

Asian group: Redraw Avella's Senate district

Page 2

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Halloran blows lid at Star Nissan

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Auto-owners bringing their Maximas and Muranos in for service at Auburndale's Star Nissan service center were privy to a spectacle last week as City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) stopped by to confront management on a litany of quality-of-life complaints neighbors have registered against the company — and ended up delivering a verbal lashing that left employees slack-jawed.

Teddy Neofitos, the body shop manager at the center on 172nd Street, said that when Halloran first showed up about two weeks earlier yelling about open doors and off-hour deliveries, he assumed he was an irate customer screaming at employees.

So when the councilman came in again last week, Neofitos took out his phone and shot a video of the riled Republican.

"I'm not f--ing joking," Halloran can be heard saying as a car alarm sounds in the background. "Either these doors stay closed, top to bottom, all the f--ing time, or we're going to have a problem! This is the last time we have this conversation!"

Halloran has said he inherited about a dozen boxes from former Councilman Tony Avella and

Continued on Page 19

Ilan Grapel is set free by Egypt

Ackerman negotiates release of Oakland Gardens man detained wrongly as a spy

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

After 4 1/2 months of detainment in an Egyptian jail on espionage charges, Oakland Gardens native Ilan Grapel walked down a hallway at John F. Kennedy International Airport's Terminal 4 and into the arms of his family Saturday morning.

Grapel's release was negotiated between Egyptian and Israeli authorities and U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside), whose office the 28-year-old Grapel interned for as a teenager.

Grapel, an Emory Law School student, was scheduled to leave Israel for Queens midnight Saturday, but his plane was delayed for two hours due to mechanical problems and touched down at JFK at around 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

He was swapped for 25 Egyptians held in Israeli jail, most of them serving time for drug smuggling.

The Oakland Gardens native said his life flashed before his eyes while being held in solitary confinement in an Egyptian jail, thinking of bygone days playing basketball in South Jamaica and other memories from his youth.

Grapel said he was treated well by his captors.

"Nothing physically happened to me," he said, explaining

Continued on Page 19



Ilan Grapel (c.) hugs his father Daniel after he arrives at John F. Kennedy International Airport as U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman looks on.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Redistrict Avella seat: Group

Asian coalition wants senator to represent just Bayside area, Flushing

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) said there are rumors swirling around that his district may be torn apart when the state Legislature redraws political lines next year.

An Asian coalition wants Avella's district to encompass only Bayside, Bay Terrace, Oakland Gardens, Auburndale and all of Flushing, the senator told Community Board 13 last week.

If that plan goes through, Avella said his district "could change dramatically," with 75 percent of the senator's current district to no longer be represented by him.

Avella's district covers northeast Queens, Whitestone, College Point, parts of Jamaica and Hollis and communities near the border with Nassau County.

The group said it made proposals to redraw all of the city's state Senate and Assembly lines.

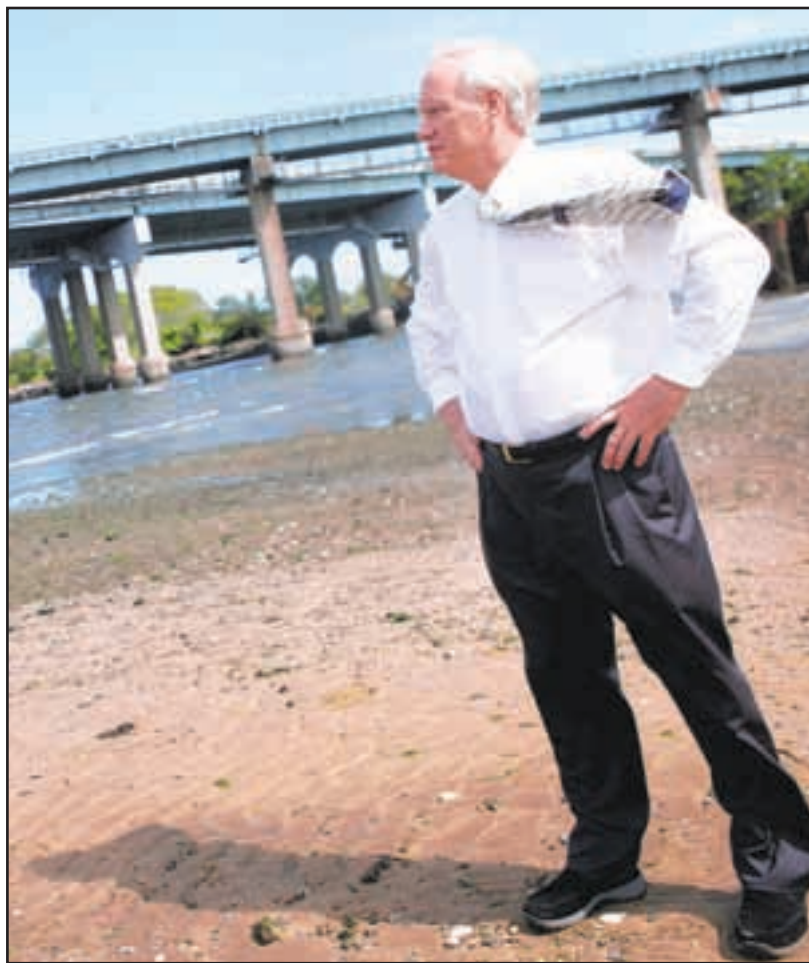
The Asian American Coalition for Redistricting and Democracy also wants Queens neighborhoods near the Nassau County border — Glen Oaks, Bellerose and Floral Park — to be put in a Long Island state Assembly district.

"At least in Queens, you share a commonality with the rest of the communities," Avella said of residents who live near the Nassau County border.

Jerry Vattamala, staff attorney for the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund — a group that is part of ACCORD — said the lines ACCORD drew up were done so minorities "can elect a representative of their choice."

"We did not draw these lines to get Asian Americans elected," he said.

Bayside's Asian population grew 48 percent between 2000 and



State Sen. Tony Avella walks within the part of his current district that is only accessible during low tide. Photo by Christina Santucci

2010, when the last census was taken. Asians now comprise about 37 percent of the neighborhood, compared to nearly 25 percent in 2000, according to figures from the Center for Urban Research.

Flushing recorded a 37 percent increase in its Asian population during that span. Nearly 70 percent of the neighborhood is Asian, up from more than 52 percent in 2000.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he

would veto any redistricting plan that is not drawn up by an independent commission.

"It looks like that is not happening, unfortunately," Avella said.

The senator said GOP senators are averse to an independent commission despite signing a pledge to create one.

Avella said CB 13 and civic associations in the area "should carefully watch this process."

Weprin calls on city to oversee food carts

BY RICH BOCKMANN

last week.

In reaction to what he says is a proliferation of food carts on city streets, City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) said he would like to see the city Street Vendor Review Panel reconvene and implement a new plan regulating where and when the food carts can operate.

The panel was established by Mayor Rudy Giuliani in 1995 and charged with determining which streets would be closed to vending.

Weprin said the panel has not met in 10 years, and food carts have recently set up in his district in areas such as Bell Boulevard, Hillside Avenue, Springfield Boulevard and Union Turnpike, prompting complaints from residents and business owners.

"Food vendors have a right to do business, but the city must ensure that all food carts operate safely and in appropriate locations," he said.

Matt Shapiro, a staff attorney for the Street Vendor Project advocacy group, said there was little empirical data to suggest on which grounds the panel made its decisions, but competition to businesses would not necessarily be a reason for closing a street to vendors.

One street vendor that has drawn numerous complaints is the Sarwari Halal Food cart that settled on the corner of Bell Boulevard and 73rd Avenue early

last week and 10 businesses in the area and numerous residents complained," the councilman said.

Business owners up and down the block, from Dunkin' Donuts to Villa Rustica Ristorante, said the food cart represented unfair competition because it drew customers away without having to pay expenses such as rent.

Shapiro said there was evidence to the contrary.

"We've seen a lot of studies that actually show that vending increases business by bringing more foot traffic to the street," he said.

Cindy Weu, co-owner of Sweet Adele's, said her customers complained that

Continued on Page 19



The Sarwari Halal Food cart has caused a stir with business owners in Oakland Gardens since setting up on the corner of Bell Boulevard and 73rd Avenue last week.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

IN THIS ISSUE

Police Blotter	8	Focus on Health	36
Editorials & Letters.....	10-11	Focus on Queens.....	38
Dishing with Dee	12	Business.....	44
Political Action	12	Sports.....	43-46
QGuide.....	29-33	Classified.....	47-55

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Weight Watchers' humble origins began in Deepdale

Member remembers first diet program group hosted by founder Jean Nidetch in basement

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Unless one considers Long Island and Queens to be different countries, the name "Weight Watchers International Inc" may not have seemed entirely apropos at the time when the company consisted of a few scattered meetings and a loft space near the corner of Northern Boulevard and Little Neck Parkway.

"When I added the word 'International' in 1963, the lawyer incorporating our little business laughed and shook his head. After all, we had only one rented space, in Little Neck, New York, where we held our classes," the company's founder wrote in her autobiography, "The Jean Nidetch Story."

Weight Watchers' 1.2 million members now hold more than 45 thousand

meetings each week across the world — a far cry from its humble beginnings in the basement of Nidetch's Deepdale Gardens home.

Audrey Huron, who still lives in the same Deepdale Gardens apartment she did 50 years ago, was one of the original members of Jean's Group.

"I remember she came to me and asked if she could borrow some folding chairs. It was the neighborly thing to do," she said. "Weight Watchers started in a house with 10 women and it just grew and grew and grew."

Nidetch was born in Brooklyn and struggled with her weight since childhood, going back and forth between fad diets she picked up in newspapers and magazines and indulging herself in her favorite pastime: eating.

She and her husband,



Audrey Huron, showing off Jean Nidetch's autograph, recalls the founding of Weight Watchers. Photo by Rich Bockmann

Marty, moved to the borough not long after their son David was born in

1951.

"We found an apartment in Deepdale Gardens

in northeast Queens, on the border of Long Island (where many pronounce it Long Guy-Land). Well, there was little you could call 'gardens' and nothing in the way of a 'dale,' which I think still means 'valley,'" she wrote.

"Deepdale Gardens was a new cooperative low-rise apartment complex covering 60 acres, built by the government as affordable housing for veterans of World War II. It was very family-friendly, with central laundry facilities, playgrounds for children, and free parking. It also had lawns and lots of trees, although not many were very tall," she continued.

"We were living in the suburbs, and we had our own home. We were overjoyed. Did I mention that being overjoyed is an occasion for a feast?" Nidetch

recalled, adding that not long after her second son, Richard, was born, she topped out an all-time high of 214 pounds.

In 1961 Nidetch traveled to the city Board of Health's obesity clinic, where she was given a diet that prescribed two pieces of bread and two glasses of milk a day, fish five times a week and a weekly meal featuring liver.

What was not prescribed at the weekly clinic meetings — in fact it was frowned upon — was discussion among patients, something Nidetch yearned for.

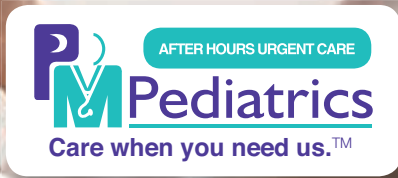
So she invited seven friends to her living room for what she called "Jean's Group" to share not only the diet but their experiences with food and eating.

"While the meetings *Continued on Page 19*

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Queens high schools avoid F

City report finds only 18 % prepare half of graduates for college

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city released its fifth annual public high school progress report last week, and for the 2010-11 school year schools in Queens outperformed the citywide average, with 98 percent of schools either maintaining or moving up or down one grade from the previous year.

Across the borough, 29 schools received the same grade they did in 2009-10, 16 schools improved by one letter grade and six schools fell by one grade. No school in Queens received an F on the city Department of Education report.

Hillcrest High School in Jamaica had the largest disparity between the two years, going from an A in 2009-10 to a C last year. The number of students completing their Regents at Hillcrest fell, which brought graduation rates down, leading to the poor score.

The DOE cited stricter Regents exam standards as the reason behind more



Hillcrest High School in Jamaica dropped from a grade of an A last year to a C in this year's high school progress report.

grades declining than increasing across the city. The class of 2011 was required to pass four of the exams with a 65 to graduate. For the first year, the progress reports noted several college readiness metrics, which are being phased into the reports

and do not count toward a school's grade this year.

In Queens, 31.5 percent of schools had 50 percent or more of their graduating students score 65 or higher on their Regents — the score required to receive a degree.

But only 18 percent of

schools had a 50 percent or higher college readiness index, which measures the percentage of graduating students to score high enough on their Regents to test out of remedial coursework at the City University of New York.

Continued on Page 42

11 out on bail in LIRR pension fraud case

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Eleven people have been released on bail in what federal prosecutors contend was a monumental fraud scheme by Long Island Rail Road employees falsely claiming disabilities in order to augment their pensions.

"Benefit programs like that of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board disability program were designed to be a safety net for the truly disabled, not a feeding trough for the truly dishonest," said Preet Bharara, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

"And in these tough economic times — with



Barry Kluger (r.), the MTA inspector general, listens as Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, announces charges of disability fraud against 11 defendants of the LIRR.

AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews

stretched budgets, rising costs, frozen wages unemployed people — it is es-

pecially disheartening to think that railroad employers would tell a train of lies

to pad their early retirements and that a handful of doctors would traffic on the credibility of their profession to promote a culture of fraud."

The federal complaint told of investigators conducting surveillance on some of the accused while they were taking part in strenuous physical activities that would have been impossible had they been suffering the disabilities they claimed.

Nearly all the accused were taken into custody early last Thursday.

The 74-page federal complaint said the scheme could cost the federal Rail-

Continued on Page 42

Jack the cat recovering from JFK adventure

BY IVAN PEREIRA

Even though the first sight of her cat after it spent two months on the lam in John F. Kennedy International Airport was when he was in critical condition in an animal ICU, Karen Pascoe said she was glad that her pet was safe.

Pascoe saw Jack the cat during the weekend at a veterinarian hospital in Forest Hills and said that although he cannot eat on his own, he is showing progress. Vets are waiting until the feline can build up his strength and recover from the malnourishment he suffered while hiding at JFK before Jack can finally be reunited with his owner at her new home in San Jose, Calif.

"It felt great to see him. It was definitely good to spend some time with him," Pascoe said in a phone interview.

Pascoe said she was relieved when she got the news Oct. 25 that American Airlines had found Jack in the ceiling of the customs room at Terminal 8 at the airport.

Exactly two months earlier, Pascoe was flying to California to move from Manhattan to her new home and planning to take Jack and his feline brother Barry with her on the flight. The two pets were put in kennels and were

about to be placed in the plane when somehow Jack broke out and disappeared.

American Airlines officials began searching for Jack, but their efforts stalled two days later when the airport was shut down in preparation for Hurricane Irene.

The crews at the airport got a boost from cat-friendly supporters who were moved by Pascoe's story. A Facebook fan page "Jack The Cat is Lost in AA Baggage at JFK," was immediately created and thousands of pet lovers pledged their support for the owner.

Two weeks ago members of the fan page, which had more than 22,600 fans as of press time Tuesday, combed JFK and asked airport employees to be on the lookout for Jack.

In the end, it was the cat that found the crews.

Jack dropped down from the ceiling right near American staff members who were in the customs room.

"He was basically hiding in the ceiling or the HVAC vents," Pascoe said.

The cat was immediately taken to the airport's vet center, where workers scanned his identification tag and confirmed that he was the missing feline. The news excited the fans on the Facebook page who have

Continued on Page 42



Jack the cat is in an ICU and will be transported back to his owner once he is given a clean bill of health by vets.

Photo courtesy Karen Pascoe

Aqueduct attracts thousands on day one

5

NE

City gamblers test their luck at video lottery terminals during long-awaited racino opening

BY JOE ANUTA

The owners of the Aqueduct racino in Ozone Park hit the jackpot Friday when thousands of gamblers flooded the only video gambling casino in the city on its opening day.

"I feel kind of lucky," said Yolanda Carta, who had been waiting in the cold outside Resorts World Casino New York since 9 a.m., four hours before the official opening. "It's not too cold to win money."

Gamblers began waiting in line as early as 7 a.m. to get into the casino, and when the doors finally opened at 1 p.m., people were cheering and running toward the escalators with hands raised like they had already won.

By the time opening weekend had drawn to a close, 65,000 people had tried their hand at the video lottery terminals,

which are similar to slot machines.

The second floor, known as Times Square Casino, is as loud as it is colorful.

Red recessed lighting in the high ceilings and the multi-colored carpet below act as two bookends to the cacophony from video lottery terminals, which were legalized in New York state a decade ago.

As Blena Tullock rode the escalator up to the second floor for the first time, she gasped.

"It's beautiful," she said. "Now I don't have to go to Atlantic City."

Others squealed with delight and hurried over to one of the blinking machines with names like "Wheel of Fortune" or "Thundering Buffalo."

Ida Brasie and Pat Keighron live near the casino and were invited to take a test run of the casino



John Fazio, of Howard Beach, shows off his winnings - more than \$200.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Monday night.

They parked themselves in front of the same

machines, which had paid dividends when the stakes were play money in hopes

of finding their luck again Friday afternoon.

"They gave us play

money and we had a great time," Brasie said. "We just want to have fun. You have to know your limits."

Although some of the gamblers were losing cash, Michael Speller, president of Resorts World New York, touted the economic benefits for the community at a ribbon-cutting a few hours earlier. He reminded the audience that the casino, which was built within a year, currently employed 1,110 people and will take on another 200 in the future — like Catherine Rodriguez, who was poised with a drinks tray before the doors were released, 70 percent of the employees are from Queens, according to Speller.

Many of the gamblers were, too. By 2 p.m., an open slot machine was hard to come by after about 3,500 people had gone to the casino, according to an

Continued on Page 42

City, feds team up to create plan to put Jamaica Bay on the map

BY IVAN PEREIRA

The mayor and the federal government are teaming up to not only restore Jamaica Bay to its original natural state, but also make it a prominent destination for visitors from around the world.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg joined administrators from the National Parks Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and private organizations last Thursday to announce the creation of a partnership and new projects that will improve the quality of bay.

The largest initiative would connect Jamaica Bay with the other ecosystems in the city and create

a interconnected network of natural locations, according to the mayor.

"The agreements with our federal, state and philanthropic partners will have ... far-reaching benefits for what may be the greatest natural treasure lying within the borders of any city in the nation — Jamaica Bay," he said in a statement.

The 30-square-mile ecosystem has lost most of its saltwater marshland over the last 70 years and various agencies and groups have been trying to curb the damage. Excess nitrogen in the water, which is discharged into the bay from four nearby wastewater treatment plants, has

been killing the greenspace from the roots.

The city Department of Environmental Protection has pledged \$100 million till 2020 to upgrade those plants so that they discharge less nitrogen.

In addition to the DEP work, Bloomberg said the federal and state environmental agencies will be working on studies that focus on resilience to climate change in coastal environments and improving park access for the surrounding communities. Those studies will be paid for by grants from National Grid and the nonprofit group the Rockefeller Foundation.

The city Parks Department
Continued on Page 42

Willets Point workers show off space with soccer match

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

The Iron Triangle became the asphalt rectangle Sunday as it hosted daylong soccer matches along with walking tours and sculptures made of muffler parts.

A makeshift soccer field was constructed near 127th Street and Willets Point Boulevard, with the goal posts created by placing three tires on top of each other and the crossbar consisted of a pipe running along the tires.

At times, the ball landed in puddles of muddy water or it banged against metal siding or shipping containers on the outskirts of the field.



Soccer players compete on a makeshift asphalt soccer field, with tires and pipes used as goals, during a tournament at Willets Point.

Photo by Christina Santucci

The event was scheduled to begin Saturday but was postponed due to snow. The finals of the soccer tournament is scheduled for Sunday.

"We just wanted to see the activities," said Tana

Quiloutangy, 14, whose father runs an auto body business in Willets Point.

The day also featured robot sculptures made out of muffler parts.

Walking tours of the
Continued on Page 42

Maspeth offers reward for hit-and-run suspect

BY JOE ANUTA

After Maspeth bar owner George Gibbons Jr. was killed in a hit-and-run accident two weeks ago, the community and the Gibbons family took action to try and bring to justice the man suspected of causing the lifelong Queens resident's death.

On Tuesday morning, more than 100 friends and family members gathered with Queens lawmakers to offer an ever-increasing reward — it was at \$10,000 by 11 a.m. — to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest of Peter Rodriguez, 36, who was believed to have been driving the wrong way down the Long Island Expressway service road early Oct. 15 when he allegedly struck the livery cab Gibbons was riding in.

“Peter Rodriguez, if you're watching, you destroyed us inside and out,” said Bernadette Gibbons, the youngest of the six Gibbons children. “Only a coward runs from his mistakes ... you may be able to run, but not for long. We'll find you.”



Eamon Gibbons (r.) holds a picture of his brother George Jr., who was killed in a hit-and-run accident, and stands next to his sister Maureen and his father George Sr. at a news conference where a reward was offered leading to information about a driver who fled the scene.

Photo by Joe Anuta

Soon after the accident, Eileen Reilly, director of the non-profit Maspeth Town Hall, began hearing about the accident from numerous friends and family members of the Gibbonses.

She approached elected officials about starting a fund and soon opened a bank account at Maspeth Federal Bank and began

working with the NYPD's Crime Stoppers program.

“We're just hoping with these dollars being offered someone will give him up,” she said. “But it also shows how closely knit the Maspeth community is and how we all care for each other.”

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village)

helped Maspeth Town Hall get started with the fund and spoke at the gathering on the corner of 69th Street and Grand Avenue about her hopes that the money would get someone to come forward.

“Peter Rodriguez is out there somewhere, but there are people in New York who know where he is,” she said. “We want these people to come forward with tips.”

Plenty of Maspeth residents came forward with cash to donate to the fund to which Crime Stoppers contributed \$2,000.

John Browne, a fellow Queens bar owner who had known Gibbons for decades, peeled off a check immediately after all the speakers had concluded.

“Hopefully, there will be some closure for the family,” he said.

Other friends of the Gibbons family still could not believe the bar owner, who was 37, was gone.

“It's a shame. He's so young,” said Maspeth resident Susan Hannigan, who could not believe Rodriguez would leave the scene of the accident. “No conscious this

guy has? What about [Gibbons'] family?” she asked.

Gibbons was the owner of Gibbons' Home bar and a DJ well-known throughout the community. He also was an avid New York Mets fan and volunteered and coached the wheelchair-bound disabled adults of the Mets softball team.

The accident that killed Gibbons occurred near 58th Street at about 7 a.m., when a Chrysler Sebring traveling the wrong way on the eastbound side of the LIE service road struck a livery cab, in which Gibbons was riding in the back seat, according to the NYPD.

Gibbons was taken to Elmhurst General Hospital and pronounced dead upon arrival, police said.

Both the livery driver and the Sebring's passenger, 44-year-old Andre McKanney, of Jamaica, were also taken to the hospital, the NYPD said.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.



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POLICE Blotter

Man grabbed buttocks of girl, 8, in Flushing: Report

FLUSHING — Police were looking for a man who sexually assaulted an 8-year-old girl in Flushing, police said.

The girl was shopping at the Marshall's the Sky View Center mall with her mother around 5:50 p.m. Oct. 26 when she stepped away to look at a display of books, police said.

Police said the man walked past the girl several times and grabbed her buttocks as he passed her.

The suspect was described as a white or Hispanic man, about 5-feet-7 with a slim build and light skin with black hair cut into a fade on both sides, police said.

He was last seen wearing a black jacket with a hood, blue jeans and metal-framed glasses.

Anyone with information on the in-



Police are looking for the man pictured in this image. Authorities say the man grabbed the buttocks of an 8-year-old girl.

Image courtesy NYPD

cident was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477).

Suspect in October LIC shooting sought by cops

LONG ISLAND CITY — Police were asking for the public's help last Thursday in finding a suspect wanted in a shooting in Long Island City.

The victim was involved in a dispute with the suspect, identified as 33-year-old Saul Chavez, around 1:15 p.m. Oct. 21 in front of 807 Astoria Blvd. in Long Island City, when Chavez allegedly pulled out a gun and started firing, police said.

The victim was struck in the left thigh and taken to Elmhurst Hospital, where he was treated for his injuries, police said.

Chavez then allegedly fled the scene, police said.

Chavez was described as about 5-foot-3 and weighing 125 pounds. He was last seen wearing a black hood over his head, police said.

Anyone with information on Chavez's whereabouts was asked to call



Police say they are seeking information about Saul Chavez's whereabouts.

Photo courtesy NYPD

Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS. The public can also submit tips by logging on to nypdcrimestoppers.com or texting tips to 274637 and entering TIP577.

Q train collision creates commute nightmare

ASTORIA — The morning commute in Astoria turned into a mad scramble for hundreds of people Tuesday morning after transit officials say a Q train hit the bumper of the N/Q line at the Ditmars Station.

The collision occurred at 7:49 a.m., according to Charles Seaton, of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority press office.

There were no injuries and officials are investigating the cause, Seaton said.

Transit workers hung red tape blocking the entrance to the Ditmars Boulevard station at about 8 a.m., and service was suspended on both the N and Q trains between Ditmars Boulevard and Queens Plaza.

Many commuters raced to Astoria

Boulevard, where the M60 bus stops en route to Manhattan. When already-packed buses arrived, several dozen who had been waiting at the stop rushed to get on, but the majority were turned away.

Several commuters ran into the street trying to hail cabs.

"You can't really replace subway service with buses," Seaton said, explaining that a train can hold about 2,000 riders in comparison to the 80 able to fit on a bus.

Seaton said shuttle buses in place of the N/Q line were put into place about a half hour after the crash, and by 1:04 p.m., both trains were fully functional, Seaton said.

Dozen rivals vie for six boro judgeships

BY JOE ANUTA

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown is running unopposed for sixth term in office next week, but 12 other candidates will vie for a State Supreme Court spot in a judicial system that has been tightening its belt amid rising case loads.

The elections will take place Nov. 8 across the state, and in Queens there are six candidates on both the Republican and Conservative tickets and six candidates on the Democratic ticket. Only six will be elected.

There have been only two campaigns that have seen any type of funding in this year's race, according to the state Board of Elections.

Republican Kate Christoforatos, whose address is listed in the Bronx, raised \$31,530 in just 18 days, according to the board's website.

Some of her donors were law firms, which typically gave a maximum of \$1,000.

A new code within the judicial system will prevent judges from hearing cases involving law firms that gave over \$2,500 to a campaign within two years of a judge being elected.

Christoforatos raised twice as much as the next candidate, Republican Gabriel Tapalaga, who raised \$17,325 — all from dona-

tions from individuals.

None of the other 10 candidates had registered committees with the state for the current year, which means they claimed to have raised less than \$1,000.

The judges are competing for positions in a judicial system that, like many other jobs in the current economic environment, will require more work with fewer resources.

The state judicial system has been cutting costs over the last few years even as case loads rise, according to the 2011-12 state judiciary budget submitted by Ann Pfau, chief administrative judge.



"In every courtroom throughout the state, the volume of new cases has dramatically increased, the number of litigants appearing without counsel is unprecedented and the complexity of cases, including foreclosures, has risen to new levels," the executive summary for the budget said.

Some of those increases have come in the form of general case loads, which have increased 12 percent since 2001, according to the budget.



Queens District Attorney Richard Brown is running unopposed for his sixth term.

Borukhova appeal denied

Court upholds murder convictions in Forest Hills dentist's shooting

BY IVAN PEREIRA

Mazoltuv Borukhova's revenge plot to get back her daughter has not only put her and her distant uncle behind bars for the rest of their lives, but it may have cost her the chance to see her child ever again.

Last week, the state Appellate Court denied the Uzbek immigrants' appeal for the 2009 first-degree murder and conspiracy convictions for the cold-blooded murder of Borukhova's estranged husband, Daniel Malakov, in a Forest Hills playground. The decision came a week after a Queens Family Court judge took away the incarcerated mother's parental rights over her daughter Michelle.

Borukhova hired O.J. Simpson attorney Alan Dershowitz to reverse the decision on the basis of various factors that took place during her seven-week trial, including the fact that the prosecution had an extra two days to prepare for their summations.

The four Appellate judges, however, stated in their Oct. 25 decision that the extra time for the prosecution did not make a difference in the jury's decision.

Malakov's parents called the ruling bitter-sweet.

"We are happy, but where is my son? Why did she do this to my son?" his mother Malka Malakov said.

On Oct. 28, 2007, Malakov, a Forest Hills orthodontist, was walking his Michelle, who was 4-years-old at the time, to the Anadale Playground to meet Borukhova, 37, who had just given up custody of the girl to her father.

The dentist was shot in the chest at point-blank range by Mallayev, 54, who fled the scene. Police arrested the shooter three weeks later at his home



Mazoltuv Borukhova (r.) and her distant uncle Mikhail Mallayev are led away in handcuffs following their sentence on murder and conspiracy charges.

Pool photo

in suburban Atlanta after they matched his fingerprints on a makeshift silencer at the scene.

An eyewitness later identified him as the shooter in a lineup and during the trial.

Police arrested Borukhova three months after Mallayev was apprehended after they found that she made 91 phone calls to her distant uncle, who she denied knowing, and paid him nearly \$20,000 in cash before the shooting.

Investigators said Borukhova wanted revenge against her estranged husband after the courts forced her to give up custody of Michelle.

The girl is currently living with her paternal uncle in Forest Hills. The Malakov family said Michelle will stop visiting her mother in prison since she has no legal right to be her parent.

"Borukhova will never

see Michelle," Malka Malakov said.

The prosecution's closing arguments were postponed from Friday, March 6, 2009, to March 9, because Borukhova and Mallayev made arrangements with the judge to end the session before sundown in accordance with their religious beliefs.

Since Borukhova and Mallayev's attorneys took all day and afternoon delivering their summations, Queens Assistant District Attorney Brad Leventhal had no time to deliver his closing statement and had to wait till Monday. A day later, the jury convicted the pair and they were sentenced to life in prison without parole.

The judges said that the defendants' attorneys had delivered "highly effective" summations despite not having an extra two days to prepare. Queens District Attorney Richard

Brown applauded the appellate court's decision.

"The Appellate Division's unanimous affirmation of the jury's verdict and the trial court's sentence of incarceration will hopefully bring a measure of closure to Dr. Malakov's family," he said in a statement that was released last Thursday.

Dershowitz's office did not return phone calls for comment but told Reuters the case is not over, as it is mulling appealing the case to a higher court.

"Obviously, we're disappointed that the court found a number of significant errors and determined they were harmless," Nathan Dershowitz, who co-defended Borukhova with his brother, told Reuters.

Reach reporter Ivan Pereira by e-mail at iperira@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.

A SON OF QUEENS FREED

It was not justice — not even close — but it was a welcome outcome nonetheless.

Ilan Grapel, a law student from Queens, was freed last week from a prison in Egypt where he was being held on “trumped-up” spying charges.

In return for the release of Grapel, Israel released 25 Egyptian prisoners. Israel has given assurance that none of the prisoners it released are believed to be terrorists, but some were in prison on drug charges.

The deal, which was made possible by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman, defused a potential crisis between Israel and Egypt.

Grapel, 27, was a volunteer with a legal aid group that was working in Cairo during the Arab Spring that led to the overthrow of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He was arrested June 12 on suspicion of spying for Israel, but was never charged.

At a press conference in Tel Aviv, Grapel said his captors did not abuse him and made certain that he was “fed well.”

This is the kind of nonsense that Israel has to put up with, but in this case the prisoner used as a bargaining chip is an American. We applaud Ackerman for his role in this deal and we can only imagine the relief and joy Grapel’s mother must feel.

Still, we hope Ackerman made it clear that this cannot happen again. Innocent Americans cannot be used as bargaining chips.

MEA CULPA

In last week’s edition, we opposed legislation introduced by state Sen. Tony Avella that would require the state comptroller to review and approve all land sales worth \$100,000 and higher to private companies.

The legislation was prompted by the controversial sale of Creedmoor land in Queens to the Indian Cultural and Community Center.

We argued that the city comptroller could do a better job regulating land sales in New York City. But as Avella pointed out, we were wrong. Creedmoor is state property and the city comptroller cannot investigate the sale of state property.

TimesLedger Newspapers apologizes for the error.



OTHER VOICES

Beep must not back Creedmoor proposal

An open letter to Borough President Helen Marshall:

You are aware of the strong community opposition to the proposed plan on the grounds of Creedmoor as put forth by the Indian Cultural and Community Center. Your representatives have attended some if not all of the meetings in the Bellerose area on this subject and can confirm that the following neighboring civic associations have strongly opposed this proposal.

These are the Creedmoor, Bellerose Hillside, Rocky Hill, North Bellerose, Queens Colony and Bellerose Commonwealth civic associations, to name a few.

Our opposition to this plan has been reported extensively in the Little Neck Ledger. The original intent was to have a one-story building with an athletic field and parking for members of the ICCC. It now has metamorphosed into a two nine-story-tower, high-rise residential development — the plans of which seem to

change daily — and which currently violates the zoning laws of the area.

All of our other local elected officials — City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens), state Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Little Neck) and state Senator Tony Avella (D-Bayside) — have publicly opposed this plan. I am urging you, as our borough representative, to voice your position in this matter, as it affects a large number of your constituents and all the civic associations’ membership in

the area. Recalling the excellent and thoughtful planning your predecessor, Claire Shulman, had for the grounds of Creedmoor, I am requesting that you oppose this latest ICCC proposal. The above civic associations believe it would set a dangerous precedent and change the character of one of the city’s last single-family residential neighborhoods in Queens.

*Virginia Salow
Bellerose*

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Pol should make peace between halal market, Bellerose

An open letter to state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bay-side):

I have family in Glen Oaks and they shop at Super Halal Meat in Bellerose. We enjoy the shopping experience and would have to travel farther to another specialty market that specifically caters to Muslims with halal products.

We believe that every business needs to comply to laws to keep customers and the public safe and also to be good neighbors.

But what I do not appreciate is that it seems that with your public vow to close the market you

indicted, convicted and sentenced this business to death in the court of your own mind with the jury being the neighbors on the block or close by in opposition.

This is America, the land of capitalism, and with our delicate economic climate no senator in America should vow to close a business down without due process afforded to all constituents to make the necessary corrections to be within the law.

I am sure racism is not an issue with your office, but in following the story every protester seems to be of Caucasian decent, which

in Community Board 13, which includes Bellerose, amounts to 20 percent. I did not see the other races which make up the rest of the geographic population. Can we blame the owners for feeling discriminated against?

I hope and pray that you were not offended or have taken the matter personally. You have to take the high road and bring peace to your constituents, not join in their fight by leading the protest or, God forbid, take sides.

Wasn't this business presented to the community board for permission to proceed with zoning? Isn't

it then that the community board presents the community with the proposed business and then it has a right to a public hearing? I am not sure of those laws and how they work, but given my little experience with my own community board, this is more or less the way it works.

It is too late for "not in my backyard" after the large investment this business has invested and continues to invest to make amends with its neighbors. The witch hunt is on because they failed to attend their community board meetings.

They blame the market

for rats, which are in every city in the world. With no one to stop them, four rats breeding can multiply to 1 million in one year.

The residents are seeking whatever they can get their hands on to get this business out after it has been established, and that seems unfair to the business.

My heart goes out to it. Its owners have a choice of selling their property now before the unrelenting campaign against them brings so much publicity that it may lower property values.

You have no legal responsibility or obligation

to respond to me, as I do not live within your jurisdiction, but I shall forward a copy of this letter to my own state senator.

I implore you to promote small businesses and make peace in your jurisdiction. I pray you heed this advice. Politicians are not in office to destroy businesses based on allegations and the wants of minority opposition. They eventually have to comply with the letter of the law within a statute of limitations.

*Joe Anthony Sierra
Staten Island*

TIMESLEDGER, Nov. 3-9, 2011

Don't put bleachers in Crocheron Pk

On March 29, 1995, an illiterate letter — replete with more than a dozen errors in grammar and spelling, including "bleaches" instead of "bleachers" — was sent to Community Board 11 by a person who called himself "Commissioner of Bayside Little League," requesting that bleachers be installed in Crocheron Park, across from the residential area that had been represented by the East Bayside Homeowners Association for two decades at that time.

The EBHA then led the opposition to that proposal, which was subsequently turned down by CB 11 and the city. I was not yet a member of CB 11 and neither were many of the current members, but I predicted that the bleachers issue would probably return to hassle our community.

And it has. It appears the proposal's sponsors expect us to forget the past.

Due to a prior commitment, I could not attend the Oct. 19 CB 11 Parks Committee meeting, but if I had been able to I would have

stressed the following before any decision by that group:

1. I have lived a few blocks from Crocheron Park for 71 years and played there as a kid. In the decades since, I have observed how "overuse" by the Little League has gradually degraded that which was formerly pristine into what you find today, with a great increase in dangerous traffic noise, litter and de-greening, particularly as Little League use has increased its number of ballfields hours and days in the 16 1/2 years since the 1995 request to us.

2. Since bleachers cannot be removed after each game, once installed they would be available each night all year to teenagers for drinking and partying and homeless people for beds. With neither fencing or guards to prevent such use, this would severely affect the neighborhood at night, putting a further strain on the 111th Precinct's resources and risk a terrible tragedy, like the murder of the teenage girl behind PS 203 three de-

cadec ago.

3. With the city perpetually going broke, how can anyone justify spending money on something that is not essential? Little League backers could pool their fortunes and buy a piece of land somewhere where they could have bleachers, but I think that is less likely than me being made king of England.

4. I request a copy of the petitions CB 11 has received to check addresses and find if any of them live adjacent to Crocheron Park or if all of them are residents of areas that would not be affected by this.

For these reasons — and the disturbing news that residents near Crocheron Park were not notified about this proposal — I ask CB 11 members to vote no. If this proposal comes to a vote Nov. 7, show your support of those residents whose quality-of-life would be severely affected by this ill-conceived change to the park.

*Frank Skala
Bayside*

Middle class will pay for jobs bill

As the great recession of 2011 continues unabated, protests against the dire economic conditions continue to occur and are now spreading to other parts of the country. The president continues to press for the passage of his jobs creation bill, but Congress is balking.

Again, there is politi-

cal infighting in Washington, D.C. The question continues to be who is going to foot the bill for this jobs creation bill? The answer is that it will be inevitably passed along to the American taxpayer, who is already overburdened with many other crushing financial expenses.

The president said at a recent press conference

that he understands the frustration of the protesters. Terrific! This country continues to descend into what will become an economic Armageddon — and this will end up becoming a major economic meltdown.

*John Amato
Fresh Meadows*

CORRECTION

The Oct. 27-Nov. 2 Dishing with Dee column should have said that Toby Slawsky was in attendance at the "Vintage Whimseys" sale.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten, and those longer than 300 words may be edited for brevity and clarity. All letters must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. Names may be withheld from publication if requested, but anonymously sent letters will not be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday noon to appear in the next week's paper. All letters become the property of Queens Publishing Corporation and may be republished in any format.

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John Haggerty makes promise for a Round 2 in court



Dee
Richard
▪
*Dishing
with Dee*

On Tuesday evening, state Sen. **Tony Avella** held a 60th birthday party celebration for himself at Antun's in Queens Village. It was a rather small, intimate party, but a pleasant one full of well-wishers.

Tony, if you thought the years flew by before now that you have passed a milestone, all you can do is scratch your head and ask where did all the time go? Have a happy birthday and may you get what you want and want what you get.

Some of the people who helped Tony celebrate his birthday were **Chuck Schumer, Michael Gia-**

naris, John Sampson, Letitia James and Steven Chen.

After Tony's party, a number of us wandered off to attend the Bayside Hills Civic Association's "World of Politics and Its Ethics." As one wag said, "That title sounds like an oxymoron."

The speakers were **Ed Braunstein, Mark and David Weprin and Amanda Kohut** representing U.S. Rep. **Bob Turner**. The evening was rounded off with speakers **Bob Frederick and Steve Behar**. You know Queens is quite the savvy political county, so I am glad I live here.

On Wednesday afternoon, the state Conservative Party held its annual National Affairs Platform at the New York Athletic Club. The issues ran the gamut from the U.S. Constitution to our current debt situation, plus a dozen

other items.

The party is also interviewing candidates it will consider supporting in the 2012 election cycle. The presentations were followed by a cocktail party. It was a most informative afternoon.

The guest list was a who's who in the conservative political world. I hate to mention names, as you will forget someone, but here goes anyhow. The people I was personally able to speak with were ex-Gov. **George Pataki**, former gubernatorial candidate **Carl Paladino**, U.S. Rep. **Michael Grimm**, Staten Island District Attorney **Dan Donovan**, Sen. **Marty Golden**, Queens County Conservative Chairman **Tom Long** and **John Haggerty**, who said, "His recent trial was only Round 1."

So stay tuned. From the synopsis of the daily

trial, there was much left unanswered, including an explanation of election law legality. I guess we will get more details in Round 2.

Do you think it was a coincidence that all this was timed to be aired in the midst of the battle for the Queens Republican chairmanship? It sounds like a smear campaign to destroy the opposition's credibility on the basis that you are guilty by association. That issue is also before the courts at the present time. We shall see how that plays out.

Last Thursday was the 45th anniversary of the founding of York College, held at the school's Performing Arts Center. The emcee was the Judge **George Grasso**, class of 1980. One of the other alumni speakers was the Judge **Jeremy Weinstein**, class of 1971. Special guests

were the former 27th District City Councilman **Archie Spigner** and former Borough President **Claire Shulman**.

The evening's presentation of the Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Milton G. Bassin**; the presenter was Dr. **Marcia V. Keizs**, the college president.

It was under Bassin's leadership that the college had 20 years of steady growth and the fulfillment of its hope of permanent facilities and the state-of-the-art campus that all enjoy today.

On Saturday we drove to the Javits Center for the last day of a photo expo and got caught in the blizzard on the way home. Could you believe a snowstorm in October? Go figure. The photo exhibit was great and we ran into old friends. Driving through Manhattan the

storm was pretty bad, but when we arrived home in Beechhurst, there was only drizzling rain.

On late Sunday afternoon, the Polish American Congress' Downstate New York Division held its October Polish American Heritage Month Cocktail Party and Awards Dinner at the Polonaise Terrace in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Three Queens recipients of the Polish American Congress were city Comptroller **John Liu**, Supreme Court Justice **Greg Lasak** and yours truly. Kudos to downstate President **Frank Milewski** and my good friend **Chet Szarejko**. Others present from Queens were **Barbara and Ralph Barba, Lois Marbach, Debbie Markell, Matt Silverstein and Jim Darnos**. It was a great evening.

I look forward to your voice mails at 718-767-6484.

Bloomberg must swiftly put an end to Wall St. protest



William
Lewis
▪
*Political
Action*

The Occupy Wall Street protest continues. It seems that most of those protesters do not intend to leave any time soon unless compelled to do so.

When the First Amendment was adopted by Congress in 1791 after being submitted by James Madison, our founding fathers could never have imagined that it could be used to justify the Wall Street situation that has developed over the last few weeks. The First Amendment speaks of "the right of the people peaceably to as-

semble, and to petition the Government." What has been happening in lower Manhattan recently goes beyond that amendment's requirements.

We have had other demonstrations of a similar nature in the past, the most notable being the Bonus March in 1932 during the Great Depression, when 15,000 World War I veterans converged on our nation's capital and set up an encampment on vacant lots and empty government buildings.

They were lobbying for the immediate payment of bonuses for the military service that were not due to be paid until 1945. President Herbert Hoover used U.S. Army troops to vacate the so-called Bonus Army. At that time, there was a wave of sympathy for the Bonus Marchers through-

out the nation.

Today, the situation is different. A group of mostly young people have set up a shantytown dwelling in Lower Manhattan, right next to the financial district, and apparently are set to continually use various forms of demonstrations to destabilize the workings of our financial institutions. They seem to have no clearly defined goals. We know what they are against, but what are they for?

Questions have arisen to form a sharp dialogue as to whether the First Amendment rights mean the right to live in open streets and parks of our city as a means of social protest, because this type of behavior has an impact on our city living environment. The amount of law enforcement time is continually rising, since the police are

responsible for controlling these demonstrations and making sure they do not get out of hand. The cost factor continues to rise.

Residents of the area around Zuccotti Park are increasingly expressing criticisms of the protesters. They are especially critical of the unsanitary living conditions within the encampment and their effect on adjacent neighborhoods. These residents are becoming more vocal at their local civic associations and community boards.

As we look to the immediate future, it is of increasing concern that the protesters living under crude living conditions in Zuccotti Park may be subject to infectious diseases that could spread beyond the park.

And as winter is fast approaching, the cold

weather will lead to makeshift heating arrangements, which could lead to fires occurring. Manhattan has had numerous fires in the past, particularly during the 19th century. These are real concerns that need to be considered when assessing the entire situation.

In Albany, a group of young protesters have occupied Academy Park across from the capitol. Like Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of Albany, Jerry Jennings, is reluctant to evict the protesters. If this protest becomes permanent, it could have the effect of disrupting our state government in the near future.

The time has come for the New York City government, led by the mayor, to take action against this type of political and social protest. Bloomberg thinks of himself as a libertarian.

That was evident several weeks ago when he first indicated that the Occupy Wall Street protesters could stay as long as they wanted to. It seems he is now having second thoughts about that.

By refusing to take firm action and remove the demonstrators from Zuccotti Park, he is projecting himself as a leader who is weak and indecisive.

Bloomberg can negotiate with the demonstrators and possibly find living accommodations for them in homeless shelters, but the line has to be drawn somewhere. We cannot have a large group of people living in the streets and parks at night in the city. The risks and dangers are increasing.

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Enameled.....	Up To.....	\$2,500
Cuff Links.....	Up To.....	\$1,500
Pins.....	Up To.....	\$6,000
Pearl Items.....	Up To.....	\$7,000
Rings.....	Up To.....	\$50,000
Art Nouveau.....	Up To.....	\$12,500
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Bayside Hills lot ruling sparks call for reform of BSA

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The Bayside Hills community gathered around the corner of 216th Street and 51st Avenue on Halloween to once again protest the second home planned for the narrow lot after the city Board of Standards and Appeals ignored vehement opposition and granted approval to the project.

In March, architect Paul Bonfilio, a former vice chairman of the BSA, submitted an application requesting a variance to allow for a second home to be placed on a subdivided lot. The remaining lot was so small that it would not meet the back and side yard requirements the area's zoning calls for.

The board granted that variance last month, despite numerous protests at the site, unanimous opposition by Community Board 11 and Borough President



Mark Weprin (l.-r.), Dan Halloran, Jerry Iannece, Helen Marshall and David Weprin gather in Bayside Hills to rally for Board of Standards and Appeals reform.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

Helen Marshall and testimony given at several BSA hearings by elected officials and neighbors.

In reaction to the fervor demonstrated while the application was being considered, City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whit-

estone) announced he had introduced two bills that would give the community a stronger voice when it comes to zoning issues.

In the wake of the decision, Halloran said Monday that his colleague, Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oak-

land Gardens) had agreed to co-sponsor the bill, and that it had the support of majority leader Councilman Joel Rivera (D-Bronx) and minority leader Councilman James Oddo (R-Staten Island).

"The BSA received its

power when we changed the charter. Suddenly, they became the last word on variances," Halloran said. "The BSA is nothing but mayoral appointees."

Halloran's legislation would give the community board and the borough president the ability to appeal BSA decisions to the Council and would create penalties for commercial properties operating with expired variances.

Weprin said that, in theory, this kind of power could be used to appeal the Creedmoor proposal — a plan by a South Asian group to build two nine-story senior housing apartment towers and a community center on part of the hospital's land — should it make its way through the BSA.

Community Board 13 voted last week to oppose the Creedmoor proposal, which needs a variance be-

cause plans call for building housing in a commercial zone.

Marshall, CB 11 Chairman Jerry Iannece and Bayside Hills Civic Association President Michael Feiner all stood in support of BSA reform not only as their final chance to possibly prevent the home from being built, but in order to prevent the BSA from granting further controversial variances.

State Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Little Neck) was also on hand to announce legislation he planned to introduce, which would have the BSA composed of two mayoral and three Council appointees.

"I think if the City Council had a majority of appointments, [the BSA] would be more responsive to the public," he said.

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Queens GOP infighting ends with Ragusa win



A judge ruled Phil Ragusa (l.) is the rightful chairman of the Queens GOP, not former City Councilman Tom Ognibene.

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

A Queens Supreme Court judge put an end to the leadership dispute between warring factions of the Queens Republican Party last week when he ruled that Phil Ragusa is the rightful chairman of the party.

A group loyal to Ragusa fought with another group led by Bart Haggerty, who contended former City Councilman Tom Ognibene was the legitimate Queens GOP leader.

Queens Supreme Court Judge Phyllis Flug ruled last Thursday that Haggerty had no right to call a county party re-organization meeting at Villa Russo in Ozone Park in late September where Ognibene was elected chairman.

Meanwhile, a separate group re-elected Ragusa as chairman the same day.

Haggerty and Queens GOP member Janice Bar filed suit against Ragusa last month, claiming Ragusa was not the rightful chairman.

Flug cited Queens

Ognibene was elected by a rival faction in the party.

GOP bylaws that only the outgoing chairman — in this case, Ragusa — has the right to call such a meeting.

“Only Ragusa, as outgoing county chairman, was authorized to select the time and place of the party’s organization meeting,” Flug wrote in her decision.

Ragusa could not be reached for comment, but Queens GOP Vice Chairman Vince Tabone said, “we’re very pleased at Justice Flug’s decision.”

Flug said the meeting called by Haggerty and Bar was “designed to create confusion and disrupt the internal affairs of the Queens County Republican Party.

“Respondents Haggerty and Bar clearly lacked

authority to notice and conduct an organization meeting of the party’s County Committee,” Flug said.

She wrote that the Villa Russo meeting in which the officers were elected “is void and without effect.

“Respondent Thomas V. Ognibene is enjoined from holding himself out as the chairman of the Queens County Republican Party for the period of September 2011-September 2013, as the purported election is void. All the individual respondents named herein are enjoined from holding themselves out as elected officers of the Queens County Republican party, as the purported election is void,” Flug wrote.

Reach reporter Howard Koplowitz by e-mail at hkoplowitz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

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Fatal crashes more likely on discount buses: Report

17

NE

TIMES LEDGER, NOV. 3-9, 2011

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Discount buses, such as those piloted by Queens drivers in two recent accidents, are seven times more likely to be involved a fatal smashup than regular buses, a federal agency reported this week.

The National Transportation Safety Board investigated the industry, at the request of U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and U.S. Rep. Nydia Velasquez (D-Ridgewood).

"It's abundantly clear that the oversight of this industry has not kept pace with its growth and the consequences have been deadly," Schumer said. "The NTSB report is a wake-up call that we need a more rigorous regulatory regime and it provides a blueprint for how to fill the gaps."

Curbside buses, renowned for their low fares, pick up and discharge passengers on streets rather than bus stations.

The investigation concluded that:



Kin Yiu Cheung (l.) and his lawyer Murray Janus arrive at Caroline County court in Bowling Green, Va., for Cheung's arraignment in June. Virginia authorities said Cheung fell asleep at the wheel.

AP Photo/Michael Felberbaum

- the fatal accident rate for curbside carriers from January 2005 to March 2011 was seven times that of conventional bus operations — 1.4 fatal accidents per 100 vehicles for curbside carriers

ers compared with 0.2 fatal accidents per 100 vehicles for conventional scheduled carriers

- bus driver fatigue, a contributing factor in many accidents, is a continuing

safety concern

- in general, motor-coach travel is safe, but curbside carriers with 10 or fewer buses and carriers that have been in business for 10 years or less have

higher accident rates and higher roadside inspection violation rates

The worst crash occurred March 12 on route I-95 in the Bronx, when a bus returning to Chinatown from the Mohegan Sun Casino left the highway, flipped onto its side and skidded hundreds of feet before striking a steel pole, which ripped the bus open. The crash left 15 passengers dead and 18 injured.

Investigators concluded that the driver, Ophadell Williams, of Brooklyn, was fatigued from prolonged lack of sleep.

Queens drivers have been involved in at least two accidents involving curbside buses.

Kin Yiu Cheung, of Flushing, was driving a Sky Express Bus Co. bus on I-95 that overturned in Caroline County, Va., in May, killing four passengers, including two from Queens. Virginia authorities said Cheung fell asleep at the wheel. Twenty passengers

were injured and four died in a hospital, including Karen Blyden-DeCastro, of Cambria Heights, and Jese-fa Torres, 78, of Jamaica.

The U.S. Department of Transportation issued an out-of-service order for Sky Express.

On March 14, a Super Luxury Tours bus crashed near East Brunswick, N.J., en route from Chinatown to points in Pennsylvania. Wei Wang, of Forest Hills, was killed. In late March, a crash of a bus of the Flushing-based Big Boy Coach Inc. caused injuries in New Hampshire.

The NTSB report said that overseeing the curbside bus lines were complicated because they do not use terminals, so safety inspections are difficult to carry out and many conduct business and paperwork in foreign languages.

Federal officials also said the numbers of inspectors are also far outnumbered by the number of such low-cost bus lines.

Haggerty set to be sentenced for bilking Bloomberg

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

Queens Republican operative John Haggerty, found guilty last month of stealing \$1.1 million from Mayor Michael Bloomberg during the mayor's 2009 re-election campaign, can receive a sentence ranging from probation to 15 years in prison when he is set to be sentenced Friday by a Manhattan Supreme Court judge.

The Manhattan district attorney's office said it could not comment on the sentencing possibilities for Haggerty, an unpaid volunteer during the re-election campaign.

But if Haggerty's defense team files an immediate appeal, the Forest Hills resident will not be sent directly to jail if Manhat-

tan Supreme Court Judge Ronald Zweibel gives him a sentence that includes prison time.

A jury found Haggerty guilty Oct. 21 of stealing \$1.1 million from the mayor to buy out his brother's share of their late father's Forest Hills Gardens home instead of spending the money on a poll-watching operation as Bloomberg intended.

During the trial, prosecutors said Haggerty spent about \$32,000 on so-called ballot security and pocketed the rest to buy the home.

As prosecutors and Haggerty's attorneys argued over bail, which was eventually set at \$250,000 and which Haggerty posted the day after the verdict, Queens Assistant District



The judge who is scheduled to sentence Queens campaign aide John Haggerty (pictured) can decide at minimum to give him probation or can hand down a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

AP Photo/Seth Wenig

Attorney Eric Seidel said he was concerned that Haggerty posed a flight risk. He cited an e-mail exchange in which Haggerty said he has

an Irish passport.

There is no extradition agreement between Ireland and the United States.

Maura Kearney, an

The Queens GOP operative was convicted of stealing \$1.1 million from the mayor.

employee of the Bloomberg campaign, argued with Haggerty over who was more Irish, with Kearney saying she was because "I was born there. I eat black pudding."

Haggerty responded, "I have a house there and an Irish passport and an Irish terrier named Seamus" in the e-mail, a copy of which was obtained by the New

York Post. "I can drink you under the table and went to many more Wolfetones concerts than you did. I am sure that I have been interrogated many more times by British 'personnel' than you have. So there!"

Haggerty attorney Dennis Vacco said the comment about the passport "was a joke," but Zweibel said, "I'm not convinced that it was a joke."

Reach reporter Howard Koplowitz by e-mail at hkoplowitz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

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Halloran claims city's mistreating his district at meet

BY RICH BOCKMANN

With representatives from a number of city departments sharing the stage with him at Holy Cross High School on Francis Lewis Boulevard, City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) hosted his second annual town hall meeting, where he sharply criticized the city for what he characterized as either neglect, malfeasance or outright targeting of his northeast Queens district.

The city Departments of Finance and Education, Water Board and Board of Standards and Appeals were all targeted by the councilman.

He took umbrage with Finance's over-assessment of co-ops earlier this year and the DOE's handling of yellow bus service to College Point Junior High School and its failure to provide more seats despite growth and over-saturation in his district's schools.

He called the Water Board's rate increase a back-door tax that fills the city's coffers and railed against the BSA for granting un-



City Councilman Dan Halloran (l.) hosts his second annual town hall meeting.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

popular variances at the Oct. 25 meeting.

As for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Halloran said he held him accountable for the reduction of 6,000 police officers and 900 firefighters since he took office, for the over-budget overhauls of 311 and 911, the CityTime scandal and for a focus on Manhattan at the expense of the outer boroughs.

"There are some things about this position that bother me, and there are some things that I really love. I don't love hearing about city waste," he said. "I'm going to be critical of the mayor. It is what it is."

Halloran also invited 109th Precinct Commanding Officer Brian Maguire to update the community on crime. He said major crime in the precinct was down

nearly 5 percent over the previous year, but noted that robberies, especially of rims and tires, were on the rise.

He said his precinct had successfully closed five problem bars in the area, to which Halloran quipped that Bell Boulevard in the 111th Precinct has 600 bars on one block.

The 111th precinct's commanding officer, Capt. Ron Ley-

son, said robberies were up, especially among students at the precinct's large high schools.

"They're after the iPhones, the iPads and the iPods that are out there," he said.

Leyson was satisfied, he said, with the precinct's crime statistics on stolen cars for the year.

"We have 85 stolen cars for the year, which unless it's your car is a great number," he said.

Halloran also invited his constituents to bring their questions and concerns before representatives from some of the city's departments.

Henry Euler, of the Auburndale Improvement Association, wanted to know what the city Department of Buildings did with all the money in fines issues for violations at construction sites. A DOB representative said the city Environmental Control Board collected the fines and that the DOB was working on a plan to place liens on property owners.

Halloran said he was working on legislation that would impose escalating fines for violations.

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Christina Santucci

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THIRD PLACE

Best Feature Series Ivan Pereira



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Martin Zias, 83

Martin Zias, 83, of Bayside, died Oct. 22 at his home surrounded by family. He was 83.

Born in Brooklyn May 12, 1928, he was the son of the late Belle Lidsky Zias and Benjamin Zias, and was a lifelong resident of New York City.

Zias graduated from Long Island University in 1951 and was a psychotherapist in a private practice for 25 years before retiring and engaging in consultation as a clinical therapist.

He owned and operated a clinical psychological counseling center in Bayside, where he was a dedicated therapist who worked to help his patients redirect their lives with positive results.

He served in the military at the end of World War II in Korea and Japan. He traveled widely in Europe, South America and Asia. He was an ardent sports fan, particularly of the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Jets.

Zias was the devoted

husband and of Renee Lopez Zias for 23 years. Besides his wife Renee, he is survived by his sister Gloria, son Kerry of Israel, daughter Robin of San Diego, three step-children, three grandchildren and five step-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Jewish National Fund — jnf.org — to plant a tree in Israel; the Diabetes Foundation Inc., 13 Sunflower Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652; or the charity of your choice.

LaGuardia Community College offers free home health aide training

LaGuardia Community College is offering a free training program for people who are interested in becoming home health aides.

The program, which runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 23, includes 84 hours of lecture and lab practice, eight hours of supervised practical training, 2.5 hours of infection

control and 16 hours of CPR training.

The training will take place at the college, at 31-10 Thomson Ave. in Long Island City.

For more information or to schedule an assessment test and interview, please call 718-482-5031.



Ilan Grapel (second r.) is surrounded by his father Daniel Grapel, lawyer Abbe Lowell, mother Irene Grapel and Congressman Gary Ackerman after arriving in New York Saturday morning.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Grapel

Continued from Page 1

that he received medical checkups and was offered fish from the Nile River as well as chicken and vegetables when he did not have an appetite for fish.

The 27-year-old said he had “pestered” Ackerman in the past for recommendations for college and law school.

“I didn’t think I’d need a recommendation that I wasn’t a spy,” he said.

Grapel spoke with his family on the phone every two weeks, which he said helped him cope.

“To hear from my mother ... it helped,” he

said.

Ackerman said Grapel’s ordeal began when he decided to check out the protests in Cairo’s Tahrir Square and a man charged him \$1 to hold up a sign and have his picture taken.

“He had the perfect profile” of a spy, Ackerman said, noting that Grapel has dual United States and Israeli citizenship, served in the Israeli armed forces as a paratrooper and spoke fluent Hebrew and Arabic.

“He was the kind of kid if he wasn’t in jail for the last 4 1/2 months might have been in Zuccotti Park,” the congressman said.

Grapel was working in Cairo with a non-governmental organization to help

relocate Sudanese refugees who were stuck in Egypt.

He stayed in a youth hostel near Tahrir Square.

Grapel’s mother, Irene Grapel, said she always held out hope that she would see her son again.

“Four and a half months we’ve been heartbroken and having approached Gary first, I put all my trust in him. I’m elated and relieved that this whole scenario is over,” she said. “I can only say, ‘God bless America.’”

Grapel and his family then left the airport in a black Chevrolet Suburban and headed to an IHOP to satisfy Grapel’s craving for his favorite breakfast: chocolate chip pancakes.

Muhammad said many of his customers tell him that the neighborhood needs a place where they can get halal food and disagreed with the idea that he was drastically changing the character of the neighborhood.

“It’s not like this is Roosevelt Avenue. It’s not going to happen where you get a whole bunch of people and this turns into a busy intersection,” he said.

fic. He said he was doing a fair amount of business between the hours of 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. and that he had a number of loyal customers.

“The city makes the rules, not the store owners. I pay my taxes as the city allowed me to be here,” he said. “Everyone has to do something for a living. This is my job.”

Continued from Page 2

the food cart was out of step with the neighborhood’s mostly residential character.

One of the cart’s owners, who wished to be identified only by the name Muhammad, said he chose the corner because there was a good amount of street traf-

Nissan

Continued from Page 1

former state Sen. Frank Padavan filled with 10 years’ worth of complaints from neighboring residents, which run the gamut from noise complaints to violating its certificate of occupancy to early morning deliveries.

He said he shot video of garage doors being left open, emitting noise from the shop inside and had received complaints about deliveries being made at 4 a.m.

Service Manager Elliot Rothman, who received the direct brunt of the councilman’s anger on two occasions, said that all garage doors, except the one in the front of the service center, are automatic and close about 30 seconds after a vehicle passes through.

He said the door Halloran taped as being open was new and malfunctioning but has since been repaired, and that deliveries

are not accepted until 7 a.m.

Rhea O’Gorman, president of the Station Road Civic Association, said her neighborhood’s relationship with the service center has been “acrimonious” for a decade and that her chief complaint is the noise emitted through open doors, especially during the summer.

“Fixing the noise would go a long way to making it a tenable relationship,” she said.

Halloran told TimesLedger Newspapers that he has made Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) aware of the issue and had set a deadline of Nov. 15 for all the center’s doors to remain closed while not in use.

If Star Nissan does not comply, he said, he would schedule a news conference outside the building with city Public Advocate Bill de Blasio.

Rothman said all the doors were in working order but that the front door needed to remain open for

the 60 to 100 cars the busy station services each day.

“It’s our main entrance. We have to let people in. We have no way of knowing whether or not they’re out there,” he said.

Rothman said the center employs about 200 people and that it was hypocritical of Halloran, who says he supports small businesses, to come in and scream at employees.

“Our main concern was that he was venting and cursing out our employees. You can’t do that,” he said.

O’Gorman said she understood the councilman’s frustration but that the community’s outrage should be directed at the Koufakis family, which owns the company.

“They’re trying to pit the neighbors against the workers,” she said.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.

Weight Watchers

Continued from Page 3

were a place to talk about our common problems with food — and admit to ourselves by admitting to others that we were sneaking and gorging on fattening foods — I did most of the talking and admitting. I talked and talked and talked, and the more I talked, the more others started opening up with their own

stories,” she wrote.

Word of the group spread, and one day Nidetch was invited to the Baldwin, L.I., home of Felice and Al Lippert, who offered to pay her \$1 a week to speak to a group of about 20.

It was Al Lippert who convinced Nidetch to run her group as a proper business, and by 1969 the company had sold franchises in Canada, Puerto Rico, Eng-

land, Scotland and Australia.

Huron said she called Nidetch at her home in Florida earlier last month to wish her a happy 88th birthday, and said she would like to see her friend’s legacy honored.

“She never got recognition for what she did,” Huron said. “Her whole idea was together we can lose the weight better than separately. Of course, it worked, that’s why there’s so many diet companies now.”

Food carts

Continued from Page 2

the food cart was out of step with the neighborhood’s mostly residential character.

One of the cart’s owners, who wished to be identified only by the name Muhammad, said he chose the corner because there was a good amount of street traf-

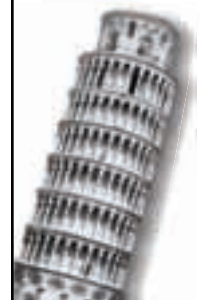
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“It’s not like this is Roosevelt Avenue. It’s not going to happen where you get a whole bunch of people and this turns into a busy intersection,” he said.

Unbelievable!



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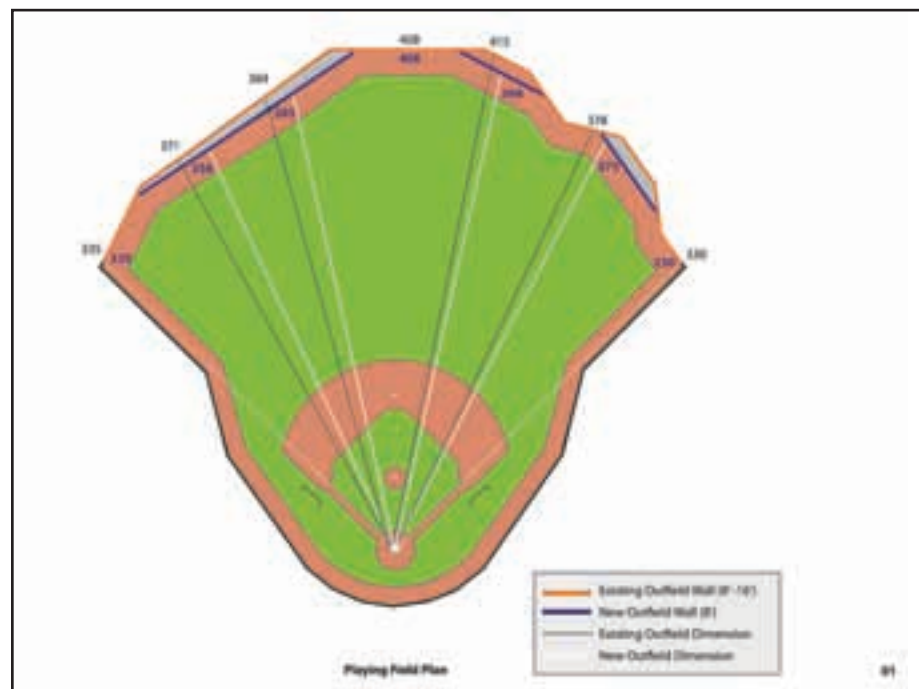
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Mets will move in fences at Citi Field for fair play



The New York Mets plan on moving in the fences at Citi Field, which will make the stadium more conducive to home runs.
Photo courtesy New York Mets

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

Citi Field will become a more friendly place for home runs after the New York Mets decided Monday to move in the fences at the Flushing ballpark in time for next season. Portions of the outfield wall will be moved as much as 12 feet closer to home plate and the entire outfield wall will be 8 feet high.

At its highest point, parts of the outfield wall are currently 16 feet.

There are no uniform rules for outfield wall dimensions, making each ballpark unique.

The corner left field wall will remain 335 feet away from home plate and the right field corner will stay at 330 feet, the team said.

Citi Field's current dimensions give an advantage to pitchers: long fly balls recorded as outs in the stadium are usually home runs in other Major League Baseball parks.

Only 1.33 home runs per game were hit at Citi Field in 2011 — third-lowest

among the 30 Major League stadiums, according to statistics.

"We wanted to make Citi Field fair to both pitchers and hitters," said Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson.

The dimensions have been criticized since Citi Field opened in 2008 as being tough for hitters.

The existing fence will not be torn down and the Flushing franchise said it would install 140 additional seats in-between the old fence and the new one in left field.

An outdoor seating area will be added to the Modell's Clubhouse in right field that can hold about 40 more fans, the team said.

Besides the dimensions, Mets fans have also complained that the outfield fence is black — Shea Stadium's fence was blue — which is not tied to the team's traditional colors of orange and blue.

"After conferring with Sandy and all members of his staff, ownership concurred with the recommendations to change the

dimensions at Citi Field," said Mets Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wilpon, son of Mets co-owner Fred Wilpon. "We decided to change the outfield wall from black to Mets blue, which many of our fans have wanted."

In a portion of left-center field, the dimensions will shrink from 371 feet to 358.

Another portion of left-center field closest to center field will be 1 foot farther away from home plate, from 384 feet to 385 feet.

The fence at that part of the field is 16 feet high, but under the new dimensions the fence's height will be cut in half.

Dead center field will remain at 408 feet, while part of right-center field will go from 415 feet high to 398 feet.

The other part of right-center field will be moved 3 feet closer to home plate to 375 feet.

Reach reporter Howard Koplowitz by e-mail at hkoplowitz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

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Center for the Women of NY plans career fair

TIMESLEDGER, Nov. 3-9, 2011



The job hunt is on again with the Center for the Women of New York planning to hold its annual conference and career fair at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel in Flushing next week.

The World of Working Women opens with a panel discussion about where the jobs are and how to get them at 10:15 a.m. to noon on Friday, Nov. 11. There will be a number of outstanding women on the panel, including Delyanne Barros, a public interest lawyer who fights sexual discrimination and harassment in the workplace as well as City Councilwomen Elizabeth Crowley (D-Ridgewood) and Julissa Ferreras (D-Corona).

The job fair follows from noon until 3 p.m. Businesses from around the borough will be

Ann Jawin, founder of the Center for the Women of New York, is scheduled to hold the Center's annual job fair next week in Flushing.

The annual event on the calendar is set for Nov. 11 at the Sheraton Hotel in Flushing.

on hand to discuss opportunities within their organizations. For those looking for employment be sure to bring a resume and other pertinent material.

At the same time there will be a series of workshops from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on relevant topics such as resumé writing by Charles Gilmore and handling finances by Anna Tringle.

Darinka Maldonado, director of the Queens Women's Business Center, is running a workshop on starting your own business.

A workshop called "the Job Search and Getting Back into the Workforce" will be presented by Eric Shtob, senior director of Consortium for Worker Education, and Lee Bowe from American Works. Another workshop led by Victoria Pilotti targets women in transition and the Center for the Women of New York has a resource table for advice and support.

A Dress for Success "Reality" Fashion Show will run from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., and the event ends with raffles and door prizes.

The Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel is at 153-20 39th Avenue in Flushing.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. There is no registration fee.

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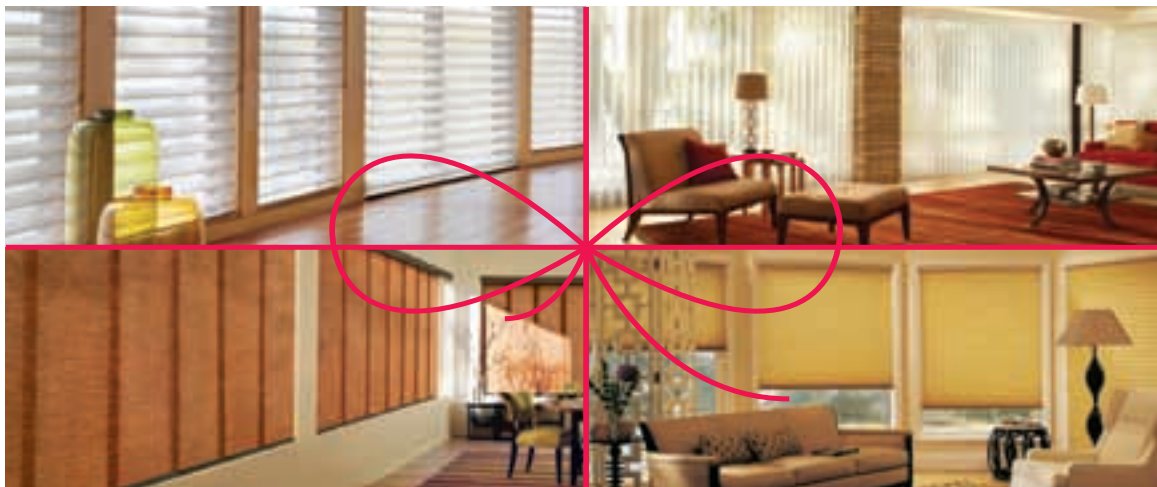
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Founder of Korean center gets lifetime honor

BY REBECCA HENELY

Kwanghee Kim, founder of the Flushing-based nonprofit the Korean American Family Service Center, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award last week by the New York Women's Foundation. But while she is dedicated to her work, she was not so happy with the name of the award.

"I don't think I'm that old yet," Kim, 67, said. "I have a lot of work to do."

Kim, a Korean immigrant who lives in Manhattan, founded her organization, which helps underprivileged women, children and teenagers, in 1989. She was honored by the foundation at its annual dinner Oct. 25 at Long Island City's Riverview Restaurant and Lounge at 201 50th Ave.

Kim has a long history with the foundation.

Not only did her center receive its first public grant from the group, but she now helps the organization choose nonprofits to give grants to every year.

"They are my sisters," Kim said of the foundation. "We learn from each other."

Kim has a full-time day job working as a chemist at Weill Cornell Medical College, but her nonprofit work came out of teaching Sunday school at her church, where she would see the children of single mothers and the struggles the women faced.

"I had in my mind I would do something for them," she said.

Kim took the initiative to do it after her mentor, Dr. Tae Yong Lee, the first female attorney in Korea, encouraged her in 1989, saying she wanted the aid center she had set up for underprivileged women in



Kwanghee Kim was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the New York Women's Foundation.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

Korea to expand.

But after Kim received the help of friends, her center would take a different approach. It started small, with a Christmas party every year at the church for single mothers.

"Some people accused me of being a family breaker, promoting single mothers" Kim said. "But the heck with it."

The organization expanded from there. At first Kim worked out of Manhattan, but she opened a Flushing office in 1996 near Main Street and later moved all of the center's operations there. Now the center offers domestic violence counseling, children's programs, teen programs and a scholarship program for strug-

gling mothers.

The center also provides volunteer training in both English and Korean, and Kim's program has been used by other nonprofits. This training session includes basic information on domestic violence, family law, counseling protocol and resources where volunteers can direct those in need. Kim said she requires perfect attendance from those who take the course but ends the training with a fun day in Central Park.

"I'm trying to mobilize as many, many people as possible to get involved in this and enjoy themselves," Kim said.

Kim's organization can be found at kafsc.org.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rheleny@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

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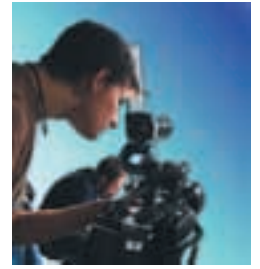
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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT

Sudoku 30 ■
Theater Calendar 31 ■
Arts & Entertainment 32 ■
Crossword Puzzle 32 ■

QUEENS' CELEBRITY BUILDER

Astoria native provides glimpse into contracting
with the stars in new show on cable

BY ALAN KRAWITZ

Queens native Stephen Fanuka has built a reputation as the “contractor-to-the-stars,” crafting tony digs for a celebrity clientele that boast names like Beyonce, Lindsay Lohan and Astoria's own Tony Bennett.

But the outspoken yet humble contractor who was born in Astoria, raised in Fresh Meadows and attended St. John's University, says that the new show he hosts on DIY Network, “Million Dollar Contractor,” is not about showcasing the outlandish and opulent homes of celebrities.

“We're not like an ‘MTV Cribs,’” Fanuka said. “The point of the show is to teach people who can't afford a million-dollar home renovation how they can take some of the ideas from the show and apply them to their own projects and make them look great. It's not about the bucks, it's about the premise.”

Fanuka's show, set for a 13-episode run in its inaugural season, debuted on DIY Network Oct. 16 and focuses on his Maspeth-based contracting business, Fanuka, Inc., with its high-end Manhattan-based projects as well as the daily challenges that often go hand-in-hand with such projects.

One example was a project to place a \$750,000 glass house atop a penthouse on Central Park West. It took Fanuka more than a year to complete due to complications with city rules regulating building on landmarks. The name of the penthouse owner was not disclosed. On the show, Fanuka points out that since it is his real life, there is no sugar-coating of some of the conflicts that often arise while on the job. He relates a story of how he often clashes with employees about how certain jobs are not progressing to his satisfaction. “You see us going at it ... There is a lot of pressure on me to get the jobs done and that can sometimes lead to frayed nerves,” Fanuka said.

Continued on Page 31

Stephen Fanuka has been in the construction business since his father had him pulling nails at 12 years old.

Photo courtesy DIY Network

An interior space constructed by Stephen Fanuka. Photo courtesy of DIY Network



Film stars pioneers of Rockaway surfing community

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Just hop on the Far Rockaway-bound A train and you'll find Rockaway Beach. The mystery of this faraway stop inspired Brooklynite writer-director Krysta Schemmerling, a New York University filmmaking teacher and mom, to shoot a documentary about the little-known surfing community there.

"What went on out there at the end of the subway line? When I discovered that a lot of people were surfing, I immediately knew I wanted to make a film about them. To me — a native Californian — the idea of surfing in New York City seemed as enchantingly strange as Far Rockaway itself."

So, she interviewed seven Rockaway Beach surfer buddies, now in their 40s and 50s, who have stayed connected by their shared passion. In search of adrenaline and the perfect wave, "Our Hawaii" chronicles how their young lives intertwined, while they experienced freedom, self-expression and bonding.

Sadly, one of the pioneering Rockaway surfers, a fireman

named Henry Miller, died on 9/11. The film is dedicated to his memory.

Another surfer and fireman, Dennis Miller (no relation to Henry), lost most of the men in his firehouse that day, and was saved because he had the day off. He was surfing when the towers fell. He had no idea what was happening when he saw the smoke drifting over Breezy Point. The surf saved his life.

Rockaway was a resort town until the 1970s, when it began a gradual decline toward urban blight. The film was shot against a backdrop of almost vacant land, where some of the many sprawling, turn-of-the-century wood frame houses are now being renovated.

"Far Rockaway is definitely having a renaissance as a summer destination for the young and the hip. From what I hear, the Williamsburg 20- and 30-something's have been coming out to the beach and boardwalk in droves over the last few years," said Schemmerling.

A new breed of surfers is enjoying the swells and surge of the



The Rockaways' surfing community has been surging of late. Photo by Ben Wolf

tides, according to local business owners. There are more women, there's more diversity and the summer renters are coming back in droves.

"I know the guys in the film; they're very nice, but tough," said surfing instructor Frank Cullen. "The amount of people showing interest in surfing has exploded."

If you walk to Beach 92nd Street, you can't miss Rockawayites Steve and son Christian Stathis' Boarder's Surf Shop. Steve, a former surfer said, "The area has come back a lot, with

new seasonal concession stands on the boardwalk that sell Thai and Venezuelan food; and there's a popular fish taco joint."

Steve Stathis said several other area surfers had produced films on the Rockaway surf and the Queens beach life.

"Just the fact that the shop is selling surf films made by local filmmakers, shows their commitment to promoting Rockaway surfing at a more grassroots level," said Schemmerling.

Surprisingly, in summer the waves are the flattest. "Surfers

here live for the early fall hurricanes that generate big swells, and the Nor'easters of winter and spring," she said. "The surfer buddies used to surf in wetsuits during the winter, in snow and ice, because there were waves. It was cold, but their obsession was such that they would do pretty much anything for waves."

Though Schemmerling has an obvious infatuation with filmmaking and exploring her Californian roots, she has one striking admission.

"The first question everyone asks me is, 'Do you surf?' The answer is 'no,' even though I grew up in California. Surfing to me is purely aesthetic: I like to watch it, I find surf culture fascinating, but there is no way I'm going to try to do it myself."

Schemmerling has written/directed two award-winning dramatic shorts. "The First Seven Years" was on PBS.

"Our Hawaii" will be screening Nov. 5 at 3:20 p.m. during the 2011 Big Apple Film Festival in Theater 2 of Tribeca Cinemas, 54 Varick St., Manhattan.

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		3				1		
1			9		3			2

Hard #36

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

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
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Stephen Fanuka

Continued from Page 29

In addition, he said that all of the show's episodes are filmed around actual client jobs in-progress as opposed to some home improvement shows that will go and scout a location and then film it for the show.

"I don't care that there are cameras filming while I'm working," he said. "First and foremost, I'm there to get a client's job done. It's my life and my livelihood. I'm just giving the audience a taste on how complicated the whole process can be."

Fanuka, who also does guest spots as the home improvement guy for the "Nate Berkus Show" and for NBC's "George to the Rescue," credited his father for instilling in him old world values that have helped him achieve his current success.

At age 12, his father taught him cabinet making the hard way. "My dad made me straighten-out nails for six months. He also taught me the value of money," said Fanuka. "My work ethic is that I treat everyday like it's my last and I work my butt off."

And, while many of Fanuka's clients are celebrities and affluent homeowners, many are regular people, too.

"We also have a school teacher from a public school in Queens," he said. "Actually, she couldn't afford my work, but I showed her how I could give her what she wanted without the high price tag. Now, she has a new kitchen, bathroom, new painting and



"Million Dollar Contractor" Stephen Franuka (l.) is a regular guest on Nate Berkus's (r.) daytime television show. Photo courtesy DIY Network

she spent a fraction of the money she might have spent."

He adds that notwithstanding the show's name and his high-end reputation, he's done jobs spanning a wide range from \$1,500 to \$5 million and everything in between.

Asked about unrealistic project expectations, Fanuka said he was once offered a \$500,000 bonus to get a six-month project done in three months. "I shook the guy's hand and wished him luck finding someone for the job. "A job that is rushed, likely won't be done up to my standards."

Underscoring his own satisfaction with his work, Fanuka said he wakes up every morning like it is Christmas. "I have a Rolodex with close to 6,000 customers and on most days I can't wait to get to work."

"There's no trick to this business," he explains. "Just give a damn, that's it."

QSTAGE THEATER CALENDAR

With Over Two Pieces of Luggage

— A Cypriot, a Greek and an American walk into a theater... And so begins one of the most touching, nostalgic and heartfelt anecdotes ever told at the Greek Cultural Center, and which we will have the pleasure of enjoying during the upcoming winter theatrical season.

Cost: \$20 Adults (\$15 children and seniors)

When: Through Dec. 11, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 4 pm

Where: Greek Cultural Center, 26-80 30th St., Astoria

Website: www.greekculturalcenter.org

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— Five mini-musicals take audiences on an all-singing, all-dancing ride to the places and times that made the Gershwins the most successful songwriting team in musical history. Featuring more than 40 classic hits including "I Got Rhythm," "Someone To Watch Over Me,"

and "They Can't Take That Away From Me," 'S Wonderful will have you tapping your toe to the fascinating rhythms of George Ira Gershwin. Through Nov. 13.

When: Nov. 3-13

Cost: \$39-\$44

Where: Queens Theatre in the Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Website: www.queentheatre.org

Hairspray

— Music by Marc Shaiman. Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman. Book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan. Directed by Maryellen Pierce. Music direction by Paul L. Johnson. Based on the 1988 John Waters film "Hairspray." Seats reserved.

When: Nov. 5, 12 and 19, 8 pm; Nov. 6, 13, and 20, 3 pm

Cost: \$16, \$14 seniors over 60 and children 12 and under

Where: FSF Community Theatre Group, 41-60 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, NY 11355

Contact: B. Baker fsfctg@

yahoo.com 718-229-8547

Website: http://www.spotlightonstage.com/fsfnews.htm

Little Shop of Horrors — The musical about a florist and a hungry plant.

When: Nov. 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 pm; Nov. 10 at 10:15 am and 7:30 pm; Nov. 9 matinee for \$1 at 1:15 pm

Cost: \$10, \$5 for seniors, \$3 QCC faculty and students.

Where: Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave. Springfield Blvd., Bayside

Website: visitqpac.org

Twelfth Night — Shakespeare's romantic comedy.

Times: Nov. 5 and 12 at 7:30 pm, Nov. 6 and 13 at 2:30 pm

Cost: \$12 suggested donation (\$10 group of six or more)

When: Nov. 5

Where: St. Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills

Website: www.gingerbreadplayers.org

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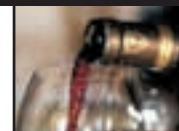


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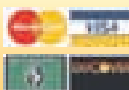
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When: Nov. 4, 7 pm

Cost: \$10 suggested

Where: York Performing Arts Center, 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica

Contact: (718) 262-2559

How We Are Connected – The special event will begin with movement artists who combine

expressionist dance with acting. Jazz musicians and a Hip Hop artist will then headline a live music segment, followed by a showcase of short skits by professional actors. The final act will be a panel discussion during which the night's performers will discuss how the performing arts bridge the gap between cultures.

Cost: \$10 suggested donation

When: Nov. 4, 7 pm

Where: Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, 35-12 35th Ave., Long Island City

Contact: (718) 717-2874

Ahn Trio – Korean sisters Maria, Lucia and Angella Ahn will perform chamber music. The classical recording arts, trained at Juilliard, have been called "one of the most glamorous and hip sisters acts" in the genre. The performance will be part of Kupferberg Center for the Arts 50th season of classic music.

When: Nov. 6, 2 pm

Where: The LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Contact: 718-939-8080

Website: www.kupferbergcenter.com

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

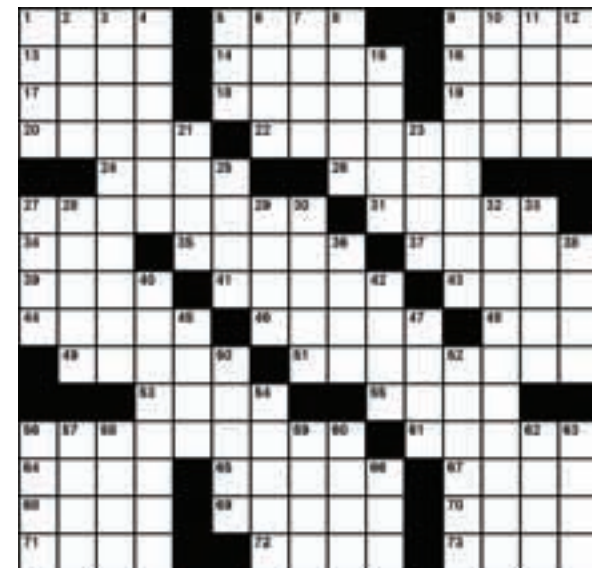
TimesLedger Newspapers
Nov. 3-9, 2011

By Pete Cundy

Boxer Rebellion

Across

1. Besides
5. Trot or canter
9. Trudge
13. Computer command
14. Sight-related
16. Easy run
17. Pitch
18. Atlanta-based airline
19. '___ Tu' (1974 hit song)
20. "Later!"
21. Three Stooges specialty
24. Shoelace problem
26. Ancient mariner
27. Monocle
31. Feeds pigs
34. Droop
35. Visine applications
37. More genuine
39. Norse thunder god
41. Nuisances
43. The "A" in A.D.
44. Foot parts
46. New Hampshire college town
48. Civil War inits.
49. "___ a Grecian Urn."
51. Used Google
53. Present time?
55. Encircle
56. Top of the pops
61. "Phooey!"
64. Bounce back
65. Angry
67. Battery prefix with "cell"
68. Crowd noise
69. Latin dance
70. 1024 bytes, briefly
71. "Put a lid ___!"
72. School zone sign
73. ___-Ball (arcade game)



5. Word on all U.S. coins
6. Copies
7. "___ never work!"
8. Industry magnate
9. Overabundance
10. Actress Petty
11. Oil cartel
12. Secretary, for one
15. Mafia biggies
21. Auctioneer's closing word
23. Highway department supply
25. Camper's purchase
27. Guesses: Abbr.
28. Country bumpkin
29. Overcharge, slangily
30. Moles, maybe
32. Dazed and confused
33. Good judgment
36. Dagger
38. Highway
40. Send overseas again
42. Glitch
45. "Brave New World" drug
47. Land of leprechauns
50. Drug busters
52. Doctrines
54. Lee and Roosevelt
56. Deli sandwich
57. Computer symbol
58. Bangkok native
59. Gussy (up)
60. Roadside name of the pas
62. Elder, e.g.
63. Rice wine
66. Tool with teeth

Quotable Quote

On my income tax 1040 it says 'Check this box if you are blind.' I wanted to put a check mark about three inches away.

... Tom Lehrer

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Choice of 5 items

- Stuffed Shells
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- Sausage & Peppers
- Broiled Chicken
- Small Meatballs
- Linguini w/Red or White Clams
- Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

- Chicken Parmigiana
- Chicken Francaise
- Chicken Marsala
- Chicken Pizzaiola
- Veal Cutlet Parmigiana
- Penne Vodka
- Tortellini Alfredo

CHOICE B
\$15.95 per person
Any 3 Choices from A
Any 2 Choices from B

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CHOICE A
\$23.⁹⁵

- Any 5 Items
- Stuffed Shells
 - Tortellini w/Meat Sauce
 - Ravioli
 - Baked Ziti
 - Eggplant Parmigiana
 - Sausage & Peppers
 - Broiled Chicken
 - Small Meatballs
 - Linguini, w/Clam Sauce
 - Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

CHOICE B
\$25.⁹⁵

- Any 3 Choices From A
Any 2 Choices From B
- Chicken Pizzaiola
 - Chicken Francaise
 - Chicken Marsala
 - Veal Cutlet Parmigiana
 - Veal Marsala
 - Tortellini Alfredo
 - Penne Vodka

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Marsala, Parmigiana
Francaise

FISH
Filet of Sole
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Halloween Parade

Hundreds of people marched along 37th Avenue for the annual Jackson Heights Halloween Parade. (Clockwise from top l.) Alex Nantes holds son Lukas, 11 months, as they stroll with Karen Nantes; Jaymahr Cardona, 2, of Jackson Heights kneels down during the parade; a dog keeps warm with its pea pod costume; Oscar da Silva (l.) and Lilians Corozo watch the festivities; and Giancarlo Matos, 11, shows off his dance moves.

Photos by Christina Santucci



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Foot care important for healthy aging

Forget aging gracefully. For today's baby boomers, it's more important than ever to stay healthy and active as they age. While growing older causes some unavoidable body changes, more boomers are focusing on healthy lifestyles that can help them prevent problems associated with aging — like mobility issues related to the feet and legs.

Impairment of the lower extremities is a leading cause of activity limitation in older people, according to the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics.

“Foot problems are a health concern that can lead to further complications like knee, hip and lower-back pain, all of which undermine mobility,” says Michael King, DPM, president of the American Podiatric Medical Association. “The human foot has been called the mirror of health. Systemic problems often related to age, such as diabetes, arthritis, and circulatory disease often can first be detected in the feet.”

Fortunately, boomers can do a lot to maintain and even improve their foot health. APMA offers this advice to keep your feet pain free:

KEEP WALKING

Walking offers many benefits for both physical and mental health. If your feet hurt, however, you may find yourself less willing to get in the daily walking that's good for your overall well-being. To keep your walking regimen comfortable be sure to:

- Choose a good quality, lightweight walking shoe with breathable upper materials like leather or nylon mesh. The heel

counter should be firm, and the shoe heel should have less cushioning in order to position the foot's heel closer to the ground for stability. The front of the shoe should offer adequate support but also be flexible. For a list of footwear that have been awarded APMA's Seal of Acceptance, visit www.apma.org/seal.

- Shoe shop in the late afternoon, since feet swell throughout the day, and have both feet professionally fitted. Wear the type of socks you intend to wear while walking and be sure the shoe fits snugly, but not tightly, over the sock. Your toes should have plenty of room to move around.

DEAL WITH DIABETES

Diabetes symptoms often appear in the feet first, and the extremities can be hit hard by this chronic disease. In fact, diabetes complications lead to more than 65,000 lower limb amputations each year. Including a podiatrist in your diabetes care can reduce the risk of amputation up to 85 percent.

Learn to recognize warning signs that often appear in the feet, including changes in skin color, swelling, numbness, pain, open sores that heal slowly, ingrown or fungal toenails, bleeding corns and calluses and dry cracks in the skin, especially around the heels.

If you have diabetes, inspect your feet daily for cuts, bruises, sores or changes to the toenails. Wear thick, soft socks without



seams that could rub or cause blisters. Always have new shoes properly fitted and never go barefoot, not even in your own home.

MANAGE ARTHRITIS

Arthritis can affect the structure and function of your feet. Common symptoms in the feet include joint swelling, joint pain or tenderness, redness or heat in joints, limited movement, early morning stiffness, and skin changes, including rashes and

growths.

Podiatrists are often the first to diagnose a patient's arthritis. Treatment can take many forms, including physical therapy, exercise, and medication. Receiving regular check-ups are vital to successfully managing the condition.

GENERAL FOOT HEALTH

In addition to shoes that fit properly, it's important to choose socks, pantyhose or stockings that also fit well and are free of seams.

If you have corns or calluses, never cut them with a razor, pocket knife or other sharp instrument.

If corns or calluses are present, consult a podiatrist and only use over-the-counter foot products if he or she advises it.

Bathe your feet daily in lukewarm water with a mild soap that contains moisturizers, or use a separate moisturizer after your bath. Trim or file toenails straight across and inspect your feet every day. If you notice redness, swelling, cracks in the skin or sores, see your podiatrist.

Taking care of your feet can make aging a little easier and healthier. To find a podiatrist near you, visit APMA's website at www.APMA.org or www.todayspodiatrist.com.
ARA

Sheepskin boots may be bad for health: Doctors



For years, foot doctors and orthopedists have been chastising women for wearing high heels because of the myriad foot ailments that can result. However, it seems a popular flat shoe can cause a host of foot, back and hip trouble in its own right.

Sheepskin boots that are popular to wear during the year, whether Uggs or the multitude of knock-off brands available, may be unhealthy for your feet, say experts. That's because the boots and similar shoes and slippers provide virtually no support for the arch of the foot. Individuals who have a low arch to begin with may experience further flattening of the arch and

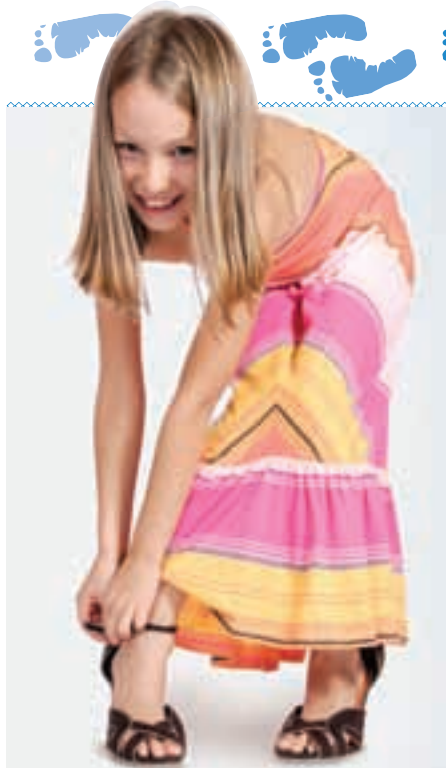
resulting foot trouble.

What's more, these shoes also do not provide much support around the ankle or, for that matter, any other part of the foot. The foot is simply able to slide around in the boot. Eventually, this lack of support can cause foot pain, which may travel up the legs into the hip and back.

Doctors warn that women, regardless of foot arch, should not wear these boots as their primary shoe source or for long durations of time, especially when doing a lot of walking.

Metro Creative Connection

Choose wisely when shoe shopping for kids



What is it about children's feet that make them seem like the fastest-growing part of their body? With back-to-school shopping behind you for another year, you might hope you can stop spending on shoes - at least until flip-flop season arrives with spring.

But kids' feet do grow year round, right along with the rest of them. In fact,

according to the American Podiatric Medical Association, a child's shoe and sock sizes may change every few months.

Comfortable, sturdy shoes are among the most important articles of clothing you'll buy for your child at any time of year. Ill-fitting shoes can cause problems that range from minor blisters and discomfort to serious injuries and impaired development.

"A pair of well-made shoes can keep children safe from foot problems such as sprains and strains - both in class and on the playground," says Dr. Michael J. King, president of APMA. "Unless your child complains of discomfort, you may not realize he or she needs new shoes. Parents need to be vigilant to ensure kids are wearing shoes that fit properly and provide the stability and support kids need."

Conduct the time-honored toe test - using your thumb or forefinger to determine where the child's big toe is inside the shoe - once a month. Inspect shoes regularly for signs of wear that could compromise their stability. When it's time to buy children's shoes,



APMA has some guidelines for parents.

"Checking for three different aspects of a shoe's design makes it easy for parents to distinguish which models are foot friendly," King says.

APMA recommends parents perform a simple, three-step inspection on new shoes before buying:

1. Look for a stiff heel. The heel counter should not collapse when pressed from both sides.
2. Ensure the shoe bends at the toes, but nowhere else.
3. Finally, make sure the shoe does not twist in the middle.

In addition, keep these tips in mind to help ensure kids are wearing comfortable shoes and practicing good foot health:

■ Take children with you when you buy their shoes and shop at the end of the day when feet are at their biggest. Every shoe fits differently, and allowing a child to have a say in the shoe-shopping process can help promote healthy foot care habits down the road.



■ Always buy for the larger foot. Feet are rarely the exact same size, so buy a shoe that fits the slightly larger foot.

■ Avoid shoes that require a "break-in" period to feel comfortable. Shoes should be comfortable immediately. Be sure your child tries on the shoe wearing whatever type of socks or tights they will use with it.

■ Never hand down footwear. Just because a shoe fits one child comfortably doesn't mean it will fit another in the same way. Also, sharing shoes can spread athlete's foot and nail fungus.

■ Whenever possible, purchase shoes at a shoe store staffed by well-trained shoe fitters. An experienced salesperson can help relieve worries over getting the proper fit.

If your child's shoes show uneven wear or wear out on the heels quickly, it could indicate a problem that should be examined by a podiatrist. You can find a podiatrist in your area, as well as a list of APMA-recommended footwear, at www.apma.org/seal.

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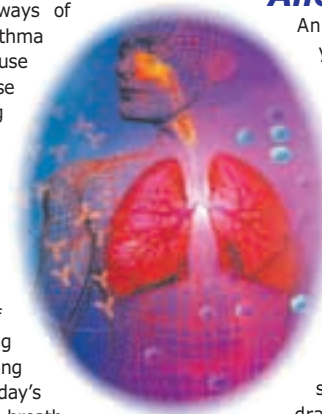


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FOCUS ON QUEENS

Photos by Dee Richard

TONY AVELLA'S 60TH BIRTHDAY AT ANTUN'S



1 Judy and Tony Avella cut the cake



2 John Sampson, Tony Avella and Michael Gianaris



3 A guest, Tony Avella and Chuck Schumer



4 Chuck Schumer and Steven Chen

BAYSIDE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 'THE WORLD OF POLITICS AND ITS ETHICS'



1 Ed Braunstein



2 David Weprin



3 Michael Feiner and Mark Weprin



4 Bob Friedrich

NYS CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S NATIONAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM AND COCKTAIL PARTY AT THE NYC ATHLETIC CLUB



1 C. Kilbourne and John Haggerty



2 Michael Grimm and Dan Donovan



3 Tom Casey, Tom Long, Hon. Kieran Harrington and Phil Placencia



4 Queens Chairman Tom Long and former Gov. George Pataki

YORK COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY



1 Judge Jeremy Weinstein and friend



2 Caryle Towery, Claire Shulman and Nayibe Berger



3 Archie Spigner, honoree Milton Bassin and Nayibe Berger



4 Emcee Judge George Grasso and wife Regina

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS 2011 AWARDS DINNER AT THE POLONASE TERRACE IN GREENPOINT



1 Queens honorees: Greg Lasak, Dee Richards and John Liu



2 The evening's total honorees



3 Lois Marbach, Debbie Markell, John Liu, Matt Silverstein and Ralph Barba



4 Jim Darmos and John Liu

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Business

Celebrating a decade of fine Italian food

Acquista, family-operated Jamaica Estates restaurant, considers itself part of neighborhood family

BY JOE ANUTA

Some entrepreneurs work their whole lives before they can start a successful business. But Carlos Acquista recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Jamaica Estates Italian restaurant he started when he was only 23.

Acquista and four of his brothers started Acquista Trattoria, at 178-01 Union Tnpk., shortly after Acquista graduated from nearby St. John's University.

"My dad was always in the food business," he said. "It was getting time to get a job or get into the family business."

The restaurant has one secret recipe, his mother's tiramisu, but Acquista said the key to good Italian food is self-evident: "Keep it Italian."

Acquista and his brothers wanted a menu

that stayed true to his family's Sicilian roots and did not try to change any of the Old World recipes.

His parents came to America from Sicily when they were teenagers, and his whole family speaks Sicilian. His father owned a deli and several food businesses in New York City, which inspired Acquista to start his own.

"I love being around the customers. I'm a people person," he said. "Seeing people when they walk out of here with a smile on their face, that's important to my father as well."

And those customers have plenty to smile about.

The menu is extensive, according to Acquista, in order to try and please anyone who walks through the door.

His favorite item is the vitello alla valdostana, which is a pounded veal outlet stuffed with fontina



Councilman Jim Gennaro and Assemblyman David Weprin celebrate the 10th anniversary of Acquista Trattoria July 15 with the Acquista family. The family-run Jamaica Estates restaurant has served Italian food at the corner of 178th Street and Union Turnpike since 2001. Pictured are Fabio Acquista (l.r.), Carlo Acquista, Weprin, Gennaro, Maria Acquista, Rosario Acquista, Joe Acquista, Paolo Acquista and Alessandro Acquista.

Photo courtesy Gennaro's office

cheese and prosciutto and

doused in a marsala wine sauce and mushrooms, but the menu also offers a long list of pastas and other dishes with either fish, chicken,

veal or vegetables.

And the ingredients are fresh since, according to Acquista, they do not have to travel far to get onto your plate.

The restaurant buys organic produce from farms in New York and Long Island to prepare the sundry dishes on the menu.

And after 10 years, the

brothers have had plenty of practice and now consider themselves woven into the fabric of the neighborhood.

"We feel like we're an extension of Flushing, Jamaica Estates and St. John's," he said.

The brothers, three younger than Acquista and one older, have also expanded their business outside the neighborhood as well as outside the borough.

They run two cafeterias, one at St. Francis College and another at Fontbonne Hall Academy, both in Brooklyn.

And though Acquista will not part with the recipe, the brothers sell Mamma Acquista Tiramisu outside the restaurant as well.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Social Media Marketing Breakfast with Constant Contact – Learn how to build strong relationships that will lead to more business growth through the social media marketing. Taught by Ellen DePasquale, from Constant Contact. Register.

When: Nov. 10, 8:30 am

Where: Bulova Corporate Center, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Jackson Heights

Contact: info@queenschamber.org

The World of Working Women –

Conference and job fair hosted by the Center for the Women of New York.

When: Nov. 11, 9 am - 4 pm

Where: Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Ave., Flushing

Contact: 718-793-0672 centerwny@yahoo.com

Website: cwny.org

Chartered Financial Analyst Exam

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Level I Weekly Review: Tuesdays and Thursdays from through Nov. 17 from 6 pm to 9 pm. NYSSA Queens College

Sunday Condensed Review: Sundays through Nov. 13 from 10 am to 4 pm

When: Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursday through to Nov. 17

Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

Website: www.nyssa.org/cfa

Long Island City Partnership

Business Expo – Long Island City Partnership presents the annual business-to-business trade show and luncheon.

When: Nov. 16, 9 am

Where: Terrace on the Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Contact: (718) 786-5300 X21

Annual Business-to-Business Trade

Show and Luncheon – Keynote address by Deputy Mayor Robert Steel.

No cost to network or walk through show.

When: Nov. 20, 9 am

Where: Terrace on the Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Contact: (718) 786-5300 X21

EAP Fall 10-Week Business Training

Course – Develop a fully vetted professional business plan completed by the end of the course. Learn first-hand where and how to conduct research for your business by taking a field-trip to the Science, Industry, Business Library (SIBL) of New York. Learn from experts and specialist who include a lawyer, accountant, marketing expert, and technology consultant.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 pm through Dec. 15

Cost: \$300

Where: Queens Borough Hall 120-55 Queens Blvd Room G110 Kew Gardens, NY 11424

Contact: Franklin Mora fmora@queensn.org (718) 263-0546

Website: www.queensny.org/business/programs/eap

Minority and Women Owned

Business – The Queens Chamber of Commerce is hosting three-program certification seminars for minority- and women-owned business. The seminars will discuss how to sell to the government and the qualifications needed to get certified with the City of New York. Registration is required.

When: Nov. 22, 10 am to 12 pm

Cost: Free

Where: Queens Chamber of Commerce Headquarters, 75-20 Astoria Blvd., Suite 140, Jackson Heights

Contact: info@queenschamber.org (718) 898-8500

Website: www.queenschamber.org

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When: Nov. 2, 6-9 pm; Nov. 3, 10 am to 3 pm

Where: Leonard's of Great Neck, 555 Northern Boulevard, Great Neck

Contact: Mark Neuwirth Mark@exposyourbusiness.com (718) 818-8173

Website: multi-culturalbusinessexpo.eventbrite.com/

Volunteers needed at boro Police Athletic League Centers

The Police Athletic League is looking for volunteers to continue its mission of serving New York City's young people by donating their time and talents to help serve Queens youngsters at PAL's Redfern Cornerstone and Far Rockaway Beacon in Arverne-Far Rockaway, PAL's Edward Byrne Center in South Jamaica and PS 214 in Flushing.

PAL Centers in Queens offer a wide range of opportunities for volunteers of all talents. PAL's Redfern Cornerstone and Far Rockaway Bea-

con are looking for people to participate in a center cleanup day. Volunteers are needed to tutor and mentor young people during the after-school program's daily homework help sessions.

In addition, individuals can also donate their time assisting the many special events held at PAL Centers throughout the year. PAL is also seeking professionals to give career advice and talk about their own careers to young people, as well as guest speakers who can share information on a

specific hobby of interest to youngsters.

To become a volunteer or learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit palnyc.org and click on "Get Involved" under the "About Us" tab for an application. Volunteers will go through an application process that includes an interview, a screening and an orientation.

For more information, contact PAL Volunteer Coordinator Alexandria Sumpter-Delves at 212-477-9450, Ext. 390 or volunteer@palnyc.org.

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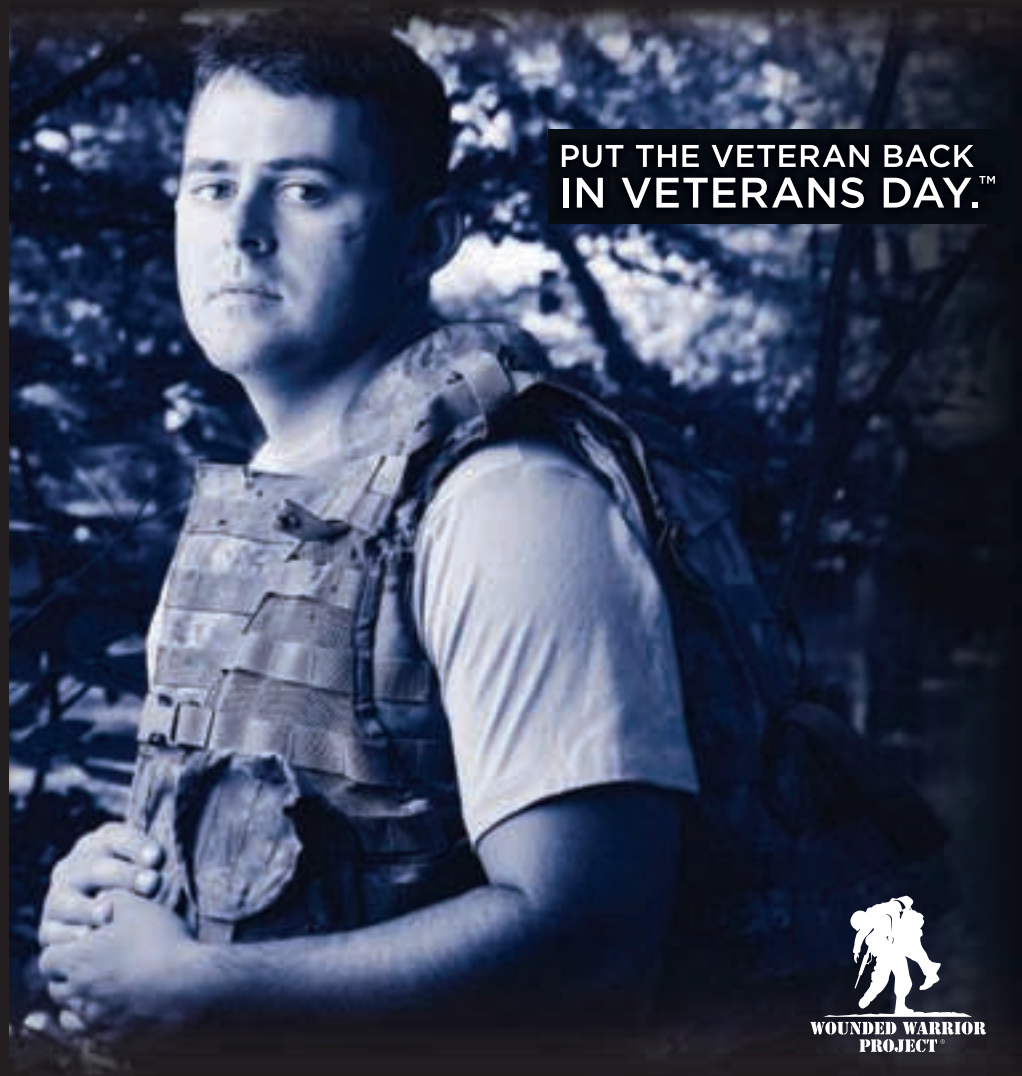
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Progress reports

Continued from Page 4

So while the DOE points out that schools have done a better job of graduating students since Mayor Michael Bloomberg came into office in 2002, the top officials recognize the shortcoming in preparing students for college.

“Our message to schools is clear: Students need to be meeting a higher bar and doing more rigorous work if they are going to be ready for life after high school,” said city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott. “It’s important that our principals, teachers, students and families are on the same page in this effort and understand the

goal is not just graduating, but graduating college- and career-ready.”

Top performing schools such as Queens High School for the Sciences at York College in Jamaica and Townsend Harris High School in Fresh Meadows received A’s and had 100 percent of their graduating students pass out of remedial classes at CUNY.

On the other hand, a school like the High School of Applied Communication in Long Island City, which also received an A, had only 11.6 percent of graduating students pass out of remedial classes.

Pan American International High School in Elmhurst, which opened in

2006 and was graded for the first time this year (D), had the borough’s lowest college readiness index at 1.3 percent.

Borough President Helen Marshall said she and state Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan (D-Ridge-wood), chairwoman of the state Education Committee, would be paying a surprise visit to a poor-performing school in the wake of the report.

“So many of our students are not prepared to go to college,” she said. “I don’t think, right now, the system is working for our kids.”

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4574.

Aqueduct

Continued from Page 5

employee. Thousands more were waiting outside to get in, but the floor only holds a maximum of 5,000.

“This is fantastic!” said Richie Santa, who was impersonating Elvis on opening day. “I feel like I’m in Vegas.”

Many of the gamblers who filed into the racino touted it as a closer alternative to New Jersey’s Atlantic City.

But Speller said that while the racino certainly borrows its culture from Sin City, it is an experience all its own.

“You’re not going to find anything like this anywhere else,” he said.

The casino holds 2,485 machines and a food court, and the windows of the centrally located bar look out over the race track.

The casino is open from 8 a.m. to 4 a.m. seven days a week.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Willetts Point

Continued from Page 5

Iron Triangle that provoked discussion of efforts to redevelop the area were led by Queens Borough Historian Jack Eichenbaum; Alex White Mazzarella, an artist and community organizer with the group Artefacting, an organization that benefits marginalized people around the world and hosted Sunday’s event; and Jose Ser-rano-McClain, a community organizer with the Queens Museum of Art.

Mazzarella said he was against the city’s ambitious blueprint for the blighted area, which have included relocating the auto-related businesses that line the bumpy roads of Willetts Point.

“This works very much like a shopping mall,” he said, noting drivers from as far away as New England patronize Willetts Point shops for bargain-basement repair prices. “All these workshops are tied together pretty closely.

“People have said, ‘If I get relocated, I won’t get the clientele,’” Mazzarella said. “How efficient is it to destroy something

just because there’s an opportunity?”

Eichenbaum said he has led tours of the area because people are familiar with Willetts Point through the media but gain a better perspective of its economy once they walk its streets.

“Historically, this place twice beat back attempts at redevelopment,” he said. “The remarkable thing about this area is this is land that is ripe for redevelopment. It’s got a use that’s really antiquated. But moving [businesses] around is a political problem.”

Eichenbaum said he is in favor of a plan that would put a tech university in Willetts Point, although Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said preferred sites for the campus are on Roosevelt Island and in Brooklyn.

A Westchester County resident who was on the tour said she was amazed by the Iron Triangle.

“It’s just an experience walking after the No. 7 [train] because as soon as you get off Roosevelt Avenue, it’s like another planet,” said the resident, who asked that she be identified only by her first name, Shirley. “I just decided to come out and check it out before it’s gone.”

Jack the cat

Continued from Page 4

been giving their regards for a speedy recovery since last week.

“I’m beyond happy that Jack was found especially once people started losing hope and wanting to give up. Just shows the power of a loving owner and determined animal lovers coming together to reunite a family,” Tracy Michelle,

one of the fans, posted on the page’s wall.

American Airlines acknowledged and expressed its appreciation for the fan page’s support during the two-month ordeal.

“We thank the friends of Jack for their ongoing search efforts outside the JFK perimeter and share everyone’s relief that he has been found,” American spokesman Jonathan Price

said in a statement.

The airline has said it will fly the cat to California once it is given a clean bill of health.

When Jack does return home, he will be treated to a pleasant surprise: a new sibling. Pascoe said she adopted a new cat named Nilly two weeks ago to keep Barry company while she was away at work.

“I was taking the new cat to the vet when I got the call about Jack,” she said.

LIRR

Continued from Page 4

road Retirement Board more than \$1 billion in benefits “if disbursed in full.”

Prosecutors said more arrests were possible.

“If you have this kind of first-hand information, we would like to hear from you,” said Diego Rodriguez of the FBI. “For those who choose not to contract us, there is a good chance we will be contacting you.”

The defendants included those accused of seeking and getting fraudulent disability retirement status; so-called “facilitators,” who assisted disability candidates in filling out disability claim materials; and two doctors, who were accused of preparing fraudulent reports.

Prosecutors said one of the defendants, Gregory Noone, of East Islip, L.I.,

who draws a \$105,000 pension, claimed severe pain in bending, crouching or gripping, although he often played tennis. And Steven Gagliano, of North Babylon, L.I., took a 400-mile bicycle trip, although he claimed disabling back pain, the complaint said.

The defendants, who have been freed on bail and nearly all of whom have travel restrictions, are Dr. Peter Ajemian, 62, Syosset, L.I.; Dr. Peter Lesniewski, 60, Rockville Centre, L.I.; Maria Rusin, 55, of Farmingdale, L.I.; Marie Baran, 64, of East Meadow, L.I.; Joseph Rutigliano, 64, of Holtsville, L.I.; Gregory Noone, 62, of East Islip, L.I.; Regina Walsh, 63, of New Hyde Park, L.I.; Sharon Falloon, 56, of Merrick, L.I.; Gary Satin, 62, of Moorsville, N.C.; Steven Gagliano, 55, of North Babylon, L.I.; and Richard Ehrlinger, 64, of Bayshore, L.I.

The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board admin-

isters benefits, including those for disability, for the nation’s railroad workers and their families. An LIRR contract allows workers to retire as young as 50 provided they have been employed for at least 20 years. An LIRR employee who retires and claims disability may receive a disability payment on top of their LIRR pension, regardless of age.

Prosecutors said Ajemian, with assistance of his office manager, Rusin and Lesniewski, used their medical practices as “disability mills” by preparing fraudulent medical narratives. The federal complaint said Ajemian and Lesniewski received some \$800 to \$1,200, usually in cash for the fraudulent assessments and narratives.

Court officials said the defendants will appear before a U.S. court judge within 30 days for further disposition of their cases.

Bay

Continued from Page 5

ment and National Parks Service, which manages the bay, will be working on the plan to connect the various ecosystems in the city and officials said it will help bring awareness of the ecological issues to a wider audience.

“By coordinating more closely with the city of New York, we will create a seamless network of urban parks that are easily accessible to people who live in nearby communities,” Interior

Secretary Ken Salazar said in a statement.

Dan Mundy Jr., a lifelong Broad Channel resident and member of the Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers, said the new partnerships will go a long way toward improving the bay, which is home to 400 species of fish, birds and other animals.

“Now you will have all of these land holder and regulatory agencies coming together and it will be tremendous,” he said.

The partnership has already made some progress.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that the bay is

an official “No Discharge Zone.” Under the new regulations, boats are banned from dumping sewage into a designated 20,000-acre area.

“This action will improve water quality in this magnificent bay that is right in the backyards of millions of New Yorkers,” EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck said in a statement.

The city, state and federal governments set up state-of-the-art facilities on the perimeter of the zone where boats can properly discharge their waste, according to the EPA.

Sports



TMLA's Deirdre Munday (l.) won the NYPost.com poll asking who was NYC's best girls soccer sweeper. Photo by Philip Hall

TMLA's Munday voted top sweeper

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Deirdre Munday didn't vote for herself, but plenty of other people did.

"I didn't like going on it," the Mary Louis senior said. "It made me nervous."

Last week she awoke to phone calls from friends telling her she had won the NYPost.com Poll asking: "Who is New York City's top girls soccer sweeper?"

Munday received 34,529 votes, good enough for 29.46 percent of the 117,204 cast, none of which she said were cast by her, over the week. McKee/Staten Island Tech's Breanna Brukalo was second with 25,308 votes and Joanne Mierzejewski of Tottenville was third with 17,395.

"I played a few of the girls on the poll," Munday said. "They are all great and I would be happy for them if they won, too. It was really amazing to see the support people were giving me."

She called the experience humbling. Despite not checking it herself, friends and family were there to keep her abreast of what was going on. Munday even said random students in the

all-girls Jamaica Estates school came to her to tell her they had voted for her.

"People every day were checking up on me and seeing how I was doing," she said. "It was just a great feeling to see that many people support me."

Munday only started playing the position last season when senior sweeper Ellen Peiser was lost to an injury. She hasn't left since, even upon Peiser's return. Munday grew up playing midfield, before being moved to defense as a freshman. Her speed, strength, smarts and athleticism made her a natural at the position.

"Sometimes she has a lot more composure than I do," TMLA coach Tom Brunen said. "She doesn't get rattled. She is very settled and she settles down every-one else as well."

The two-sport star — Munday also plays softball — takes plenty of joy in doing her job and has a great chemistry with stopper Anna McGovern. They led the Hilltoppers to a second-place finish in their first season back in

Continued on Page 46

Queens' fencing dynamo

St. John's swordplay program poised for another winning season



St. John's fencing Coach Yury Gelman (r.) mentors one of his potential champions.

Photo courtesy St. John's Athletics

BY MICHAEL CANFAROTTA

The St. John's University Red Storm fencing team has been one of the best in the country for a number of years, winning a national championship in 2001 and not placing lower than sixth at the national championships since 1993.

That success can be attributed to head Coach Yury Gelman, who has been at the helm of the fencing program at St. John's for the past 16 years. Gelman was recently inducted into the U.S. Fencing Hall of Fame in 2010, but that doesn't seem to matter much to him. He's more concerned with leading a team that has won 17 individual national championships, which is the most in the country since 1996.

The three-time Olympic coach for the United States — at the Sydney, Athens and Beijing Summer Games —

has put together an outstanding list of accomplishments, including coaching more than 100 All-American fencers during his tenure at St. John's.

FENCING

He seems pretty modest about the athletes he has recruited.

"I try to find some strong fencers," said Gelman. "Sometimes I get lucky and sometimes not."

Luck doesn't have much to do with it, especially when you're talking about a player such as Daryl Homer. Homer has won back-to-back individual NCAA saber championships and has a bright future ahead of him in the fencing world. Gelman has been coaching him since he was 11.

Homer has already proved what he is worth on the national level. He currently ranks No. 2 in the United States and No. 13 in the world in the

men's saber. He recently finished competing in the World Fencing Championships in Catania, Italy, where he placed 34th in the individual event and eighth in the team event.

The Bronx native, however, is not content with what he has accomplished so far.

"I want to be No. 1 in the world and that is my end goal," said Homer.

Homer will be redshirting this year at St. John's to continue training for the 2012 Olympics in London, which he hopes to qualify for.

Marat Israelian is another back-to-back individual NCAA champion at St. John's who will be going for his third epee title in his senior year. The men's captain is a transfer from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he didn't feel he was given the chance to excel as an athlete. He's

Continued on Page 46

Snow bodes well for tough St. Francis Prep soccer

BY MARC RAIMONDI

The way Chris Joseph sees it, last season could have ended differently if St. Francis Prep had a different mentality. This team might not be as purely skilled as that group, he said, but is tougher — physically and mentally.

On a day like Saturday, that might have made all the difference.

“We have guys that say, ‘Screw the cold, let’s get out there, do the job and let’s go home,’” the Terriers star midfielder said.

St. Francis Prep’s 3-0 win over Xavier in the CHSAA Class AA boys’ soccer intersectional quarterfinals at SUNY Maritime was a bizarre one. There was a driving rain throughout the match. The weather plunged into the 30s and the precipitation became snow in the second half. Fog rolled in from the adjacent

water. And worst of all? A swirling wind was whipping assertively, wreaking havoc on play.

“Anything you put on is gonna be wet,” said SFP forward Kenny Redzematovic, who was visibly shivering talking to reporters after the game. “In five, 10 minutes it’s gonna be wet and you’re gonna be carrying five, 10 pounds of extra weight. You really can’t do anything to prevent that.”

The weather was so bad that at halftime of the next game — Iona Prep vs. Christ the King — the would-have-been tripleheader was suspended for a later date, likely Monday or Tuesday at a site to be determined. St. Francis Prep (15-0-1) was the lone team to earn a victory on one of the worst October Saturdays in the last 60 years.

Redzematovic was the first to ensure that would happen, beating Xavier



keeper James Kondrat, who came off his line, for a goal in the 15th minute. A ball squirted out toward the 18-yard box and Redzematovic and Kondrat both made a beeline for it with Redzematovic winning the race and making a nice move to his right for the game’s first goal.

“Our plan was to finish them early,” Redzematovic said. “I knew I had to get there first. That was it.”

Added Joseph: “It was really huge. It gave us the one goal that we needed. We knew defensively we were a strong team, that we could hold them.”

Redzematovic had another goal in the 71st minute after the rebound from a Lawrence Nikaj shot was saved by Kondrat, who fell to his feet. Jason Gonzalez made it 2-0 St. Francis in

the 44th minute. Steven Reid, in net, had the clean sheet for the Terriers.

“We started playing the ball long more,” SFP Coach Franco Purificato said. “Putting three or four passes together wasn’t working.”

Alex Presciutti had a few chances for Xavier (7-6-4) in each half, but the Knights fell in the quarterfinals for the second straight year.

“I think we’re better than last year, because we have more players that want to work,” Joseph said. “Last year we had a lot of skill, but we didn’t have a lot of players who wanted to run and work hard. This year we have a lot more horses, guys who are going to work hard. And the skill is still there.”

St. Francis Prep’s Kenny Redzematovic had two goals against Xavier while battling inclement weather. Photo by Denis Gostev

Molloy overcomes Fontbonne rally for spot in final

BY MARC RAIMONDI

The play was over. The volleyball seemed to touch the floor. Most players would have given up.

Not Jenna Hoffman.

A Fontbonne Hall attack was dug up by Tori Taibe and Katherine Kilkenny dived back to somehow keep it alive. From the back row, Hoffman charged, sprawled out and punched the ball over the net. The Bonnies were caught off guard and it fell for a kill for the 4-foot-11 libero.

“Just seeing two people make such a great up just made me feel like, ‘I gotta get this ball,’” Hoffman said. “And I got it over.”

The point stopped a run and Molloy ended up winning that fourth set and the match against Fontbonne 25-13, 25-19, 17-25, 25-21 in the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division



Archbishop Molloy celebrates after beating Fontbonne Hall Academy in the semifinals.

Photo by Lauren Marsh

I girls’ volleyball semifinals last Thursday night in Briarwood. The victory sends the Stanners into the finals against the winner of the St. Francis Prep/Mary Louis match at SFP.

“She never gives up,” junior outside hitter Madie Casello said of Hoffman. “That’s what Molloy is. We never give up and we prove everyone wrong.”

Hoffman got the kill,

but Taibe, coming off the bench, made an outstanding pancake dig and Kilkenny sacrificed her body to bump the ball up. The point gave Molloy (10-2) a 13-10 lead in the fourth set.

Hoffman had two straight aces later to make it 20-13 and Kilkenny had two big kills, including the match winner.

“I guess that kind of symbolizes everything we’ve talked about this year, about it being a team effort,” Stanners assistant Coach Rose Ruesing said of the wild play.

Casello had 15 kills, Lauren Pagan had 10 kills and Hoffman had 20 digs for Molloy. Amanda Price had 25 assists and 13 digs, Emily Rabot had four aces and Hoffman, Pagan, Kilkenny and Price all had three aces.

“Jenna just throws herself on the floor and then we all have a job,” Casello said. “Jenna plays her defense and our job as hitters is just to kill. You put it all together and it’s like a puzzle.”

“Last time they want-

ed it more than we did,” Casello said of Fontbonne. “No one wants to win and go in to play [in the championship] the way we do. We really wanted it. By the way we played today, we proved it.”

Lauren Ganun had 10 kills, Kristen Sullivan had eight kills and Victoria Starace had seven kills for the Bonnies. Katie Lang had 25 assists. Due to traffic and inclement weather, it took Fontbonne more than two hours to get to Molloy from Bay Ridge and the Bonnies looked flat early.

The Stanners will move on, though.

“After that tiebreaker with Prep, we felt like we were kind of dead that game,” Hoffman said. “We were like angry. We have a lot of determination to get back out there and we want to win the championship really bad.”

The burden of being a Cardozo captain

BY ASHLEY GRUBLER

Cardozo star Ashley Grubler, one of the top girls volleyball players in the city, takes us behind the scenes into her world as the Judges attempt to win back-to-back PSAL Class A championships. Grubler will give us the blow by blow through scrimmages, tournaments, rivalry matches and recruiting.

Being a captain isn't all what it's cracked up to be. Do I love being captain? Yes, of course but it has some obstacles.

In volleyball, I am my own worst enemy. I criticize myself more than anyone else criticizes me. Truthfully, I have high expectations of myself. I know that every game I can play 10 times better and for me it's hard not to get down about that. That is why it's harder for me to motivate my team when I'm always down about the way I play.

It's a tough learning experience. I had to learn to always keep my head up and make sure everyone else's head is up. I am not the greatest at keeping my head up, but I try hard to let it not affect me. All I can say about that is pressure. But I deal with pressure well so I think I'm going to be OK. As a team, also, that is our worst trait. When we get down, needless to say, it's game over.

In all of my four years,

the Francis Lewis tournament was probably the most competitive tournament I have ever been to in the PSAL. My goal for that tournament was to make it out of pool play and anything else after that I would've been satisfied with.

My goal was completed. In overall pool play we went 3-3, losing to Pelham, splitting with St Francis Prep (splitting with them was one of my goals as well) and taking two from Grover Cleveland. Right then and there I thought we weren't going to make it out of pool play until I realized that St Francis Prep also was 3-3. All we needed to do was beat them in a one-set tiebreaker to 25 to advance into the playoffs. It sounds easy when I word it like that but I won't lie to you: I thought we weren't going to do it. This is the St. Francis Prep that has won numerous championships.

Obviously no one could've guessed what happened next. But the impossible was made possible that day. In a one-set thriller we beat St. Francis Prep, 26-24, and advanced into the semifinals where we would meet Panas.

Panas, unfortunately, ended our run there, but it was a good match. That match felt like I was playing at club because it was a team that I have never faced before where I didn't



Cardozo's Ashley Grubler discusses the perils of being captain and the Francis Lewis tournament.

Photo by Denis Gostev

Bowling runs in the family

45
NE

Coach welcomes grandson to Archbishop Molloy rolling squad

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Archbishop Molloy had just won the city championship and the bowling lanes were clear. Everyone was in the front of the building when Thomas Cacioppo grabbed a ball.

Cacioppo was 4 years old at the time and always begging his grandfather, Stanners Coach Vinny Leonardo, to let him bowl. He would not be denied that day. With no one looking, he let it go.

"He rolls the ball," Leonardo said. "It's going about a mile an hour, straight dead down center. And he throws a strike. The place just roared."

Call it foreshadowing.

A decade later, Cacioppo is at Molloy now as a freshman and playing JV under Leonardo and his mother Patti. All Cacioppo has wanted to do since he was an infant was bowl for his grandfather at Molloy and he currently leads the team with a 177 average. Leonardo has been at the school for 19 years and Cacioppo says he's been by his side for 14 of them.

"I learned mostly from watching the Molloy kids bowling," he said. "I was a little baby, I was in a carriage and I would always go to the matches. Even though I was the short one, I was always standing on a chair cheering for them, whether they were winning or losing."

Cacioppo has learned well. He comes from a bowling family and that's the sport he has chosen. The goal is to one day earn a college scholarship like former Molloy star Marlon Nepomuceno did when he bowled at Arizona State recently. Cacioppo vows to surpass Nepomuceno, a friend, as a Molloy all-time great, though Leonardo



Molloy freshman bowler Thomas Cacioppo (l.) with his coach and grandfather, Vinny Leonardo.

Photo by Marc Raimondi

tells him, "Easy does it."

"Even though it's not a big sport like baseball or basketball, it's bowling," Cacioppo said. "It's what I love to do. It means a lot to me that I made the team and to be bowling for my grandfather and my mom."

He has won state tournaments in his age group before high school and earned more than \$500 in scholarship money through bowling already. Leonardo thinks he, Matt Gardner and Mike Carillo, all freshmen, can be among the best bowlers in the city as they get older. Molloy has won nine varsity CHSAA intersectional titles and seven junior varsity. But the Stanners have been in a drought since 2008. This is the nucleus that might bring them back.

"It's probably the best group I've had strength-wise coming in," Leonardo said.

The junior varsity even had a higher average

I learned mostly from watching the Molloy kids bowling. I was a little baby, I was in a carriage and I would always go to matches.

Thomas Cacioppo

than the varsity in a match against Bishop Ford recently. But Leonardo doesn't believe in freshmen being on varsity — much like Molloy legendary boys' basketball Coach Jack Curran. Leonardo has just one in his tenure, Paul Marshall in 1997, and only a handful of sophomores.

"The three of them will probably move up faster than I've done in the past,"

Leonardo said. "When you wind up on varsity, that puts you on a higher level and the expectations are that much more. I don't want to put that on a freshman. I feel like freshmen need to settle in their first year."

The transition has been easier for Cacioppo, of course. He's been around Molloy bowling his entire life, going back to that scene when he was 4 after the city title match.

"He was always saying, 'Papa, when can I throw a bowling ball — I want to throw a bowling ball,'" Leonardo said. "He wanted to bowl even then."

He's getting the chance now, keeping it in the family. Leonardo said Cacioppo is not his grandson at the bowling alley and he's not treated any differently.

With one exception.

"I can't call him Vin, though," Cacioppo said with a laugh.

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Queens fencing

Continued from Page 43
 confident that he found that place in Queens.

"I know the environment here is much better than any other school in the country, so for me it was a logical choice to come to St. John's," said Israelian.

The one thing that both Homer and Israelian can agree on is that Coach Gelman has been a major influence not only in their fencing careers, but also

in their lives. Israelian described him as somebody that you should take example from. Homer went a little further.

"Yuri has meant the world to me. He's impacted me on the way I look at my life," said Homer.

St. John's will open up the 2011-12 season at the North American Cup Junior Tournament in Austin, Texas, Nov. 11.

Munday

Continued from Page 45

CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens. Munday said there was an adjustment period for the new players and the different style of play, but she couldn't get used to playing offense when Bruen tried to move up in lopsided wins.

"I love it back there," she said. "Some people love the joy of dribbling through people. I get the same pleasure of like kicking the ball

and getting it up field."

While she enjoys being in the back on the field, she certainly got a kick out of being voted on top.

"It was really cool," Munday said. "People kept on coming up to me, people who I didn't really talk to on a friend basis. Everyone just came together at school."

Dozo captain

Continued from Page 45

know what to expect. But as a team, even though we didn't know what to expect, we definitely gave it our best and played well against them. I was very proud of what we had accomplished that day. I finally realized that nothing is impossible.

If we lift our heads and give our all we can do anything. The sky is the limit for Cardozo and we are not stopping until our very last goal is completed. We have come down to the final stretch. It's almost playoff time.

Let's do this, ladies!

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

Week 44

Hard #36								
5	8	2	9	4	1	6	3	7
7	3	6	5	8	2	9	1	4
9	1	4	7	3	6	5	8	2
1	5	8	2	7	9	4	6	3
3	2	9	6	1	4	8	7	5
4	6	7	3	5	8	1	2	9
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6	7	3	8	9	5	2	4	1

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131 St Street LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/6/11. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 102-10 Metropolitan Ave Ste 200, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: General.

149-47 POWELLS COVE REALTY, L.P. has been formed as a Limited Partnership (LP) in NY. The office is located in the County of Queens. The Cert. of LP was filed with the Department of the State of NY on 8/19/2011. The Secretary of the State of NY ("SSNY") is designated as agent upon whom process against the LP may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served upon him to: c/o The LP, 149-47 Powells Cove Blvd., Whitestone, NY 11357. The latest date on which the LP is to dissolve is: 12/31/2081. The name(s) and address(es) of the General Partner(s) are available from the Secretary of State. The purpose of the LP is any lawful act

259 Hillside, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/29/11. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Ilya Koptiev, 102-10 Metropolitan Ave Suite 200, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: General.

Name: LILIPACHE, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. Of State of NY 08/09/2011. Off. Loc.: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to THE LLC, 47-25 59th Street, #3B, Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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ASHAVINDER LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Sec of State of NY on 9/22/11. NY Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to The LLC, 84-48 121 St., Kew Gardens, NY 11415. General Purposes.

BOURNEDALE CAPITAL, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. Of State of NY 04/27/2011. Off. Loc.: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to THE LLC C/O, Deutsch & Schneider, LLP, 79-37 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

GACHAPWNNYC LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/12/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her to the LLC, c/o Juri Choi, 166-49 17th Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Abrahami Family Limited Liability Company. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/18/1999. 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 Kenneth Abrahami, 33-18 57th Street, Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: UNION CENTURY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/25/11. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 4007 149th Street, Flushing, New York 11354. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: RIGHT TIME REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/06/11. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 87-09 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, New York 11385. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: CHARLES K REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/13/2011. 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: CALIFORNIA SOLO LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/07/2011. Office location: Queens

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County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 4265 KISSENA BLVD #306 FLUSHING, NY 11355-3264. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Roll-N-Smoke Tobacco Outlet NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 10/06/2011. Office located in Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC at 206-20 45 Drive Bayside, NY 11361. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of TRVST LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/28/11. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o Unique Settings, 3100 47th Ave., 2nd Fl., Long Island City, NY 11101. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o John Kocak, 508 Kendrick St., Paramus, NJ 07652. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Soo Ed Consulting, LLC. Arts of Org filed with NY Sec of State (SSNY) on 8/24/11. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 33-81 164th Street, Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Yid Real Estate, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/27/11. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 141-40 71st Ave, Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: General.

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Notice of Qualification of LBPR SERVICES, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/13/11. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/6/11. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Nelson Management Group Ltd., 118-35 Queens Blvd., 14th Fl., Forest Hills, NY 11375. DE address of LLC: c/o The Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, Townsend Bldg., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of professional limited liability company (PLLC). Name: JACOB SINGER & ASSOCIATES, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/03/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 108-18 72ND AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR FOREST HILLS, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Waterview Nursing Care Center, 119-15 27th Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11354: This facility does not discriminate in admission or retention or care of its residents because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, source of payment, marital status or sexual preference.

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Law at, 114-09 Liberty Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Queens County, for on premises consumption. GT Ricebowl Restaurant & Bar, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on 10/04/11, bearing Index Number NC-000913-11/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) LAUREN (Middle) WYNEE (Last) LIN. My present name is (First) WYNEE (Last) LIN. My present address is 15425 58TH ROAD, Flushing, NY 11355. My place of birth is MANHATTAN, NY. My date of birth is December 02, 1990.

NOTICE OF SALE BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. SUCCESSORS BY MERGER TO BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING LP, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 310 shares of stock of 88-30 182ND STREET REALTY CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 88-30 182ND STREET UNIT #2D, JAMAICA, NY 11423. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on November 18, 2011 at 10:00 AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being



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sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 Attorneys for Secured Party
 Fishkill Office 2 Summit Court
 Suite 301
 Fishkill, NY 12524
 845.897.1600

NOTICE OF SALE
 CitiMortgage, Inc., in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 172 shares of stock of ALLEY POND OWNERS CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 226-45 A KINGSBURY AVE APT 45A, BAYSIDE, NY 11364. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on November 18, 2011 at 10:45 AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the

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right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 Attorneys for Secured Party
 Fishkill Office 2 Summit Court
 Suite 301
 Fishkill, NY 12524
 845.897.1600

NOTICE OF SALE
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 195 shares of stock of GREENBRIAR TENANTS CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 8515 MAIN ST, Unit 1E, BRIARWOOD, NY 11435. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on November 18, 2011 at 10:15 AM on the front steps of the Supreme

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Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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 Attorneys for Secured Party
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NOTICE OF SALE
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 79 shares of stock of Dorie Miller Housing Co., Inc. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 112-19 34TH AVE, Unit 5B, CORONA, NY 11368. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or used hereafter affixed to or used

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in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on November 18, 2011 at 11:00 AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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NOTICE OF SALE
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 1146 shares of stock of THE HAMPSHIRE OWNERS CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 110-31 73RD RD,

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Unit # 6L, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on November 18, 2011 at 11:15 AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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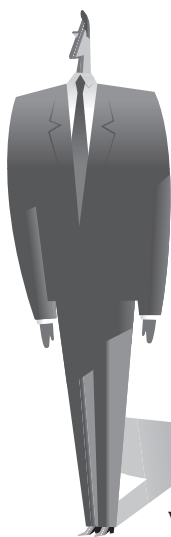
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Weekend Service Change



**WEEKENDS: Late Friday 11:30 PM until early Monday 5 AM
Nov 4-6*, Nov 11-14, Nov 18-21**

***Exception: Service resumes Sunday 11/6 at 5 AM**

No 7 trains between Queensboro Plaza and Times Sq-42 St while track, signal and infrastructure work is performed in the Steinway Tunnel. The E F N Q S and free shuttle buses provide alternate service.

Travel alternatives:

- Take the N or Q at Times Sq-42 St or Queensboro Plaza.
- Take the E at 74 St/Roosevelt Av, Court Sq-23 St, 42 St-Port Authority, or Lexington Av/53 St.
- Free shuttle buses replace the 7 at Queensboro Plaza, Court Sq, Hunters Point Av, and Vernon Blvd-Jackson Av stations.

For service to/from:

Times Sq-42 St – transfer between the 7 and the N or Q at Queensboro Plaza.

42 St-Port Authority – transfer between the 7 and the E at 74 St/Roosevelt Av.

5 Av – transfer between the 7 and the F at 74 St-Roosevelt Av.

Grand Central-42 St – take the N or Q at Queensboro Plaza to Lexington Av-59 St and transfer to the 4 or 6, or take the E at 74 St/Roosevelt Av or Court Sq-23 St to Lexington Av/53 St and transfer to the 6.

In addition to these weekend-long changes, this suspension is also planned for the third Tuesday November 15 from 12:01 AM to 5 AM.

Stay Informed

Ongoing work is necessary to modernize and improve the reliability of the 7 line. You'll find brochures in stations with details on the project and its impact on your service. For updated information, look for station posters, visit mta.info to sign up for free email or text message alerts, or call 511.