and a 39-35 at the half.

Bayside and WHEELS went back and forth for most of the second half, with the Commodores holding a narrow lead for most of the third quarter. But the WHEELS duo of Jimenez and Lewis combined to score 17 fourth quarter points to put the game away.

"I just told them that the two kids on their team were making tremendous shots," Scharf said. "We played really well today and we have to get over the hump. The other team deserves the credit. They made difficult shots."



Ryniek Holloway drives hard into the paint and draws the foul for Bayside. Photo by Gina Palermo

Iona

Continued from Page 47

ing city and state Federation champions further validated them as title contenders.

"We were waiting for this game all season," Jerome said. "We won nine in a row and all we heard was, well, wait until you play Christ the King. We don't fear anyone."

Christ the King (15-4, 10-2) didn't just lie down. The Royals rallied in the fourth quarter. As Iona's shooting cooled off and they were able to put the pace in transition to get back in the game, CK got within six twice, the sec-

ond coming on Tracy Clekley's layup with 3:23 to play in the game,

It appeared Christ the King would have a chance to inch closer, but it failed to get a long defensive rebound on the next possession. Belbusti, who had nine points, made them pay by banking in the three-pointer from the right side to put Iona up 52-43 with 3:00 to go.

"He banked a three — lucky shot," Alkins said. "He didn't even all bank."

The Christ the King star did, however, call for a Royal response from this loss. He expected his team right back in the gym hoisting up shots.

"It's a night to forget," Alkins said. "That comeback. Wait for that comeback."

Basketball

Continued from Page 47

All-American forward Brianna Fraser said. "She's taught us how to communicate with one another, how to trust one another."

Her affable and confident personality has brought a new calm to the usually flamboyant Gladden. It has translated to the players as well. The Vikings are 16-4 and in the running for the top seed in the upcoming Public School Athletic League playoffs.

"She's calmed Anwar down a lot," senior guard Amanda Cruz said. "If we make a mistake, we are not

nervous anymore. We have it under control now."

Smith hasn't completely given up on her professional playing career, saying she is open to giving going oversea another try after a year off. For now she is enjoying being coach Smith and doing clinics and other hoops jobs. The experience itself has been rewarding enough so far. Bringing home a city title in the process would make it that much sweeter.

"That's the icing on the cake being able to be with a team that can win a city title," Smith said. "I never won a city title. It could be kind of be cool to become a coach and win a title."

Easy #28								
6	8	7	5	9	1	2	4	3
3	4	1	7	6	2	9	5	8
5	9	2	8	4	3	7	1	6
7	5	3	2	8	4	6	9	1
8	1	4	9	7	6	3	2	5
9	2	6	3	1	5	8	7	4
4	6	9	1	3	7	5	8	2
1	7	5	6	2	8	4	3	9
2	3	8	4	5	9	1	6	7

Week 36

Hard #28								
2	1	8	5	4	9	7	6	3
3	7	5	6	2	1	9	4	8
6	4	9	3	8	7	5	1	2
1	9	4	2	6	5	8	3	7
8	6	7	4	9	3	2	5	1
5	3	2	7	1	8	4	9	6
4	5	1	8	7	6	3	2	9
7	2	6	9	3	4	1	8	5
9	8	3	1	5	2	6	7	4

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: FU SHI HUANG LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/07/2015. 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: FU ZHENG 50-38 65TH PL WOODSIDE, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: EG PEACE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/15/2014. 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: OFIR SHALOM 6 CONSTITUTION WAY JERSEY CITY, NJ 07305. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

► **LEGAL**
Notice of formation of Walk off Baseball LLC Arts of Org. filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/2014. Office location, County of Queens. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 86-30 103rd Ave., Ste. B, Ozone Park, NY 11417. Purpose: any lawful act

► **LEGAL**
NY Daz Property LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 8/6/14. Office: Queens Co. SSNY de-

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL

sign. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 144-08 Holly Ave. Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Saint Marks NY Holding LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 12/9/14. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 205-10 26th Ave. 2nd Fl. Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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Little Neck Care Center LLC, 260-19 Nassau Boulevard, Little Neck, NY 11362. This facility does not discriminate in admission or retention or care of its residents because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, source of payment, marital status or sexual preference.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF SALE
SUP. CT. - STATE OF NY - QUEENS CO. - 99 CORONA FUNDING ASSOCIATES, Plaintiff, against NISTHAUZ GROUP, INC., et al., Def - Pursuant to an entered judgment of foreclosure and sale dated January 22, 2007, entered February 8, 2007, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell in the lobby of the Queens County Supreme Court, lo-

LEGAL

cated at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on February 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., the premises being all that certain property in the County of Queens described as follows: 40-23 99th Street, Corona, New York, Block: 1608, Lot: 52. The approximate amount of the judgment is \$480,400.98 as reduced to \$228,465.88, plus interest, costs and advances pursuant to the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment Index No. 5695/06 and terms of sale available at the office of plaintiff's atty. Dated January 13, 2015. A Substitute Referee will be appointed at the sale. Lynch & Associates, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 462 Seventh Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, New York 10018.

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS
NYCTL 2011-A TRUST, and THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, as Paying Agent and Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 2011-A TRUST, Plaintiffs against NORMAN A. BECKFORD, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated November 10, 2014 and entered on November 17, 2014, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse 88 11 Sutphin Blvd in Courtroom # 25, Jamaica NY on March 13, 2015 at 10:00 am premises situate, lying and being in

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the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of 134th Street, distant 180 feet northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the easterly side of 134th Street with the northerly side of 111th Avenue; being a plot 100 feet by 40 feet by 100 feet by 40 feet. Section: 51 Block: 11614 Lot: 57 Said premises known as 109-63 134TH STREET, SOUTH OZONE PARK, NY Approximate amount of lien \$ 32,003.60 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index Number 10888/2012. RICHARD PICCOLA, ESQ., Referee Seyfarth Shaw LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs 620 Eighth Avenue, New York NY 10018 (* FLUSHING-TI*)

LEGAL

SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF QUEENS, Matter of JOSEPH SPITERI, an Incapacitated Person. Pursuant to an Order of this Court dated January 30, 2015, by Hon. Lee A. Mayersohn, an application to sell premises known as 25-11 Union Street, Apt. 6A, Flushing, New York 11354, will be made on the 17th day of March, 2015 at 9:30 AM, at an I.A.S. Part 22G of the Supreme Court at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11485.

LEGAL

Said property is presently under contract, subject to approval of the Court. Best offer over \$127,000.00. Contact Marjorie A. Varrichio, Esq. (718) 863-2897

LEGAL

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Index No.: 1541-2014 Date of Filing: January 15, 2015 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff, -against- IONE DEJESUS, if living, or if either or all be dead, their wives, husbands, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said IONE DEJESUS, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the respective husbands, wives, widow or widowers of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to plaintiff; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; STATE OF NEW YORK; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corpora-

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tions, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises, Defendants. 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 attorney(s) 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 answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY

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SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable Janice A. Taylor of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on December 24, 2014, and filed with supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens, State of New York. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by IONE DEJESUS to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC AS NOMINEE FOR WACHOVIA MORTGAGE, FSB IT'S SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS in the principal amount of \$560,000.00, which mortgage was recorded in Queens County, State of New York, on July 22, 2008, in Liber/Reel CRFN 2008000289653. Thereafter said mortgage was assigned to WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. by assignment of mortgage dated August 4, 2011 and recorded August 31, 2011 in CRFN 2011000308710 in County of Queens. Thereafter said

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assignment was re-executed dated August 19, 2011 and recorded August 31, 2011 in CRFN 2011000308725 in the County of Queens. Said premises being known as and by 20936 27TH AVE, BAYSIDE, NY 11360-2405. Date: January 12, 2015 Batavia, New York Virginia C. Grapensteter, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Batavia Office 26 Harvester Avenue Batavia, NY 14020 585.815.0288 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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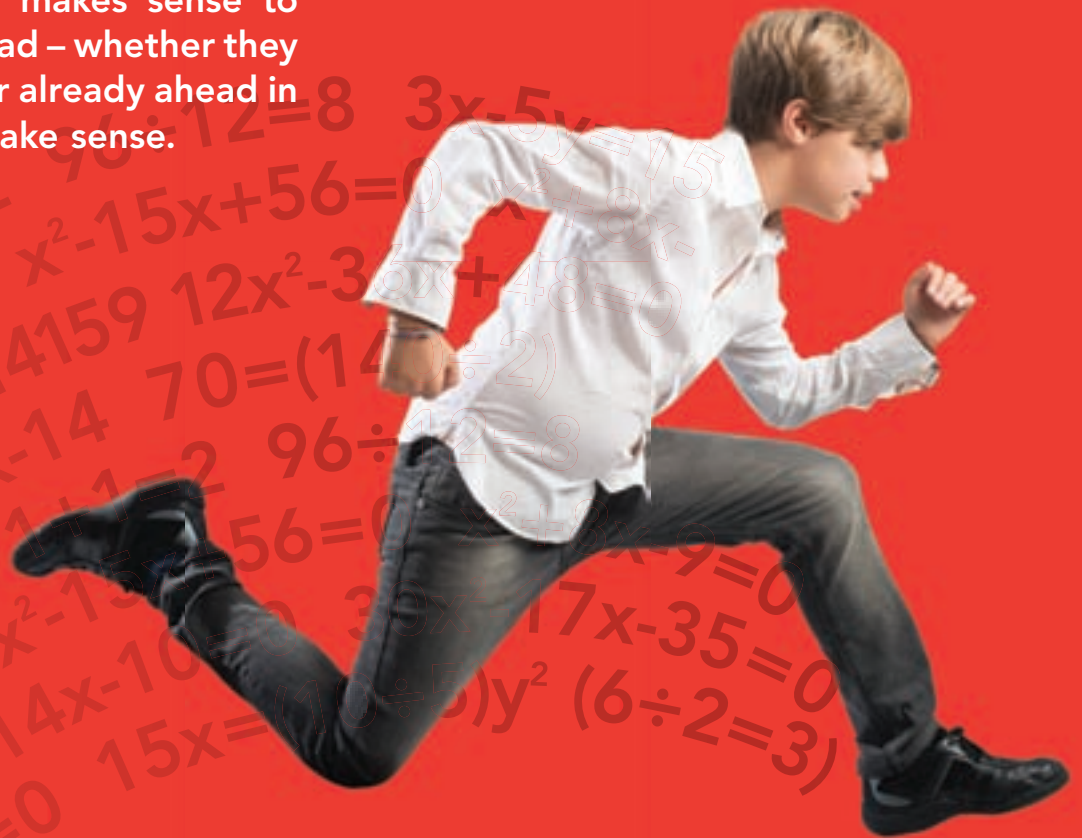
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