

## Peace Week panel stresses non-violence

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

As Peace Week took place across the city and borough, community leaders including Carol Maraj, mother of rapper Nicki Minaj, and police officials came together in downtown Jamaica to have a discussion about violence in their communities.

Every year from Jan. 15-22, Queens-based anti-violence non-profit LIFE Camp hosts and coordinates a weeklong series of events throughout the city in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of non-violence.

Peace Week began just a couple of weeks after the city's last homicide of 2015, the fatal shooting of 16-year old Jihad Jackson in South Jamaica on New Year's Eve.

LIFE Camp founder Erica Ford, who spoke at Jihad's funeral and at the Jan. 21 panel discussion, has repeatedly said change comes from the community.

"If we can have one week of peace, then we can have two weeks of peace and so on," Ford told the audience at the panel discussion at the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning on 161st Street.

In December, Ford and LIFE Camp volunteers announced their target area for outreach within the boundaries of 111th and 118th avenues between 146th Street and Guy

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## Blizzard buries boro nabes

Mayor admits central Queens neglected before city redirected plow fleet



In Woodhaven, a block right off Forest Park digs out of a snowstorm that was just one-tenth of an inch away from setting an all-time record for the city. Plows could not handle the snowfall and side streets like this one were left untouched for several days. **See story on Page 6.**

Photo by Ed Wendell

BY MADINA TOURE

Elected officials and residents said Queens was faring a bit better at mid-week after expressing frustration over the slow cleanup from the blizzard that left streets impassable in some neighborhoods.

The second worst snowstorm in the city's history dumped as much as 34 inches on Jackson Heights and buried some central Queens thoroughfares in drifts, but other parts of the borough were

back to normal two days after the blizzard struck.

Mayor Bill de Blasio visited Queens twice after the storm and conceded that the city could have done a better job in certain parts. He also pointed out that heavy snowfall can pose major problems for Queens because the borough has the largest land area and the most roads.

Borough President Melinda Katz said the city was unprepared for the ferocity of the storm, but city agencies still performed well.

Along Main Street in downtown Flushing Wednesday morning, it appeared to be business as usual. Although there were still piles of snow, the sidewalks were clear for pedestrians to walk and roads were clear for drivers.

Sally Lien, a cashier at the Yizhou store at 40-20 Main St. said the situation had improved, noting that people initially struggled to cross the street and that she saw elders falling because they did not have their canes.

But she was disgusted by

the smelly garbage in front of her store.

"No one clean(ed) it," Lien said.

On Bell Boulevard in Bay-side, the sidewalks were also clear for pedestrians. Two city Department of Sanitation trucks and five city Department of Transportation workers were seen clearing the snow.

As of Wednesday morning, every street in Queens had been plowed and made passable, and there were 912

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Police release a photo of the suspects vehicle from surveillance video on the night of the robbery at Hampton Inn (l) and sketches of the 20-year-old robbery victim's stolen jewelry. NYPD

# Search still on: PD

Police hunt suspects in vicious parking lot hotel robbery

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Police officials said that two men allegedly involved in the hotel shooting robbery of a mother and daughter last week were still at large as of Wednesday afternoon and were also suspected in five other similar incidents in Jamaica since December.

Police said the suspects, one of whom was in the getaway car and the other who is suspected of actually robbing the 53-year old mother and 20-year-old daughter, escaped in a white sedan.

According to police officials and hotel sources, the mother, Andrea Koller, and daughter, Meredith Stifter, had just arrived from Maryland Jan. 21 and were checking into the Hampton Inn at 144-10 135th Ave. when they were robbed at the entrance of the hotel.

Police said while Stifter waited in the car at the entrance, a suspect approached her with a gun and demanded money. She did not have any money, so he stole her rings and then pistol whipped her

with the weapon, the NYPD said.

Police said Koller walked out from the hotel as the robbery was taking place and got into a physical struggle with the suspect, who shot her once in the torso. He fled the scene with Koller's handbag, according to the authorities.

The NYPD said the suspect fled the scene in a white 2005-2010 Volkswagen Jetta driven by a second suspect.

Police described the suspects as two black males; the first suspect looked like he was in his 30s, 5-foot-11 inches, medium build, wearing a black ski mask, black Columbia jacket, black pants and black sneakers. Police only described the second suspect as having braided hair.

Emergency responders took both women to Jamaica Hospital. The daughter was released the day of the incident, according to police while the mother was out of critical care by Friday, according to media reports.

Police released a sketch of one of the robbers suspected

as being involved in the robbery at Hampton Inn and a string of coordinated gunpoint robberies by a suspected robbery crew across southeastern Queens over the last few weeks.

Police officials said the suspects may have been involved in five reported incidents dating back to the last week of December. The modus operandi of the suspects is to approach men and women who are sitting in a car from both sides, police said.

The suspects, who carry weapons, then attack and rob the victims, police said.

The first incident happened Dec. 28 outside a home on 153rd Lane in Jamaica near JFK Airport. A 64-year-old man was sitting in his vehicle when he was approached by two suspects, police said. Each suspect forced his way into the car and demanded the victim turn over his wallet and threatened to shoot him. The suspects hit the victim before robbing him and fleeing the

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# Sampling begins on Spring Creek South

BY GABRIEL ROM

Efforts to protect Howard Beach from environmental degradation in future hurricanes has taken another step forward.

State Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D-Howard Beach) announced Tuesday a six-week-long initiative to collect soil samples from Spring Creek South, a wetland area in the northern Jamaica Bay in Howard Beach. The sampling is part of the multifaceted project to protect Howard Beach residents and their property from future storm damage.

Beginning Monday, the state Department of Environmental Conservation will have crews at the intersection of 165th Avenue and 87th Street and at 164th Avenue and 83rd Street to collect samples of soil that will be tested for potential contamination. The project, funded by FEMA, will give key insight into the development of an elevated berm, set to begin in 2017, to help protect against flooding and other storm issues.

"Any project aimed at storm recovery and resiliency is always welcomed in my

district," said Addabbo. "In 2012, when Sandy devastated communities in southern Queens, we saw first-hand the need for more protection from possible flooding and other damage from a major coastal storm. Projects such as this one work toward accomplishing that goal of making Queens better prepared for a natural weather phenomenon than ever before. I thank the state DEC for their commitment to this cause and for working with elected officials and constituents to ensure this project runs smoothly."

The senator also reiterated his intention to keep a close watch on this project and to inform his constituency of any possible, temporary inconveniences the project may have on local streets.

The initiative is part of the larger \$50 million Spring Creek Hazard Mitigation project.

According to DEC, the Spring Creek South Storm Protection and Ecosystem Restoration project aims to reduce the risk of storm damage and flooding in Howard Beach through the construction of the protective berm

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An environmental study that will collect soil samples from Spring Creek South will help protect Howard Beach residents and property from flood damage during future storms. Photo by Michael Shain

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# Borough's first medical marijuana dispensary opens

Rego Park woman suffering from chronic pain becomes first client just days after surgery

BY BILL PARRY

As a medical professional for more than 20 years, 52-year-old Emily Taylor of Rego Park was very much against drug use and never tried marijuana in her life. Then she began suffering from multiple neuropathies with chronic stabbing pains all over her body beginning six years ago.

"I had to try and control the pain with huge doses of opiates and other narcotics that left me useless," said Taylor, which is not her real name because she asked that her identity be protected. "Then came the recurrent migraines that made me suicidal."

When Vireo Health of New York opened the borough's first medical marijuana dispensary last Friday, Taylor was the first patient through the door. After a consultation she left the facility, located at 89-55 Queens Blvd., just steps away from the Queens Center mall in Elmhurst, with

a week's supply of cannabis-based medication products in the forms of vapor and capsules instead of tinctures and oils that are also available.

"I've just had my third surgery and had a neurostimulator implanted in the small of my back to block the pain signals to my brain," Taylor said. "The cannabis doesn't make the pain go away completely, but it does make you drowsy so you can sleep through the pain. It is a distraction so you don't hyper-concentrate on the pain and if you can distract the brain, why not?"

It was relief for patients suffering from pain associated with a variety of chronic and terminal illnesses such as cancer, Lou Gherig's disease, HIV/AIDS and multiple sclerosis that led the state to pass the Compassionate Care Act in 2014. Vireo Health of New York was awarded one of five licenses in the state to manufacture and dispense pharmaceutical-grade medical cannabis under



Vireo Health of New York provides pharmaceutical-grade medical marijuana in the form of capsule, oils for vaporization and oral tinctures in compliance with New York State laws.

Photo by Bill Parry

the strict protocols of the state Department of Health.

"For the first time in 100 years, marijuana is being sold legally in Queens," Vireo Health of New York CEO Ari Hoffnung said. "This time it's in non-smokeable forms like

tinctures, oils and pills dispensed by licensed pharmacists. The images you see from California and Colorado will not be seen here. There will be no joints and no pot brownies."

A patient seeking to allevi-

ate pain and suffering can go to the state Board of Health website to register and receive a medical marijuana identification card for a one-time fee of \$50. After a consultation with one of the nearly 200 physicians across the state who have taken a four-hour online course, a client can make an appointment for further consultation with a medical professional at the facility known as the Queens Patient Center.

One needs the medical marijuana identification card and the registered physician's recommendation to pass through heavy security just to enter the building. If everything is in order, the pharmacist will retrieve the medical marijuana product from a safe and package it in an unmarked bag.

"It's very much like going into any pharmacy and picking up your Tylenol or blood pressure medication," said Dr. Laura Bultman, Vireo Health's

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# Citizen budgeting faces challenges

Program inviting residents to spend city dollars in Eric Ulrich's district has mixed record

BY GABRIEL ROM

Eddie Valentine is exasperated.

In 2011, the former chief of the Rockaway Point Volunteer Fire Department wanted upgrades for his station: two dozen emergency pagers, a cascade system that would allow his men to refill their oxygen tanks and a water pump to alleviate plumbing problems.

Valentine took notice of a new and relatively unknown city program called Participatory Budgeting (PB). The program, which originated in Brazil in 1989, involves residents brainstorming on spending ideas, helping to allocate at least \$1 million of their Council member's capital budget funds. With the help of numerous committees, community volunteers develop proposals based on these ideas and residents vote on them. City agencies then vet projects and give cost estimates.

For Valentine, that's where the trouble began.

He attended workshop meetings and campaigned for his upgrades, getting them on the inaugural PB ballot in Councilman Eric Ulrich's (R-Ozone Park) district, the



The \$100,000 secured through Participatory Budgeting for interior renovations to the Queens Library at Richmond Hill could not be completed separately from a larger \$6.5 million reconstruction project for the building.

Photo by Michael Shain

first in Queens to adopt the PB program. Valentine's projects won, receiving a total of 2,444 votes and securing \$147,000 from the city. But suddenly the projects were denied by

the city, deemed ineligible because his fire department was considered a "non-city capital project." That classification meant the volunteer department was subject to a host of regulations, like a minimum of one full-time paid employee, years of audited financial reports and non-profit registration documents.

All of this was news to Valentine. It was the first time he had heard the phrase "non-city capital project."

"This all came as a total surprise," an angry Valentine said.

That same year, six miles east of Valentine's department, the Knights of Columbus Rockaway Council won \$45,000 in PB money to make a bathroom in the building handicap accessible. Just as in Valentine's case, the votes counted, the money supposedly allocated and then it was ultimately denied by the city for being a "non-city capital project."

How had almost \$200,000 in discretionary funding been allocated to projects that should never have made the ballot in the first place?

Participatory Budgeting was first introduced to New York in the fall of 2011 and the pitch was as simple as it was

bold: "How would you spend \$1 million to improve your neighborhood?"

The City Council called it "revolutionary," and Queens residents saw it as an opportunity to engage with the nuts and bolts of city politics. As of 2016, 10 of Queens' 14 Council members will have adopted the program.

But even as Participatory Budgeting has been rolled out across the borough, some of those involved in Ulrich's district have soured on the process. Despite considerable support and initial enthusiasm, satisfaction with the program has waned.

Through interviews with participants, a picture emerges of a complex and time-laden process that has its heart in the right place, but struggles with many of the same problems that afflict city politics in general: bureaucracy, poor communication and inter-agency squabbling.

"On one hand, this is a fantastic opportunity to get civic involvement and I've seen people who weren't engaged who are now engaged," said Peter Beadle, a former budget delegate and committee facilitator from Forest Hills. "On the other hand, we are sheltered from the bureaucra-

cy that our lawmakers have to deal with."

A TimesLedger analysis found that since 2012, 23 percent of Queens' Participatory Budget projects have been completed with more than \$7 million still tied up in incomplete projects.

Out of 35 projects in Ulrich's district, seven have been completed—six of which are school projects. The completed school upgrades include over \$600,000 for technology and safety updates.

Of the 28 non-completed projects in Ulrich's district, two are under construction, while the rest are in earlier stages.

## LABS OF DEMOCRACY

Robby Schwach, a legislative aide to Ulrich, describes the problems with the 2011 projects as initial hiccups.

"It's safe to say that we weren't aware of those regulations or didn't provide that information at the outset," said Schwach, who wasn't part of Ulrich's staff at the time.

Schwach now gives out an extensive handbook to participants that outlines eligibility requirements for projects.

"Whether it was a lack of having a full understanding of the process, or we just weren't given the right information, we have learned our lessons: We're less likely to push a non-city capital project," he added.

But for some, that's the wrong lesson.

In the first years of the Ulrich program Ed Wendell, Vance Barbour and Alexander Blenkinsopp, all senior members of the Woodhaven Residents Block Association, were enthusiastic.

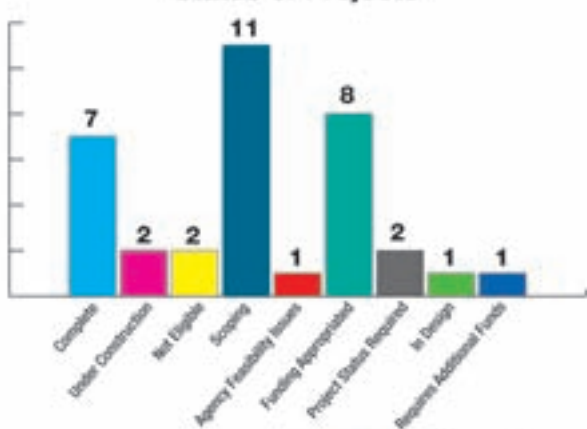
"The whole idea for PB, the way the city was selling it, was to stir up creative juices, to listen to people and to come up with innovative and new ideas," Wendell said.

Barbour described early brainstorming sessions as small labs of democracy. Regardless of the time of day, he said at least 40 people would show up and the atmosphere would be electric with team members laughing, arguing and proposing new ideas.

"This was real community engagement and real outside-of-the-box thinking," he said. "People were using their

### Council District 32 FY 2013-2015

#### Status of Projects



Total  
Participatory  
Budgeting  
completion rate  
in Councilman  
Ulrich's district



Source: Participatory Budgeting Status Sheet released by the City Council, updated May 2015



# as boro projects fail to materialize

*Continued from Page 4*  
imagination to see what they could do.”

## A PROBLEM OF EXPECTATIONS

It was precisely those “non-city capital projects” like flower boxes or community board notice signs that got participants excited. But the process of turning these rough, sometimes outlandish ideas, into formal proposals proved to be difficult. Many projects were summarily rejected by city agencies, often without explanation, according to Barbour.

“When it came to finding out what we could do, we couldn’t find a single city agency with a flashlight,” he said. “Nothing outside of a very small square box ever

with carrying out the resurfacing, requested that the Parks Department implement it. According to a Parks spokeswoman, the money has yet to be transferred to the agency and there is no projected completion date. According to Schwach, he has been out to the site with Parks and community members and preliminary discussions are taking place.

## ONLY SEVEN PROJECTS DONE

As many of PB’s early adopters struggle to point to concrete successes, a number of projects have been bundled into larger, non-PB projects by city agencies.

One such project is a \$100,000 renovation for a meeting room at the Queens Library at Richmond Hill. The renovation, though, could not be completed separately from a larger \$6.5 million reconstruction project for a full building renovation. That project, which has been under discussion for “at least four or five years,” according to King, is still in its planning phase, with no projected completion date.

“It seems to me that we might have had people voting on projects that were going to be funded anyway,” Blenkinsopp said. “Either people were wasting their time or we were wasting a valuable opportunity to push another project to the front of the line.”

King said the bundling technique is used to save money and avoid unnecessary disruptions. She was unable to say whether participants had been made aware of the outstanding renovations at voting time.

She pointed out that the program is evolving each year, with city agencies focusing on increasing communication with voters and delegates.

“I think this year there is a lot more education for the committees putting projects up for ballot,” she said. The library system is working more closely with the Council members to frame projects. But it’s unrealistic to assume that if you vote on a Tuesday a project will get done on Thursday.”

Yet with only rough projected completion dates on what many consider basic projects, PB is beginning to lose followers in Central Queens.



Members of the Woodhaven Residents Block Association brainstorm project ideas for the 2014 Participatory Budgeting in Councilman Eric Ulrich's district. Courtesy of Ed Wendell

Citywide, in 2014 fewer than half of those who signed up to be delegates at the beginning of the process ended up serving actively through the delegate phase, even as the number of participants has grown yearly, according to a report put out by the Urban Justice Center.

“PB opened my eyes,” said Toby Sheppard Bloch, a member of Community Board 5 and an early proponent of the program. “I’ve started to take voices critical of city bureaucracy more seriously. I think it’s fundamentally disrespectful to have such a poor record of follow-through.”

Only a single non-school project has been completed in Ulrich’s district since he adopted PB four years ago.

“We still don’t have any material to show to people what has been accomplished through PB,” said Wendell, a member of the WRBA. “There is nothing for us to hang our hat on. You need to be able to tell people: Look, we won, and we don’t have anything like that. If we don’t see things soon, it’s going to be very hard come next fall to get people interested in PB.”

## EN ROUTE TO SUCCESS

Eddy Pastore, a Far Rockaway activist, hoped to build an entertainment stage. He secured \$200,000 in PB funds for the stage which proved not to be enough. In an example of the flexibility of the process, Pastore combined \$150,000 from a gazebo project the year before and put it towards the

stage. When combined with additional resources from Borough President Melinda Katz’ office, the money turned out to be sufficient and the project is currently in its design phase.

“I think PB does really work,” Pastore said. It’s a great way to get people more involved.”

“I’ve seen great benefits,” he added “but it becomes a little confusing with all the red tape to get projects done.”

Susan Brustmann, director of the Poppenhusen Institute

which received \$250,000 in PB money from Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) in 2013, is also sanguine.

“We know the wheels of bureaucracy move slowly,” she said. “As a rule, capital projects take time and that’s not unusual. Have you ever lived in New York?”

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ERIC ULRICH

made the list.”

The city, he said, tended to approve basic upkeep projects such as roadway resurfacings, sidewalk extensions, median repavings and bus countdown clocks.

For Schwach, the basic projects are largely the point of PB.

“This is a way for us to prioritize projects that the community thinks are important,” he said.

But a number of the smaller projects have been hit with delays.

A \$200,000 library vending machine in Breezy Point has been put on pause after an agreement in principal fell through soon after Hurricane Sandy, according to Joanne King, director of communications for the Queens Library, while a \$100,000 median resurfacing project that was listed as having an “agency feasibility issue” seems to have fallen into a black hole between city agencies.

DOT, originally tasked



The Knights of Columbus Rockaway Council, located at 333 Beach 90th St, Rockaway Beach, was supposed to receive \$45,000 in Participatory Budgeting funds for a handicap bathroom upgrade. Photo by Michael Shain



# Frustrated central Queens emerges from snow

Amid complaints of a short institutional memory, some say boro was forgotten by mayor

BY GABRIEL ROM



A snow plow on 68th Road in Middle Village.

Photo by Michael Shain

Residents of central Queens say that after days of city negligence their streets have been plowed and their neighborhoods addressed by the mayor in the aftermath of a blizzard that blanketed New York with over two feet of snow. In Jackson Heights as much as 34 inches fell.

City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) held a press conference Monday afternoon in which he accused the city of failing its duty in Queens.

"We want to know why the city of New York and why Mayor DeBlasio did not dedicate the proper equipment, the proper manpower to cleaning the streets of this community and so many other neighborhoods in the borough of Queens," Ulrich said. "The city failed."

Ulrich was part of a growing chorus of Queens lawmakers, civic leaders and residents

who contend their streets, especially in central Queens, were neglected by city services after the second largest snowstorm in city history.

The mayor maintains that given difficult circumstances, the city addressed the cleanup

in Queens as best it could.

Almost half of the city's snow-plowing equipment had been diverted to Queens by Monday, according to the mayor's office.

At a press conference Monday morning, Mayor Bill

de Blasio reiterated that the clean-up effort in Queens could have been better.

"Some areas of Queens were strong, others less so. I was out yesterday in Flushing, South Jamaica, Long Island City and Astoria," de Blasio said at the Manhattan news conference.

Queens was soon given additional plows totaling 920, more than in any other borough, according to Amy Spitalnik, a spokeswoman for de Blasio.

By Tuesday, the city had fully reallocated its resources to the borough and residents began reporting that clogged side streets were getting due attention.

"Extremely pleased to find out that 88th Avenue in #Woodhaven is getting plowed," tweeted Alexander Blenkinsopp spokesman for the Woodhaven Residents Block Association.

"Today, vast majority of #Woodhaven streets were

very clear," he added Tuesday. "Many others were sloppy & slushy, but safely passable. I'll accept that."

Even after the city's response, civic leaders from Central Queens remained frustrated.

"The city has lost its institutional memory," said Vincent Arcuri, chairman of Community Board 5. "They should have remembered our last storm and where the bad areas were in Queens. That's where they should have sent their troops. But it seemed like they were just doing business as usual."

Amid the chaos, there were also stories of residents banding together to help one another. Numerous videos posted on social media showed Queens pedestrians helping cars stuck in snow to get free.

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# New projects boost real estate in Queens



A new development in Ridgewood has been expanded to include a vacant warehouse at 1716 Weirfield Street. Google Earth

BY GABRIEL ROM

Central Queens' real estate boom shows no signs of slowing down.

A major development site in Ridgewood has been expanded to two lots and a new seven-story condo is under construction in Forest Hills.

The lot size and price tag for the Ridgewood sites, which are in an M1-4D light manufacturing zone, will both increase. In addition to 951 Cypress Ave., the parcel now includes the neighboring warehouse at 1716 Weirfield St. The two properties, owned by Greiner Maltz Investment Properties, are currently going for around \$25 million collectively.

When combined, the two properties have an approximate lot size of 104 feet by 175 feet, with a total square footage of about 18,200 feet.

The buildable area grew to 118,300 square feet with the addition of the warehouse.

Like much of the recent development, the site in the center of the neighborhood, near Myrtle Avenue and surrounded by retail businesses. According to the listing, there should be positive pedestrian traffic around the site due to an ample amount of nearby public transportation, which can be beneficial for a potential ground-floor retail space, according to Greiner Maltz.

Both properties will be delivered without any tenants.

In Forest Hills, a new seven-story condo located at 109-15 72nd Road between Queens Boulevard and Austin Street will feature almost two dozen apartment units as well as retail space on the ground floor, according to city documents.

The listings come on the heels of a slew of real-estate dealings in

both neighborhoods over the past few months.

Seth Bornstein, the president of the Queens Economic Development Corporation, noted that growing demand for condominiums is especially beneficial for the borough.

"People want to purchase," he said. "There is a demand from people who want to invest in the borough and that idea of ownership is a good thing. It adds to a sense of community."

Straddling the border with Brooklyn, Ridgewood has had an influx of mostly younger people fleeing Bushwick's rising rental costs for the comparatively cheaper rates in Queens. But the development has led to what some longtime community residents say is displacement.

In September, LaserShip, a Virginia-based package delivery service and major Amazon contractor, signed a 10-year lease to relocate from Long Island City and fully occupy a Ridgewood warehouse as its newest distribution center.

Earlier this month, a longtime Ridgewood tenant, 1/2 Price Kids shop, announced it would be vacating its 60-84 Myrtle Ave. building, which was recently sold, by Jan. 1.

Earlier this month, Ridgewood residents gathered at PS 305 for an emergency informational session on tenant rights hosted by a mix of attorneys, non-profits and lawmakers.

According to community activists and tenants, concern has been rising over the loss of affordable units in Ridgewood as well as landlord harassment and illegal construction.

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Lil BUB visits the Museum of the Moving Image Saturday to help raise funds for the ASPCA fund.  
Photo courtesy Dave Bridavsky

## Celebrity cat Lil BUB is coming to Astoria

BY BILL PARRY

Internet sensation Lil BUB, the tiny celebrity cat with huge eyes and a dangling tongue, will appear at a special benefit for special needs pets at the Museum of the Moving Image Saturday. MoMI will present "The Story of Lil BUB" featuring the feline and her owner, Mike Bridavsky, in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater beginning at 1 p.m.

"It will be her first trip to Queens and likely her last visit to New York City," Bridavsky said. "Lil BUB loves to travel and see her fans, but my wife and I are expecting our first child so we'll need to cutback on the travels."

Lil BUB was discovered by a friend's mother in a tool shed in rural Indiana. She was born with a multitude of genetic anomalies that give her a unique appearance.

"She's one of a kind on so many levels, one in a billion because of her genetic makeup," Bridavsky said. "I used to create blogs for friends, so I did one for her and I didn't take it very seriously. She began having hundreds of fans beginning in 2012 and when one of her photos went viral, the whole thing exploded. I never sought to make her a star. It just kind of happened."

Lil BUB became a social media superstar with 65,000 Twitter followers with 2.5 million likes on her Facebook page. Bridavsky knew that her popularity around the globe could help her make a difference in people's lives.

"I knew Lil BUB could use her fame

for the greater good not just for people, but for pets," Bridavsky said. "Through the BUB Store on her website we've raised more than \$300,000 through the sales of T-shirts and calendars for animals in need. The main goal is to raise awareness about proper animal care, the importance of adopting, volunteering at shelters and the importance of spaying and neutering."

Tickets for the MoMI fund-raiser cost \$25. In addition a limited number of \$100 tickets were available which included access to "The Story of Lil BUB" as well as a meet-and-greet at 4 p.m. with all proceeds going to an ASPCA national fund, which provides grants to animal welfare organizations to help homeless pets with special needs.

The events are part of MoMI's current exhibit, "How Cats Took Over the Internet," which presents the history of cats online, examining phenomena like Caturday, lolcats, cat videos, celebrity cats, and more to unearth why images and videos of the feline kind have transfixed a generation of web users.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to go home with a cat of their own. An ASPCA Mobile Adoption Event will take place at the museum's entrance.

The Museum of the Moving Image is located at 36-01 35th Ave. in Astoria. More information and tickets are available online at [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

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



# Transit groups blast Gov on MTA funding

BY BILL PARRY

When members of Riders Alliance lugged a 6-foot-tall cardboard cutout of Gov. Cuomo onto the No. 7 subway line in July, the public transit advocates were trying to get the governor to address the MTA budget and its \$14 billion deficit.

On Tuesday, the Alliance joined other groups, such as the Straphangers Campaign and Tri-State Transportation Campaign, to alert 9 million daily MTA riders that Cuomo's 2016-17 budget proposal contains no new money for the MTA capital program, even after the governor announced plans to "modernize and fundamentally transform the MTA" with billions of dollars in investment.

His critics claim instead of providing any of the \$7.3 billion in state funding the governor promised toward the capital program, Cuomo's budget offers only a non-binding reiteration of his 2015 promise to fund the program. Mayor Bill de Blasio, who committed \$2.5 billion in MTA funding, to be provided when the state makes its contribution, also does not include any of that new funding in his 2016-17 budget proposal.

"Gov. Cuomo promised the world to transit riders, but all he is delivering is another IOU," Riders Alliance Executive Director John Raskin said. "After all these promises, transit riders assumed there would be cash in the budget, but it turns out it's just another promise."

The emperor has no clothes, or more accurately, he promises he will have clothes in a few years, but he won't say exactly when. If Gov. Cuomo is serious about investing in public transit, he needs to provide funding this year instead of just another promise that it may happen in the future."

On Jan. 8, Cuomo visited the New York Transit Museum to outline his commitment of \$7.3 billion for the MTA capital program in addition to the \$1 billion in last year's budget. In the actual budget Cuomo released Jan. 13, he proposes to allocate zero funds toward the \$7.3 billion remaining in the State's commitment.

The budget also lays out no specific timetable for allocating those funds. Instead it has non-binding language claiming that the state will allocate its share of the funds "after MTA capital resources planned for the capital program, not including additional city and state funds, have been exhausted."

Gene Russianoff of the NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign said, "Downstate transit systems are in desperate need of repair, but Gov. Cuomo has cynically chosen to respond with a plan that's opaque, unclear and a textbook exercise in one level of government trying to offload its responsibilities on another."

Beyond the \$1 billion that is already appropriated and available for their use, there are no additional new appro-

*Continued on Page 43*

# Katz talks of progress

Boro prez names library reform among achievements

BY MADINA TOURE

At her annual State of the Borough Address last week, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz cited a plan to remove classroom trailers from borough schools, the reorganization of the Queens Library following a corruption scandal and the renovation of the New York State Pavilion as signs of the progress the borough has made.

Katz spoke before a crowd of more than 1,000 elected officials, city agency commissioners, community leaders and Queens residents in the Kupferberg Center for the Arts' Colden Auditorium at Queens College Jan. 21.

Actor and model Branden Wellington, who is also an in-game host for the Mets, served as master of ceremonies.

The borough president remarked that while Queens has many high-performing schools, it also has the most overcrowded schools in the city.

Six classroom trailers at PS 19 in Corona, the largest elementary school in New York City, were supposed to be temporary but have been in use for decades, housing up to 600 schoolkids at a time, she said. Those trailers are now scheduled for removal by the end of this year.

Katz also noted that 15 trailers have been removed from six different elementary schools during her first two years in office, and that 59 more trailers are on the docket for removal across 20 different schools in the borough.

"It is not an easy process but together, everyone in this room can do it," she said.

She also said the Queens Library has come a long way since "its dark saga of 2014," referring to former CEO Thomas Galante, who was placed on indefinite leave for alleged misuse of funds.

She credited state Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (D-Corona) and state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) for pushing forward legislation aimed at reforming the library system.

"Since then and especially in the past year, the library has refocused full energy back to where it matters most: to our families, especially chil-



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz says the borough has made progress since she took office.

Photo courtesy of Borough President Katz's Office

dren and seniors, who rely on its services and deserve nothing less than a world-class library system," Katz said.

She also said the library's board of trustees took into account recommendations issued in the audit by City Comptroller Scott Stringer and that she allocated more than \$13 million last year in capital investments across a dozen branches.

Katz also touted her work in helping to save the New York State Pavilion in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, which she made a priority when she came into office.

She said that she and others have secured \$10 million to date toward electrical and structural improvements for the towers.

"For years, even when no one else wanted anything to do with it, volunteers of the New York State Pavilion Painting

Project did their best to upkeep at least the base of the Pavilion," she said.

She also cited other accomplishments such as the Jamaica Now Action Plan to revitalize Jamaica, criticized the Common Core curriculum, shared some of her reservations about Mayor Bill de Blasio's rezoning proposals and recognized the late NYPD Officers Brian Moore, Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, who were murdered while on patrol.

At the end of her address, she brought out New York Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson, former player Edgardo Alfonzo and Mets Manager Terry Collins, who led the team into the World Series.

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



Riders Alliance targets Gov. Andrew Cuomo once again for his failure to fund the MTA capital plan.





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# POLICE Blotter

## Two men attack CVS employee: Police

ASTORIA — Police from the 114th Precinct were searching for two men who attempted to steal ice cream from a CVS Pharmacy, and then beat up the employee who confronted them, police said.

Two men entered the CVS, at 31-01 Ditmars Blvd., just after 7 p.m., Jan. 3 and attempted to take pints of ice cream by stuffing them into a backpack, police said.

When a female employee confronted the two, they assaulted her and fled the location on foot, empty handed, according to the NYPD.

Police describe the first suspect as a black man, 18- to 20-years-old, 5-foot-10 and 160 pounds. He was last seen wearing a light blue hooded sweater, a dark colored coat with a fur-lined hood and dark colored pants.

The second individual is described as a black man, also 18 to 20 years old, 5-foot-10 and 160 pounds. He was last seen wearing a dark colored jacket, dark colored pants and a light colored book bag.

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



Police released video images of two men suspected in an assault and attempted robbery incident at an Astoria CVS.

Courtesy NYPD

## Suspect demanded sex act with knife: NYPD

WOODHAVEN — Police released the sketch of a suspect who allegedly threatened a victim with a knife before making sexual demands in Woodhaven, police said.

An 18-year-old woman was on her way home Jan. 10 when a man approached the victim at the corner of 92nd Street and 89th Avenue, grabbed her arm and displayed a knife, according to police officials.

Police said the suspect then threatened the victim, making sexual demands. The victim did not comply and refused to move, at which point the suspect fled on foot, according to police.

Police described the suspect as a black man, between 20 to 30 years old, 5 feet 6 inches, and 140 pounds. He was last seen wearing a dark colored ski jacket, baseball hat, boots and light colored pants.

Police said the victim was not injured as a result of this incident. The investigation was ongoing, according to police officials.



Police released this sketch of the suspect allegedly involved in a attempted sexual assault in Woodhaven.

Courtesy of NYPD

## FH man off to prison for pimping girls: DA

FOREST HILLS — A Forest Hills man is facing between six and 12 years in prison for the recruitment and statutory rape of two young women, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said last week.

Peter Gerardi, 30, was convicted in November on a slew of charges, including two counts of compelling prostitution and 21 counts of statutory rape.

According to court documents, Gerardi, while on parole, approached

and befriended a 13-year-old girl on the street in March 2011. He asked her to perform sexual acts with men in exchange for money and provided her with rules and instructions on how much to charge the men.

On one occasion Gerardi grabbed the young girl by her arm and threatened that "if you ever leave me again, I will slap the (expletive deleted) out of you," a release from the DA stated.





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From humble beginnings, born to West Indian parents, Olivier was instilled with a sense of pride in heritage and community. Olivier has served as a former assistant district attorney for many years and now continues to serve the community in private practice.

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# SPEED THE PLOW

Blizzards pose precarious challenges for New York City mayors when the snow piles up on Queens' streets and the plows are slow to dig out residents.

De Blasio earned failing grades for impassable roads and buried cars in some Queens neighborhoods during the blizzard of 2016, which brought back memories of two predecessors imperiled by outrage in the county after heavy snows.

Back in 1969, when John Lindsay was mayor and 20 inches of snow crippled the borough for a week, he was roundly blamed for ignoring eastern Queens, where he was pelted by snowballs as he toured the snow-bound streets. UN Under-Secretary Ralph Bunche, who lived in Kew Gardens, sent a telegram to City Hall three days after the storm, saying not a single snowplow had been sighted.

The Feb. 10, 1969 nor'easter, known as the "Lindsay Snowstorm," cost him the GOP primary for re-election, but he won a second term on the Liberal Party line.

Michael Bloomberg had his own debacle on Dec. 26, 2010 when a blizzard paralyzed the city, left some Queens streets unplowed for days and halted subways, buses and the LIRR for an extended period.

The mayor and many of his top aides were out of town for the holidays. Bloomberg refused to disclose his whereabouts, but The New York Times traced his private jet to Bermuda. City Hall was dogged by unfounded rumors started by Bayside City Councilman Dan Halloran that the Sanitation Department was engaged in a labor dispute plot to slow down plowing.

Bloomberg, who was in his third term, faced bitter accusations from Queens that he favored Manhattan and ignored the rest of the city when the near catastrophic snowstorms hit. His administration's feet were held to the fire at several hearings.

Despite the outcry over snow-choked side streets in parts of Queens, de Blasio's track record was far better in the second-worst snowstorm in city history.

Subway service resumed the day after the storm, the main thoroughfares in Queens were cleared by Monday and most of the borough was liberated from blocked streets by Tuesday evening.

The mayor has promised to investigate the snow clearance delays in Queens, which topped the city charts at 34 inches. As the largest borough with the most roads, we should have a dedicated snow emergency plan in the City Hall manual because of the Queens Effect.

De Blasio dodged the snowballs this time around by leading the overall city to a strong comeback even though pockets of Queens got short shrift.

The Report Card from Queens: Lindsay F, Bloomberg D, de Blasio B-minus.



## OTHER VOICES

# Storm brings out the Nanny State

Gov. Cuomo and the mayor decided to shut down all roads and most mass transit in New York City during our recent epic snowstorm. The mayor threatens to arrest drivers who disobey his edict.

Yes, the same progressive administration that wants to decriminalize urinating in public, turnstile jumping and public intoxication? Don't arrest those folks, but arrest drivers who are trying to go to their job at a hospital or driving to an open supermarket seeking milk for their baby.

How in the world did we ever get to this state of affairs and how in the world did we ever survive all of these years without government overbearance? We

are infantilizing the population and the scary thing is that most people probably agree with the mayor and governor. Not a single reporter asked the mayor how he expects hospital workers to get to their jobs.

Shortly after the mayor and governor ordered adults off the roads, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said the following when asked by a reporter why he wasn't shutting down the roadways in NJ. "I prefer not to implement a heavy handed government implemented travel ban. I believe in the good judgment of our citizens." Wow, what a breath of fresh air and I am a registered Democrat.

As president of Glen Oaks Village, I am responsible for our community of 10,000 residents.

Because of the Nanny State edict, we were unable to bring in our staff the next day to begin plowing and shoveling our driveways, sidewalks and stoops. The mayor and governor's decision to shut down the roads and mass transit has now made a very bad snowstorm even worse.

Sometimes the one-size-fits-all dictates of Nanny State government doesn't work. I implore all of our elected officials in the future to please think through the consequences of such actions and give credit to the good judgment of adult citizen's even if a few of them don't show similar judgement.

*Bob Friedrich  
Glen Oaks Village*

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# Cuomo has short-sighted take on tranist

When it came to transportation, Gov. Andrew Cuomo's annual State of the State speech had great sound bites but provided little substance. Cuomo failed to give any specifics of how he will come up with the \$8.3 billion promised to meet the shortfall in his proposed 2015-2019 MTA Five Year Capital Plan. Cuomo is kicking the can down the road.

The original proposed 2010-2014 MTA \$29 billion Five Year Capital Plan was cut to \$24.2 billion before being approved. This doesn't include \$8.3 billion more pledged by Cuomo and \$2.5 billion by NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio to help cover shortfalls in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's proposed \$28 billion 2015-2019 Five Year Capital Plan (cut from \$32 billion). When will these billions become reality?

How can the MTA justify cutting \$9 billion in badly needed capital improvements over a ten year period and still

provide the day to day services millions of New Yorkers count on? How many critical capital improvement projects will be postponed into the next 2020-2024 Capital Program?

The 2020-2024 MTA Five Year Capital Program will first have to deal with \$9 billion in unfunded carryover capital projects and programs. By waiting all these years, the costs will have gone up by another billion or two. This includes \$1 billion or more to construct Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway. Next is \$1 billion or more to finish LIRR Eastside Access to Grand Central Terminal. What about finding \$500 million to build the No. 7 subway station at 10th Avenue and 41st?

Also needed is \$1.5 billion for the LIRR Main Line Third Track project. The LaGuardia Airport Train to the Plane baseline budget of \$450 million in the years to come will require up to an additional

\$550 million.

The \$3 billion new Penn Station will end up needing far more than \$300 million in combined assistance from the MTA, Amtrak and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Does anyone believe that potential developers will spend \$2.7 billion of their own funding to pay for this?

Some Queens residents will look for \$100 million toward the \$200 million Woodhaven Boulevard Select Bus Service. These dollars may be necessary if NYCDOT can't secure \$100 million in U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration New Starts funding. Others will continue to lobby for restoration of LIRR service on the old Rockaway LIRR branch at \$1 billion, Triboro X Subway Express (new subway line connecting the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn for \$1 to \$2 billion) and most recently the Brooklyn-Queens Water-

front Street Car Connector at a cost of \$1.7 billion.

Combined, all of the above would make Cuomo's tab for unfunded transportation improvements exceed \$26 billion! Cuomo reminds me of the character Wimpy who famously said "I'll gladly pay

you Tuesday for a hamburger today." When the bills become due, taxpayers will be stuck with Cuomo's tab. Why would the next governor want to pay for any of Cuomo's bills?

Larry Penner  
Great Neck

## Helping neighbors

At age 73 with a heart condition, I was bedridden with respiratory problems in my house in Bayside when the Blizzard of '16 struck on Saturday.

On Sunday, I saw from my window that my sidewalk had been plowed. Not sure who did this, a neighbor or one of the groups of guys I saw walking by during the day with shovels. On Monday, a dozen kids sent by

Sen. Avella's office cleared heavy drifts of snow that had prevented me from getting out the front door. This is a program he runs to assist seniors.

No one asked for money. I feel a strong sense of community here, so thanks to all!

Peter Rutledge  
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And God forbid you scarf down four Domino's stuffed cheesy bacon jalapeño breadsticks—that requires 193 touchdown dances.

So how did Platkin, a lawyer, publisher, technologist, real estate guy, and bestselling author, become obsessed with translating calories into everyday (and sports-watching related) activities? It all started when he was young—and tubby.

"I remember my doctor saying, 'You're not going to have a good social life, because you're fat,'" says Platkin. "And I was like, 'You don't know what you're talking about.' But the truth was, I was ostracized as a child."

He was still overweight in early adulthood when he decided to write a book on how to truly change your life. This was after he'd gotten his law degree, but still was floundering—and single.

"I was confused. I was thinking about changing behavior. I was overweight and had terrible relationships."

So, for three years, he researched how real behavior change happens.

He was finally ready to hand in his manuscript when he realized, "I hadn't changed one behavior of my own!" So he decided to actually follow his own advice and, at last, he started losing weight. He also realized that the fact he ended up "with difficult and strange kinds of women" had an underlying cause: Him.

"I'd always thought it was random."

Changing required that word we hear so often lately: mindfulness. He had to pay attention to what he ate, and when. (And who he dated, and why.) He also had to stop feeling too embarrassed to ask for things like a plain grilled chicken breast when he went out to eat. In other words, he had to stop being ashamed to admit he knew he was fat and wanted to lose weight.

He folded his stories into the book and it became the bestseller, "Breaking the Pattern."

The great thing about

mindfulness, Platkin says, is that you don't have to be mindful forever.

"If you had to Google Map every day to figure out what floor your office is on," that would be painful. (And you would need some other kind of help.) But after a short while, of course, you know the drill.

It's the same with figuring out what your food patterns are. And once you notice that every night, right before bed, you eat a bowl of Ben & Jerry's, well then, all you have to do is start figuring out a "food swap"—an alternative. For Platkin, he started making swaps just like the ones you can make on Super Bowl Sunday: Toasted pita points instead of chips. Pizza without the mozzarella—add your own Parmesan. Slow-churned Breyers instead of Ben & Jerry's.

The idea is to concentrate not on what you can't have, but on what you can. And since we gobble down many foods without realizing just how fattening they are, he popularized the "equivalencies." FYI: One bowl of chili equals more than an hour of cheerleading.

These days Platkin is married and has a daughter. One

**Working off one measly Cheeto—one!—equals chanting and waving around a foam hand for two minutes**

day a couple of years ago he was walking her to school and saw her holding her tummy in. He asked why. Well, of course she was practicing looking skinny.

"I just want you to know that you don't ever have to worry about dieting or any of these things," he told his daughter. Life is not about forsaking. It's about embracing who you are and what you love.

So long as it's not Domino's Stuffed Cheesy Bacon Jalapeño Breadsticks.

*Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and author and founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.*

## New bills require a push from Queens voters



Bob  
Harris  
■  
*The Civic  
Scene*

One bill I support is Senate Bill No. 1030/2015. It relates to the restrictions of activities by former registered lobbyists which prevents them from running for any municipal or statewide elective office for a period of two years after termination of their service as a lobbyist.

Another interesting bill is Senate Bill No. 1038/2015. It provides for a review process of proposals to alienate municipal parkland which prevents the sale of it only if there is compelling public need and there is no other alternative. Any replacement must be three times the size of land given away and at least one of the lots must be the same size as the lot being given away and be contiguous or within one mile of the lot being given away. This law is in response

to the giving away of parts of Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Senate Bill No. 1091 establishes a special prosecutor for fraud, waste and corruption in the New York City Department of Buildings and Board of Standards and Appeals. Any civic group which has dealt with the DOB or BSA would surely approve of this proposal. This would protect our quality of life and our local zoning.

Senate Bill No. 5050/2015 requires the Board of Standards and Appeals to notify local Assembly members and state senators of any application which could change the zoning of their communities.

Senate Bill No. S678 requires the city Department of health to respond to requests to remove raccoons from outdoor public or private proper-

ty. A raccoon out and about in daylight is a sick animal.

Senate Bill No. S687/2015 requires that the BSA have a financial analyst with professional qualifications and at least 10 years' experience. Too often applicants for a zoning variance give financial excuses for weakening the zoning laws.

State Senate Bill No. S688/2015 would require that variances and special permit decisions passed by the BSA have a two-thirds majority, as opposed to the current simple majority. Too many bad things are happening to fine communities due to the vote of the BSA.

State Senate Bill No. 889-A/2015 would create a new Class C felony for illegal conversions of apartments which results in the serious injury of

a person. I still remember the two Bronx firemen who died when an illegal wall resulted in them becoming disoriented by smoke.

Senate Bill No. S896 would create a "Do Not Circulate Registry" with regard to circular advertisements, which would put the burden on the circular industry and not the property owner.

Senate Bill No. 1041 would eliminate the "self-certification" of building work by the architect or builder who did the work and require the hiring of a DOB plan examiner. The fee cost, which everyone pays, would pay for the salary of these workers. Responsible architects actually want this.

There are more bills but.....



# When the borough braced for World War II

## QUEENS LINE

### The Greater Astoria Historical Society

*In conjunction with the Greater Astoria Historical Society, the TimesLedger Newspapers presents noteworthy events in the borough's history*

It was 1939, and the sixth anniversary of German Fuehrer Adolf Hitler's rise to power on Jan. 30, 1933 was at hand. The world was arming for war. In Washington, President Roosevelt proposed to Congress a \$9,000,000,000 budget for 1940, to arm for defense and spend for recovery.

In Queens, Borough President George U. Harvey abandoned his duties in a rush to accompany the combined Atlantic and Pacific fleets on maneuvers in southern waters.

Harvey, a lieutenant colonel in the 307th Infantry, would be gone six weeks or more, during which Borough Works Commissioner John J. Halleran would be acting borough president.

Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld, former minister of justice for Prussia, a former member of the Reichstag from 1919 to 1933 and a resident of Sunnyside, was to lecture at the Sunnyside Jewish Center, the topic being "It Can Happen Here." Later in the month, this was followed by a debate on "Should Jews Be Active in Politics in America?" A committee was formed to distribute literature throughout Sunnyside and Astoria to aid in the fight against Fascism.

An investigating committee reported that a German-American Bund meeting was held in Astoria and that the Jew was "belittled, disgraced and discriminated against."

Mrs. Sarah E. Duffy, of Jackson Heights, became the first female city marshal, after being appointed by Mayor LaGuardia and sworn in immediately at City Hall. Mrs. Duffy was first made a marshal in Elmhurst in 1932 to fill an unexpired term. The appointment, coming as something of a surprise, was cheered by women's organizations and political clubs alike. Although Mrs. Duffy had not taken a leading part in political affairs, she was well known to community leaders because of her tenure as clerk for her husband in the Elmhurst Municipal Court District.

Grover A. Whalen, Commissioner of the New York World's Fair, announced that President Roosevelt would

attend the opening of the fair April 30. This was to be Roosevelt's first stop in Queens since he dedicated the Queens-Midtown Tunnel in Hunters Point in the summer of 1937.

Thousands of subway riders and sidewalk neck-craners got an eyeful when they looked up and saw the BMT's "sample" World's Fair train auguring the installation of a number of special train units painted in the deep blue and orange selected as the color scheme for Grover A. Whalen's fantasy in Flushing Meadows.

In Flushing, the funeral of James Stewart McGuinness, 86, was held. Serving under Mayor Patrick ("Battle Axe") Gleason, Mr. McGuinness was the last police chief of Long Island City before consolidation. The death of McGuinness came less than two weeks after the passing of Charles M. Jensen, 74, chief of the old Long Island City Fire Department during Gleason's regime.

It was announced that the College Point ferry to the Bronx would cease operations on April 25, because of the opening of the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge. The ferry had been one of the most profitable in the city, but its decline began with the opening of the Triborough Bridge and ended with this event.

A little known British actress, Vivien Leigh, signed a contract to portray Scarlett O'Hara in David O. Selznick's film "Gone With the Wind." Selznick interviewed more than 2,000 candidates over two years in his search for a leading lady. "When I saw Miss Leigh, I knew my search was at an end. As far as I was concerned, Miss Leigh was Miss O'Hara," said Mr. Selznick.

*For further information, contact the Greater Astoria Historical Society at 718-278-0700 or visit their website at [www.astorialic.org](http://www.astorialic.org).*

## Do you know a Student of Distinction?

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- B)** A nominating letter from your school's guidance counselor and instructors describing the student's abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.
- C)** Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

### D) Categories are:

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# Mayor funds SCA to relieve school overcrowding

City agrees to build permanent annex for PS 143 in Corona and remove classroom trailers

BY TOM MOMBERG

The city Department of Education and School Construction Authority have agreed to build a permanent annex to PS 143, the Louis Armstrong Elementary School, in Corona. The school has been chronically overcrowded for decades, according to some elected officials.

The announcement for the addition to PS 143 came at the same time as Mayor Bill de Blasio's allocation of \$868 million in additional capital funding to the SCA, recognizing the urgent need to roll out new seats for the Education Department's ever-growing student enrollment.

Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), whose district includes PS 143, and Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras-Copeland (D-East Elmhurst), who is also the chairwoman for the City Council Finance Committee, praised the increase to the

SCA's expense budget.

"Because we represent the top two most overcrowded school districts in the city, this is welcome news," Dromm and Ferreras-Copeland said in a joint statement. "While we are very happy to see an increase of this size, we would like to caution the administration that in the future they release the capital plan on time so that we have an opportunity to analyze it. Moving forward it is our hope that these additional funds will be used to build schools in areas where the need is the greatest."

PS 143 in particular was built for 844 elementary school seats. In addition to the school, there is an associated "minischool," which was meant for 217 seats, as well as a temporary annex and classroom trailers, which were designed for up to 211 seats, according to school utilization reports.

There are currently around 1,800 students enrolled at PS 143—about 170 percent of its to-



The School Construction Authority has confirmed it will look to build a permanent annex to PS 143 in Corona to alleviate chronic overcrowding.

Google Earth

tal permanent and temporary capacity.

The SCA confirmed it would commence planning for a permanent annex to PS 143, intended to replace the six classroom trailers in use

there.

Construction is slated to start by the summer of 2017, according to state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) who announced the plan at a PTA meeting in January.

"No child should be learning in a trailer, and my efforts will not stop until every student has a seat in a classroom," Peralta said. "We must ensure that our students are educated in a decent environment and not in run-down trailers like it has happened in the past two or three decades."

The SCA's agreement to build an annex came at the behest of Peralta, who has been supporting parents' continuous efforts to relieve PS 143's overcrowding.

"We, as parents, are very happy about the news that a permanent addition will be constructed. The new building will also improve the quality of education our children receive," PS 143 PTA President Angélica Salgado said in a statement.

Reach reporter Tom Momberg by e-mail at [tmomberg@cnglocal.com](mailto:tmomberg@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4573.



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Empire State Development is working with BJH Advisors to identify potential uses for the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, where all of the surplus buildings on campus are expected to be vacant by 2017.

File

# 25 buildings soon empty at Creedmoor

BY TOM MOMBERG

The surplus section of the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center campus will be completely vacant by 2017, which means the surrounding community and the state's primary economic development agency must work together to find appropriate uses for the state land.

The state-owned campus includes 37 buildings in multiple Queens neighborhoods.

A 53-acre section of the campus that includes 25 buildings in Queens Village just south of the Union Turnpike has been designated a surplus by the state. After current leases end for other organizations at the site in March of 2017, all of the surplus buildings will be vacant. Many of those buildings are in poor condition, according to an Empire State Development official.

ESD hired BJH Advisors last year to help with planning on the campus, at which time it was rumored the governor was eyeing the land for a homeless shelter. That idea was met with strong community opposition, and has since been nixed.

BJH Advisors is currently working to identify potential uses for the site, based on input ESD got from community meetings last summer, treating them as scenarios and analyzing the feasibility of each one.

The psychiatric center, which op-

erates alongside the state Office for People with Mental Disabilities and Office of Mental Health, will remain on the site, along with the public school campus on the Glen Oaks section of the property.

No public meetings concerning the site have been held in some time, but ESD said it was clear what nearby residents would not want.

State Sen. Leroy Comrie (D-Hollis), whose constituency includes Creedmoor but not the surrounding neighborhoods, said it is a difficult task to find possible solutions for the vacant land, but would hope residents are included in the process.

"I know they don't want to see any high rises or any big box stores, and they certainly don't want housing for homeless," Comrie said.

Part of the difficulty in selecting an appropriate use for the surplus land is finding something a state or city agency could benefit from without having a negative impact on residential areas, or organizations that would invest in land they would have to lease from the state.

Comrie said it would be unlikely the state would give up any of the land on the Creedmoor campus.

Reach reporter Tom Momberg by e-mail at [tmomberg@cnglocal.com](mailto:tmomberg@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4573.

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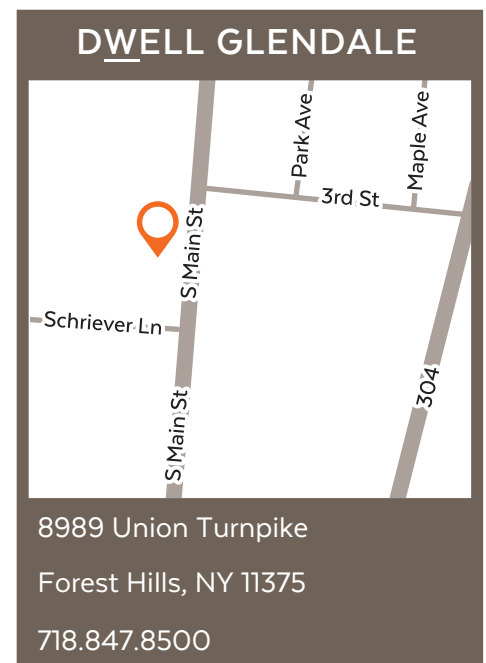
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# Julio Rivera flick to have premiere in Jax Hgts

Shpuntoff documentary about rise of LGBTQ community featured at Queens World Film Festival

BY BILL PARRY

A documentary film exploring the brutal anti-gay murder of Julio Rivera in 1990 will have its world premiere during the Queens World Film Festival in March.

"Julio of Jackson Heights" will be shown at the same high school where he was set upon by a three-man "hunting party" from a skinhead gang, a tragic event that sparked the coming out of New York's largest and until then mostly closeted LGBT community, according to the film's director, Richard Shpuntoff, who grew up in Elmhurst.

"The festival's founders, Katha and Don Cato, have managed to get the auditorium of PS 69 for the screening, which means a lot to me because Julio was murdered 25 years ago in its schoolyard, just outside where people will be watching this story for the first time," Shpuntoff said. "I really can't imagine a more

powerful place to show the film."

More than 500 films made the December deadline for the sixth annual Queens World Film Festival, submitted from countries around the globe, including Cuba, Spain, Korea, Bangladesh, China and 24 other nations. The final selections will be announced Feb. 4 at the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria.

"This year's films come from many of the countries whose diasporas are represented in Queens, and they promise to move and entertain our audiences," said Don Cato, the artistic director. "There are tender films, heartbreaking films and several works that are extremely provocative, even disturbing. Taken as a whole, I feel this year's selection ties us into discussions people are having around the world."

The festival runs from March 15-20. Each year, the

*Continued on Page 43*



The Queens World Film Festival features the world premiere of a documentary about the murder of Julio Rivera and the ensuing rise of the Jackson Heights LGBT organizations.

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# New courts may curb gun violence



The new gun court will also focus on illegal interstate gun trafficking. Last May, police say this gun found at the site where Detective Brian Moore was murdered was stolen from a pawnshop in Georgia.

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

In an effort to curb gun violence across the five boroughs, the de Blasio administration announced last week Project Fast Track, a strategic plan intended to expand police investigations and to expedite illegal gun cases in the state court system.

Despite having some of the strongest gun laws in the nation, both the New York City and state administrations said it was also important to have a strong criminal justice system.

Police said the gun found in last May's fatal shooting of Detective Brian Moore in Queens Village was a stolen gun trafficked from a pawnshop in Georgia. And following the Dec. 31 fatal shooting of a 16-year-old boy in South Jamaica, the gun was not found at the time of the incident. But police sources said the chances of the gun being illegal were high.

The strategies will include a Gun Violence Suppression Division with 200 NYPD personnel focused on illegal firearms as well as shootings and gangs; expanded investigations into interstate gun trafficking; strong communication between prosecutors and police to ensure gun prosecutions are successful; expedited

prosecution of illegal gun cases; quicker testing for DNA in gun cases; strategic cooperation with federal law enforcement; dedicated judicial teams to handle illegal gun cases which will begin in Brooklyn before coming to other boroughs; and using social media to broadcast illegal gun enforcement.

"The goal of the NYPD's new Gun Violence Suppression Division and the city's Project Fast Track is to identify, investigate, arrest and successfully prosecute people with illegal guns. Precision policing has to be accompanied by precision prosecution," Police Commissioner William Bratton said.

"Mayor de Blasio's plan to strengthen identification and prosecution of illegal gun cases can only further enhance our own committed efforts to combat gun violence, prosecute those who terrorize communities and protect innocent people from becoming the victims of gun tragedies," Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said.

A similar initiative was put into place in 2003 during the Bloomberg administration, and Project Fast Track builds on the original program to deter gun violence, according to the city.

*Continued on Page 43*

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# Change for Shore Blvd.

DOT wants to make it a one-way street with bike lanes



Shore Boulevard in Astoria Park will become a one-way street if Community Board 1 votes in favor of a proposed DOT plan.

Photo by Bill Parry

BY BILL PARRY

The city wants to make Shore Boulevard a one-way street as part of the Department of Transportation's redesign of traffic patterns in and around Astoria Park. The proposal, presented to Community Board 1 last week, also includes new protected bike lanes in the area.

"The projects create safe

cycling connections to Astoria Park while also calming traffic and we look forward to continue the discussions with the neighborhood as we move forward," DOT Queens Commissioner Nicole Garcia said. CB1's Transportation Committee voted unanimously to recommend the plan.

The northbound traffic lane would be removed from Shore Boulevard and the space

would allow for a two-way protected bikepath, according to the DOT proposal.

In August, state Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) proposed closing Shore Boulevard to vehicular traffic and turning it into a pedestrian walkway following the hit-and-run death of Betty Jean DiBiasio in June.

The Simotas plan became  
*Continued on Page 43*

# Iconic terminal gets approved by boards

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Community Boards 10, 12 and 13 unanimously approved the \$265 rehabilitation and conversion of the TWA Flight Center at JFK International Airport into a 505-room hotel.

The proposed hotel plan would return the landmark to its 1962 glory through a privately funded investment. It features two six-story hotel structures, which would contain 505 rooms standing behind the iconic terminal.

Built by world-renowned architect Eero Saarinen, the TWA Flight Center opened in 1962, ushering in a new era of jet air travel. Unable to support the size of modern aircraft, the terminal was closed in 2001 and has remained dark for the last 14 years.

"We are proud to have the widespread support of the southeast Queens community for our plans to restore the Saarinen Terminal, one of the world's most famous architectural icons," Tyler Morse, CEO of MCR Development, said. "When completed, the Flight Center will not only preserve a world-famous, mid-century landmark, but will also provide 3,700 jobs."

New York-based MCR Development is a hotel owner-operator in the United States responsible for the redevelopment of the TWA Flight Center and in the past the The High Line Hotel in Manhattan.

"We are thrilled to see the TWA Flight Center, which has sat dormant for over a decade, come back to life," Bryan Block, chairman of Community Board 13, said. "The hotel's opening will be a proud day for the borough of Queens."

The terminal was designed

nated a city landmark in 1994 and listed on the national Register of Historic Places and the state Register of Historic Places in 2005.

"Community Board 10 is overwhelmingly supportive of the revitalization of the TWA Flight Center," Elizabeth Braton, chairwoman of Community Board 10, said. "Millions of tourists who pass through southeast Queens, as well as the thousands of residents that call the area home, will benefit from the hotel and its amenities."

The development is projected to create 3,700 jobs, including construction jobs. The hotel will have 40,000 square feet of meeting and event space, six to eight food and beverage outlets, an observation deck and museum space dedicated to the Jet Age and mid-century modern design. The project is slated to be completed in 2018.

"The TWA Flight Center brings event space, food establishments, an observation deck and a museum to our corner of Queens, but most importantly, it brings 3,700 permanent and construction jobs," Adrienne Adams, chairwoman of Community Board 12, said. "We look forward to welcoming a revamped TWA Flight Center to our greater community."

The city Planning Commission plan certified the hotel conversion plan in November for public review through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure. After votes came in favor of the project, the proposal was sent to the Queens borough president, who was scheduled to hold a land use hearing on the project this week. She will issue her recommendation at a later date.



Three community boards approved the renovation development of the TWA Flight Center at JFK Airport, which was featured on an architecture tour last year.

Photo by Michael Shain

TIMESLEDGER.COM

# Electeds stand up for tax filers



State Assemblywoman Nily Rozic announced her opposition to Governor Cuomo's proposed changes to the STAR property tax relief program.

Photo courtesy of Pro Publica

BY MADINA TOURE

Two lawmakers in northeast Queens are advocating on behalf of residents filing taxes as the tax season approaches.

State Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D-Fresh Meadows) is expressing opposition to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's budget proposal that would alter the state School Tax Relief program,

which provides a partial exemption from school property taxes.

Under Cuomo's proposal, STAR would be converted from a property tax deduction into an income tax credit, while basic and enhanced STAR benefits would be frozen at last year's levels, according to Rozic.

"The STAR program is a critical investment that has proven to be one of the most effective in providing Queens homeowners with deductions on their property tax bills," she said. "Enacting the governor's proposals would be a disservice not only to current and new homeowners, but also to efforts made to protect taxpayers and make New York's

*Continued on Page 43*



# Aviator Sports and Event Center celebrates 10 years

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Brooklyn has produced athletes such as Joe Torre, Michael Jordan, and Sandy Koufax — all before Aviator Sports and Event Center existed.

But now that Aviator Sports has been part of the borough for a decade, who knows who the next legend may be! For sure, lots of Brooklynites have taken their first steps into sports at the 175,000 square-foot space. In fact, more than one million people come here each year, says Katrina Doell, Director of Marketing.

Perhaps Brooklyn's next superstar will come from the ice, because the youth hockey program at Aviator Sports and Events Center recently advanced to Tier 1, the highest level recognized by USA Hockey. Aviator's hockey program has expanded from 25 participants to 13 travel teams, becoming New York City's destination for Tier 1 hockey.

The team's manager, Chris Kienzle, helped make it happen — and he started playing hockey at Aviator in 2006.

"Watching players improve and learn about the greatest game on earth is unparalleled," he says. "I experienced it as a player when Aviator first opened, and now I get to be a part of it as an employee."

Canadians, make room; Brooklyn is in the house.

Aviator Sports and Events Center is the place to learn how to skate, too. The rink is open 365 days a year, and it is always very busy. Many come to participate; others come to watch the figure-skating.

"It's a very rewarding experience to see how families enjoy their time here," says Doell.

Cheri Peters, director of human resources, has also part of the Aviator Sports family since 2006 and participated in the grand opening of the Ice Rinks and Gymnastics Center.

"From the Learn to Skate programs, to competitions, it has been exciting, energetic, and so much fun," she says.



(Clockwise) There's so much to do at Aviator Sports and Events Center, from a 35-foot-high rock-climbing wall, to playing soccer on an indoor field, tumbling in a gymnastics center, or lacing up your skates in the rink.

Photos by Jordan Rathkopf

Jennifer Dooley, Director of Gymnastics, says the competitive gymnastic team programs are, "a force to be reckoned with!" In addition, "So many children at all ages and levels receive a positive experience through the wonderful world of gymnastics."

There will be a year-long celebration to mark the anniversary of May 16, 2006 — the day Aviator Sports and Events Center opened its doors, creating a premier multi-sports and recreational complex located at Floyd Bennett Field, refurbished from four historic aircraft hangars and the surrounding grounds, in a partnership with the National Park Service.

There's no better place for family fun than here.

Every month Aviator Sports will run a special promotion to celebrate. In January, each department

offered a discount for a period of 10 days. Check Aviator's website and social media sites for the latest promotions to take advantage of them. In February any team that brings in another team would receive \$200 off of their team fee.

Other ways the anniversary is being marked includes the launch of a new logo, with wings and a propeller, and the 10-year anniversary noted.

The camp program will be overhauled, too. Campers will be grouped, age-appropriately, to participate in activities, and go on trips. A new director, Jason Vasquez, has also been named to spearhead the overhaul.

For sure, the kids won't be bored this summer when they are enrolled here. They'll be socializing, participating in sports, and learning lead-

ership skills that develop self-confidence. A dedicated and highly trained staff ensures each camper a safe and fulfilling summer experience.

The outdoor space at Aviator Sports and Event Center is so huge, festivals, fairs, concerts, and community events, like the Kings Country Fair — now in its seventh year at Aviator — have been held here. It also hosts the UniverSoul Circus — which draws fans from all over New York City. As the weather gets nicer, national runs and races also look to Aviator as a destination to host their events. St. Jude's Children's hospital has hosted an event at Aviator for the last three years, each time raising more than \$1 million. Check the website, [www.AviatorSports.com](http://www.AviatorSports.com), for a list of scheduled events for the upcoming season.

Dean Rivera, Chief Operating Officer, is yet another employee who has been part of the team for a decade.

"Through the thousands upon thousands of families who've been through our doors, we've seen this facility grow to into what we envisioned it would be," he says. "Now we are looking forward to even more success."

*Aviator Camps at the Aviator Sports and Event Center [3159 Flatbush Ave. at Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, (718) 758-7500, [www.AviatorCamps.com](http://www.AviatorCamps.com), [www.AviatorSports.com](http://www.AviatorSports.com)]. For information about the camps, call Mondays through Fridays, 11 am-6 pm.*

*The Sports and Event Center: Mondays through Fridays, 5:30 am-midnight; and Saturdays and Sundays, 6 am-midnight.*



# Queens residents dig themselves out

## JUNIPER VALLEY PARK



## JAMAICA



The hills in Juniper Valley Park offer some of the best sledding in central Queens. Just ask Payton, Patrick and their dad, Paul, who built a jump on the slopes for maximum excitement.  
Photo by Michael Shain

Boarding a bus at the Jamaica terminal is a single-file affair.

Photo by Sadeef Kully

## BAYSIDE



Rev. Larry Byrne (in blue jacket, right) shoveled the sidewalk in front of All Faiths Episcopal Church in Bayside three times, only to have snow plows bury it again.  
Photo by Michael Shain

## MIDDLE VILLAGE



Homeowners who got a snowblower for Christmas get a chance, like Jim Healey, to show off what it can do.  
Photo by Michael Shain

## LONG ISLAND CITY



On 34th Street in Long Island City, a cabbie starts the work week with a long, hard dig-out.  
Photo by Steve Vazquez

## REGO PARK



On Woodhaven Boulevard, a tile store advertises the must-have product of the moment in its front window.  
Photo by Michael Shain



# from under the Big Blizzard of 2016

ASTORIA



Mark Shupp uses cross country skies to navigate 4th Avenue in Astoria in the midst of the blizzard.

Christina Santucci/Instagram

MIDDLE VILLAGE



On 84th Street in Middle Village, Old Glory pokes out a back window.

Photo by Michael Shain

MIDDLE VILLAGE



Jiri Jelinick of Middle Village was not giving in to a little chill as he dug out his car.

Photo by Michael Shain

GLENDALE



In Glendale, the side streets were so overwhelmed by snow, the Sanitation Department had to bring in front-end loaders to clear up the mess.

Photo by Michael Shain

JACKSON HEIGHTS



At Junction Boulevard on the No. 7 line, the elevated platform is buried in snow quickly during the storm's first hours.

Photo by Madina Toure

MIDDLE VILLAGE



A snow bank on 75th Place is the perfect perch for playing King of the Hill for friends Victoria (l) and Julia.

Photo by Michael Shain



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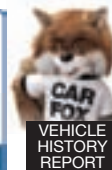
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# Appeals Court: OK to shoot owls at JFK

Animal advocacy nonprofit suit wanted Port Authority to stop killing migratory birds

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

The Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a 2014 court decision Tuesday that said the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was within its rights to kill nearly any migratory bird, including snowy owls, that poses a threat to air traffic at JFK International Airport, according to federal court records.

Tuesday's ruling rejected an appeal filed by Manhattan-based Friends of Animal, a non-profit animal advocacy organization since 1957.

In 2013, Friends of Animals, sued a deputy administrator in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the federal agency Animal and Plant Health Inspection and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for violating the National Environmental Policy Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, court records said. NEPA requires the federal government to consider environment first

when undertaking projects such as building airports and highways and MBTA makes it illegal for anyone to take, possess or sell any migratory bird except under the terms of a valid permit that complies with federal regulations.

"What the Court of Appeals has actually affirmed is that our nation's laws, as currently constituted, legitimizes the indiscriminate, unnecessary killing of animals," Michael Harris, director of Friends of Animals' Wildlife Law Program, said on the nonprofit's website.

Since 1994, the Bird Hazard Reduction Program has authorized the Port Authority to protect aircraft departing and arriving at JFK and LaGuardia Airport from bird strikes.

Kennedy, the major stopover for human travelers, is nestled between the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and the Atlantic Flyaway, the major stopover on the migratory route for hundreds of bird spe-



An appeals court ruling will allow the Port Authority to kill birds, including the snowy owl, to prevent bird strikes at JFK Airport.

Courtesy of ibc.lynxeds.com

cies.

In Manhattan, U.S. Circuit Judge José Cabranes wrote for the three-judge panel, "It is clear that when the Port Authority takes a migratory bird

'in [an] emergency situation [it's]' because the bird 'pos[es] a direct threat to human safety.'

The panel said the nonprofit misread MBTA as requiring

the agency to specifically list the species of birds that may be killed on the permit's face, when this provision does not apply to emergency situations.

According to the most recent FAA statistics, from January through July 2015 there were an estimated 109 bird strikes at Kennedy and across the country. The cost of damage and delay due to a bird strike incident is in the billions, the federal agency said. A 2000 report estimated \$1.2 billion is lost to bird strikes every year.

In the past, the Port Authority has used different lethal and non-lethal methods, including hawks, to remove the bird population at its airports. These include Laughing gulls, geese and snowy owls that become hazards for the aircrafts on the runway.

Reach Reporter Sade Ali Kully by e-mail at [skully@cnglobal.com](mailto:skully@cnglobal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.



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# UNIFORMS

## How to save money on school outfits

Some of the goals of school uniforms is to unify students and reduce the distractions they face in the classroom. Uniforms also make it easier to identify students of a particular school or grade level, which can add to the sense of security parents feel when sending their youngsters off to school each morning.

Supporters of school uniforms also tout their cost savings. Rather than having to purchase numerous pieces of clothing for the school year, uniforms allow parents to pick up a few staples that stay constant throughout the school year. But school uniforms are not free, although there are ways for savvy moms and dads to save money when purchasing uniforms for their kids:

### Be an active parent

As with any other school-related decision, uniform brand selection may be governed by school officials and parent volunteers. Uniforms that are commissioned from a particular company may be more expensive than uniforms that are widely available in many retail chains.

Involved parents can help shape many important decisions at their kids' schools, including which uniforms students wear. Petition for lower-price uniform providers or uniforms that can be bought at area stores. The students still will look cohesive, and families can save money in the process.

### Shop sales

Keeping costs down on clothing means watching for sales. Uniforms may not go on sale as often as more popular clothing, but that doesn't mean sales are nonexistent.

Stores may discount uniforms during slow times, such as October, when school is already in session and items must be moved to make room for the following school year. They also may run specials on seasonal items, such as long-sleeved shirts at the end of the winter. Con-

sider buying in bulk when sales are announced to offset uniform costs for the rest of the year.

### Accept hand-me-downs

Become friendly with other parents and students who attend the same school. Older students who have outgrown their uniforms can pass them down to younger students. This can save parents significant amounts of money on new uniforms.

Sign up for school blogs or social media groups so that you can chat with other parents and arrange for clothing swaps. Other families may be looking to clear out supplies of older uniforms and will offer them at low or no cost. Area thrift and consignment shops also may have some of the local school uniforms in stock. Don't overlook these stores as you look to trim costs.

### Improve your sewing

You can extend the life of uniforms by making repairs and alterations yourself. You may be able to mend small tears or place a few darts to take in the waist of an oversized skirt or pair of slacks. A basic knowledge of hemming and minor alterations can provide some welcome relief to your uniform budget.

If sewing is not your strong point, it still may be cheaper to alter uniforms at a dry cleaner or tailor than to purchase brand-new items.

### Buy only what is needed

Resist the temptation to buy multiple uniforms so that kids can wear a fresh outfit every day. Many uniform pieces can be mixed and matched to extend the life of the tops and bottoms and reduce the need to purchase multiples of each item. Instead, buy only two to three shirts and slacks and wash as needed. While you may spend more time in the laundry room, your bottom line will be a little more robust.





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### OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, January 31**

**11:00 AM-1:00 PM**

**Monday, February 1**

**9:00-9:30 AM**

**(Nursery Program)**

**Tuesday, February 2**

**9:00-10:00 AM**

**(N-Grade 8)**

### NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

**Sunday, January 31 - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, February 1, 2, 4 - 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Wednesday, February 3 - 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Friday, February 5 - 7:30 - 11:00 AM**

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### Knowledge

Since the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, SFA has fully embraced the CSW theme by enriching our school community and has been firmly committed to growing a school of excellence. SFA is focused on designing our instruction so that our students are engaged in cognitively challenged tasks and involved in gaining mastery of required skills. At SFA, our goal is to teach so that our curriculum supports our students' strengths. Success For All is our aim. In addition, SFA is developing a Technology Plan that will keep us evolving in a modern Wifi environment as competent and responsible users of innovative technology.

### Service

As a Mission Banner School, SFA students are eagerly involved in numerous service projects. This school year, in honor of CSW and our CARE Program, our students are partnering with the Wounded Warriors Project to honor, assist, and empower veterans returning home from combat. In addition, SFA students will be reflecting on the essential Church teaching-themes shared by Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families held this school year.

### SFA, A Caring Community

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*"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*



### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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**Sunday, January 31st**

**12:30-1:30pm**

#### SCHOOL VISITS:

Mon., Feb. 1st 8:30-9:10am - All Grades  
Tues., Feb. 2nd 1:45-2:15pm - All Grades  
Thurs., Feb. 4th 8:45-9:30am - Preschool to K

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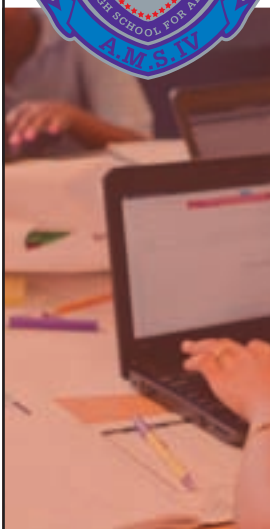
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# Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

- Sudoku 38
- Arts & Entertainment 40
- Crossword Puzzle 42

The highlight of every Lunar New Year parade through downtown Flushing is the marchers in lion and dragon costumes weaving their way around the busy borough streets.

## YEAR OF THE MONKEY

### Borough residents prepare for annual celebrations to usher in Lunar New Year

BY MERLE EXIT

Queens is gearing up for 2016's second New Year's celebration as the Lunar New Year kicks off 15 days of festivities Feb. 8.

An important holiday across Southeast and Eastern Asia, Lunar New Year is celebrated by the Chinese, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Koreans and Malaysians.

"I'd like to wish everyone a happy Year of the Monkey," Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) said. "This is our first Lunar

New Year following the creation of the official school holiday so we expect this year's celebration to be bigger than ever."

As the calendar turns a page, celebrants offer "gong hei fat choi" — or wishes of good luck — to friends and family. It is also customary to hand out red envelopes of cash. Red is used because it represents luck.

The highlight of each celebration is the Lunar New Year Parade in downtown Flushing.

Incorporating dozens of decorated floats, giant dragon figures on poles manipulated by dancers, marching bands and politicians, this year's parade is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 13, starting at 11 a.m. at Union Street and 37th Avenue.

The holiday is also a time for family reunions with special cakes made of rice flour and brown sugar that are prepared to share for the celebration. You can find

*Continued on Page 40*



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- PENNE MELANZANA
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- PENNE PAPALINA
- PENNE FLORENTINE
- PENNE FANTASIA
- PENNE DELIZIOSA
- PENNE SCARPIELLO
- BAKED ZITI
- LASAGNA
- PENNE FLORIO
- PENNE FORTUNATI
- PENNE CARUSO
- PENNE GAMBERONI
- PENNE VODKA
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- PEPPER & EGG
- SAUSAGE
- SAUSAGE & PEPPER

No substitutions or takeout

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# THEATER CALENDAR



## PRODUCTIONS

**"Astoria Stories"** – To celebrate APAC's 15th anniversary, it will present a festival of short plays and musicals focused on various places in Astoria.

**When:** Feb. 19 through Feb. 27

**Where:** Astoria Performing Arts Center, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 30-44 Crescent St., Astoria

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** (718) 706-5750

**Website:** www.apacny.org

**"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:** Through Feb. 14

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

**Cost:** \$18

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

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**"Comedy of Errors"** – Shakespeare's story about two sets of long-lost twins and cases of mistaken identity provides plenty of laughs in this staged reading by Titan Theatre Co.

**When:** Monday, Feb. 1, at 5:30 pm

**Where:** Queens Library at Windsor Park, 79-50 Bell Blvd., Hollis Hills

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** (718) 468-8300

**Website:** www.queenslibrary.org

**"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

## AUDITIONS

**"Disney's The Little Mermaid"** – The Andean Players will hold auditions for all ages, all characters for this May production. Bring a headshot, resumé and sheet music – 16 bars ballad, 16 bars up tempo – and be prepared to dance at audition.

**When:** Feb. 3 - Feb. 5 (pick one date), from 7 pm - 9 pm

**Where:** Andean Hall, 35-60 158th St., Flushing

**Website:** www.andeanplayers.com

# sudoku

## Answers in Sports

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

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

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 6



# Celebrate Black History Month at the movies

## Harry Belafonte's take on African-American comedians set for Museum of Moving Image

BY MERLE EXIT

After a rather inauspicious beginning during the second week of February 1926, Black History Month was finally recognized by the federal government in 1976.

"Seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history," President Gerald Ford said at the time.

In Queens, February brings a slate of movie-related events that celebrate the various accomplishments of African-Americans.

For the third consecutive year, the Museum of the Moving Image joins with the Black Filmmaker Foundation for an afternoon of discussions, screenings and performances where race and the media intersect.

This year's forum, "The Color of Comedy," takes place Feb. 6, and includes a screening of Harry Belafonte's 1967 TV special "A Time for Laughter: A Look at Negro Humor in America."

The show includes performances by Dick Gregory, Redd Foxx, Moms Mabley and a young Richard Pryor.



Harry Belafonte, the first African-American performer to win an Emmy, kisses the golden statuette he won in Hollywood on June 20, 1960 for the outstanding variety or musical performance of the past TV season.

AP Photo

### IF YOU GO

#### "The Color of Comedy"

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 6, at 1 pm  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$12/adults, \$9/seniors and students, \$6/children ages 3-12  
**Contact:** (718) 777-6888  
**Website:** www.movingimage.us

#### "Ghosts of Amistad"

**When:** Friday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 pm  
**Where:** King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica  
**Contact:** (718) 206-0545  
**Website:** www.kingmanor.org

This screening will be followed by a town hall discussion moderated by Warrington Hudlin, president of the Black Filmmaker Foundation and vice chairman of the museum.

"I was moved by Harry Belafonte's TV special," Hudlin said. "It was the greatest piece I've seen. Comedians are the truth tellers of our society. The dis-

*Continued on Page 42*

## Queens Museum gift shop shuts doors for retooling

The Queens Museum is keeping one of its newest exhibitions under wraps for a couple more months.

This weekend the museum will shutter its gift shop and relaunch a new retail experience sometime in April.

Visitors can take advantage of the shop's liquidation sale, where all items are discounted at 75 percent off.

"Things are going fast here," David Strauss, the museum's deputy director, said. "We can't tell you what the gift shop will be all about. You'll just have to wait until April."

April will also see the debut of a branch of the Queens Library.

"This will be the first branch of a public library to be housed in a museum," Strauss said.



The Queens Museum is shutting down its gift shop this weekend, but plans to return with a new retail concept in April.

Photo courtesy Queens Museum

## 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.



QUEENS KUDOS

— Merle Exit



# YEAR OF THE MONKEY

Continued from Page 37

those sweets at Tai Pan Bakery at 37-25 Main St.

Traditional dumplings are part of the holiday meals as well. A few of the restaurants are now featuring the soup dumplings that Joe's Shanghai made famous.

Once again Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., will serve as the unofficial Lunar New Year headquarters for the borough with performances, exhibitions and the return of a traditional holiday bazaar.

On Feb. 12, Han Chung Eun and his band Starlight Forest bring a fusion of Korean, Nordic, Celtic and American roots to the performance venue.

After the success of last year's holiday bazaar, Flushing Town Hall brings the centuries-old tradition of the Lunar New Year temple fairs back for a second go-round Feb. 20.

A family-friendly event, the bazaar includes performances,

martial arts demonstrations, crafts and food.

Because of last year's sold-out event, there will be two sessions of the bazaar this year, one at 11 a.m. and the second at 2 p.m.

Other Flushing Town Hall events include a calligraphy workshop Feb. 21, a performance by Chinese jazz vocalist Annie Chen Feb. 26 and a monkey mask craft and dance workshop Feb. 28.

Over at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Co. featuring acrobatic dancers with colorful costumes and musicians playing ancient melodies present a holiday concert Feb. 24 and Feb. 25.

"The Lunar New Year is a time for families to come together, often from across the world, to celebrate and spend time with one another," Koo said. "Here in Flushing, we embrace our good fortunes and look forward to the coming year with a renewed energy and optimism."



Marchers control the dragon with wooden poles as they move along the parade route in Flushing.



A young girl takes part in a Lunar New Year parade in Flushing.



Song Hee Lee, a master of Korean fan dance, demonstrates her ancient art at Flushing Town Hall during last year's festivities.

## THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

#### Boo! Spooktacular

**Enchanted Forest** – Circus Amok teams up with the Queens Museum to present a spooky circus among the trees. Wear a costume, try your luck with midway games and wander through side show chills.

**When:** Saturday, Jan. 30 (new date because of last weekend's storm), from 2 pm - 4 pm

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

**Cost:** \$20-\$500

**Contact:** (718) 592-9700

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

#### Mardi Gras Mask Making

**Event**– Get ready to "laissez les bon temps roulez" at this adults and seniors workshop where you can create a Mardi Gras mask. All supplies

are provided. No artistic experience is necessary.

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 4, from 6:30 pm - 8 pm

**Where:** Al Oerter Recreation Center, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, 131-40 Fowler Ave., Flushing

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** (718) 353-7853

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

### MUSIC

#### Queens College Choral Society Auditions

The QC Choral Society is seeking new members to join it for its upcoming 75th season, which will include a performance of Verdi's "Requiem." Auditions are open to anyone with prior singing experience, and will consist of basic singing skills.

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 3 and Feb. 10, at 6 pm

**Where:** Queens College Music Building, Room 246, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

**Contact:** (718) 997-3818  
**Website:** [www.qcchoralsociety.org](http://www.qcchoralsociety.org)

### TALK

**Deepak Chopra** – The author and proponent of alternative medicine presents a discussion on "The Future of Wellbeing."  
**When:** Sunday, Feb. 7, at 2 pm  
**Where:** Colden Auditorium, Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$39-\$79  
**Contact:** (718) 793-8080  
**Website:** [kupferbergcenter.org](http://kupferbergcenter.org)

### DANCE

**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)

### KIDS AND FAMILY

**Hands on History: Collage Homage** – Learn about early African-American painters and make your own collage version of some of their 19th-century works. After the craft activity, tour the museum.  
**When:** Saturday, Feb. 6, from 1 pm - 4 pm  
**Where:** King Manor Museum, Rufus King Park, 150-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 206-0545  
**Website:** [www.kingmanor.org](http://www.kingmanor.org)

### GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

#### Hoyeon Art Association

– The Queens-based group presents a show of paintings in various themes and styles – from calligraphy to colorful landscapes.  
**When:** Feb. 1 - March 12  
**Where:** Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., 405 Klapper Hall, Flushing  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 997-4747

#### "Essence of Queens"

**Photography by Carlos Esguerra** – Queens-based photographer Esguerra's work grew out of an article he saw last year titled, "Why Queens is the NYC Borough You Can No Longer Ignore."  
**When:** Feb. 13 - May 8  
**Where:** Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$2/suggested donations  
**Contact:** (718) 359-6227  
**Website:** [www.vomuseum.org](http://www.vomuseum.org)

#### Marc Asnin's "Uncle Charlie"

– A show of 80 photographs from renowned documentary photographer that explores his family and growing up in 1960s Brooklyn.

**When:** Feb. 18 - April 10  
**Where:** Queensborough Community College Art Gallery, 222-05 56th Ave. Bayside  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 631-6396  
**Website:** [www.qcc.cuny.edu](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu)

**Five Continents: One Borough** – This exhibition, subtitled "Art Treasures from the Homelands of Queens," includes a group of 33 items from Queens College's Godwin-Ternbach Museum that detail the art from places Queens residents once called home.  
**When:** Through Feb. 19  
**Where:** Citi DeFord Gallery, One Court Square, Long Island City  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 997-4747

**2015 Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition** – Works from the 16 artists awarded an Emerging Artist Fellowship will be on display.  
**When:** Through March 13  
**Where:** Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 956-1819  
**Website:** [www.socratessculpturepark.org](http://www.socratessculpturepark.org)



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## CATERING MENU

### Salads and Sides

HOUSE OR CAESAR SALAD  
MARION SALAD (SALAMI, CELERY,  
SWEET CHERRY PEPPERS, AND  
PROVOLONE CHEESE)  
MACARONI OR POTATO SALAD  
COLESLAW  
ROASTED POTATOES  
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### Appetizers

SHRIMP COCKTAIL  
FRIED CALAMARI  
(BUFFALO, THAI OR MARINARA)  
BAKED CLAMS  
MOZZARELLA STICKS  
CHICKEN FINGERS  
(BUFFALO OR REGULAR)  
HAMBURGER SLIDERS  
O'NEILL'S FAMOUS WINGS  
PIZZA

### Main Dishes

BAKED ZITI  
RIGATONI ALA VODKA  
RIGATONI MARINARA  
RIGATONI CARBONARA  
RIGATONI WITH  
BROCCOLI,  
GARLIC AND OIL  
LINGUINE WITH CLAMS –  
RED OR WHITE SAUCE  
EGGPLANT PARMESAN  
PEPPER STEAK  
SLICED SIRLOIN OF BEEF  
VIRGINIA HAM  
ROASTED MARYLAND  
TURKEY  
CHICKEN FRANCAISE  
CHICKEN MARSALA

SLICED CHICKEN  
CORDON BLEU  
CHICKEN PARMESAN  
LOIN OF PORK WITH  
SAUERKRAUT  
KIELBASA  
SAUSAGE AND PEPPERS  
CORNED BEEF AND  
CABBAGE  
SHEPARD'S PIE  
ALASKAN KING SALMON  
ST. PETER'S FISH  
FRIED JUMBO SHRIMP  
FRIED FLOUNDER  
STUFFED FILET OF SOLE  
SHRIMP SCAMPI

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## Black History

Continued from Page 39

cussion session is composed of comedians that I represent, who may not be as well-known, but I'm certain that they'll have you laughing. We want this forum session to be interactive as well as entertaining."

Participating performers include Mugga Phoenix, Freddie Ricks, Alauddin Ullah, Joyelle Johnson, Ruperto Vanderpool and Tim

Wynn.

Another film screening takes place Feb. 19, but this one will be held at the King Manor Museum in Jamaica.

Many people may be familiar with Steven Spielberg's 1997 film "Amistad," the story of a slave uprising on the ship Amistad in 1839. Now, they can see "Ghosts of Amistad," a documentary based on Marcus Rediker's 2012

book "The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom."

The movie follows Rediker's journey to Sierra Leone to recover historical accounts from the African villages whose residents were forced onto the slave ship.

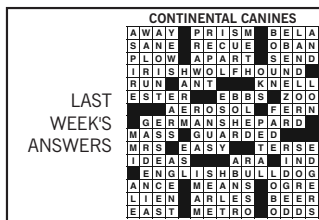
Following the screening, the co-producers, Philip Misevich and Konrad Tuschserer will lead a discussion. To reserve a seat, e-mail [programs@kingmanor.org](mailto:programs@kingmanor.org) or call (718) 206-0545 ext. 13.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedge Newspapers  
Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2016

By Bill Deasy

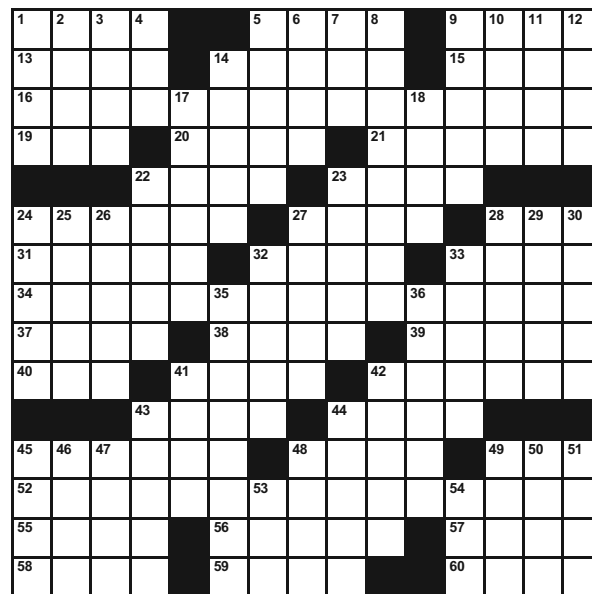
### White Out



#### Across

1. Does one's part?
5. Barely made it home?
9. Tarzan's transport
13. Seal in juices
14. R.E.M. singer Michael
15. Words to an "old chap"
16. \*Christmas
19. Alien subj.
20. Molding style
21. Online music mart
22. Supply center?
23. Egypt's early goddess
24. Without fear: Var.
27. "How Sweet \_\_\_\_"
28. Bodybuilder's sixpack

31. Clogs or pumps
32. AARP or NAACP
33. Taj Mahal locale
34. \*CAPS
37. Suffixes with sultan
38. Poetic sundowns
39. Cries from the flock
40. \_\_\_\_ Moines, IA
41. Beach bird
42. Hardly modest
43. \_\_\_\_ mater
44. \_\_\_\_ Lang Syne'
45. Bring down
48. Horse's parent
49. "--- Clear Day..."
52. \*FLAG
55. "Fits to \_\_\_\_"
56. Basic precept



57. Absolutely first-rate
58. Emulates Queen Latifah
59. Tests for srs. and jrs.
60. Substandard marks

#### Down

1. Stadium in which to see Venus?
2. Biz bigwigs
3. Like most N.B.A. stars
4. \_\_\_\_ Lanka
5. Eye sores
6. We wish we knew its meaning
7. Kind of beer, for short
8. Constructing
9. Computer illness
10. The doctor \_\_\_\_
11. "Great" detective of kid lit
12. Watches closely
14. Wise guys
17. Reply to a taunt
18. Elevator name
22. Hammer heads
23. "Here we are!"
24. President of Syria
25. \* in 16A, 34A, and 52A
26. Theater areas
27. "This \_\_\_\_ of those things..."
28. Writer James and family
29. Some cereals
30. Brazen
32. Scene of sports action

33. \_\_\_\_ as a March hare
35. Agitates
36. Motorcycle maker
41. Women's magazine
42. Explosion
43. Ski lead-in
44. Suffix for the wealthy?
45. Bygone monarch
46. "Go \_\_\_\_ winner"
47. Slicing, dicing, etc.
48. Conveyed
49. Clarinet's cousin
50. "Love" in tennis
51. Part of 7D
53. Agcy. for narcs
54. Affected with rabies

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



# Film fest

*Continued from Page 20*  
festival pays tribute to an outstanding filmmaker for his or her body of work.

This year's "Spirit of Queens" award goes to independent film director Melvin Van Peebles who is most famous for his movie "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," which heralded a new era in African-American cinema. It will be screened on March 16 at MoMI, followed by a question-and-answer session with Van Peebles.

The festival will also showcase a documentary on the New York State Pavilion by Matthew Silva, a product of Middle Village. "Modern Ruin: A World's Fair Pavilion" chronicles its demise over the last 50 years.

The film details its post-fair use as a 1960s concert venue and a 1970s roller rink, including its years of neglect and the now growing advocacy efforts to save and repurpose the structure. Silva traveled the country interviewing more than 25 individuals who reminisce about the Pavilion's glory days a half century ago.

"I was so excited my film was selected," Silva said. "The Catos run a fabulous festival and it's important to share my film with their audience and increase the awareness of our campaign to restore the



The documentary "Modern Ruin: A World's Fair Pavilion" about the long, slow slide into disrepair of the Queens landmark is also set for the festival.  
Courtesy of aquarelapictures.com

structure."

Silva's documentary premiered at the Queens Theater in May and has been entered in several other film festivals. Cato said "Julio of Jackson Heights" and "Modern Ruin" are both historically significant for Queens.

"Richard Shpuntoff captures a moment in time that must be remembered not just by Jackson Heights but the city as well," Cato said. "It took him eight years to make it and it deserves to be shown. Silva's film is a crowdfunded project which depicts a place in the very history of Queens and it captures the cultural landscape of the community."

which he outlined in his 2015-16 executive budget in February 2015, were met with opposition given the Assembly's efforts to address increasing property tax rates across New York, Rozic said.

At a news conference last Friday, state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing), City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) and the Queens Library announced a free online tax assistance program for those with a household income under \$62,000 sponsored by the state Department of Taxation and Finance. The Flushing and Queensboro Hill branches will host the program through April.

About 92 percent of New York filers file their taxes electronically and the error rate for e-filed returns is 20 times lower than for paper returns,

Another documentary about the World's Fair will also be screened during the festival. "After the Fair" is a look at what became of all the structures that were at Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

"It makes an interesting companion piece to 'Modern Ruin,'" Cato said. "One complements the other and gives it a larger context."

For more information visit [www.queensworldfilmfestival.com](http://www.queensworldfilmfestival.com).

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

according to Stavisky.

If an individual's combined income for 2015 did not exceed \$62,000, the individual can e-file for free and if he or she qualifies for a tax refund, the individual can receive it far faster than if they filed a paper return, Stavisky said.

Services will be offered in English, Mandarin and Korean. Mandarin, Korean- and Japanese-speaking volunteers will be available at the Queensboro Hill branch.

"Tax season is stressful for everyone, but even more so for low-income families who often cannot afford to hire outside help work on their tax forms," she said.

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# Astoria Park

*Continued from Page 24*

quite controversial, with more than 1,200 signing an online petition against the plan within days. DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg rejected the idea in November and Simotas said she had brought attention to a pressing issue that led to a neighborhood-wide discussion.

"For too long, the roads around Astoria Park have been unsafe for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists alike," Simotas said. "The changes announced by the DOT and recommended by Community Board 1's Transportation Committee will improve access to the park and make our community safer. I am pleased that we reached a compromise on Shore Boulevard that calms speeding and dangerous driving and preserves vehicle access to the waterfront."

Since 2009, more than a hundred people have been injured on streets around the park, according to the DOT. Other changes proposed include two-way protected bike lanes on 20th Avenue and Hoyt Avenue North.

City Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria)

had petitioned the DOT to make safety upgrades following DiBiasio's death.

"We are glad to see the unanimous support of this plan from Community Board 1's Transportation Committee. This plan is a strong first step forward in improving traffic safety around the jewel of our community—Astoria Park," Constantinides said. "The stronger connection between the waterfront, Astoria Park and residents will be an asset for our entire neighborhood. I look forward to hearing feedback from our community and to continuing our conversation about the streets surrounding Astoria Park."

The DOT is also studying additional safety measures for the area, including daylighting some intersections by removing parking spaces to allow for better driver sightlines at corners. The DOT also plans on improving pedestrian crossings along the park's borders, including new speed bumps at 19th Street and Ditmars Boulevard, the intersection where DiBiasio was killed.

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# Cuomo

*Continued from Page 9*

priations in the budget because the MTA does not need it now, officials say. However, there is very clear and direct legislation that makes the commitment a matter of law—and provides that the state funds will be available whenever the MTA needs it.

"The governor put unambiguous and ironclad language in the budget to make good on his commitment to provide \$8.3 billion towards

the MTA's capital plan," a state Division of Budget spokesman said.

The public transit advocates warned that if funding fails to materialize, it could lead to a radical halt to MTA plans for upgrading subway and bus equipment in the coming years or to unsupported MTA borrowing that could result in fare hikes and service reductions for riders.

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# Gun court

*Continued from Page 23*

The mayor's office said the former gun court focused on ensuring penalties for illegal gun cases, which ended because state law changed to mandate consistent penalties.

"When gun charges are lost at evidence suppression hearings for failure to develop strong cases, or delayed to the point where criminals

don't see swift justice, a culture of impunity emerges and actually emboldens gun criminals," said Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest), chairman of the Committee on Courts & Legal Services. "I'm hopeful that Project Fast Track will usher in a new era in prosecuting gun crimes, and getting guns off our streets."

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# Tax help

*Continued from Page 24*

property tax system transparent and equitable."

The assemblywoman said working and middle-class families and seniors enrolled in STAR currently receive a direct deduction on their property tax bills.

If turned into an income tax credit, homeowners would have to pay a property tax increase before getting their money back after filing their income taxes, Rozic said.

She said the governor's proposal to freeze STAR at 2015-2016 levels threatens the growth of exemption benefits homeowners depend on to cover the costs of rising property taxes.

The governor's proposals,

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At the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, community activist and attorney Ali Najmi (l), Carol Maraj from the Carol Maraj Foundation (c) and A.O. Hogan from LifeCamp spoke about the factors surrounding domestic violence, gun violence and police relations.

Photo by Sadeef Kully

## Peace Week

*Continued from Page 1*

R. Brewer Boulevard. .

LIFE Camp volunteers said they go into the streets to mediate situations, keeping them from escalating into violent incidents as well as showing youth other paths.

"You live in this cage and you don't realize what is going outside of the cage. I was running around and fighting, but it got boring," Gerard 'Blanca' Campbell, a volunteer, said. "We try to take them out of their element and expose them to other things in the world."

The panel discussion, moderated by community activist and criminal defense attorney Ali Najmi, was comprised of 103rd Precinct Capt. James Fey; Carol Maraj from the Carol Maraj Foundation, a nonprofit that helps victims of domestic violence; and A.O. Hogan from LIFE Camp, who

spoke with community members about the factors surrounding domestic violence, gun violence and police relations.

Maraj raised her daughter, rapper Nicki Minaj, in South Jamaica near Rockaway Boulevard while trying to escape a violent relationship.

"I was dragged from a car and repeatedly punched in my face," Maraj told a pin-drop silent crowd. "One day Nicki asked me, 'Why would you let someone do that to you?'"

Maraj said that day her whole life was set on a different and positive path. She believes that if a child sees violence at home, that could lead to violence outside of the home. For victims she sent out this message, "I am standing before you and that should tell you there is hope."

Many of the audience members took the chance to speak openly and honestly with a police official about interactions

with police officers. Some shared their personal experiences with violence in their communities and with members of the NYPD.

Fey answered questions and also added that if any officers from the 103rd Precinct behaved unprofessionally, then it should be brought to his attention immediately.

"There are few opportunities for members of the community to hold the police accountable for any misconduct. Today was a rare opportunity and members of the audience seized on it," Najmi said. "It shows how important the issue of police and community relations and police accountability is for the residents of Queens."

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## Marijuana

*Continued from Page 3*

chief medical officer. "No images of leaves here, we will not have stereotypical imagery."

Hoffnung said there would be no tie-died shirts or music in the background and even

the signs on the building are low key so the operation appears more like a pharmacy or a doctor's office. When the location was first announced, there was some concern and alarm from community members, according to state Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (D-Corona), who attended the opening.

"After they saw the precautions that are required by the provider, people have calmed down about it being here," Aubry said. "Most people won't even notice this place."

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## Blizzard

*Continued from Page 1*

sanitation workers with 731 pieces of equipment in the borough, according to Monica Klein, a spokeswoman for the mayor. There were also 89 front end loaders doing piling and hauling operations in Queens, she said.

The MTA said subway service was back to normal by Sunday morning, buses were running with some delays and the LIRR was on track by Monday afternoon.

The mayor visited Astoria, Long Island City, Flushing, East Elmhurst, Corona, Jamaica Sunday and Woodside Monday.

In an interview with NY1 Monday while he was touring Woodside with City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), the mayor said the situation in the borough was a "mixed bag."

"A lot of good work has been done here by the Sanitation Department, but we also see some streets that definitely need more work today — that we're going to focus on them," de Blasio said.

Van Bramer found the cleanup was not occurring as the mayor had said, especially in Woodside and Sunnyside.

After the mayor toured those two communities and other parts of Van Bramer's district, resources started trickling in.

Katz said the constituent

services unit at Borough Hall was working closely with the city Department of Sanitation.

"The city admittedly got caught off guard at the volume of snow from the historic blizzard, which dumped a record-setting 30.5 inches of snow at JFK airport," Katz said.

Over in southern Queens, which was buried in snow, City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) held a news conference at which he accused the mayor of failing Queens by not providing the manpower or equipment needed for the cleanup.

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) received over two dozen calls, emails and social media messages from angry Whitestone, College Point and Auburndale residents who had not seen a plow for two days, but the complaints had stopped by Wednesday.

"The administration clearly mishandled the allocation of resources and we need answers as to why Queens was not made a priority when it was the borough that received the most snow," Vallone said.

City Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest) said the city's snow plow tracker had inaccurate information, which interfered with the cleanup.

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## Shooting

*Continued from Page 2*

scene, police said.

Police officials released photos of the jewelry stolen from Stifter Sunday. The rings were described as a silver-metal elephant ring; gold-and-black-metal 2013 Notre Dame High School class ring; silver-metal hammered flat ball ring and a silver-metal hammered flat ring with a

blue stone.

Police said there have been no arrests and the investigation was ongoing.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-TIPS (8477). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto Crime Stoppers' website at [www.nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://www.nypdcrimestoppers.com) or text tips to CRIMES (274637), then enter TIP577. All calls are strictly confidential.

## Spring Creek

*Continued from Page 2*

and by restoring more than 225 acres of wetlands. These two combined strategies will assist other storm resilience projects in the area to decrease the neighborhood's

vulnerability to flooding and other damage from coastal storms, DEC says.

DEC will have equipment such as a soil boring machines, storage containers, ATV rigs and a water truck at both sites to help facilitate the project. Work is expected to take place from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the next six weeks.



# Sports



Construction's Marcus Saint Furcy scored 17 points in win over Queens HS of Teaching. Photo by Louise Wateridge

## Resilient Red Hawks rally to beat QHST

BY TROY MAURIELLO

It was a show of the kind of resiliency Construction has come to expect from its stars—and it couldn't have come at a better time.

Queens High School of Teaching, fresh off a one-point win over division-leading Benjamin Cardozo, was trying to pull into a tie with Construction for second place.

Instead, the Red Hawks rallied from a 12-point, second-quarter deficit behind their pair of senior guards to steal a 67-65 road win in PSAL Queens AA boys' basketball Jan. 22. Wesley Nelson scored a game-high 20 points and Daniel Desol-Lowry had 17.

"These guys have been with me for three or four years," said Construction coach Cory Semper. "It's just playing basketball, playing through it, and being very composed."

The Red Hawks, who trailed 36-24 midway through the second quarter, went on a 7-2 run late in the third quarter to knot up the score at 49-49 going into the final frame. Construction (12-1) then moved into the lead early in the fourth and opened up a five-point advantage with just under three minutes left

in regulation.

But QHST (11-2) showed some fight of its own. Senior Rahmel Thompson carried his team with seven fourth-quarter points, including a pair of clutch free throws with 1:02 remaining, that put his team ahead 65-64.

The Tigers quickly turned the ball back over to Construction, and a breakaway layup from Nelson put the Red Hawks ahead 66-65 with 41 seconds left.

QHST's Justin Steed missed a pair of free throws, while Construction's Saint Furcy split a pair to put his team up 67-65 with 15 ticks left. In the final seconds, Daniel Desol-Lowry missed a three-pointer that would have put QHST ahead.

"We're a determined team," Saint Furcy said "We don't have any distractions when we're playing, and we're just focused on getting the win."

Construction got that win after having put itself in a difficult situation early. The Tigers scored the game's first six points as they got to the basket with ease. QHST led 19-11 after one quarter.

QHST hit four three-pointers in the first half, while holding Construction to just

*Continued on Page 46*

## Cardozo nips Royals

Walker tip-in pushes Judges past Christ the King

BY BRANDON MAUK

After Rashond Salnave made the game's biggest defensive play, he and his teammates on the Benjamin Cardozo basketball squad knew Christ the King expected him to take the final shot. Instead, Judges coach Ron Naclerio drew up a play, with one second left in a tie game, that banked on Aaron Walker's athleticism.

"They're not jumping until the offense jumps, and if Aaron jumps, they get exposed," Naclerio said.

Salnave threw an in-bounds pass from the baseline up high to Walker. He tipped it in as time expired to give the Judges a thrilling 67-65 victory over visiting Christ the King in front of a packed gym in Oakland Gardens Jan. 22.

"The shortest guy was guarding me, and I'm very athletic," Walker said. "[Coach] told me to put it up there and for me to get it."

Before his part in the winning basket, Salnave made a game-saving play on the other end of the court, a steal on the fast break in the final seconds.

He tried to bring the ball down to the other end of the court, but it slipped out of his hands. It then went off a Christ the King player out of bounds, however, which kept it in Cardozo's possession.

"The last couple of minutes we fought our hardest, we played together," Salnave said. "We grinded it out."

It was a back-and-forth affair for much of the game. After falling behind by 12 early in the second quarter, Cardozo surged to tie the score at 31-31 at the half, thanks to the efforts of Walker (19 points) and Salnave (24 points). The Judges then built a double-digit lead of their own in the third quarter.

Christ the King rallied back in the same fashion in



Benjamin Cardozo's Rashond Salnave takes the ball strong to the basket against Christ the King. Photo by William Thomas

the fourth quarter, and the final period went back and forth with seven lead changes. Jose Alvarado and Jarred Rivers scored 12 and 22 respectively to lead the Royals back into it.

While both teams were firing on all cylinders Friday, it was Salnave and Walker who made the big plays at the end.

"When everybody's hitting our shots, we're hard to beat," Walker said. "We try to come out every day playing hard, but this game meant a lot to us."

The win was a huge boost

for Cardozo after its first loss of the season, a one-point defeat to Queens HS of Teaching last Tuesday, when they were playing without star Tareq Coburn (shoulder). Coburn returned to score seven points against CK.

The two top programs in Queens could meet again in the SNY Invitational at City College, as long as they both win, or both lose, their semifinals games.

"I'd like to see Christ the King again," Naclerio said. "I think it's great for New York City basketball."



# Cespedes signing will let Mets fans keep thinking big



Joseph Staszewski  
■  
*Block Shots*

longer call the team's ownership cheap or penny pinchers with the payroll pushing over \$130 million.

Mets fans can also rest easy. The team's lineup is complete and they don't have to watch both Cespedes and Daniel Murphy playing for the rival Washington Nationals, who were also interested.

"You hear him get an offer somewhere else, and it's a team you might have to play a lot, you don't really want to face a guy like that all the time," pitcher Jacob deGrom told the team's website at the Baseball Writers' Association of America Awards. "So we're definitely excited to have him back on our team. In the little bit of time we had him, he was impressive. So a full season is going to be a lot of fun."

More importantly, the team isn't making the same mistake it did in 2001 and 2007. The Mets haven't stood pat or let key pieces get away while hoping to earn return trips to the World Series and National League Championship Series.

After facing the Yankees

in the 2000 Subway Series, the Mets signed Kevin Appier to replace Mike Hampton, the NLCS MVP, and added Steve Trachsel to the rotation. Timo Perez replaced Derek Bell full time in right field. The biggest bat acquired was Tsuyoshi Shinjo.

The team was a game—technically a hit—away from the World Series in 2006 and the Mets again didn't make a major move to improve until it signed Johan Santana in 2008. Again the Mets stood pat, outside of bringing in Moises Alou to play right field and had Luis Castillo replace Jose Valentin at second base. The team did not bring back reliable reliever Chad Bradford.

You can't say that about the 2016 Mets. The team's roster is deeper, more versatile and more talented than at any point last season.

Signing second baseman Neil Walker and Asdrubal Cabrera solidified the middle of the infield, and bringing in Antonio Bastardo gives the Amazin's another power arm in the bullpen. You get a full season of starter Steven Matz and Zach Wheeler should return at some point from Tommy John surgery.

Losing Cespedes would have left a gaping hole in the lineup. Instead you have more reasons to trust the process after years of scratching your head with Sandy Alderson and the Wilpons, whose wallets seemed to have more moths than millions.

So, as you finish digging out your cars and driveways and put the snow blowers in the garage, turn your eyes to spring and allow yourself a big smile and big dreams.



New York Mets' Yoenis Cespedes during Game 5 of the 2015 World Series.  
David J. Phillip/AP

## Red Hawks

*Continued from Page 45*

seven field goals. However, it held only a seven-point, 38-31 advantage at halftime.

The Red Hawks were able to stay in the game by getting to the foul line. They made 16 of their 20 first-half free throws, while Teaching had just five foul shots overall before the break.

Jordan Wright (14 points) and Micaiah Goosby (eight

points) were each instrumental for the Red Hawks. Desol-Lowry led the way for Teaching with 19 points. Junior Christopher Kelly, the team's star, added 15 points. He missed the first meeting because of injury, but is still not fully recovered.

"I hate making excuses, but he's not 100 percent from his injury," said QHST coach Michael Shelton. "He wasn't himself today, but maybe we can credit a lot of that to their defense."

The third quarter would be filled with scoring runs by each team, with Construction going on a 9-2 spurt to tie the score at 40-40 with 3:42 left in the quarter. After a 7-2 run by Teaching made it 47-42, Construction executed another scoring run to take control of the game for good.

"We always come through adversity," Nelson said. "Adversity is just a little thing, we preach that all the time."

# Crusaders need to find their focus



Alonzo Ortiz-Traylor, McClancy's leading scorer this season, drives into the paint against Scanlan.  
Photo by Gina Palermo

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Monsignor McClancy is a title contender, but its inconsistent play has kept it from taking the leap to becoming a championship favorite.

The Crusaders boys' basketball team has played themselves into the upper echelon of the CHSAA Class A league with wins over Xavier and Fordham Prep, and it also owns a non-league victory against a AA-squad in St. Francis Prep.

Despite its success, McClancy has struggled against league powers Monsignor Scanlan, Monsignor Farrell and Kennedy Catholic. Second-year Crusaders coach Anthony Oslzewski has seen his team compete with all of the squads, but lapses in cohesiveness and score droughts have allowed close games to get away.

"We have to stay more disciplined on offense," Oslzewski said. "We struggle to score points against longer athletic teams. We have to stay more disciplined amongst ourselves."

For him that means moving the ball enough to not just get a good shot, but a great one. The patience lets McClancy excel offensively, utilize its balance and control the pace of the game. Quick shots don't turn into quick transition points that way and each of its five players becomes an offensive threat.

"The best thing is moving the ball around, hitting the open cutters" junior forward Alonzo Ortiz-Traylor said.

He has been a major reason for the Crusaders' success. The 6-foot-4 Ortiz-Traylor can step outside and score from beyond the arm and is a threat in the paint also. He is averaging 13.3 points per game and tallied 16 in a 68-51 home loss to Scanlan Jan. 19. Oslzewski wants to see his team makes things easier for its leading scorer.

"We have to do a better job of getting him the ball," the coach said. "He is fighting for every basket. We have to find a way to simplify it for him, because he can go off."

Ortiz-Traylor didn't get much scoring help against Scanlan. Point guard Jonathan Ruiz had nine points and McClancy saw a 12-point deficit balloon to 19 after George Pena (28 points) ignited a 7-0 by Scanlan to start the fourth. A similar stretch came in the third quarter of a loss to Kennedy Catholic Jan. 8. A three-point half-time deficit quickly became 11. McClancy nearly knocked off Kennedy Catholic over the weekend, falling 47-40.

"We can't afford mistakes," Ortiz-Taylor said. "We just have to be on top of the game constantly."

McClancy needs to find that focus consistently if it wants to challenge for a crown in March.



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# SJU grad makes stride for women in NFL

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

A former St. John's basketball manager landed a historic job in the NFL.

The Buffalo Bills named Red Storm alum Kathryn Smith, 30, the first female full-time assistant coach in NFL history Jan. 21. Smith, a 2007 St. John's graduate, is the team's new quality control-special teams coach. The upcoming year will be Smith's 14th year in the NFL after spending her first 12 seasons working for the New York Jets.

"It's really just been an amazing opportunity more than anything," Smith said in an interview with WGR radio in Buffalo. "Obviously, you want to grow your role. You want to go into the next thing. It's an entry-level coaching position. I'm going to start here on the coaching track and go from here."

Smith worked with current St. John's men's basketball assistant coach Matt Abdelmassih as the hoops teammates' student manager under Norm Roberts for their

four undergraduate years. Abdelmassih said the developments in Smith's career were something he expected.

"We knew back then with her affiliation to the Jets and working with the Fan Fest stuff, she was really geared towards working in the NFL," Abdelmassih said.

Smith began her career in 2003 as a gameday intern for the Jets. She was elevated to a college scouting intern for two years before the Jets promoted her to a player personnel assistant after graduation. In 2015, she was the Buffalo Bills administrative assistant to head coach Rex Ryan. The move was something she believed could happen.

"I was surprised, yes, but also no, in the sense Rex is very open-minded," Smith said. "Rex and I have worked together for a number of years. I know him very well. We have a good working relationship."

Ryan determined she has earned more responsibility and a piece of history.

"Kathryn Smith has done an outstanding job in the sev-

en years that she has worked with our staff," he said in a statement.

Abdelmassih said Smith's success is no surprise, knowing the type of person she is and the work ethic she showed with the Red Storm.

"I am ecstatic for Kathryn to receive this opportunity," Abdelmassih said. "She was always hardworking, goal-oriented and she always wanted to be in sports in some capacity. This is a great day for women in sports."

Her hire continues the

trend of women making inroads in "male dominated sports." Becky Hammond and Nancy Lieberman are assistant coaches in the NBA and last year, the NFL hired Sarah Thomas as its first female referee beginning in the 2015 season. In Smith's eyes, she is happy to be part of the start.

"I might be the first, but I think very quickly there are going to be many other women in the league," she told the team's website. "So I may be the first, but I don't think I'll be the only one for very long."



Former SJU basketball manager Kathryn Smith (c.) is the first female full-time assistant coach in NFL history. Photo courtesy of St. John's Athletic Communications

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

Week 6

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

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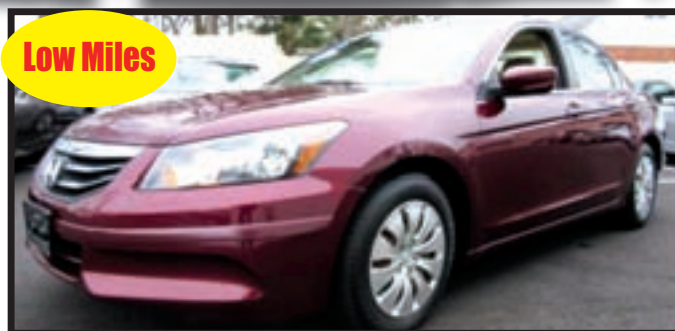


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### ► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

### ► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

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### ► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

### ► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

### ► JOB INFORMATION

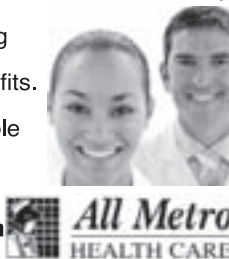
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#### Letitia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

Toll numbers may be  
a direct line to trouble.  
Classified ads are intended  
to help people by facilitating  
communication and  
advertising available services;  
however, some of the  
hotlines & service numbers  
in classifieds actually hurt  
the people who rely on  
their hard-earned dollars.  
"Most newspapers print a  
disclaimer in their classified  
ad section to warn readers  
about numbers that are a  
direct line to trouble. Any  
number starting with 900,  
540, 595 or 871 charges a  
fee beyond a local call. In  
some instances, ads initially  
advertise calls to a local  
number, but then direct  
callers to a second number  
starting with one of the  
paid exchanges. "Consumers  
must also question the  
legitimacy of vague  
classifieds because they  
too could be a scam. Before  
responding to an ad,  
consumers should verify  
the source of all information  
& always be wary  
about sending money or  
signing a contract with an  
unknown party."

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Email: [brice@cnglocal.com](mailto:brice@cnglocal.com)

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OR

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**Amanda Tarley**

Email: [atarley@cnglocal.com](mailto:atarley@cnglocal.com)

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### LEGAL

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on JAN 13 2016, bearing Index Number NC-000958-15/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) REZUAN (Last) KHANSUR. My present name is (First) NO NAME GIVEN (Last) REZUN AKA FNU REZUN (infant). My present address is 169-16 84th Avenue, 2nd Fl, Jamaica, NY 11432-1917. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is November 19, 2008.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 04 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000800-15/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) SAIF (Last) ABDULLAH. My present name is (First) MAHIN (Last) ISLAM. My present address is 166-05 Highland Avenue, Apt. #4H, Jamaica, NY 11432-2603. My place of birth is QUEENS, NY. My date of birth is December 29, 2013.

### LEGAL

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
SUPREME COURT  
COUNTY OF QUEENS,  
DEUTSCHE BANK  
NATIONAL TRUST  
COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE  
FOR MORGAN STANLEY  
ABS CAPITAL I INC.  
TRUST 2006-WMC2,  
Plaintiff, vs. ORLENA  
LAWSON, ET AL.,  
Defendant(s).  
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on July 17, 2008, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse, Courtroom 25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY on February 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., premises known as 243-21 Caney Road, Rosedale, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Fourth Ward, Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block 13571 and Lot 27. Approximate amount of judgment is \$407,260.54 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 17170/07.  
Pamela Jordan, Esq.,  
Referee  
Gross Polowy, LLC, 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100, Williamsville, New York 14221, Attorneys for Plaintiff

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
SUPREME COURT  
QUEENS COUNTY  
THE BANK OF NEW  
YORK MELLON, AS  
TRUSTEE FOR THE CIT  
MORTGAGE LOAN  
TRUST 2007-1; Plaintiff(s)  
vs. YOLANDA TEJEDA; et al; Defendant(s)  
Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s):  
ROSICKI, ROSICKI &  
ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2  
Summit Court, Suite 301,  
Fishkill, New York, 12524,  
845.897.1600  
Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about October 29, 2015, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the

### LEGAL

QUEENS COUNTY  
SUPREME COURT,  
located at 88-11 SUTPHIN  
BOULEVARD, JAMAICA,  
NEW YORK, IN  
COURTROOM #25.  
On February 26, 2016 at  
10:00 am. Premises known  
as 221-62 91ST ROAD,  
QUEENS VILLAGE, NY  
11428  
Block: 10738 Lot: 14  
ALL that certain plot, piece  
or parcel of land, situate,  
lying and being in the  
Borough and County of  
Queens, City and State of  
New York.  
As more particularly  
described in the judgment  
of foreclosure and sale.  
Sold subject to all of the  
terms and conditions  
contained in said judgment  
and terms of sale.  
Approximate amount of  
judgment \$554,193.91 plus  
interest and costs. INDEX  
NO. 9120/12 Arthur N.  
Terranova, Esq.,  
REFEREE

**SUPREME COURT**  
COUNTY OF QUEENS  
PENNYMAC CORP.  
Plaintiff -against- ARNOLD  
BELGRAVE, NOWTI  
BELGRAVE, et al  
Defendant(s). Pursuant to  
a Judgment of Foreclosure  
and Sale entered herein  
and dated April 30, 2015, I,  
the undersigned Referee  
will sell at public auction at  
the Queens County  
Supreme Courthouse,  
88-11 Sutphin Blvd., in  
Courtroom # 25, Jamaica,  
NY on March 4, 2016 at  
10:00 a.m. premises  
situate, lying and being in  
the Borough and County of  
Queens, City and State of  
New York, known and  
designated as Block 10084  
Lot 4. Said premises  
known as 107-33  
PRINCETON STREET,  
JAMAICA, NY Approximate  
amount of lien \$  
666,306.93 plus interest &  
costs. Premises will be  
sold subject to provisions  
of filed Judgment and  
Terms of Sale. Index  
Number 700756/2013.  
GUY R. VITACCO JR.,  
ESQ., Referee Frenkel  
Lambert Weiss Weisman &  
Gordon, LLP Attorney(s)



## LEGAL

for Plaintiff 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706 File# 01-040480-F00 (\* JAMAICA TI\*)

## LEGAL

**Supplemental Summons** and Notice of Object of Action Supreme Court Of The State Of New York County of Queens Action to Foreclose a Mortgage Index #: 705620/2015 Mortgage Premises: 223-34 108Th Avenue Queens Village, NY 11429 BL #: 11190 - 21

-----X  
The Money Source, Inc. Plaintiff vs Rashid Hassan if living, and if he/she be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to Plaintiff; New York City Parking Violations Bureau, New York City Environmental Control Board, People of the State of New York, United States of America Acting Through the IRS, John Doe (being fictitious, the names unknown to Plaintiff intended to be tenants, occupants, persons or corporations having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the property described in the complaint or their heirs at law, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors.)

-----X  
Defendant(s)  
To the above named Defendant:  
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 Supplemental Summons, to serve a

## LEGAL

notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie.  
Trial to be held in the County of Queens.  
The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises.  
To: Rashid Hassan Defendant in this action.  
The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Timothy J. Duffy of the Supreme Court of the State Of New York, dated the Fourteenth day of January, 2016 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens, in the City of Jamaica.  
The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by Rashid Hassan dated January 29, 2014, to secure the sum of \$284,747.00 and recorded at CRFN 2014000047452 in the Office of the City Register of the City of New York, Queens County on the February 6, 2014. The mortgage was subsequently assigned to The Money Source, Inc. by an assignment executed on March 26, 2015 and sent for recording in the City Register of the City of New York, Queens County. The property in question is described as follows:  
223-34 108TH AVENUE, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11429  
**NOTICE**  
**YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME**  
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.  
Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.  
Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.  
**YOU MUST RESPOND BY**

## LEGAL

**SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.**  
**HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND C O M P L A I N T CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF.**  
The state encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process.  
To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-877-BANK-NYS (1-877-226-5697) or the Foreclosure Relief Hotline 1-800-269-0990 or visit the department's website at [WWW.DFS.NY.GOV](http://WWW.DFS.NY.GOV).  
**FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS**  
Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services.  
\$1303 NOTICE  
DATED: January 15, 2016

## LEGAL

Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221  
The law firm of Gross Polowy, LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose.  
**S U P P L E M E N T A L 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, A S S E T - B A C K E D 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 , DISTRIBUTEES OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE BERTHA D. CAESAR, IF THEY BE LIVING OR DEAD, THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTEES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; 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 ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:**  
**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint

## LEGAL

is not served with this summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
**NOTICE**  
**YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME**  
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.  
Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.  
Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.  
**YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.**  
**YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**  
**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:**  
The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable 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 MORTGAGE 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

## LEGAL

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 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 toll-free 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.  
**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS**  
Index No. 708771/14  
-----X  
**THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A**

## LEGAL

**THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-AB5, Plaintiff,**  
-against-  
**CONNIE L. BILLINGSLEA, if living, and if he be dead, any and all persons unknown to Plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or generally or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs-at-law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs-at-law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to Plaintiff; U.S. BANK N A T I O N A L ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE C-BASS MORTGAGE LOAN A S S E T - B A C K E D CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-SL1, WITHOUT R E C O U R S E , COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICT, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC., CHASE MANHATTAN BANK AS TRUSTEE OF THE FIRST ALLIANCE MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 1998-2, WITHOUT RECOURSE, WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, LAKIES THOMPSON, YOLANDA LANGSTON, SHANOVA LANGSTON, Defendants.**  
-----X  
**TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the plaintiff's attorney within 20

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days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within 30 days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Timothy J. Duffy, a Justice of the Supreme Court, New York County, dated December 22, 2014 and entered January 5, 2016 NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage in the amount of \$349,600.00 recorded in the Queens County Clerk's/City Register's Office on December 23, 2005 in CRFN# 2005000705061 covering the premises known as 223-12 106th AVENUE, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11429 a/k/a Block 11173, Lot 11. Thereafter, the Mortgage was assigned to Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificate holders CWABS, Inc. Asset-

## LEGAL

Backed Certificates, Series 2005-AB5, by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 21, 2007, and recorded with the Queens County Clerk's/City Register's Office on November 13, 2007, under CRFN#: 2007000565000. The Mortgage was then assigned to Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 4, 2008 and recorded with the Queens County Clerk's/City Register's Office on October 16, 2008, under CRFN#: 2008000408807. Then the Mortgage was assigned to the Plaintiff by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 7, 2008, and recorded with the Queens County Clerk's/City Register's Office on September 12, 2008, under CRFN#: 2008000362128. The relief sought in the within action is a final Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. Queens County is designated as the place of trial on the basis of the fact that the real property affected by this action is located wholly within said County. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING

## LEGAL

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 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. Dated: Westbury, New York January 21, 2016 Maria Sideris, Esq. DRUCKMAN LAW GROUP PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 242 Drexel Avenue Westbury, NY 11590 (516) 876-0800-#87187 WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF

## LEGAL

QUEENS Plaintiff designates QUEENS as the place of trial situs of the real property. SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Mortgaged Premises: 84-44 PARSONS BOULEVARD JAMAICA, NY 11432 Block: 9749 Lot: 34 INDEX NO. 706881/2015 N A T I O N S T A R MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff, vs. FREIDA ANAMASAKIS, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE TO THE ESTATE OF DEAN MARGARITES A/K/A CONSTANTINE DEAN MARGARITES; any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of

## LEGAL

them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to Plaintiff; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12" the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint. To the above named Defendants YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within Twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within Thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this

## LEGAL

summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until Sixty (60) days after service of the Summons; 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 OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of Eight hundred fifty-five thousand 00/100 (\$855,000.00) Dollars and interest, recorded on January 12, 2010, at Instrument number 2010000010217, of the Public Records of QUEENS County, New York, covering premises known as 84-44 PARSONS BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11432. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. QUEENS County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in

## LEGAL

said county. 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 the mortgage company will not stop the 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. Dated: December 11, 2015 RAS BORISKIN, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff BY: Thomas Zegarelli, Esq. 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 106 Westbury, NY 11590 (516) 280-7675

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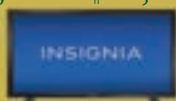


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