

Lancman wants law changed for city immigrants

BY GINA MARTINEZ

City Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest) is asking Mayor Bill de Blasio to step up for immigrants.

Lancman was joined by lawyers on the steps of City Hall Tuesday for a press conference laying out specific actions de Blasio must take to protect undocumented New Yorkers from deportation under President Donald Trump.

Lancman asked that the mayor use his authority to change the treatment of fare evasion as a civil offense instead of a criminal offense for violating MTA rules.

"It is time for real action to protect immigrant New Yorkers from Donald Trump," Lancman said. "It is irresponsible and inhumane to leave immigrant New Yorkers in jeopardy of deportation, when more logical and moral options for holding people accountable for minor offenses already exist. I call on Mayor de Blasio again to finally turn his words in actions and stop criminalizing minor, nonviolent offenses like fare evasion."

Continued on Page 8

Activist remembered in Corona

Dozens honor street vendor year after her death by calling for better permit system

BY BILL PARRY

Dozens of immigrant vendors and advocates gathered for a candlelight vigil in Corona Tuesday

to remember one of their leaders on the one-year anniversary of her death. Claudia Lopez was an iconic figure in the neighborhood, a churro vendor by the entrance to

the Junction Boulevard No. 7 subway station for more than 22 years, before succumbing to cancer at the age of 45.

"She loved to work a lot so she

was here every day and I think she had a positive impact on this community," said Cesar Boc, an organizer with the Street Vendor Project. Lopez was a member of Make the Road New York, the Jackson Heights-based non-profit that aims to build up working class Latino communities as well as the Street Vendor Project, which represents more than 2,200 vendors in New York City.

"She was a beloved member of the community always involved in rallies and meetings and events," Boc said. "She also invited other people in the community to help out with the cause as well."

Lopez immigrated to the United States in the late 1980s in search of an opportunity to financially support her family as they struggled to make ends meet in Mexico. She began selling churro from a vending cart in front of 96-07 Roosevelt Ave., the very spot where the vendors, friends and advocates gathered to remember her and carry on her campaign for economic and social justice.

They also rallied for the cause Lopez most fiercely advocated for, lifting the arbitrary cap on New

Continued on Page 10

NOTHING BUT NET



Nicholas Carter drives for the hoop during a 3-on-3 basketball game at the Police Athletic League's South Jamaica center during the Tournament of Champions, an annual sports festival held during winter-break week.

Photo by Michael Shain

Budget office examines school lunch expansion

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

Amid calls to expand the free lunch program to all students in New York City's public schools, an analysis by the city's Independent Budget Office found the costs of expanding the

Continued on Page 8



Ben's Best Deli in Rego Park has a starring role in the new Robert DeNiro-Danny DeVito movie, "The Comedian." Owner Jay Parker (r) poses for a picture with DeVito during filming.

Courtesy of Ben's Best

Ben's Best stars in 'The Comedian'

BY KOURTNEY WEBB

New York has become a hot spot for film and TV production. Although Times Square and other major New York attractions are iconic scenes in movies, Queens' shops and restaurants have

been getting their 15 minutes of fame in big movies and television series.

Ben's Best Deli at 96-40 Queens Blvd. in Rego Park is the latest New York star to be featured on the big screen. The restaurant and catering business appear in the mov-

ie "The Comedian," starring Robert De Niro. Owner Jay Parker said although it was exciting to have a film crew in the restaurant, it was also hard work.

"We shut down for two days," Parker said. "The

Continued on Page 10

Sherbee Antiques

Est. 1940

All Diamonds &
Estate Jewelry
WANTED

718-762-7448

ANTIQUES & STERLING WANTED

TOP DOLLAR PAID

We Come To You!

We purchase all Gold, Antiques, Mid-Century & Pre-1950 Furniture, Paintings, Rugs, Sterling Silver, Bronzes, Jewelry, Bric-a-Brac, Marble Figures & Marble Top Furniture, Fine Porcelain, Entire Contents of Estates.

RUGS & PAINTINGS
WANTED



All
Tiffany Items
Wanted



Prompt
& Courteous
Service

SHERBEE ANTIQUES • Andrew Korman, Proprietor

917-748-7622



Queens pols fight unfair restaurant inspections

QUEENS WEEKLY, FEB. 26, 2017

BY GINA MARTINEZ

Queens lawmakers and small business owners gathered Tuesday at Flushing Town Hall to introduce a new bill aimed at protecting restaurants from unfair inspection practices.

State Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Flushing), state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst), Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (D-Howard Beach) and Assemblyman Clyde Vanel (D-Queens Village) said the bill would help lessen the amount of burdensome fines levied on small businesses that can not handle them.

The bill is intended to reform the New York restaurant health investigation system, according to Kim. As a teenager Kim saw his parent's grocery store go bankrupt and close after suffering from what he termed overregulation, excessive fining and high rents.

"My parents worked seven days a week," he said.



Assemblyman Ron Kim speaks out on behalf of restaurant owners and workers.

Photo by Gina Martinez

"Every dollar they had was for their small business and even with that it wasn't enough. That is not good enough for this city. Our American Dream for so many immigrants is based on the promise that if you follow the rules and work

hard enough, you will have an equal chance to succeed. We're losing that promise due to ridiculous overregulation and sometimes the overzealous inspectors and fines that these mom-and-pop stores go through every day."

According to Kim, the bill, titled "The Restaurant Owner Whistle Blower Protection Act," will establish an independent oversight body to receive complaints about health inspectors. Complaint intake will create a hotline and website in

multiple languages, including Arabic, Bengali, and Chinese. Kim said the if the bill passes, the city must provide an annual summary report on total number of independent complaints, what type of complaints and investigative findings. Finally, restaurants owners will be given three opportunities to deny the inspections on site and request a new inspector. Every time the restaurant owner will pay a fee, \$75 for the first denial, \$150 for the second denial and \$250 for the final denial.

"Some inspectors are simply on a power trip and they act unprofessionally," Kim said. "They already have a biased feeling going into the restaurant and they are in there purposely looking for reasons to shut down the restaurant and that's not fair. Sometimes they come in at the busiest hours, not keeping their schedule, and they'll sit there for three, four hours,

disrupting the flow of business to just bully the restaurant owner."

Co-sponsor Peralta said this legislation will save restaurants from being taken advantage of by abusive inspectors.

"I represent a big part of Roosevelt Avenue where people can walk up and down the avenue and taste the different eclectic dishes from all over the world," he said. "Unfortunately, what happens is that from time to time you get these overzealous inspectors that walk in and will try to shut down a business. These restaurants are the economic engines of our neighborhoods. When an inspector comes in and tries to shut a restaurant down because they happen to be bad apples, it becomes a problem."

Reach Gina Martinez by e-mail at gmartinez@cnglobal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

Remaining Astoria tenants fight eviction from non-profit

BY BILL PARRY

The 12 low-income tenants who remain in an Astoria dormitory-style residence were hailed as heroes last week for fighting eviction by a Christian non-profit so the building could be converted to a homeless shelter. Their attorney said they had faced threats and intimidation since the New York School of Urban Ministry told the original 39 residents to leave just before Thanksgiving.

"It's been hanging over our heads that we need to get out and that we're not welcome here," 66-year-old Linda Lane Smith said. "There has been harassment and just the terror of not knowing where you'll be living during the winter season and the holidays. It's just been very traumatic."

Several of the tenants said they feared being left homeless themselves. The Legal

Aid Society filed a lawsuit in Queens Supreme Court last Friday to protect the 12 residents from eviction.

"What we have seen with this residence is another brazen example of landlord harassment that unfortunately is not unique to this part of Queens but an epidemic in every borough," attorney Sateesh Nori said. In the complaint, he explained, the tenants allege that their apartments are protected by the Rent Stabilization Law.

This law gives each tenant the right to renewable leases for their apartments. The ministry is attempting to shield itself from this law as a charity, but it does not meet any of the legal requirements for an exemption.

"For months, I have stood by these hardworking Astoria residents and encouraged them to fight for their rights and stay in their homes," state Sen. Michael Gianaris



Legal Aid Society attorney Sateesh Nori (l) joins elected officials to announce a lawsuit against the Christian ministry trying to evict tenants in Astoria.

Photo by Bill Parry

(D-Astoria) said. "I am proud of their decision to take a stand against a non-profit that puts its self-interest ahead of those it is supposed to serve. These residents have been through enough and should not be victimized any further by an organization looking to make more money off of their misery."

Last month, Gianaris, state Assemblywoman Ara-

vella Simotas (D-Astoria) and U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) urged state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to investigate NYSUM Pastor Peter DeArruda over the evictions of the residents, who pay rents between \$400 and \$500 a month and would not be able to afford market-rate apartments in New York City. Schneiderman's office

sent DeArruda a letter Feb. 23 calling for the notices to vacate to be rescinded until the court reviews and makes a final determination on the rent stabilization status of the property at 31-65 46th St.

"The New York School of Urban Ministry has been talking out of both sides of its mouth," Simotas said. They have received the benefits of tax exempt status -- as a religious school -- and are now attempting to claim that they are a charity and should be exempt from the city's rent stabilization law, which protects tenants from being thrown onto the street. When you quack like a duck, walk like a duck and look like a duck, then you're a duck, which in this case means that NYSUM is plain and simple a landlord, actually a bad landlord trying to evade the law."

DeArruda's attorney could not be reached for com-

ment. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of 12 residents who remain at the dormitory.

"Not only is it incredibly cruel and heartless for NYSUM to evict these tenants, many of whom have resided here for years, it is quite possibly illegal," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said. As a charitable organization, one would hope that NYSUM would have a modicum of basic human compassion for these low-income residents. It's clear that this is not the case."

Gianaris agreed, saying the organization treated the tenants unfairly.

"This is no way for a non-profit promoting Christian values to be behaving," he said.

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



A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

LuHi
Summer Programs®

***Your child deserves a
very special summer!***

**OPEN
HOUSE**
SUNDAY
MARCH 19TH
NOON-3PM

- **FREE Door To Door Transportation from Queens**
- **Over 30 Different Programs**
- **Grades Pre K-12**
- **Our 55th Year of Putting Smiles on Children's Faces**
- **Beautiful Campus conveniently located close to the LI Expressway in Nassau County**

131 Brookville Road, Brookville, N.Y. 11545 • 516-626-1100

Learn more at **www.LuHiSummerCamps.org**

Find us on Facebook & Twitter

O'NEILL'S MASPETH

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1933



St. Patrick's Day March 17th - 19th

ST PATRICK'S DAY

**Irish Music From
Sean Moloney
Starting at 5PM**

IRISH SPECIAL

**Bag Pipers
Fitzpatrick Academy
of Irish Dance**



**JOIN US THIS WEEKEND AND
ENJOY TRADITIONAL IRISH FOOD**

**FREE
VALET
PARKING**

- **Breakfast**
- **Lunch**
- **Dinner**

*Our Chef the famous Neal Myers will
prepare the mouth watering dishes*

- **Select from Irish Bacon + Sausage**
- **Scrambled Eggs • Potato Fritters**
- **Irish Soda Bread • Corned Beef "N"**
- Cabbage • Shepherd's Pie • Irish Stew**



Lindy's Taxi Service "FREE Ride Home"

Ride with **Lindy's** to our restaurant and receive a FREE ride home! \$10 Value

64-21 53RD DRIVE, MASPETH • 718.672.9696

Townsend wants action

Petition calls for immediate removal of polarizing interim principal

BY PATRICK DONACHIE

Members of the Townsend Harris High School community continued to criticize the interim principal installed at the school, with an online petition calling for her immediate removal. The news comes as the Queens borough president sent a letter to the head of the Department of Education bemoaning what she said was a lack of information on the process of selecting a permanent principal.

Rosemarie Jahoda was installed as interim principal in September, and parents, teachers and students soon became critical of her approach, accusing her of turning Townsend Harris into a "terrible environment" for those who attended, according to a Change.org petition calling for her immediate ouster.

Members of the school's Parent Teacher Association and students said she was being uncaring toward members of the Muslim Student Association, who were harassed after the presidential election, and irritated by suggestions that she should greet students in the hallway. Parents also accused her of hewing too closely to DOE policy when it negatively impacted students.

The DOE announced it was commencing a "C-30" process to find a perma-



Some members of the Townsend Harris community want Interim Principal Jahoda removed as soon as possible.

Photo by Michael Shain

nent principal, with interviews set to begin in early March, according to a DOE spokesman. Jahoda is still the interim principal, but the Change.org petition suggested Jahoda be immediately replaced with Assistant Principal Ellen Fee. The petition currently has over 1,000 signatures.

"We need someone who knows and cares for Townsend Harris, and we need this person now. How much more damage can Jahoda do while we wait for a new principal?" the petition read. "We don't want her even in the building with us. Ms. Fee should take over now while the DOER finds a new principal, and they should consider Ms. Fee's qualifications for the per-

manent job while she is acting principal."

Townsend Harris Student Union President Alex Chen sent a letter to The Classic, the school's student newspaper, addressed to the entire school community about a rally on the steps of City Hall scheduled for Friday. In the letter, the senior detailed a number of grievances he and other members of the student community had about Principal Jahoda.

"Seniors, all of whom can now vote this November, make your voices heard as Bill de Blasio prepares to run for reelection. As mayor of NYC, he has authority over the Department of Education, which has not been hearing our voices even though

they keep saying they are," Chen wrote. "Let's go straight to the mayor."

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz wrote to Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina Feb. 21, requesting more information on the C-30 process. She said the deadline for permanent principal applications had passed Feb. 15, and her staff had reached out to Elaine Lindsay, the superintendent of the district containing Townsend Harris, without response. She said she was troubled by the silence and the continuing controversy unfolding at the school.

"Accusations and troubling accounts are occurring on a daily basis and the students of our system deserve to know that the DOE is providing the tools, atmosphere and attention needed to fulfill our responsibilities to them," Katz wrote.

A DOE spokesman said the department was listening to feedback from the school community. He also said Jahoda currently remained interim acting principal, and that the entire process could take up to 90 days from when it started Feb. 1.

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

Homeless center heads to Ozone Pk. near HS

BY GINA MARTINEZ

A heavily opposed Ozone Park homeless shelter is opening despite residents' and lawmakers' concerns.

The landlord of 100-32 Atlantic Ave., previously a Dallas Bros. Coffee House, signed a lease Feb. 23 with the city Department of Homeless Services. The property will be the new location of the controversial drop-in center.

The center will be just 250 feet away from the High School for Construction, Trades, Engineering and Architecture. Residents have been protesting the shelter, saying the quality of life would decline and children's safety would be in danger.

Non-profit Breaking Grounds will run the transitional home. The organization, which has several locations in all five boroughs, is a street outreach program that provides supportive temporary housing to the homeless while helping them find permanent housing. During their stay, the organization provides them with food, medical care and a place to sleep.

Jeff Scheuer, vice president of external affairs at Breaking Ground, said the Ozone Park center

will help the homelessness problem in Queens.

"New York City is facing a homelessness crisis and our new location will help the homeless in Queens with accessing food, medical care and comprehensive case management," he said. "This is a successful model and will be a critical resource to move these vulnerable New Yorkers from the streets into permanent supportive housing. Since 1990 Breaking Ground has helped more than 13,000 people escape and avoid homelessness."

There were reports of angry protesters in front of the Ozone Park property Sunday.

DHS argues the shelter is necessary in the area.

"Queens currently has zero locations to serve street homeless individuals," DHS said in a statement. "We will be using this location as a safe haven and drop-in center to bring this borough's homeless neighbors off of the streets and in from the cold. We need every community to come together to address homelessness, which is a problem in each of the five boroughs."

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

TIMES LEDGER Newspapers

ASTORIA TIMES ■ BAYSIDE TIMES
FLUSHING TIMES ■ FOREST HILLS LEDGER
FRESH MEADOWS TIMES
JACKSON HEIGHTS TIMES ■ JAMAICA TIMES
LAURELTON TIMES ■ LITTLE NECK LEDGER
QUEENS VILLAGE TIMES ■ RIDGEWOOD LEDGER
WHITESTONE TIMES

41-02 Bell Boulevard
Bayside, New York 11361
Main: (718) 260-4545
Sales: (718) 260-4521
www.TimesLedger.com



BRIAN RICE
Publisher

ROZ LISTON
Editor

BILL EGBERT
Q Guide Editor

MICHAEL SHAIN
Photo Editor

LAURA AMATO
Sports Editor

RALPH D'ONOFRIO
V.P. of Advertising

EDITORIAL STAFF

Reporters: Patrick Donachie, Mark Hallum, Bill Parry, Gina Rodriguez
Photographers: Nat Valentine, Ellis Kaplan, Naeisha Rose, Robert Cole

Copy/Production Editor:
Zach Gewelb

Contributing Writers/Columnists:
Bob Harris, Suzanne Parker, Ronald B. Hellman, William Lewis, Prem Calvin Prashad, Tom Allon, Lenore Skenazy

ART & PRODUCTION

Art Director: Leah Mitch
Designer: Earl Ferrer
Layout: Rod Ivey
Cartoonist: Tip Sempliner

ADVERTISING

Senior Account Executive:
Kathy Wenk
Account Executives:
David Strauss
Sherri Rossi
Lebert McBean
Peter Wojcicki

OFFICE MANAGER
Linda Lindenauer

CIRCULATION
Roberto Palacios

CEO:

Les Goodstein

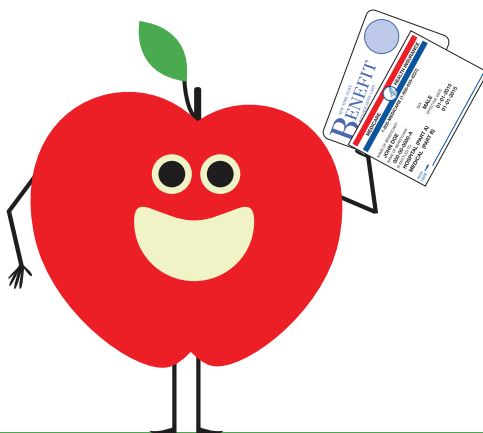
PRESIDENT

Jennifer Goodstein

CLASSIFIED

Classified Director:
Amanda Tarley

Classified Sales Manager:
Eugena Pechenaya



A WELL-MADE
PLAN
A WELL-MADE
CHOICE

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS SPECIAL ELECTION SEMINARS

You can enroll in a plan all year round!

Join us for formal presentations with our licensed Senior Benefits Advisors to discuss the benefits of AgeWell New York's Medicare Advantage Plans.

Attend one of our seminars at a diner in your community and learn about your enrollment options and covered benefits including doctor visits, transportation, fitness program, prescription drugs and more.

For more information on dates and times at a diner in your community, please call: 718-484-5000 (ext. 5251) or events@agewellnewyork.com

QUEENS

Georgia Diner - Elmhurst

Atlantic Diner - S. Richmond Hill

Bel Aire Diner - Astoria

Glendale Diner - Glendale

BRONX

5 Star Restaurant - E. Tremont Avenue

Corky's - Grand Concourse

Crow Diner - E. 161st Street

Perista Coffee Shop & Restaurant - W. Kingsbridge Rd

BROOKLYN

Denny's Diner - Pennsylvania Avenue

Junior's Restaurant - Flatbush Avenue Ext.

Georges Diner - 5th Avenue

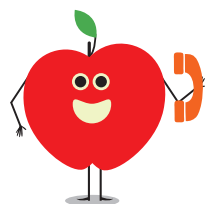
New Apolo - Myrtle Avenue

MANHATTAN

Lenox Hill Grill - Lexington Avenue

Kitchen Sink - 2nd Avenue

Gracie Corner Diner - E. 86th Street



We're here for your call.

Toll Free 1.866.586.8044 | TTY/TDD 1.800.662.1220 | agewellnewyork.com

AgeWell New York, LLC is a HMO plan with a Medicare contract and a Coordination of Benefits Agreement with New York State Department of Health. Enrollment in AgeWell New York, LLC depends on contract renewal. A sales person will be present with information and applications. For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings call 866-586-8044 and TTY/TDD 800-662-1220. Visit us at www.agewellnewyork.com AgeWell New York complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of races, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Age-Well New York cumple

AgeWell New York 遵守適用的聯邦民權法律規定，不因種族、膚色、民血統、年齡、殘障或性別而歧視任何人。ATTENTION: if you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-866-586-8044 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220). ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1- 866-586-8044 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220). 注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-866-586-8044 (TTY 1-800-662-1220) H4922_DA_4002 Accepted 01142017

Sherbee Antiques

POT of GOLD



Sherbee Antiques is a family-owned business that has been serving the tri-state area for over 60 years.

We buy from the full contents of homes and estates to single items. We specialize in high-end goods such as antiques, art, fine porcelain, lighting, bronzes and sculptures. We have particular interest in fine jewelry, timepieces, diamonds, gold and silver.

If you call we will come to you, free of charge, and evaluate what you are selling. We know the value of your possessions and are willing to pay top dollar on the spot. Please feel free to call seven days a week for a free same day consultation.

**You may be sitting on a large fortune.
Call Sherbee Antiques. They'll tell you how much.**

CALL TODAY 917-748-7622 OR 718-762-7448
You'll be glad you did.

Queens Theatre

**NEIL SIMON'S
LAST OF THE
RED HOT
LOVERS
MARCH 10-12**

**Tickets from \$25 at
www.queentheatre.org or 718.760.0064**

"The humor and strong talents of the two actors provide a great evening's entertainment."
- DC Metro Theatre Arts

Season Sponsors

Bank of America conEdison DELTA

Queens Theatre is supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Funding for the Queens Theatre is provided by the World Council Foundation and the Jerome Robbins Foundation.

Lancman

Continued from Page 1

Michael Sisitzky, policy counsel at the New York Civil Liberties Union, said policing tactics in New York City need to change.

"Immigrants arrested for low-level offenses are thrown right into the cross hairs of ICE," he said "New York's role as a sanctuary city carries with it a responsibility to end broken windows policing tactics that feed directly into the Trump regime's calls for mass deportations."

In January Lancman wrote a letter to the mayor entitled "Talk is cheap" pleading with de Blasio to take more aggressive action to protect immigrants.

"Talk is cheap when New York City promises to defend the immigrants living among us -- our neighbors, friends and family -- yet willfully exposes them to deportation at the dictate of Donald Trump



Councilman Rory Lancman on the steps of City Hall.

Photo Courtesy Councilman Rory Lancman

because minor, nonviolent offenses are criminalized when other, more humane and measured options for holding people accountable are readily available."

According to Lancman, in 2015 nearly 30,000 New Yorkers were arrested for fare evasion and charged under a section of the New York State penal law that qualifies as a deportable offense under federal immigration law. He pointed out that as mayor, de Blasio has the authority to

direct the NYPD to process those cases as civil violations of the MTA's rules, which is not a deportation trigger.

"It's time to act," he wrote. "Stop jeopardizing immigrant New Yorkers through overzealous and expensive policing strategies when fairer, saner alternatives already exist."

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

Free lunch

Continued from Page 1

program could be as much as \$23 million, and changes to federal policy could endanger it further.

Advocates for expanding the city's free-lunch program maintain that a universal program could help stop any stigma that may cause students to avoid taking lunches. The city launched a pilot program several years ago in 185 middle schools, and the IBO analyzed the 2014 school year to extrapolate the cost of enlarging its reach.

Free lunch programs are partially subsidized by federal funding and consist of several different possible programs, all in use in New York City schools. The federal government reimburses the city \$3.24 for all free lunches served, which is less than the cost to the city. Approximately one million students in the city benefit from free lunch, breakfast and other food service programs.

Schools can also use Universal School Meals

and the Community Eligibility Program, alternatives to the traditional model that shift the eligibility criteria to schools as opposed to individual students. Eligibility in CEP is determined by whether the student or his or her family is eligible for food stamps, cash assistance or Medicaid. If the number of such students is higher than 40 percent in a given school, it can enroll in CEP.

The DOE estimated the annual cost of the 2014 pilot program at \$49 million, with the federal government reimbursing \$39 million. If citywide participation rates did not change from the pilot program rates, about 141,870 students would participate in a free K-5 lunch program citywide which would cost about \$103 million per year, according to the IBO.

The IBO determined federal funding would remain the same whether schools used the traditional model or Universal School Meals, though estimated federal reimbursement would be slightly higher through

the Community Eligibility Program.

The net cost to the city would be the lowest by using the traditional model, at \$31.5 million, although the IBO said CEP would be the most cost-effective approach due to reduced paperwork and other benefits.

Sustained federal funding of the CEP is endangered by new legislation that would transform program funding into a "block grant," a set amount of money that might not cover actual program costs, according to the IBO.

"If funding does not keep pace with growth in costs and local demand, school districts would be faced with the choice of contributing additional funding from other sources or reducing the scale of the programs," the report said.

The full report is available at <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/>.

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

Attention Seniors and Care Givers

NYC ELDER CARE
Expo & Conference
senior health & planning **2017**

HANDLE WITH CARE

Sunday, March 19th • 10am–3:30pm

KINGSWAY EVENTS CENTER

2902 Kings Highway (Between E. 29th Street and Nostrand Avenue)
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Free Lunch
to the first
250 people
to register

The event will feature:

- 12 seminars on various topics, including Medicaid, Medicare, pooled trusts, estate planning, services available that you may not have known about, home care and more.
- 75 vendor booths, with participants showcasing a variety of facilities, products and services such as assisted living, home care, pooled trusts, legal advice, insurance options, massage, neuro-feedback, osteopathy, skin care, elder care options, community wellness initiatives, chiropractic, and more.
- Food will be available for purchase
(coffee, tea and refreshments will be available at no charge)
- Register to attend for free entry, before tickets are sold out,
at <https://eldercareexpo.eventbrite.com>

Free Valet Parking



If you would like to exhibit, sponsor or conduct a seminar
call Ralph D'Onofrio at **718-260-2510** or email rdonofrio@cnglocal.com

SPONSORS



Lopez

Continued from Page 1

York City street vendor permits.

Due to the limits on New York City street vendor permits, she was forced to work as an unpermitted vendor. Lopez became a staunch advocate for street vendor reform, working with the #LiftTheCaps campaign in its efforts to expand access to economic opportunities for more than 20,000 street vendors who are mostly immigrants, people of color and U.S. military veterans.

"As a community organizer with the Street Vendor Project she helped lead the campaign to lift the caps so the city will give out more permits," Boc said. That campaign was launched in 2014 to increase the number of available permits for street food vendors in New York City. Due to the cap placed on per-



Corona street vendors hold a candlelight vigil in remembrance of Claudia Lopez, an activist who fought for social and economic reform. Photo by Bill Parry

mits in 1983, there are currently only 3,100 food permits available, an artificially low number that has created an underground black market in vending permits and a waiting list of up to 20 years.

Although the license fee is \$200 for two years, permits that are leased on the black market can cost upwards of \$20,000 for the same two-year period. Advocates say it is unfair for a person

to pay for a license and then lease it to a poor person at an extraordinary mark-up.

"It is a system that is completely broken and not serving anyone well," 82nd Street Partnership Executive Director Leslie Ramos said. "It's not good for the vendors who are being exploited by the black market, it's not good for the small businesses because the street vendors are com-

peting directly with them, and it isn't working for the community because the streets get so congested."

Legislation to gradually increase the number of permits, Intro. 1303, was introduced in the City Council in October. At a hearing on the bill that month, the de Blasio administration claimed it would complete its vendor study by the end of 2016.

Ben's Best

Continued from Page 1

crew bought out the restaurant and we filmed for two 16-hour days. There was no kidding around."

Cinematic qualities are not the only reason major film companies choose New York City as the backdrop to their films.

The made-in-New York program offers advertising and marketing incentives. There is also a state film incentive program, which has been extended through 2019. The \$420 million per year program is designed to give a 30 percent tax credit on production expenses to qualifying film and television productions made in NYC.

A 30 percent post-production tax credit is also offered for local productions that don't qualify for the production credit.

"The Comedian" tells the story of an aging stand-up comic Jackie Burke (Robert De Niro). Despite his efforts to reinvent himself and his insult-driven brand of comedy, his audience only recognizes him as the former television star he played.

In the movie that opened in December, the deli is owned by its real owner Jay Parker and his partner (Danny DeVito), who is

also Burke's younger brother.

Parker said his acting had to be top-notch to keep up with De Niro and DeVito.

"In the movie, Robert De Niro's character comes into the deli to ask for money," Parker said. "De Niro comes in and DeVito says to me, 'Hey, Jay, where is my big-time brother?' I walk into the scene. I give him a wave and a big deli smirk and say, 'Hey,' and that ends my illustrious acting career."

Parker is no stranger to film crews. He was also featured on the show "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives" back in 2011. Ben's Best was highlighted for cooking up third-generation recipes for stuffed cabbage and kreplach. Parker said that whether it's a show or a movie, "showbiz" people take their jobs very seriously.

"We had to shoot everything five, six times until it was perfect," Parker said. "It took two days to shoot an eight-minute segment, but it was a great experience."

Since the movies debuted, Parker has been asked for his autograph and picture from patrons.

"People recognized me for my nanosecond on the screen. I've gotten applause, and people tell me all the time that I am a natural born actor."

AUBURNDALE BAYSIDE BRIARWOOD CAMBRIA HEIGHTS
COLLEGE POINT CORONA EAST ELMHURST FLUSHING
LIVE. HILLCREST HOLLIS JAMAICA JAMAICA ESTATES
WORK. JAMAICA HILLS MURRAY HILL OZONE PARK
STUDY. POMONOK QUEENS VILLAGE RICHMOND HILL
WORSHIP. SOUTH JAMAICA SOUTH OZONE PARK
SAVE. ST. ALBANS WOODHAVEN

Now Serving More of Queens than Ever



Federally Insured by NCUA

discover
not-for-profit banking at **QsideFCU.org**



► EMPLOYMENT & REAL ESTATE

► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

► MEDICAL HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED

► STATEN ISLAND OPEN HOUSE



Lic. by NYC D.O.H.

Hiring Experienced Certified HHA's For All 5 Boros & Nassau/Suffolk Counties



Immediate Hire + Special Rates for Live-Ins

- Health Insurance Available
- 3 Months Home Care Experience a Must

\$700 SIGN ON BONUS FOR LIVE-IN AIDES

Call For Appointment Mon-Fri 10AM-4PM
718-488-8300 or 516-358-1999
Or email: Carelink1@hotmail.com

ARMORED TRUCK DRIVER
CDL CLASS A, B, C
Queens Location
Must be Available Any Day and Time
Polygraph/ Drug Test Required
Call MANU 10AM-2PM MON THRU FRI.
718-458-4000

P/T Plumber Experienced
Fax Resume: 718-468-4601
or e-mail: hstark11@hotmail.com

Annadale, S.I. OPEN HOUSE
SUN, FEB 26 12-5 PM
121 WOODROW RD.
A MUST SEE!!!!
Fully Renovated Ranch Home! With Red Oak Hardwd Floors! Granite Countertops! 3 Beautiful Bathrms, Hot Water Cast Iron Base Board Htng! New C/Air! 5.1 Theater System! Video Intercom, 4 camera security system!!! Above Ground Pool! Much More!
Price Reduced!
Owner 732-433-6494

Call 718-260-2555 To Advertise Here

More Classifieds online at
TimesLedger.com

► HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED

► HELP WANTED



Start Your Career

With A Job That's Right For You!

Try Real-Time Job Matching™ & get hired fast.

www.DreamJobsNYC.com

Call 718.260.2555 To Advertise Here

Introducing the new TimesLedger.com

Bringing you all Queens, all the time

TIMESLEDGER.COM is now your daily source for news, calendar listings, entertainment and photos.



TIMESLedger.com

New features

- **EASY TO NAVIGATE DESIGN**
Read top stories from around the borough on our new homepage.
- **E-MAIL BLASTS**
Sign up to get the news delivered to your e-mail every day.
- **PHOTO SLIDE SHOW**
Check these out and find links to our YouTube and Vimeo video pages.
- **DIGITAL EDITIONS**
View current and recent editions of all seven TimesLedger newspapers.
- **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**
Find weekend activities and fun events for the whole family using our daily community calendar listings.

Authentic German Goods

SHIPPED RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR!

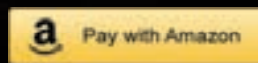
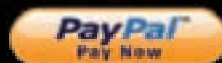
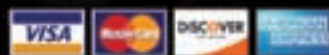
Over **300 items** Imported from Germany!
Enjoy our specialty meat selection from
Forest Pork Store & Karl Ehmer!



WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF OUR NEW ONLINE STORE!

SHOP NOW: StammtischStore.com

Order favorites from our restaurant, including *Goulash Soup, Stammtisch Rye Bread, Dumplings, Beer Steins and more!*



69-40 MYRTLE AVE | GLENDALE, NY 11385
718.386.7200 | ZUMSTAMMTISCH.COM