

Zombie house bill approved by Assembly

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

A bill co-sponsored by state Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) will place stronger regulations on abandoned "zombie" properties. The bill was passed in the state Assembly last week by a vote of 116-22, and he is calling on the state Senate to also pass the legislation.

"Zombie properties" are blighted properties that have been abandoned by their prior residents, often after a bank or lender has placed a foreclosure on the house. State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman estimated last year that there were more than 16,700 foreclosed homes throughout the state. According to Goldfeder, the issue became worse for Queens residents in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy as homes were abandoned due to damage.

"Zombie properties are a plague on our community that drives down property values, threatens public health and undermines the character of our neighborhoods," he said. "For

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Halal Guys give back to students

Street vendors donate \$30K to LaGuardia Community College scholarship fund

BY BILL PARRY

For nearly two decades, students at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City have been lining up for affordable

meals of chicken and gyro over rice at the Halal Guys food cart on Thomson Avenue. Last week, the street-food vendors celebrated their phenomenal growth in the last few years with a \$30,000 gift

to the school's scholarship fund.

Three immigrants from Egypt opened a Midtown Manhattan hot dog cart in 1990 and switched to Middle Eastern halal food to feed Muslim cab drivers. They have

grown to five carts and two restaurants in the city and 10 franchise restaurants nationwide with plans to open 335 franchise locations around the world.

A friendship between a faculty member and Hesham Hegazy, the Halal Guys' director of business and brand development, spurred their support of the college with a gift of \$6,000 in 2013. Last year, Halal Guys upped its donation to \$7,000 to the LaGuardia Community College Fund.

"When my friend, engineering professor Yasser Hassebo, told me about the students in his classes who were working very hard to excel in their studies, while struggling to make ends meet and also balancing work with family obligations, I was moved to help out," Hegazy said. "LaGuardia Community College students, faculty and staff have been loyal supporters of our food cart on their campus, and so it felt right to give back by establishing the Halal Guys Scholarship Fund."

LaGuardia Community College has one of the most ethnically diverse campuses in the nation with more than 50,000 stu-

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REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES



Markers in MacNeil Park commemorate the 136 College Point citizens who were lost to war since World War I. The Memorial Day Parade along College Point Boulevard ends at the park.

Photo by Jessica Bal

Boro demand grows for speed cameras

BY BILL PARRY

The speed-camera expansion movement is gaining momentum.

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) introduced a resolution supporting the Every School Speed Safety Camera Act, legisla-

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Les Dames d'Escoffier founder Carol Brock received an honorary Doctorate SUNY Cobleskill.

SUNY Cobleskill

Doug culinary icon lauded

BY MARK HALLUM

Carol Brock, a Douglaston resident, received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from SUNY Cobleskill for her work as founder of Les Dames d'Escoffier, an organization designed to break down the

barriers for women in culinary fields. In her many years, she has also achieved the status of accomplished journalist, philanthropist and mentor.

Brock began her career in journalism with Good Housekeeping Magazine in 1944 where she worked for

the next 23 years as hostess editor, a position that was created for her. She would move on to the position of food editor for Parents Magazine, followed by 15 years as a food reporter for the Daily News. After leaving the Daily News, she

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City dumps its plans to build Flushing West ³

Mayor's proposal to clean up Flushing waterfront nixed after quality-of-life issues raised

BY MADINA TOURE

Elected officials and community leaders said it was a combination of numerous issues affecting Flushing that ultimately caused the city to put its plan to rezone Flushing West on hold.

Mayor Bill de Blasio's proposal sought to clean up and rezone 60 acres on the Flushing waterfront and form a planned community with waterfront access for its housing and commercial space.

The 32-acre study area runs from Prince Street to Flushing Creek on the west, Roosevelt Avenue on the south and Northern Boulevard on the north. The proposal would have created 1,600 units of housing in the area.

The mayor decided to temporarily halt the proposal just days after Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) wrote a letter to City Planning Chairman Carl

Weisbrod asking for the project to be withdrawn.

De Blasio's plan aims to create and preserve 200,000 units of affordable housing in the five boroughs over the next decade.

Austin Finan, a spokesman for de Blasio, said the city plans to refine the proposal.

"We are continuing to work with the community to address the important quality-of-life and planning issues that are unique to Flushing," Finan said.

In a letter dated May 27 to Koo, Weisbrod said the councilman had raised some important quality-of-life and planning issues unique to Flushing and that the city would focus on planning efforts in other neighborhoods.

"We agree that it would not be prudent to move forward with a neighborhood planning strategy that cannot adequately achieve these goals," Weisbrod wrote. "We will continue to

work with you and community stakeholders to determine if solutions to these issues are plausible."

A City Planning spokesman said the city could revisit Flushing West if the underlying challenges—the Federal Aviation Administration flight paths and remediation in Flushing Creek—are resolved.

In his letter, also dated May 27, Koo asked Weisbrod to withdraw the plan and said he submitted scoping comments in December 2015 in response to the draft environmental impact statement for Flushing West.

Koo's main concerns centered on environmental issues, including air quality, noise and the need to remediate Flushing Creek where new residents would live as well as rerouting the pre-2012 LaGuardia Airport flight path over Flushing Meadows Corona Park instead of downtown Flushing.



The city has withdrawn its plan to rezone Flushing West for affordable housing after mounting community opposition.

Photo by Christina Santucci

"From day one, I've said that before we attempt to rezone this community, we need to have commitments to infrastructure, affordable housing, transit and traffic improvements," Koo said.

Other issues were creating new school capacity and addressing streetscape infrastructure, road repair, bus terminals and the capacity of the No. 7 train.

The Greater Flushing

Chamber of Commerce, for its part, was disappointed by the announcement.

"We are a diverse community of hard working entrepreneurs, immigrants, and visionaries," Simon Gerson, the chamber's president, said. "In that respect, this unfortunate decision shows that the city never really made an effort to understand who we are."

Joe Sweeney, chairman of Community Board

7's land use committee for Flushing West, said he agreed with state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and state Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Flushing) when they announced their opposition, but Koo's announcement has more weight given that such a plan would go to City Council upon approval.

"He (Koo) listened and he listened and listened," he continued. "This wasn't just a decision that he made overnight."

Avella, the first elected official to call for the plan to be withdrawn, said putting an additional development next to the already overburdened 7 subway line was a bad move.

"I'm glad that City Planning finally came to realize that this was an awful plan and I don't blame them," he said. "This was the mayor's proposal, so I'm glad that City Planning finally convinced the mayor that this was just insane."

Vietnam veterans in Queens to finally get war memorial

BY BILL PARRY

On the eve of Memorial Day weekend, Borough President Melinda Katz announced that the long-awaited Queens Vietnam Veterans Memorial project, the first boroughwide memorial to honor all Queens residents who died while serving in the southeast Asian conflict is now fully funded and ready to proceed. The memorial will be constructed where the iconic Elmhurst gas tanks once stood.

Katz's recent \$1.5 million allocation from her fiscal year 2017 discretionary capital funds comes on top of the \$500,000 in funding first secured when she was a city councilwoman back in 2008. Katz made the announcement during the annual Memorial Day



Vietnam veterans are pleased with Borough President Melinda Katz's announcement that a long-awaited borough-wide memorial will be built in Elmhurst. Courtesy of Borough President's office

Observance Ceremony last Thursday at Borough Hall.

"This latest allocation is a step towards fulfillment of a promise made years ago," Katz said. "More veterans call Queens home than any other borough,

and the Queens Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be a fitting and dignified tribute to those who served. The vision for a physical, boroughwide memorial was first forged by our own veterans who wanted to

memorialize the sacrifices made by hundreds of Queens residents and their families during what was a tumultuous period in our nation's history. Freedom is not free, and with the memorial, their service will be appropriately recognized and remembered for generations to come."

With the necessary capital now in place, work can begin on the design and construction of the \$2 million project, which will be located in the northwest corner of Elmhurst Park, a 6.22 acre former brown-field turned greenspace on 79th Street between Grand Avenue and 57th Avenue in Elmhurst. In the late 1990, the Keyspan Company removed the tanks and in 2001, it began remediation of the site before selling the land to the city for \$1 in

2014.

"The members of our country's Armed Forces who served in the Vietnam War sacrificed so much on behalf of their country, yet at the time they were not given appropriate recognition," said John Rowan, the Vietnam Veterans of America president and an Elmhurst native. "The Queens Vietnam Veterans Memorial will help address that historical wrong by honoring all Queens residents who gave their lives in that conflict."

A total of 420 Queens residents lost their lives while serving in the Vietnam War, according to the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32, which represents Vietnam War veterans of Queens. The late Pat Toro, the former president of Chapter 32 and a Marine

Corps Vietnam veteran, was a vocal and persistent supporter of the conflict before he died from an Agent Orange-related illness in 2014.

"Pat Toro fought hard for this before he died of blood cancer from Agent Orange, it's killing all of us," current VVA Chapter 32 President Michael O'Kane, of Glendale, said. "I haven't met anyone I served with who isn't sick from Agent Orange. We're losing 750 veterans a day, in fact, I heard just a few weeks ago that we passed a milestone that more veterans have died after the war than during the war. That's why I want this memorial to go up soon. I hope to see it in my lifetime."

There is no timetable set for when the memorial will be constructed.

City begins construction of rain gardens

321 planned for Ridgewood, Maspeth and Sunnyside to reduce pollution in Newtown Creek

BY BILL PARRY

The city has begun construction of 321 curbside rain gardens in Sunnyside, Maspeth and Ridgewood that will beautify neighborhoods, help clean the air and reduce pollution in Newtown Creek. When construction is completed later this year, officials say each rain garden will have the capacity to collect and absorb up to 2,500 gallons of stormwater when it rains.

Modeling shows that the 321 rain gardens, also known as bioswales, will capture an estimated 38 million gallons of stormwater each year, thereby reducing sewer overflows into Newtown Creek and improving the health of the waterway. In addition to the curbside rain gardens, six stormwater green streets will be built to utilize un-

derused roadway areas to absorb stormwater.

Newtown Creek, which separates Queens and Brooklyn, is one of the nation's most polluted waterways due to heavy industrial development along the banks of its 3.5-mile length. More than 50 oil refineries leaked an estimated 30 million gallons of spilled oil along with toxins from petrochemical plants, fertilizer and glue factories, and other industries beginning in the early 1800s.

It received Superfund designation in 2010 by the federal EPA.

"Cleaning up Newtown Creek is a priority for DEP and we are excited that shovels are in the ground to build rain gardens in the surrounding communities," DEP Acting Commissioner Steven Lawitts said. "Not only will this \$7.3

million investment green the streets and sidewalks of Maspeth, Sunnyside and Ridgewood, but by capturing the stormwater that would otherwise drain into the sewer system, we will reduce the amount of pollution that ends up in Newtown Creek."

The DEP is funding the project and the construction is being managed by the city's Department of Design and Construction. The rain gardens are built in city sidewalks and do not result in the loss of any parking spaces. They resemble standard street tree pits, except they vary in size and have curb cuts that allow stormwater to enter and overflow if it becomes saturated. During construction, the rain gardens are excavated to a depth of five feet and are then back-filled with layers of stone

and engineered soil.

The layers contain void spaces that store the stormwater. To date, nearly 1,000 rain gardens have been built in the city, with 1,500 currently under construction and thousands more planned for the next several years.

DEP conducted extensive outreach in the Newtown Creek watershed area including meeting with City Council members, Community Boards 2 and 5, the Newtown Creek Alliance and numerous other neighborhood and environmental organizations.

"DDC is proud to partner with DEP to provide a stormwater management system that reduces the risk of sewer overflows and beautifies neighborhoods by funneling water to street gardens," DDC Commissioner Feniosky Peña-Mora



City agencies begin building rain gardens in Maspeth, Ridgewood and Sunnyside to improve the health of Newtown Creek.

NYC DEP

said. "In keeping with Mayor de Blasio's vision for a resilient and sustainable city, this project is certainly one that Queens residents and all New Yorkers can take

pride in."

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

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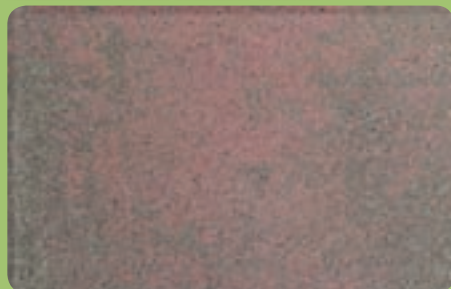


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Gangs rile Jax Hts.

Pols hold town hall as residents call for safer parks

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

Concerned Jackson Heights residents gathered at the Jewish Center of Jackson Heights last week for a town hall about gang violence and neighborhood safety that was organized by Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) and state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst).

The meeting was called after a recent incident in Travers Park, at the corner of 77th Street and 34th Avenue. An 18-year old was playing basketball in the northeast corner of the park at about 8:10 p.m. May 9 when he was approached by seven to 10 men and was stabbed by one of them. He was transported to a hospital in stable condition, according to police. The perpetrator has not yet been arrested.

"Travers Park is the only park around here, and there's no reason we should lose this park to gangs or anyone who wants to hurt our kids," Peralta said. "We want to ensure these stabblings do not become the norm."

The heavily attended meeting also included representatives from the Queens District Attorney's Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Unit and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, as well as officials from the Department of Ed-



State Sen. Jose Peralta speaks to attendees of a town hall concerning neighborhood safety at the Jewish Center of Jackson Heights. Photo by Patrick Donachie

ucation's Gang Prevention and Intervention Unit and the Parks Department.

Capt. Nicola Ventre, the executive officer of the 115th Precinct, which patrols Jackson Heights, said community members needed to report suspected incidents of crime or gang activity. He said that most of the gang activity in the area involved street narcotics, robberies and larcenies,

After each speaker introduced himself or herself, audience members asked questions. Representatives from the Parks Department said Travers Park did have a 9 p.m. curfew, while Ventre said the NYPD had put more plainclothes officers into the parks in the evenings.

Peralta and Dromm both spoke about the need for a community center for

youth in the area. Peralta said he had been in communication with the Boys and Girls Club, but that the organization would need a space of 25,000 square feet or greater to build an entirely new center.

Dromm stressed that community members could help to volunteer in multiple ways, including working at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters office on 82-11 37th Ave., which he said was "desperate for volunteers."

"Where we really need to intervene to prevent this kind of thing from happening is at the lower grade levels," he said, noting that kids were sometimes being recruited for gangs as young as in third or fourth grade. "Those are kids looking for someone to take care of them, to fill a void. We need more programs to fill that void."

Jamaica man arrested in Cuomo aide's murder

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

A homeless Jamaica man was arrested and charged in the shooting death of an aide to Gov. Andrew Cuomo last year before the West Indian Parade in Brooklyn, according to the NYPD.

Police said Micah Alleyne was arrested by officers in the 71st Precinct for the murder of Carey W. Gabay, who was the first deputy counsel for the Empire State Development Corporation and a top aide to the governor.

On Sept. 7, 2015 at about 3:41 a.m. Gabay was walking north on Bedford Avenue, between Sullivan Place and Montgomery Street in the East Flatbush area of Brooklyn. He was walking home from the J'Ouvert festival, an annual event held prior to the West Indian Parade.

Gunfire broke out near the outside of 1680 Bedford Ave. and Gabay was struck in the head, police said. He was transported to Kings County Hospital, where he died of his injuries Sept. 16.

Alleyne, who lives at the Lincoln Motor Inn in Jamaica, was charged with murder, criminal possession of a firearm and reckless endangerment, according to police. He was indicted on the charge of murder in the



CAREY W. GABAY

second degree on Wednesday, according to the Brooklyn District Attorney's office. Alleyne "engaged in mutual combat" with others that involved multiple handguns, and in doing so he fired the bullet that struck Gabay, according to the DA's criminal complaint. Alleyne lives at the Lincoln Motor Inn, located at 90-35 Van Wyck Blvd. in Jamaica, according to police; it is used as a temporary homeless shelter.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo thanked investigators for their work and decried the loss of Gabay's life in what he called "a senseless tragedy."

"Today's arrest is a major step forward in the pursuit of justice for Carey's family and loved ones," Cuomo said. "I

commend the investigators and prosecutors for their tireless efforts to ensure those responsible for Carey's death are held fully accountable for their actions."

Police continued to seek several other individuals in connection with Gabay's murder. Police said investigators were continuing to search for two men and one woman. The NYPD previously announced a \$22,500 reward that was offered for information that would lead to an arrest and conviction in the murder.

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson said the investigation would continue until everyone involved in the murder was apprehended.

"As I have said from the beginning, we are determined to get justice for Mr. Gabay and his family," he said. "And we will continue to press forward until we hold everyone responsible for his death accountable."

Anyone with knowledge of the incident is asked to call NYPD CRIMESTOPPERS at 1 (800)-577-TIPS,

Reach reporter Patrick Donachie by e-mail at pdonachie@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4573.

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8 Van Bramer says no to Sunnyside project

City Councilman pans plan by Phipps Houses to build 209 mixed-income, affordable housing units

BY BILL PARRY

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) shot down a controversial plan by Phipps Houses to build The Barnett, a ten-story, 209-unit residential building with 100 percent mixed-income affordable housing before Community Board 2 was scheduled to vote on the development this week. Phipps, a non-profit developer, needed a zoning change to build on a parking lot it owns at 50-25 Barnett Ave.

The lot, on the northern edge of Sunnyside Gardens between the Long Island Rail Road and the Phipps Gardens Apartments, is currently zoned for manufacturing.

"I've been very clear from the start. I have very serious concerns about this project that I've shared with everyone involved,"

Van Bramer said. "While I've had serious concerns for a long time, I wanted to give Phipps the opportunity to build support and amend their project after hearing feedback from the community. However, Phipps has not, in any meaningful way, attempted to negotiate or amend the plan to address community concerns. Phipps has not built local or community support for the project. They haven't seriously addressed concerns about height, income levels, community facilities or amenities."

Van Bramer's decision may doom the project since City Council protocol follows the recommendation of the local representative. The de Blasio administration, caught in an affordable housing crisis, is not ready to give up on The Barnett.

"Phipps Houses is early

in their public approval process," de Blasio spokesman Austin Finan said. "We expect they will continue conversations with all local stakeholders as the project moves through ULURP."

Van Bramer believes it's fair to say the mayor and Commissioner Vicki Been of the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development would like to see the project proceed.

"I fully believe we need more affordable housing and have demonstrated this support many times, but this does not mean that every project is the right one or in the right location," Van Bramer said. "In the face of opposition, Phipps has been unwilling to make any meaningful changes."

A Sunnyside Gardens resident himself, Van Bramer said he got more feedback from residents



Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer is blocking the Phipps Houses proposal to build a 10-story development on Barnett Avenue in Sunnyside.
Courtesy of Phipps Houses

and neighbors than any other issue in his 6 1/2 years on the City Council.

"I had intended to allow the land use process to unfold, and to allow the community board the opportunity to weigh in before I voiced my opinion," Van Bramer said. "At the land

use committee meeting, however, CB 2 Chair Pat O'Brien and members of the committee intimated that it was important for them to know where I stood as part of their decision-making process. When I heard that, I realized that it was time for me to make my position

clear. Given all these concerns, I cannot support this proposed project."

Phipps Houses President and CEO Adam Weinstein responded.

"We firmly believe that the land-use review process works best in its entirety, as it's specifically designed to do," Weinstein said. "Toward the end of that process, we'll take stock of what we've heard and assess what changes we can realistically make. While we're disappointed to see the Council member's most recent comments, we remain hopeful that we can work together to take advantage of this opportunity: to develop a 100 percent affordable building in the heart of Sunnyside geared toward middle-income residents, and to address the genuine affordability crisis faced by so many in the community."



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FROM OUR ADMINISTRATION,
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Goldfeder

Continued from Page 1
families still struggling to recover from Sandy, they are also a constant, painful reminder of everything we lost in the disaster.”

Goldfeder was one of several co-sponsors of the “New York State Abandoned Property Relief Act of 2016,” which was developed in partnership with Schneiderman’s office. The bill would make mortgage lenders responsible for “pre-foreclosure” properties, in addition to properties in foreclosure. The bill would also require inspections that would help determine if properties with a delinquent mortgage have been abandoned by owners.

Additionally, the bill would establish a registry listing all abandoned residential properties in the state. It would be supervised by the office of the state Attorney General. There would also be a hotline for people to call if they saw zombie properties.

After the bill’s passage, it was referred to the Sen-

ate’s Housing, Construction and Community Development committee.

In June 2015, Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) introduced legislation to the New York City Council that would allocate funds received from settlements with lenders to go towards communities like southeastern Queens that were hard hit by the foreclosure crisis. The legislation was referred to the Committee of Economic Development in March.

Foreclosure rates fluctuate wildly throughout Queens. According to RealtyTrac, the top Queens neighborhoods for foreclosed properties were Cambria Heights, with one in every 340 properties foreclosed, and South Ozone Park, where one in 427 properties is foreclosed. In Far Rockaway, one in 1,149 properties is foreclosed. RealtyTrac, a real estate information website, said 10 percent fewer homes received a foreclosure rating in April compared to the same period last year.

Speed cams

Continued from Page 1
tion in the state Assembly that would allow the city to deploy more speed cameras and use them 24 hours a day. The state currently only allows speed cameras at 140 schools, leaving students at the remaining 1,800 schools unprotected.

Since the 140 cameras were installed in city school zones in 2014, 945,000 speed violation tickets were issued by September 2015. City Department of Transportation statistics show that at first each camera issued an average of 192 violations per day. By September 2015 the number decreased to an average of 69 summonses per day, or a 60 percent drop.

“Speed cameras are a simple, effective way to save lives and make our streets safer,” Van Bramer said. “We’re calling on Albany to step up and do the right thing. By allowing New York City to install speed cameras at every school, we can slow cars

down and keep our children safe.”

The proposed speed cameras would be installed outside of city schools and would operate 24 hours per day. If a camera detects a car driving more than 10 miles per hour over the speed limit, it will take a photo of the car’s license plate and the driver will receive a \$50 ticket.

“Now that we have proof that this key Vision Zero tool is saving lives, it’s time for state lawmakers to lift the restrictions on our automated enforcement program and protect city schools,” Families for Safe Streets founder Sofia Russo said.

In using measures from New York and other U.S. cities, Transportation Alternatives estimates that expanding the speed camera program could prevent 2,500 crashes per year, saving up to 100 lives and preventing nearly 1,400 serious injuries. Research also shows that the cameras cause drivers to speed less over time, leading to fewer tickets and



Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer is calling for speed cameras at every school in the city because they reduce speeding by 60 percent.

Photo courtesy Van Bramer’s office

less revenue.

“Majority Leader Van Bramer is once again showing true Vision Zero leadership by sending a powerful message to Albany lawmakers, that now is the time to act on this life-saving legislation,” Transportation Alternative Executive Director Paul Steely White said. “We have more than a million public school students across the five boroughs, but right now we only have 140 speed cameras to pro-

tect them. And those cameras are only allowed to be turned on during school hours, even though many of the crashes that kill and injure people happen during evening and weekend hours, when many young people use school playgrounds and ball fields.”

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

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It's the time of year to pack your bags, sunscreen and pool paraphernalia, and head to your favorite resort to delight in as many poolside pleasures as you can squeeze into a summer vacation. According to the websites from some of the top international resorts, adjoining Jacuzzis; curtained-off pergola-topped, cabana-style lounging areas; outdoor bars; walk-ups for foodies; waterfalls for ambience; and fire pits for gathering appear to be among the favored, poolside amenities searched for by first-time as well as seasoned travelers.

"Another idea," proposed Charles H. Gamarekian of Cambridge Pavers Inc., "might be to transform a readily accessible backyard space into a world-class, four-season, poolside 'staycation' hot-spot. And detail it with some or all of the most popular resort-like amenities for enjoyment anytime at a whim."

Modern hardscape materials such as interlocking concrete pavers, cast stone steps, wall units, natural quarried stone and travertine pavers are produced to marry well with each other and can all combine in a continuum of styles to delight global tastes from classic to contemporary. What about colors? The European influences of pavers from Cambridge come in sun-splashed, seaside palettes as well as calming, mountain stone and desert hues. The vivid Cambridge ArmorTec® colors are made to last under harsh sunlight.

Gamarekian added: "The designer-inspired materials can extend to pool coping; steps into the water; built-in raised spas overflowing into lighted waterfalls; permanent bistro-style umbrella tables; refreshment bars; open-air kitchens; and other super-durable poolside conveniences."

Other benefits of using pavers and manufactured poolscaping products lie in their inherent qual-



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Halal Guys

Continued from Page 1
dents, two-thirds of whom are now new Americans. The students face a unique challenge in that the majority have family incomes of less than \$25,000 a year.
The Halal Guys Scholarship Fund gives full-time students in good academic standing \$1,000 for two semesters of study. Thus far, their support has gone to more than eight LaGuardia students.
“The Halal Guys scholarship allowed me to com-

plete my final semester at LaGuardia,” graduate Adeline Romero said. “The Halal Guys scholarship lightened my financial burden and allowed me to focus on my last class load. The generosity extended to me by the Halal Guys and LaGuardia has inspired me to give back to the community. I hope to pay it forward one day and help other students achieve their goals.”
Romero graduated with a 3.85 GPA and is now studying political science at John Jay, with plans to pursue a career in public policy and advocacy. “The

Halal Guys are the very best friends our college can have,” LaGuardia Community College President Gail O. Mellow said. “They have been unwavering in their support of our students.”
Mohamed Aboueleinein, the company’s president and co-founder, sent three of his children to the school.
“All had excellent experiences—they enjoyed their time here and were very well prepared for the next chapters of their education—transferring to four-year schools,” Aboueleinein said. “I know the value of



The Halal Guys present a \$30,000 check to LaGuardia Community College President Gail O. Mellow for a scholarship fund.
Photo courtesy LaGuardia Community College

this college firsthand, and so I’m very pleased that we’re able to support it with this scholarship fund.”
Reach reporter Bill Parry
by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4538.

Brock

Continued from Page 1
went on to become a food critic for the TimesLedger Newspapers.
She currently holds the title of Grande Dame for Les Dames d’Escoffier and talked about the challenges to women working in the culinary arts and journalism.

“After 23 years, my husband said to me, ‘you’re not making enough money.’ Well, it was true. The food editor got me a \$10 raise. All my raises were \$10 and they weren’t very often,” Brock said in an interview. “I thought it over, and, yes, I would leave Good Housekeeping. I left Hearst with the lowest salaries and wound up at Parents Magazine with the second low-

est.”
She would leave Parents Magazine after only two years.
Brock was a food reporter at the Daily News for 15 years and even posed for a photo that would end up on the cover.
In 1973, Brock decided to switch gears and look to bringing women into a prevalent role in the cooking world. The culinary

field at the time was dominated by men, but Brock worked with Les Dames d’Escoffier and SUNY Cobleskill to set a new precedent as a mentor to talented young women entering the profession.
“Carol Brock’s vision and support of our college and our culinary programs have had and will continue to have a tremendous positive impact on our students

and the industries that they enter,” SUNY Cobleskill President Marion Terenzio said.
“Our culinary programs are an essential link in our broader point of view. As part of their education and future role as stewards of sustainability, students at SUNY Cobleskill have an opportunity to learn every step of food systems from seed to plate, and even be-

yond, from food waste back to energy.”
Brock’s passion for home-style cooking, journalism and empowering women in the work place have earned her a seat among the greats throughout her long, lively career. At 92, she currently serves as the culinary arts coordinator for Great Neck Adult Education programming.



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