

## Noise talks progressing: Quiet Skies

BY MARK HALLUM

Queens Quiet Skies President Janet McEneaney told the Community Board 11 meeting Tuesday that talks between her organization, the FAA and Port Authority to reduce airplane noise over the borough have improved since they began in 2012 and progress is underway to bring relief to residents.

McEneaney represented Queens Quiet Skies at the Dec. 15 meeting of the LaGuardia Part 150 Technical Advisory Committee, which includes industry and government representatives as well as elected officials.

She wrote in the Quiet Skies newsletter Dec. 18 the FAA plans to mitigate noise by paying to insulate houses or redirecting flight paths within zones defined by the 65 DNL standard, which defines the level at which airplane noise is incompatible with residential neighborhoods.

The 65 DNL contour over Queens is small and covers mainly Willets Point, she said, but she was optimistic talks are moving in their direction.

“Some of the things we’ve asked for are starting to come

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# Blaze destroys 14 businesses

Officials still trying to determine cause of Kew Gardens Hills fire

## USHERING IN A NEW YEAR



New Year's is a stand-out day among Hindus when, as seen here at the Hindu Society Temple in Flushing, priests decorate the dieties in gold leaf and flower displays to guarantee a good year ahead. See more photos Page 26.

Photo by Michael Shain

BY GINA MARTINEZ

“This was the lifeline of the neighborhood — now where are you going to go?” asked longtime Kew Gardens Hills resident Jimmy J. F. as he stared at the burned-out block of mom-and-pop stores.

A five-alarm fire destroyed 14 businesses in Kew Gardens Hills right before the new year, FDNY officials said, as the flames tore through an entire block on Vleish Place and gutted the neighborhood’s central shopping strip.

The blaze began at 6:30 p.m. last Friday and was not brought under control until midnight. Nearly 200 firefighters were on the scene, with four of them sustaining minor injuries, FDNY said. No civilians were injured in the fire, officials said.

The cause of the inferno was still under investigation, but officials said they did not consider the fire suspicious.

The raging flames obliterated the block of small businesses, including a law office, a pizzeria, a dry cleaners and a bakery, between 76th Road and 77th Avenue.

“Here we are, it’s a holiday weekend, and 14 people lose their business,” FDNY Chief of Department James Leonard said the day of the fire. . “Some-

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## First baby of 2017 born in Flushing

BY GINA MARTINEZ

The city’s first baby of 2017 was born in Flushing Hospital.

Nathan Peralta entered the world Jan. 1 at 12:08 a.m. weighing 7 pounds, 11.5 ounces and clocking in at 19.5 inches long, according to Flushing Hospital.

Both Nathan and his mother Carmen are doing well.

Nathan was not due for another two weeks, but when Carmen went to the hospital Dec. 30 for a checkup, she was induced due to high blood pressure. According to NY1, Carmen and the nursing staff were all excited

about the possibility of Nathan being the city’s first baby of the new year. Peralta began pushing at 11:45 p.m.

“Everybody was excited. Everyone was in the room — we had five nurses, two doctors,” Dr. Ingy Khattaby told NY1

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# DOT to repair ramps

Avella says Grand Central, Clearview focus of renovations

BY MARK HALLUM

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) announced a response from the state Dept. of Transportation regarding his request for the agency to repair entrance and exit ramps on the Grand Central Parkway and the Clearview Expressway. According to the DOT, Exit 1 off the Clearview Expressway going southbound which connects to the Grand Central Parkway headed eastbound, and the entrance and exit ramps to the Clearview Expressway at 188th Street will be refurbished.

"I am thrilled to announce that these entrance and exit ramps will be repaired and repaved in the new year. I want to thank the New York State Department of Transportation for evaluating these areas, as well as for assuring me that this work will be completed in the coming year. These repairs are necessary for the thousands of drivers who use the aforementioned ramps on a daily basis, and I am glad to see our infrastructure receive the attention it deserves," Avella said.

Constituents have been requesting the repairs through Avella's office for an extended period of time.

"The ramps needed partial or total repavement for what we would estimate is nearing a decade," Avella spokesman Conner Quinn said. "What happens is state DOT gives the city money to fix the highways and they do that, but they almost always forget about the ramps. That is why Sen. Avella is thankful that the state is taking the time to work on these ramps."

The Bayside senator has a long history grappling with the city DOT to follow through with requests for improved road conditions throughout his district.



The city Dept. of Transportation said neglected ramps on Clearview Expressway and Grand Central Parkway will be repaved.

Photo by Michael Shain

Avella expressed frustration with the agency in September when his latest request for an all-way stop sign at the intersections of 23rd Avenue and Corporal Kennedy Street as well as the intersection of 23rd Avenue and 211th Street was rejected by the DOT.

Then in October, Avella stood with residents of Bayside Towne House Condo complex at 18-66 Corporal Kennedy St. to pressure the city branch of the agency to build a sound barrier along part of the Clearview Expressway running the length of the neighborhood. Noise complaints and pollution con-

cerns were among resident vexations. According to DOT, however, sound barriers are only constructed during times when major work on roads is underway or entirely new roads are being built.

As for the freeway ramps approved Dec. 28, the Exit 1 project has been slated for completion by the new year while the 188th Street portion will be completed by the end of 2017.

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# Bayside shopkeep wins Cash4life

BY MARK HALLUM

A Hollis Hills shop owner picked up a winning Lottery ticket at his own store and will be raking in more than \$200,000 annually, but he seems to be enjoying his windfall by not going to work anymore.

Ajit Rana, a Long Island City resident and proprietor of Bayside Supply Smoke Shop at 22411 Union Tpke., could not be reached for comment and was not at the store during two recent visits.

A man behind the counter summed it all up: "He doesn't come in anymore." But he confirmed that Rana owned a portion of the shop.

According to the New York Lottery, Rana purchased his Cash4Life ticket the night of the Nov. 11 drawing and came into the store to find people talking about the winning ticket being sold at his shop.

"I thought to myself, 'I wonder if it's me?'" he said. "I checked my tickets and couldn't believe what I was seeing. I was just in shock."

After discovering he was the lucky winner, Rana immediately called his wife — who exercised a healthy amount of skepticism.

"She thought I was joking," he recalled. "So I went home and showed her the ticket. We just kept checking the numbers over and over again. We were both just totally surprised!"

Cash4Life winners do not receive their prize in one lump sum. The lottery awards them \$1,000 a day which is delivered once a

year in a check totaling \$227,410.

The winning numbers for the Nov. 11 Cash4Life drawing were 8-11-37-41-54 Cash Ball 4.

Rana, 44, told the New York Lottery he has yet to decide what he will do with his winnings, but he does know he is interested in buying a house.

The weekly lottery player also plans to take the opportunity to visit his family in India, according to the New York Daily News.

"I will visit my family in India and buy a house," he told the paper.

Yolanda Vega, a member of the New York Lottery's on-camera draw team, handed Rana a giant check Dec. 29 at news conference authenticating his status as a rich man, the Daily News reported.

The New York Lottery gave \$1,241,108,424 in revenue from ticket sales to schools throughout the five boroughs during fiscal year 2015-2016 through the Lottery Aid To Education program. Contributions are made regularly and by the same statutory formula which determines where state funds to schools will be invested, directing more largess to districts with a higher proportion of lower-income families.

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# Cuomo unveils \$10 billion overhaul of JFK

Proposal includes interconnected terminals, improved road access and expanded mass transit

BY BILL PARRY

Gov. Andrew Cuomo presented a sweeping “vision plan” to transform JFK International Airport for the 21st century.

Based on the recommendations of the Governor’s Airport Advisory Panel, the \$10 billion proposal lays out a comprehensive, airport-wide framework to expand and connect terminals with world-class amenities, expand taxiways to reduce ground delays, and improve road and mass-transit access to meet projected growth in demand.

JFK welcomes more international passengers to the United States than any other airport in the country, and served a record 60 million passengers overall in 2016. That number is expected to grow dramatically over the coming years, to 75 million by 2030 and 100 million by 2050, but the current airport will reach capacity by the mid-2020s. And for each million passengers that JFK fails to accommodate, the region loses nearly \$140 million

in wages, \$400 million in sales, and 2,500 jobs, according to the governor’s office.

“New York never backs down from a challenge, rather we step up to take on the ambitious projects that are often thought to be impossible. That’s exactly what transforming JFK International Airport is all about,” Cuomo said. “Our vision calls for the creation of a unified, interconnected airport that changes the passenger experience and makes the airport much easier to access and navigate. We are New York, and we remember the bravado that built this state in the first place, and that is the attitude that will take JFK and turn it into the 21st-century airport that we deserve.”

The redesign of JFK is the latest in a string of massive infrastructure projects in New York City tackled by Cuomo after the \$8 billion LaGuardia Airport reconstruction currently underway and the planned overhauls of Penn Station and the Javits Center. The new plan



Gov. Andrew Cuomo adds the reconstruction of JFK International Airport to his growing list of massive infrastructure projects

Courtesy Cuomo’s office

was presented at a luncheon hosted by the Association for a Better New York.

“John F. Kennedy Airport was once a world-class transportation hub, envied by the entire nation,” said Port Authority Executive Director Pat Foye. “Today, it is choked with traffic and burdened with outdated systems and decaying infrastructure. Gov. Cuomo’s landmark plan

to revitalize JFK will put New York back on the map as a premiere destination by building a new golden gate to this state.”

Cuomo’s plan also addresses key bottlenecks to and from JFK on the Van Wyck Expressway and the Kew Gardens Interchange. He endorsed \$1.5–\$2 billion in spending by the state Department of Transportation to improve the roadways into

JFK, but the source of further funding for the project is unclear.

JFK has become a vital economic engine in Queens, supporting more than 285,000 jobs last year. Borough President Melinda Katz called the governor’s proposal a “bold, ambitious, critical plan to overhaul JFK,” while highlighting its benefits to surrounding communities.

“Especially welcome in the Governor’s plan is the inclusion of significant enhancements to the MTA Jamaica Station for mass transit riders on the subways, buses and rails, while looking to build out a seamless one-seat ride between JFK and Manhattan,” Katz said. “It’s a new day for infrastructure in New York, and Queens lauds the Governor’s new blueprint to transform our gateways and keep the region globally competitive in the 21st century.”

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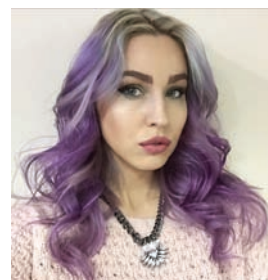
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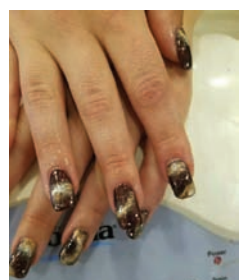


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# Guv proposes plan for free tuition

Cuomo announces 'revolutionary' idea to educate students at SUNY, CUNY schools

BY BILL PARRY

Gov. Andrew Cuomo unveiled a new proposal at LaGuardia Community College Tuesday that would make SUNY and CUNY college tuition free for nearly a million families making less than \$125,000 a year. With Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders at his side, Cuomo announced his new Excelsior Scholarship program to alleviate the crushing burden of student debt.

"A college education is not a luxury — it is an absolute necessity for any chance at economic mobility, and with these first-in-the-nation Excelsior Scholarships, we're providing the opportunity for New Yorkers to succeed, no matter what zip code they come from and without the anchor of student debt weighing them down," Cuomo said. "New York is making a major investment in our greatest asset — our people — and supporting the dreams and ambitions of those who want a better life and are willing to work hard for it."

Sanders, who pushed for



Sen. Bernie Sanders (l) calls Gov. Andrew Cuomo's plan for free college tuition a model for the nation during its unveiling at LaGuardia Community College.

Courtesy of Governor's office/Kevin P. Coughlin

free tuition nationwide during his presidential bid, called Cuomo's program "revolutionary" and urged state legislators to approve the plan and make it a model for the rest of the nation.

"If we are going to do justice to the working families of this country, to the low-income families, if we are going to have an economy that creates jobs, we must have the best-educated

workforce in the world," Sanders said. "Our job is to encourage every person in this country to get all the education he or she can, not to punish them for getting that education."

In 2015, the average student loan debt in New York was \$29,320. If approved, the Excelsior Scholarship program will work by supplementing existing aid initiatives such as the Tuition Assistance Program, which provides nearly \$1 billion in grants to students statewide, and federal aid.

The plan is expected to cost about \$163 million a year when fully implemented by 2019. Cuomo plans to institute the program in stages, beginning by offering it to families making up to \$100,000 starting in the fall of 2017, increasing to \$110,000 in 2018, and reaching \$125,000 in 2019.

"College is a mandatory step if you really want to be a success," Cuomo said. "And this society should say we're going to pay for college because you need college to be successful. Other countries have done it. It's time this country catches up."

State Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky (D-Flushing), ranking member of the Higher Education Committee, sponsored a

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## Van Buren High School lauds improved graduation rates

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

Martin Van Buren High School has seen dramatic improvements in its graduation and attendance rates since being classified as one of the 94 struggling schools in the city's Renewal Program, elected officials and school administration announced Tuesday.

"We get enough news about the school system we'd rather not hear," City Councilman Barry Grodenchik (D-Oakland Gardens) said during a presentation held in the school's conference room. "But there is great news happening in our school system."

Grodenchik, who represents the area in the City Council, was joined by state Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows), state Sen. Leroy Comrie (D-Jamaica), students, teach-



ers and civic leaders. Principal Sam Sochet said graduation rates had improved markedly in the past few years, and the school was one of only three Renewal schools in the city to surpass all its benchmarks, which included analyses of college and

Photo by Patrick Donachie

career readiness, school safety and academic improvement.

"We want our children to succeed, not just at Martin Van Buren but everywhere. It's heartbreaking if we don't," Sochet said, telling the audience he was 'gratified' there was good news to report about Martin Van Buren.

Sochet took over as principal of Van Buren in 2012, and the four-year graduation rate had jumped from 46 percent to 62.3 percent in the past three school years. The school, established in 1955, is a part of School District 26, the highest-performing school district in the city.

Sochet touted the school's partnerships with Long Island Jewish Hospital for its health program and a prominent city law firm for a law program at the school and said he was

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## MulchFest is back at several locations

BY BILL PARRY

Now that the holidays are over the city is asking residents to "tree-cycle" their used Christmas trees.

The city Department of Sanitation will continue its curbside collection through Friday, Jan. 15, provided all tree stands, tinsel, ornaments and lights have been removed. Clean, non-bagged Christmas trees will be collected, chipped, mixed with leaves, and recycled into rich compost for the city's parks, institutions and community gardens.

"Recycling gives Christmas trees new life," DSNY Commissioner Kathryn Garcia said. "The tree in our homes now will be chipped and reused as mulch in parks and community gardens throughout

the city and enjoyed for the months to come."

Sanitation collected more than 214,000 Christmas trees last year. The city Parks Department provides two options for tree-cycling. The 20th annual MulchFest event will be held this Saturday and Sunday between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at several locations around the borough. Residents can drop off their clean and non-bagged trees for mulching and receive their own bag of mulch for use in yards and gardens.

"There are countless ways we can care for our parks, and MulchFest is one of the simplest and most fun," Parks Commissioner Mitchell L. Silver said. "MulchFest is one of the many annual events

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# Drug reforms combat overdose spikes

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

As New York City announced a grim milestone in the number of drug overdose deaths in the city in 2016, Gov. Andrew Cuomo unveiled a volley of new reforms aimed at curtailing the number of overdose deaths, including a requirement for health insurance plans to cover treatment services for addicted New Yorkers.

New York City projected that overdose deaths in the city would exceed 1,000 for the first time on record in the city. The city Department of Health said the jump in fatalities was driven by increased use of fentanyl, an opioid often mixed with heroin. It is frequently mixed with cocaine or oft-abused pharmaceuticals.

The DOH could not release 2016 drug overdose numbers for the borough of Queens as of press time, but the department did see a substantial uptick halfway through the year. By the end of the first half of 2016, overdose deaths in Queens stood at 104, while the total for the entirety of 2015 was 144. Borough totals in Manhattan and Staten Island from the first half of 2016 also nearly matched their entire yearly totals from 2015. The DOH also found a massive uptick in the presence of fentanyl in overdose deaths from the start of 2015 to the second quar-



New York City's Department of Health projects drug overdose deaths will exceed 1,000 in the city in 2016.

Photo by Sue Ogrocki/AP

ter of 2016.

The new mandates enacted by the state sprang from legislation Cuomo signed in June 2016 and went into effect Jan. 1. The law includes a requirement for insurers to cover inpatient services for addicted patients if needed, and restricts insurers from conducting utilization reviews until after 14 days of treatment. The reviews would let insur-

ers analyze and approve requests for treatment. Now, insurers cannot require approval prior to emergency use of drug treatment medications such as buprenorphine and injected naltrexone, and must now also adhere to state-approved criteria to determine appropriate coverage for drug abuse treatment. Insurers must also cover the costs of naloxone, which can be used to reverse the immediate ef-

fects of an overdose.

"With these landmark reforms fully enacted, we have removed artificial barriers that prevented New Yorkers from receiving the help they need and put into place new safeguards to get these drugs off the street," Gov. Cuomo said about the reforms.

The DOH also stressed that patients in the midst of a potentially fatal overdose could be saved by using naloxone, and New Yorkers can receive training in how to appropriately use it. The medication is available free of charge from overdose prevention programs, according to the DOH, and can be purchased at participating pharmacies throughout the city.

Interested New Yorkers can visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov) and search "overdose prevention" to learn more about local prevention programs or participating pharmacies, the DOH said. The new insurance regulations pertain to small and large group plans alike, and pertains to all plans regulated by the state's Department of Financial Services. People seeking more information can call the DFS at 1 (800) 342-3736 or [dfs.gov](http://dfs.gov).

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## Crowley rips Blaz's hotel plan for homeless

BY BILL PARRY

Just before Christmas, the city Department of Homeless Services posted a request for vendors to procure 3,900 hotel rooms in order to shelter more of the record 60,000 homeless in the five boroughs.

Under the contract, DHS expects vendors to control room rate costs and negotiate flat monthly rates, avoiding spikes that cost the city nearly \$80 million from Nov. 1, 2015 to Oct. 31, 2016, according to city Comptroller Scott Stringer.

"The city plans to reduce the use of commercial hotels when we can open more ongoing regular shelters, but meanwhile using a contract insures cost efficiency, transparency and since contracts will include performance standards, better oversight of conditions and services," Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks said.

U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) blasted the practice of housing homeless individuals and families in hotels. As nightly protests at the Maspeth Holiday Inn Express

grabbed headlines for months beginning in mid-August, Crowley and his colleagues discovered DHS had quietly moved more homeless into hotels in Corona and East Elmhurst, most recently at the LaGuardia Marriott at 102-05 Ditmars Ave. Crowley penned an op-ed piece Monday in the City & State magazine *Slate* calling on the city to abandon it shortsighted, costly attempts to convert hotels into shelters.

"Not only are hotels inadequate for meeting homeless families' day-to-day needs, the approach uproots them from their communities, schools and opportunities to get back on their feet," Crowley wrote. "The prevalence of hotels surrounding our airports puts an uneven burden on communities in Queens that are already struggling to meet their own needs. It is more than just unfair -- it is an unsustainable, hasty patch for a problem that requires thoughtful, cost-effective, long-term solutions."

Crowley has called for increased federal funding to programs that help make housing more affordable, such

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## De Blasio expands free IDNYC

BY BILL PARRY

The de Blasio administration announced Tuesday the New York City identity card will remain free in 2017 as more cultural institutions signs on to the program.

City Hall is now processing full enrollments to all residents regardless of immigration status under a new policy that does not involve retention of an IDNYC cardholders' personal background documents. The push comes just days before a hearing on a lawsuit that may decide if the city can go ahead and destroy personal information gathered during the program's first two years. Mayor Bill de Blasio has promised undocumented immigrants that personal data would not fall into the hands of the incoming Trump administration.

"The IDNYC program started with the simple idea of bridging divides between people and government, so that all New Yorkers have access to the resources they need to live full, productive lives here in NYC," de Blasio said. "We're keeping IDNYC free in 2017, so that all city residents can feel confident interacting with the NYPD, entering their child's school, obtaining city services, and so much more."



Mayor Bill de Blasio announces IDNYC will remain free for a third consecutive year with additional cultural benefits.

Photo by Michael Shain

Cardholders have access to free memberships at 38 of the city's premiere cultural organizations, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to the Queens Museum, Flushing Town Hall and the Queens Theatre.

"I am excited that so many of our benefits partners are returning for 2017, and we are welcoming some great new institutions to the IDNYC family," he said. "With their partnership, we're giving more New Yorkers access to culture, arts, fitness and a long list of enriching opportunities."

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# *Lowe's to take over Macy's, MovieWorld*

BY MARK HALLUM

Plans have been filed at 242-02 61st Ave. in Douglaston for changes to the spaces currently occupied by Macy's Department Store and MovieWorld theater. According to the city Department of Buildings, the Alt-1 permit is to convert the spaces into a Lowe's Home Improvement Center.

The address is shared by both businesses which sit adjacent to each other.

Perry M. Petrillo Architects put in the application for the job in November.

Macy's announced in August that its Douglaston location would be shutting down in conjunction with an August announcement that 100 stores would be shuttered around the country due to a decline in in-store sales.

"The announcements we are making today represents an advancement in our thinking on the role of stores, the quality of the shopping experience we will deliver, and how and where we reinvest in our business for growth," Macy's President Jeff Gennette said Aug. 11. "In the short term, our company's topline sales will be somewhat smaller, but the changes being made will position us to grow comparable sales more quickly and generate a level of profitability that stands out among retailers."

The move was undertaken to redesign the portfolio of the business to accommodate the decrease in revenue and retain \$1 billion by cutting down on overhead.

"We're getting out in front of this," Chief Executive Officer Terry Lundgren



A Lowe's building supply store is set to move into the Douglaston shopping center where Macy's is closing.

Photo by Michael Shain

said on CNBC. "We're going to still have over 530 stores in all the key markets. Forty-nine of the top 50 markets in the United States when we're done with all of this."

Lundgren went on to note that Macy's is slightly behind Amazon in sales, but the smaller portfolio of Macy's stores supplemented with the company's own online business should be a profitable game plan going forward.

The company's sales from the first quarter of 2016 were down 7.4 percent from 2015's \$6.2 billion, according to Macy's 2016 earning statement.

MovieWorld's owners and Lowe's Home Improvement Center could not immediately be reached for comment.

Reach reporter Mark Hallum by e-mail at [mhallum@cnglocal.com](mailto:mhallum@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

# **State announces funding for Sandy home repairs**

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

Nearly \$8 million in state funding will go toward rehabilitating damaged houses or constructing new ones throughout the state, according to an announcement last week by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Some funding will go towards repairing homes damaged during Superstorm Sandy.

"We are committed to helping all New Yorkers achieve and preserve the American Dream of homeownership, and this funding will build and improve affordable owner-occupied housing in every corner of the state," Cuomo said about the funding allocation.

The funding will pay for repairs to 295 income-eligible homes throughout the state, allocated through the New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Affordable Home Ownership Development Program, which provides

as much as \$40,000 per home to assist in repairs or to construct affordable housing.

The state funding comes as the Daily News reported last week that 60 percent of homes in the city's Build it Back Program had completed construction, a jump of more than 15 percent since October.

The Queens-associated grants from the state included \$1.2 million to improve about 30 units located throughout Queens and Kings County specifically related to homes that were damaged by Superstorm Sandy. An additional \$880,000 was allocated to Restored Homes Housing Development Fund Corporation to acquire and repair 22 units in scattered areas throughout Queens.

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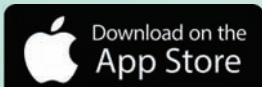
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## Flushing Bank sells building

BY GINA MARTINEZ

Flushing Bank has sold one of its buildings in Auburndale.

Flushing Financial Cooperation, the parent holding company for Flushing Bank, sold its 188-08 Hollis Court property. Cushman and Wakefield helped market the property.

The Flushing Bank branch will stay open until a new, updated branch location nearby is ready for occupancy, according to John Buran, president and chief executive officer of Flushing Financial Corporation.

"This sale will afford us the flexibility to enhance the customer experience with modern branches that offer convenient access that aligns with the growth in the market," he said.

Flushing Bank serves consumers, businesses, professionals, corporate clients, and public entities by offering a full comple-

ment of deposit, loan, and cash management services through its 19 banking offices located in Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Nassau County.

Stephen Preuss, senior managing director at Cushman and Wakefield, said the new investor plans on dividing the building into multiple spaces after remodeling is over.

"It sold in December to a local investor who plans to improve the property and re-tenant the building with one or more tenants," he said. "The bank will stay on as a tenant for the next several months, then new tenants will come in and take its place. If the right tenant comes along to take the whole space, the investor will entertain it, but inevitably it will be cut up into multiple spaces."

Reach Gina Martinez by e-mail at [gmartinez@cnglocal.com](mailto:gmartinez@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

## Whitestone civic works with NYPD

BY GINA MARTINEZ

A Whitestone civic group is working with the NYPD to teach residents the skills to help police protect their community.

WeLoveWhitestone and the 109th Precinct are hosting their third-annual "NYPD Block Watcher" training class on Jan. 28 at a soon-to-be-announced location in Whitestone.

NYPD officers will lead the workshop and teach participants how to help police during emergency situations and how to properly report crimes. According to Alfredo Centola, president of WeLoveWhitestone, officers will teach participants what to look out for, and at the end of the two-hour class participants get a certificate with block watcher

ID number. Certifications expire every two years and there is no enrollment fee or commitment.

Centola said that the program gives Whitestone residents the chance to look out for one another.

"So when they call 911, the operator knows they were trained and that person knew what to look for," he said. "The civic model has always been 'get up, get out, get involved' this gives people the opportunity and the chance to get involved. You don't have to get in car for two hours looking for anything specific, you're just trained to find things."

According to Centola, the training helps create more aware citizens who will be better equipped to report crimes.

*Continued on Page 44*



# Controversial real estate owner dies

Rita Stark leaves mixed legacy of inheriting property worth millions in southeast Queens

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

A controversial real estate mogul with major holdings in southeast Queens died last autumn, perhaps finally releasing a death grip that for years has throttled development in neighborhoods where she owned properties.

Rita Stark, who inherited extensive real estate holdings throughout southeast Queens after her father's death in 1988, died in October, according to DNAInfo. From her real estate office in Hollis, Stark controlled an estimated \$4 million worth of property for nearly three decades — and in that time she became notorious for showing little interest in doing anything more with those properties beyond maintaining that control.

State Sen. James Sanders (D-South Ozone Park) stressed he was not trying to disparage Stark, but said her actions “epitomized” the lack of development in southeast Queens.

“If you name a community where there’s an area where Rita had her hands, you saw she would neither fish nor cut bait,”



Rita Stark owned many properties throughout southeast Queens that stayed vacant for long periods of time, including this complex on Mott Avenue in the Rockaways. Google Earth

Sanders said.

Stark's properties were often vacant for years, or even decades. Some of the properties Stark owned included the Long Island Press building at 92-20 164th St., which was vacant since the 1970s until it was razed in 2005,

as well as the expansive Thriftway supermarket complex on Mott Avenue in the Rockaways, which she steadfastly refused to develop for years.

Sanders said her refusal to develop her properties, to sell them at a profit or even to ac-

cept grant money to refurbish blighted building ran contrary to the logic of the free market. He could not say for sure why Stark refused to sell many of her properties, but he speculated that she may have viewed the inherited properties as her

father's legacy and may have been hesitant to sell them.

Even when she did develop her properties, Stark courted controversy.

Plans to turn one of Stark's buildings in Hollis into a supportive housing facility for homeless veterans sparked protests and court battles by community activists arguing that the city was using southeast Queens — which hosts 50 percent of the borough's homeless shelters — as a dumping ground for the indigent.

Control of Stark's holdings now passes to her brother Harold and his two sons, Fred and Alan, between whom she divided the properties in her will, according to DNAInfo, which also noted that her brother had sued her to take control of the portfolio shortly after she inherited it. The move suggested that he and her nephews may be more interested in developing the properties.

Yvonne Reddick, the district manager for Community Board 12, said she did not have any direct dealings with Stark, but ex-

*Continued on Page 40*

# Citi Bike to expand to Astoria after record year

BY BILL PARRY

Astoria residents will have new transit options this year with Citywide Ferry Service arriving at Halletts Point in June and Citi Bike expanding north from Long Island City before the end of 2017.

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced last week that Citi Bike had set a new ridership record in 2016 of nearly 14 million trips, shattering the record set in 2015 by more than 4 million.

“In 2016, we fulfilled our pledge to grow Citi Bike,” de Blasio said, “further cementing its reputation as the nation's largest popular bike-share program. With more Brooklyn and Queens neighborhoods slated to get bikes in 2017, we can expect great things.”

Citi Bike now regularly serves more than 60,000 trips a day, putting it on par with taxis and the Staten Is-



Mayor Bill de Blasio announces that Citi Bike shattered its annual ridership record for a third consecutive year as it readies for its expansion into Astoria later this year. Courtesy of citybikenyc.com

land Ferry.

“When we first invested in New York's bike-share program in 2012, our capital allowed a small business with big dreams to launch

the largest privately funded bike share program in the world,” said Margaret Anadu, the managing director of the Urban Investment Group at Goldman Sachs.

“We doubled down on Citi Bike in 2014 with additional financing to facilitate expansion of the system and are delighted to see the program hit this incredible mile-

stone. The program has created quality jobs, promoted economic development, and changed the way many New Yorkers and visitors experience this amazing city.”

The New York City Economic Development Corporation released new data as well, showing that ridership on the East River Ferry reached an all-time high in 2016 with a total of 1,584,149 trips, an increase of 8 percent over 2015. In addition to the expansion to Astoria, new landings will open in Rockaway and Gantry Plaza State Park in the summer.

“This growing demand is one of the reasons we're expanding ferry service citywide in 2017,” said EDC President Maria Torres-Springer. “More and more New Yorkers are looking to our waterways to get to work or school, and that's led to increased East River Ferry ridership for the fourth

*Continued on Page 44*





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# POLICE Blotter

## Cops search for Flushing grand larceny suspects

**FLUSHING** - Police were searching for four suspects wanted in connection with a grand larceny in Flushing.

Police said that between May 2016 and July 2016 four suspects obtained debit cards and the corresponding pin numbers through the placement of skimmer devices on ATM machines to record account information.

The suspects created duplicate debit cards and made unauthorized withdrawals from the victims' accounts.

Police described the first suspect as a white or Hispanic male. Police said he was last seen wearing a gray baseball cap, white T-shirt under a dark colored blazer, black pants and red shoes.

The second suspect is a white or Hispanic male who was last seen wearing a dark-colored baseball cap and a blue jogging suit.

Police said the third suspect is also a white or Hispanic male, who was wearing a dark colored jacket, dark pants and brown hat.

Police described the fourth sus-



The man in glasses here is a suspect in a series of bank frauds last summer involving stolen debit card passwords. **NYPD**

pect as a white or Hispanic male last seen wearing a black baseball cap, black blazer, gray pants and white sneakers.

## Police seek man who skimmed Rego Park ATM



Police are looking for this man in connection with a skimming device placed on an ATM outside a Queens Boulevard Bank. **NYPD**

**REGO PARK** — Police were seeking a man who applied a skimming device to an ATM outside of a bank Dec. 19. The man in question was captured in images on a surveillance camera.

At about 12:30 p.m. an employee of the Queens County Savings Bank at 75-44 Queens Blvd. found a skimming device on an ATM machine outside the bank. Police responded and an investigation uncovered that an unidentified man applied the de-

vices to the ATM Dec. 17 at 3:54 p.m.

Police released a photo of the man in question that was taken at the ATM where the skimmer was attached.

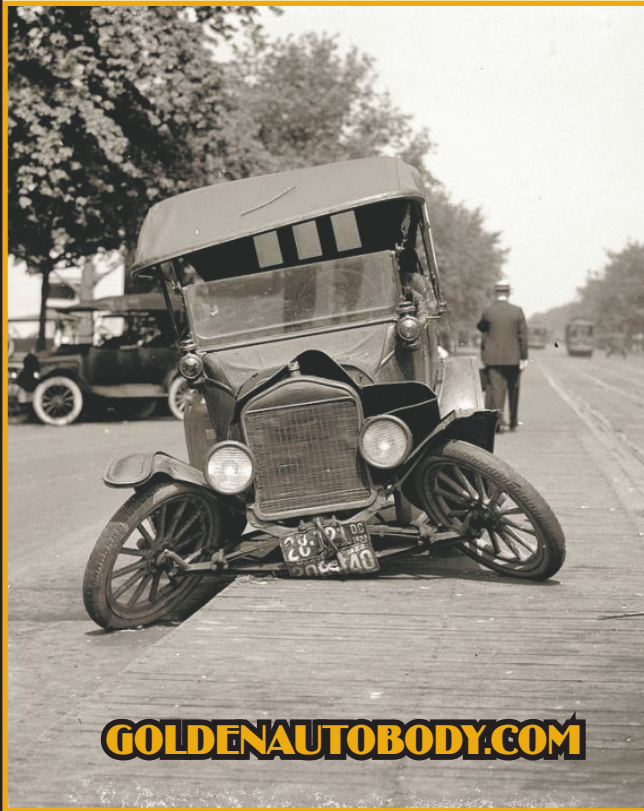
Police encouraged anyone with information about the man to call the NYPD Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1 (800) 577-TIPS or to submit tips online at [www.nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://www.nypdcrimestoppers.com). All calls would be confidential, police said.



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# 2ND AVENUE MIRACLE

Yes, the Upper East Side of Manhattan has hijacked the Q train from Astoria for the stunning new Second Avenue subway, but Queens got the W line back in return.

This was not a completely fair exchange. But Queens straphangers who ride the F train can walk right across the platform at the redesigned 63rd Street stop in Manhattan and catch the Q train on its long journey downtown to Coney Island.

After nearly a century of false starts, New York City got its act together to open a subway line that can make the most cynical of city dwellers proud. MTA employees are working the crowds at the three new stations - 96th Street, 86th Street and 72nd Street - passing out subway maps, smiling (that's right) at gawking passengers and answering questions about the art on the walls.

This is not your typical underground experience and we'll see how long the inspiring settings in the stations can be maintained before the NYC Transit regulars - rats, trash and vagrants - move in.

As a public space, the new stations function as efficient transportation hubs with long escalators carrying riders many flights down. Once the riders enter the turnstiles, the white tile walls on the block-long corridors do double duty as an inviting passageway and a subterranean art museum filed with mosaics by well-known artists.

It's not every day that straphangers stop to take selfies next to artworks depicting typical New Yorkers who confront life on the subways.

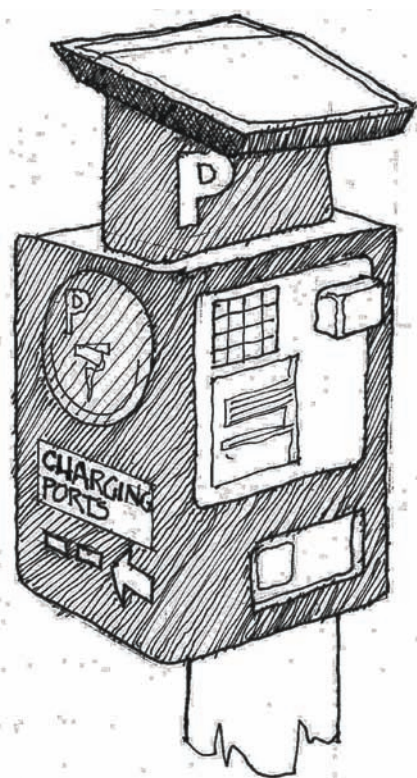
The extended Q train brings much-needed service to the far East Side, a transit orphan since the Second Avenue el shut down in 1942 and the Third Avenue el closed in 1955.

But the real test begins this week. The line's other role is to siphon off 200,000 riders from the nearby Lexington Avenue line, where the notoriously packed 4, 5 and 6 have been carrying 1.3 million people daily.

Only then can the MTA be sure its ambitious East Side Access project to bring Long Island Railroad riders into Grand Central Station in 2022 will work. Adding LIRR commuters to the unrelieved Lex at Grand Central would be catastrophic.

Amid all the fanfare, kudos to U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, the Astoria and Upper East Side congresswoman who waged a fierce battle to get the Second Avenue subway rolling. She, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and MTA Chairman Tom Prendergast made a formidable team and reminded us that miracles can happen after all.

1 PAY WITH COINS  
2 PAY WITH CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD  
3 PAY WITH CELL PHONE  
4 DEAD PHONE? CHARGE PHONE THEN PAY.



TIP 17  
43m

## OTHER VOICES

# Time to join your community board

January is the month that you may apply to serve on your local community board. Community Boards make advisory decisions on many aspects of neighborhood life, including on land use cases where variances and special permits have been requested, capital and expense budget matters as well as issues concerning transportation, education, environmental concerns, parks, health and community facilities, to name some of the areas. Serving on a community board is a non-paid, volunteer position.

Queens Community Board 11, where I serve, meets once a month, except in July and August. Board members are required to be part of a zoning committee from the area

where they reside and are also encouraged to join a variety of standing committees of their choice.

There is an application to fill out and a process to follow in order to join any community board. Contact your local community board office or your council member for further information if you are interested in joining.

The local council member and the borough president select people to be on community boards from the applications that are submitted from the public. An appointment lasts two years and may be renewed by reapplying at the end of each term.

Also remember that most communities have a local civic association that advocates for improved

services and better quality of life in their area. Most civic associations in Queens belong to the Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization of over 100 civic and community groups made up of people who care for their neighborhoods and work hard at building better communities for all residents.

Overdevelopment and inappropriate development are key concerns of most civic groups. I would encourage all homeowners to join their local civic organization. By working together, we can build stronger communities for ourselves and future generations.

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# Forest Hills welcomes 'Hanukkah on the Park'

As the eighth night of Hanukkah met the final night of 2016, a multi-generational and ethnically diverse crowd of hundreds of participants made their way to Yellowstone Municipal Park in Forest Hills, ready to embrace the holiday's miracles. In addition, residents of Yellowstone Boulevard apartment buildings took advantage of an aerial view from their windows.

Now in its second year, "Hanukkah On The Park" featured a grand menorah lighting celebration accompanied by festivities. The event was organized by Rabbi Mendy Hecht and Rebbeztzin Chaya Hecht of Chabad of Forest Hills North, which partnered with Rabbi Mordechai Hecht of Anshe Shalom Chabad in Kew Gardens. Nightly ceremonies on a smaller scale led up to this event's success.

As participants gathered, deejay Jordan energized the crowd with upbeat

renditions of traditional and modern tunes, which continued for much of the evening and included "Al Hanisim," "Ma'oz Tzur," "Ocho Kandelikas," and The Maccabeats' "Candlelight." The FDNY made a dramatic arrival, hoisting up both rabbis, who greeted and exchanged humor with attendees from an elevated platform, while emphasizing Hanukkah's significance. With the assistance of firefighters, the bulbs were removed and converters were installed to accommodate canisters with oil and wicks to light the menorah with a torch, which acted as a shamash (central candle).

"How ironic it is to carry a torch on a fire truck," Hecht said. "Fire trucks, unfortunately, have to take out negative fires, but tonight we will do something unique that is not usually done with a fire truck. We will be lighting the Hanukkah and Jewish flame of Torah, mitzvahs, faith, and the unity of the Jewish nation."

Moments prior to the lighting, he also said, "Tonight we celebrate a single cruse of oil in a temple that miraculously was burning for eight days 2,000 years ago. We celebrate the commitment and sacrifice; the light of Jewish people that has been passed from generation to generation, and it is with this light that we kindle the Hanukkah menorah. Let us light up the world with our good deeds and love for one another."

Hanukkah blessings were sung in unison. That was followed by a countdown to the "Hanukkah gelt" coin drop from the fire truck's arm, with the words "Let's welcome 2017, a little bit early." Hecht explained its significance. "The Rebbe of Chabad had a custom on every night of Hanukkah to give out gifts of coins, but we're doing it our way with chocolate coins."

Saying the park had waited for 5,777 years for this event, Hecht said, "this is the first time ever that a Chabad menorah lighting happened in this park with a fire truck and a coin drop."

The distribution of hundreds of jelly donuts and custard-filled chocolate donuts contributed to a sweet holiday tradition. Then the crowd enjoyed the talents of ventriloquist Yisroel Silverstein, where the story of Hanukkah was portrayed in a few scenes, and an inflatable dreidel character spun around, which was one of the creative methods to help recall traditions.

"With the new 6-foot scaffold, the menorah rises to 18 feet representing 'Chai,' symbolizing life in Judaism, the rabbi said.

The menorah was sponsored last year by the Fischman family and Friends of Chabad of Forest Hills North, and this year, member Mark Weissman sponsored its new height. The event was also made possible by the FDNY including Chief James, NYPD, Parks Department, and Century 21 Department Store.

"This event was accomplished through months of planning, miracles and the divine, and my vision is to continue to spread light throughout Forest Hills," Hecht said.

Attendees expressed much gratitude. Alan Lattke explained, "I have been privileged to celebrate Hanukkah in the U.S., Venezuela, and Canada. Forest Hills' celebration moves me because this community welcomed our family quickly after we moved here. Seeing people from all walks of life taking part in the festivities really warms your heart, and having NYPD and FDNY support us is priceless."

*Michael Perlman  
Forest Hills*

## Milestone for non-smokers at North Shore Towers

New Year's Day started off with a great celebration for the residents of North Shore Towers, the 1,844 apartment co-op in Floral Park, Queens, as it became the largest smoke-free private residential building in New York (another No. 1 ranking for Queens County) as well as the United States.

Accolades must be extended to the board of directors of NST for their decision to move forward with their progressive business decision and plan. They recruited the assistance of a multitude of dedicated individuals from

both within and outside the co-op to educate, communicate and advocate to their shareholders the benefits of a smoke-free apartment policy. That was a crucial step to motivate the shareholders to approve the proposed amendment to their by-laws and proprietary lease. The result of their efforts was an overwhelming vote to approve the change.

North Shore Towers is not the first market rate (or city-subsidized) residential building to implement a smoke-free apartment policy. There are a growing number of co-ops, condos and

rental buildings throughout Queens and other boroughs. But with this addition to the smoke-free column, I hope it will be a catalyst to others living in apartments to clear the shared air in their homes as well.

It should also signal to landlords, property managers and developers that it is now OK to transition to smoke-free premises. You will not be on the frontier anymore. In California, 25 cities and/or counties have enacted laws prohibiting smoking in private residential units. Just ask Related Companies and Dunn Development, which have been in the forefront of building and managing smoke-free residential buildings. If you ask them they will tell you that:

1. A smoke-free policy is a free amenity with no cost to the owner and it makes better business sense than a building that allows smoking;

2. The fire and property damage risk is appreciably reduced by operating a smoke-free residential building

3. For apartment rentals, the cleaning costs are significantly higher for turning over an apartment

after a smoker moved out than a non-smoking tenant.

In addition, although some maintain the belief that transitioning to a smoke-free premises would create a legal liability for them or be a violation of someone's civil rights, the truth is smokers are not a protected class and by allowing a smoking policy to exist, the landlord is more susceptible to legal liability of violating a residents warranty of habitability.

*Phil Konigsberg  
Bay Terrace*

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# Scared to death by science yet living longer



**Lenore Skenazy**  
Rhymes with Crazy

Science fiction: Research shows 'research' just grabbing headlines

Oh to be a scientist 50 or 60 years ago, warning people about the stuff they really needed to know: Stop smoking! Don't take thalidomide if you're pregnant! For God's sake, ditch the Corvair unless you want to get impaled on your gear shift!

Your findings would make headlines and the people reading about them would end up safer and healthier. Score.

But today, the safest time in human history, a time in which Americans are living a full six years longer than even in 1990, you can't turn on your media device without hearing about another new thing you supposedly must stop doing, eating, touching, breathing immediately — or else. Coffee! Lack of coffee! Plastic bottles, cell phones, genetically modified

organisms. Non-organic cantaloupe! My gosh, the Environmental Working Group can't stop warning us about lipstick: "Millions of women get a little bit of toxic lead on their lips each day with every swipe of their lipstick," a press release says.

OK, that sounds scary, but are they dropping dead? See earlier paragraph: We are living longer than ever today, and that doesn't seem to be because women have stopped wearing lipstick.

It is precisely that disconnect that drove Dr. Geoffrey Kabat to write his new book, "Getting Risk Right: Understanding the Science of Elusive Health Risks." Kabat is a cancer epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. He has published 140 scientific papers on the factors that play a role in causing cancer and other diseases. And he is sick of watching the rest of us wake up and get warned that if we do X (it's always changing), we will regret it till the day we die.

Which will be next Thursday.

"You need to make distinctions," the doctor told me in a phone interview. There's a difference between

large-scale, long term, replicated studies and the fly-by-night "breakthroughs" that the media loves to report on.

Kabat is quick to remind us of the big, proven health risks we can actually get a handle on: Don't overdrink. Quit smoking. Lose weight and get some exercise. Go for effective screenings, have your kids vaccinated, and if somehow you can avoid poverty and depression, more power to you: Those are real risks, too.

And yet, that "boring" list takes a back seat to the danger du jour: Drinking hot tea or using nail polish. What gives?

"There is a crisis in the field of biomedicine," he writes, the crisis of "hyper-competitiveness."

We civilians tend to think of researchers sitting in their labs, conducting experiments with only humanity's welfare in mind. But the truth is scientists also have to make a living. That means, "they may feel the need to overstate the importance of their work in order to attract attention and obtain funding," Kabat writes. And increasingly, they are publishing results that cannot be replicated, either be-

cause the studies they did were too small to really measure a phenomenon or were simply shoddy.

What's more, there is a herd mentality in science as in any field. So if some research area becomes a hot topic, many scientists will pile on, in part because that is where the money is, and in part because if your findings go against the grain, you will be on the outs. Remember all the research in the '90s showing that a low-fat diet is good for you?

But it's not if you substitute sugar for fat, as many food companies proceeded to do.

"The large-scale and dramatic change — sometimes referred to as the SnackWell phenomenon — has been credited with making a substantial contribution to increasing rates of obesity," says Kabat.

Another problem plaguing modern science — or those of us trying to make sense of it — is the fact that with ever more sensitive instruments, scientists can measure ever smaller stuff. So when, for instance, we hear that there are trace elements of a toxin in our blood, we tend to think,

"Yikes!" Not, "I wonder how important one drop in a trillion is?" (Answer: It isn't. It's like one drop of poison in 20 Olympic pools).

The result of a flood of studies, shoddy research, scientific groupthink and the media's mania for scaring us means that "a high percentage of [Americans] worry about risks for which there is little persuasive support," Kabat writes. "The latter include pesticide residues on produce, food additives, genetically modified foods, stress and hormones in beef."

Holy modified mangoes! Those aren't about to kill us?

See above again: Longest lifespans in history.

So how can we know what headlines to trust and which to ignore? Here is Kabat's rule of thumb, one that I am going to adopt: "The more dramatic the result, the less likely it is to be true."

*Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker, author of the book and blog Free-Range Kids, and a contributor at Reason.com.*

## Conservative Party expects great things from Trump



**William Lewis**  
Political Action

The New York State Conservative Party, at its state committee meeting earlier this year, endorsed Donald Trump for president.

Mike Long, the state chairman of the Conservative Party, felt that there were two issues that dominated the campaign. These were the national economy and illegal immigration.

In terms of the economy,

Long believes Trump will give important direction to increasing jobs for Americans, which will boost our prosperity. Long thinks that improving the economy will help make America great. He believes that economic growth, by improving the job structure, will strongly benefit the United States.

Long thinks Trump will grow in political importance and expects the Conservative Party to support the administration and work with President Trump. It is a time when we have an opportunity to improve our country's economy.

Earlier in 2016 Trump helped rally people to the conservative cause. His ac-

tions gave a political base on which to operate for future political gains.

Long, in his many years as state chairman, has supported many winning candidates. This time he has backed a major presidential candidate who has been victorious.

He indicated that an important factor in gaining a majority of voters were the rallies that dominated Trump's campaign appearances. It gave voters a chance to attend the rallies and participate in a growing movement. The 2016 election brought out an unusual number of people who participated in the political presidential campaign.

I have never seen a campaign season like this where people took the election process as seriously as they did. It is hard to find a campaign in which citizens contributed so much in time and resources.

It will be interesting to see what the future holds politically. Questions arise as to whether it is possible to continue this type of political success. It has helped create a growing conservative movement.

In the final analysis, if there is success in bringing us a winning economy, Trump's public political strength will increase immeasurably. We have never had a president with the type

of business background that Trump holds.

Blue collar workers have been mainly supporting the Democratic Party since the 1930s. This year, however, they have overwhelmingly joined the Trump conservative movement. The next four years will tell the story of how the new movement turns out. We will find out if it is the political success that a significant amount of people believe in. We have seen a political group take over the U.S. government with many promises that could lead to success. We wish that that can be true.

Let us hope that we will have a peaceful transition as we move forward.

# Obama: mixed marks but A for civility



Tom Allon  
■  
*Mayored  
Spin Cycle*

In high school I excelled in humanities subjects like English and history, but found math and science much more difficult.

I suspect President Obama was generally one of those humanities people, too. In the same vein, he has been a president with relative strengths and weaknesses — strong on domestic social and economic issues but lackluster in the foreign policy department.

After eight years of no scandal or major screwups (“No drama Obama” was a campaign mantra), he passes the torch soon to his antithesis — the 24-7 drama queen who is likely to undo much of Obama’s legacy.

Nonetheless, herewith is the final report card of President

Barack Obama, a good man who indisputably restored intelligence and integrity to the White House.

## The Economy: A-minus

Let’s rewind the tape to September 2008, just two months before Obama was elected: the U.S. economy was on the precipice of an epic meltdown.

Obama stepped into a tornado and calmly and confidently brought order. Through bailouts, stimulus spending and a rescue of the failing auto industry, Obama set the economy back on the right course. Since then a steadily improving job market with little inflation and historic low gas prices has allowed the United States to be the only developed economy to buffet the tempestuous global headwinds.

## Social progress and civil rights:

A-minus

Once again, the stellar student turned in an incredibly impressive performance. He was a little late to the party on gay marriage, but thanks to his VP buddy Joe Biden, the presi-

dent finally did the right thing. He pursued progressive policies on family leave, overtime rules, the minimum wage and other socially responsible items and was largely successful. His signature social policy, Obamacare, was a good idea that wasn’t executed flawlessly and is now exposed to GOP repeal.

## Foreign Policy: C-minus

This was the president’s toughest subject and his record is mixed, at best. On the positive side of the ledger, he did not plunge our country into reckless adventures overseas like his witless predecessor, and he largely wound down the interminable wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. And he impressively took down Osama bin Laden. But during his tenure, Russia once again became ascendant and is now punching way above its weight category. Obama did little to check Putin’s rise and his last-minute sanctions are a case of *way* too little, *way* too late. The president took a firm position with Iran, perhaps the most evil country on the planet,

and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. In his zeal to negotiate a treaty before his tenure ended, Obama prematurely lifted economic sanctions that had just begun to cripple Iran and allowed leaders there to use that money to sow more chaos in Syria. Like so many presidents before him, the Middle East proved bedeviling to Obama, and in his final days he took a bold step and attempted to apply pressure on Israel to stop allowing new settlements in the West Bank. This was another misguided, last ditch effort that reeked of desperation. One wishes the president would have shown as much foreign policy backbone in his whole tenure that he tried to show in his last month in office.

## Democratic Party Building: F

The president leaves behind a decimated Democratic Party and as the leader of the donkeys for eight years, all blame stops at his doorstep. Entrusting his legacy to a flawed candidate like Hillary Clinton was a huge mistake in hindsight. Letting Rahm

Emanuel go to Chicago to ruin his political career proved calamitous on other fronts: since Rahm left his post as Obama’s chief of staff the Dems have been on a precipitous decline in winning legislative seats. And don’t look now, but less than one-third of the country’s state houses are led by Democrats. A political bloodbath of epic proportions.

In conclusion, President Obama’s Report Card, while a mixed one, does not give the president and his family their due in improving America’s standing both domestically and internationally — after eight years of civility and ethical behavior, we are going to miss their class and dignity.

Buckle your seat belts, here comes the incoming class of freshman and a new leader who will surely need to be graded very frequently.

Let’s hope he is a fast learner.

*Tom Allon is president of City & State, NY, and a former candidate for mayor of New York City.*

# A happy farewell to nation’s lecturer-in chief



Bob Friedrich  
■  
*On Point*

New York City and Queens voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Clinton to carry on the legacy of President Obama. For Obama supporters, her loss was catastrophic, and for Trump supporters it was auspicious. For me, it is more about the departure of a lecturer-in-chief who has spent eight years of endlessly lecturing us on topics of race, gender identity, guns, Israel and radical extremism, just to name a few. Thankfully, this will soon come to an end.

Early in the Obama administration it became evident to me the derision directed towards average Americans living outside the DC bubble when the president lectured to us that people in small towns

“get bitter and cling to their guns or religion.” Even for those like me who never held a gun or are not particularly religious, it was obvious that this viewpoint showed real contempt for folks living outside the beltway. I guess the omnipresent rhetoric of inclusion simply didn’t include these folks.

I especially will not miss the White House lectures about America’s troubled past. Those lessons were taught well and with appropriate context in high school and college. Nor do we need to be scolded like naughty schoolchildren that “we all harbor implicit racial bias.” The lecturing continued unabated, speech after speech. Most recently, Secretary of State John Kerry speaking for the administration lectured us in a rambling speech of more than an hour that Israeli settlements are the real impediment to peace in the Middle East — not the single-minded desire of their neighbors to eradicate the sovereign country of Israel

from the face of the earth.

Thankfully, the lecturing and infantilizing of adults by the White House administration will end on Jan. 20. But the epidemic of infantilizing the population did not start with Mr. Obama and remains alive and well here in NYC.

In the wake of the November presidential election, the de Blasio administration Dec. 1 sent an email to city workers offering mental health resources for those “feeling distressed or vulnerable following the election results.” The concept that adults are incapable of functioning in the wake of their presumed candidate losing an election is preposterous and not a “mental health” problem that should burden New York taxpayers. The contempt shown for these employees by suggesting they’re cognitively impaired and incapable of dealing with the results of an election not going their way is stunning.

This paternalism simply did not exist when Republicans lost in the prior two presidential

elections or when Democrats lost in the two prior to that. Half of the United States population has been dealing with their candidate losing -- without having to seek medical care -- for more than two centuries.

President-Elect Trump, who has never been a politician, speaks to voters very differently — something many folks, including the mainstream media, may be having a hard time adjusting to. The voters who propelled him into office and moved the Rust Belt from blue to red understand that Trump does not speak like a politician whose every phrase is contrived and poll-tested. Rather, he speaks like most of us, in a clear vernacular with a bit of New York hubris, that we’re simply not used to hearing from a politician.

Let me give you an example. As a civic leader, I may comment about a new McMansion being built and say, “This is the biggest house in the neighborhood.” That doesn’t mean that I have measured every single

house in order to state with mathematical certainty that it is the biggest house. What is meant and what is understood is that this is a very big house that is out of character with the neighborhood. This is how people speak and understand each other unless they have spent a lifetime in politics.

We have been subjected to this relentless lecturing for many years which reached imperious heights with President Obama. It is all about to change drastically with a president who speaks or tweets to the electorate as adults, as equals rather than citizens in need of transformation into someone else’s idea of a “better” person. These competing visions of leadership and communication will completely change on Jan. 20. Listen closely and draw your own conclusions.

*Bob Friedrich is President of Glen Oaks Village, a civic leader and former candidate for the NYC Council*



## Winter Wonderland Event at NYC Health + Hospitals Brings Joy to Pediatric Patients

NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst recently held its second annual "Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway and Healthy Holiday Fair." The hospital's Department of Social Work and Child Life Program host the event for local parents and families who may need extra help providing gifts for their children around the holidays. Parents chose from a variety of generously donated toys, and had them gift-wrapped by hospital staff and volunteers. This year the toy giveaway provided free gifts for more than 150 children. Elmhurst pediatricians and nutritionists were joined by representatives from FDNY and the Department of Transportation to offer parents information for a safe and healthy holiday season. Toys were generously donated by local businesses, nonprofits, and community groups.



NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst's Child Life Specialists, physicians, nutritionists, volunteers, and other staff gather to organize activities for the facility's annual "Winter Wonderland" toy donation event for pediatric patients.



A parent of an Elmhurst pediatric patient receives children's gifts for the holidays.



Pediatric patients and their parents had the chance to select free gifts from toys donated to the hospital

# Straphangers Campaign ranks 7 one of city's best

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

For the first time in the history of the Straphangers campaign, it's a three-way tie for the best subway in the New York City transit system.

The transit advocacy group's State of the Subways report card said the No. 1, No. 7 and L trains had a MetroCard rating of \$2.05. The No.1 was less crowded and cleaner than average, the No. 7 had less frequent breakdowns and cleaner interiors and the L provided the most accurate and nearly perfect car announcements.

The survey covered six different performance measures tracked in all or the last half of 2016.

The No. 5 and the A lines tied as worst performers in the subway system with a MetroCard rating of only \$1.50 each reflecting their irregular service.

The No. 5 was the second most crowded in the city's subway system. The A had less frequent midday service than the average subway line and had breakdowns at an above-average rate.

The Straphangers said its survey indicated what riders want:

"They want short waits, trains that arrive regularly, a clean car and understandable announcements that tell them what they need to know," the report said.

Some disparities among subway train



The No. 7 train is voted by riders as one of the best lines in the city.

Photo by Michael Shain

performance:

Breakdowns: The Q had the best record on delays caused by mechanical breakdowns, but was found to be the dirtiest line. The 7 line had 99 percent of its cars ranked as clean.

Degree of crowding: The No. 4 was the worst at 112 percent in crowding during peak morning rush hour. The R was least crowded at 72 percent.

Scheduled Service:

The Nos. 6 and 7 provide the most scheduled service with average waits of 2-1/2 minute intervals in-between while the C provided waits averaging nine minutes plus.

The G had the best record for regular service, while the most irregular performance was turned in by the No. 5.

## MTA Chairman Prendergast ready to retire in early 2017

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Thomas Prendergast, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority since 2013 who presided at the opening of the Second Avenue subway in recent days, has confirmed his intent to resign within weeks as head of the sprawling transit system.

"Opening the Second Avenue subway this weekend was a crowning achievement for the MTA and I am proud to have been part of such a historic moment," Prendergast said in a statement released through Gov. Cuomo's office.

The governor, who heavily promoted completion of the long delayed Second Avenue project, said Prendergast "will be remembered for improving the commute, and the lives, of millions of New Yorkers who depend on our mass transit system."

Prendergast, a native of Chicago, spent more than 25 years with the MTA, where he was president of New York City Transit overseeing the subways and bus-

es and later the head of the Long Island Rail Road.

He took over the the MTA when Joseph Lhota resigned as head of the MTA to enter politics as the Republican candidate for mayor in 2012. CHECK

Prendergast pushed hard to obtain \$29 billion in capital funds to expand the city's transit system. He has also won kudos for bringing the damaged system back into operation after Hurricane Sandy flooded the East Side tunnels, took the A train out of service to the Rockaways and shut down subway stations in Lower Manhattan.

But his most visible and widely celebrated achievement was the opening of the Second Avenue subway after nearly 100 years on various drawing boards under many administrations.

The on-time completion of the Second Avenue Subway would have been impossible without Tom'd leadership and relentless commitment to meeting the goal and is an incredible way to end his long and successful career," Cuomo said.



# Student of Distinction

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**January 2017**

**Emma Meade**

**The Mary Louis Academy  
Jamaica Estates, Queens**

We commence our 2017 Student of Distinction year by highlighting the successes of Emma Meade, who is both a scholar and a varsity/junior varsity athlete. Our honoree is ranked #4 within the academically-challenging environment that is the standard at The Mary Louis Academy. Emma is an active member of the National Honor Society and was inducted into the Language Other Than English Honor Society. Due to her academic prowess, she was selected to attend TMLA on a partial scholarship, which is awarded on the basis of a competitive diocesan entrance examination.

Confidence the endowment would be well-used and well-deserved have proven to be accurate. During her attendance at TMLA, Emma has enrolled in eight Advanced Placement courses. The AP work completed thus far comprises World History I and II, History, and Physics. Currently, in her senior year, Emma is enrolled in AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Statistics and AP English. Special mention, however, must be given to the grades she has earned for the AP coursework completed: 96, AP History; 95, AP Physics; and 95, AP World History II.

High grades in AP courses are rewarded with college credits. The enviable GPA also propels students onto the Principal's List. Emma has sustained membership on the Principal's List each semester while at TMLA.

Her achievement in a wide variety of subjects comes as no surprise to English teacher Joseph Brennan. Brennan enthuses, "Emma is consistently well prepared for class. She possesses a fierce, probing intelligence, and a delightfully unique point of view. She is always attentive, well-mannered, and willing to learn new things. She performed so well in my class that I recommended her for Senior



**Emma Meade**

Year AP English, where she continues to thrive."

Religious Studies teacher Michael McCarthy agrees with Brennan's assessment of this star student and states, "Emma exhibits a strong interest and enthusiastic presence. She engages fully in class activities and discussions and is thoughtful, self-assured and a hard-working young woman who possesses a positive temperament. Emma is viewed by her peers as a leader."

Leadership is a characteristic that propels one to strive ever harder. According to Maria Venturino, School Counselor, Emma possesses leadership qualities also due to her athletic capabilities. "Emma is an avid sport player. She is a member of Varsity Swimming and Varsity Softball, as well as a member of the Junior Varsity Basketball Team. Dedication to swimming is evidenced by her taking time to volunteer as a swimming coach for Rockaway Beach CYO," explains Ms. Venturino.

Swimming is something to which Emma is dedi-

cated. She has participated in swimming – and softball – since sixth grade. Each year, she bolsters her talent in these two sports through eight hours or more of weekly practice. In other words, Emma has dedicated hundreds of hours in the pool and on the playing field. She also worked as a lifeguard at Rockaway Beach during the summer.

Structured time in the pool has been rewarded by membership on the Catholic High School Athletic Association's State Swim Team for the past three years. She qualified for placement for the State meet in relays. The team went on to place fifth in State overall.

Another extracurricular activity Emma actively engages in is the Irish Club, for which she has served as Treasurer. The club's members are inspired by an understanding of Irish history, culture, and traditions. At each meeting, members share their roots through step dancing, music, literature, and experiences of visiting the Emerald Isle.

Discussing Emma's achievements with Ms. Venturino elicited the following affirmation of excellent character, "Smart, decisive and mature are the first words that come to mind when describing senior Emma Meade. She is an avid swimmer but loves all kinds of sports, specifically beach volleyball and surfing. She also finds the time to give back and volunteers at several swimming clubs including the CYO swim team. Emma and her family were affected first hand by Hurricane Sandy several years back. That experience has taught her to not take things for granted and to keep things balanced, enjoying time with family and friends, while also focusing on academics."

Moving forward Emma wishes to pursue studying Mechanical Engineering at one of the following top tier schools: New York's Cornell University or S.U.N.Y. Binghamton; Quinnipiac, which is located in Connecticut; or Loyola University Maryland. We are certain she will swim to the highest echelon at any university fortunate enough to enroll her!



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Hello, Back pain and sciatica can completely ruin your life...I've seen it many times.

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- ✓ **It can mess up your work or force you to do a job you don't want to do...**
- ✓ **It can ruin your travel plans...**
- ✓ **And it can take away your ability to live life...having to rely on others... or to wait for you to sit down for a minute.**



And less movement and enjoying of life can lead to depression, increased stress and a sedentary lifestyle (mostly sitting...not moving much), which leads to bigger health problems...and life problems. Here at The Physical Therapy Doctor, we've helped 100's of people from right here in Bayside...and the rest of Queens County...who have suffered needlessly with lower back pain and sciatica...it's our specialty.

**So by request, I'm hosting a Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop here at The Physical Therapy Doctor, January 21 at 1pm. We are located in the beautiful Bay Terrace Shopping Center at 212-73 26th Ave, Bayside.**

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- ✓ **The Single Biggest #1 Mistake back pain and sciatica sufferers make which actually stops them from healing...**
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Call our office to register at 718-747-2019.

When you register, we will mail you The Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet, which you will bring with you to the event. We only have 20 seats available for the event... and this will be going out in Queens Newspapers and postcards to 5,000 people.

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**How Much Is It to Attend? ITS FREE!**

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All 20 attendees for the Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop will receive a Special Report: **"The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica."**

Looking forward to seeing you there, **Dr. Robert Morea - PT**  
Owner of The Physical Therapy Doctor in Bayside, Queens

**PS – The first 10 People to call  
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"Pain Free Motion"**



# Rich Hill gunman killed older brother

BY GINA MARTINEZ

A Guyanese man was shot and killed while visiting New York for his grandmother's funeral when he and his brother were robbed early Monday morning in Richmond Hill, police said.

It was the first homicide of the year in the city.

At 3:25 a.m. police arrived outside 104-32 124th St. where they found 31-year-old Ricky Kalisaran with a gunshot wound in the chest and his brother Sunny, 24, with a gunshot wound to his back. The brothers were taken to Jamaica Hospital, where the older Kalisaran was pronounced dead and his brother Sunny was in stable condition, police said.

According to police, the brothers were walking toward their car after leaving The Underground Lounge, a bar one block away on 123rd Street near Liberty Avenue when they were approached by a male who attempted to rob them. Sunny was reportedly wearing a flashy gold chain at the time. The brothers resisted and the suspect shot both of them after a struggle for the gun, police said.

The suspect fled in a dark-colored, two-door sedan, possibly a Mercedes Benz, police said.

There have been no arrests and the investigation was ongoing, police said.

Their mother, Anita Kalisaran, was in tears as she talked to reporters in her Cypress Hills home.

"They killed my son!" she told the New York Post "Last night, he asked me if he could go out and I said, 'Yes, go'. Then they shoot him. He was the best son. My son wanted to buy me a house."

A co-worker told the New York Post that he thinks Sunny's gold chain may have prompted the robbery.

"Even at work, we tell him, 'You can't dress like that.' He's said he's gotten in fights over his chains before," the co-worker told the paper.

"The killer must suffer like my sons suffer," Kalisaran's mother said. "My son worked very hard. He fought to protect his brother. They killed him for what? A gold chain?"

Family members were gathered in the Cypress Hills home Tuesday, preparing to attend the grandmother's wake, which was the reason for Ricky's visit to New York. A \$1,000 reward has been posted by community members for information leading to an arrest.

State Sen. James Sanders (D-South Ozone Park) was planning on holding a candlelight vigil Friday at



Ricky Kalisaran, 31, was shot and killed in a robbery gone wrong during the early hours of Jan. 2, the first homicide of the year in Queens.

Ellis Kaplan

6 p.m. at the scene of the shooting.

"I stand with the victim's family, the Guyanese community and all people of good will to condemn this senseless act of violence that ended in the death of Ricky Kalisaran and injured his brother," Sanders said. "The start of a new year is supposed to be filled with joy and hope, but instead we have a time of tragedy and loss. I call upon the perpetrator of this heinous crime to turn himself in. You will not find refuge in this community. We will not put up with this kind of madness. You will be caught, and you will be brought to justice."

Community Board 9 board member Richard David said he was sad to see another life lost senselessly to gun violence.

"Ricky was just a tourist visiting our great city, enjoying Little Guyana," he said. "Our national epidemic of gun violence is too real in South Queens. It's actually quite shocking and it proves yet again that we have tremendous work to do stamping out this thug life. How many more young men will we lose? My condolences to his family and I join others in praying for his brother's full recovery. I hope we find the culprits and they face justice for this crime."

Reach Gina Martinez by e-mail at [gmartinez@cnglocal.com](mailto:gmartinez@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.



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### Christ the King High School

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#### Christ the King Donates in the Season of Giving Hosts Toy Drive and Semi Annual Blood Drive

Christ the King Campus hosted its Annual Toy Drive and Semi Annual Blood Drive to benefit those who are in need.

The Campus's Toy Drive will provide a Merry Christmas for the children at Cohen's Hospital, (formerly Schneider's Children Hospital) at L.I.J. Children with cancer will receive toys donated by the CK Campus.

Christ the King Community also hosted its Semi-Annual Blood Drive in conjunction with the New York Blood Center at Christ the King High School. Eligible seniors took time from their schedules to give the gift of life by donating their blood, as the New York Blood Center is always in need of blood. Over 100 pints of blood were donated.

Everyone on the CK Campus was happy to help with the Blood Drive and the Toy Drive.

Both events were a huge success and brought much joy to not only the CK Community, but to the many lives that will be saved through the blood donations, as well as the smiles and joy of children with cancer.

"We at Christ the King High School are proud of the students that came out to donate blood and donate toys to children with cancer," said Principal Peter Mannarino. "Christ the King has always strived to instill a strong sense of moral values and civic mindedness in our students and we are pleased that they are setting an example for others."



#### About Christ the King Regional High School

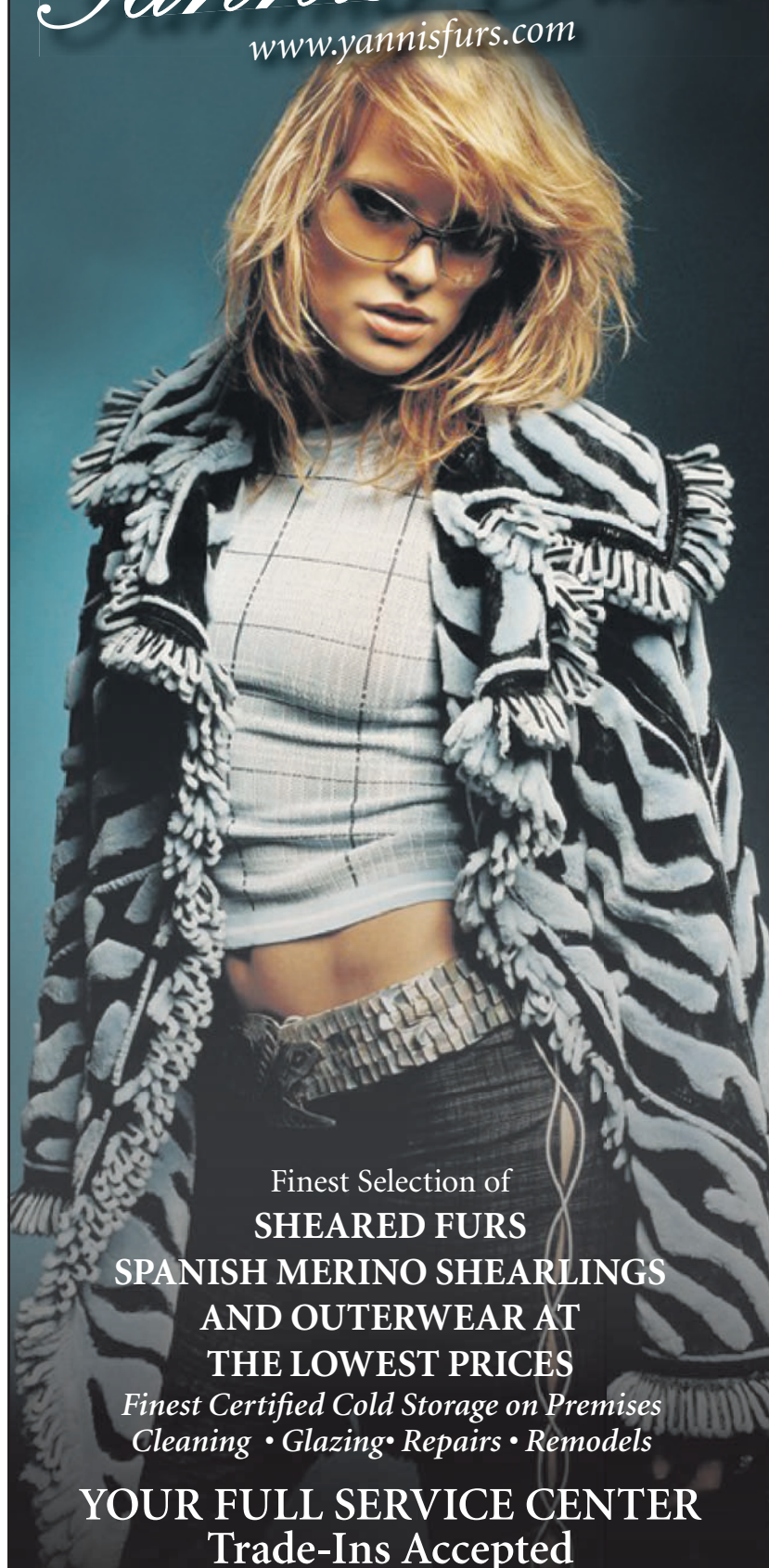
Christ the King Regional High School is a private, co-educational Catholic High School with a 4-year college preparatory curriculum. Located in Middle Village, Queens, Christ the King Regional High School draws students from all areas. The school is accredited by The Board of Regents of the State of New York and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Christ the King's current enrollment is approximately 900 students. The faculty numbers 45.

Christ the King High School is governed by its Board of Trustees: Serphin R. Maltese, Chairman; Thomas V. Ognibene, Vice Chairman; Robert A. Normandia, Vice Chairman; Bernard G. Heldorfer, Counsel/Trustee; Anthony Como, Esq., Treasurer; Brenda Evans, Trustee; Dolores St. Louis, Trustee; Peter J. Mannarino, Principal; Michael W. Michel, President; Arthur Spanarkel, Financial Advisor; and Veronica Cokley, Executive Assistant.

More information is available <http://www.ckny.org/>. Find Christ the King on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CKCampus](http://www.facebook.com/CKCampus).

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# GallopNYC acquires Lynn's Riding School

BY GINA MARTINEZ

A Forest Hills stable has been acquired by a non-profit that will offer therapeutic horsemanship to people with disabilities. GallopNYC acquired the horse stables formerly known as Lynne's Riding School at 88-08 70th Road in Forest Park.

GallopNYC will use the stables primarily for full-time therapeutic riding programs, but will also offer limited riding to the public as a part of its horse education programming. The stable acquisition will allow for a considerable expansion of GallopNYC's programs.

"We've loved working at Lynne's for the last five years," said Alicia Kershaw, executive director of GallopNYC. "We look forward to offering riding at Lynne's high standards. We have a waiting list of 900 riders for our city-wide therapeutic programs and with the additional capacity in Forest Hills we can serve many of them."

Lynne's will be donating all of the horses and barn equipment to GallopNYC. The former owners will continue to have an active role at the stable.

GallopNYC offers therapeutic horsemanship riding to children and adults with disabilities in New York City. According to GallopNYC, therapeutic horsemanship provides proven, measurable benefits for people with developmental, emotional, social, and



The riding school in Forest Park, Lynn's, has been sold to new owners, GallopNYC.

Courtesy of GallopNYC

physical challenges that help riders walk, talk and learn, inspiring them to live their lives as fully, independently and productively as possible. GallopNYC serve 450 riders every week at six locations throughout the city.

Reach Gina Martinez by e-mail at [gmartinez@cnglocal.com](mailto:gmartinez@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

## Staten Island man charged in multiple Qns burglaries

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

A Staten Island man was indicted for allegedly burglarizing six locations throughout Queens, stealing significant amounts of cash, lottery tickets and cigarettes, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said.

"The defendant is accused of brazenly burglarizing various businesses by literally breaking into the buildings - creating holes in rooftops and/or walls to get inside," Brown said. "The commercial locations - grocery stores and bodegas in various Queens neighborhoods - allegedly had more than \$40,000 in cash and merchandise stolen."

Hector Rodriguez, 38, of New Brighton in Staten Island was arraigned Dec. 27 on counts of burglary, grand and petit larceny, criminal mischief and attempted burglary, the DA said. Brown said Rodriguez is charged with breaking

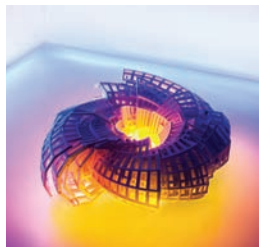
into six different commercial locations between Oct. 8, 2015 and Sept. 15, 2016, all within Queens. Rodriguez allegedly cut holes through the roofs of the establishments or broke a hole into the back walls of the building.

The establishments were located in Queens Village, Woodside, Jackson Heights, North Corona and Jamaica. Brown said Rodriguez was seen on video surveillance at the break-ins wearing a hooded sweatshirt and sneakers while carrying a crowbar and a flashlight.

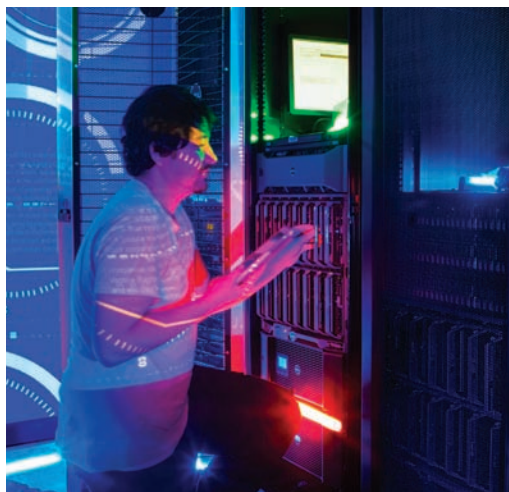
Rodriguez was arraigned before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Toko Serita with bail set at \$100,000. He was ordered to appear in court March 8. Rodriguez faces up to seven years in prison if he is convicted.

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





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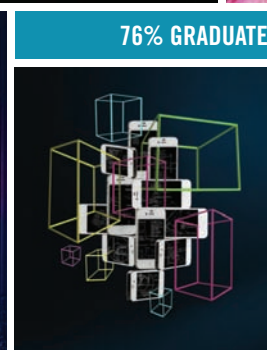
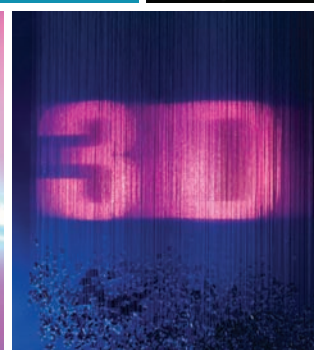


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# Uniquely Queens: Two New Year's Days



The Rev. Floyd Flake conducts the annual Watch Night service at the Greater Allen AME, the largest church in southeast Queens, as part of a New Year's Eve celebration.

Photo by Nat Valentine



For more than 150 years, African-American churches have celebrated New Year's Eve as Watch Night – the anniversary of the night the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect in 1862.

Photo by Nat Valentine



Reverend Elaine – wife of the Greater Allen Pastor Floyd Flake – is famous for preaching about the place of women in the church.

Photo by Nat Valentine



The Hindu Society Temple priests announce with bells and cymbals that the doors of the shrines are open to given congregants a rare glimpse of the dieties bathed in gold leaf.

Photo by Michael Shain



At a station stocked with jars of pigment in the temple, a man places a "bindi," the spiritual dot that signifies devotion and social status, on the forehead of his young son.

Photo by Michael Shain



Worshippers hand the Flushing temple priests offerings of fruit, coconuts and flowers to the dieties, in hopes of good fortune for the new year.

Photo by Michael Shain



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# QCC gets \$1.3M America's Promise grant

Dept. of Labor funds will help students attain credentials to work in tech industry

BY MARK HALLUM

Queensborough Community College received a \$1.3 million America's Promise grant from the U.S. Department of Labor through CUNY's TechWorks to help students attain the portfolio items and credentials necessary to enter the workforce in the tech industry.

QCC was one of three City University of New York community colleges to receive the award over a four-year period starting Jan. 1.

The America's Promise grant will partner with industry leaders, senior level leadership from workforce and economic development organizations as well as secondary and post-secondary education institutions to give students on-the-job experience through apprenticeships, internships and job placement.

One such partner is SAP Software Solutions, which

forms alliances with universities worldwide to develop 21st century skills for tech students.

The Dept. of Labor grant was inspired by President Barack Obama's America's College Promise, a proposal to make two years of community college tuition-free to responsible students and designed to expand and develop regional workforce partnerships.

"We assist community college-educated students to successfully contribute to the production of American workers going forward as well as for society at large," QCC Vice President Denise Ward said. "I believe there is a great deal of potential to broaden our students' view of the business world, and provide them with the tools they need to align their skill sets with what the tech industry is looking for today."

Faculty in the Engineering Technology department will develop curriculum to create



QCC received a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Labor to grow tech student's portfolio while in school.

student portfolios to successfully introduce students into the workforce.

QCC will focus on industries such as information technology, developing courses in web technology, smart phone applications, C++ pro-

gramming and web client programming, all of which will lead to the Queensborough's associate in science degree in information and internet technology.

"This initiative is emblematic of a larger platform

required for students to be successful in the workforce," Assistant Dean Jeff Chen. "We are excited about this locally focused project built on regional partnerships in helping students prepare for the tech sector."

Students who engage in the program will be expected to qualify for mid-level positions making \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year in the tech industry. The program is also open to students with only a high school diploma.

At the end of their education at QCC, students will be able to use their experience in a programming portfolio assembled during capstone courses to show potential employers they have more than just a degree.

Reach reporter Mark Hallum by e-mail at [mhallum@cnglocal.com](mailto:mhallum@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.



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# Homeless

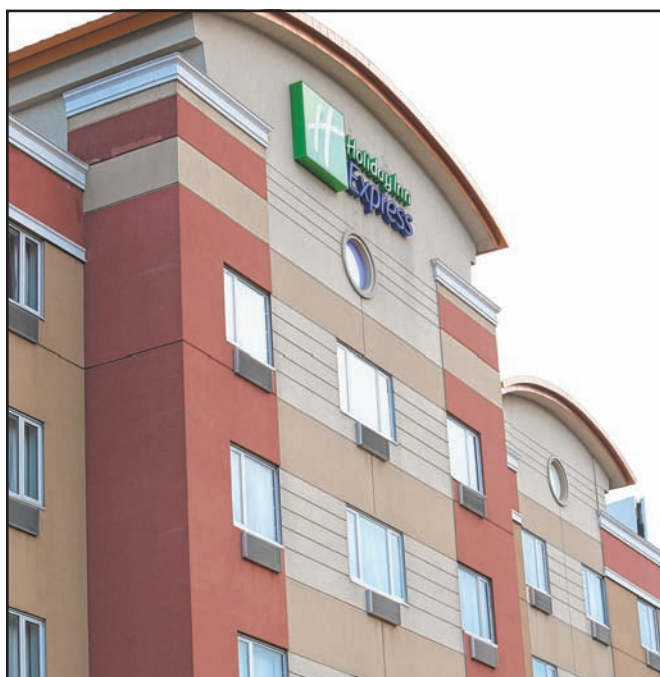
Continued from Page 5

as Section 8 rental assistance, and he renewed his support for the Home Stability Support initiative, a plan proposed by state Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi (D-Forest Hills) that would combat the homeless crisis while saving taxpayers millions.

HSS would keep families in their homes with a state-wide rent supplement for individuals and families facing eviction, homelessness or loss of housing due to domestic violence or hazardous living conditions. The Hevesi plan would cost \$11,224 per year for a household of three in New York City, while the cost to shelter a family is \$38,460 with a net savings for taxpayers of \$27,236 per year.

HSS is "an innovative way to redirect scarce federal and state resources toward those most at risk of becoming homeless," Crowley wrote. "And our city needs a serious course correction in how this problem is prevented and addressed."

Meanwhile, DHS anticipates that the contract for vendors will range from three to



The city announces more hotels like the Maspeth Holiday Inn Express may be used to house homeless people until it is able to open proper shelters.

Photo by Mike Shain

nine years, including options and depending on the financial terms and conditions.

"Clearly, there are ways officials at all levels of government can work to end New York's homelessness crisis, but the efforts of those closest to the problem have fallen far too short," Crowley wrote.

"The de Blasio administration can and must do more to keep families and individuals in their homes, and to help those who are forced out find viable, permanent housing."

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

# IDNYC

Continued from Page 5

City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), prime sponsor of the legislation that created the municipal identification card, is hoping more families will sign up for the program. Nearly 900,000 residents have enrolled in the program's first two years.

"I am thrilled that IDNYC benefits will be expanded to include even more free memberships and reduced-price tickets to the world-class institutions that make our city one of the greatest places on earth," Dromm said. "IDNYC is available to all New Yorkers regardless of gender identity, immigration status or homelessness. It connects cardholders with a multitude of services and is a great way to show NYC pride."

Officials say the city will continue to protect the confidentiality of all IDNYC applications and will not ask applicants about their immigration status. After

de Blasio repeated his vow to destroy personal documents in an effort to shield undocumented immigrants from possible deportations, two lawmakers from Staten Island filed a suit arguing that policy violates the state's Freedom of Information Law. The city was ordered not to destroy any records before a ruling.

"We are proud to be a part of a major initiative that helps immigrant New Yorkers become settled in their new homes and, since the IDs can be used as library cards, to provide people with the resources and information needed to thrive," Queens Library President and CEO Dennis Walcott said. "IDNYC has been so popular at Central Library in Jamaica, Flushing Community Library and our community libraries used as pop-up sites that we are working with the Human Resources Administration to open a third permanent location at the Long Island City Community Library."

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



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# TOP DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

## Using mobile phones

Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell

phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

## Daydreaming

Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Per-

haps they're checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

## Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person's hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting.

Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at

a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

## Reading

Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.

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**TIMESLedger**  
NEWSPAPERS

## MulchFest

*Continued from Page 4*

that I look forward to because it's such an easy way to show our commitment to caring for parks across the city. By repurposing Christmas trees we provide plenty of mulch, which serves to reinvigorate New York City's urban forest. We hope to create more mulch than ever before."

Christmas trees can be taken to Astoria Park, Brookville Park, Cunningham Park, Forest Park, Captain Mario Fajardo Playground, the GreenThumb and Land Restoration Project Compound, Juniper Valley Park and the Rockaways. Last year, more than 600 trees were brought to Hunters Point South Park at the corner of Borden Avenue and Center Boulevard.

"You might as well mulch with an awesome view, I always say," Hunters Point Parks Conservancy President Rob Basch said. "We've got the best views anywhere from our parks and if you've never been to Hunters Point, the kids can play in our parks and you can stay for brunch in one of our wonderful restaurants or at least have a coffee or hot chocolate at LIC Landing by Coffeed down by the waterfront."

For more information on Christ-



Hunters Point Park Conservancy president Rob Basch pitches Long Island City for those looking to "tree-cycle" this weekend.

mas tree collection, recycling and MulchFest, visit [nyc.gov/dsny](http://nyc.gov/dsny), [nyc.gov/parks](http://nyc.gov/parks) or call 311.

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

## Van Buren HS

*Continued from Page 4*

proud of the accomplishments of the school. The city designated Van Buren as a Renewal school during the 2014 school year.

"It's very stressful being a Renewal School," he acknowledged. "But when we make it, as we're making it, it's worthwhile."

The DOE established the Renewal School Program as a way to offer direct guidance and resource allocation to struggling schools, giving each school three years to show marked improvement. Applicable schools had to be identified as priority or focus schools

by the state DOE, have demonstrated low academic achievement on the three years prior to 2014 and have scored "proficient" or below on its most recent quality review.

About 78 percent of ninth-grade students achieved enough credits in the last school year to be on track for a four-year graduation, according to Van Buren's most recent School Quality Snapshot. Grodenchik noted that two Nobel Prize winners had graduated from Van Buren.

"We know great work has come out of here," he said, "and great work is happening again."

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

## Free tuition

*Continued from Page 4*

similar bill in 2015.

"In today's world, college has become not a privilege, but a necessary step for working individuals of all fields," Stavisky said. "Unfortunately, college comes with a price tag that few can afford without burdensome loans. The proposal presented by Gov. Cuomo and supported by Sen. Bernie Sanders is an important step toward equal access to higher education. While families who make less than \$125,000 will be able to

send their children to SUNY and CUNY school for free, we must also ensure no hikes are implemented on students who are paying tuition to off-set the costs. Last year, we were able to secure a tuition freeze for public college and university students — a trend I would like to see continue. I congratulate and thank the governor for his commitment to higher education and I look forward to working with him to better our state's higher education system."

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



# Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



A new play by the QCC Theatre Ensemble, entitled "anOTHER," was selected to open the main stage performances at the regional-level Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

QCC Theater Ensemble

## THAT'S 'anOTHER' STORY

**Queens Community College Theatre Ensemble  
showcases new play at regional fest**

BY MARK HALLUM

A new play out of Queensborough Community College exploring what it means to be the "other" in America was selected to open the main stage performances at the regional-level Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival this week.

The piece, entitled "anOTHER," which took the stage at the festival's main auditorium at Montclair State University in New Jersey Wednesday, is a collaboration between the QCC Theatre Ensemble and writer-director J. Julian Christopher, an assistant professor in the school's Department of Speech Com-

munication and Theatre Arts.

"We are thrilled to be given this opportunity," said Christopher. "Throughout this exciting experience, we read, talked about ideas, experimented with various physical movements and challenged each other. I drew from the interaction of our student ensemble before I wrote the script. During the rehearsal process, we looked to different Hindu deities and Kirtan meditation to serve as a jumping off point. I chose Indian mythology in part because it is filled with theatricality and interpretive storytelling."

The production uses the last names of the actors for character names and tells their stories through monologues and

dialogue. Using English as a base, the show is performed in five other languages — including Chinese, Spanish, French, Portuguese and American Sign Language.

Actors also showcase their singing talent, with music composed by Nirmal Chandraratna, as they swing from ropes and move about the stage. Used scripts are recycled into falling snow.

"I want to lift the veil on theater," Christopher said. "Students on sound and light boards, as well as the stage manager, are on stage for the duration of the play. Everyone comes together as a community in order to be aware that

*Continued on Page 36*



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# THEATER CALENDAR



**Act One, One Act Festival 2017** – The Act One: One Act Festival is a self-producing competition style one-act play festival. The plays are divided into four different programs. Each program will run five times with four of those performances being evening performances.

**When:** Program A: Jan. 13, 20, 24 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 15 at 5 p.m., Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.; Program B: Jan. 15 at 8 p.m., Jan. 16, 25 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 21 at 2 p.m., Jan. 22 at 5 p.m.; Program C: Jan. 14, 18, 26 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 21 at 5 p.m., Jan. 22 at 8 p.m.; Program D: Jan. 15 at 2 p.m., Jan. 19, 23, 27 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 21 at 8 p.m.

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

**Cost:** \$18 at door; \$15 advanced sale; \$55 four-show deal

**Contact:** (347) 978-5367

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

duties. Luckily, her four maids and the Chancellor and Lady in Waiting are on hand to help make her dream come true!

**When:** Jan. 14 at 2:30 p.m.

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

**Cost:** \$10 for children, \$15 adults; \$40 family four-pack

**Contact:** (347) 978-5367

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**Pirate Pete's Parrot** – The play revolves around Pirate Pete, a lovable rogue on a mission to find his beloved runaway parrot, Polly. Armed with an endearing crew of misfits, Pete embarks on a journey complete with songs, sword fights, and plenty of audience interaction.

**When:** Jan. 28 at 2:30 p.m.

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

**Cost:** \$10 for children, \$15 for adults; \$40 family four-pack

**Contact:** (347) 978-5367

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**Princess Particular** – Princess Particular is off her rocker, all she can think about is her latest scheme to become a ballerina. Her Mom and Dad, King Loadsadough and Queen Patience, want her to focus on her Princess

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## sudoku

### Answers in Sports

Easy #6

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

Hard #6

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

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

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

Week 13



# Film fest honors daughter of the borough

LIC native Julie Dash, auteur of 'Daughters of the Dust,' to receive award at Queens World Film Festival

BY BILL EGBERT

The Queens World Film Festival will honor filmmaker Julie Dash with the 2017 Spirit of Queens Award.

The Long Island City native will receive the award in a ceremony at the Museum of the Moving Image on the festival's opening night on March 14.

Dash's 1991 masterpiece "Daughters of the Dust" was the first American feature film by an African-American woman to receive a general theatrical release. It was added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress in 2004.

The indie film told the story of three generations of a Gullah family, descendants of escaped slaves, on an island off the South Carolina coast in 1902 as they prepared to head north in the Great Migration.

Dash earned wide critical acclaim as the writer, director and producer for the film's rich dialogue and magical-

realist imagery. "Daughters of the Dust" also won the Best Cinematography award at the 1991 Sundance Film Festival.

The film will be screened at the Museum of the Moving Image on March 15, followed by a Q&A with Dash.

QWFF will also screen Dash's 1982 short film "Illusions," which takes place in Hollywood during WWII and tells the story of a female studio executive passing for white. The film examines the power of perception and explores the illusions created by Hollywood, as well as the illusion of racial identity. It won the Jury Prize for Best Film of the Decade awarded by the Black Filmmakers Foundation.

Dash's film studies began in Harlem in 1969 and led her to the American Film Institute and UCLA. There she made "The Diary of an African Nun" in 1977, based on a short story by Alice Walker, winning a student award from the Direc-



Long Island City native Julie Dash, the writer, director, and producer of the landmark 1991 independent film "Daughters of the Dust" will be honored by the Queens World Film Festival with the 2017 Spirit of Queens Award.

Courtesy of Julie Dash

tors Guild of America.

Dash went on to a career as a filmmaker, music video and commercial director, and author. Her television films include "Love Song," starring R&B singer Monica Arnold, the romantic thriller "Incognito," and the domestic drama "Funny Valentines."

In 2002, Dash was nominated for a Directors Guild Award for "The Rosa Parks Story" starring Angela Bassett. She has also directed music videos for Tony! Toni! Toné!, Keb' Mo', Peabo Bryson, Adriana Evans, Sweet Honey in the Rock and Tracy Chapman.

The 7th Annual Queens World Film Festival, running March 14-19 will feature more than 130 films from 25 nations.

The festivities start next week with a kick-off party at the historic Astor Room in Astoria on Jan. 13. The dress code is "Festival Casual." More details at [queensworldfilmfestival.com](http://queensworldfilmfestival.com).



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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)

## FILM

**Opening Night** – The latest film from Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda (After Life, Still Walking) establishes a style and tone all its own, alighting on comedy, family drama, and shaggy-dog noir.  
**When:** Friday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$20  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

**Mifune the Last Samurai** – Narrated by Keanu Reeves, Japanese director Akira Kurosawa and actor Toshiro Mifune transform the chanbara film (period sword-fighting movie) into provocative narratives that push beyond the boundaries of the genre to examine the role of the individual in society.  
**When:** Friday, Jan. 6 at 7:30

p.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
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**Sincerely (Atentamente)** – The setting of this delicate and deeply moving film is a retirement home where we follow two elderly residents, Libardo and Alba. As time passes, punctuated by the romantic lyrics of songs on the radio, or the dialogues of the telenovelas that the residents are watching, a love story emerges between Libardo and Alba.  
**When:** Saturday, Jan. 7 at 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

**Out There** – A hybrid of

fiction and documentary, and navigating mysteriously between the two cities, Takehiro Ito's beguiling film follows a director looking for a new actor, so that he can resurrect a stalled film project.  
**When:** Saturday, Jan. 7 at 4 p.m.

**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

**Fear Itself** – Narrated by a woman haunted by things she has seen and cannot unsee, Fear Itself weaves together clips from cinema's most terrifying moments to explore how filmmakers scare us – and why we let them.  
**When:** Saturday, Jan. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

**O.J. Made in America** – Part of the Museum of the Moving Images' Curator's Choice program, O.J.: Made in America explores themes in tracing a

personal journey, from how Orenthal James Simpson first became a football star, to why the country fell in love with him off the field, to his being accused of murdering his ex-wife, his subsequent acquittal, and later conviction for another crime.

**When:** Sunday, Jan. 8 at 1 p.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

**Cameraperson** – Part of the Museum of the Moving Images' Curator's Choice program, Cameraperson is a tapestry of footage captured over the 25-year career of documentary cinematographer Kirsten Johnson.

**When:** Sunday, Jan. 8 at 4:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

**Boone** – Three young goat farmers adapt to the seasons and come to terms with the physical and emotional grit required to

live at the mercy of the land.  
**When:** Sunday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

## The Times of Harvey Milk

– Rob Epstein's The Times of Harvey Milk, winner of the Academy Award for Best Documentary in 1985, echoed its groundbreaking subject by being one of the first feature documentaries to address gay life in America, and brought Milk's message of hope and equality to a wider audience.  
**When:** Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Contact:** (718) 784-0077  
**Website:** <http://www.movingimage.us/>

## EVENTS

### Long Island City Food Tour

– Treat your taste buds as you eat your way through one of Queens' most historic and vibrant neighborhoods with the Long Island City Food Tour.  
**When:** Weekdays starting at

11 a.m.; Weekends starting at 12:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Meet in Long Island City (exact location provided with ticket purchase).  
**Cost:** \$47.95 for children under 12; \$64.95 for adults  
**Contact:** 347-685-4415  
**Website:** [www.queensfoodtours.com](http://www.queensfoodtours.com)

**MulchFest** – Bring your holiday tree to a designated city park to be recycled into mulch that will nourish plantings across the city.  
**When:** Jan. 7-8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Contact the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation for specific locations.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)

**Valentine Victorian Tea** – The Floral Park Woman's Club will hold their annual Valentine Victorian Tea event, we hear guests will enjoy a delightful assortment of tea, sandwiches, tea breads and scrumptious desserts.  
**When:** Feb. 18 at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
**Where:** St. Elizabeth's Church, 6 Harvard St., Floral Park  
**Cost:** \$25 donation  
**Contact:** (516) 775-8496



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## 'anOTHER'

Continued from Page 31

we are all in a play so that it is less emotional and more a call to action. This is an ensemble effort in the truest sense of the word."

"anOTHER" has been performed at Queensborough's Shadowbox Theatre six times

The QCC Theatre Ensemble's play, and those from seven other schools,

were chosen for the festival from among 66 other productions throughout the region.

"The high quality of work by our excellent faculty, students and administrators has led to this outstanding accomplishment," said Professor Georgia McGill, the chair of the QCC Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts. "Our student actors, along with the dedicated support of their

faculty mentors, have a strong record of being nominated for their superlative performances at prestigious regional and national festivals."

QCC's theatre program is the only CUNY institution to be accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Reach reporter Mark Hallum by e-mail at [mhallum@cnglocal.com](mailto:mhallum@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedge Newspapers

Jan. 6-12, 2017

By Ed Canty

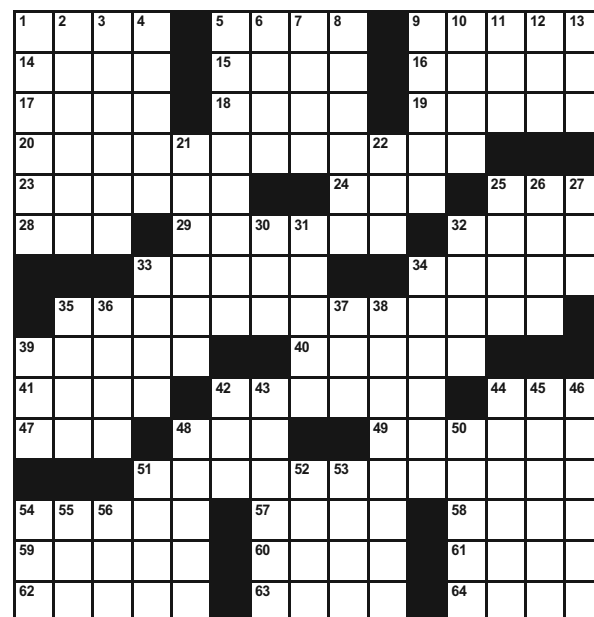
### Vent Your Anger

LAST  
WEEK'S  
ANSWERS

GEOGRAPHIC SHAPES												
SPAIN	BAIT	IMAGE	WERO	RICE	RIGOR	OREO	AONE	ASHEN	TIANANMEN	SQUARE	BIKE	TIS
ALTERS	CFO	EBBS	REHAS	QUILL	UAE	BERWUD	ATRIAN	MOLE	ORE	SIZES	HOLED	RYES
YES	VAR	BITERS	TEA	SETA	ANTARCTIC	CIRCLE	TESLA	WORK	ILIA	ORALS	AWES	FAWS
MORSE	SAW	SWAT										

#### Across

1. Biblical "hit"
5. Actress Kudrow
9. Pub game
14. Wedding dance
15. Guinness and others
16. Brothers' keeper?
17. Promising words
18. "Gil \_\_\_\_"
19. Recipe amts.
20. Risky dough
23. Simple animal
24. Dorm V.I.P.'s
25. The Wildcats, for short
28. Buying channel, briefly
29. Strange trait
32. Oktoberfest order
33. The Phantom's rival
34. He tested Job's faith
35. Edgar Bergen for one
39. Turner and others
40. Ticket category
41. Small bills
42. "I just don't feel \_\_\_\_"
44. Mother's Day delivery Corp.
47. "\_\_\_\_ Miserables"
48. Transcript fig.
49. Carpenter's tool
51. Former Minnesota governor
54. Illegal firing
57. Go yachting



58. "Up and \_\_\_\_!"
59. Smallest
60. Book after Proverbs: Abbr.
61. One of the Simpsons
62. Home Depot rival
63. Queens stadium
64. Pro votes

#### Down

1. Jewish mourning period
2. Web connectors
3. Like some transfers
4. One of the senses
5. Type of retriever
6. Latin's that
7. Clothing line
8. Group
9. Takes out
10. "Dear" advice-giver
11. TD scorers
12. Summit
13. Ave. intersector
21. Depth charge targets
22. Tea Party vote on Obama care
25. Hobby store buys
26. Musical chairs goal
27. Big coffee holder
30. MADD target
31. \_\_\_\_ ease (nervous)
32. Can of worms?
33. Genetic materials
34. Mideast V.I.P.
35. Barn topper
36. Chemical

- endings
37. Prefix with meter
38. Alternative to an exacta
39. Chat room chuckle
42. Pkg. deliverer
43. Doesn't flunk
44. Quarterback Doug
45. Mother \_\_\_\_
46. Playhouse presentations
48. Rest room sign
50. Europe's "boot"
51. "No way, \_\_\_\_!"
52. Per
53. Number two person
54. Pledge of Allegiance ender
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# Business

## Business Center assists entrepreneurs

Women's group paves way for start-ups, well-established owners to succeed in borough

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

The Queens Women's Business Center helps beginning and well-established women business owners throughout the borough with matters both large and small, from acquiring the right permits to networking with other entrepreneurs.

Andrea Ormeno, the director of the business center, said it served as a place for budding women business owners to find support, expertise and insight that could help their ideas grow at an exponential rate.

"One of the things we're trying to do is make women feel more comfortable when they reach out for help," she said about the center, and lauded the networking connections made among the clients. "They share the same struggles. When you're starting the business, it's not easy, especially if you're a mother or if you have another job and have a responsibility."

The QWBC was established in 2001 and is a part of the Queens Economic Development Council. It was intended to help women entrepreneurs develop capacity to grow their business ideas. The center offers individual counseling, training courses and workshops and holds a monthly



Members of the Queens Women's Business Center gather for one of the group's networking breakfasts. The center conducted about 800 consultations last year.

Courtesy of Queens Economic Development Council

networking breakfast where speakers are invited to tackle important issues for small business owners.

Ormeno started working for the QEDC about nine years ago, and said the majority of interested applicants to the business center were startups looking to appropriately regis-

ter and secure the right licensing. Some are also looking for venue space. Ormeno said the first one-on-one consultation helps the center determine what the needs of the entrepreneur are, so the center can best meet them. She said the QWBC counsels about 800 clients per year, and the net-

working breakfasts could lead to new opportunities.

"We're trying to share the stories and empower one another," she said. The networking events are also a great place for small businesses to find clients or potential vendors, she said.

"It's beneficial if you're

looking to promote."

Ormeno said the center was partnering with the Small Business Association to advertise the services the Women's Business Center provides on the website of the SBA, because the SBA's web traffic is far higher. Ormeno proudly pointed out that the SBA had bestowed two awards on the center, and the QWBC had been acknowledged by the New York Women's Foundation. The center also works with area colleges and universities, including St. John's University and Queens College.

The next networking breakfast will be held at Queens Borough Hall Jan. 18 and will focus on taxes and record keeping. Potential business owners who would like to set up a consultation with the center can go online at [queensny.org](http://queensny.org) and fill out an intake form. Ormeno said she was excited about the center's future and proud of its robust growth.

"They want to share these stories," she said, speaking about the business owners. "They're very grateful these services are provided for free."

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

### BUSINESS CALENDAR

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**When:** Saturday Jan. 7 at 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** 41-17 Main Street, Flushing

**Cost:** Free

**Website:** <https://www.queensny.org/qedc/business/events/?date=2017-01-19>

**Compete, Win, and Expand Your Business** - The program is designed to help U.S. businesses expand sales, penetrate new markets, and boost their bottom line through exports.

**When:** Thursday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.

**Where:** Queens Chamber of Commerce, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Jackson Heights

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** (718) 898-8500

**Global Leadership Network Breakfast** - Leaders, business owners and civic leaders are invited to meet other movers and shakers for various industries over breakfast and establish connections.

**When:** Monday, Jan. 23 at 7 a.m.

**Where:** Mela's Cafe and Restaurant, 71-02 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** (347) 475-7158

**Valentine Luncheon** - The Nassau North Shore Christian Women's Club invites all to attend their Valentine Luncheon. Alison Hoffman of the Advanced Hearing Center will be the featured guest. Audra Cava

will be the event's inspirational speaker and Lana Noone will entertain the crowd with her flute.

**When:** Feb. 7 (RSVP by Jan. 25)

**Where:** Jolly Fisherman and Steak House, 25 Main S., Roslyn

**Cost:** \$26

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# Rita Stark

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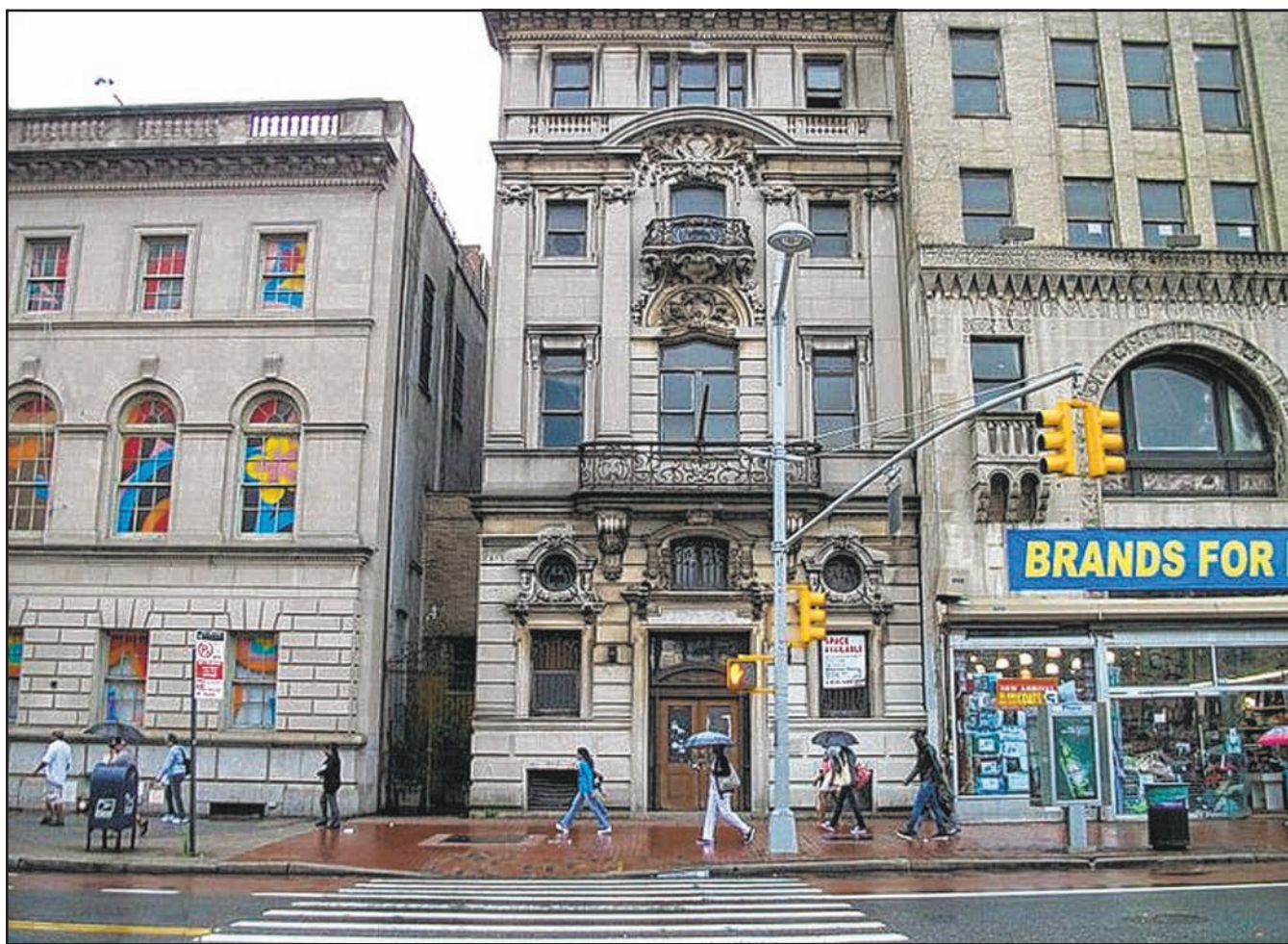
pressed her condolences to the family as well as her surprise that news of her death did not surface for months.

"It was like one of the best-kept secrets in Jamaica," she said.

Stark was also embroiled in the scandal involving former City Councilman Sheldon Leffler, who represented northeast Queens for 24 years. He was convicted in January 2004 of defrauding the city by trying to split a \$10,000 donation into many smaller amounts to illegally qualify for the city's matching funds program - a scheme to bilk \$40,000.

Stark, whose father and Leffler's father had been close friends, gave the donation, prosecutors said at the time. She was not charged with any crimes, but Stark did testify against Leffler and wore a wire to record conversations with him and his staff as a part of a plea agreement. Leffler was sentenced to probation and community service.

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



Before she died, Rita Stark fought for years to prevent the 19th-century Jamaica Savings Bank building, which she owned, from being designated a landmark. Courtesy of [cleanupjamaicaqueens.com](http://cleanupjamaicaqueens.com)

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# Sports



Freshman Shamorie Ponds rises for a layup during St. John's win over Butler in its Big East opener. Ponds finished the game with 26 points.  
St. John's Athletics

## St. John's upsets No. 13 Butler 76-73

BY LAURA AMATO

It felt like turning a corner. The St. John's men's basketball team opened Big East play with a 76-73 victory over No. 13 Butler at Carnesecca Arena Dec. 29. The win represents the first time a Chris Mullin-coached squad has defeated a nationally ranked rival.

The victory came just over a week after the Red Storm took down former Big East foe Syracuse 93-60 and the strong back-to-back performances have St. John's thinking it has finally hit its stride.

"It's a legitimate process," Mullin said. "Games like this are more important for them and gives them the confidence and trust in each other that what they're doing is right. Nothing helps more than this."

The Red Storm (7-7, 1-0) held their own in the first half, going into the break tied at 48, but St. John's struggled to maintain the tempo in the start of the second half. Butler (11-2, 0-1) started hitting shots midway through the half to build a 10-point cushion with just over 10 minutes left on the clock.

St. John's never lost the faith. And, unlike games last season and even earlier this year, the Red Storm rallied when they had to, sticking to

the game plan on both sides of the ball.

"We just tried to stay together and stay poised," said guard Shamorie Ponds, who finished with a game-high 26 points. "When they took the lead, we just stayed together."

The Red Storm clawed their way back into the matchup, making it a three-point game after a pair of Bashir Ahmed free throws with 4:03 left to play. Ponds drained a nothing-but-net three-pointer three minutes later and Malik Ellison followed up with a steal and a slam to tie the game at 69 and effectively knock the roof off Carnesecca.

"I kept saying to them, it's waiting to blow up, give them something to cheer about," Mullin said. "We hung in there and got through some tough times there."

Tyler Wideman put Butler back on top on the ensuing possession, but Marcus LoVett followed with a jumper in the corner to tie the game for the sixth time.

"That was critical, give them credit," Bulldogs coach Chris Holtmann said. "We weren't nearly tough enough in our approach."

Ellison played hero on the next play, drawing a foul on the defensive side of the ball while

*Continued on Page 439*

## 2016's best in Queens

A look back at this year's top high school stories

BY LAURA AMATO

It was a headline-making year in Queens high-school sports. There were championships and crushing defeats, a mixture of highs and lows that made the last 365 days nothing short of memorable. Sports Editor Laura Amato takes a look back at the year in sports across the borough and picks the best of the best from 2016:

### Program of the Year: Francis Lewis

The Patriots proved to be one of the most dominant programs in the city last season – notching a handful of championship berths and setting a new standard for success at the school. The girls' basketball and soccer teams each made city final appearances, while the boys' soccer squad made it to the PSAL semifinals. The softball team also impressed, advancing to the second round of the playoffs, while the girls' volleyball team came up short against Hunter in the postseason. There weren't any champions crowned on Utopia Parkway, but Francis Lewis proved its teams are primed for some deep run in 2017.

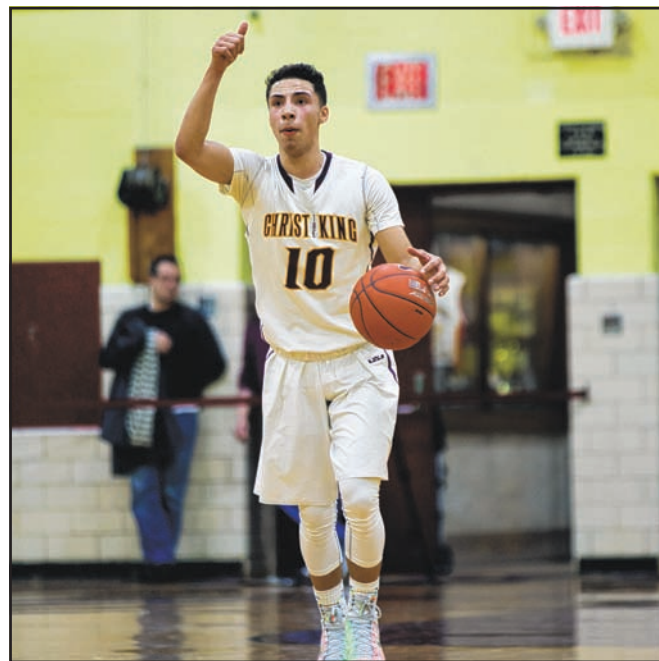
### Boys Athlete of the Year: Jose

Alvarado, Christ the King

He just seems to keep getting better. The Royals point guard led his squad to a CHSAA Intersectional semifinals appearance as a junior and averaged 18.1 points and six assists per game. He started his senior season on a high note by committing to Georgia Tech and has managed to fine-tune his game even more. Alvarado became the first-ever Christ the King player to notch a quadruple-double in a win over Xaverian and notched a pair of 20-point performances to wrap up the year. He has his sights set on winning a championship in 2017.

### Girls Athlete of the Year: Danielle Patterson, The Mary Louis Academy

In her first season with the



Jose Alvarado calls out play during the CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens Championship Game between Xaverian and Christ the King.

Photo by Robert Cole

Hilltoppers, the basketball star made her presence known from the get-go, averaging 22 points in addition to grabbing eight rebounds and tallying two steals per game. Patterson was one of the most highly recruited players in the country this summer, visiting some of the best women's basketball programs before, ultimately, deciding to take her talents to Notre Dame. And she hasn't missed a step since announcing her college choice, leading Mary Louis on and off the court in her final season as the unquestioned spark that makes the roster go.

### Team of the Year: Francis Lewis girl's soccer

The Patriots made history this season – notching the program's first-ever city final appearance. It didn't end perfectly with a 5-1 defeat to Beacon at St. John's University, but Francis Lewis left its mark on the PSAL and cemented itself as one of the team's to beat in the next few years. The squad's defense

was a force to be reckoned with all year and the group – which hadn't played together prior to this season – didn't allow a goal until the final. The Patriots return a good chunk of their roster next year and after a taste of a title run in 2016, they're itching for a championship.

### Coach of the Year: Pat Torney, Bayside baseball

The long-time Commodores leader finally got his squad over the metaphorical mountain this spring, leading Bayside to its first-ever PSAL 'AA' championship. The squad held on to take down Roosevelt 3-2 at Yankee Stadium. The game had some late drama, as Roosevelt put two men on in the top of the seventh, but Torney never lost confidence in his team, which induced a double play to secure the championship.

### Best Upset

Holy Cross surprised everyone with the Brooklyn-Queens  
*Continued on Page 439*



# St. John's women split Big East matches

## Red Storm defeat Xavier 65-48 after falling to Seton Hall to open conference play

BY LAURA AMATO

Talk about a bounce-back effort.

The St. John's women's basketball team responded after dropping its Big East opener with a decisive 65-48 victory over Xavier Monday night. Seniors Jade Walker and Aaliyah Lewis led the charge in one of the Red Storm's best of defensive efforts of the season.

"This was a great win for us, bouncing back from a tough loss last week," St. John's coach Joe Tartamella said. "I thought we did a great job in a number of phases of the game that we needed to improve on and I was really pleased with our effort."

Walker, in particular, was nothing short of efficient, recording a career-high 24 points while shooting 10-of-15 from the floor. The forward also hauled in seven rebounds in addition to tallying two steals and, for good measure, one assist as well.

Lewis, meanwhile, made some history of her own. The point guard was a perfect 5-for-5 from the floor and also dished out a career-high 13 assists. It was the first time



Red Storm senior forward Jade Walker tallied back-to-back 20-point games as St. John's split its first two Big East matchups last week.

a Red Storm player had 12 or more assists since Nadirah McKenith accomplished the feat against Georgetown in 2013.

Xavier jumped out to an early 18-10 lead, setting the tone of the game in the first quarter. The Red Storm quickly responded in kind – something that didn't happen in the squad's Big East-open-

ing loss to Seton Hall.

St. John's rattled off 14 straight points midway through the second quarter, jumping out to a lead the team would never again surrender.

The Red Storm took a 38-25 lead into the break – outscoring Xavier 28-7 in the second period alone. The team didn't slow down in the second half, pushing out the lead to as

many as 22 points on three different occasions during the fourth quarter.

"I thought the second quarter really became the difference and helped us open the game up a little and give us confidence going into the half," Tartamella said. "I thought we did a great job of sustaining it throughout the second half."

In addition to Walker and Lewis, the Red Storm also received solid performances out of Akina Wellere and Maya Singleton, who combined for 15 points in the lopsided win.

As a team, St. John's assisted on 20 of its 26 made field goals – the squad's most assists in a single game this season.

The performance was a complete turn from the Red Storm's disappointing showing at Seton Hall Dec. 30. The team made history, playing in the first-ever fully mic'd up basketball game – viewers heard the coaches on the sidelines and got an ear on the squad's huddles during stoppages of play and timeouts.

St. John's struggled in the game, however, finishing 19-for-53 from the field and connecting on just one bucket from behind the arc.

But as the Red Storm look to defend their league championship, St. John's is confident after the turnaround at Xavier, looking to keep up the solid play on both sides of the ball, depending on senior leaders who are starting to come into their own.

# Early cushion helps QHST boys hoops stay perfect

BY GREGORY ALCALA

The Queens High School of Teaching boys' basketball team made a statement Tuesday – one the squad has been waiting to make for years.

The Tigers took down borough foe Cardozo 88-75, getting off to a quick start in the first quarter and holding their lead down the stretch. It was just the second time QHST defeated the Judges since 2013.

"To be the best we have to beat the best," QHST head coach Mike Shelton said. "Cardozo has been the best in Queens, one of the best in the city for years and they have been dominating Queens. We have to work hard to get this win."

QHST (13-0) brought pressure from the opening whistle, using a full-court attack

and a handful of early defensive stops to keep Cardozo on its toes. The shutdown defense also led to some easy transition baskets on offense with the Tigers' senior quartet of C.J. Kelly, William Ellis, Kion Hill and Jamie Nurse leading the charge.

The squad found a nice rhythm on offense, converting on fast-breaks, long and mid-range attempts, but the collective defense of the Tigers was the story. Their stifling pressure forced the Judges (7-2) to turn the ball over and the shot-blocking presence of Nurse and Kelly didn't allow anything easy inside for slashing guards Dejavaugn Utley and Nasan Ayala.

The Tigers jumped out to a 21-6 lead after the first eight minutes of play, racking up six blocks in the process.

"The first starting five minutes set the pace of the game," said Ellis, who led all scorers with 19 points. "Coach told us to go out with intensity and we started pressing and getting turnovers and converting baskets."

'Dozo did its best to bounce back in the second, sparked by Jayson Robinson's strong performance off the bench. The junior guard connected on some perimeter shots, attacked the rim and, for a while, had the Tigers' defense on their heels. Robinson's layup with 1:38 left in the second cut the Tigers' deficit to eight at 30-22, but the Tigers responded with a big three-pointer from Justin Steed (17 points) to end the first half.

QHST didn't take its foot off the collective brake, in-

creasing its lead to as much as 19 points, but didn't play as sharp down the stretch.

"At the end, I was very upset and I just addressed the guys about that. We got sloppy," Shelton said. "I think guys got selfish, they saw that we had a lead, they started forcing the shots, maybe trying to add to their stat line. If we control the tempo, we would be okay and guys kind of went away from the game-plan at the end."

For as efficient as the Tigers had been on offense in the first half, they were just as sloppy in the second, rushing shots and giving Cardozo a chance to claw its way back.

The Judges made it a 10-point game with just under three minutes left to pay before QHST junior guard Dwight Reed drained a pair

of free throws to pad the cushion and help secure the victory.

It might not have been perfect, but the Tigers waited a long time to get this victory and, most importantly, stay perfect on the season. Cardozo, meanwhile, is hoping to find answers after a second loss that showed some of the team's offensive shortcomings.

"We just got to keep working, I mean we've had some great moments this year," 'Dozo coach Ron Naclerio said. "Unfortunately, they don't realize that it's like a baseball game. You win seven innings and get destroyed two innings and you could lose the game. When you're down 20, it's hard to fight back and that's what happened in our two losses."



# St. Francis rallies for OT win over St. Mary's

## Second-half comeback leads Terriers to thrilling 57-53 victory in non-league matchup

BY LAURA AMATO

Emily Engstler wouldn't come off the court.

Her team needed her and Engstler needed to prove that she can be a leader.

The St. Francis Prep junior proved her point, and then some, lifting the Terriers to a 57-53 overtime victory over St. Mary's in a non-league CHSAA matchup Dec. 29. Engstler packed her stat sheet with a game-high 27 points, 19 rebounds, four steals and secured her team's victory with a pair of final-second free throws in overtime.

"We're the underdogs and when we're in a game like that, we're ready to come back," Engstler said. "Even with three minutes left, Prep has a good spirit. We work together and we played a great game to get the win."

It was a big-time victory for the Terriers, as the squad rallied a handful of times to keep pace with St. Mary's. The teams exchanged offensive runs in the

third quarter and St. Francis jumped out to a 31-25 lead before the Gaels answered, taking a one-point advantage into the fourth.

St. Mary's appeared to hit its stride down the stretch in regulation – notching another seven-point run midway through the period – but the Terriers never wavered. Instead, the squad re-focused its attention on defense.

St. Francis pushed the ball out in transition, sparked by a strong full-court press and matchup zone and started to claw its way back into the game.

"They love playing our defense, it's what they get excited about," Terriers coach Kerri White said. "And they know defense can lead to offense. So that's what they take pride in."

Celenia Roberts made it a one-possession game with 47 seconds left and Dorothy Matinale forced a jump ball just 20 seconds later, giving the Terriers another look at the basket. Engstler took advantage.



Emily Engstler (30) did a bit of everything for the St. Francis Prep girls' basketball team, leading the Terriers to a non-league, OT win over St. Mary's.

Community News Group/Laura Amato

She found a lane, drove into the paint and rolled the ball off her fingertips, tying the game up with just 18 seconds left on the clock.

"We had a play set up, but the way the ball came up it didn't really work," Engstler said. "So I saw a gap and I just thought, I'm going to go to the basket."

The teams battled back and

forth for control throughout the overtime period and the Gaels got a few key buckets from St. John's commit Kadajah Bailey. But St. Francis Prep kept its composure as the seconds ticked down and, in the end, that was the difference-maker.

MacKalay Scarlett gave the Terriers a two-point lead with 1:11 left after draining two from

the free-throw line and Engstler followed up with her own two points from the charity stripe to wrap up the victory.

"I honestly hadn't been making anything, like any shots at all," Scarlett said. "So I felt like I was under some pressure, but I wouldn't let it get to me. I just knew I had to make the free throws."

It wasn't a picture-perfect victory and there were a few dramatic moments, but the Terriers hope the performance can be a turning point for the team as the calendar turns to 2017. And for White, it was an opportunity to grab a bit of familial bragging rights as well. Her father, Kevin, is the head coach at St. Mary's.

"It's huge for us to be able to overcome," White said. "It's big right going back into league play and especially the second half of the season. This is what we want to see. I'm really glad to see that they toughed it out."

## 2016 review

Continued from Page 37

title run. The Knights have always been a dominant part of the Queens soccer landscape, but recently the program has taken a hit and struggled to hold its own against the top squads in the city. That changed this fall. Holy Cross completely turned things around, notching wins over league rivals Archbishop Molloy and St. Francis Prep en route to its first BQCHSAA title in over a decade.

### Game(s) of the Year

Christ the King made a goal line stand – twice. The Royals kept things dramatic throughout the season, but two games in particular stood out during the squad's dominant regular season. Christ the King notched a pair of goal line stands to defeat Poly Prep and perennial 'AAA' power St. Anthony's in back-to-back weeks. The victories were program-defining for a Christ the King team that has been trying to make its mark on the city gridiron for years.

The Royals came up short of their championship aspirations this fall, but the two performances were a bright spot amid



Cardozo alum Dalilah Muhammad brought gold back to Queens after becoming the first American woman to finish first in the 400m hurdles at the Rio Olympics.

USA Track and Field

the season-ending disappointment.

### Story of the Year

Dalilah Muhammad brings gold back to 'Dozo. It's not, technically, a high school story, but Cardozo alum Dalilah Muhammad made her hometown proud this summer, becoming the first American athlete to win gold in the 400m hurdles at the Rio Olympics. She brought her medal back to the school and was honored with an assembly in the same high school auditorium she'd once sat in. It was a strange, surreal moment for Muhammad, but one she'll always remember and one that

will, undoubtedly, go down as a major moment in 'Dozo's rich athletic history.

### Quote of the Year

"At first I was like, 'Yo, we don't know how to play tennis, what are you doing?' But then after practicing with the team, we got better and they taught us the rules and they were very friendly. I'm mostly just shocked."

- Bayside sophomore Shnae Cummings on her sister's plan to play doubles tennis this season. The two were standout handball players at the school and had never played competitive tennis before. They placed third in the city tournament.

## St. John's

Continued from Page 37

going for a rebound. He hit one of two free throws to give St. John's a lead it would never surrender.

Ponds followed up two free throws of his own – drawing a whistle after Tariq Owens hauled in the offensive rebound on Ellison's miss. The freshman finished a perfect 4-for-4 from the stripe in the final 9.1 seconds and recorded his sixth 20-plus point performance this year.

"I was confident," Ponds said. "I was going to the foul

line, just saying that I was going to make these free throws."

The Bulldogs had two more chances to tie the game, but Andrew Chrabaszcz's step-back three missed the mark and a desperation half-court shot at the buzzer clanked off the iron.

It's the biggest victory for the Red Storm in the Mullin-era and while the team is feeling good, St. John's isn't quite satisfied yet.

"We needed this win a lot," Ponds said. "We feel like every game if we come out and compete, we're unstoppable."

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

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

Week 13

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A Queens Quiet Skies leader announces progress in the struggle to mitigate airplane noise throughout the borough. Photo by Michael Shain

# Quiet Skies

Continued from Page 1

to fruition,” McEneaney said. “I was encouraged by the professionalism and the substance of the meeting. I would still like for the TAC (committee) recommendations to be more specific and go a little further. Queens Quiet Skies submitted about 20 suggestions for mitigating noise around LaGuardia Airport, and we would like to see some of those get [adopted].”

The Part 150 Technical Advisory Committee has membership picked by the Port Authority for each community to get input on drawing noise maps in affected areas.

“We’re seeing movement on the part of the FAA where there was never movement before,” McEneaney said, attributing the progress to the nationwide group of people influenced by Queens Quiet Skies who object to airplane noise, which has increased in

many parts of the country.

A Freedom of Information request made by Queens Quiet Skies to the Port Authority found in September that flight patterns of commercial jets making the climb above northeast Queens during departure from LaGuardia Airport have increased and account for about 15 percent of the all traffic to and from the international hub.

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and Vice President of Queens Quiet Skies Brian Will presented the findings about runway usage data for LaGuardia Airport, which Will extrapolated himself.

“Northeast Queens in 2002 had 57,000 departures over it. By 2016, we are on pace for 100,000 departures. That’s nearly a doubling of the departures over this neighborhood,” Will said, referring specifically to Jackson Heights and Woodside, which have seen a seven-fold increase in fly-overs within that period of time. “This is just staggering for me

and we’re getting it straight from the Port Authority.”

The data from Port Authority points out that northeast Queens is affected by traffic from runway 13 of LaGuardia Airport. Two main departures routes, the TNNIS Climb and the Whitestone Climb, bring high levels of noise to the borough. Northeast Queens climbs accounted for just under half the departures from LaGuardia in 2014.

“For a long time, the FAA just said either we’re wrong or it’s not happening or just ignore it or live with it,” McEneaney said. “In the very beginning they said ‘we don’t have to talk to you—this is a government agency.’ And we’re now at the point, four plus years later, where they’re not only talking to us, they’re listening to us.”

Reach reporter Mark Hallum by e-mail at [mhallum@cnglocal.com](mailto:mhallum@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

# Bike ferry

Continued from Page 9

year in a row.”

Citywide Ferry Service operator Hornblower is preparing to transition the East River Ferry Service into the larger Citywide Ferry system this summer. The price of a ferry ride will be reduced from \$4 weekday fares and \$6 weekend fares to \$2.75 — the same cost as a subway ride.

“There’s a tremendous wave of excitement building

as we gear up to offer more connections and more convenience than ever before once Citywide Ferry by Hornblower launches this summer,” said Cameron Clark, Hornblower vice president and project manager. “Once the transition into Citywide Ferry Service is complete, East River Ferry’s record ridership will have a record number of routes to connect in order to ‘Work, Live and Play’ across Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx.”

When the system is fully implemented in 2018, the 19

boats and 10 new landings are expected to serve 4.6 million trips across six routes, providing a new and easily accessible transit option to traditionally underserved communities along the city’s waterfront, where jobs and housing are growing rapidly.

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

# First baby

Continued from Page 1

“And I was like, ‘Push, push, push!’ And the TV was on with the countdown and everything was so, so much fun. And then when we did it at 12:08, we didn’t think we had made it, but after they told us we were so happy.”

This was the first child for Carmen. Nathan’s parents were happy and in high spirits following the birth.

“It was a blessing, and I feel happy because everybody here is nice and I feel special,” Carmen said. “He’s an angel for me.”

“We didn’t know how it was going to be — the New Year’s Eve, or our baby,” Nathan’s father, Luis said. “But the two together, it’s just beautiful. We are blessed with our child.”

It was a tight race for the title of first baby. A few miles away at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, a baby girl named Melanie Londono was born one minute later at 12:09 a.m. weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

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# Fire

Continued from Page 1

that’s lost in the excitement of the fire. Think about all these business owners, people who work in these stores, and even the impact on the neighborhood, for all these people who shop in these stores, that’s the real tragedy.”

Several days after the fire a shocked man stood behind the construction fence put up around the burned storefronts and looked at the wreckage in disbelief. “I shopped here before at this bakery” he said Tuesday. “It’s so unbelievable, I feel really bad for the owner. I used to buy bread here.”

Jimmy J.F has lived in the area for over 40 years. He said the fire was a huge loss to the community.

“It’s the first time anything like this ever happened around here,” he said. “It wiped out 14 stores. It’s an accident no matter how you look at it, but it ruined the community. I’ve lived here 40 years, four generations of my family, so have a lot of people. It sucks, because now you have nothing. It was a good place to come quick to get something from the deli, a

quick slice of pizza, you needed a gallon of milk, Everything was convenient. City Councilman Rory I. Lancman (D-Hillcrest), who grew up in the neighborhood, said he intends to do everything possible to help the businesses affected by the fire.

“My heart goes out to the business owners who lost their livelihood in the devastating fire in Kew Gardens Hills, and my thoughts are with the brave first responders who were injured,” he said. “These shops have been staples in the community, and grabbing a slice of pizza after school at PS 164 was a highlight for me then — and for many decades after. Countless memories are intertwined with these businesses and this loss hits home for so many of us.”

He added, “The road ahead will no doubt be a tough one, but my office is working with the New York City Department of Small Business Service to help them connect with the business owners and offer assistance during this tough time.”

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# Whitestone

Continued from Page 8

“I think it’s important in any neighborhood that people get involved, to know what to look for,” he said. “We live in a world where things happen, studies show when a crime occurs different witnesses see different things, give different descriptions. This program teaches them to give specifics on what to look for.”

The program is open to neighboring communities as well. To participate, send an e-mail to [events@welovewhitestone.com](mailto:events@welovewhitestone.com) with the subject line “NYPD Block Watch Class,” stating your full name, email address, telephone number and whether you have taken the class before.

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**240-242 CROSS BAY BLVD. LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/03/16. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2050. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 240 Cross Bay Boulevard, Broad Channel, NY 11693. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**JULIE'S CONTINENTAL CLEANING SERVICE, LLC.** Authority filed with the SSNY on 12/14/2016. Office loc: Queens County. LLC formed in NJ on 11/15/2007. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PO Box 394, Palisades Park, NJ 07650. Address required to be maintained in NJ: PO Box 394, Palisades Park, NJ 07650. Cert of Formation filed with NJ Dept. of Treasury, Div. of Rev. Comm. Recordings, 225 W. State St., PO Box 308, Trenton, NJ 08625. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

**K C Plumbing LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/9/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 163-24 89th Ave., Apt. 7D, Jamaica, NY 11432. General purpose.

**Kosher Food of Kew Garden LLC,** Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 11/22/16. Office Location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The LLC, 116-03 Metropolitan Ave, Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

**LIC Venture Capital Holdings, LLC,** a foreign LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/29/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 112-15 Northern Blvd., #2, Corona, NY 11368. General Purpose.

**Lucky 888xwt LLC.** Filed 10/17/16. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: Wan Hsuan Tso, 35-12 Prince St Fl 2, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: General.

## LEGAL

**Notice of Formation of Alworks Technologies LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/30/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 11835 Queens Blvd., 14th Fl., Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of Dag 5D, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/23/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 193-38 Keno Avenue, Hollis, NY 11423. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of Errnick Consulting LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 53-47 68th Street, Maspeth, NY 11378. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of formation of FOREVER 888 LLC.** Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/18/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 192-37 Underhill Ave., Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. Purpose: any lawful act.

**Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company ("LLC").** Name: FM Realty Company of New York, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on October 7, 2004. N.Y. office location: Queens County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to Leslie J. Levine, Esq., Ackerman, Levine, Cullen & Brickman, LLP, 175 Great Neck Road, Great Neck, New York 11021. Purpose/character of LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: IW ARCHITECTURE PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on

## LEGAL

11/10/2016. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 102-40 67TH ROAD, #2F FOREST HILLS, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BLACK LABEL DONUTS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/21/2016. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: RICHARD ENG, JR. 220-07 HEMPSTEAD AVE QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11429. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: FINANSIBILITY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/21/2016. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 143 PLACE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/04/2016. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 143 PLACE LLC 13-25 143 PL. MALBA, NY 11357. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: OPTICAL CARE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/14/2016. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: OPTICAL CARE LLC 31-17 23RD AVENUE ASTORIA, NY 11105. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

## LEGAL

**Notice of Formation of NEW YORK PICTURE CARS, LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Law Offices of Anthony S. Cannatella, 53 Orchard St., Manhasset, NY 11030. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of formation of WHITE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/04/2016. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC. SSNY shall mail process to 20720 JORDAN DR FL 2 BAYSIDE, NY 11360. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**NRJ2241 LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/16/16. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 22-41 33rd Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**SB BAYSIDE LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/21/16. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 200-19 32nd Avenue, Bayside, NY 11361. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**Sienna Properties LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 11/21/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 2417 Jericho Tpke., Unit #152, Garden City Park, NY 11040. General purpose.

**York Bridging LLC.** Filed 7/21/16. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 34-02 Laurel Hill Blvd Maspeth, NY 11378. Purpose: all lawful

## LEGAL

**Desai Medical PLLC,** a domestic PLLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 9/27/16. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon

## LEGAL

whom process against the PLLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Neal Desai, 165-21 Hillside Ave., Jamaica, NY 11432. Purpose: Medicine.

## LEGAL

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** "Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to install roof-top wireless telecommunications antennas on a building that reaches an overall height of 41 feet above ground level at 38-01 35th Avenue, Astoria, Queens County, New York 11101. Public comments regarding potential effects from the site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Joseph Schuchman, E2PM, 87 Hibernia Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866, by email to: joseph.schuchman@e2pm.com, or phone: (973) 299-5200. Please refer to E2PM Tracking Number P-16-02-40.

## LEGAL

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF QUEENS  
INDEX # 703719/2016  
FILED: 12/27/2016  
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE  
Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises are situated. FINANCE OF AMERICA REVERSE LLC, Plaintiff, against CLEMENTE J. POLLARD AKA CLEMENTE POLLARD, LORETA E. POLLARD AKA LORETA POLLARD if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said Defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

## LEGAL

and "JOHN DOE" and "JANE DOE", the last two names being fictitious, said parties intended being tenants or occupants, if any, having or claiming an interest in, or lien upon the premises described in the complaint, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: 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 ATTORNEYS 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 SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney within 20 days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, may appear within (60) days of service thereof 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 captioned action is to foreclose on a reverse mortgage in the sum of \$540,000.00 dated December 29, 2011, executed by Defendant(s) and delivered his/her reverse mortgage note to NATIONWIDE EQUITIES

## LEGAL

whereby CLEMENTE J. POLLARD AKA CLEMENTE POLLARD, LORETA E. POLLARD AKA LORETA POLLARD promised to pay the sum of all outstanding principal and accrued interest to NATIONWIDE EQUITIES CORP (the "NOTE") recorded on March 9, 2012, in CRFN 2012000095337, in the Office of the Clerk of the County of QUEENS, covering premises known as 92-25 Vanderveer Street AKA 9225 Vanderveer Street, Queens Village, NY 11428 (Block 10629 and Lot 13). The relief sought within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt described above. To the above named Defendants: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Denis J. Butler, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and filed along with the supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens on 12/9/2016. This is an action to foreclose on a reverse mortgage. 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, Block 10629 and Lot 13, said premises known as 92-25 Vanderveer Street AKA 9225 Vanderveer Street, Queens Village, NY 11428. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. By reason of the default in the payment of the monthly installment of principal and interest, among other things, as hereinafter set forth, Plaintiff, the holder and owner of the aforementioned note and mortgage, or their agents have elected and hereby accelerate the mortgage and declare the entire mortgage indebtedness immediately due and payable. By reason of the aforesaid, there is due and owing to Plaintiff the sum of \$292,966.96, with interest thereon. UNLESS YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOUR RECEIPT HEREOF THAT THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, IS DISPUTED, THE DEBTOR AGAINST



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YOU AND A COPY OF SUCH VERIFICATION OR JUDGMENT WILL BE MAILED TO YOU BY THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR. IF APPLICABLE, UPON YOUR WRITTEN REQUEST, WITHIN SAID THIRTY (30) DAY PERIOD, THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE FROM THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, YOU ARE NOT PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR THE UNDERLYING INDEBTEDNESS OWED

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TO PLAINTIFF/CREDITOR AND THIS NOTICE/DISCLOSURE IS FOR COMPLIANCE AND INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE New York State 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 Complaint carefully. You should immediately contact an attorney or your

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local legal aid office to obtain advice on how to protect yourself. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid, 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 New York State Department of

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Financial Services' at 1-800-269-0990 or visit the Department's website at <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

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they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. Section 1303 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving the 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 may 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

➤ **LEGAL**

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 AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Aldridge Pite, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200 Melville, NY 11747 Our File 27200



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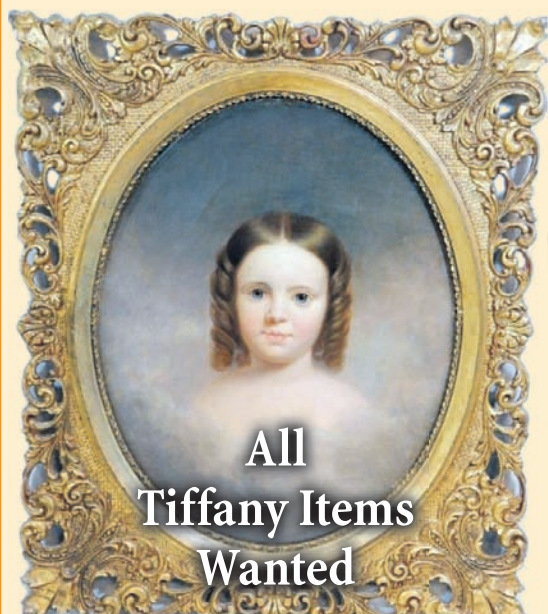
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<b>Boneless Chicken Breasts</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> lb. Family Pack	<b>Center Cut Pork Chops</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> lb. Family Pack	<b>12-16 Oz Pkg Assorted Sugardale Bacon</b>  <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>Fresh Whole Pork Spareribs</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> lb. Family Pack	<b>Sliced Spareribs for Ribslets</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> lb. Family Pack	<b>USDA Choice Beef Bone-In ... First Cut Chuck Steaks</b>  <b>\$2.99</b> lb.	<b>USDA Choice ... Fresh Blade Bone American Shoulder Lamb Chops</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> lb.	<b>Grade A Fresh Perdue Chicken Drumsticks or Thighs</b>  <b>99¢</b> lb. Jumbo Pack	<b>12 Oz Pkg ... Fully Cooked: Breast Cutlets, Spicy Cutlets, Popcorn Bites, Original Breast Strips or Dino Shape, With Cheese or Original</b> <b>Perdue Chicken Breast Nuggets</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> lb.	<b>Farm Raised Previously Frozen Swai Fillet</b>  <b>\$3.99</b> lb.
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<b>Seeded Red Globe Grapes</b>  <b>\$1.49</b> lb.	<b>Tropical Mangos</b>  <b>99¢</b> ea.	<b>4 Lb Bag California ... Jumbo Navel Oranges</b>  <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>Red ... Ripe Plum Tomatoes</b>  <b>99¢</b> lb.	<b>4 Count Bag Hass Avocados</b>  <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>By The Head Dole Iceberg Lettuce or 2 Lb Bag ... US #1 Yellow Onions</b>  <b>99¢</b>
<b>3 Lb Gift Box Large ... Premium Bagu Clementines</b>  <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>7 Oz Cont Assorted Sundia Fruit Cups</b>  <b>5/\$5</b>	<b>6 Oz Cont Fresh Blackberries</b>  <b>99¢</b>	<b>16 Oz Pkg Sliced Giorgio White Mushrooms</b>  <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>5 Oz Clamshell Assorted Earthbound Farm Organic Salads</b>  <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>5-12 Oz Bag ... 50/50 Blend, Arugula, Baby Spinach, Butter Bliss, Field Greens, Hearts of Romaine, Italian, Premium Romaine, Mediterranean, Spring Mix or Very Veggie or 11-12 Oz Bag ... Regular or Light Caesar Kits</b>  <b>2/\$5</b>

<b>Low Sodium Boar's Head Turkey or Classic Chicken Breast</b>  <b>\$7.99</b> lb. Sliced To Order	<b>Key Food Muenster Cheese</b>  <b>\$4.99</b> lb. Sliced To Order	<b>Cole Slaw, Macaroni or Potato Salad</b>  <b>\$2.49</b> lb. Available to Our Service Deli	<b>Reduced Sodium Glenrock Ham</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb. Sliced To Order	<b>Great Snacking Cheese! Store Cut ... Imported Red Wax Gouda</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb. Sold By The Piece	<b>Traditional or Flavored Tyson Rotisserie Chickens</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> ea.	<b>22-24 Oz Pkg ... 8" Baked No Sugar Added: Pumpkin, Sweet Potato or Coconut Custard Pies</b>  <b>\$3.99</b> YOUR CHOICE!
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<b>68 Fl Oz Can 100% Pure Capatriti Olive Oil</b>  <b>\$9.99</b> With Club Card. Limit 1 Offer.	<b>4 Lb Bag ... Granulated Domino Sugar</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> With Club Card. Limit 1 Offer.	<b>16-24 Oz Jar Assorted Ragù Pasta Sauce</b>  <b>2/\$3</b>	<b>24 Oz Bag Assorted Arnold Country Bread</b>  <b>\$1.99</b> HALF PRICE!

<b>8 Roll Pack White: Regular or Select A Size Bounty Paper Towels</b>  <b>\$7.99</b> With Club Card. Limit 2 Offers.	<b>75-100 Fl Oz Btl ... Assorted Liquid Tide Laundry Detergent</b>  <b>\$10.99</b> With Club Card & Add \$10 Purchase. Limit 2 Offers.	<b>15 Roll Pack Marcal Bath Tissue</b>  <b>\$8.99</b>	<b>14 Fl Oz Cont Assorted Gelato or Häagen-Dazs Ice Cream</b>  <b>2/\$6</b> With Club Card. Limit 2 Offers. Must Buy 2.
<b>20 Roll Pack ... 1000 Sheets or 24 Double Roll Pack Marcal Bath Tissue</b>  <b>\$8.99</b>	<b>8.5-10.38 Oz Box Assorted Lean Cuisine Favorites</b>  <b>5/\$10</b>	<b>5.25-12 Oz Pkg ... Assorted (Excludes: Garlic Quinoa Burger &amp; Breakfast Sandwich)</b> <b>MorningStar Farms Full Line Sale!</b>  <b>2/\$7</b>	<b>10.07-15.35 Oz Pkg Assorted Nabisco Oreo Cookies</b>  <b>2/\$5</b> With Club Card. Limit 4 Offers. Must Buy 2.

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<b>13 Oz Cont ... Traditional, Roasted Garlic or Roasted Red Pepper Sabra Organic Hummus</b>  <b>\$4.99</b>	<b>Fully Cooked: Regular, Homestyle, Buffalo or Honey BBQ Breaded Chicken Tenders</b>  <b>\$5.99</b> lb.
<b>144 Fl Oz Pkg 12 Oz ... Assorted Lipton, Mug, Mtn. Dew, Schweppes, Crush, Hawaiian Punch, Pepsi or Mist Twst 12 Pack</b>  <b>3/\$12</b> Plus Deposit Where Applicable.	<b>5-7 Oz Bag ... Assorted (Excludes: Popcorn &amp; Cheese Doodles) Wise Potato Chips</b>  <b>\$1.88</b>
<b>9.5-11.5 Oz Bag ... Assorted Doritos Tortilla Chips or 4.5-10.5 Oz Bag ... Assorted Smartfood Popcorn</b>  <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>144 Fl Oz Pkg 12 Oz Especial Cans Modelo 12 Pack</b>  <b>\$14.99</b> Plus Deposit Where Applicable.
<b>60 Fl Oz Pkg ... 10 Pack Assorted Kool-Aid Jammers</b>  <b>2/\$4</b> With Club Card. Limit 2 Offers. Must Buy 2.	<b>28 Oz Can Keebler Export Soda Crackers</b>  <b>\$3.99</b>