

## Slash victim determined to stay in U.S.

BY MADINA TOURE

State Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Flushing) said the NYPD is following a number of leads in the case of a 16-year-old exchange student from China who was slashed by a mysterious attacker last month on her way to school in Whitestone. The girl said she plans to stay in the United States.

At about 8:15 a.m. Dec. 16, a male approached the girl, identified by Kim as JiaJia Liang, near 147th Street and 13th Avenue and cut her face and neck so severely that she needed more than 200 stitches, according to Kim and the NYPD.

No words were exchanged during the attack and Liang was rushed to the Long Island Jewish Medical Center, the NYPD said.

Police said the investigation remained ongoing.

Kim could not comment on a report in the Daily News that her attacker left a letter on the windshield outside the home of a girl who he said was the intended target rather than the young woman who was slashed, although the lawmaker said it seems to have been a targeted attack.

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## Ex-con searches LGA for cop

SHOWING OFF BAYSIDE'S ARTISTIC SIDE



The executive director of the Bayside Historical Society, Alison McKay, pins a ribbon on a pastel by Ellen Katcher minutes after the judges announced the winners of this year's Art at the Castle exhibition. **More photos on Page 32**

Photo by Michael Shain

New hire wants to say thank you for landing a job

BY BILL PARRY

An ex-con from the Bronx has been driving the streets in and around LaGuardia Airport searching for an NYPD officer for the last month.

James Roberts, 58, is not sure of the cop's name or the precinct he is stationed at, but he is positive about one thing.

"That man changed my life," Roberts said. "I'm just trying to find him so I can thank him properly, maybe take him to lunch. I'm pretty sure his name was Anderson or Andrews, something like that, and he's a bald black man in his mid-30s with a little mustache. And he was very polite and very nice."

Roberts was a small-time drug dealer with the street name "Mousie" in the '80s and '90s, selling crack and marijuana. He claims he was not a violent criminal.

"I didn't believe in gun violence or knives," Robert said. "Killing people is wrong, but I came to realize that I was killing people, too, but I was doing it with crack. I saw what crack was doing to God's children and when I came to that real-

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# Gas station hearing

## British Petroleum pushes Katz to approve changes

BY TOM MOMBERG

A lawyer representing British Petroleum appeared before Borough President Melinda Katz at a hearing week regarding a variance amendment application for a gas station on Northern Boulevard. The variance was unanimously voted against by Community Board 11.

The application has not yet been approved, but Katz said she would at least consider the community board's recommendation not to approve the proposal to alter curb cuts, replace underground gas storage tanks and gas pumps and install a 17-foot canopy above the station, because of observed negligence on the property by the current operator.

"He operates under a lease agreement with the owner of the property, and British Petroleum is now trying to terminate that lease agreement," Attorney Eric Palatnik said.

Several residents from the neighborhood surrounding the BP station at 204-12 Northern Blvd. have complained that the operator of the station stores junked cars on the property and parks some of them on adjacent streets.

Within the current zoning variance, no more than eight cars are supposed to be parked on site at any time while waiting for service in the mechanic's garage. There is no permit allowing cars to be parked overnight.

Palatnik said the operator, who is breaking both the zoning rules and his lease agreement (which was sustained when BP took the station over from Getty when it went bankrupt in 2011), would be taken to State Supreme Court if he does not vacate the property.

The amendment BP is asking for is to make brand im-



Neighbors of the BP station at 204-12 Northern Blvd. complain that the operator stores junked and totaled cars on the property.

Photo by Michael Shain

provements to the station, and the current variance would still expire in 2021. Palatnik said BP needs to at least alter the curb cuts with Boards of Standards and Appeals approval before it can apply for a new Certificate of Occupancy through the city Department of Buildings, and that the behavior of the current operator should have no bearing on the approval of those business needs.

Leaders of the Auburndale Community Association Henry Euler and Christina Scherer, also members of the community board, gave testimony at the hearing as did longtime activist and community advocate Mandingo Tshaka, asking Katz not to approve the variance amendment because the operator has apparently made no attempt to clean up his act.

Noting that under the ownership of Getty, the operator had not renewed the certificate of occupancy for the gas station. Tshaka said the zon-

ing variance renewals should never have been granted.

"They violated the law, but the (BSA) approved it anyway, and took for granted the building must be shallow and irregular (under current zoning requirements)," Tshaka said.

In addition, Euler and Scherer pointed out the operator had kept two storage pods on site for some time and used them as an office and tool and parts storage for the on-site auto service center—violating the zoning variance and certificate of occupancy. The storage pods were taken off the property after BP met with the CB 11 land use committee.

"After all, businesses should be a good neighbor to their communities and should be obeying all of the conditions in their variance and the certificate of occupancy," Euler said. "The main point here is that we are opposing the amendment until things are straightened out."

# Bayside nursing home starts round of layoffs

BY MADINA TOURE

The Ozanam Hall Nursing Home in Bayside is planning to lay off approximately 40 employees Monday, according to sources close to the situation.

In a letter dated Jan. 4 to an employee, June Paley, an assistant administrator at the nursing home, said there is a major readjustment in staffing occurring at Ozanam Hall, which has been serving the area since 1971. The home is located at 42-41 201st St.

The home is experiencing a severe financial crisis and has been instructed that these changes have to be made to ensure its survival, Paley said in the generic letter, which alerted the employee that she would be laid off effective Jan. 18. It did not specify who had ordered the layoffs.

"It is very difficult to make changes that impact employees, such as yourself, who have been at Ozanam Hall for so long," Paley wrote. "Yet these changes are needed so that we can survive and continue caring for our elderly residents."

Paley also told the employee that she would be advised of her bumping rights by

the UFCW Local 342 union. Bumping allows employees with more seniority to take a less senior employee's job.

The employee, who asked not to be identified, has been working at Ozanam Hall for 14 years. She said the home is laying off some people who have been working at the nursing home for 30 years. There are an estimated 500 employed at the home, according to the employee.

She said the administrators were on vacation this week and that Margaret Monier, UFCW Local 342's union representative, came to the nursing home last Friday, but has not returned her calls.

"She said, 'We don't know what happened. We don't have any answers because the administration is on vacation,'" the employee said.

She said at least six of the employees who will be laid off work in the kitchen and that the layoffs are not being done by seniority, noting that newer employees will remain.

"We want to know what happened," she said.

Monier and Ozanam management could not be reached for comment on this story.

Lionel Morales, a spokesman for City Councilman

*Continued on Page 18*



The Ozanam Hall Nursing Home in Bayside is planning to lay off employees.

Courtesy of rcdolner.com

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# Place for younger athletes opens in Bayside

The Little Gym on Northern Boulevard offers fitness programs for toddlers, children

BY TOM MOMBERG

A private gym for toddlers and kids has made its home in Bayside for the past year. Established under the Little Gym franchise by Tae Koo, who saw the benefit of physical activity and gymnastics with his own daughter, Caroline, The Little Gym of Bayside, 34-38 Bell Blvd., is a part of a franchise rooted in a youth-gym concept founded in 1976 by educator, musician and kinesiologist Robin Wes.

Koo opened his location last April after becoming familiar with the franchise, which seeks to promote motor skills among infants and toddlers, and to get older kids to be active and social.

"A friend of mine had opened one in Brooklyn Heights. Then, after my daughter was born and I started taking her, I started understanding not only the business model, but also the appeal," Koo said. "As a parent, it makes a world

of difference to see your kids having fun and learning new things."

The Little Gym is a non-competitive gymnastics program for both boys and girls, which uses positive reinforcement to encourage children to grow up healthy and happy, as well as to develop social skills.

"I don't think children really get enough exercise," Koo said. "I know even with my daughter's schedule, she only has gym class once a week at school. But it's critical to a child's development."

The Little Gym and its instructors are certified by USA Gymnastics, but Koo said it is unlike most gymnastic programs.

"A lot of gymnastics tend to just focus on the star pupil—going to competitions and winning titles," Koo said. "But this program is really just focused on children leading an active and healthy lifestyle, having them be collaborative with their classmates and help



"I don't think children really get enough exercise," says Little Gym owner Tae Koo said. "But it's critical to a child's development."

Courtesy of Little Gym

them develop some creative thinking."

The Little Gym of Bayside offers three main programs.

The parent-child program, for children between the ages of four months and three years old, teaches families to play together and to have toddlers learn motor skills by experiencing movement.

The Pre-K/Kindergarten

program gets kids between the ages of three and six years old to start developing social skills, in addition to being active.

The big kid program, for children between the ages of six and 12 years old, teaches more advanced skills.

Koo said he will soon be introducing music components into most of the programs in addition to a rock-and-roll mu-

sic and movement class led by musician Bari Koral. He said music helps encourage kids to follow direction and keeps them engaged.

The spring session for all programs begins Feb. 1, and discounts for early enrollment are available up to a month before the season starts. But families can enroll at any time. Class prices are pro-rated based on how many classes kids can attend in a season.

Enrollment includes one class and one practice session every week during a season.

There is an annual membership fee of \$55, and the full-season class price is \$550 for most programs.

The Little Gym also offers a parents' survival night once a month from 6 to 9 p.m. for \$40, which includes day care and games so families can enjoy a night out without kids.

For more information, visit <https://www.thelittlegym.com/baysideNY/> or call 718-224-4660.



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# Muslims praise NYPD settlement

Community welcomes changes in city policy as response to Muslim surveillance lawsuits

BY MADINA TOURE

Borough Muslims said they are pleased with the city's settlement of several lawsuits from 2013 that accused the NYPD of improperly investigating Muslim groups.

While the city did not admit to engaging in improper practices, it plans to provide additional guidance to police officers. The changes are an effort to offer more thorough guidance to NYPD personnel within the existing Handschu Guidelines, rules that shape investigations of terrorism and other potentially unlawful political activity.

Mohammad Rahman, president of the Jamaica Muslim Center at 85-37 168th St., said his center has had good relations with the Police Department, but that the surveillance program violated Muslims' constitutional rights, calling the settlement "a victory for the Muslims."

"It did not affect us much, but as a Muslim a lot of people were under the surveillance program they had," Rahman



The Muslim community praised a settlement of lawsuits regarding the NYPD's surveillance of Muslim groups. Photo by David Goldman/AP

said. "It was a discriminatory thing. It definitely does not go with the Constitution of this country."

Bengali community activist Mazeda Uddin said Muslims are not treated well but that they are at least not afraid to speak up.

"Before, they don't want to

even bring up issues with anyone, even to the police... even to the state," Uddin said.

The Handschu Guidelines were implemented after a class-action suit brought by American political activist and lawyer Barbara Handschu and others in 1971 accusing the NYPD's Red Squad, a political

intelligence unit, of spying by keeping dossiers on political activists. A judge agreed to modified the guidelines in 2003 at the request of the NYPD due to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. They will be changed as part of a resolution of Raza v. City of New York, a lawsuit alleging "suspicion-less surveillance" of Muslims, and Handschu v. Special Service Division, a challenge to numerous NYPD surveillance and investigative practices aimed at political organizations.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said the changes "make it easier to maintain best practices in intelligence gathering and investigations" and Mayor Bill de Blasio called communities of faith "strong partners in the fight against terrorism."

The changes include clearly incorporating regulations against religious profiling in police policies, a provision for considering the effect investigations have on people who are not targets in the same community, reasonable time limits for certain investiga-

tions and adding a civilian member to an internal NYPD Handschu Committee. The NYPD also agreed to remove the 2007 report "Radicalization in the West" about terrorism from its website.

But Tanjir Alam, secretary at Masjid Baitul Gaffar in Richmond Hill, said there must have been a reason that prompted the NYPD to spy on the Muslim community in the city, but he could not comment on the settlement.

If a member of the Muslim community had plans on doing something wrong, "I definitely support the NYPD or any law enforcement," Alam said.

Rahman cited Bratton and de Blasio have had good relations with the 107th Precinct and the Muslim community compared to previous administrations. De Blasio visited his center last month.

"He's (de Blasio) been working very well with all the communities and as a Muslim, I don't have (any) complaints about this mayor or this police commissioner," he said.

## City rules against music fests this summer in Flushing park

BY BILL PARRY

There will be no large-scale music festivals in Flushing Meadows Corona Park this summer after the city's Parks Department Monday rejected all current applications by for-profit companies to hold paid-admission events in the borough's largest green space.

The city received three applications to use the park for multi-day festivals from concert promoters AEG Live, The Madison Square Garden Company and Founders Entertainment, but Parks determined it would not be appropriate to add these events.

"Parks reviewed all permit applications thoroughly," Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver said. "While we are heartened by the interest in one of Queens' most historic



Users of Flushing Meadows Corona Park are the big winners as the city denies applications for several large-scale music festivals. Photo by Michael Shain

parks, our primary concern is ensuring the park is available for the many New Yorkers who call Flushing Meadows Corona Park their backyard."

Parks intends to explore the possibility of rule-making to create an appropriate framework for approving large-scale multi-day events in FMCP, of-

ficials say. Rule making would include limits on the potential number, scale, and nature of any such events so as not to have an unreasonable impact on the park and its users and would provide clear opportunities for public input.

Even as a host of elected officials, including U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) and City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras-Copeland (D-East Elmhurst), voiced their support for a Coachella-style festival by the industry giant AEG Live, Borough President Melinda Katz and several civic groups from neighborhoods surrounding the park, including Community Boards 4 and 5, drew a line in the sand.

"Events of any scale that enhance our borough are encouraged," Katz said. "The use

*Continued on Page 44*

## Lancman touts victory in arts at PS 255 show

BY MADINA TOURE

City Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest) received a plaque for his commitment to arts education last week at PS 255 in Fresh Meadows, where he highlighted significant improvements in arts education.

A graduate of the school, located at 158-40 76th Road, Lancman provided the school with a \$20,000 grant through the Cultural After-School Adventure initiative, also known as CASA. The initiative funds Marquis Studios' Circus Arts program. A group of schoolchildren performed in the school's auditorium, along with clowns, Jan. 6.

The Circus Arts program provides students with 10 sessions that teach them such clowning skills as panto-

mime, juggling, balancing, object manipulation, tumbling, skills choreography and clown routine design and execution.

"There was a time in our city where did not have arts education, where we cut arts and music and dance and theater out of schools to save money and we realized what a terrible mistake that was and now we're putting all this money into arts programs, including the CASA program and we're here today to receive the products and the fruits of that effort," Lancman said.

Following an investment of \$23 million by the city Department of Education and millions more from the City Council, the city now has a record-high number of certified arts teachers, according

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# Astoria N/Q stations to be closed for work

BY BILL PARRY

Astoria straphangers will lose the use of four of their subway stations on the N/Q line for six months to a year for major renovations, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last Friday.

MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said it is too early to tell when the shutdowns will occur, but sources said the MTA will stagger the closures and no two stations in a row will be closed at the same time.

The station redevelopments will take place at the 30th Avenue, Broadway, 36th

Avenue and 39th Avenue stations. Each station will be cleaner, brighter and easier to navigate when they are reopened.

"This is about doing more than just repair and maintain," Cuomo said. "This is thinking bigger and better and building the 21st-century transit system New Yorkers deserve. We are modernizing the MTA like never before and improving it for years to come."

The MTA will use design-build procurement to deliver the projects more quickly, at

*Continued on Page 41*



The 30th Avenue station is among four Astoria stops that will be closed for six months to a year as they are upgraded by the MTA.

YouTube

# Subway gets face-lift

Cuomo unveils plan to remodel 30 stations in system

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has come up with a far-reaching plan to push the often beleaguered Metropolitan Transportation Authority into the 21st century, including a complete overhaul of 30 subway stations, "contactless payment" from straphangers as they board subways and buses and WiFi in all stations by the end of this year.

The MTA and the transit head of the union representing more than 30,000 transit workers hailed the blueprint.

"The MTA is absolutely vital to the daily functioning of New York City, but for too long it has failed to meet the region's growing size and strength," Cuomo said. "This is about doing more than just repair and maintain — this is thinking bigger and better and building the 21st century transit system New Yorkers deserve. We are modernizing the MTA like never before and improving it for years to come."

"The MTA is committed to meeting Gov. Cuomo's chal-



Seven subway stations in Queens are set to close completely for full-scale renovations.

lenge hands-on eliminating every possible inefficiency to deliver these improvements faster, better and at a lower cost," said MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast. "We'll accomplish this by incorporating the governor's suggestions" in improving the transit system.

The governor's plan would remodel 30 subway stations, including seven in Queens.

"These cleaner, brighter stations will be easier to navigate with better and more intuitive wayfinding as well as a modernized look and feel," Cuomo said.

*Continued on Page 41*

## New hope for Dream Act

BY BILL PARRY

There is renewed hope for supporters of the Dream Act in New York state.

The legislation authorizing undocumented students who graduate from high schools in New York to apply for college financial aid is on track to be a priority during the 2016 legislative session.

When he opened the session Jan. 6, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, who has the power to decide which bills are considered, set an agenda that included more funding for education and additional resources for struggling schools as well as adequate funding for universal pre-kindergarten. Heastie also declared that the Assembly would once again pass the Dream Act. The high-profile measure sponsored by Assemblyman Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights) has passed the Assembly for several years in a row, only to be

stymied by the Republican-dominated Senate.

"Year after year we have fought for our bright young students," Moya said. "And year after year, the Assembly has acted with vision, while the Senate has chosen to act with fear. I am confident that with Speaker Heastie's help, 2016 will be the year of the Dream. I believe — now more than ever — that a young person's status should not be a barrier to his or her success."

It is estimated that of the 4,500 undocumented students who graduate from New York high schools every year, only 5 to 10 percent pursue a college degree—mainly due to the financial hurdles such students must face. Heastie said the measure would enable more students to successfully complete their education and build "sound, lasting careers and make a meaningful contribution to our communities."

## 67 Ave., Parsons on redo list

BY GABRIEL ROM

The 67th Avenue subway station in Forest Hills and the Parsons Boulevard stop in Jamaica are among 30 stations citywide to be completely renovated, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has announced. The upgrades, which will be covered by the MTA's 2015-2019 Capital Program, will be constructed through a "design-build process," which Cuomo said will cut work time by half.

The MTA has not yet announced when the Forest Hills and Jamaica stations will close for upgrades or for how long, but work on all the stations is estimated to be completed by 2020.

"The bottom line is we don't know anything," said Michael Cohen a spokesman for Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills).

The renovations will close off the 67th Avenue station (on



The MTA said they will use "design-build" procurement to deliver the renovations more quickly and at a lower cost.

Photo by Michael Shain

the M and R lines) and the Parsons Boulevard stop (on the F line), each for six months to a

year, according to the MTA. They are part of a citywide effort to modernize the subway system and make it more "millennial friendly," according to Cuomo.

Four Astoria subway stations will also close for several months as part of the plan.

Elected officials applauded Cuomo's plan.

"What is there not to be happy with a modernization of a station," Cohen said.

Design-build projects have found success in Queens. In May, Swedish construction giant Skanska in a joint venture with the firms of Kiewit and ECCO III, along with lead design firm HNTB, was awarded a \$555 million design-build contract with the state Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of the Kosciuszko Bridge. The project was considered an ideal candidate for design-build, which

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# CB7 weighs in on airplane noise problem

BY MADINA TOURE

Members of Community Board 7 had strong opinions on how the Port Authority is tackling the airplane noise issue, expressing concerns about everything from placement of noise monitors to insufficient community representation at the board's monthly meeting Monday night in Flushing.

Representatives from the PA and Environmental Science Associates briefed board members about the Part 150 studies, whose goal is to re-evaluate aviation noise levels around LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports, New York's two major airports. Environmental Science is the prime consultant for the studies.

At the meeting at Union Care Plaza Center, Chuck Apelian, CB 7's vice chairman, who ran the meeting on behalf of CB 7 Chairman Gene Kelty, conceded that a more in-depth discussion is needed on the subject.

"This really deserves more time than what's happening right now and it deserves to

have an interaction through a committee, not through a board meeting," Apelian said. "Technical data, the involvement, the engagement, the whys and the where, how have to go through a committee."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed the PA to undertake Part 150 studies for JFK and LaGuardia in response to growing community concerns about aircraft noise. In 2014, the PA signed an agreement with Environmental Science Associates.

The studies consist of creating noise exposure maps and a noise compatibility program. The map is designed to identify an airport's present and future noise patterns as well as land uses incompatible with those noise patterns.

The noise compatibility program shows what measures the airport has taken or proposes to take to reduce or prevent the introduction of incompatible land uses within the area covered by the airport's map.

Aircraft noise is calculated using Day-Night Average



Representatives from the Port Authority and Environmental Science Associates discuss airplane noise with Community Board 7.

Photo by Madina Toure

Sound Level, or DNL, a 24-hour average noise level. The Federal Aviation Administration said a DNL of 65 decibels or greater is incompatible with residential communities.

James Cervino, chairman of CB 7's environmental committee, questioned a lack of noise monitors close to College Point and Flushing, but board

member Joe Femenia, president of the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association, said there is a noise monitor on 120th Street and 23rd Avenue in College Point.

Peter Byrne, deputy project director for the ESA study team, said the data from noise monitors would be compared to what they get out of the in-

tegrated noise model, which is what they are running for the Part 150 study.

"We use what's happening, what we're picking up on those monitors, and compare what we get out of the integrated noise model to make sure that we're getting something that approximately is what we're seeing up on the ground," Byrne said.

There were also concerns about the makeup of the technical advisory committee for LaGuardia. Alison Tan, another board member, noted that there is a lack of community representation.

"I'm just curious, I don't see any groups there that specifically represent Flushing or College Point," Tan told the representatives.

Kelly Mitchell, a project major for PA, said that the committee is very technical and that people and organizations on the committee are usually part of several organizations.

"We tried to have the broad representation for the communities that are affected by the airport noise," Mitchell said.

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For M. Truschinger of Bayside, exceptional treatment for Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) began with a colonoscopy to make sure that her symptoms were not

from colitis or another bowel disorder. She credits Palmadessa and Brodsky with a dramatic improvement in her condition. "I have been seeing Dr. Brodsky for the last year for my Irritable Bowel Syndrome and he has been extremely helpful. The endoscopy center is very immaculate and modern, with great staff." After performing a colonoscopy, the practice helped Ms. Truschinger to make important changes in her diet and lifestyle, supplemented with the occasional medication. She says, "I am now 100% better and able to perform better in my work as well as feel better in my leisure activities. Dr. Brodsky is very knowledgeable and compassionate."

Karima Rasouly and others appreciate the front desk staff who make them feel more comfortable and help

with the often overwhelming task of having medications authorized by insurance companies. When patients are experiencing significant medical issues, they don't want to deal with additional obstacles. "I am so glad I came to Dr. Palmadessa," says Ms. Rasouly. "He was very thorough and compassionate. The endoscopy facility was wonderful. Prior to my procedure, the staff made me feel much more relaxed. I am completely satisfied with Dr. Palmadessa."

Whether patients require screening for colon cancer or heartburn or the latest treatment options for Hepatitis C, these are available from caring physicians who also are on staff at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset and New York Presbyterian Hospital in Queens. When Michael Kolimsky of

Maspeth was seeking an expert in liver diseases, he was referred to Dr. Brodsky by a friend. After living with Hepatitis C for 10 years, he finally wanted to receive treatment. "After he took a thorough history and performed a comprehensive physical examination, he ordered several specific laboratory tests and sonogram of my liver. He then prescribed a single pill for 12 weeks, which cured my Hepatitis C completely! From my first visit to my most recent visit, he and his staff have been wonderful. He is truly an expert in liver diseases," he says.

Receiving a diagnosis can be overwhelming, but it can be a relief for a patient

to finally understand the underlying cause of their uncomfortable and often life-threatening symptoms. The time immediately following a diagnosis is particularly important. "Dr. Palmadessa spent a lot of time explaining everything in great detail. He made me feel very comfortable," says Zita Heja.

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# Cuomo turns to Stringer to solve homeless crisis

Gov goes easy on de Blasio during State of the State address but gives comptroller power

BY BILL PARRY

Mayor Bill de Blasio thought he had gained some momentum in his battle with the city's homeless crisis in the days before Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State Address. Last week the mayor vowed his administration was "taking the gloves off" and "we're owning this issue 110 percent."

On Monday he announced his administration has financed more than 40,000 affordable apartments since taking office, and Tuesday the mayor rolled out a Supportive Housing Task Force to help the city implement its plan to create 15,000 units of supportive housing.

"It means thousands of people off the street, out of shelter, away from the revolving door of the criminal justice system and emergency rooms," de Blasio said. On Wednesday, he traveled to Albany, where he explained to legislators how

the city is handling a shelter population of 58,000 people with another 3,000 to 4,000 living on the street.

Then de Blasio and Cuomo had a meeting Wednesday morning.

"The governor and I talked for, I think, about a half an hour," he said. "It was a productive conversation and (we) went over some of the details of his speech."

At 12:30, Mayor de Blasio took his seat in the third row of an Albany convention center and waited for more than an hour until Cuomo reached the point in his speech where he addressed the city's homeless crisis.

Calling the explosion of the number of homeless on the streets "a true human crisis," Cuomo said, "we will not allow people to dwell in the gutter like garbage."

He proposed spending \$20 billion over five years as part of an effort to reduce the growing number of New York-



Gov. Andrew Cuomo pledges \$20 billion over five years to combat the homeless crisis during his State of the State Address.

Courtesy of Governor's Office/Darren McGee

ers who are homeless. Cuomo said the state will add 100,000 permanent affordable housing units, 6,000 new supportive housing beds and 1,000 emergency shelter beds. He pledged the state will continue supporting 44,000 units of housing with supportive services and 77,000 shelter beds.

"People have been attacked

and victimized in some shelters, and some would rather stay outside in the frigid cold than risk entering -- and they are right to do it," Cuomo said. "It's imperative that we improve conditions of the shelters and restore the public's trust in the system. We need a true independent review, inspection and action plan

from objective experts to go forward."

Cuomo then appointed City Comptroller Scott Stringer to inspect the city's homeless shelters and promised to shut down those that are not up to standards. Stringer had blasted the de Blasio administration over the shelter system in an audit last year.

He has also rejected a permanent contract proposal of the Boulevard Family Shelter in the former Pan American hotel in Elmhurst four times since it opened in June 2014. Stringer, who was in Albany for the address, spoke briefly after the governor's address.

"Homeless shelters are our invisible city," Stringer said. "I will work with my fellow comptrollers, as well as our partners in city and state government to continue to audit and investigate our shelters in a comprehensive way and ensure they are safe for our most vulnerable citizens. Increased

*Continued on Page 44*

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# Penn Station gets new lease on life

Governor's plans for a revamped transit hub give city commuters a glimpse into the future

BY YANNIC RACK

Gov. Andrew Cuomo unveiled two multibillion-dollar plans last week that would expedite the stalled redevelopment of Pennsylvania Station and the James A. Farley Post Office on Eighth Avenue and expand the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

One big announcement chased the other as Cuomo unveiled a slate of ambitious projects ahead of this week's State of the State address.

"There is so much in this game plan, this agenda, that frankly we couldn't fit it into one day and one speech, and we're announcing it in components all throughout this week," the governor said.

"What happens tomorrow depends on what we do today. Let's be as bold and ambitious as our forefathers before us."

Both of the projects have a less-than-glorious past. A few years ago, Cuomo was considering scrapping the Javits Center altogether, and the Penn Station overhaul has been in limbo for a decade. Last week's announcements, however, promise to bring even more activity to an area already bustling with development.

"A new Penn Station, a new Moynihan Station, the Gateway Tunnel project, Hudson Yards rising, a renovated and expanded Javits Center, and a new Port Authority Bus Terminal," noted City Councilman Corey Johnson (D-Manhattan), "are projects that are transformational not just for



A rendering shows how the Eighth Avenue side of Penn Station could look.

Courtesy Office of the Governor

the neighborhoods, but also for the entire region."

The renovation of Penn Station is part of Cuomo's larger plan to revitalize New York's infrastructure, which includes expanding the Long Island Rail Road as well as building a new Tappan Zee Bridge and LaGuardia Airport.

The Penn Station plan would essentially renovate the existing station maze below Madison Square Garden, build a new train and retail hub within the block-long general post office across Eighth Avenue, and eventually link both facilities underground to create what the governor has dubbed the "Empire Station Complex."

"Penn Station is the analog to LaGuardia," Cuomo said, referring to the troubled airport whose reputation once inspired Vice President Biden to assert that a blindfolded visitor would mistake it for "some Third World country."

"Let's be honest," the governor added, "Penn Station has been wholly unacceptable for a long, long time."

He said the terminal—the busiest in the country and notoriously overcrowded—is expected to double its traffic over the next 15 years. It already serves 650,000 people every day, more than triple the traffic it was originally designed for (and more than that of Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark Liberty airports combined).

The state, along with Amtrak, put out an expedited Request For Proposals last week, which gives potential developers 90 days to come up with viable ideas for the redevelopment.

Possible options suggested in the governor's presentation include the creation of a grand, glass-walled entrance to Penn Station on Eighth Avenue, which would entail razing the 5,600-seat theater beneath Madison Square Garden. The addition of new entrances on Seventh Avenue and West 33rd Street is also an option.

According to a statement from the governor's office, the project will "widen existing corridors, reconfigure ticketing and waiting areas,

improve connectivity between the lower levels and street level, bring natural light into the facility, improve signage, simplify navigation and reduce congestion, and expand and upgrade the retail offerings and passenger amenities on all levels of the station." The state and its partners will also solicit a developer for the long-stalled plan to turn the nearly vacant James A. Farley Post Office into a train station and waiting room for Amtrak, LIRR and New Jersey Transit passengers, ringed by shops and offices.

At 210,000 square feet, the train hall will be roughly equivalent in size to the main room at Grand Central Terminal.

Over the past year, construction already started underneath the Farley Building to expand the West End Concourse, as well as the existing underground corridor below Eighth Avenue to the subway and Penn Station.

This portion of the plan—which also includes new entrances at the West 31st and West 33rd Street corners of the post office—is scheduled for completion this fall.

The overall redevelopment would be finished in the next three years, the governor said, with Farley opening before Penn Station's revamp is complete.

"What [the governor] has put on the table is really a game changer," Johnson said,



The outside of Penn Station and Madison Square Garden, seen from across Eighth Ave., as it is today.  
Photo by Lindsay Bu

"because he has been able to bring key parties to the table who have acceded to work something out—Amtrak, Madison Square Garden and the MTA."

Cuomo has already said that \$325 million for the project would come from government sources, while "nearly all of the work" will be privately funded by the chosen developer—in exchange for an interest in the long-term revenue stream generated by the retail and commercial rents.

Such creative funding streams won't be needed for the Javits Center, however. Cuomo said the complex's \$1 billion expansion, for which construction will kick off later this year, would be financed "within existing resources."

Last year, the facility hosted more than 2 million visitors, which the governor's office says supported 17,500 local jobs and generated an estimated 478,000 hotel room reservations, with an overall economic impact of \$1.8 billion.

Although the convention business is often written off as contributing comparably little to the economy, Cuomo said the expansion—a more than 50 percent increase in space—would help bring more trade shows, jobs and tax revenue to New York.

"More convention centers are coming online, and if you want to remain competitive, you have to grow and you have to increase to stay ahead of the competition, and that is just what we want to do with this plan," Cuomo said.

Just four years ago, the governor wanted to raze the Javits Center entirely and replace it with a \$4 billion convention center in Queens, a plan that was ultimately scrapped.



What a redeveloped Penn Station might look like, viewed from a cross-section of the underground terminal along Seventh Avenue.

Courtesy Office of the Governor



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# POLICE Blotter

## Rash of car break-ins plagues Central Queens

MASPETH—A rash of car break-ins in Central Queens continues unabated. Over the past week, at least four cars were broken into in Maspeth and two more in Elmhurst.

Two of the incidents in Maspeth occurred on 59th Street. In one car \$60 was missing, but there was no other damage to the cars or any signs of forced entry, police said. The other two occurred on 57th Drive.

“The common thread here is property/money left inside the vehicle. Don’t leave anything inside your vehicle of value. It is just not worth it,” said Capt. Gregory Mackie of the 104th Precinct. “Make sure all the doors are locked. The easiest way inside your car for a thief is through an unlocked door, and they will try all the handles until they find one that is unlocked.”

Over the holiday weekend, police reported the first of a string of car break-ins in Middle Village and Ridgewood.

The front passenger door windows of four vehicles were found busted out on Centre Street near Cypress Avenue in Ridgewood in the early morning Dec. 28. One victim said his car was turned inside out and reported an assorted socket tool set and phone charger missing, although they were hidden in his vehicle.

Another victim said he left his vehicle parked on Centre Street the night



A rash of car thefts in Maspeth and Elmhurst continue unabated. Police say they do not yet have any suspects in custody.

Courtesy of By Liz Sullivan/Wikimedia

before, and the next morning found his window broken.

Nothing was taken from the other vehicles, because the suspects must have found nothing and moved on, a detective from the 104th Precinct said.

Police who arrived at the scene said the vehicles were likely broken into between Sunday night, Dec. 27, and Monday morning. They said it was the second string of break-ins in the 104th Precinct over the holiday weekend.

About a half dozen cars were broken into in the same manner on 80th Street near Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village overnight between Dec. 26 and Dec. 27, the NYPD said at the scene.

## Customs finds heroin smuggled in beverage

JAMAICA — A passenger on an incoming flight to John F. Kennedy International Airport was caught allegedly smuggling heroin inside of a bottle of traditional Dominican drink Jan. 6, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said.

CBP officials said Rosa de Ortega arrived from Santiago, Dominican Republic with one checked suitcase for inspectors. During the inspection, CBP officers said a bottle of Mamajuana felt unusually heavy.

According to the CBP, Mamajuana is a drink from the Dominican Republic comprised of tree barks and herbs

soaked in rum, red wine, and honey in a bottle. The taste is similar to port wine and the color is a deep red.

CBP officers opened the bottle to find 32 pellets, which tested positive for heroin, according to CBP officials. In total, the 32 pellets weighed an estimated one pound and had an estimated street value of \$27,000.

De Ortega, a citizen of the Dominican Republic, was arrested and turned over to the NYPD. She faces state narcotics smuggling charges by the Queens District Attorney’s Office, according to the CBP.

## Police search for Ridgewood robbery suspect

RIDGEWOOD—Police are seeking the public’s assistance in locating and identifying a man in his mid thirties in connection with a robbery in Ridgewood.

On Jan. 10 at around 9:45, the suspect approached the 70-year-old female victim in the vicinity of Centre Street

and Cypress Avenue, police said. The suspect proceeded to punch the victim in the chest and removed her purse from her shoulder, police said.

The suspect a black male, 30 to 35 years old, between 140lbs to 150lbs and around 5’8”.



# Korean children worked as woman's slaves: DA

Flushing resident accused of forcing kids to perform menial tasks at her home over six years

BY MADINA TOURE

A former Francis Lewis HS student and her brother were held captive as slaves by a Flushing woman for six years, working at grocery stores and performing menial tasks at her home, the Queens district attorney said.

Sook Yeong Park, 42, allegedly took a boy and girl who were 9 and 11 years old at the time into her home in 2010. She forced them to work, claiming their mother was not sending her money from Korea, DA Richard Brown said. The girl spoke to her mother last week for the first time in three years, he said.

"According to the charges, the defendant cut off all contact between the two young victims and their parents in Korea, held them hostage in her home by seizing their passports, forced them to do household chores well into the night and to work outside of the home and turn over all

their earnings to her," Brown said.

Park was arraigned Jan. 9 on charges of labor trafficking, assault and endangering the welfare of a child, Brown said.

According to Brown, one of Park's relatives brought the now 16-year-old girl, who attended Francis Lewis HS for 1 1/2 years, and her 14-year-old brother to Park's former Queens residence from Korea in January 2010.

Park allegedly took the victims' passports and they moved to her current location, Brown said.

Park forced the female victim to work nearly every day after school for about 10 hours, from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., doing housework and making her give the woman back and foot massages as well as manicures and pedicures, Brown continued.

From April 2013 to about 2014, the suspect made the girl work at a Queens grocery



A Flushing woman was charged with holding two Korean children as slaves at her home, the Queens district attorney said. Google Earth

store about two days a week for eight hours a day at a salary of \$10 an hour, Brown added.

The girl also had to work several days a week at another grocery store on Northern Boulevard as well as at other grocery stores in New York

City for nine hours a day, the DA said.

The boy worked at the grocery store on Northern Boulevard for at least one day a month starting in August 2015, Brown said.

Between January 2010 and

January 2016, the girl slept on a small closet floor and the boy on a bedroom floor, each with one blanket and no mattress, and Park would beat them, the DA said.

She allegedly scratched the girl's legs with a nail clipper, kicked the girl on her leg and head and cut off her hair, Brown said.

The assistant principal at Francis Lewis HS noticed the girl was often absent, had trouble staying awake and had bruises on her legs, he said.

The assistant principal went to Park's residence, forced her to turn over the victims' passports and brought the children to the Northern Boulevard grocery store to collect their salaries, Brown said. School officials notified the police, he added.

If convicted, Park faces up to seven years in prison.

She was ordered held on \$10,000 bond/\$2,500 cash bail and to return to court Feb. 16, Brown said.

## NYU Langone Internal Medicine is in Bayside

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# PARKS, NOT PROFITS

Every piece of public green space is a precious commodity in Queens. At the top of list is Flushing Meadows Corona Park, a sprawling 900-acre expanse that plays host to the US Open, Citi Field and the ambitions of developers who want to build a mall on a parcel outside the ballpark.

Flushing Meadows also happens to be the people's park, where residents come to play cricket, hold soccer matches and attend ethnic festivals. Others just chill, strolling around the Unisphere and the foundations on a Sunday afternoon.

As Queens' profile has risen—the Lonely Planet travel guide called it the top spot to visit in America last year—interest in staging a major music festival in the vast park has grown. Such an extravaganza could burnish the borough's reputation internationally.

There are at least three promoters with plans to transform part of Flushing Meadows into a concert venue that would require the audience to pay admission. But it would also mean making that section off limits to regular parkgoers.

Borough President Melinda Katz has been cautiously receptive to the idea, which would put Queens on an even bigger world map as the destination for tens of thousands of music fans. She has acknowledged the obvious benefits, but has expressed serious reservations about renting out public parkland for events where patrons must pay.

This would set a precedent in Queens, where it has never been done before.

Several Queens lawmakers have been cheerleaders for a giant music festival, which they believe would make the borough a showcase for the city and bring jobs, as well as tourism, to the county. On the other hand, civic groups, the Queens Civic Congress and at least two community boards have been opposed to the plan even though some of the promoters have vowed to be good neighbors.

Katz, concerned about the lack of public policy on for-profit use of city parks, sought guidelines from the de Blasio administration and this week she got an answer. The Parks Dept. denied all current applications by private companies to hold large-scale concerts requiring admission fees in Flushing Meadows.

Katz called Mayor de Blasio's decision "fair" and said it gives the city time to develop an official policy on whether to close down parks and rent out the space to private companies.

The borough president was on target by pressing the administration to draw up a citywide framework for how our parks should be protected. When the profit motive comes face-to-face with public land, there is room for both sinners and winners.



## OTHER VOICES

# Making Queens a more livable place

It's time to make New Year's resolutions for your community—and AARP's Livability Index can help you do just that.

In 2015, AARP launched the Index, a web-based tool to measure the quality of life in American communities across multiple dimensions: housing, neighborhood characteristics, transportation, environment, health, civic and social engagement and opportunity. New York City scored

among the top five large cities in the country.

Queens scored a 59 out of 100 for overall livability—scoring high on the availability of transportation and neighborhood characteristics (access to life, work and play), but low on measures of environment and civic engagement. Explore the tool and check out how your neighborhood scores or view Queens data at <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>

aarp.org/

The Livability Index helps people to better understand their communities, learn how to take action to make their own communities more livable and make decisions about future needs. Use it to better Queens in 2016!

*Chris Widelo*  
Associate State Director of  
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# Bring city shelters up to standards

Gilbert Taylor, former commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services, has voluntarily or involuntarily resigned. Regardless, this is a much-needed change, which provides the city with an opportunity to rectify some of his poor decisions as well as reform the agency to effectively help those in need.

Aside from his dismal failure in stemming the tide of homelessness, Taylor fundamentally misled the Elmhurst community and broke the law when he illegally converted run-down commercial hotels

like the Pan Am and Westway into family homeless shelters.

Although New York City Administrative Code 21-124(b) requires that all family homeless shelters provide a bathroom, a refrigerator, a cooking facility and an adequate sleeping area within each unit, Taylor blatantly disregarded the cooking facility requirement and had homeless families move into small hotel rooms. These families were forced to languish in these rooms for over a year without access to a kitchen. As a lawyer, was he clueless or simply

being reckless?

By not requiring these shelters to install kitchens, DHS is endangering these families and depriving them of essential services. In addition, the City is back-stopping the hotel industry. If the hotel owner's business is not doing well, they will convert their hotels into shelters and collect \$4,000 a month per room without having to invest in any renovations. They would simply reduce their staff and collect an exorbitant amount of taxpayers' hard-earned money from DHS.

Additionally, community boards and local residents in every neighborhood are now wary of developers who are looking to build a hotel. Are the developers really building a hotel or are they building a homeless shelter because, according to Gilbert Taylor, there is no distinction between the two? This is an unnecessary uncertainty and hinders the city's economic growth.

For a progressive mayor who came into power by pledging to implement policies that will help the poor, this is

complete hypocrisy! Mayor de Blasio is not helping the poor or the working class, he is actually helping the rich by fleecing taxpayers. We ask the Mayor to restore the people's faith in government and force these operators to adhere to the law and install a kitchen in each family shelter living unit. Otherwise, no contract or taxpayer funds should be awarded.

*Anna Orjuela  
Resident of Queens Community  
Board 4 for over 30 years,  
Member of Elmhurst United*

## Commuters are facing a long wait for improvements

Remember over three years ago—December 2012—when the NYC officials and developers who broke ground for the new Hudson Yards project, which is to be built over the Long Island Rail Road Westside storage yard between 10th and 12th avenues in Manhattan, were all smiles?

Transit riders and taxpayers are still not happy. The existing 42nd Street Port Authority Bus Terminal is antiquated, lacking sufficient capacity to deal with current and future needs. Upon completion of their morning a.m. rush hour trips, hundreds of buses have to “dead head” back to New Jersey for midday storage. Then, they have to make another return trip in the afternoon back to New York City for outbound evening service.

Eliminating this dead heading of buses would open up additional capacity for the already overcrowded Lincoln Tunnel. Relocating this facility to the Hudson Yards site would have provided the ideal

solution. There would be the ability to expand capacity for new bus services. Hundreds of buses could lay over in Manhattan, saving the costs of both fuel and deadheading to and from New Jersey.

Intermodal connections would have become available for the Long Island Rail Road; New Jersey Transit; Amtrak; No. 1, 2, 3, 7, A, E and C subways; and ferry services at Pier 79 on West 38th Street, along with the 34th Street Bus Rapid Transit route and other local bus services. Long term, there is also the possibility of future connections with Metro North. This is based upon implementation of providing Metro North direct access to Penn Station.

These new services would use existing Amtrak connections via the Bronx and Manhattan westside and or Bronx/Queens via the Hellgate Bridge at a later date to begin service. Relocation of the Port Authority Bus Terminal to this new location would also complete

the multibillion-dollar ongoing Farley Building project. This project will convert the old Post Office to a new Amtrak Passenger Station as part of the Penn Station complex.

Reopening the old Hilton passageway (which was abandoned in the early 1970's) could provide a direct underground connection from the Long Island Rail Road at 7th Avenue to Herald Square at Broadway. This provides easy access to the B, D, F, M, R, N, Q and W subway lines along with PATH.

Imagine the possibilities for Queens residents transferring from the Long Island Rail Road at Penn Station to access connecting ferry services, New Jersey Transit, Amtrak, PATH, 14 subway lines and possibly Metro North at a later date, as well as with all the bus routes currently operating out of the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Virtually all the connections would be underground indoors, and easily

walkable within minutes between services. With climate controlled facilities, passengers would be warm in the winter and cool in the summer. No one would be exposed to either rain, wind or snow. This would have been the greatest intermodal transportation facility, moving more riders utilizing public transportation than any in America!

You have to ask if there are enough potential tenants to fill all the new office space being created at Hudson Yards. Prospective businesses have many other options. They include numerous existing vacancies along with new office space under construction or planned for at the World Trade Center, rezoning of midtown East, other Manhattan locations, downtown Brooklyn, Hunters Point/Long Island City along with others scattered around Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, Staten Island, Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County, other surrounding suburbs and across the river in New

Jersey. The same holds true for new residential units.

The current Hudson Yards project has been heavily subsidized by taxpayers, commonly known as corporate welfare. Between direct government funding, low-interest below-market-rate loans, long term tax exemptions, favorable eminent domain and free infrastructure improvements, the bill to taxpayers in the end could end up greater than the so-called public benefits. Have any of these “favors” been granted to the Hudson Yards developers in exchange for “Pay to Play” campaign contributions accepted by public officials who were in a position to “deliver” these “gifts”?

Fast forward to today. The PANYNJ now has to find \$10 billion for a new 42nd Street Bus Terminal. They could have built a new facility at Hudson Yards for billions less.

*Larry Penner  
Great Neck*

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# Parents take the playing out of play dates



Lenore  
Skenazy

■  
*Rhymes  
with Crazy*

As Brooklyn mom Tamara R. Mose was preparing for a play date with a mom and child she didn't know well yet, she paused to look at her home: "All the bathrooms are clean, dishes put away, beds made, floors Swiffered, laundry folded, garbage cans emptied, and toys put in their place and sorted for age appropriateness."

And then there was the food: "The kitchen is full of aromas, boiling pasta, simmering sauce, freshly sliced carrots, celery, and oranges, all displayed on sparkling white plates. Lined up are juice boxes boasting their 100 percent organic label, plastic forks and plates, and beside them some half-folded dispos-

able white napkins."

Add to this some whole-wheat crackers, cheeses (three varieties), and the fact her daughter had straightened up her room, too, and Mose, a sociology professor at Brooklyn College, couldn't help but notice: This was not just about fun. This was a performance—"an effort to present ourselves as a decent black family."

From there it was just a hop, skip, and a jump—and a year of interviewing a broad swath of New York parents—to writing "The Playdate: Parents, Children, and the New Expectations of Play," which will be published by NYU Press this spring.

A play date, Mose argues, is sort of a double date—"You're essentially dating the other parent. You're checking them out. What do they do for a living?" Parents arrange play dates ostensibly for their children's fun and enrichment, but really, there's more going on. Yes, they want their kids to make friends and play, but the parents want to make friends,

too. Usually, Mose observed, they want to make friends with other parents demographically the same as them—friends who might even be able to help them in the job world.

At one play date Mose arranged at her son's request, she and her then-husband invited over two couples. One was a lawyer married to an artist, the other was a screenwriter married to the curator of a book lecture series. By the end of the play date, Mose and the curator realized that they knew someone in common and he invited Mose to give a lecture at his series.

"It was at this moment that I started to realize how many times the parents I had invited to a play date either knew someone I knew," says Mose, or they offered some kind of connecting: Come to this show with us, let me introduce you to so-and-so.

The upside is obvious: friendship, networking, even babysitting backup. But Mose's book looks at the downsides, too, starting with the way play

date culture perpetuates class stratifications. The parents who believe in organic hummus and no television are unlikely to have many play dates with the parents who put out soda and chips with SpongeBob in the background—even if the kids really like each other at school.

What's more, simply by perpetuating the play date imperative—that is, the idea that *of course* children need constant supervision either by parents or caregivers—the idea of kids running around on their own seems preposterous. When she was growing up, Mose recalls, she'd go down the street knocking on friends' doors, asking them to come out to play.

"Almost all the parents that I interviewed did the same thing," she says. Play was kid-driven and often out in public.

Now that kind of fun is considered too dangerous (even though crime is back to the level of 1963). The modern play date is organized, supervised, and private.

"So if Joe and John get in a

fight and they're in the room next door, they can come out and complain to me to make it better," says Mose. "Whereas if they're out on the street playing they need to figure it out." Play-date-raised kids lose out on certain childhood lessons their parents got just as a matter of course: How to deal with a quarrel, or even a bully. Is this one reason we have so many anti-bullying assemblies today? Kids just don't get any real-world practice in standing up for themselves, or shrugging off an insult?

What's more, Mose says: Kids who are indoors, surrounded by amusements, may not learn how to make a sword out of stick, or a boat out of a square of pavement. They do, however, learn how to speak to adults. And in the end, she says, that confidence and poise may serve them well in the business world.

In fact, play dates may help both generations in the business world. They just might not help children actually learn how to play.

## CUNY requires a 21st-century level of support



Prem  
Calvin  
Prashad

■  
*New Voices*

The City University of New York is in dire straits, due to political rivalries and a lack of will to fund these institutions at levels consistent with the 21st century. Notably, aside from chronic facility underfunding, many staff members have gone without raises since 2010, at a time when the cost of living has increased dramatically across the city.

Countless artists, scientists and civic leaders emerged from City, Lehman, Brooklyn and Queens Colleges—institutions that would later form the backbone of the CUNY system. City College in particular served as a haven for Jewish-American

intellectuals in an era of institutional anti-Semitism in higher education. The civil rights movement flourished on CUNY campuses and forced the system to take steps toward racial integration. At its inception, CUNY promoted open enrollment for all New Yorkers and began remedial education efforts for incoming freshmen.

Today, the system is among the most diverse in the country, providing the children of immigrants and native New Yorkers alike the opportunity for a quality and affordable education. Indeed, my first experiences on a college campus were through summer programs offered for local high school students at Baruch and Queens Colleges.

Albany took control of CUNY's senior colleges during the financial crisis of 1976 and instated tuition consistent with SUNY schools. Budgetary concerns and uncertainty on the state level have shrunk

CUNY enrollment, forcing the system to backtrack from the "open enrollment" policies instituted in 1970.

In reaction to soaring staff turnover rates and student protests, the budgetary crisis became a political football between City Hall and Albany, with both sides disagreeing on how to close CUNY's reported \$51 billion budget gap. About 45 percent of CUNY's budget comes directly from Albany.

While a solution has not been forthcoming, the mayor and the governor have traded recriminations, each placing the responsibility on the other to provide additional funding. Last month, citing his opposition to adding \$600 million to the state budget outside of a normal budget process, the governor vetoed a bipartisan bill to cover inflationary increases to rent, utilities and healthcare costs at CUNY.

Notably, Governor Cuomo's recent announcement to in-

state the \$15 minimum wage requirement across the SUNY system as part of the Mario Cuomo Campaign for Economic Justice, made no mention of CUNY schools, despite its announcement at a rally in Manhattan. The only schools within New York City subject to the increase would be Maritime College and Downstate Medical Center, both SUNY schools. Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress, which represents 25,000 CUNY faculty and staff, criticized the exclusion of CUNY workers from the announcement.

New York's economic might and greatest asset is its workforce. Investing in higher education is an economic necessity that drives competitive wages. The postwar economic expansion was the largest in American history and coincided strongly with the establishment of public education institutions and efforts by the government, such as the G.I.

Bill, to promote a skilled and educated workforce. Higher wage earners also are good news for Albany's budget, as the lifetime tax contributions provided far outweigh a modest investment in education.

Studies by organizations such as the Economic Policy Institute have found a strong tie between educational attainment and high wages in states, with the only notable outliers being Alaska and Wyoming, whose economies hinge on resource extraction.

I will not prescribe the appropriate balance of funding between New York City and Albany, as the layperson cannot begin to comprehend the complexities of that relationship. Rather, I would urge New Yorkers to lean on their legislators, as well as the offices of the mayor and governor, to begin the conversation about stabilizing the CUNY system, as well as create a plan to ensure its long-term sustainability.



# Do City Council members deserve a raise?



Bob  
Friedrich  
*On Poinr*

This is what a classified ad would look like for the position of New York City Council member:

*Part-Time Job Available. No Experience Necessary. Flexible Hours—Attendance Optional. Free Parking. Unlimited Vacation and Personal Time. Compensation: \$112,000 per annum, plus bonuses, pension and health care.*

Sound good? To sweeten the deal, New York City Council members are attempting to give themselves a 71 percent pay increase, to \$191,500 per year, for their part-time job. Since their astronomical salary-hike plan has been exposed, they have been back-pedaling “tirelessly”—a word they often use on campaign literature to describe their work effort. Now that their hands have been caught in the cookie jar, they are striving to draw attention away from this subject.

Make no mistake: The fix

is in. Council members will vote themselves an increase. It may not be the \$192,000 they seek, but it will be substantially higher than their current \$112,000 windfall. After all, this is the “progressive” city council that takes pride in lambasting the 1 percenters, forgetting that they are part of the club. As the old bromide goes, “Do as we say, Not as we do.”

Does the City Council merit such a large pay increase and does the proposed increase comport with percentage increases of other city workers? Let’s take a look at some of their recent actions, which many New Yorkers might feel call into question even their current compensation of \$112,000. The proposal to gift themselves a whopping 71 percent increase should be contrasted with the 1 percent increase recently awarded to the NYPD. The Council wants to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, which works out to \$31,200 annually for unskilled entry-level labor. This is not very far below the \$44,500 starting salary of NYC police officers, who risk their lives for us every day.

Does this City Council take

actions to protect our safety? Their recent “ban the box” regulation severely restricts an employer’s right to ask job applicants about prior criminal arrest records. “Ban the box” refers to the box on employment forms that asks if an applicant has ever been arrested or convicted of a crime. This newly enacted restriction on employers will make families and seniors more vulnerable in their communities.

As president of Glen Oaks Village, I face this: Recently hired maintenance personnel—whose jobs require them to enter residential apartments—can no longer be asked about prior arrests or criminal records. Previously, a criminal background query would have been part of the employment vetting process that residential housing co-ops and other businesses utilize, but the City Council has now made this unlawful.

In another action recently taken by the City Council, landlords are prohibited from inquiring about prospective tenants’ credit scores prior to subletting an apartment. This will make it more difficult for landlords to properly screen new tenants making monthly

rent collections much more uncertain.

This City Council is reportedly considering decriminalizing public urination, turnstile-jumping and other nuisance and public-health infractions. As a civic leader, I can assure you that there is no clamoring from civic groups to “remove criminal penalties” for these quality-of-life offenses in our neighborhoods.

And if Council member Rory Lancman has his way we will soon be using taxpayer funds to bail out low-level offenders so they can be immediately returned to the same streets from which police officers had just removed them.

Lastly, the City Council’s track record for malfeasance and corruption is well known. Two examples: Council member Ruben Wills, who was arrested again last year, and Council member Dan Haloran, who is now serving a 10-year prison sentence.

Councilmembers seek to justify their coveted pay increase by agreeing to make “sacrifices” such as foregoing outside income and ending the generous “lulus” that are bestowed upon committee

chairs. But let’s be honest here: Councilmembers never should have been permitted to double-dip with outside income in the first place and should never have authorized the bonus payment of lulus. It is just more business as usual for the City Council when two unjustifiable perks become bargaining chips in the self-dealing negotiations for an unprecedented pay hike.

The average New Yorker’s salary is less than half of what a city Council member earns. Adding in the perks and benefits, Council members’ part-time jobs are one of the city’s most lucrative. Council members seeking to profiteer from a 71 percent pay hike while most city residents tighten their belts and live within their means is shameful. Council members should ask the public—their employers—if they deserve a raise. I can assure you that seniors who have received a zero percent increase in their Social Security this year would have a lot to say. Perhaps they will in the next election.

*Bob Friedrich is a Civic Leader and recent candidate for the New York City Council.*

## Some good news for readers of the Daily News

BY SHAVANA ABRUZZO

There’s still some bang left in the old buck!

A dollar doesn’t stretch very far these days, but it can still get you a slice of pizza, a song on iTunes (sometimes) and now a copy of the Daily News. Our pals at the paper—all Community News Group and New York Community Media publications are printed at the News’ printing press—slashed the newsstand price by a quarter in all five boroughs as of Jan. 11.

The media grapevine buzzed over the price drop, which comes just seven months after the News hiked its price to \$1.25 per copy. Some print pundits speculated the News drove up sales with its strong gun-control advocacy after the

San Bernardino shootings, while others credited its financial fluidity to a fresh round of layoffs.

News nabobs only said readers shouldn’t look a gift horse in the mouth.

“As New York’s Hometown Paper, we look for every opportunity to bring our loyal readers the news they need at a lower price point,” Bill Holiber, president and chief executive officer of the Daily News, said in a press release.

Consider the quarter saving no chump change, either.

“Life in New York City is hard enough and we figured we’d put 25 cents back in the pockets of our faithful readers,” said Ricardo Flattes, circulation sales and consumer marketing director. “It all adds up.”

The New York Daily News, founded in 1919 as the Illustrated Daily News by Joseph Medill Patterson, was the first successful tabloid newspaper in America, with the largest circulation in the nation. It later changed its name to the Daily News, attracting readers with its sensational coverage of crime, scandal, and violence, and lurid photographs, cartoons, and other entertainment features. By 1930 its circulation had leapt to more than 1.5 million and in the next decade increased to 2 million, as it delivered the low-down on political wrongdoings behind President Warren G. Harding’s Teapot Dome Scandal and the socially intriguing romance between Wallis Simpson and Britain’s King Edward VIII that led to his abdication.



A New York Daily News truck as it traveled north on 1st Avenue at East 40th in Manhattan on Monday. Theodore Parisienne for New York Daily News

On Oct. 30, 1975 the Daily News brought the nation to a hush with its gut-punching screamer, “Ford to City: Drop Dead.”

Now, trusty readers applauded the cheaper price.

“It means that the New York’s hometown paper is still in business,” said Flatbush resident Tom Harris, 54. “And I won’t have to rummage about looking for that extra quarter.”



# 107th Precinct officers make very special delivery

Parents-to-be flag down cops who bring their baby into the world in a car on the LIE

BY MADINA TOURE

Two police officers from the 107th Precinct helped a mother who went into labor give birth in her car Saturday on the Long Island Expressway and Kissena Boulevard.

At about 4:15 p.m. officers

from Highway Unit 3 responded to a report of a woman in labor, but when they arrived on the scene, no one was there, according to the police.

During a canvass of the area, Police Officer Anthony Barton found a blue Subaru on the eastbound L.I.E. service road, at Francis Lewis Boulevard, where he saw a man flailing his arms to get the officers' attention, police said.

Barton approached the front passenger side of the car and discovered a woman sitting in the upright position, who was in labor with the baby's head crowning, officials said.

Officer Michael Pyzikiewicz, also assigned to Highway Unit 3 and a paramedic since 1997, directed Barton over the radio to ensure that the mother was lying in a flat position, keep the baby warm and clear the fluids from the mouth once the baby is born.

Barton reclined the seat's backrest and received the baby

with a white baby blanket that was in the car, police said.

He then turned the car's heat up and began to clear the fluid from the newborn's mouth before Pyzikiewicz arrived at the scene and took over, police said.

EMS arrived shortly after and handed Pyzikiewicz a bulb syringe, which he used to extract additional fluid and then clamped the umbilical cord while EMS cut it, officials said.

EMS then took the baby into the ambulance, while Barton and Pyzikiewicz helped the mother onto the stretcher and put her into the ambulance along with the father, where they were taken to Long Island Jewish Medical Center, officials added.

Police said the mother and the baby boy were doing well.

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



The police officers from the 107th Precinct pose with the woman who went into labor on the Long Island Expressway.



Cops found the mother in labor in a car parked in front of St. Francis Prep. Photo by Michael Shain

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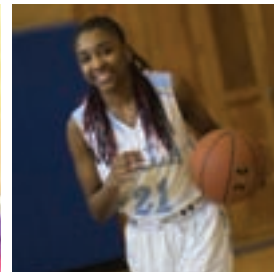
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## Food drive launches

BY MADINA TOURE

Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) kicked off a food drive last week at his district offices in Fresh Meadows and Richmond Hill.

The food drive, which started Jan. 8, is accepting a variety of nonperishable foods such as canned fruits, vegetables, beans, dry pasta and grains. Donations must be received by Feb. 18.

Individuals can give donations to Weprin's district office at 185-06 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows or his district office at 111-12 Atlantic Ave., #5 in Richmond Hill.

The donations will be given to River Fund New York, a community-based organization in Richmond Hill that works to fight hunger, homelessness and poverty in dozens of New York City communities through its Client Choice Food Pantry and Mobile Programs.



DAVID WEPRIN

## Send veterans valentines

State Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) has announced his 20th-annual Valentines for Vets gift drive.

Sponsoring the drive in partnership with the law offices of Ann-Margaret Carrozza, Braunstein collects cards, candy, toiletries and clothing for hospitalized and disabled veterans every year.

"For the last 20 years, these donations have brightened the days of thousands of veterans by showing that we care about them and appreciate their sacrifices," Carrozza said. "It would mean a great deal to our hospitalized heroes if you would choose to be their valentine by donating to our drive."

Gifts can be dropped off at Braunstein's office, 213-33 39th Ave., Suite 238; the Carrozza office, 213-38 40th Ave.; the Whitestone Ambulance Service, 12-15 150th St.; or at the office of Community Board 11, 46-21 Little Neck Pkwy.

The deadline for donations is Wednesday, Feb. 10, when the collected items are scheduled to be taken to the St. Albans VA Community Living Center and the state Veterans Home at St. Albans, Braunstein said.

For more information, call Braunstein's office at 718-357-3588 or Carrozza's office at 718-224-4746.

~ Tom Momborg

## Nursing home

*Continued from Page 2*

Paul Vallone (D-Hillcrest), said Vallone received an anonymous email about the layoffs.

"We got an email from a constituent saying the hall was planning on letting go some of the older staff members, older as in they've been there the longest," Morales said.

Another employee said all employees had five hours cut from their paychecks a few years ago, and that UFCW Local 342 has filed grievances concerning the layoffs.

Ozanam Hall, run by the Catholic Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, is guided by the Carmelite Mission to bring dignity and quality of life to the care of seniors, offering both short-term rehabilitation and skilled geriatric care for 432 residents. Services include skilled nursing, post-acute

care and memory/dementia care.

A source familiar with the circumstances said people are upset about the layoffs, noting that about 38 pink slips have gone out and that Ozanam is renting out one of the floors to a hospital to bring in more revenue, she said.

"It's really expensive," the source said. "There's a lot of empty beds. Nobody's really coming in. There's usually a five-year wait list on that place and now they're begging to come in."

She also said Ozanam was planning to bulldoze the entire block and expand the nursing home but one homeowner held out.

In May 2012, supporters of union workers called on the bishop of Brooklyn to put an end to policies detrimental to patient care. At the time, the union's 400-plus workers were without a contract for two years and the nursing home said it could not provide a fair wage increase for workers because of economic hardship.

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# Avella offers program to fight homelessness

BY MADINA TOURE

At a news conference last week, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) outlined proposals to address the homeless crisis in New York City, including investing \$2 billion over five years for supportive housing, increasing shelter allowances and reforming shelters.

The proposals follow a public forum on homelessness that Avella, chairman of the Senate Task Force on the Delivery of Social Services, held in October. He released a report summarizing the testimonies given by agency commissioners and homeless advocates during the forum.

Avella said his proposal is in contrast with Mayor Bill de Blasio's, which seeks to invest \$2.6 billion over 15 years to increase supportive housing. He said advocates for homeless individuals complained about the timeframe.

"That's a long period where you're stretching this out, so my recommendation to the mayor and hopefully with support from the governor, will be \$2 billion over five years," he said. "We have to do this right now. We can't wait 15 years."

Among the senator's proposals are raising the New York state shelter allowance, which has not been increased since 2003; making shelters cleaner and safer; and ensuring that there is a licensed social worker at every site. He also wants to eliminate vacancy decontrol, which allows landlords to charge market rates for a rent-stabilized apartment when the tenant moves out and the rent is more than \$2,500.

The city is facing criticism for not sufficiently managing the homeless crisis, with nearly 58,000 living in shelters and another 3,000 to 4,000 estimated to be living on the streets.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order Jan. 3 to bring homeless individuals off the streets when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below.

---

Two days later, de Blasio announced that Herminia Palacio would serve as deputy mayor for Health and Human services starting Jan. 25. She will be tasked with addressing homelessness across the five boroughs.

Last month, Gilbert Taylor resigned as commissioner of the city Department of Homeless Services after two years in the position. Human Re-



State Sen. Tony Avella unveiled his shelter reform and homelessness recommendations at a news conference last week.

Photo by Madina Toure

sources Administration Commissioner Steven Banks took over DHS Jan. 1, while Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris leads the review of all city homeless services.

Avella said the crisis is an "emergency situation" but that the city should still communicate with neighborhoods before placing the homeless in shelters. He cited the Pan American Hotel shelter in Elmhurst, where the homeless arrived without the city notifying the community or elected officials.

"I said it to the commissioner, and by the way, some of you may remember, I was the person who first asked for Commissioner Taylor to step down and resign, because I thought he was doing a terrible job," he said. "I'm glad to see that finally happened. It should have happened sooner."

Other proposals from Avella include recalculating affordable housing eligibility with an area median income by zip code, providing priority status to homeless veterans and victims of domestic violence and increasing shelter capacity for homeless youth.

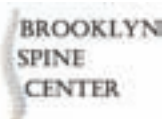
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Audra McDonald  
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# Housing lawyers give free help to Flushing tenants

Queens Legal Services offers multilingual support at Koo's office as evictions rise

BY MADINA TOURE

City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) and Queens Legal Services launched a partnership to provide free monthly legal housing assistance to Flushing residents.

Starting Friday and following on the first Friday of every month, Queens Legal Services will have an attorney at Koo's office to help constituents with housing issues including tenant/landlord disputes, harassment, rent stabilization and evictions. Consultations with the QLS attorney must be made by appointment by calling Koo's office at (718) 888-8747.

Attorneys fluent in Korean, Chinese, Spanish and other languages will be onsite. An immediate telephone interpretation service is also available for any other languages not covered.

During a news conference at his office, Koo said tenant and landlord disputes



Jennifer Ching, director of Queens Legal Services, and City Councilman Peter Koo announce a partnership that will provide Flushing residents with monthly legal housing assistance.

Photo by Madina Toure

and harassment are common complaints his office receives but that over the past several months there has been a spike in the number of housing-related complaints.

Issues include landlords harassing tenants, taking

a long time to make repairs or not making repairs at all, and not cashing tenants' rent checks.

"There are many tricks landlords can use to evict tenants and many tricks tenants can use to take advantage of

the landlords, too," Koo said. "Property values in Flushing are rapidly increasing and development is on the rise. Flushing also has a high number of rent-stabilized buildings, about 450 buildings, so it's important that the tenants

know their rights."

Jennifer Ching, QLS' director, said New Yorkers struggle with escalating housing costs on a daily basis.

"What we have been seeing in northern Queens, and in particular in the Flushing community, is a rapid rate of gentrification and displacement of low-income, longtime tenants and residents from all backgrounds," Ching said.

She encouraged people to reach out to Koo's office about any critical civil or legal needs.

"We don't mean to limit the topics by which people can come see us, but we agree with the Council member that the housing issues in particular here in Flushing right now are so particularly acute that they warrant a separate clinic," she said.

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



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Ridgewood Savings Bank's VP of Branch Operations, Louann Mannino stated, "we are pleased to rollout this new app in time for the holiday shopping season which will help our customers to protect and manage their debit card activity during the holidays". According to pymts.com, there were more than 11.4 million fraud attempts that took place during the 2014 holiday season, and with CardValet, Ridgewood Savings Bank customers will be better prepared to monitor their financial activity to spot any potential fraud.

To find out more information about the CardValet app visit [www.RidgewoodBank.com](http://www.RidgewoodBank.com) or any Ridgewood Savings Bank branch.

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# Home invasion turns fatal for dad: NYPD

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

While 51-year old Frankie Nieves was getting his daughter ready for school Monday morning, two robbers entered his home and fatally shot him in Ozone Park, police said.

Police said officers from the 106th Precinct responded to the call of a male shot around 7:56 a.m. and found Nieves unconscious and unresponsive with a gunshot wound to the chest inside his home on Peconic Street.

Emergency responders took Nieves to Jamaica Hospital where he was pronounced dead. According to a police source, Nieves had had a couple of drug-related arrests several years ago and six other prior arrests not related to illegal drugs.

On the 106th Precinct Community Council's Facebook page, Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff wrote Monday, "It's a new year and, unfortunately, we have taken our 1st shooting homicide for the year. It occurred this morning at 7:56 a.m. ... [Two] dark skinned male Hispanics have been reported to have committed this crime. It seems to be drug related at this time. The investigation is continuing."

Based on friends' Facebook posts and comments, Nieves was a good person and a regular at the Howard Beach branch of Gold's Gym at Crossbay Boulevard.

Police sources said Nieves's brother, who was not identified by police officials, arrived a little before the fatal home invasion took place. Police said the daughter and brother both were



Police are investigating the death of Frankie Nieves from Ozone Park who was shot inside his home, seen here, during a home invasion according to police officials.

Photo by Sadeef Kully

present at the time of the incident — neither was injured, according to police officials.

Police said Wednesday no arrests had been made and the investigation was ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding the shooting is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 800-577-TIPS, visit website [www.nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://www.nypdcrimestoppers.com) or send a text message to 274637 (CRIMES), then enter TIP577. All calls and messages are kept confidential.

## Ponte slows Rikers reforms after sudden violence spike

BY BILL PARRY

After a spate of violent episodes involving teenage inmates on Rikers Island, the head of the city's Department of Correction sought a delay in implementing one of his integral reforms. Commissioner Joseph Ponte sent a letter to the chairman of the Board of Correction last Friday that seeks a six-month delay to ending isolation for young adults ages 18 to 21 until June when his staff would be better prepared.

Ponte fired off the request two days after five officers were hospitalized, one with a fractured nose and another with severe bruises on his face, after they were attacked by a group of teen inmates when they refused to follow

orders, according to union and DOC officials. Two months ago, Correction Officer Ray Calderon required more than 20 stitches to his face and arm after he was brutally slashed in an ambush by teen inmates.

In his letter, Ponte said the DOC needed more time before it could safely implement its Young Adult Plan, including necessary infrastructure repairs, staff training, expansion of programming targeting the young adult population and the creation of a new admission center. The goal of the plan is to separately house young adults and eliminate solitary confinement for the 18- to 21-year-old inmates.

Ponte told The New York Times that after the recent attacks on officers

*Continued on Page 41*





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This Crunch in Brooklyn has similar equipment to the one that recently opened in Richmond Hill. Photo courtesy Crunch

## Crunch gym opens outpost in borough

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Crunch, the New York-based national gym chain, opened its first Queens gym in Richmond Hill in December in time for borough residents making new year resolutions for a healthier lifestyle in 2016.

The brand new health club boasts top-notch amenities including state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment, full-service locker rooms, tanning and HydroMassage.

In addition to these top-of-the-line amenities, the Richmond Hill gym has a designated group fitness studio where members can enjoy Crunch's classes.

The current fitness classes offered at the Richmond Hill franchise include the Bodyweb with TRX, a strength, cardio and balance workout; Zumba with Bursts, a high-intensity cardio workout; Tread N' Shed cardio workout on a treadmill; Fat Burning Pilates, a pilates-based cardio workout; Cardio Tai Box, a martial arts and boxing workout; Absolution workout focused on core upper-body muscles; Yoga Body Sculpt, a Vinyasa flow class; Retro-Robics, a flashback to Eighties style workout; the Belly, Butt and Thigh boot-camp focusing on the lower body; and 360-3X, a total body workout.

A Crunch spokeswoman said those looking for guidance for reaching their New Year's fitness goals can join



A sign outside the Crunch on Jamaica Avenue in Richmond Hill advertises the gym's fees. Photo by Sadeef Ali

Camp Crunch, a program that gives members of all fitness levels the opportunity to work one-on-one with an expert trainer.

According to Crunch, trainers develop personalized plans to help members meet their individual fitness goals through signature small group training, cutting-edge personal training and unique nutrition programs.

Crunch has over 120 locations across the country and an estimated 650,000 members.

Crunch Richmond Hill officially opened for workouts on Dec. 15, at 115-02 Jamaica Ave.

More information can be found at [www.crunch.com](http://www.crunch.com) or by phone at 646-780-2050.



# Resolved: Make 2016 the best year ever

BY GABRIEL ROM

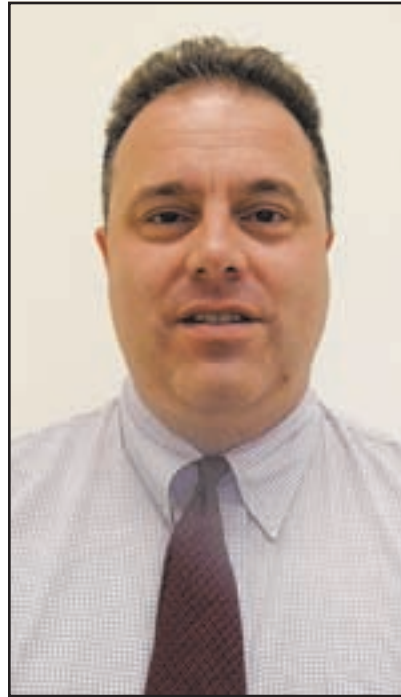
As Queens rings in the new year, five movers and shakers share their hopes for themselves and the borough with the TimesLedger.

**Rob MacKay, director of the Queens Tourism Council and director of Public Relations, Marketing & Tourism at the Queens Economic Development Corporation:**

"My New Year's resolution is always to be nicer to my mother, but I'm adding to my list in 2016. First of all, I'm going to attend more cultural events at places such as the Kupferberg Center for the Arts, Flushing Town Hall and Queens Theatre," MacKay said. "Then, I am going to explore more local restaurants, participate in more parades and outdoor events, and get to the Rockaways more often, especially during the summer. Finally, I want to enjoy everyday life in the borough. We're lucky to live here and we should be appreciative."

**Thomas Grech, executive director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce:**

"I resolve in 2016 to drive the Chamber to have more events, increase advocacy and growth overall," Grech said. "On a personal level, I'm looking to the Mets to win the 2016 World Series"



ROB MACKAY



THOMAS GRECH



BOB HOLDEN

**Bob Holden, president of Juniper Park Civic Association:**

"On the civic level, last year I wanted to expand our civic magazine, and we did—to 96 pages. This year I want to make it a recruitment tool to bring in

more serious-minded volunteers to help protect our quality of life in Middle Village and Maspeth. With each passing year the threats to our neighborhoods seem to increase. We need more eyes and ears out there," Holden

said. "On the personal side, to spend more quality time with my family and travel more. Each year my wife keeps reminding me to be more patient, so my resolution this year is to really try

*Continued on Page 30*

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ALISON RODMAN



SUSAN LACERTE

## Resolutions

*Continued from Page 29*

harder and finally listen to my wife... the one person I know who is seldom wrong."

**Allison Rodman, director of Communications at MoMA PS1:**

"This year I resolve to commit to the resolutions I made last year and did not commit to," Rodman said. "Beyond that and the regular roster of resolutions like exercising more, I have a few borough-specific resolutions: making

sure I visit every museum in Queens more regularly; feast on dim sum in Flushing and Greek food in Astoria; explore Jackson Heights; and lastly, to tackle LIC's incredible rock climbing wall, The Cliffs."

**Susan Lacerte, executive director of the Queens Botanical Garden:**

"Every four years, there's a presidential election, the Olympics... This year, my resolution is to have the best leap-year birthday yet. Check out QBG's calendar to celebrate with me!"

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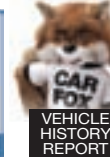
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# Art and art lovers congregate in Bayside

Photos by Michael Shain



State Sen. Tony Avella is a surprise submitter to this year's Bayside Art Show, his first year in the show. "Swirl on Yellow" is one of two abstract paintings he has in the show.



Mother and daughter, Elsie (l) and Elise McKay, enjoy the show organized by daughter/sister Alison McKay, executive director of the Bayside Historical Society.



Painter and art teacher Neill Slaughter, one of the judges of the art show, presents an honorable mention prize for watercolors to Naomi Klosner.



The winners of the judges awards in six categories, painting, pastel, drawing, photography, watercolor and mixed media.



A rainy Sunday did not hold down the crowd at the Bayside Historical Society's 15th Annual Winter Art Show at the society's Ft. Totten landmark castle.



Elaine Hajiam of Holliswood, who has two pastel landscapes in the show, chatted with a friend at the opening.





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Why are you nominating them? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can we reach you or your nominee for more information?

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Email your nomination info to: [llindenauer@cnglocal.com](mailto:llindenauer@cnglocal.com), or fax this form to: 718-224-5821, Att: Linda Lindenauer

Or mail this form to:

Queens Impact Awards Nominees  
CNG — TimesLedger Newspapers  
41-02 Bell Blvd., Bayside, NY 11361  
Att: Linda Lindenauer



# Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



Shoppers stroll along 37th Avenue in Frederick Wiseman's documentary "In Jackson Heights."

Photo courtesy Zipporah Films

## DOC hollywood

**FREDERICK WISEMAN'S FILM 'IN JACKSON HEIGHTS' SCREENS AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE**

BY MERLE EXIT

Frederick Wiseman was a no-show at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards Jan. 5.

When Susan Sarandon, born in Jackson Heights, presented the award for best non-fiction film for Wiseman's latest "In Jackson Heights," the director was in Eu-

rope, shooting his next movie.

However, City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), who appears in the highly acclaimed project, was in attendance to do the accepting.

"I was extremely honored to be asked to accept the award for this documentary," Dromm said. "I was very pleased to receive the award from Susan Sarandon. As Ms. Sarandon and I both stated at the event, 'In Jackson Heights' has a lesson of tolerance and acceptance to teach to the rest of the world. What an honor it was to be among so many important people."

What makes this epic three-hour documentary different from most is noticeable within its first 10 minutes.

There is not any narrator, or anyone being interviewed. Wiseman simply takes his camera and travels around the area as if he is just

dropping in, with everyone seemingly oblivious to the fact that being filmed is not something that happens to them every day.

Dromm calls Jackson Heights "the most diversified community in the whole world. We have 167 languages spoken here."

In fact, so many languages are spoken in the film, that English subtitles are provided.

"There are communities of people from every country in South and Central America as well as large groups of people from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Nepal and Tibet," Wiseman said in a statement. "They live together with the descendants of earlier immigrants to America — Italian, Jewish and Irish. The area is a true American melting pot reminiscent of the Lower East Side of New York City at the end of the 19th century."

*Continued on Page 39*



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# THEATER CALENDAR



## PRODUCTIONS

**"A Chorus Line"** – This production marks the 40th anniversary since "A Chorus Line" debuted on Broadway, the show is the ultimate backstage musical about the need to perform.

**When:** Jan. 28 through Feb. 14

**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City

**Cost:** \$18

**Contact:** (718) 392-0722

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**"City Girls & Desperadoes"** – The world premiere of Pamela Enz' play tells the story of a group of hipsters lost in a world of drugs and dealing.

**When:** Through Jan. 17

**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City

**Cost:** \$18

**Contact:** (718) 392-0722

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**"Shrek The Musical Jr."** – Rockway Theatre's Young People's Theatre Workshop presents a musical version of the hit animated film about Shrek the ogre, his sidekick Donkey and Princess Fiona.

**When:** Jan. 29 - Feb. 14

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

**Cost:** \$10/general admission

**Contact:** (718) 374-6400

**Website:** www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org

## MEETINGS

**North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting –**

Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.

**When:** Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

**Where:** Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck

**Contact:** Muriel, (718) 225-7382

For more hyper-local Queens news on your computer, smartphone, or iPad, visit **TimesLedger.com**.

# sudoku

Answers in Sports

Very Easy #4

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

Medium #4

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

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

Tips at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Week 4



# New play looks at desperate times

Long Island City's Secret Theatre debuts tale of drugs, sex with 'City Girls & Desperadoes'

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

In his director's note for Pamela Enz's play "City Girls & Desperadoes," now at the Secret Theatre, Richard Mazda writes that it "is not about drugs, sex or dealing," but rather "is a play about relationships within that bankrupt yet thrilling late '70s New York City world."

That's not to say drugs, sex and dealing don't drive this story about six New Yorkers getting through life by playing a game of musical bedrooms, strung out on a ton of white powder snorted up their noses.

Dani, played to perfection by Julie Atlas Muz, sells cocaine from her Second Avenue apartment.

She juggles visits from her supplier Rita (a very funny Karina Ortiz) and her lover Arthur (Austin Pendleton in a raw and honest performance), while she goes through life in a drug-in-



Austin Pendleton (l) and Annette Benda-Fox perform a scene from "City Girls & Desperadoes," playing at The Secret Theatre through Sunday. Photo courtesy Steven Speliotis

duced stupor as a form of self-medication. Rita and her girlfriend Lilli (a hilarious Connie Castanzo) drop in and out of Dani's apartment to fool around

and offer samples of their wares.

Dani laments the fact the world won't let her "sit out on the side," but insists she live with her

pain and longing. "The only thing lonelier than dying is living," Rita tells her.

At the onset, Dani does not seem that lone-

ly. The evening begins with a graphic scene as Muz and Pendleton—both completely naked—simulate sex.

## IF YOU GO

### "City Girls & Desperadoes"

**When:** Through Jan. 17  
**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18  
**Contact:** (718) 392-0722  
**Website:** [www.secrettheatre.com](http://www.secrettheatre.com)

While it hits the audience with a jolt, the scene still comes across as two people expressing the love they feel for each other. As these characters relax in their post-coital glow, it becomes clear that they both deal drugs and that Arthur is married to someone else.

Arthur's wife, Susan, played by Annette Benda-Fox, slaps the two back to reality when she calls Dani's apartment looking for her husband.

Later, Arthur complicates matters when he brings Susan, or Susie as *Continued on Page 39*

# Chain Theatre offers programming to the end

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

In a little more than three weeks, The Chain Theatre will shut the door for the last time on its 45th Road home.

Its current lease expires Feb. 9, and the property's owner has already confirmed the building is slated to be remade as another high-end residential development in booming Long Island City.

That is not to say that The Chain and Artistic Director Kirk Gostkowski plan to go quietly.

Gostkowski has even called in a few political favors and convinced Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) to produce a video to support the theater.

"I love The Chain for a lot of reasons," Van Bramer states in the video. "These are folks who built a place that is a home away from

home for New Yorkers seeking a unique and diverse cultural experience."

And while it skews more unique than cultural, this weekend the theater hosts its movie parody comedy group, The Usual Rejects, with a encore presentation of its first program, "Yippee-Ki-Yay: Die Hard."

Five actors don a series of rotating costumes as they take on every role in this reimagined staged reading of the Bruce Willis mega-hit.

During the last weekend of January, the Rejects return for a special version of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom."

Other events include a special screening of the original "Blues Brothers" film in conjunction with Cinema Under the Influence.

"We're on a mission from God to save The Chain,"

Gostkowski, paraphrasing a line from the film, said.

Benny & Griff, who mix music and comedy, play a show Jan. 22.

Then a party to thank all of the people who have supported The Chain since its opening in 2012 is slated for Jan. 31.

Gostkowski has known for a few months that he was going to lose the space.

He has been looking for another venue, and would like to stay in LIC, but so far he has been priced out of the market.

"Rents have doubled since we looked for this place three years ago," Gostkowski said.

Although The Chain may not have a building to call its own, Gostkowski intends to continue producing works in spaces he will rent around Queens.

He will also keep seeking donations through Indiegogo. *Continued on Page 39*



The Chain Theatre in Long Island City will be forced out of its current home on 45th Road.



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

## EVENTS

**Glass Bottle Art**— Spend the evening socializing and finding your inner artist while painting glass bottles. All supplies will be provided.  
**When:** Friday, Jan. 15, at 6:15 pm  
**Where:** Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center, 93-29 Queens Blvd., Rego Park  
**Cost:** Free, but registration is required to [kashfia.tasmi@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:kashfia.tasmi@parks.nyc.gov) or by phone  
**Contact:** (718) 263-1163  
**Website:** [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**— Spend the day volunteering to help clean up Idlewild Park.  
**When:** Monday, Jan. 18, from 10 am - 1 pm  
**Where:** Idlewild Park, 230th Street and 149th, Brookville  
**Cost:** Free, but pre-registration - at [joseph.homsey@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:joseph.homsey@parks.nyc.gov) - is required

**Contact:** (212) 360-2761  
**Website:** [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)

**Candle Art**— Mix socializing with art in this afternoon workshop. No experience is necessary, and all supplies will be provided.  
**When:** Thursday, Jan. 21, from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm  
**Where:** Detective Keith L. Williams Field House, Liberty Avenue and 172nd Street, Jamaica  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 523-69-12  
**Website:** [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)

## MUSIC

**BeBe Winans** — The legendary gospel and R & B singer leads a celebration to honor Martin Luther King Jr. which includes a keynote address from the Rev. Floyd H. Flake.  
**When:** Sunday, Jan. 17, at 4 pm  
**Where:** Colden Auditorium,

Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$35  
**Contact:** (718) 793-8080  
**Website:** [www.kupferbergcenter.org](http://www.kupferbergcenter.org)

## DANCE

**"I Understand Everything Better"** — The return engagement of David Neumann's multidisciplinary dance-based performance explores calamity, unseen realms, concurrence of unrelated events and letting go.  
**When:** Through Jan. 16  
**Where:** The Chocolate Factory Theater, 5-49 49th Ave., LIC  
**Cost:** \$20  
**Contact:** (718) 482-7069  
**Website:** [www.chocolatefactorytheater.org](http://www.chocolatefactorytheater.org)

**Take Root**— The monthly series provides choreographers the chance to present a paired evening of work. In January, Mersiha Mesihovic, CircuitDebris and Underground DanceWorks perform.  
**When:** Friday, Jan. 22, and Saturday, Jan. 23, at 7 pm  
**Where:** Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$17

**Contact:** (718) 956-3037  
**Website:** [www.greenspacestudio.org](http://www.greenspacestudio.org)

**Fertile Ground** — Green Space's monthly program highlights emerging and established artists. In January, the show includes Cassandra Cotta, Humanistics Dance Co., Kathleen Kelley Dance, Megan Christine Dance Collective and Titilayo Majoyeogbe.  
**When:** Sunday, Jan. 24, at 7 pm  
**Where:** Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$14

**Contact:** (718) 956-3037  
**Website:** [www.greenspacestudio.org](http://www.greenspacestudio.org)

**The History of Salsa** — The award-winning Colombian dance company, Cali Salsa Pal Mundo, presents a show of intoxicating rhythms and mesmerizing moves that traces the development of Salsa.  
**When:** Feb. 5 through Feb. 21, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 4 pm  
**Where:** Thalia Hispanic Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside  
**Cost:** \$40/general, \$37/seniors and students

**Contact:** (718) 729-3880  
**Website:** [www.thaliatheatre.org](http://www.thaliatheatre.org)

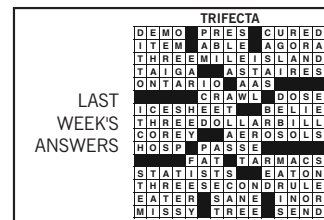
**Japanese Classical Dance at Resobox** — Workshops teach the 400-year-old nichibu dance popularized in kabuki. All experience levels are welcome and all materials are provided.  
**When:** Mondays, 5:30 pm workshop for children 8 to 11; 6:30 pm workshop for all ages 12 and up  
**Where:** Resobox, 41-26 27th St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$25/adults, \$20/students  
**Contact:** (718) 784-3680  
**Website:** [www.resobox.com](http://www.resobox.com)

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers  
Jan. 15-21, 2016

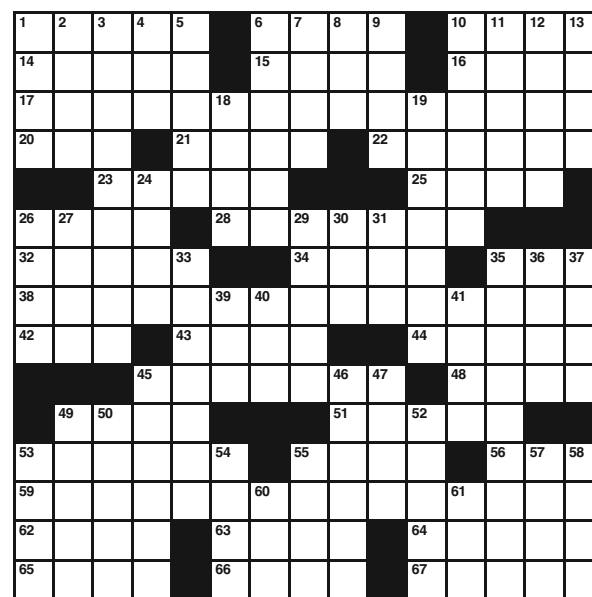
By Ed Canty

## JEWELS



### Across

1. Secret store
6. Amusing old guy
10. Like taking candy from a baby?
14. Best way to leave Vegas?
15. Kuwaiti, e.g.
16. A Grimm beginning?
17. C.E.O. protector?
20. Pupil's spot
21. One kind of order
22. Laughed loudly
23. Begin
25. Prevaricated
26. Taxi door info
28. Insect-repelling compound
32. Type of bay?
34. "Attention please..."
35. Bud holder?
38. Gem of a financier
42. Maglie of baseball
43. "Bye now"
44. Chaplin and others
45. Ancient writing material
48. Wound healer?
49. "The \_\_\_\_ thickens"
51. Agents making busts
53. Conversation
55. A shade of beige
56. Leaves in hot water
59. Like Dorothy's traveling shoes
62. Workers' purchase arrangement, for short
63. Kitten's pick-up spot?



- |                           |                                |  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 64. Makes bread?          | 18. A crack investigator?      | 45. Sea anemones, e.g.                               |
| 65. Board members: Abbr.  | 19. Capital of Sri Lanka       | 46. Sam and Tom, relatively?                         |
| 66. "Roget's" info: Abbr. | 24. Rain cats and dogs         | 47. Apology from Indian seamstress?                  |
| 67. German coal city      | 26. Casting requirements?      | 49. First of 12 popes with a religious-sounding name |
|                           | 27. Pavarotti specialty        | 50. Motherly business?                               |
|                           | 29. "Hot Lips"                 | 52. Indian coin                                      |
|                           | 30. Beta preceptor?            | 53. Great Scott?                                     |
|                           | 31. Border line?               | 54. D.D.E. and others                                |
|                           | 33. 'You are here' arrow, e.g. | 55. Inits. for an armchair quarterback?              |
|                           | 35. Kitchen containers         | 57. Another graceful seabird                         |
|                           | 36. Bachelor No. 1?            | 58. Org.   |
|                           | 37. Wall St. workplace         | 60. Calendar square                                  |
|                           | 39. Barely beat                | 61. Faux finish?                                     |
|                           | 40. Calendar square            |  |
|                           | 41. Campus military org.       |  |

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# Film

Continued from Page 35

Those many languages are just one example of the wide variety of people and cultures who appear in the film. From Muslims praying and teaching, to Latino groups, East Indians, seniors and the largest LGBT community in Queens, the film examines the many sides of the neighborhood, as well as the issues that concern them.

Those issues, however, are not simply a Jackson Heights topic but one that much of America deals with.

There is no "town hall" here. In fact, it appears that the local Jewish Center is the largest gathering venue, particularly for seniors and the LGBT population.

A gay Latino bartender, Julio Rivera, was the victim of a brutal hate crime in 1991. It could have been brushed off by the police if the neighborhood hadn't taken active steps to address this as a community.

Another issue involves a transgender Latina who launches a boycott of a Greek-owned pizzeria that she be-



Mariachi band, Mariachi Flor de Toloache, performs in Frederick Wiseman's documentary "In Jackson Heights." Photo courtesy Zipporah Films



FILMMAKER  
FREDERICK WISEMAN

## IF YOU GO

### "In Jackson Heights"

**When:** Through Jan. 31

**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria

**Cost:** \$12/adults, \$9/seniors and students, \$6/children

**Contact:** (718) 777-6888

**Website:** [www.movingimage.us](http://www.movingimage.us)

lieves is guilty of discriminating against her and her transgender friends.

You may want to turn away when chickens at a live-poul-

try farm have their throats slit. You will hear the Muslim workers doing solemn prayers for the lives that are about to be taken. Business Improvement Districts become a hot topic as the livelihoods of Latino neighborhood residents are threatened by the effects of gentrification, with real-estate mongers buying out long-time "Mom and Pop" storefronts. Priced out of areas such as Long Island City, they see Jackson Heights appearing to be the next "trendy" neighborhood.

The immigrant experience

is one of the largest topics of the movie. We become a part of a meeting held by a group called Make the Road, NY as its leader asks for someone to talk about their experiences of crossing the border. Celia, a middle-aged Mexican illegal immigrant, shares an approximately 10-minute-long narrative about how her daughter was abandoned in the desert by the coyotes, guides who help people cross the border, with the promise of helping her. If not for two "acts of God," she says her daughter would have died in the desert. One of those acts involved a blinding white light in a hazy horizon; the other a sudden rainfall.

"In Jackson Heights" also has a less serious side, showing us concerts in the street, people playing instruments in a Laundromat as well as other uncommon venues, and the cheering or non-cheering of Latino groups as they watch soccer games.

"The Jackson Heights depicted in the film is a large part of the Jackson Heights that I know and love and is the Jackson Heights that people travel from around the world to visit," Dromm said. "Jackson Heights is hot."

## Play

Continued from Page 37

she introduces herself, to Dani's birthday party. Armed with an ice cream cake in honor of the celebration, Susie does not hide her disdain for this other woman.

But Dani keeps the upper hand, delivering a few of the evening's funnier lines, such as "I don't trust any woman over the age of 20 who goes by Susie." Holding the frozen dessert, Dani roams the apartment looking for a knife and lamenting the fact that it "is going to take two weeks to defrost."

By the end of the party, Susie's

blood has spilled over the cake and Arthur admits that he never loved Dani.

As Act II begins, Dani has moved on and is living with much younger actor Gary, played by Peter Collier, who believes he can save this lost woman from herself.

But instead of him getting the coke out of her system, Gary succeeds in developing his own habit.

Arthur returns and now confesses his love for Dani, who realizes existing in a world of numbness is not a life worth living.

"I have to start feeling or I'll die," Dani says.

## Celebrate best of borough's theater

The QGuide is seeking nominations for the 2015 Queens Kudos theater awards.

Send your nominations in the following categories: Outstanding Play, Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Director, Outstanding Costumes and Outstanding Set Design.

There will also be awards for Outstanding Actor, Actress, Supporting Actor and Supporting Actress in both play and musical categories.

Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2016, and should be e-mailed to [queenskudos@gmail.com](mailto:queenskudos@gmail.com).



Connie Castanzo (l) offers Julie Atlas Muz a sample of cocaine in a scene from "City Girls Desperadoes."

Photo courtesy Steven Speliotis



Members of The Usual Rejects perform their parody of "Jurassic Park" at The Chain Theatre in Long Island City.

Photo courtesy Chain Theatre

## Chain

Continued from Page 37

go—[igg.me/at/savethechain](http://igg.me/at/savethechain).

"If everybody who's ever seen a show here gave \$10 that would be a huge number," Gostkowski said.

Gostkowski also plans to continue to look for a new home in Queens.

"No matter what neighborhood it is in," Van Bramer said, "that neighborhood would be lucky to call The Chain part of its community."





# Guide to DINING

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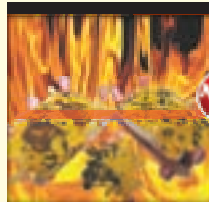


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# N/Q stations

*Continued from Page 5*  
a lower cost and with better quality as a single contractor will be held accountable for cost, schedule and performance. Stations will be closed to give contractors unfettered access that would speed up the process, rather than a piecemeal approach that would close stations for short periods

of time at night and on weekends over an extended period. That approach could take two to three years or more to be completed, officials said. Due to the high ridership at each of the Astoria stations, the MTA is aware that they can't be closed for very long periods of time, according to sources. State Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) welcomed the much-needed

upgrades. "While our growing community needs additional, accessible public transportation, station closures must not unnecessarily disrupt the lives of my Astoria neighbors," she said. The MTA has not determined whether shuttle buses will service riders of the closed stations. The funding is part of the MTA's four-year \$26.1 billion Capital Program.

# Subway plan

*Continued from Page 5*  
The Queens stations to be remodeled are: 30th Avenue on the N, Q line; Broadway on the N, Q; 36th Avenue on the N, Q; 39th Avenue on the N, Q; Parsons Boulevard on the F; 67th Avenue on the M, R; and Northern Boulevard on the M, R.

In September the Citizens Budget Commission identified 33 stations in the subway system in need of repair, nearly half of which were in Queens. Six of the 10 worst stations were in the borough.

The 52nd Street station in Woodside/Sunnyside on the No. 7 line was called the worst in the city, but it does not appear on the governor's rehabilitation list.

"Stations will be closed to give contractors unfettered access with a singular focus – get in, get done and get out," according to the plan. "Work on the majority of these 30 stations will be completed by 2018 and all will be finished by 2020.

On average station redvelopments from start to finish will be reduced to take between six and 12 months.

"Once again Gov. Cuomo

is stepping up on behalf of transit workers and transit riders," said Jon Samuels, president of Local 100 of the Transport Workers union.

The plan to overhaul the MTA was among Cuomo's list of improvements, including a new plan to resume work on the stalled Javits Center, including a new Pennsylvania railroad terminal, a Hudson River tunnel as well as upgrading of highways and bridges, many upstate.

The governor also called for addition of a third track to part of the Long Island Rail Road's Main Line in Nassau and increased educational opportunities in prisons.

The governor's proposal also accelerates the process of bringing mobile payment methods to subways and buses, allowing riders to pay their fares by waving a cellphone, a bank card or another payment device over contactless reader devices. This will speed up payment and boarding. Non Contact boarding is scheduled to start in 2018.

All 277 underground subway stations will have Wi-Fi service by the end of 2016 and cellphone service will be available in all of them early the following year.

# Rikers reform

*Continued from Page 24*  
the "confidence of the staff to move this project forward was a bit shaken."

On Tuesday the Board of Correction agreed, voting unanimously to grant the six-month delay in implementing the Young Adult Plan.

Norman Seabrook, president of the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association,

has argued that solitary is an important disciplinary tool, especially with inmates ages 18 to 21, who make up just 12 percent of the Rikers population but are responsible for a third of the violence.

"We've been saying all along that the department's plan to end punitive segregation for young adults was never well thought out and lacked serious input from our members," Seabrook said. "We told them they needed to rethink

this. We've been asking for a seat at the table for months, and the recent vicious attacks on officers seems to be forcing people who think they know better than our members to reconsider this plan and to keep an open mind. We welcome the delay and the opportunity for a more informed conversation."

The delay will not affect 16- and 17-year-old inmates, who were exempted from solitary confinement last year.

# 67th Ave.

*Continued from Page 5*  
combines the design and the construction phases of a project and bundles them into a

single contract. City agencies, however, have, until recently, been unable to use design-build projects because of political wrangling in Albany.

The MTA said it will use design-build procurement to de-

liver the subway station projects more quickly, at a lower cost and with better quality, as a single contractor will be held accountable for cost, schedule and performance.

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# Out with the old and in with the new



U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley pitches in for clean-up duty after the annual Three Kings Day kids party he helps to host in the gym at IS 61 in Corona.

Photo by Michael Shain



It's the official end of holiday season when the city starts turning Christmas trees into Christmas mulch. Parks Department worker Roland Drahmi is doing the honors at the wood chipper in Juniper Valley Park.

Photo by Michael Shain



At the Queens Botanical Garden in Flushing, the cars kept coming all day long for an "after the holidays e-waste collection," unloading old and outmoded electronics for recycling. These events have become more popular since the Sanitation Department stopped collecting old electronics last year.

Photo by Michael Shain



ORT, the world's largest Jewish service organization, helped raise money for a library for its affiliated college in Forest Hills, Bramson ORT. Rabbi Asher Vaknin of the Bukharin Jewish Community Center hangs a mezuzah at the front door at the opening day party.

Photo by Michael Shain



City Councilman Paul Vallone, with Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, shows how he filled out an IDNYC card application card at the Bayside library, where an enrollment center is open through Feb. 5.

Photo by Michael Shain



Remember the name Michelle Sorokko (l), 14, from Little Neck. She and her partner, Dasha Kourkina of Brooklyn, just won the girls doubles title at the 16-and-under USTA National Winter Championships in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Courtesy of USTA/Shelby Payne



# Cop

*Continued from Page 1*  
ization, I just had to retire.”

Roberts stopped dealing drugs in 1999, but several weeks later he was arrested and charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance. Roberts claimed he was set up by a woman he had refused to sell to because she was pregnant.

“When she pointed me out to the cops, I had nothing but \$7 and four cigarettes in my pocket,” Roberts recalled. “It was my rap sheet that caught up with me and they sent me upstate.”

Roberts spent the next four years in Clinton Dannemora Prison, the maximum security jail for men just south of Montreal. Roberts steered clear of trouble, spending all of his free time studying in the prison’s law library.

After his release in 2005, Roberts found that his incarceration was a barrier to employment. For the next 12 years he tried a job readiness program and spent time in the Doe Fund, but the only work he could get was as a disc jockey technician two or three times a month making \$25 a party.

In November, an acquaintance suggested he try talking

to America Works, a private workforce development firm that has found jobs for a half a million hard-to-place workers since 1984. America Works has placed military veterans, long-term welfare and food stamp recipients, people who are homeless and living in shelters, and like Roberts, former criminal offenders.

On Jan. 7, his case worker told him she found a job for him at LaGuardia Airport servicing cars at the National, Enterprise and Alamo rental-car depots and he raced to Queens. When he got off the M60 bus at 82nd Street and Astoria Boulevard North, Robert realized his appointment was not at the airport but at the offices of Cavalry Staffing in Fresh Meadows. But since he only had enough fare for his return trip to the Bronx, he began to get uptight and visibly agitated and that’s when he heard a voice.

“This police officer was sitting in his patrol car at the bus stop and he tried to calm me down,” Robert said. “When he looked at the address, he said he knew the place because he took his wife to the Applebee’s around the corner. I said point me in the direction and I’ll start walking because I don’t have the fare. That’s when he told me to get in the car and

he’d take me there. He said it was OK, he was on his lunch break.”

When the officer dropped him at the proper offices on 186th Street, he shook Roberts’ hand and wished him the best of luck.

“I told him if I got the job I’d take him to lunch at that Applebee’s on 188th Street,” Roberts said. “Well, I got the job the very same day and ever since I’ve been driving around hoping to find him, so I can take him to lunch and thank him for caring.”

America Works CEO Dr. Lee Bowes found the whole story to be heartwarming from beginning to end.

“First off, Mr. Roberts has been collecting Social Security disability checks, so he could have spent the rest of his life at home collecting checks, but he preferred to work,” Bowes said. “And then to see how this officer helped him was touching. We would love to be able to let Commissioner Bratton know what this officer did, but we haven’t been able to find him.”

The NYPD’s 114th and 115th Precincts and the Port Authority Police Department have been unable to find an officer matching the description.

Roberts said he will keep searching until he finds him.

# Slash victim

*Continued from Page 1*

He said they were initially frustrated at the pace of the investigation, but police has been on top of the leads, noting that Commanding Officer Thomas Conforti of the 109th Precinct and the community were “up in arms about this.”

“The police have a number of solid leads and I’ve interacted with not only the NYPD but the mayor’s office on this and they’re on top of the case and I’m confident that they’re going to pursue those leads,” he said.

Both Liang and her mother were wearing surgical masks at a Jan. 7 news conference in Kim’s office.

The exchange student has been attending the Whitestone Academy for the past three months and is staying with a Chinese-American host family that lives near the school. She is here on a permanent basis on a student visa, with plans to pursue her high school and college education in the United States.

The Whitestone Academy declined to comment.

Speaking through Edward Ip, chief executive officer of Orient Retreat Spa, who translated from her Cantonese, Liang said the incident was tragic but that she appreciates the support.

“The injury, the cuts and wounds are healing and I

still want to stay here to pursue my education,” she said.

Her mother said the family has been having a difficult time.

“I want to thank everyone for supporting us, for help at the time that we feel the most hopeless and when we are at this most tragic moment,” the victim’s mother said through a translation by Ip.

Kim and the law firm of Gary Park announced a special fund that will cover various expenses, such as traveling costs and possible surgery to cover her scars. The trust fund has been set up with Chase Bank. Park’s firm will provide pro bono legal services.

“We asked her if she wanted to return back to her country,” Kim said. “She said without hesitation, ‘No, I still want the dream. We have the responsibility to help this young woman.’”

He added that the girl “embodies the grit, the determination and resilience that has made the city, state and country great.”

Frank Lu, an immigration lawyer, also said he is working to help her apply for the U visa, a special visa for victims of crimes.

To donate, go to [www.GoFundMe.com/supportjiajia](http://www.GoFundMe.com/supportjiajia) or send a check on her behalf to “The JiaJia Liang Trust” at Gary Park Law firm at 39-01 Main St., No. 608, Flushing 11354.

# Music fests

*Continued from Page 4*  
of public parks, however, needs to be publicly vetted and coordinated under an official city policy, because the absence of one renders the entire process unfair. The merits—or lack thereof—of any existing or future individual application cannot be fairly considered in the void of policy and public participation, which are paramount.”

AEG Live’s production company, Goldenvoice, had been engaging the community for the last two years, according to Ferreras-Copeland. Just hours after the Parks Department rejected their application, the company announced they would move their Panorama festival to Randall’s Island Park. Three days of music, art, technology and food will take

place there July 22-24.

“We look forward to bringing Panorama to New York City and introducing a new festival that showcases today’s top music acts,” Festival Producer Mark Shulman said. “We’re committed to creating an event that will provide significant benefits to New York City with the level of experience and meticulous attention to detail for which Goldenvoice is known.”

Shulman said his company would remain engaged with the elected officials, park institutions and the communities surrounding Flushing Meadows Corona Park in the hopes of bringing a large-scale event to the borough in the future.

“I am disappointed that the event has moved to Randall’s Island because our community has so much potential and so much to offer,” Ferreras-Copeland said. “However, I

will continue to work towards bringing world class events to Queens and improving parks for everyday visitors and district residents.”

Crowley was disappointed but understood Katz and the civic associations’ objections.

“Just as the World’s Fair was a source of pride for the people of Queens for its lasting legacy in commerce and innovation, I believe a world-class music, technology and food festival has the potential to become a driving economic force for the borough as well as an opportunity to showcase Queens,” he said. “I do, however, appreciate the concerns raised by members of the surrounding communities and I thank NYC Parks for thoroughly reviewing the applications submitted. I hope the City can now explore developing a protocol for such events moving forward.”

# Shelters

*Continued from Page 7*  
state support is critical to addressing this challenge.”

In a media briefing following Cuomo’s address, de Blasio

said he did not believe the announcement gave Stringer any new powers. He said the city Department of Investigation had already looked into shelter conditions last year.

De Blasio added that Stringer has the existing authority to

conduct audits, but he called the power to close shelters “an entirely different matter that has to be worked through.”

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

# Lancman

*Continued from Page 4*

to Lancman.

About 95 percent of high school students complete arts classes by graduation, up from around half of students in 2011, and roughly 89 percent of Queens schools are partnered with at least one cultural arts educational organization, he said.

The councilman also said 96 percent of middle schools offer education in at least one discipline and 71 percent offer instruction in two or more of the following disciplines: dance, music, theater or visual arts.

Barbara Pollard, director of special projects for Marquis Studios, a nonprofit founded in 1977 that provides arts-in-education services to city public schools, said Council members are each allowed to give CASA grants

to seven different schools annually. Each grant is \$20,000, and can be used for after-school programs.

But because PS 255 is in District 75, a citywide district for students with disabilities, the programs can be conducted during the day, Pollard said.

Lancman has also allocated funding to PS 173 at 174-10 67th Ave. to work with Marquis Studios, which conducts after-school programs that teach such skills as bhangra dancing, mosaics, collages, puppetry and mask theatre, she added.

“After the teaching artists leave, the skills that the kids learned while they’re with the clowns can then be translated back into the classroom,” Pollard said. “They follow directions, they refine their small motor skills and their large motor skills. They learn how to focus on a task.”



# Sports



Mary Louis' Danielle Patterson, splits Bishop Loughlin defenders during CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens action. Photo by Robert Cole

## Mary Louis passes big test vs. Loughlin

BY TROY MAURIELLO

If Saturday afternoon was the first test of whether or not Mary Louis can challenge the elite teams in CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens, the Hilltoppers aced it.

Behind dominant efforts from junior Danielle Patterson and senior Jasmine Brunson, the Mary Louis girls' basketball team pulled away in the second half for an easy 70-56 win over Bishop Loughlin at Holy Cross.

Patterson poured in 25 points, including 11 from the foul line. Brunson added 20 points of her own as she was able to get to the basket with ease most of the game.

"We just came in confident," Patterson said. "We stuck to our game plan and we didn't let them dictate the tempo."

Senior Skydajah Patterson scored 21 points to lead Bishop Loughlin, which placed second in the league

last season. Junior Milicia "Mimi" Reid, the Lions' leading scorer, was held to just 10 points, including only two in the second half.

Mary Louis controlled most of a sloppy first half and held a 15-8 lead after the first quarter and 30-26 going into the half.

Patterson (10 points) and eight from Brunson, who is headed to Minnesota next season, carried Mary Louis (9-2, 2-0) before the break. It could have been more with Patterson getting to the foul line 10 times in the first half, but making just four.

Loughlin (8-5, 2-2) had to consider itself lucky to be trailing by only four. The Lions struggled to score and were turning the ball over in the first quarter, before outscoring Mary Louis 18-15 in the following frame.

But the Lions would not be as lucky after halftime. Their sloppy play continued, and

*Continued on Page 46*

## Royals top Stanners

CK holds on to notch statement win over Molloy

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Christ the King found a way without Jose.

Royals star point guard Jose Alvarado picked up his fourth foul in the closing seconds of the third quarter with his team down a point. His backup quickly turned his absence into a non-factor, set the tone and gave Christ the King the lead for good.

Sophomore guard Tyson Walker wiggled his way through the Archbishop Molloy defense for a hoop on the opening possession of the fourth quarter. Senior wing Jared Rivers followed by hitting consecutive 3-pointers. That put the Royals up by eight and put them on their way to an important 68-61 win over the Stanners in CHSAA boys' basketball in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Jack Curran Gymnasium Jan. 8.

"I just said, 'Someone needs to step up. Someone needs to make it happen,'" Christ the King Coach Joe Arbitello said. "Tyson Walker started it off with the great move for a layup and Jared just kept going."

The spurt put his team up 47-35 with 6:30 to play in the game. Molloy (7-2, 2-1) got a hoop from center Moses Brown, who battled foul trouble, and did not score again for the next 3:00. CK (7-2, 7-2) went up 58-49 when Rivers fed Yashawn Bright for a hoop with 3:21 remaining.

"Being a senior and a leader, I know the ball is going to be in my hands most of the time, especially in crunch time," said Rivers, who scored eight of his 14 points in the fourth. "It's my last year. I'm a senior. I've been through everything. I know what it takes to get the win."

Walker scored 11 points and Bright added 13 for CK. Freshman guard Cole Anthony, son of former Knick Greg Antho-



Christ the King's Tyrone Cohen shoots a jumper against Molloy.

Photo by William Thomas

ny, paced the Stanners with 17 points, Issac Grant had 12 and Khalid Moore added 11.

Christ the King had blown a 10-point fourth quarter lead to Bishop Loughlin earlier in the week in what Arbitello called a "meltdown" by him and his players. The Royals turned to their defense, and to offensive fouls drawn by David Cole and Bright, to not let this one get away.

"One thing we were lacking was making those big defensive stops at the end of the game," Arbitello said.

It made shots tougher in the paint and fouled out Stanners freshman guard Cole Anthony, son of former Knick Greg Anthony, on a charge with 11 seconds left, clinging to a five-point lead.

"It was very big" Bright said "Taking the charge at the end of the game, rebounding, clearing everything out, talking on defense."

Stanners coach Mike McCleary said his young team showed its lack of experience

down the stretch in the jam-packed gym. Molloy missed five free throws in the fourth, including the front end of a 1-and-1 and had key defensive lapses.

"We talk about focus. We have trouble sustaining our focus for 32 minutes," McCleary said. "That's a youth thing. That's kids just not doing it, but I definitely think it was a tough environment, big crowd, boiling hot, every possession matters. I think some of those kids aren't ready to do it for 32 minutes but hopefully they get there."

While Christ the King hoping to nab a fourth-straight city title, it currently finds itself in a dogfight for the Brooklyn/Queens regular-season crown. Beating Molloy was a big step toward achieving that goal.

"It was a huge win for us, knowing they beat Loughlin and we lost to them, coming in here," Rivers said. "It's a crazy environment and we had to come in ready to play and just get the win."



# Toussaint powers CK squad past Molloy

BY STEPHEN ZITOLO

Christ the King's Dominique Toussaint put on a dominant performance against Archbishop Molloy in a rematch of last season's CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens and New York Federation final.

Toussaint had an extra load on her shoulders, with senior guard Sydney Zambrotta and sophomore guard Jaenna Sutton getting into early foul trouble and sitting out portions of the first half.

The senior and Virginia-bound guard took on the added role as she led the Royals girls' basketball team with 24 points and to a 65-52 win over the Stanners (8-4) Jan. 7. Senior center Ashlie Howell was a force under the basket and crucial to the victory as she chipped in with 17 points before fouling out in the fourth quarter.

"When you've got really good players they have to show up and play hard," CK head coach Bob Mackey said. "They did. That was a good part."

However, "our defense didn't really look good and I thought we were sloppy in the



Virginia-bound guard Dominique Toussaint scored 24 points for Christ the King in a win over Archbishop Molloy. Photo by William Thomas

fourth quarter," Mackey said. "That's not the way we should play. It's a long season and you have to do everything you can to get through."

Even though Christ the

King (10-2) won, Molloy (8-4) looked like the better team in the first quarter. The Stanners defense held the explosive Royals offense to only 14 points and made four three-pointers

to take an 18-14 advantage. In the quarter Molloy's junior wing Jenna Mastellone scored eight of her game-high 25 points, but they could not sustain the lead.

"We learned a lot ourselves. A lot of the kids have a lot more confidence and our kids needed some convincing that they're great players too," Molloy coach Scott Lagas said. "Christ the King goes on runs. We have to try to find a way to not let one mistake turn into many more mistakes."

In the second quarter, Christ the King stole whatever momentum Molloy had. The Royals showed how deep their squad is, as they outscored the Stanners 22-6 in the quarter. They did so playing most of the quarter without Zambrotta and Sutton, who both had three fouls. Christ the King led 36-24 at the half behind 13 points from Toussaint and 12 points from Howell. "Our coaches got on us about the little things and made us realize that we didn't have the game in hand," Toussaint said. "There was a lot more game to play."

Christ the King picked up right where it left off after the

break, starting the third quarter off on a 16-6 run. It led by as many 22 as CK took a 52-35 lead into the fourth quarter.

Molloy took advantage of Christ the King's foul trouble in the fourth and Mackey was not pleased with his team's defense in the frame. The Stanners cut the Royals lead to as little as 60-49 with 2:06 remaining in the game, but Toussaint would immediately she made a layup and converted the 3-point play to ice any chance the Stanners had at the comeback.

"We played our hearts out," Mastellone said. "We have to build off this and beat Loughlin and next time we play King we will hopefully beat them."

Christ The King picked up the win, while honoring its teams of the early 90's by donning the squad's retro jerseys. Those teams marquee the beginning of the program's rise to national prominence.

"This is an honor to ne wearing these uniforms because Chamique Holdsclaw wore these uniforms and it was Mackey's first teams," Toussaint said. "It was great just to represent them."

## CHSAA boys' hoops off to unpredictable start



Joseph Staszewski  
■  
*Block Shots*

Uncertainty is the only thing that's certain about the CHSAA Class AA boys' basketball league right now, because of a level of parity we haven't seen in years.

Over the last five seasons, there has been a clear hierarchy in the league, with three-time defending champions Christ the King, along with Cardinal Hayes, Bishop Loughlin and St. Raymond, being consistently at the top. Xaverian, Holy Cross, Xaverian, Iona Prep, and even for a season St. Peter's, poked their heads into the group. With former Royals star Rawle Alkins now playing at Word of God in North Carolina, the title is up for grabs.

There is no clear favorite.

You could argue it is Christ the King until someone beats the Middle Village school at Fordham University in March. It's a fair point, but the Royals don't belong on that pedestal at the moment, after league losses to Iona Prep, Bishop Loughlin and most recently Xaverian on Sunday. CK can't seem to get any momentum going, even with senior center David Cole back in the lineup for the first time in a victory over Archbishop Molloy last Friday.

The Stanners are this year's addition to the pack at the top half of the league thank to the addition of Cole Anthony, Khalid Moore and Moses Brown around stalwart forward Issac Grant, one of the city's most underrated players. A look at Molloy's last three games tells you all you need to know about the state of the CHSAA. The team fended off Loughlin two weeks ago, fell to Christ the King in a tight contest and then beat up on a short-handed St. Raymond team on Sunday.

The St. Raymond Ravens, who own a win over Iona, lost to Cardinal Hayes and Molloy in the same weekend. No team is undefeated and only three (Molloy, Loughlin, Iona) have just one league loss. Fourth-place Holy Cross, which beat Xaverian, is just a game out of first place in Brooklyn/Queens. The ups and down and twists and turns of this season are far from over.

You got a sense how special a year it could be if you were lucky enough to squeeze into Molloy Friday night to see the Stanners going against Christ the King. Fans, college coaches and media lined the baselines, stood three or four rows deep on the stage and filled the balcony behind the basket. Jack Curran Gymnasium was sold out and the game didn't disappoint all of us who tough out the heat and sweat generated by hundreds of people sitting and standing shoulder to shoulder for hours.

Nights like that will be more prevalent. Don't be surprised if Christ the King has to pull



Freshman Cole Anthony (r.) has helped Molloy become a title threat in a balanced CHSAA league. Photo by William Thomas

out both sides of the bleachers and runs out of pizza bagels at the concession stand when the Stanners visit Middle Village on Jan. 31. People will be fighting their way into Bishop Loughlin on two Friday nights

in February when Molloy and CK come to Brooklyn.

If you aren't there, you just might miss something, because the only certainty in the CHSAA is that you can't predict what will happen.



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# Francis Lewis falls hard to South Shore



Taliyah Brisco of Francis Lewis attacks the South Shore defense.  
Photo by William Thomas

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Repeating past mistakes caught up to Francis Lewis in its most important game to date.

Patriots coach Steve Tsai believes his team has been getting by on its talent in the majority of its games. Their lack of attention to detail and letting themselves get swept up into South Shore’s style of play led to a disappointing 64-44 loss in PSAL Class AA girls’ basketball Jan. 8.

“The way we have been kind of nonchalant with things, even with our wins, we haven’t been playing that well,” Tsai said. “I don’t think there is a sense of urgency. Hopefully, today this opens up their eyes.”

He watched his team get lazy on the boards and allow Vikings center Selena Philoxy to score 21 points and grab 17 rebounds. Except for a small run in the first and second quarters his team played fast and shot fast, which fed into the up-tempo style of South Shore (10-1, 8-0).

“We just let them impose their will on us, whether it was their transition or dominating us with their transition,” Tsai said. “We just felt like they were going to let us stay in the game and everything.”

After a sloppy start, Lewis used an 8-1 run to tie the score at 13-13 on a hoop by Dominique Williams with 7:00 to play in the second quarter. South Shore, the defending city champion, responded

with a 14-0 spurt over the second and third quarters. It gave the Vikings a 35-17 lead with 6:32 left in the third, and they never looked back.

“Making stupid turnovers going up and down, up and down that means we are rushing,” senior guard Taliyah Brisco said. “We are playing their game. We need to play our game and slow the pace down.”

Francis Lewis (9-2, 8-1) was unable to respond because it settled for quick shots and was unable to find consistent offense with star guard Sierra Green being guarded in a box-and-1 defense by Destiny Philoxy (15 points, six rebounds). Dominique Williams scored 18 points to lead Francis Lewis. Green and Brisco each chipped in 12.

“Sierra can’t do it all by herself,” Brisco said. “We have to help her.”

When the Patriots did attempt to clamp down on defense and rally, Selena Philoxy converted a 3-point play late in the shot clock to put her team up 40-24 with 4:02 remaining in the third.

The loss is Lewis’ first in league play, with games against top teams like Truman and Grand Street still to go. The team knows it needs to start clicking consistently if it is going to finish strong.

“Hopefully this is a wake-up call for us,” Tsai said. “Sometimes that is the great thing about having it in the earlier season. We still have half a season left.”

# SJU beats ranked Seton Hall

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

St. John’s dynamic back-court duo was exactly that and the supporting cast helped them close out the team’s second win this season over a ranked opponent.

Senior Danaejah Grant recorded her third double-double of the year with 29 points and 13 boards, both season highs, to lead the Red Storm women’s basketball team to a 71-69 win over No. 20 Seton Hall at Carnesecca Arena Jan. 9. St. John’s also topped No. 17 South Florida on Nov. 29 in Queens.

Classmate Aliyyah Handford tallied 17 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals. She played just two minutes in the second half because of foul trouble and eventually fouled out. St. John’s coach Joe Tartamella has seen his stars take things to a new level this year.

“They have bought into each other even more so this year than I’ve seen and it doesn’t matter if one’s struggling or the other is struggling they seem to pick each other up,” he said. “Maybe it’s because they are roommates now, hopefully that’s helped their communication level.”

The two still needed some help down the stretch to se-



Danaejah Grant scored 29 points against Seton Hall  
Photo courtesy of St. John’s Athletic Communications

cure a win over last year’s regular-season winner and bounce back from a loss to Big East tournament champion DePaul. Tabatha Richardson-Smith led Seton Hall (13-3, 3-2) with a game-high 34 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Shakena Richardson chipped in 15 points.

“Any time you can win a game, especially when you have three in one week, it’s important to do this in an opportunity over a very good and ranked Seton Hall team,” Tartamella said.

St. John’s (13-3, 4-1) took a 61-54 lead with 5:30 to go in the game on consecutive hoops from Grant off feeds from Handford. Seton Hall pulled

within two before a 3-point play from Jade Walker (nine points, six rebounds) put the Red Storm back up 66-61.

The Pirates responded by scoring the next four points before Grant and the Hall’s Richardson-Smith traded jumpers. Seton Hall got with in one twice in the final 15 seconds, but Aaliyah Lewis, who scored eight points, made a pair of throws each time to put the game away.

“I think in the end our experience helped us out a lot,” Grant said. “We were able to knock down some free throws at the end and keep our composure. As much as we turned the ball over in some key situations we remained composed.”

## Mary Louis

*Continued from Page 43*

Mary Louis took full advantage. The Hilltoppers rolled to a 21-11 third quarter that saw their four-point lead blossom into a 14-point advantage heading into the final frame. Loughlin never cut the Mary Louis lead to any less than 12 in the fourth.

“We said that we needed to come out and definitely build on the lead,” said Mary Louis coach JoAnn Artibello-

Pinnock regarding her team’s third quarter. “One of our big things was to get the ball inside and take advantage of our height.”

Although it was mainly the Patterson and Brunson show for TMLA, it did get contributions from others. Freshman Taylor Holmes had nine points, while junior Kayla Podlovits added eight, including a pair of 3-point shots.

This loss was a clear setback for Loughlin, which also lost to defending champ Christ the King after winning of five

of its last seven coming in.

“They didn’t play with intensity,” said Loughlin coach Chez Williams regarding his team’s second half. “You have to sustain the same intensity into the second half, and they didn’t do that.”

Mary Louis, on the other hand, raised its level of play, but knows it can’t rest on the laurels of the big victory.

“We have to keep it going,” said Brunson said. “We have to continue to improve each game, each practice, and we’re going to continue to do that.”

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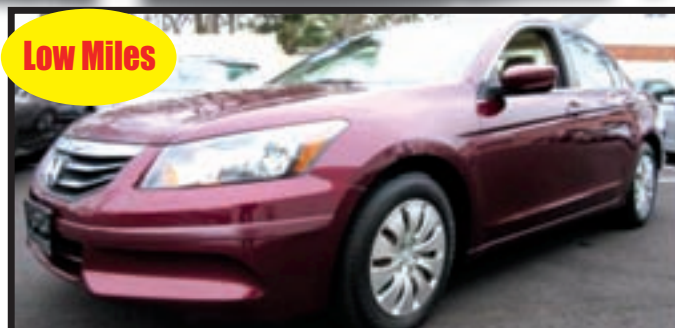
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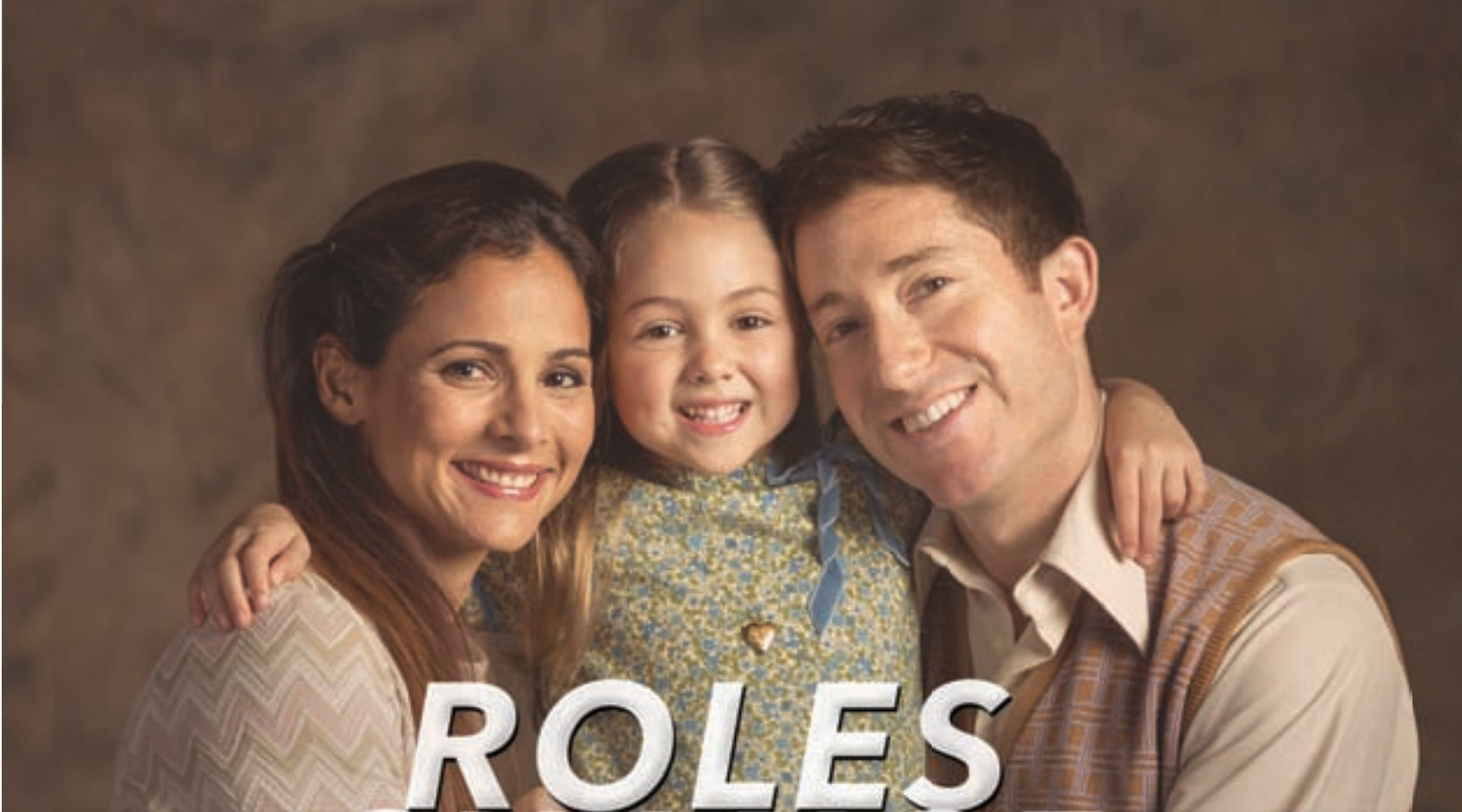
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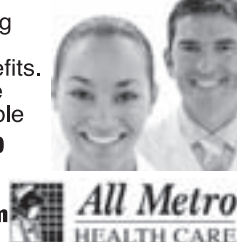
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**Letitia James Warns  
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## LEGAL

**115-45 198TH STREET LLC.** Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 1/31/2014. Off. Loc.: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 115-45 198th Street, St. Albans, NY 11412. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

**491 Lincoln Avenue LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/8/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, c/o Ramkeshwa Paltoo, 43-10 Kissena Blvd., Apt. 6F, Flushing, NY 11355. General purpose.

**DJT HOSPITALITY LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/02/15. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Daniel Tubridy-Member, 458 Beach 128 Street, Belle Harbor, NY 11694. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**ELITE ONE HOMES LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 10/7/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 73-20 Austin St Apt 4C Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**GRAND CENTURION ASSOCIATES, LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY

## LEGAL

Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/20/07. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 49-01 69th St Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Gutes Design Studio LLC** Arts of Org. filed SSNY 12/1/15. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served & mail to 809 Woodward Ave #2 Ridgewood NY 11385 General purpose

**Khushiali, LLC** Arts of Org. filed SSNY 10/2/15. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served & mail to 62-98 Saunders St 3A Rego Park NY 11374 General purpose

**NOTICE OF FORMATION,** Cour Engineering, PLLC. Articles of Organization Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 2, 2015. Office Location: Queens County. SSNY designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copies of any process against the LLC to c/o: THE LLC, 22-09 78th Street #2E East Elmhurst, NY 11370. Purpose: any lawful Purpose or activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION,** FONG CHONG MAN LLC. Articles of Organization Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/12/15. Office Location: Queens SSNY designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copies of any process service against the LLC to FONG CHONG MAN LLC,

## LEGAL

51-31 74TH STREET, ELMHURST, NY 11373. Purpose: any lawful Purpose or activity.

**Notice of Formation of** 10-27 47th Road, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/7/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 805-A, Albany, NY 12210. The registered agent of LLC upon whom process may be served: Incorp Services, Inc., 99 Washington Ave., Ste. 805-A, Albany, NY 12210. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of** 1673 Woodbine Portfolio LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/1/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Duke Properties, 930 Eastern Parkway, Ste. 4, Brooklyn, NY 11213. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of formation of** 64-10 MAURICE AVENUE HOLDING, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/27/2015. 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: 7 Hillview Ln., Asbury NJ 08802. Purpose: any lawful act.

**Notice of Formation of** 7901 Donut LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 6/23/15. Office location: Queens County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail process to P.O. Box 110, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. Purpose: any lawful activity. Principal business location: 7901 Linden Blvd., Howard Beach, NY 11414.

**Notice of Formation of** Chanlan LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 12/1/15. Office location: Queens County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail process to PO Box 780507, Maspeth, NY 11378. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: TOWE PET ENTERPRISES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/13/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SOUTH RICHMOND HILL RECOVERY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/02/2015. 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: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 203 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: RSRP LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/21/2015. 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: RSRP LLC 8737 216TH STREET QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11427. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**QRY LLC,** Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 12/07/15. Office Location: Queens County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 138-23 76th Ave., Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: TALL TOE PRODUCTIONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/06/2015. 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: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**Notice of Qualification of** Oreganic Design LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/15. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Texas (TX) on 11/26/14. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 8808 Doran Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. TX address of LLC: 15116 Sunningdale Street, Austin, TX 78717. Arts. of Org. filed with TX Secy. of State, P.O. Box 12887, Austin, TX 78711-2887. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**RANGULA, LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/2/15. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 139-21 Springfield Boulevard, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**SHR LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/28/15. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2088. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1211 Redfern Avenue, Far Rockaway, NY 11691-3817. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**SPANBOCK FAMILY REALTY LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/10/15. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Marilyn Spanbock, 26910 Grand Central Parkway, Apartment 17-0, Floral Park, NY 11005. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**Woodside5127 LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY 10/16/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 51-27 43rd Ave., Woodside, NY 11377. General purpose.

**APP FOR AUTH for FREEMAN & BONNEMA PLLC** App for Auth. filed with SSNY 11/16/2015 PLLC. Registered in Minnesota on 11/21/2013 Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The PLLC, PO BOX 514, Circle Pines, MN 55014. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

## LEGAL

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 04 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000799-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) SEEMA (Last) DAY. My present name is (First) SEEMA (Middle) RANY (Last) DAY. My present address is 148-45 89th Avenue, Apt. #2K, Jamaica, NY 11435-3557. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is September 18, 1987.

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 21 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000890-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) SHAHRIAR (Middle) SHAFIN (Last) RAHMAN. My present name is (First) NO NAME GIVEN (Last) SHAHAREAR AKA SHAHAREAR (infant). My present address is 164-30 Hillside Avenue, Apt #10J, Jamaica, NY 11432. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is July 31, 1998. Assume the name of (First) SANZEDA (Last) RAHMAN. My present name is (First) NO NAME GIVEN (Last) SANZEDA AKA SANZEDA (infant). My present address is 164-30 Hillside Avenue, Apt #10J, Jamaica, NY 11432. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is December 31, 1999.

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 22 2015, bearing Index Number NC-0000878-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) TYRECK (Middle) ANTHONY (Last) THORPE. My present name is (First) TYRECK (Last) THORPE AKA TYRECK A. THORPE, AKA TYRECK ANTHONY THORPE. My present address is 102-16 215th

Street, Queens Village, NY 11429-1121. My place of birth is QUEENS, NY. My date of birth is April 04, 1996.

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on OCT 01 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000526-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) TINA (Middle) MARIE (Last) CRUZ-TILLERY. My present name is (First) TINA (Middle) MARIE (Last) BARJON AKA TINA MARIE POTOOKIAN, AKA TINA BARJON, AKA TINA M. BARJON. My present address is 223-45 107th Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11429-2407. My place of birth is BELLEVILLE, NJ. My date of birth is May 13, 1970.

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on SEP 24 2015, bearing Index Number NC-0000597-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) SEAN (Middle) QIXIANG (Last) SUN. My present name is (First) QI XIANG (Last) SUN AKA QIXIANG SUN. My present address is 58-06 186 ST., Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. My place of birth is CHINA. My date of birth is March 28, 1997.

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 17 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000846-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) JAMIL (Last) ASHRAFUZZAMAN. My present name is (First) JAMIL (Middle) ASRAFUZ (Last) ZAMAN AKA JAMIL ASHRAFUZZAMAN, AKA JAMIL ZAMAN. My present address is 86-20 162nd Street, Jamaica, NY 11432-3432. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is February 11, 1994.

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on NOV 12 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000767-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) SULIAT (Middle) AFOLAKE (Last) ADELEKAN. My present name is (First) SULIAT (Last) ADELEKAN-FLEETWOOD AKA SULIAT FLEETWOOD,



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AKA AFOLAKE ADELEKAN. My present address is 173-17 89th Avenue, Apt. #4A, Jamaica, NY 11432-4608. My place of birth is NIGERIA. My date of birth is October 15, 1977.

LEGAL

**SUPREME COURT** - COUNTY OF QUEENS  
PONCE DELEON  
FEDERAL BANK, Plaintiff  
against  
THE O D O R E  
DOUMAZOIS, MARIA  
DOUMAZOIS, et al  
Defendant(s).  
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on November 17, 2015.  
I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County General Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Court Room # 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 5th day of February, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Beginning at a point on the Westerly side of 137th Street distant 52.51 feet Southerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the Southerly side of 11th Avenue (Avenue C) and the Westerly side of 137th Street; being a plot 62.50 feet by 100.00 feet by 62.50 feet by 100.00 feet. Said premises known as 13-02 137th Street, Malba, N.Y. 11356.  
(Block: 4017, Lot: 5, 6).  
Approximate amount of lien \$ 1,235,340.18 plus interest and costs.  
Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.  
Index No. 23028-09. Neda N. Melamed, Esq., Referee.  
DeRose & Surico  
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff  
213-44 38th Avenue  
Bayside, N.Y. 11361

LEGAL

**SUMMONS, NOTICE AND BRIEF STATEMENT OF NATURE OF ACTION** CONSUMER CREDIT TRANSACTION  
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF QUEENS  
Index No. 706716/2014  
GENERATION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,  
-against-  
GERDA SAM; Defendants.  
TO THE DEFENDANT(S): ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FLORE NEREE AND ANY OF HIS, HER OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST; et al.  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon plaintiff's attorneys an answer to the complaint in this action within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (3) days after service is complete if the Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to answer, judgment will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
Trial is desired in the County of Queens. The basis of venue designated above is that the real property, which is the subject matter of this action, is located in the County of Queens, State of New York.  
**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

LEGAL

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 SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.  
The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. David Elliot, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on the 18th day of December, 2015, in Queens, New York and duly entered in the Queens County Clerk's Office, in Queens, New York on December 28th, 2015.  
The Nature of this action pertains to a note and mortgage held by Plaintiff on real property owned by the above named defendants as specified in the complaint filed in this action. The above named defendants have failed to comply with the terms and provisions of the said mortgage and said instruments secured by said mortgage, by failing and omitting to pay the balance due and owing and the Plaintiff has commenced a foreclosure action. Plaintiff is seeking a judgment foreclosing its mortgage against the real property and premises

LEGAL

which situates in the City and County of Bronx and State of New York and is commonly known as 16438 77th Avenue, Fresh Meadows, New York 11366, and all other relief as to the Court may seem just and equitable.  
DATED: 1/4/2016  
SCHILLER, KNAPP, LEFKOWITZ & HERTZEL, LLP  
BY: WILLIAM B. SCHILLER, ESQ.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
950 New Loudon Road  
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**SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS** Index No.: 1367-14 Date of Filing: December 29, 2015  
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS  
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-3, AS SET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-3, Plaintiff, -against-  
SHERBERT CAESAR INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; PHILLIP CAESAR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; JOYLYN CAESAR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; SEON CAESAR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; UNKNOWN HEIRS, D E V I S E E S, DISTRIBUTUTES OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE BERTHA D. CAESAR, IF THEY BE LIVING OR DEAD, THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTUTES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS

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NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION B U R E A U ; COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICT: NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises. Defendants. TO THE A B O V E - N A M E D 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

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mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. 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 A B O V E - N A M E D DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable Leonard Livote of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on December 3, 2015, 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 BERTHA D. CAESAR and SHERBERT CAESAR to M O R T G A G E E L E C T R O N I C R E G I S T R A T I O N SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR FREMONT INVESTMENT & LOAN, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS bearing date August 24, 2006 and recorded in CRFN 2006000525064 in the County of Queens on September 18, 2006. Thereafter said mortgage was assigned to ASC D/B/A WFB, N.A. by an assignment of mortgage dated September 9, 2010 and recorded in CRFN 2010000403372 in the County of Queens on December 1, 2010. The aforesaid instruments were thereafter modified by agreement dated August 18, 2008 and recorded in CRFN 2009000272349 in the County of Queens on August 25, 2009. Said

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modification agreement was then re-recorded in CRFN 2010000207790 in the County of Queens on June 22, 2010. Thereafter said mortgage was assigned to Plaintiff by an Assignment of Mortgage dated November 3, 2010 and recorded in CRFN 2010000403373 in the County of Queens on December 1, 2010. Said premises being known as and by 107-14 157TH STREET, JAMAICA, NY 11433-2356. Date: November 19, 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 tollfree helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1 - 8 7 7 - B A N K N Y S (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at [www.banking.state.ny.us](http://www.banking.state.ny.us). The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.



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