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QGuide Page 39



Developers push to halt sewage in Flushing Creek

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A coalition of developers, businesses and environmentalists have launched a bid to clean up Flushing Creek.

More than 800 million gallons of raw sewage flows into the finger-shaped body of water, which separates Willets Point from Flushing, every year, according to researchers.

Sludge seeps into the creek from combined sewage overflows anytime there is even minimal

Continued on Page 54

Flautist who lost hand writes to inspire others

Renee Katz will never be silenced.

The Flushing musician, who lost her hand when she was pushed in front of a moving train at 17, has released a new book seeking to inspire other young people who have suffered tragic occurrences.

The book chronicles the day that changed the young flautist's life and includes poems she has written since.

Surgeons reattached her hand, but she has never been able to play the flute.

She has kept music in her life through singing.

See story on Page 3

Halloran tapes describe Y plan

Feds allege he plotted to use taxpayer funds as bribes to win campaign gifts

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Former Bayside City Councilman Dan Halloran seized on the struggling Bayside YMCA as a cover for helping supporters scheme to skim city money ear-

marked to bolster area nonprofits, prosecutors contended this week at his federal corruption trial in White Plains.

Prosecutors played secretly recorded conversations of Halloran strategizing with an un-

dercover FBI agent known as Raj, who was posing as a wealthy developer, and Moses Stern, a Rockland County developer who is cooperating with the government, and outlined how the former lawmaker allegedly plotted to use

discretionary Council funding to his benefit.

Halloran is on trial with state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) and the ex-vice chairman of the Queens Republican Party, Vin-

Continued on Page 47

PHOTO-WORTHY FINISH



Tonalist, ridden by jockey Joel Rosario, edges out Commissioner to win the 146th running of the Belmont Stakes. See coverage on Pages 9, 24, 52.

AP Photo/Matt Slocum

Boro vets mark D-Day

Whitestone commemorates 70th anniversary of WW II offense

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Seven decades after troops stormed Normandy, Vietnam Veterans recalled how the heroics of those who fought in World War II inspired generations of Americans — from Whitestone and beyond.

Close to 35 people gathered at Whitestone Veterans Memorial Field last Friday to join Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4787 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 in commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day.

Paul Narson, president of VVA Chapter 32, opened the ceremony by saluting World War II veterans.

"As we got older, our families and our schools taught us about you, your battle and your courage," he said. "You taught our generation the meaning of duty, honor and country on June 6, 1944."

Rabbi Steven Axelman reflected on his visit to Normandy this spring before giving an invocation. He described the American cemetery where 9,837 men and women who died during the Allied thrust on the European mainland against Nazi Germany are buried.

"Every step I took away from the beaches, I was aware that one of America's sons, brothers and fathers may have given his life in that very spot," Axelman said.

Fred Hensel, com-



City Councilman Paul Vallone (c.) thanks World War II veterans for their service.

Photo by Sarina Trangle

mander of VFW Post 4787 in Whitestone, read remarks Gen. Dwight Eisenhower gave to the troops before they embarked on the so-called Operation Overlord.

Several politicians then spoke, including state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), and former city Comptroller John Liu, who is mounting a primary challenge to Avella.

Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) called a handful of World War II veterans up beside him to thank them for their service. He singled out Frank Milano, who came dressed in a pristine-looking uniform.

Rabbi Steven Axelman visited Normandy this spring.

"He was describing climbing down the rope ladder, getting into the transport ship, waiting that 10 to 15 minutes until the landing doors came down and stepping off on the beach," Vallone said. "Our generation, we can't even fathom what that meant."

The ceremony concluded with two trumpet

players standing astride a large memorial and accompanying a recording of taps as the flag was raised.

Milano, a U.S. Army radio operator who stormed Normandy, said he came "to honor the men who are no longer here."

Similarly, Bill Costello, an infantryman, said he wanted to pay respects to those left behind, including his former sergeant, Frank Vasco, who died at Normandy.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle at 718-260-4546 or by e-mail at strangle@cnglocal.com.

City to reconstruct Murray Hill bridge

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A Murray Hill bridge, closed for years so it could be rebuilt, needs to be completely reconstructed for a second time, elected officials announced last week.

The 149th Street Bridge, which connects Roosevelt and 41st avenues over Long Island Rail Road tracks, has been closed to traffic since 2010 for the project. The bridge was originally scheduled to be completed in November 2011, but has faced years of delays after the first reconstruction was deemed unsafe by the city.

"It's extremely disappointing that we have to start this project again from square one," state Sen. Toby Stavisky (D-Flushing) said. "However, I am optimistic that this new administration is working as quickly as possible to get this bridge completed and reopened. I know that residents and business owners are extremely frustrated with what has become an over four-year process, and I pledge to hold the Department of Transportation

accountable to their new deadline."

Construction of the bridge was completed in May 2011, but it was never reopened as it was deemed unsafe because of cracks the city discovered.

The city is now suing the contractor it hired to design and build the bridge, Gandhi Engineering, for damages "as a result of breach of contract and professional malpractice," according to court documents filed in state Supreme Court.

The city's suit contends the firm failed to build a bridge "sufficient for its intended purpose of carrying vehicular and pedestrian traffic."

Gandhi Engineering declined to comment about the lawsuit's allegations.

The bridge opened back up to pedestrians in summer 2012, but was still closed to vehicular traffic, much to the chagrin of adjacent business owners, who said they have suffered financially because of the construction.

"Customers don't come
Continued on Page 47



The 149th Street bridge stands closed.

Photo by Alex Robinson

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Flushing woman pushed off subway platform releases book

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Renee Katz publishes poems to embolden others decades after losing her hand in grim episode

BY ALEX ROBINSON

More than 30 years after overcoming a horrifying attack in which she was pushed in front of an oncoming subway train and lost her hand, Renee Katz is still finding ways to inspire.

The Flushing musician has announced the release of her book, "Never Been Gone," which seeks to embolden other survivors. The book contains poetry she wrote throughout the years, from the days following the subway incident up until present day.

"As unfortunate as it was, there were lessons that could be learned moving forward," she said. "I made up my mind I was going to feel and experience my life and go into the fear rather than avoiding it."

On June 7, 1979, the

flautist's life changed forever when she was pushed off a subway platform in Midtown Manhattan by an unidentified man. The 17-year-old fell onto the tracks in front of a train, which severed her hand. Surgeons at Bellevue Hospital were able to miraculously reattach the hand after 16 hours of surgery, but she has never regained full function.

The story played out on front pages across the city and around the country.

Her new book chronicled that day and the months that followed as she coped with her injury and figured out how to rebuild her future.

Although the promising student, who attended the High School of Music and Art, could no longer play the flute, she made sure music was still part of



Renee Katz releases her new book "Never Been Gone," which chronicles her inspirational story. Photo courtesy Nick Granito

her life.

"I tried to redefine

my life using the things I was passionate about," she

said. "I tried focusing on my voice. I'm very blessed I can sing. Music is part of my soul and nothing is going to stop that from happening."

She became a cabaret singer and released a CD, with the same name as her new book, which shares many of the same messages and themes as her poems. Katz, who now works as an occupational therapist, said she is currently working on a second album she plans to release next year.

In the weeks that followed her attack, Katz said letters sent from well-wishing New Yorkers helped her through her ordeal. She also took inspiration from her father, Isidore, a Holocaust survivor.

"If my father could get through all that horrible stuff, I could get through this," she said. "I wasn't

going to let myself become numb and bitter. I would be playing into the hands of the guy who pushed me off that subway platform if I did that."

Katz's attacker was never found. A suspect was put on trial in 1980, but acquitted of all charges.

She said the attack made her much more aware of her environment.

"I still have a little post-traumatic stress that gets the better of me, but I work through it," she said.

Katz rarely rides the subway anymore since she has learned to drive, but when she has to, she never goes on her own.

"An accident really causes you to grow up much quicker," she said. "The gratitude I feel from things is more intense because I know life can be taken away so quickly."

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Beware of pay raise: Weprin

City councilman worries minimum wage increase will hurt business

BY KELSEY DURHAM

As the City Council begins to consider a minimum wage increase that would potentially bump hourly pay up to at least \$15 an hour citywide, one councilman from eastern Queens has raised concerns about the negative side effects it could have on his district.

Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) is hoping to bring attention to the impact that the pay increase would have on businesses in his 23rd District, which borders Nassau County, if legislation were to pass requiring owners to nearly double wages for employees.

Weprin — who represents Little Neck, Oakland Gardens, Glen Oaks, Douglaston, Queens Village, Bellerose, Floral Park and Hollis Hills — said he worries that if the minimum wage increase were to affect the city only, businesses in Queens would suffer from competition in neighboring Long Island, where owners would have higher profits



City Councilman Mark Weprin has voiced concerns about a proposal to raise the city-wide minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

stemming from smaller labor costs.

"I've always been a big supporter of raising minimum wage and I think workers are working for way less than what they should be," Weprin said. "But that being said, I think

there are some risks for raising it just in New York City, especially as high as the \$15 an hour that's proposed while the rest of the state stays at \$8."

The idea for a citywide minimum wage increase was introduced earlier

this month when Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan) announced her interest in raising the rate to what she called "well above \$10 an hour," a figure that has been discussed nationally

Continued on Page 54

Charter schools eye 14 new spots in city

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Success Academy Charter Schools announced this week it planned to submit applications to open more than a dozen new locations in four of the five boroughs, including four schools in Queens, in response to what the organization said is an "all-time high" in demand for charter school seats.

The group said Tuesday that it would be sending in requests to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute to open 14 new public charter schools in Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx that would offer thousands more seats for parents looking to enroll their children in charter schools within the next two years.

The new locations would include four schools set to open in August 2015 and 10 that would open the following summer, in August 2016.

In a news release sent out earlier this week, Success Academy noted that more than 14,400 families applied for a chance to fill fewer than 3,000 open seats for the 2014-15 school year. The organization said the 14 new schools, if established, would address a growing need for more charter schools, a demand that has increased since Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation earlier this year that would allow charter schools to be eligible for

government funding.

"These families, representing more than a dozen neighborhoods, are desperate for great schools," said Eva Moskowitz, chief executive officer of Success Academy. "Even with 14 more schools, we will not make a dent in the demand we are seeing."

The organization said it plans to open the schools with a focus on kindergarten and first-grade, enrolling between 150 and 200 students in the first year the buildings are open and expanding to more classes in the future.

The plans include applications for four schools in Queens — one in District 27 that would open in 2015 and three in Districts 24, 28 and 30 that would open in 2016 — as well as two in Manhattan, one in the Bronx and seven in Brooklyn.

Success Academy said acceptance into the 14 locations would be based on community demand from parents who live in the districts and on the number of high schools within the district.

"[City Schools] Chancellor [Carmen] Fariña recently noted that it is important to listen to the community," Moskowitz said in a statement. "That is what we are doing in applying for these charters, because the community is demanding more high-quality charter schools."

CB7 nixes basement apartments

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Community Board 7 gave a resounding no to Mayor Bill de Blasio's proposal to consider looking at legalizing basement apartments at a meeting Monday night.

The board unanimously voted to support a non-binding resolution declaring its opposition to the idea.

"This is out in the forefront right now," board member Tyler Cassell said at the meeting. "We have to let them know we strongly oppose this."

CB 7's neighbor to the east, CB 11 passed its own resolution denouncing the

possible legalization of basement apartments in April. CB covers Flushing, Whitestone, College Point and Bay Terrace, while CB 11 covers Bayside, Douglaston, Little Neck and part of Auburndale.

De Blasio included the policy as part of his plan to build 200,000 units of affordable housing. His Housing Department commissioner, Vicki Been, recently stressed to a Queens Borough Board meeting the administration has not committed to anything concerning legalizing basement apartments other than taking a look at the possibility.

Boardmembers scoffed



CB 7 Vice Chairman Chuck Apelian slams the possibility of legalizing basement apartments. Photo by Alex Robinson

at the idea, saying it would do nothing to address affordable housing problems and that it would lead to violations of the neighborhood's zoning laws.

"The reason you can't

rent out [your basement] is the same reason you bought the house in the first place: It's a single-family detached house," CB 7 Vice Chairman Chuck Apelian said.

CB 7 also voted 38-0, with one abstention, to approve an application by the city Department of Transportation to rehabilitate the Roosevelt Avenue bridge, which runs over Flushing Creek and was constructed in 1927.

The bridge has four lanes of traffic, a sidewalk on either side and the No. 7 train on top.

The application requested approval for temporary construction, which

Continued on Page 54



Success Academy Charter Schools is planning to submit applications to open 14 more charter schools across the city, including one in the former home of St. Pius X Catholic School in Rosedale.

Dems duel for Jax Hts. district leader post

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Union staffer says labor groups lining up behind her as county machine backs her challenger

BY SARINA TRANGLE

“District leader” is hardly a household title, but two women vying for the Queens Democratic Party post in western Queens are relying on the hallmark of typical elections by registering campaign committees, turning to unions and brandishing endorsements.

The race for district leader, an unpaid liaison between the county party and Democratic voters, may distance Jackson Heights’ progressive-leaning elected officials from a part of their union base.

The two men and women elected district leaders in each Assembly district by registered Democrats contribute to the party’s platform, help select its leader and participate in the nomination of civil and surrogate judges. The Republicans also have a similar process.



Marchers carry a banner supporting Yanna Henriquez as female district leader in the 39th Assembly District.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Jessica Ramos, currently a female district leader in state Assemblyman Francisco Moya’s (D-Jackson Heights) district, said she found out at the last minute that the Queens party would not support her in this election cycle.

The Jackson Heights resident said county Democrats turned against her because she was the only

non-legislator to back City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan) early in the progressive’s race for the position — an assertion disputed by Moya.

Ramos, communications director for a coalition of unions called Build Up NYC, said building ser-



Jessica Ramos seeks another two years as female district leader in the 39th Assembly District.

Photo courtesy Jessica Ramos

vice workers union 32BJ, where she has worked; United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1500, where her husband is employed; and Amalgamated Lithographers of America Local One have backed her bid.

“It seems to me that I’m being penalized for having supported the Council

speaker before they had a deal with the Queens County Democratic Party,” Ramos said, noting that the machine supported Councilman Daniel Garodnick (D-Manhattan) when she came out for Mark-Viverito. “I did not find out for certain that they wouldn’t be supporting my re-election that year until the day before the party call.”

Her opponent, Yanna

Henriquez, a Corona resident and program director of the Dominico-American Society of Queens, and Moya said the county Democrats’ endorsement decision was motivated solely by redistricting that brought more of Elmhurst and Corona into the 39th Assembly District.

They said the party sought more geographic diversity in its slate of district leaders.

“As it currently stands, three out of the four district leaders in the 39th Assembly District live on the same block, leaving large swaths of Corona unrepresented at this level,” Moya said in a statement that praised Henriquez as a community advocate. “Our decision to support Yanna Henriquez was based on these metrics alone.”

When TimesLedger Newspapers approached

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Queens Library reforms stall after passing State Assembly

BY ALEX ROBINSON

The state Assembly passed a Queens Library reform bill Monday, but it is unlikely to even come up for a vote in the state Senate.

The bill, authored by Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (D-East Elmhurst) and Borough President Melinda Katz, passed the lower chamber unanimously by a vote of 132-0. The legislation would reform the library’s board of trustees in an attempt to make the nonprofit more transparent.

“I am very pleased that the Queens Library reform measure sponsored by Assembly member Aubry was approved by the Assembly

without opposition,” Katz said in a statement. “It is a sensible measure that would dramatically improve the governance and oversight of the Queens Library and help guarantee that it remains one of our borough’s most treasured institutions for many years to come.”

Lawmakers first started working on legislation to reform the library following revelations the nonprofit’s CEO, Thomas Galante, made a \$392,000 salary and the start of an FBI investigation concerning questionable fiscal management of the nonprofit, which gets federal, state and city funding.

The bill is sponsored by

Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) in the Senate and has received support from the Queens City Council delegation as well as six of the borough’s senators, but it is still unlikely to even be considered for a vote in the upper chamber in the little time that remains in the legislative session.

The fight between state Democrats and the Independent Democratic Conference, a breakaway group that governs the Senate with Republicans, has trickled into the discussion on Queens Library reform and stalled the process.

Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), who joined the IDC in February, has used

Continued on Page 20

Vallone bill aims to lessen emergency response times

BY KELSEY DURHAM

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) has introduced a bill he hopes will help save lives by cutting down response times for emergency personnel.

Vallone’s legislation, introduced last week, would require the city to create and distribute a 911 information card to every household in the five boroughs that includes details Vallone said are critical to helping fire and police officials respond to an emergency in a timely manner.

The northeast Queens representative said the idea of the bill is to cut down on miscommunication that can often occur during an



City Councilman Paul Vallone is hoping to cut down on emergency response times with a new bill he introduced last week.

emergency between a caller and a 911 operator.

“Sometimes emergencies occur when you aren’t at your house, and maybe the person that is there doesn’t know the critical information to give to the 911 operator,” Vallone said. “If we provide these cards where the information is right there for anyone making the call, we could minimize a lot of tragedies

that happen because people don’t know addresses or cross streets.”

Vallone’s bill comes just days after Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Glendale) introduced her own plan to update the city’s 911 system by requiring operators to transmit information they have been given by a caller to police, fire and EMS officials, hoping to cut back on response times by providing responders with all the information they need up front.

Vallone said the cards would include information such as address, nearby landmarks, cross streets and details about people who live in the home, such

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LaGuardia CC grads told never to stand still in life

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez implored more than 1,000 LaGuardia Community College graduates never to give in to adversity while television newsman Ray Suarez said their need for more education was infinite.

Thunderous applause and joyous shouts erupted from families and friends of the 1,008 graduates, originally from many nations, as the cap-and-gowned graduates filed into the Jacob Javits Center June 5 to the strains of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance."

After the last graduate accepted her diploma, a confetti bomb burst, filling the air in the vast hall with a blizzard of red and white, the school's colors..

Perez, whose parents came from the Dominican Republic, was the commencement speaker. He urged the graduates never to give up while pursuing their life goals.

"In 2006, I ran for attorney general of Maryland," Perez said. "Polls showed us in a dead heat with our opponents. But a couple weeks before the primary, I was kicked out of the race by our state's highest court on a legal technicality in a ruling that nobody expected."

"It was a crushing moment, but as is often the case in life, when a door slammed in my face, a window opened. Were it not for that experience, Gov. O'Malley would not have asked me to be state labor secretary and, if I had not served as Maryland labor secretary, I would not have been asked by President Obama to be U.S. labor secretary."

Perez, who was born in Buffalo, N.Y., pointed out that Steve Jobs started Apple out of his garage at age 20 and J.K. Rowling was on public assistance when she wrote the first Harry Pot-



LaGuardia Community College students are covered with confetti during the school's commencement ceremony.

Photo courtesy LaGuardia Community College

ter book.

"As you climb the ladder of success, reach out to those below you, he said. "Let's turn this from a selfie culture to an 'ussy' culture."

Suarez, the prize-winning news correspondent at PBS NewsHour, who is now with Al Jazeera America television, was the keynote speaker.

"My parents told me, 'If want to get into heaven, you better have letters of reference from poor people,'" Suarez said "Whatever you're doing, more degrees, credentials, jobs, you must be prepared to keep on learning. What you have learned now is not enough to make it through the rest of your life. The world does not reward standing still. No matter how much education you get or have, there is always more to learn."

He added, "Down the line somewhere, you may have been told you are not college material. Thank God you didn't listen."

The LaGuardia Community College, in Long Island City, class of 2014, profiled:

- Women 62.6 percent, men 37.4 percent

- Hispanic 35.3 percent, Asian/Pacific Islander 19.6 percent, black/non-Hispanic 12.3 percent, remaining 20.5 percent consider themselves of another ethnic

origin and prefer not to self-identify

- Where graduates live: Queens 63.7 percent, Brooklyn 14.9 percent, Manhattan 10.3 percent, the Bronx 6.6 percent, elsewhere 4.5 percent.

- 50.5 percent are between 18 and 24, 23.3 percent are 25-29, 10.9 percent are 35-44 and 4.3 percent are 45 or older

- Top majors: liberal arts, social sciences and humanities 25.4 percent, business administration 14.3 percent, nursing and criminal justice both 8.4 percent, accounting 6.7 percent.

About LaGuardia Community College:

- More than 50,000 students from more than 150 countries come to LaGuardia each year.

- More than 70 percent of LaGuardia students have a family income of less than \$25,000.

- Lifetime earnings increase by more than \$400,000 for students with an associate degree.

- In the past decade, the LaGuardia Community College Foundation has raised more than \$8 million toward student scholarships, student emergency funds and new initiatives aimed at enhancing student success.

- LaGuardia Business

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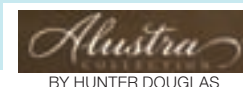
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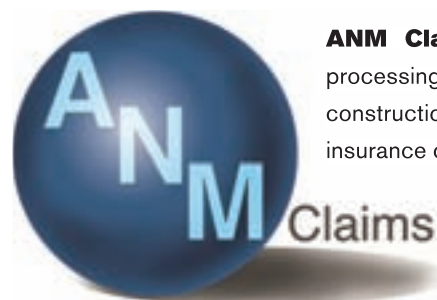
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POLICE Blotter

Bicyclist hit and killed on Roosevelt Avenue: Police

WILLETS POINT — A bicyclist was fatally struck by a minivan while riding on Roosevelt Avenue between 126th Street and Shea Road a little after 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, authorities said.

Fire officials said they were called to the scene — right outside an entrance to Citi Field — at 12:48 p.m. to assist with an injured pedestrian.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene, the FDNY said.

The unidentified man's bicycle lay crumpled on Roosevelt Avenue near a silver 2000 Mercury Villager around 2 p.m. as police conducted an accident investigation. The driver remained at the scene, and the NYPD Collision Investigation Squad was investigating, police said.

One person refused medical attention at the accident scene, but it was unclear if the person was involved in the accident, a spokesman for the FDNY said.

Pedestrians were prevented from



Police block off Roosevelt Avenue to perform an investigation into the fatal accident.

Photo by Christina Santucci

walking on the sidewalks of Roosevelt Avenue underneath the No. 7 train while the investigation was performed.

The No. 7 subway briefly bypassed the Mets-Willets Point stop but had resumed service to the station as of 4 p.m. in anticipation of the Amazin's' game against the Milwaukee Brewers at 7:10 p.m.

Cops investigate shooting in Jamaica Estates

JAMAICA ESTATES — Police were investigating a shooting outside a popular Jamaica Estates hookah bar last weekend that left one man injured, the NYPD said.

Authorities said a 30-year-old black man was shot in the right shoulder around 3:30 a.m. Saturday after a dispute broke out while the man was leaving Cloud 9 Hookah Lounge, at 179-22 Union Turnpike.

The man was taken to Jamaica Hospital and was expected to make a full recovery, but police said he was not co-operating with the investigation and the NYPD is still looking into the incident.



Police say a 30-year-old man was shot after leaving Cloud 9 hookah bar on Union Turnpike.

Photo by Christina Santucci

Missing women last seen in Kissena Park: NYPD

FLUSHING — Police were looking for a missing 54-year-old Flushing woman who disappeared in Kissena Park Sunday.

Manjit Kaur, who only speaks Punjabi, was last seen in the park at 8:30 a.m., the NYPD said.

Police described her as 5-foot-3 with brown hair and brown eyes.



MANJIT KAUR

Got tips?

**Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477), text 274637 (CRIMES)
and enter TIP577 or log on to nypdcrimestoppers.com.**

Soccer madness set to strike borough

BY JUAN SOTO

The fever and the madness are on in Queens — soccer fever and madness, that is.

The 2014 World Cup in Brazil just got underway, and the borough melting pot is heating up, ready to explode with every goal, penalty kick and unfair call.

After all, not only is the international tournament the biggest sporting event in the world, but the borough is home to the most ethnically diverse chunk of earth on the planet.

Queens residents are cheering for their native countries, and for those who have no link to any of the 32 teams fighting it out, they always find ways to become a part-time supporter of one of the national teams.

In every corner of the borough during the next 3 1/2 weeks, a TV will be turned on to the tournament. Brazil 2014 brings a total of 64 games and at least 5,760 minutes of pure competition.

Bars and restaurants are ready to witness the true passion of soccer.

Die-hard fans of Brazil, one of the favorites to take the title, will gather around flat TV screens in places like Astoria's Favela Grill, at 33-18 28th Ave.

"The place will get

very busy," said Clayton Santos, a waiter at the restaurant.

Santos said the restaurant has two big screens and three smaller TV sets, but it may add at least one more big screen TV. To watch the games of La Canarinha, Brazil's nickname, the fan has to make a reservation and spend a minimum of \$25.

"I really think Brazil is going to win," added Santos.

Brazil has won five World Cups.

Germany, a three-time winner, has its little piece of Deutschland in Queens as well. In the heart of Glendale, German fans will glue their eyes to a 100-inch-screen TV in the Zum Stammtisch restaurant, at 69-46 Myrtle Ave.

During the matches, the place will give out free appetizers, and in case the squad commanded by the well-dressed Joachim Low reaches the final, the business will close the restaurant and open it only as a bar operation for the big finale.

"Germany hasn't looked this good in years," said Werner Lehner, owner of the eatery, along with his brother Hans. "We tend to have a lot of people when Germany plays."

And let's not forget that a German, Jurgen

Continued on Page 54



Ricardo Silva, of La Gran Uruguaya, paints the windows of the restaurant located in Jackson Heights. Photo by Bill Parry

Fans take in Belmont Stakes

More than 100,000 turn out for chance to see historical Triple Crown

BY KELSEY DURHAM

Even though Belmont favorite California Chrome fell short of the coveted Triple Crown last week, the hundreds of thousands of racing fans who turned out to witness the historic opportunity were treated to plenty of fun.

A crowd of more than 100,000 spectators made their way to the track in Elmont, L.I., Saturday to take in the 146th Annual Belmont Stakes, enjoying food, drink and plenty of nice weather as they watched the 13 races that took place that day.

Despite failing to see the first Triple Crown in 36 years, with California Chrome finishing in a tie for fourth place, the audience remained in high spirits.

Karen Zirkle, a Connecticut resident who was taking in her first Belmont experience, said she was just happy to be a part of the crowd.

"It's a chance to see history," she said. "The energy is so fun. It's just America's culture."

Many racing fans who were there to root for California Chrome's Triple Crown bid held up signs reading "Triple Chrome," and the more dedicated fans even donned nasal strips to resemble the one the horse has been known to wear.

As the 6:52 p.m. start time of the Belmont Stakes — the 11th race of that day — crept closer, the crowd began to fill in behind the fence separating them from the track. Once the horses thundered out of the gates, fans battled for the best view of the contenders as they came around to the finish line.

Many fans held cell-phones in the air, taking photos and recording video of the race as they cheered on the animals.

Even after California Chrome came in a few spots



California Chrome with jockey Victor Espinoza finishes tied for fourth in the Belmont Stakes.

AP Photo/Matt Slocum



Nicol Martin of Astoria sports a straw hat during the annual horse race. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

behind first-place finisher Tonalist, the crowd cheered and continued to celebrate the day throughout the two remaining races.

"It's just fun to hang around all the people," said Julia Paglierani, another first-time attendee of the annual event. Paglierani said before the race it would have been crazy if California Chrome had been able to win the Triple Crown, but she, along with much of the crowd, was not disappointed by the way the day

turned out.

The one blemish the day did deliver was the monumental transit problems thousands of fans experienced during their commute home whether in traffic or while waiting for trains.

Spectators who relied on the Long Island Rail Road reported standing in line for more than two hours, even while police shut down trains for a portion of the night, while drivers waited two to three



Joel Rosario, who is riding atop Tonalist, smiles after they won the Belmont Stakes.

AP Photo/Mark Lennihan

hours to make it out of the parking lots. Fans later criticized the LIRR for urging people planning to go to the race to take public transportation but failing to keep up with the increase in riders. The LIRR said afterward that the transit agency added 14 trains on top of the regularly scheduled 38, but the increase fell far short of the number of fans hoping to catch a train home.

Student from Romania wins transfer scholarship at LaGuardia

Single-mom Cristina Mihailescu, 40, grew up in communist-run country, plans to study economics

BY SHANICE PUNNETT

An international LaGuardia Community College student and a 40-year-old single mother of two, Cristina Mihailescu defeated all the odds when she was awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship, the most prestigious available for community college students.

She graduated last week with the intention of transferring to a four-year institution and no longer has to worry about tuition expenses.

Her current tuition is high, almost double that of an undergraduate resident, and financial constraints made her future college career seem impossible. The scholarship will provide her with as much as \$30,000 a year for up to three years to complete her bachelor's.

"It was an amazing feeling," she said. "I was in shock for a week."

"One year ago I was struggling to make it from semester to semester and was wondering if graduating from LaGuardia was possible," she said in a statement. "Now I feel like I was reborn. I can start dreaming big because the scholarship has not only eased my financial burden — it has opened the doors to so many opportunities."

The business administration major has applied to Baruch College and New York University's Stern School of Business, where she wants to pursue a degree in economics. Her dream is to work at the United Nations, where she hopes to help find solutions to global issues and help developing countries find solutions to their economic



CRISTINA MIHAILESCU
Photo courtesy LaGuardia CC

problems. Mihailescu was in-

involved in the U.N. student club at LaGuardia, which gave her more exposure to what the United Nations is all about.

Her desire to help developing countries arose years ago when she was growing up in communist Romania.

"It was a time where human freedom was denied, people lived in poverty, basic food products were scarce and electricity was rationed," she said.

She recalled studying by candlelight because the electricity was shut off in the evenings.

"Looking back, I don't know how people survived," she said.

Mihailescu has not returned to her home country in 11 years, but would like to visit again.

"It's still tough economically and it's hard to

find jobs," she said.

She has been an accounting tutor and is currently completing a paid internship with MetLife's Legal Affairs Department, which ends in June. This helps her pay tuition along with help from her sister.

"I am not sure I would have been able to pursue a degree at LaGuardia if not for the support of the institution, its professors and staff," she said. "To me, LaGuardia is my second home, a secure environment where I knew I could get encouragement and guidance."

But how does she manage raising two daughters while attending school?

"It's been challenging," she said. "I couldn't even afford day-care fees, but I have my sister and really good friends who help me with my kids."

After being out of school for 17 years, she began her college experience with a host of insecurities.

"During my first semester, I said to myself, 'Do I belong here? How am I going to manage?'"

But she managed to maintain a perfect 4.0 GPA. She was able to achieve this by focusing on her studies and taking advantage of her college's resources such as tutoring and department review sessions.

"Cristina is a fighter with the determination of a champion," Accounting Professor Rajendra Bhika. said "She sees difficult periods of her life as opportunities for great learning and triumph, and believes that education is the only way she will be able to face the difficulties that are still to come."

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— Colleen Lee, RN

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LIBRARY OVERSIGHT

Why is Tom Galante still sitting in the CEO's chair at Queens Library amid the public outcry for his removal and the board's refusal to agree to an audit by the city comptroller?

Queens lawmakers have been scrambling to draft competing bills in the state Legislature to regulate the executive end of the library and hold those who run the nonprofit accountable for their actions.

At issue is Galante's \$392,000 annual salary and his income from a second job as a self-described financial consultant to the public school system in Elmont, L.I. Expensive renovations to his executive offices at the library have also drawn fire as well as his sports car paid for by the library.

The library's trustees deadlocked 9-9 on a vote to oust Galante after Borough President Melinda Katz called for him to take a temporary leave of absence.

After urging Galante to step down, state Sen. Tony Avella drew up legislation that would cap key executive salaries at Queens Library at \$150,000 and limit outside employment of trustees and top personnel. The beep would appoint six trustees and the mayor five, all subject to two-year term limits.

Avella contends his bill goes farther than measures prepared by state Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, who worked with Katz to make the library's workings more transparent, and a sister version sponsored by Sen. Michael Gianaris.

Aubry's bill borrows two points from Avella's, which would make the library subject to Freedom of Information Laws and require annual budget hearings.

Avella's legislation is in limbo because he has angered the Queens Democratic machine by joining the Independent Democratic Conference, which has given effective control of the upper chamber to the Republicans.

It might pass the Senate, but there is no version in the heavily Democratic Assembly. And Gianaris' bill might not see the light of day since the IDC would have to bring it to the floor.

This infighting will allow the status quo to continue at Queens Library. The CEO and the trustees have spit in the face of the public by refusing to explain how they spend their private funds and taxpayer money.

It's time for our state legislators to reach a compromise and end the charade. The longer Galante remains in his post without the board explaining its actions, the more credibility is lost at this important institution.

We think he should resign, but we'd like to hear his side of the story and listen to the current board.



OTHER VOICES

Act would reduce wait time for veterans

As your readers may know, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has come under fire for delays with veterans' benefits and care at its facilities.

While I have already called for a criminal investigation into wrongdoing at the VA, I am writing to inform readers of my bill that would enact a common-sense solution to ensure veterans are not left waiting for claims.

Currently, New York veterans wait an average of 297 days to receive disability compensation and benefits, a timetable that falls short of the 125-day goal the VA has set for filling these claims.

This is unacceptable.

That is why I introduced the Veterans Backlog Reduction Act. This bill would give provisional benefits to veterans filing for disability if a claim has not been processed within

125 days.

The provisional benefit would be based on what a veteran with a similar disability receives or would be calculated based on a 40 percent disability rating.

Put simply, this legislation would ensure no veteran filing a claim has to wait more than 125 days for the benefits they have earned.

To date, my office has recovered more than \$7.4 million in back pay and

owed benefits to my constituents by cutting through the red tape at the VA. If you or a veteran you know needs help with a VA benefits claim, please make my office your first resource.

You can reach my office at 718-875-1675, 516-505-1448 or 631-777-7391. We are eager to help.

Steve Israel
U.S. Representative
(D-Melville)

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Mayor wrong on mental health

The recent announcement by the de Blasio administration about a task force on behavioral health and the criminal justice system may appear to be an innocuous endeavor to evaluate the mental health needs of arrestees.

But Mayor Bill de Blasio's comment that "for far too long, our city's jails have acted as de facto mental health facilities" betrays his liberal agenda, which blames the social environment for individual sociopathic crimes and supports "get out of jail free" cards for mental illness.

These premises of criminal justice reform are *deja vu* of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark's model of social learning determinism and organic brain disorders as excuses for the voluntary criminal acts of individuals — replace prisons with mental hospitals — or the Angela Davis political prisoner models.

Being a person with some form of mental disorder does not necessarily

diminish or abolish moral culpability for crimes committed and the required sentencing for retributive justice by the state, unless the person has been determined to be criminally insane and thus unable to "appreciate the nature or quality or the wrongfulness of his acts," as in former City Councilman Dan Halloran's plea due to a benign brain tumor.

Secondly, de Blasio asserts that "everyone deserves access to quality health care," which, although perhaps a civil right, is not necessarily incumbent upon the government to provide through socialist measures such as Medicaid.

If most individuals, especially now under the individual mandate of Obamacare, have health care insurance and refuse to seek behavioral or mental health evaluation or treatment and then commit heinous crimes, why should the criminal justice system divert arrestees into some government-paid program in lieu of fines and impris-

onment?

Most mentally ill people do not commit crimes — only some. Not all, arrestees are mentally ill, and the mental illnesses do not necessarily absolve them of culpability for their crimes.

Some arrestees have behavioral health issues which should be treated concomitantly with their incarceration, not as "get out of jail free" cards. De Blasio and Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli — true to the underlying social environment hypotheses of the 1960s "war on poverty" — are just rehashing the same old-school, liberal public policy line.

And the bard of Avon, William Shakespeare, concurs in Cassius' words that "the fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings" ("Julius Caesar," Act I, Scene 2).

*Joseph Manago
Briarwood*

City must take advantage of ferries

The May 30-June 5 editorial "Ferry Good Idea" is the wave of the future. Our waterways are an underused natural asset which can offer significant transportation alternatives for thousands of New Yorkers.

Most of our existing public transportation and roadways are already operating at or above capacity. New ferry services can be implemented far more quickly than construction of new subways, commuter rails or highways. These can take years or decades until completion of environmental reviews, planning, design, engineering, real estate acquisition, permits, procurements and actual construction before reaching beneficial use.

Completing all of the above along with finding funding for ferry boats, docks and parking with costs in the millions may be easier than finding the billions of dollars necessary

for construction of new or extended subways, commuter rails or highways. Use of ferry boats equipped with modern, fuel-efficient engines can make a positive contribution to air quality.

In April 1967, the old Jersey Central Rail Road ended ferry service between Liberty Street and Pavonia, N.J. Later that year, in November, the old Erie Lackawana Rail Road suspended ferry service between Barclay Street and Hoboken, N.J.

Fast forward to today. Thousands of daily commuters use ferries from Hoboken, to the World Financial Center in downtown Manhattan. There are also 66,000 daily patrons of the Staten Island Ferry system which connects St. George, S.I., with the Whitehall Street Ferry Terminal.

Unlike the other four boroughs, 500,000 Richmond County residents have no direct subway or

commuter rail system linking them with the rest of the city.

More than two years ago, thousands of riders began using the East River ferry connecting various waterfront neighborhoods, including Long Island City, East 34th Street, Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Wall Street and Governors Island.

Who would not want to enjoy the fresh air and breeze that only waterborne transportation can provide? Riding a ferry can be less stressful than being packed in a subway car like sardines in a can.

There are tens of thousands of residents living near Fort Totten in Bayside and Citi Field in Flushing who would welcome the opportunity.

*Larry Penner
Great Neck, L.I.*

Education better under de Blasio

Faith in our public school frontline educators has not only survived the lies, schemes and indecencies of a bygone Gracie Mansion absentee resident, sundry media rogues and other accomplices in full retreat, but has strengthened ever since a pro-education mayor, not prone to insulting the intelligence of New Yorkers, took office after a dozen years of mindless antagonism.

Confidence in the public school system has again

been vindicated by parents who know their children best.

They have applied for pre-kindergarten slots in such record numbers that, despite expanded availability, placement in our public schools are at a premium and not all first choices could be accommodated.

There are other options, but parents are clamoring for the top of the line. The city is striving to meet demand and will hopefully do so sooner rather than later.

We also need additional educational and wrap-around social programs to be instituted in all boroughs and implemented in our school hubs.

They are integral to the mayor's vision and essential to the well-being of the multitudinous neighborhoods, distinctive yet unified, that are the calling card of our city.

*Ron Isaac
Bayside*

Reader wrong on haves, have-nots

What reader Ed Konecnik fails to understand is that the "haves," who he is so enamored with, are not against welfare and socialism as it applies to them — only as it applies to the masses.

That would mean they

would be obligated to pay a little more in taxes, etc., something they are reluctant to do.

When they get into financial trouble, they have no qualms about taking government welfare or seeking bailouts, but they do not or will not refer to

this as socialism, as they have made the term "socialism" a dirty word.

And how then could they deny some largesse for the peons?

*Joe Brooks
Whitestone*

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Boro Dems face interparty fight over Avella, IDC



William Lewis
Political Action

In recent years, there have been few major interparty battles within the Queens Democratic Party. This year, the situation may be different with Queens Democratic Chairman U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) indicating that the Democratic county organization will not endorse state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) for reelection in the 11th Senate District in northeast Queens.

With Avella having joined the Independent Democratic Conference, the Democratic Senate lead-

ership, in addition to the Democratic county leadership, oppose his actions. They want their senator to work with their party and they are opposed to any of their elected senators joining the IDC.

In the forthcoming primary against Avella, he will not have the wide range of support he had four years ago, when after serving in the City Council and running in the Democratic primary for mayor he won the Senate seat that had been represented by Frank Padavan for 38 years.

Avella has in the past noted independency. He is not one to adhere to party discipline. Regardless of the outcome of former city Comptroller John Liu's primary against Avella, the Republican challenger will be facing a Democratic

candidate with less financial and organizational support. It would take a strong Republican to win that seat.

Two years ago, a similar situation developed in the Queens Republican Party when it held a Republican primary against Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park), who was running for the 15th Senate District seat in southwest Queens against Sen. Joe Addabbo (D-Howard Beach), who had the endorsement of the Working Families Party.

Addabbo had also served on the Council prior to being elected to the Senate after defeating Sen. Serf Maltese, who had previously served in the Senate for 20 years.

Ulrich won the Republican primary in 2012. He

The Democrats have not faced an interparty fight since 1958-61.

went on to lose the fall general election to Addabbo. The following year he was able to win re-election to his Council seat.

In both cases involving Avella and Ulrich, both incumbent office holders are at odds with the party organizations and opposing party county policies.

Will Avella have the same political fate as Ulrich by winning his primary but losing the fall election?

Avella, being an incumbent senator for four years, had an advantage

over Ulrich, who was seeking the Senate office for the first time.

Major interparty disputes can lead to important results.

In the case of the Democratic Party, the most serious interparty warfare occurred in the period of 1958-61, when a struggle took place for control of the city Democratic Party between the regular organization led by Carmine DeSapio and reformers.

During that struggle, a series of party primaries took place to elect state Assembly district leaders and county committees. The reformers, led by Mayor Robert Wagner and former Gov. Herbert Lehman, defeated the regulars who had been led by Tammany Hall for more than 150 years.

Since the early 1960s,

there have been few major disruptions of the party leadership.

The conflicts of the Democratic Party in New York took place within the city's five boroughs. In the Republican Party, major party disputes have been taking place periodically since the early 1980s.

As has been stated, it would be beneficial to our party political system if interparty disputes could be settled without developing into major interparty warfare.

In the case of Avella, a primary against an incumbent senator is a serious matter. It remains to be seen how this will affect other races. That is especially true of Senate and Assembly districts in the same general area as the 11th Senate District.

'Unusual' musical pioneer Lauper called Ozone Park home



The Greater Astoria Historical Society

Pioneering singer-songwriter, actress and LGBT rights activist Cyndi Lauper was born in Boulevard Hospital in Astoria June 22, 1953.

After early personal and career struggles, including losing her voice and going bankrupt, Lauper burst onto the music scene with her 1983 debut solo album "She's So Unusual." Known by fans in her early days for her outrageous outfits, waffle pattern hairstyle and contagious pop hits, the Queens native has become a ubiquitous presence on airwaves, Broadway musicals and television shows worldwide.

She is married to actor David Thornton and they have a son, Declan. The singer is one of only 20 artists to attain so-called "GET" status by winning Grammy, Emmy, and Tony awards.

The future star was raised in Ozone Park, the middle of three children. Her formative years were marked by instability and a search for belonging in a world where she increasingly felt different. Her parents divorced when Cyndi was 5, and then her mother remarried only to separate again.

From an early age, she found an outlet for expression in music, her expand-

ing record collection containing an eclectic range of hits from Billie Holiday to Ella Fitzgerald and The Beatles.

In her teens, hints of Lauper's bright future began to emerge as she began writing her own songs and playing the guitar, all the while expressing her uniqueness with a dazzling array of hair colors and outlandish fashions. At 17, the Queens native dropped out of high school and set out in search of herself, at one time living in the woods in Canada with her dog.

She returned to New York City and began singing in earnest in the early 1970s as a vocalist with a series of cover bands. The talented singer felt limited crooning hits from Led Zeppelin, Jefferson Airplane and others, and soon lost her voice and was told by doctors she would never

Her 1983 debut album garnered four Top 5 hits.

perform again.

Through coaching and unrelenting determination, however, Lauper was soon back on stage.

Lauper's break to stardom came in 1983 with the release of her debut solo album, which notched four Top 5 hits on the Billboard Hot 100: "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," "Time After Time," "She Bop" and "All Through the Night."

Her stunning success continued throughout the 1980s. She received the Best New Artist Award at the 27th Grammy Awards and directed the soundtrack

to the hit movie "The Goonies" in 1985, and the following year released her second record, "True Colors."

Following her breakthrough decade, Lauper was not content with pop stardom. She has released 10 studio albums since the late '80s, with her most recent best-selling "Memphis Blues" topping the charts in that category for 13 straight weeks in 2010.

The multitalented star also branched out into acting, winning an Emmy Award in 1995 for her guest actress role in the sitcom "Mad About You." More recently, in "A Memoir," her 2012 autobiography, the singer chronicled her childhood struggles with depression and a broken home and the lean years before the bright lights, MTV and concert tours made her a household name.

Throughout her career, Lauper the artist has used her fame as an activist advocating for gay rights. She claims that her older sister Ellen, a lesbian, has been a role model for her advocacy. Her contribution to the fight for equality was recognized when she attended President Barack Obama's second inauguration as a special guest.

Reflecting on a lifetime as a rebel, an outsider and an advocate for others struggling for acceptance, the woman with the Queens accent and funny hair once commented, "You always have to remember — no matter what you're told — that God loves all the flowers, even the wild ones that grow on the side of the highway."

For more information, call 718-278-0700 or visit astorialic.org.

Basement apartments in Queens should be legalized

15

TL



Prem Calvin Prashad
■
New Voices

A pillar of the mayor's affordable housing plan is the legalization of some basement apartments. As Queens residents, we need to face reality and recognize that not only is the renting of basements widespread, it is necessary for many people to remain in their homes in the current economy.

Housing advocates, including the Base Apartments Safe for Everyone coalition, champion a comprehensive set of regulations and benefits that will allow a select number of basements that meet certain safety and occupancy regulations to be designated as

alternate dwelling units.

There is an ADU code with a compliance unit as well as a mechanism to assist current basement apartments to comply with the code. About a third of current illegal apartments can be made legal, according to housing advocates. This is not a blanket approval of all basement apartments.

The conversation needs to focus not on potential basement apartments, but on the thousands of units that already exist in Queens. There will always be basement apartments and we will never be able to marshal the resources to ban all these units.

With legalization, we ensure first responders are protected in the event of an emergency by including the units in building plans. Legalization allows for a more accurate picture of

a neighborhood's need for city services. Fears about the impact of these units need to consider that due to the current preponderance of these apartments, city resources are already taxed and will continue to be, with or without legalization.

An ADU does not change the zoning designation of an area and serves as an auxiliary unit in a larger dwelling. This preserves historic properties and prevents unsustainable development. ADUs typically serve the elderly, students and other small households that require accommodations smaller or cheaper than a typical apartment.

ADU certification programs exist in several major U.S. cities, as well as 17 towns on Long Island, where they serve as a foreclosure prevention

program for elderly homeowners.

This is preferable to ham-fisted, one-to-two family conversions that scar historic properties in Queens. In having high turnover rates of homeowners in neighborhoods and an increasing number of vacant properties, neighborhoods have lost cohesion and political clout. Property speculation, rather than ownership, now drives the purchase of many Queens homes.

While there are concerns legalization will spike the number of conversions, the majority of landlords have never waited for the government's approval to make conversions. Most have already taken a calculated risk in renting out basements. In moving forward with legalization, this does not substantially alter the supply of these apart-

ments but adds oversight over those that exist.

Indeed, there are exploitative basement units that will never qualify for ADU designation. These units will remain subject to the city Housing Department's inspection and enforcement, already overburdened with the number of properties with minor issues. By legalizing basement apartments that are largely safe, we free city resources to deal with the worst landlords.

When waiters, retail workers and others in the service industry cannot afford to live in the city, the cost of services will increase dramatically. The high cost of housing inevitably affects the cost of labor, especially if low-wage earners are forced to commute from outside the city to fill low-wage or part-time work.

There is a global consensus that urban density is the best way to ensure effective land use and provide quantifiable demand for infrastructure upgrades. Queens is the only borough that maintains a semblance of urban sprawl. Sprawl is now an indictment of cost-ineffective and unsustainable planning.

If there is any hope for necessary infrastructure improvements, including new subway and rail lines, then we need to recognize that density is necessary to make these projects real.

Basement apartments exist with or without legalization. We can remain in denial of market forces, but the cost of unaffordable housing creeps into all economic sectors. It makes prices higher, strains social benefit networks and shrinks consumer spending.

TIMESLEDGER, JUN. 13-19, 2014. TIMESLEDGER.COM

Father's Day only became a federal holiday in 1972



Laura Rahill
■
Remember the Date

This coming Sunday, the third in June, we celebrate the important father figures in our lives on what is known worldwide as Father's Day.

Like Mother's Day is a celebration of those maternal figures in our lives, Father's Day is a celebration of those important paternal figures.

But unlike Mother's Day, Father's Day does not get nearly the same recognition.

Mother's Day fuels 75 percent more spending than Father's Day worldwide. About 141 million greeting cards are purchased each

year around Mother's Day, compared to 90 million for Father's Day.

It is not fully known why this is the case.

In 1908, Mother's Day became a commercial holiday, but Father's Day was not met with the same enthusiasm which, as a florist explained, was because "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

The nation's first event in honor of fathers holds a sad memory over it. On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event in a Sunday morning sermon in memory of the 362 men, mostly fathers, who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmount Coal Co. Mines in Monongah.

Although this event was a once-off, a woman from Washington state



A woman holds a Father's Day card as she browses the card selection at a large box store.
AP Photo/Augusta Chronicle, Sara Caldwell

called Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents.

Sonora felt strongly about this idea, as she deeply acknowledged the

love and care her father gave her and her siblings, raising a newborn and five other children when her mother died.

Sonora was successful in her campaign and, on July 19, 1910, Washington state celebrated its first

Father's Day. The day was sometimes held in disdain by men who saw it as a gimmick or a way to sentimentalize manliness with gifts often paid for by themselves.

During the 1920s and '30s, a movement began to scrap Mother's and Father's days altogether in favor of a single, united holiday that would be known as Parents Day.

Parents Day activist Robert Spare stated that "both parents should be loved and respected together."

During the Great Depression, struggling retailers and advertisers doubled their efforts to make sure Father's Day remained as its own holiday alongside Mother's Day. Ties, hats, socks, tobacco and golf clubs were heavily promoted.

World War II became

another way for retailers to cash in on this holiday by claiming Father's Day was a chance to honor American troops and support the war effort.

By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972, in a presidential re-election campaign, President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last. Today, it is celebrated all across the United States and in many other countries, such as Australia, Ireland, France and Japan, to name just a few, as we lovingly acknowledge our father figures.

Wishing every father and, of course, my own a wonderful and peaceful Father's Day this coming Sunday.

Molloy to pay tribute to Vietnam war hero in Class of '63

Louis Willett won Medal of Honor for unselfish acts of bravery that allowed comrades to escape

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A Richmond Hill war hero who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor is set to be honored at his Briarwood high school.

Louis Willett was given the prestigious award after he was killed at 21, fending off Vietnamese forces to save his outnumbered comrades. A group of alumni from Archbishop Molloy High School's class of 1963 has been organizing a ceremony to commemorate the memory of their dead friend.

"I wanted to make it right for him and I wanted the students of Malloy to know what kind of graduate went to their school," said Larry Seible, one of Willett's friends from high school who is helping the school's alumni association organize the event. "Back

when some Vietnam vets came off the plane, they were spit on and weren't given their due. I want him to get his due."

In November, more than 80 members of the class of '63 attended their 50th reunion. Many of them did not even know Willett had been awarded the Medal of Honor and a number of the attendees agreed to do something to commemorate his memory.

Seibel has been trying to obtain a copy of Willett's Medal of Honor, which he wants to give to the school at the ceremony next November.

The day of Willett's death was a clear, warm one, with no clouds in the sky, according to a report Northrop, submitted, recommending the fallen officer for the Medal of Honor.

His squad was set



Archbishop Molloy High School alumni look to honor their fallen friend, Louis Willett, who was drafted into the Army in 1965 and was killed in Vietnam in 1967. Photos courtesy Mary Anne Willett

to do a security sweep in Kontum Province Feb. 15, 1967, when it made contact with a large North Vietnamese force. Willett and his comrades were suddenly pinned down on the ground by steady fire from Vietnamese guns when the Queens man decided to take the situation into his own hands, Northrop said

in the recommendation.

"Willett, with complete disregard for his life, rose to his feet and by expert use of fire and movement gained a position affording him a clear field of fire on enemy positions," Northrop said.

The Richmond Hill man fired on the enemy soldiers, killing 11 and refused an order to return to

where the rest of his squad lay, Northrop said in the recommendation.

The Vietnamese returned heavy machine gun fire at Willett's position, hitting him multiple times, but he continued to fire back at them, providing cover for his comrades to retreat.

"Willett knew full well that his refusal to return to the squad would deny him an avenue of escape, placing the lives of his comrades above his own," Northrop said.

His body was not recovered until the next day.

Willett was awarded the Medal of Honor the following year, but his younger sister Mary Anne Willett said it was little consolation for the family's loss.

"It was devastating. And to be honest I don't think the medal made much difference," she said. "You

want your brother back. The medal was an honor, but I wanted my brother. It didn't give us much solace, but it did give us peace of mind because we found out exactly what happened to him," she said.

Willett was born in Brooklyn and raised in Richmond Hill. He attended SUNY Maritime and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965 when he withdrew from school.

His family and friends as well as some Vietnam Veterans who were there the day Willett died will attend the ceremony, Seibel said.

Two other alumni from the class of '63 were killed in Vietnam and will be honored at the ceremony. Cosmo Pacetta, of Far Rockaway, and John Reilly, of Middle Village, both died in action.

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Union fights SJU for painting jobs

BY KELSEY DURHAM

After weeks of protests and a lack of negotiations, the painters union that claims St. John's University shut them out of dozens of summer jobs is prepared to continue the fight.

The District Council 9 union — made up of about 9,000 trade workers including painters, dry wallers, window installation professionals and other building workers — has staged a series of rallies outside the Jamaica Estates school since last month in response to what union representatives say is the school's determination to not hire union workers to repaint student dormitories over the summer.

DC 9 contends it submitted a competitive bid for the 30 to 50 painters currently doing the work, but St. John's chose to hire non-union workers whom the school says offered a better contract.

"St. John's has met with union representatives past and present to explain our bidding process," the school said in a statement. "Unionized painting companies have been included on bid lists for projects currently being contracted at St. John's. In this instance, the university decided to accept competitive bids from non-union firms."

Jack Kittle, spokesman and political director of DC 9, said the union has been trying to work with St. John's for about three years now, but the university has not negotiated with them despite telling the painters each year that they will try to work out a deal with the union the following summer.

"Our attitude is that they have not been very honorable," he said, referring to the university. "I think they figure we will just forget about it the next year, but we won't. We pay attention."

Kittle did not know how close the bid that the

union offered St. John's was to the one the school accepted from non-union workers since a contractor submits the bid rather than the union itself.

But he said, in his experience, he has rarely known a union to offer a non-competitive bid, and he said the job being done inside the dorms would most likely require half the workers if the school had hired experienced union painters instead.

In the weeks since the union said it was brushed off by the school, workers have staged rallies and protests outside Gate 1 of the university in order to make their voices heard, even bringing with them a giant inflatable rat and a banner that reads "Shame on St. John's University."

Kittle said, to his knowledge, the group plans to continue its protests each day the job is being done over the summer and has no plans to walk away from the issue.

"It's not honorable," Kittle said. "We'd be happier if they just told us to take a walk instead of doing this same thing every year."

The statement released by St. John's continued to insist that the school was willing to work with all contractors, regardless of union status.

"The university prides itself in giving fair consideration to outside companies, union and non-union, who contract with St. John's for work-related projects at our New York campus locations," the statement said. "We will continue our best practices and policies as an institution of higher education in helping our economy in Queens and New York and accept bids from all prospective companies that wish to do business with St. John's University."

Reach reporter Kelsey Durham at 718-260-4573 or by e-mail at kdurham@cn-glocal.com.

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Pols seek to slow traffic

Elected officials implored the city to install speed bumps and paint a crosswalk near PS232 about a week after two adults and their special needs child were hit by a car near the Lindenwood school.

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo Jr. (D-Howard Beach), state Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Beach) and City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) gathered with school officials and parents last week to call for traffic calming measures.

"The battle has been constant and led up to the unacceptable accident that affected local parents and their child," Addabbo said in a statement, referring to a car collision May 29. "We need to band together and



State Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder discuss traffic safety concerns at PS 232.
Photo courtesy Goldfeder

start preventing accidents, not reacting to them."

The elected officials also sent a letter to Queens Department of Transportation Commissioner Dalila Hall asking the agency to consider installing speed bumps and adding a pedestrian crosswalk on 153rd

Avenue between 82nd and 84th streets.

DOT said it is currently studying adding speed bumps and other safety enhancement measures near the school.

— Sarina Trangle

Latimer Gardens to get cameras

After years of pleas from residents, Mayor Bill de Blasio has announced Latimer Gardens is one of a number of housing developments across the city that will soon receive security cameras.

"The installation work that begins today is the result of a highly collaborative process among City Hall, NYCHA and the comptroller's office. It comes to show that when there is a will, there is a way," de Blasio said. "The safety and se-

curity of families living in public housing is a priority for my administration, and we will continue to work to find ways to give NYCHA residents the quality of life they deserve."

In the wake of a stabbing of two children in an elevator at a housing complex in East New York, the mayor's office has worked to expedite camera installations.

City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) had set aside funding for cam-

eras to be installed in the Latimer Gardens housing development, at 34-45 Linden Place, since 2009, but NYCHA never installed them.

The other housing developments in Queens slated to get cameras in the announcement were Baisley Park in Jamaica, Beach 41st Street Housing in Edgemere and Ocean Bay Apartments.

— Alex Robinson

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Communications workers endorse Liu

Former city Comptroller John Liu has continued to rack up endorsements in his campaign to unseat state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside).

The Communications Workers of America Local 1180 endorsed Liu this week a few days after liberal blogging website the Daily Kos urged its members to donate money to the former comptroller's campaign.

"For too long, New York has struggled to enact meaningful progressive policies. The Republican-controlled Senate has consistently stood in the way of real reforms like a higher wage, the DREAM Act, the Women's Equality Agenda and public financing for fair elections," Daily Kos Political Director David Nir said. "Tony Avella had his chance to

make a real difference in the Senate, and he failed when he allowed the Republicans to seize control of the government. It's time for a change."

Avella, who joined the Independent Democratic Conference in February, has still not officially started campaigning for re-election.

— Alex Robinson



Astoria Cove megaproject starts public review

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TIMES LEDGER, JUNE 13-19, 2014
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BY BILL PARRY

A six-month review process for the planned Astoria Cove residential complex, between 4th and 9th Streets, in Hallets Point got underway Tuesday with a sometimes raucous public hearing.

It was standing-room-only in the Astoria World Manor banquet hall as hundreds participated in the Community Board 1 special meeting.

Architect Jay Valgora, of Studio V, led a presentation on behalf of the developer, Alma Realty, showing the audience artists' renderings of what the megaproject would look like if the plan for a five-building, mixed-use project spanning 1.7 million square feet of Hallets Point is approved.

"Today this waterfront is not accessible," Valgora said. "It's really not an amenity or asset for the

community and we would like to tie that back in and create a wonderful extension to the community."

In addition to 1,689 rental units, the plan promises a waterfront esplanade, a public school with 456 seats for pre-K through fifth-grade, a supermarket and 54,000 square feet of retail space.

"All that retail space will make the neighborhood safer and provide jobs," Valgora said. "There's room for banks, hardware stores, little cafes and restaurants along a continuous greenway along the waterfront."

Project counsel Howard Weiss touched on the transportation issue when he promised shuttle bus service to the subway.

"And if the city expands ferry service, there will be space for a terminal on the waterfront," Weiss said, eliciting the evening's first applause.



Architect Jay Valgora presents his vision of Astoria Cove at a public hearing Tuesday.

Photo by Bill Parry

When Weiss arrived at the number of affordable housing units the project will include, the audience

paid rapt attention. The project currently plans for 295 affordable units, but Weiss said the developer is in talks with City Planning to expand that number.

But the information will not be available for CB 1's decision June 17.

Community board members asked questions regarding safety, handicap accessibility, parking and other issues. Then it was time for the public to speak.

A total of 56 residents had signed up for the chance to make their points in a three-minute presentation.

Jack Friedman, of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, said, "The economic impact can be profound. The opportunity this provides for Queens cannot be ignored."

The other speakers were not as supportive, however.

"We might be middle class, but we're not idiots and we can see the writing on the wall," resident Tyler Ocon said. "Without the originally promised affordable housing units and a guarantee that these units will remain forever affordable, this project will be the first gust of wind that shifts Astoria's middle and working class up the East River."

Local artist Luanne Rozran raised the spectre of blocked river views with three waterfront towers as tall as 32 stories.

"For many of us, that view is the explanation of why we live here," Rozran said, later adding that the views give her inspiration for her paintings. "There's no reason for the towers to be 30 stories, obliterating our views simply because some millionaire wants a penthouse way up high," she said after her presenta-

tion was stopped for going over the time limit.

When resident Jeannie Ortiz spoke of improper asbestos abatement by a company being investigated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, she was told her allotted time was up.

When she refused to sit down, she was escorted from the podium by security.

"I feel like they shut me down because they didn't like what I had to say," she said later in a hallway.

If the community board approves, the proposal moves to the borough president and eventually to the City Council in the fall. Astoria Cove would be built in four phases over 10 years if the project is approved.

Reach Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538

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From August 18-22, Calvary Hospital will host the 17th consecutive annual session of its bereavement camp for children and teenagers ages 6-18. Calvary's Camp Compass® will take place at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn. The Hospital will once again accept applications for counselors from outside Calvary.

Eligibility Requirements

- Licensed teachers, school social workers, guidance counselors, school or pediatric nurses;
- Minimum of four consecutive years of full-time employment;
- Completed Calvary Job Application form;
- Two letters of reference from a work-related source; and
- Be able to work from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm from August 18 through August 22, 2014.

Deadlines

- Applications are being accepted from now through July 11
- All hiring decisions will be made by July 25, 2014.

Applicants selected as counselors will need to undergo the same background checks and related procedures as Calvary employees. Counselors will be paid \$1,000 for a week. To learn more, please go to www.calvaryhospital.org



Christ the King High School

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Christ the King High School Celebrates 49th Commencement Exercises

Christ the King High School celebrated its 49th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, June 7th. Over 230 seniors graduated with more over \$14.6 million in scholarships. | Photo courtesy of Harisch Studio



About Christ the King Regional High School

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

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

More information is available <http://www.ckny.org/>.

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Flushing House resident celebrates her 100th year

BY GABRIELLE PRUSAK

For Flushing House resident Kate Tuchman's 100th birthday, it will not only take one party but two parties to recognize her achievements in education.

Tuchman has been an active member in the city education system since 1943 and was honored by President Barack Obama this year.

On Saturday, Tuchman will have her first party at the rooftop lounge of Flushing House with close friends and family. This event will create the opportunity for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family of multiple generations to come together in her honor.

Her second party will be on her actual birthday, July 16, and will be celebrated with the new friends and family she has found while living at Flushing House.

Tuchman was born July 16, 1914, and grew up in the Bronx and then moved to Brooklyn. She graduated from Brooklyn College in 1934 and then followed her father's footsteps in entering the garment industry for a short time. On Christmas Day in 1935, Tuchman married Artie Tuchman.

Tuchman then started



KATE TUCHMAN

Photo courtesy Flushing House

to work at PS 69 in Jackson Heights while having two children at home. As she was working she continued going to graduate school and soon became a school supervisor shortly after graduating.

Her career took a huge leap in 1960 when she was given the position of principal for PS 184 in Harlem. All the hard work and effort she had made in that school brought national attention to her, so much so that in April 1964 Tuchman was invited by former first lady Lady Bird Johnson to speak at the White House.

Tuchman's speech was on the issues facing minority children in poor, urban neighborhoods at the time. A lot of the goals and suggestions she spoke about in her speech have become a

part of the standard model of teaching today.

Obama honored her on the 50th anniversary of the speech, noting in a personal letter that "progress in America has not come easily, but has resulted from the collective efforts of women and men who challenged our conscience."

The letter continued, "You are part of a generation that sought to ensure every child — regardless of the neighborhood they lived in — had access to a quality education, and I trust you take pride in adding your voice to that movement."

Even after losing her husband in 1966, Tuchman has enjoyed a full and rewarding life by traveling the world following her retirement in 1977. She has also been active with her family, was an avid tennis player up until the last few years and worked with the Retired School Superintendents Association up until last year.

Tuchman has two children, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and dozens of younger, extended family members who continue to be a part of her long life.

Flushing House, where she is a resident, is the largest, nonprofit, independent living retirement residence in the state.

Library

Continued from Page 5

his status as a member of the chamber's majority in an attempt to get more substantial reforms of the Queens Library passed.

Despite not having a sponsor in the Assembly, the senator has insisted his version be passed even though Aubry made two amendments to include parts of Avella's bill.

Avella's bill would also require that the Brooklyn and New York public library systems be subject to Freedom of Information Law and Conflict of Interest rules. His legislation would mandate that the board of trustees have two librarians, a public accountant, a Queens community board chairman and district manager among its members.

He has criticized his Democratic counterparts'

bill as "feel good legislation" that does not go far enough.

A spokeswoman for Avella said his reaction to Aubry's bill has not changed since it has been passed and that negotiations between the two sides have not gotten anywhere.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Two-year-old art moving company has explosive growth

LIC trio leads group of international workers to lofty heights in a specialized and secretive industry

BY BILL PARRY

A busy warehouse in Long Island City is the base of operations for a young and successful company that is hard to define beyond its can-do attitude that has made it a favorite of the rich and famous in New York City and around the world.

The website for Aequitas Packing Group describes it as a premier white glove moving, storage and logistics company servicing the interior design and fine art world.

The three partners who own Aequitas tried their best to describe their company.

"Primarily we pack and ship art, fine furniture and antiques for the top 1 percent and their designers," said Matthew Quinn, a partner. "It's a specialized

industry and we approach it differently than other companies. I guess you can say we're unique."

Sean Lane said, "We can take whatever is in a high-end luxury store or residence and move everything in them to Dubai, Doha, Hong Kong, Cannes, Antwerp or anywhere else in the world. We collect and hold everything right here in this warehouse until the installation date and then we get everything there on time."

His younger brother Godwin, the third partner, said, "It's a very particular industry in the way things are done and we are very particular people and that's helped us grow quickly — in fact, our growth is actually best described as an explosion."

Just two years ago the three had a single moving



Matthew Quinn makes arrangements for an Aequitas Packing Group project.
Photo by Bill Parry

van. Now they have a fleet of a dozen trucks and vans, a 145,000-square-foot warehouse in LIC and another in London.

The three agree their secret weapon is a dedicated staff they call "The Family" made up mostly of international craftsmen from

Ireland, Russia, Trinidad and Ukraine.

"These guys are from all over the world — we even have two guys from the same town in eastern Europe," Sean Lane said. "The one thing they have in common is they are very professional, they are all

accountable and have integrity. Not everyone can work for us. In fact, we turn away four or five applicants every week."

One of their workers, Robby Walsh, had bounced from job to job since moving to the United States from Ireland more than a decade ago.

"It's an amazing atmosphere where everyone works together and takes pride in what they do," he said. "When I'm building a shipping crate, I'm making the best crate I can make whether it's for moving a Picasso or just a chair."

Aequitas Packing Group does not serve the general public, but it depends on repeat business and references from the interior designers and the luxury stores.

"We're innovators and problem solvers and we ex-

ecute better than the other companies," Sean Lane said. "We trust our intuition and find ways to get the job done and that's what keeps bringing the clients back."

The globetrotting adventures never get old, according to Godwin Lane.

"It's very interesting," he said. "We get to see fabulous places with some very famous clients. We know what they want and that's part of our success."

But there is a price.

"Everyone's sacrificed a lot to make this company succeed. A lot of baseball games with the family have been missed by everyone that works here in order to make the company succeed," Godwin said. "But there's going to be a lot of kids going to college because of this success."

They're ready to learn



High-quality pre-k sparks a lifetime of learning for kindergarten and beyond.

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Sierra Club worries Ravenswood plant kills fish

BY JUAN SOTO

The Sierra Club is asking a judge from Queens Supreme Court to require that the state Department of Environmental Conservation review the issuing of the first water withdrawal permit given to the Ravenswood Power Plant because the organization claims withdrawing water from the East River is killing fish.

The challenge by the grassroots environmental group along with the Hudson River Fisherman was filed last Friday. The authorization by the state agency allows the Long Island City-based plant to use up to 1.5 billion gallons of water a day from the East River. The permit is valid until 2017.

According to the Sierra Club, the DEC failed to order the power plant to have a closed-cycle cooling

system in place.

"I hope the judge decides to have a hearing on this," said Jonathan Geballe, attorney for the organization. "We believe we have a strong case."

Geballe calculates that in about two months the Queens Supreme Court judge will make a decision.

"It's up to the judge to have a hearing or not," he added. "We are talking about just one plant that uses up to 1.5 billion gallons of water a day."

For the petitioners' attorney, the authorization given to the power plant "was done inappropriately and the DEC has to review it."

A spokeswoman for DEC said the state agency does not comment on pending litigation.

The plant drains water from the East River for its cooling system. Ravenswood is a 2,480-megawatt



Irene Van Slyke (l. to r.), Jonathan Geballe and Thelma Fellows explain the Sierra Club's concerns about water withdrawal from the East River.

Photo by Juan Soto

plant that combines cycle and combustion turbine technology. It has the capacity to serve some 21 percent of New York City's peak energy needs.

The Sierra Club wants

the DEC to complete a full environmental review of the authorization, claiming the plant's water intake system kills large amounts of fish eggs and thousands of fish by filtering out un-

wanted materials.

The Ravenswood permit was the first issued under the state's new water legislation, approved back in 2011. The law was put into place to monitor large

withdrawals from rivers and lakes.

"We are not trying to close down the power plant," said Irene Van Slyke of the Sierra Club. "We just want the plant to have a better cooling system and have an environmental impact review done."

She added that "with a closed-cycle cooling system, those fish kills can be reduced up to 98 percent."

Closed-cycle systems reuse cooling water, unlike through cooling systems, which intake water from the body of water.

The Sierra Club estimates that by the end of the year, DEC will receive up to 16 applications for water withdrawal permits from electric generating facilities.

Reach reporter Juan Soto by e-mail at jsoto@cnlocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

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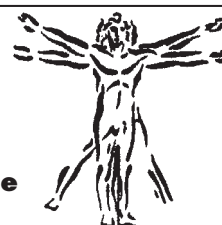
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Cable giant helps Woodside group go digital

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BY BILL PARRY

A nonprofit community group in Woodside is taking a big stride toward bridging the digital divide with the help of a media giant.

Woodside on the Move had a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday for its new high-tech Learning Lab, thanks to a \$55,000 grant from Time Warner Cable.

"No one in our community should be left behind in this digital age because of cultural or economic barriers," Woodside on the Move Executive Director Adrian Bordonni said.

The newly renovated, state-of-the-art center is at the Main Office, at 59-42 59th St., and it now contains 20 Lenovo Yoga 2-in-1 laptops and tablets, 10 iPads and six iMacs, all using broadband speed Business Class Internet from Time Warner.

Also included in the package is Final Cut Pro editing, a surround sound system and a new floor for the Learning Lab.

Time Warner Vice President Brian Kelly approached U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) with the idea to help a Queens nonprofit in January. The congressman pointed Kelly toward Woodside on the Move, a grassroots community organization dedicated to neighborhood improvement through youth development, senior services, tenant advocacy and arts and cultural programs.

"Woodside on the Move has been filling in the cracks around here since 1976," Crowley said. "And now Time Warner is helping them fill in one more crack."

The entire community will benefit from the Learning Lab, according to



Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (l-r.) stands by U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley and Woodside on the Move Executive Director Adrian Bordonni.
Photo by Bill Parry

Bordonni.

"We'll have computer classes for all ages, from after-school kids to grandparents who can finally sit down and learn computers at their own pace," he said. "We'll have job and résumé preparation and business seminars, housing clients can look for apartments

and parents will have the means to file online applications for universal pre-K."

The new Learning Lab will also be available to veterans.

"We're going to help veterans old and new," Bordonni said. "Those just coming home will be able to use



Time Warner Cable's \$55,000 grant provides Woodside on the Move with a new Learning Lab.
Photo by Bill Parry

these facilities, too. Hopefully, it can help them get re-acclimated."

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) was on hand at the ribbon-cutting.

"We've helped allocate nearly \$1 million for this organization, and Woodside on the Move deserves

it," he said. "The reason that this is so important is that Woodsiders deserve a connection to the world, to be competitive in that world and marketplace."

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



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AP Photo/Jason DeCrow



Belmont Stakes

More than 100,000 people packed Belmont Park Saturday in hopes of watching California Chrome win a Triple Crown during the Belmont Stakes. (Clockwise from top l.) Brooklyn resident Edwin Collazo wears a hat paying tribute to favorite; winning jockey Joel Rosario sits atop Tonalist; attendees sit on blankets and picnic tables as they wait for the main event; Tonalist (l.) edges out Commissioner with Javier Castellano for first place; Miss New York Kira Kazantsev sports a crown in the winner's circle; Tonalist owner Robert Evans (l.) holds the August Belmont Memorial Cup with Gov. Andrew Cuomo; and California Chrome walks back to the barn with a cut on his front right hoof.

Photos by Steven Schnibbe and AP



AP Photo/Matt Slocum



AP Photo/Seth Wenig



AP Photo/Kathy Willens



Falchi Building becomes an 'it' spot in LIC

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BY BILL PARRY

The Falchi Building in Long Island City has made great strides since signing its first major tenant in October.

Artisanal Brands Inc. made a deal to move its headquarters into the Falchi Building with retail space on the first floor. In April Juice Press followed suit by moving its headquarter to Falchi, including a, "superstore" combining retail and production space.

"We waited patiently for the right space in the Falchi Building and refused to make a move until Juice Press could be precisely in this building," founder Marcus Antebi said. "It has the location and infrastructure needed to do a retail store and production without interruption."

The company is moving into its 18,000-square-foot space.

"We made a capital investment in a new facade and lobby area with seating and free Wi-Fi," manager Paul Kelterborn said. "We're at 65 percent occupation now and we're looking to create a

Chelsea Market with a concourse full of retail and more office tenants upstairs."

Jamestown Properties, owners of the popular Chelsea Market, bought the block-long warehouse, at 31-00 47th Ave., for \$80 million in 2012. They gave the former Gimbels department store distribution facility a multimillion-dollar makeover and are starting to create a buzz.

"We're drawing a young demographic here of the fringe of LIC," Kelterborn said. "It's an arts and techy young type that's gravitating to us and that will grow thanks to our other major tenant, the Coalition for Queens. When the Cornell Tech campus gets to Roosevelt Island, this place is going to explode."

The tech campus is expected to open in 2017 and Coalition for Queens, a non-profit tech support group, is busy laying the groundwork to help start-up companies create a tech hub in Long Island City from its headquarters at Falchi.

"We just moved in a couple



The Falchi Building features Queens-centric murals throughout its concourse.

Photo by Bill Parry

of months ago and we're seeing the potential with this building," founder Jukay Hsu said. "Jamestown is creating a real community here that will help us create the hub for tech start-ups, and I'm sure some may actually want

space in the building, too."

The Coalition for Queens uses its space for classes and events like the Big Apps NYC Competition scheduled for June 21 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"It's a hack-a-thon for devel-

opers and it's the first time we're hosting one in Queens," he said.

The Falchi Building is reaching out to the arts community as well. It hosted several events during the LIC Arts Open last month and opened the venue to Local Project, a youthful artist-collective that lost its space at 5Pointz in January.

"We just finished a project at Falchi that lasted for two months," said Director Carolina Pinafiel. "It was great because we were busy moving into our new property and couldn't host shows. They let us do it there and it helped them get started making the connections with other artists."

Another popular feature at Falchi is the 20,000-square-foot Food Box, where five vendors open for breakfast and lunch on weekdays.

"All the cooking is done off-site, they bring it in and serve it up," Kelterborn said. "It's hugely popular, especially with the crowd from LaGuardia Community College across the street."

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MEDICAL RESEARCH GUIDE

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Korean coffeehouse chain opens two boro franchises

BY BILL PARRY

One of the fastest growing coffeehouse chains in the world is targeting Queens as a big part of its global expansion.

South Korea-based Caffebene opened franchises in Sunnyside and Flushing last month with a third store coming to Astoria this summer with an additional 10 slated for the borough next year.

"Queens is just loaded with neighborhoods full of millennials these days," Caffebene Vice President John Barry said. "Millennials love their coffee, so we're going where they are."

Barry added that while Americans drink 400 million cups of coffee a day, the millennials, in-



Caffebene combines traditional European coffeehouses with the Korean culture of Sarangbang.
Photo by Bill Parry

dividuals born in the 1980s or '90s, drink it the most frequently.

He pointed out that "86 percent of them drink coffee regularly, and we offer a nice comfortable place for them to go."

Caffebene opened its first store in Seoul in 2008, combining European

coffeehouses with the traditional Korean culture known as "Sarangbang," where a room in a home is set aside for studying or writing poetry.

The formula has been so successful that in six years there are a thousand locations in Korea, 300 in

Continued on Page 50

Project takes guns off streets

BY JUAN SOTO

A gun buyback program organized by City Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) last weekend took 40 weapons off the streets of southeast Queens.

The crime-fighting tool was implemented at a time when the number of shooting incidents in the area is on the rise.

Only one day after the event, held at Majority Baptist Church on Farmers Boulevard in St. Albans Saturday, two teenagers were shot on 149th Street in Jamaica.

"We are going to do everything possible to mitigate this and all violence," Miller said. "This is just one of the initiatives we will be hosting" as part of Anti-Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Every resident who turned in their operable guns received a \$200 gift card.



Councilman Daneek Miller flanked by members of the NYDP during the gun buyback program held last Saturday at the Majority Baptist Church, located in St. Albans.
Photo courtesy Daneek Miller

"There were no questions asked, and the Police Department disposed of the handguns," the lawmaker added.

During the first hour of the program, 13 handguns were turned in, but then the .

"It slowed that a bit after the first hour of the program in the morning, but then it picked up again towards the end of the afternoon, when more guns were turned in," said Miller. "These are 40 guns we won't see on the streets again."

Miller said the time has come to have "a real

conversation about gun violence," especially with young people and their parents. "And we need to figure out real solutions and real alternatives to all of these violent incidents."

According to statistics by the New York Police Department for the 113th Precinct, which covers South Jamaica, St. Albans and Springfield Gardens, there were 17 shooting incidents as of June 1, 2014, compared to 10 for the same period of 2013. In the 103rd Precinct, which covers Jamaica and Hollis, as of June 1 there were seven shootings, the same as last year.

SE Queens gives Huntley warm homecoming

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TIMES LEDGER, JUNE 13-19, 2014
TIMESLEDGER.COM

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The Rev. Charles Norris Sr. and Clergy United for Community Empowerment welcomed former state Sen. Shirley Huntley back from prison with a party Tuesday.

Norris said close to 75 people gathered to greet Huntley, who represented Jamaica, Springfield Gardens and St. Albans in Albany, including representatives from U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks' (D-Jamaica) office and state Assemblyman William Scarborough's (D-St. Albans) office.

The homecoming bash was held at the Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center.

"It was very well-attended," Norris said of the event organized by CUCE, a coalition dedicated to empowering African Americans, where the minister serves as executive secre-

tary. "She's home and that's good."

Norris said CUCE was very proud to organize the party and emphasized that Huntley had served her time.

"She doesn't owe anybody anything," he said.

Huntley was sentenced to 366 days in prison after pleading guilty to mail fraud in an effort to cover up a scheme she used to pocket more than \$87,000 from taxpayers.

But the Federal Bureau of Prison website shows she was released after about 10 months.

The Democrat allocated \$87,700 in funding administered by the state Education Department to Parents Information Network Inc., a nonprofit she once ran.

Huntley admitted she mailed false documents in an attempt to make it appear as though the state



The Rev. Charles Norris Sr. says he and others involved with Clergy United for Community Empowerment welcomed former state Sen. Shirley Huntley home from prison.

funding was legitimately helping parents navigate the city's school system rather than financing her personal expenses.

The former lawmaker was given a lighter sentence after she invited several elected officials to her home and secretly recorded

conversations with them for the FBI, according to court documents.

One of her guests, Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis),

is currently on trial in federal court in White Plains, N.Y., for allegedly attempting to bribe his way onto the Republican line in the 2013 mayoral elections.

Huntley's former chief of staff, City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica), has been charged with grand larceny and fraud for allegedly stealing some \$30,000 in city and state grants, some of which his former boss allocated to a nonprofit he ran.

The FBI raided Scarborough's office in March in connection with vouchers he submitted for travel expenses to Albany.

Smith, Wills and Scarborough have maintained their innocence.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle at 718-260-4546 or by e-mail at strangle@cn-glocal.com.

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FOCUS ON QUEENS

YOUTH AND TENNIS ACADEMY IN SOUTHEAST QUEENS HOLDS WEEKEND WORKSHOP *Photos by Nat Valentine*

1 PS 160 student Kendra Davis, 6, shows off her skills during an event at the Youth and Tennis Academy, based in Roy Wilkins Park.



2 Dr. Olakimb Akimbaboye, (l-r.) Assemblyman William Scarborough, PS 15 Principal Antonio K'Tori, Youth and Tennis Founder Bill Briggs and District 29 Superintendent Lennon Murray gather for a photo.



3 PS 160 Coach Joanne Theodore (back l.) and Principal Tiffany Hicks are surrounded by young tennis players.

CEREMONY HONORS D-DAY SOLDIER AT MIDDLE VILLAGE GRAVESITE *Photos by Yinghao Luo*

4 Louis DiLeo, (l.) chief bugler for the New York Military Forces Honor Guard, rolls the American flag in memory of Robert Naimoli, a WW II soldier whose gravesite in Middle Village was previously unmarked.



5 Veterans salute as an American flag is folded in memory of Robert Naimoli, a 25-year-old paratrooper who was shot down and killed during D-Day invasion.



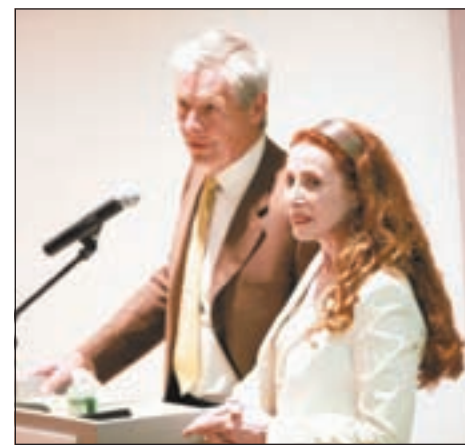
6 Visitors pay tribute in front of Robert M. Naimoli's gravesite at St. John's Cemetery in Middle Village.

FROM HERE TO HAITI RAISES FUNDS AT QUEENS MUSEUM EVENT *Photos by Christina Santucci*

7 Margalie Rodriguez, supervisor of the investigations and compliance unit at the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights, addresses attendees at a fund-raiser for From Here to Haiti. Dr. Eddy Leveque, the organization's vice president, looks on.



8 Patricia Brintle (r.), president of From Here to Haiti, which rebuilds non-governmental, communal spaces in Haiti, assists 5-year-old Wolf Joseph in picking a raffle ricket winner.



9 Volunteers Dr. George Randolph Westby and his wife, Chantal, discuss their experiences in Haiti at the Queens Museum event.

Foreclosure auction slated for Parkway Hospital site

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The former Parkway Hospital property is heading back to the auction block.

The mortgage on the 56,400-square-foot lot in Forest Hills is scheduled to be offered up to bidders at a July 11 foreclosure auction in Queens Supreme Civil Court, according to the real estate website propertyshark.com.

The company that entered the winning \$22.2 million bid during a January auction struggled to come up with the financing for months. As a result, the closing date for the 70-35 113th St. lot was rescheduled several times.

The group behind the bid, 70-35 113th St. Limited Liability Co., could not be reached for comment. Its

officers have not been identified.

The company that holds the mortgage on the shuttered hospital, Auberge Grand Central LLC, had discussed transforming it into condominiums via a partnership with the Manhattan-based real estate firm Jasper Venture Group LLC.

It was unclear whether the partnership intends to bid at the upcoming auction.

Jasper Venture Group referred requests for comment to Auberge Grand Central, which did not respond to inquiries before deadline.

The court-appointed foreclosure referee Joseph Risi previously said Auberge Grand Central would need to go back to court and get a stay before formally

pursuing development plans.

Risi did not respond to requests for comment.

Parkway has sat vacant, except for a few telecommunications companies renting space on the roof, since the state Commission on Healthcare Facilities shut the hospital in 2008.

Dr. Robert Aquino, the hospital's owner and chief executive officer, fought off creditors for years. He eventually pleaded guilty to federal bribery charges stemming from his attempts to bribe state Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio in exchange for the Ozone Park lawmaker lobbying on behalf of Parkway.

Seminerio died while serving a six-year prison sentence in the Parkway

Continued on Page 50

Schools chancellor pushes pre-K in local-based centers

BY JUAN SOTO

City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña wants to make sure every parent in every neighborhood in the city knows about the city Department of Education's initiatives, especially the free pre-kindergarten program being offered at community-based organizations.

She said thousands of pre-K seats are still available, and she encouraged parents to apply for them.

Fariña, along with her top aides, participated in a roundtable discussion with dozens of reporters from community and ethnic newspapers. The event was held Wednesday at the DOE's headquarters at 52 Chambers St. in Manhattan.

"We need your help



City schools chancellor Carmen Fariña (right) speaks at a roundtable organized by the Center of Community and Ethnic Media at the CUNY Graduate Center in the presence of Dorita Gibson, one of her top aides.

Photo Juan Soto

because local newspapers walked into people's homes," she said during the discussion, organized by the Center of Community and Ethnic Media at the CUNY Graduate Center.

As more buildings throughout the city are becoming early childhood centers, the chancellor pledged that the kids will

be safe in their new environment. "Every school has to be good enough for my grandchildren, and if it isn't, the school is not good enough for anybody else's grandchildren" she added. "Nothing is more important than safety."

Fariña said the DOE, in collaboration with sever-

Continued on Page 50



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2000	Honda Civic, 130k	544413	\$2,995	2008	Saturn Vue, 116k	686457	\$7,995	2007	Acura TSX, 92k	020711	\$8,995
2003	Honda Accord, 91k	72885	\$3,995	2009	Honda Accord EX, 40k	65124	\$7,995	2005	Honda Pilot, 116k	532858	\$9,995
2008	Hyundai Accent, 16k	1087201	\$5,995	2012	Hyundai Elantra, 15k	79461	\$8,995	2006	BMW X5, 71k	Y30956	\$11,995
2005	Chevy Avalanche, 174k	101282	\$5,995	2007	Nissan Pathfinder, 130k	624816	\$8,995	2006	Infiniti M-35x	252731	\$13,995
2006	Toyota Rav4, 145k	5347	\$5,995	2006	Toyota Sienna, 82k	517555	\$8,995	MANY MORE LIKE THIS TO CHOOSE FROM!			

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2008	Hummer H3, 97k	3802	\$9,500	2011	Ford Edge, 51k	82896	\$16,995
2011	Ford Escape XLT, 25k	74493	\$9,995	2012	Nissan Maxima, 20k	3788	\$18,995
2012	Volkswagen Passat, 22k	4362	\$13,995	2010	Infiniti G37, 28k	70898	\$18,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995	2008	Mercedes CLS 550, 57k	82172	\$22,995
2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995	2011	Acura MDX, 48k	1321	\$23,459
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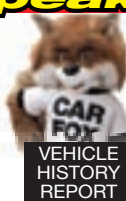
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Thousands of bees captured at Corona Plaza

BY GABRIELLE PRUSAK

NYPD Detective Tony Planakis says he had an exciting Wednesday responding to two bee incidents, including one in Queens that involved about 12,000 insects.

Planakis, known as Tony Bees, was able to safely secure each swarm without anyone being injured, but he had to deal with a bit of mayhem in between locations.

"The weather was in my favor today," Planakis said. Because it was humid and cloudy, "the bees don't want to take off."

The first swarm of about 3,000 bees was reported between 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on 123rd Street and Third Avenue in Manhattan, Planakis said. The second incident was reported around 1:30 p.m. in Corona Park near the

corner of Roosevelt Avenue and National Street.

The Queens location had about 12,000 bees, he said.

While traveling between the two calls, there was a mishap in Planakis' truck.

"The bees escaped in the truck," he said.

So in order to settle them down, he had to put on the air conditioning, and Planakis was able to recapture the insects without getting stung.

The detective said he was able to control both the situations so that no one was stung or otherwise injured.

Overall, there were about 15,000 bees captured, and they were brought to a ventilation area in Queens.

"At 5 a.m., the beekeeper will pick them up and take them to his hives," Planakis said.



Detective Tony Planakis holds up about 12,000 bees removed from Corona.
Photo by Roy Renna/BMR Breaking News



In total, Detective Tony Planakis captured about 15,000 bees, including several thousand in Corona (pictured) during two calls.
Photo by Roy Renna/BMR Breaking News

Divorce Caribbean Style

For a growing number of New Yorkers, tired of the delays and expense of conventional local divorces, fast, inexpensive Caribbean and offshore US divorces have been the answer.

A leader in the fast divorce business has been Divorcefast.com of Massachusetts, a company that has been providing speedy, low-cost foreign divorces for 50 years. The company provides divorces that can be completed in as little as one day in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the US offshore island of Guam.

According to Alan Alford,

proprietor of Divorce.com, some of the divorces offered require travel to the court, while some can be done without any travel or court appearance. Some require both parties to sign the court petition for divorce, while others can be achieved with only one party signing. All of the divorces happen very quickly and with a minimum amount of paperwork.

The divorces are valid and recognized everywhere, and Alford reports that he processes several thousand of them every year, particularly for New Yorkers. The total cost for fast divorces starts

at \$895, with other options raising the price to as high as \$1,500. All of the divorces, Alford says, are completed within a few days and the clients are then free to remarry or otherwise continue with their lives as single persons. Anyone interested in more details about the Divorcefast offerings should access the company website: www.divorcefast.com. The forms and instructions are printed out from there and submitted to the company. For those lacking Internet access Alford and his staff are prepared to discuss foreign divorces on the phone, or by mail.

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Education



Continued on Page 33

For high school graduate take the digital gift route

Technology is one of the most practical — and most appreciated — gifts a high school graduate can receive.

Different technology tools can give the class of 2014 a jump start on their college journey and all post-high-school adventures. A new survey conducted by Impulse Research revealed that the majority of students (65 percent) believe a laptop is the most important purchase for heading back to school.

Check out these great tech gifts to help the graduate in your life prepare for

heading off to college.

- Keeping connected is very important as freshmen make new friends and want to stay in touch with everyone back home. The Nokia Lumia 520 Windows Phone is up to the task of keeping college freshmen connected, providing students with everything they need for classroom and homework settings. Plus, Windows phones come in so many colors, sizes and shapes, you will be able to perfectly match your graduate's unique personality.

- Office 365 will ensure that the grad-

uate on your list is equipped with the tools they need to succeed, from the classroom to the dorm room, and everywhere in between. Install it on your PC, Mac or tablet, and take advantage of additional OneDrive storage so you can access and share your documents from anywhere.

- Need to get organized? Check out OneNote, the ultimate digital note taking app designed for busy students who have to juggle classes, projects, assignments and life. Best of all, it is free on PC, Mac, Windows Phone, iPhone, iPad and An-

droid Phone.

- Windows laptops and tablets will give the graduate on your list all the tools needed for class or to stay healthy during her college years. This year's top picks include the Acer Aspire S7 Touchscreen Ultrabook and Dell Venue 8. Both are great for watching their favorite show on Netflix or using fitness apps. Students just need to log into their Outlook.com Microsoft account to get access to all their apps and services across all the electronic de-

Continued on Page 36

Don't let college debt drag you down

With each passing year, student loan debt is digging a deeper hole for more young Americans. Over a nine-year period, the average student loan balance among 25-year-olds grew 91 percent, from \$10,649 in 2003 to \$20,326 in 2012. More than 38 million Americans have outstanding debt amounting to nearly \$1 trillion. This figure has nearly quadrupled over the last four years, surpassing both credit cards and auto loans as a leading source of personal debt, according to Pew Research and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

While the statistics are startling, some of today's young people are prepared to take on the financial challenge. Younger generations (those in their



mid-20s to early-30s) are showing signs of taking their finances seriously, according to a MassMutual 2013 State of the American Family Study. Nearly two-

thirds want to be actively involved in all decisions regarding their finances, and almost half are actively seeking ways to educate themselves about personal

finance, a rate significantly higher than older generations. For young people looking to take control of their future, there are ways to ease the strain of student debt. MassMutual offers the following tips to help graduates manage their loans:

Seek out scholarships

College is expensive, and taking out student loans is often inevitable. If you are still in college or considering getting your degree, be sure to research and apply for a range of scholarships to help lower your education costs.

"One of the most powerful steps young people can take to mitigate educational debt is to aggressive-

ly seek out scholarships to help fund college," Michael Fanning, an executive vice president with MassMutual, said. "Graduating from college with less debt can help take the financial worry out of the equation when making 'grown up' decisions like home ownership, starting a family and saving for retirement."

Make a budget that includes all expenses

Expenses fall into three categories: fixed, flexible and discretionary. Sit down and review all of your monthly costs, from meals to rent payments, and identify which category they fall in. From there, you can allocate funds to each area. It's critical that

you have a full understanding of all expenses, debt and assets in order to not only stay on top of fixed expenses — like your student loans — but also build a realistic financial plan.

Borrow or swap

Before making a purchase, ask a friend or relative if you can borrow or swap for a similar item. This especially holds true for items you may use only once or very few times. Going on a backpacking trip abroad? See if you can borrow a friend's backpack rather than buying a new one. Looking to update your wardrobe? Ask a friend to swap outfits, doubling each other's wardrobes instantly. Buying something with your money isn't the only way to get it.

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EDUCATION

Debt

Continued from Page 34

Keep living at home

Rent is a huge expense. If you're moving away from your hometown to work, it's unavoidable. But if your first job is close to home, consider asking if you can move in with your parents for the first year or two to save on expenses. Use the money you're able to save during that time to make larger payments toward your student loans to pay them down quicker. That will also allow you to bolster your savings for when you do move into a place of your own.

Avoid credit card debt

Post-graduation is a crucial point that will help determine your credit-score for years to come. Younger generations have close to \$5,000 in credit card debt, according to MassMutual's study. To keep credit card debt in check, only use one or two cards at a time with limits that aren't high, and pay your balance in full each month to avoid interest. Missteps could affect the rate you pay on big purchases down the road, like a car or home loan.

Ask for a raise

Once you have established a solid foundation at your job, usually around

the one-year mark, raise your hand and ask for a raise. Be sure to approach your supervisor prepared, both with how much more you want and why you deserve it. Highlight how you've demonstrated value to company over the year and how your work merits a raise. Even if you don't get it right away, you've started the conversation.

Taking steps today to manage your finances and get out of debt will help ensure a successful, debt-free financial situation in the future.

For more tips and information regarding smart money management, check out www.massmutual.com/myfuturenow.

— Brandpoint

Digital

Continued from Page 33

vices they own.

When you give a high school graduate these great technology tools, you'll know they're set for college and any other post-high-school adventures they might have

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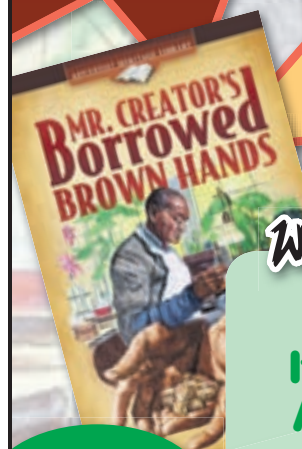
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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

MUSIC

PROVIDES KEY TO HEALING

Sunnyside therapist treats various neurological and physical ailments with a guitar and a song

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Whether you're riding the No. 7 train or the Q60 bus, you're probably plugged into your favorite tunes as a relaxing way to start your day and transition into work mode.

Are you feeling transformed? That's the power of music.

Sometimes dealing with challenging life situations and restoring calm to your chaotic life requires more than traditional psychotherapy. Music therapy is an option that can help with a variety of issues, including depression and anxiety.

Some researchers believe counseling and the addition of music therapy allow people to better express their emotions and reflect on their inner feelings, reveal their true strengths and even enhance communication skills when words alone aren't enough to express their innermost angst.

"Music is a language. It is invasive," Susan Long, mu-

sic therapist and Sunnyside resident, said. "Even if you are deaf, we hear, because it is a sensory experience — not only using the ears but the vibrations penetrate our bodies and our body vibrates sympathetically. Our heart beats rhythmically. We breathe rhythmically. Therefore, every aspect of our being can be described in musical terms."

Long, a certified music therapist, says music therapy invites healing into your life. Born in Iowa, she grew up in Wisconsin and lived for 30 years in Rome. She moved to Queens 1 1/2 years ago. "Queens has a more human, livable pace. My daughter lives in New York, and I wanted a change," she said. "Sunnyside offered the best quality of life and is lovely, with all the trees. It is easily accessible to any part of New York City, thanks to the 7, and not really that far from Manhattan." Sitting in her cozy home office, Long strummed her guitar — one of the tools used in her ther-

apy workshops — and talked about her journey.

"I started on this path originally to heal myself," she said.

Then, she knew she wanted to help others through her love of music.

"Choosing MT seemed the next logical step to the studies I had already done and the 'legalization' of my skills, giving me a voice." *Continued on Page 44*



Music therapist Susan Long with an ocean drum, which she uses in some of her sessions.

Photo by Tammy Scileppi

Queens theater scene keeps columnist rolling



Ronald B. Hellman
■
The Play's The Thing

I get out of the house once in a while, and here are some of the places I've been and the people I've seen in the last few weeks:

Most recently I was at the Forest Hills home of **Joe Tiraco**, one of the leading writers and thinkers in the borough, where I met up with **Ina Jay Hayle** to tape an interview for her **Queens Public Television** show, called simply "The Show." Ina Jay has been producing for public access for many years, and I guarantee that you have never met anyone like her. Our main topic that afternoon was, of course, theater in Queens — you can catch

it this month on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Channel 79, or Mondays at 10 p.m. on Channel 34.

Roxanne Alese has been pretty much confined to her apartment in Ridgewood due to a malady or two, but she still maintains a positive outlook and plans for another birthday celebration June 8. Some of you may recall her **Vision Repertory Co.** that presented some compelling and in-your-face theater.

Over at the TimesLedger's Queens Impact Awards at Douglaston Manor I ran into **Malini Singh McDonald**, the vivacious and dynamic head of **Black Hen-na Productions** and the author of the online newsletter **Theatre Beyond Broadway** and a blog at www.malinism.com. She thought it would be great if the various theater companies in Queens would join forces to promote and publicize their work,

instead of going their separate ways. Malini's right about that, and perhaps she's the one who could get them all to cooperate. Perhaps this is the time for a revival of the **Queens Theater Network**, a short-lived organization of many years ago that tried to unify all our independents.

For all you local producers out there who are wondering how to attract an audience, you should check out **Roger Gonzalez's** website LocalTheatreNY.com, not only to find out what's happening, but to see what he has to say about "Theatre Marketing Insights."

My first wife and I spent a week in late April in Charleston, S. C. Among other attractions in this booming town are more than a dozen theater groups. I stopped by one in the historic downtown section called the **Footlight Players**. They have been around since 1931 and now perform in a

comfortable theater in their own building, a former cotton factory. A block or so away is the **Dock Street Theatre**, which claims to be America's oldest, having opened its doors in February 1736. It has been recently renovated, and its resident company, the **Charleston Stage**, had a major success with "Gershwin at Folly," an original musical about the writing of "Porgy and Bess," along with **George and Ira Gershwin**, by Charleston native **DuBose Heyward** and his wife **Dorothy**.

Frank DiSpigno and I go back a long way to the days of the **Little Theater of Forest Hills** and the **Queens Community Theater**, both just pleasant memories. When I did a profile of Frank a mere six years ago, we had lunched at **Scobee's**, another closed-down institution. This time we met at the **Bayside Diner** where Frank told me that he

is now the go-to guy in the over-50 range, so much so that he's booked up a year in advance. His latest is "Young Frankenstein," which will tour for **Plaza Theatre-Richard Productions**.

At **Queens Theatre** I saw a performance of the dance company **Momix**, part of the Bank of America Student Matinee Series. And at the **Kupferberg Center** at Queens College, I had a chance to again see the ageless **Barbara Cook** perform. Over at the **Producer's Club** on West 44th Street, a rundown but available venue for small productions, I took in an original play, "The Head Hunter," produced and directed by former Queens resident **Richard Hymes-Esposito**.

And that's just some of what I've been up to theater-wise.

Contact Ron Hellman at RB-HOFC@gmail.com.

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #77								
	7		1		5		9	
5			3		6			2
1								4
6		2		1		8		9
	9						5	
4		5		9		2		3
9								5
8			4		9			7
	5		2		7		4	

Hard #77								
	5							
	3	2	6	8		5		
7		4	2					
					4			6
		9		7		4		
6			9					
					7	2		8
		8		3	2	1	4	
							3	

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

Tips at www.sudoku.com
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Week 52

For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar

EVENTS

Friends of Fort Totten Parks Family Day

An afternoon of activities, games, rides and crafts for the whole family.

When: Saturday, June 14, from noon - 3 pm

Where: Along 33rd Road between 214th and 215th places, Bayside

Cost: Free

Kayaking and Canoeing

When: Select Saturdays and Sundays through Sept. 13, from 1 pm - 5 pm

Where: Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City

Cost: Free

Astoria Boaters and LIC Community Boathouse offers free kayaking and canoeing (tide and weather permitting) from Socrates Sculpture Park Beach at Halletts Cove. All ages welcome, children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No prior boating experience is necessary. Participants sign up on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Website: www.licboathouse.org

MUSIC

Queens & Brooklyn Jazz Party

The Queens Jazz Overground invites its Brooklyn counterparts for a jazz party and performance.

When: Friday, June 13, at 8 pm

Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/members and students

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Mets Concert Series — This year's Mets concert series kicks off June 14 with a performance by 50 Cent. Concerts take place following that days game, and the show is included in the price of the game ticket.

When: Saturday, June 14 — 50 Cent; Saturday, July 12 — Huey Lewis and the News; and Saturday, Aug. 16 — Boyz II Men

Where: Citi Field, 123-01 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing

Cost: \$17 — \$163

Website: newyorkmets.mlb.com

Music in the Garden: Quintet of the Americas — The Quintet will perform a concert of music that takes advantage of the garden setting.

When: Sunday, June 15, at 2:30 pm

Where: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing

Cost: Concert included in Garden admission, \$4/adults, \$3/seniors and \$2/students and children

Contact: (718) 886-3800

Website: www.queensbotanical.org

Kenny Brawner is Ray Charles

— This theatrical-concert piece brings to life Charles'

music complete with 12-piece orchestra and backup singers.
When: Friday, June 20, at 8 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.
Cost: \$20/adults, \$15/members, \$10/students

FILM

Movie in Crocheron Park

Bring a low chair or blanket to watch the family film "Tangled."

When: Friday, June 13, at 8 pm

Where: 35th Avenue and Cross Island Parkway, Bayside

Cost: Free

Website: www.nycgovparks.org

DANCE

Dancing Under the Stars

When: Mondays, through July 7, from 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Where: Wallenberg Square in Forest Park, Metropolitan Avenue and Park Lane South, Forest Hills

Cost: Free

Weekly ballroom dancing lessons.

Dancing Under the Stars

When: Wednesdays, through July 30, from 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Little Bay Park, Cross Island Parkway near the Clearview Expressway

Cost: Free

Northeast Queens Parks holds weekly ballroom dancing lessons. At the July 30 finale, a live band will perform.

Japanese Classical Dance at Resobox

Workshops teach the 400-year-old nichibu dance popularized in kabuki. All experience levels are welcome and all materials are provided.

When: Mondays, 5:30 pm workshop for children 8 to 11; 6:30 pm workshop for all ages

Continued on Page 43

Cost: \$27, \$25/seniors and students

Contact: (718) 729-3880

Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting

Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.

When: Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck

Contact: Muriel, (718) 225-7382

"We Women Do It Better!/ Nosotras Hacemos Mejor!"

This one-woman comedy focuses on a sexy, funny and adult workshop about professional growth as taught by an attractive psychologist. Performed in English by Kathy Tejada and in Spanish by Soledad Lopez.

When: Through June 29, Friday at 8 pm and Saturday at 3 pm in English, Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 4 pm in Spanish.

Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside

THEATER CALENDAR

PRODUCTIONS

"12 Angry Men" — Theatre Time Productions presents the classic court room drama.

When: June 21 to June 29, Friday and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 3 pm

Where: Colonial Church of Bayside, 54-02 217th St.

Cost: \$17/adults, \$15/seniors and children 13 and younger

Contact: (347) 358-8102

Website: www.theatretime.org

Celebrate

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Appetizers

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SAUTEED MUSSELS

Pasta

PENNE WITH VODKA SAUCE

Entrees
(CHOICE OF ONE)

SALMON CARMELINA

Salmon with Chopped tomatoes, onions in a lemon white wine sauce

EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA

PRIME RIB

Baked prime rib in au jus sauce

POLLO ALLA NAPOLITANA

Chicken, eggplant, shrimp, asparagus and mozzarella in a limoncello sauce

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World's Fair anniversary events take center stage

Queens Theatre hosts new play festival in July while Forest Hills collector plans August showcase

BY MERLE EXIT

With the anniversary celebrations of the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs in full swing, it is not difficult to find people who have amassed Fair-related paraphernalia eager to share their collections. But for Forest Hills fair aficionado Sharon Weinman, who was not even born when the '64 Fair opened, the souvenirs go beyond the usual pennants, booklets and plastic knickknacks.

As a college student, Weiman combined her passion for theater and love of the fair and wrote a musical play based on the 1939 World's Fair called "Behind the Trylon."

"This is history in my backyard," Weiman said.

In the show, Weiman creates her version of what it must have been like to experience the wonders of

the Fair as they promised a shiny and sleek future.

The play opens with a voice-over from a fictional NYWF radio announcer welcoming the audience to the New York World's Fair of 1939.

"Just five more months to go before this marshland in Flushing will be the beautiful world of tomorrow," he proclaims.

Weiman even wrote a song titled "The Future is Here," where the lyrics tap into the excitement of what's to come.

"You can see the future at the Fair of '39. You can see the future just get behind the line. It's a world of peace and harmony where everyone's in luxury. A world of progress, a world of hope, where people are happy, where people can cope in the future. And the future is here."

Although Weinman's

IF YOU GO

The World's Fair Play Festival

When: July 18 - 20 and July 25 - 27, Fridays at 8 pm, Saturdays at 2 pm and 8 pm, Sundays at 3 pm

Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Cost: \$18

Contact: (718) 760-0064

Website: www.queentheatre.org

World's Fair Anniversary Event

When: Wednesday, Aug. 6

Where: Regal Heights Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, 70-05 35th Ave., Jackson Heights

Contact: (718) 663-5100

play has not seen a full-blown production, other writers using the World's Fair as a jumping off point

will have their visions staged as part of the Queens Theatre's World's Fair Play Festival.

As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, the theater has commissioned a slate of celebrated national and international playwrights to create 10 original 10-minute plays inspired by the fairs.

"I'm very excited to see new works by many playwrights who have long histories with Queens Theatre, and to welcome new writers to the QT family," Rob Urbinati, director of new play development at Queens Theatre, said,

Participating writers include Kristoffer Diaz, a Pulitzer Prize finalist; Wendy MacLeod, "The House of Yes"; Harrison Rivers, 2011 GLAAD Media Award for "When Last We Flew" and Craig Lucas, a two-time Tony nominee for "Prelude



Forest Hills resident Sharon Weinman displays some of the World's Fair items she has collected on the years. Photo by Merle Exit

to a Kiss" and "The Light in the Piazza."

"Queens Theatre had its first life as the Theaterama in 1964," Queens Theatre Managing Direc-

tor Taryn Sacramone said. "We can honor the great history of our venue by producing great new work now and in the future. I am

Continued on Page 44

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www.panashnyc.com



Arts

Continued from Page 41

12 and up
Where: Resobox, 41-26 27th St., Long Island City
Cost: \$25/adults, \$20/students
Contact: (718) 784-3680
Website: www.resobox.com

Free Line Dance Lessons

— Free line dance lessons given by professional dance instructor, Bernardo, every Monday.
When: Mondays, 1 pm
Where: Pomonok Senior Center, 67-09 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: Jennifer Buljan (718) 591-3377

KIDS & FAMILY

Jesse Jams Sing Along —

Jesse and her guitar provide an mix of children's songs, original tunes and popular music from many genres.
When: Saturday, June 14, at 2 pm and 4 pm
Where: Carousel in Forest Park, Forest Hills
Cost: Free
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

"Little Red's Hood" — The CityParks PuppetMobile

presents an updated version of "Little Red Riding Hood" with a dozen hand-made marionettes.
When: Tuesday, June 17, at noon
Where: Juniper Valley Park, Middle Village
Cost: Free
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

"The Lion Whiskers" — Catskill Puppet Theatre presents a musical adaptation of a traditional folk tale.

When: Thursday, June 19, at 6 pm
Where: Jackson Pond Playground, Forest Park, Forest Hills
Cost: Free

Noguchi Open Studio: Drop-In Program for Families —

On the first Sunday of every month, families can explore the galleries and then spend time in the education room making art. Educators will be on hand to discuss gallery connections, introduce materials and assist in art making. No registration is required.

When: First Sunday of each month, 11 am to 1 pm
Where: Noguchi Museum, 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City
Cost: \$10 per family/includes museum admission and materials
Contact: (718) 204-7088

Website: www.noguchi.org

Playground — Children explore, discovery and have fun in this outdoor playground with slides, seesaws and pits as well as fog machines. Each session lasts 45 minutes; weather permitting.

When: Weekdays, 10 am–5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am–6 pm
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353
Website: www.nyscience.org

Laptop Time — Teens learn how to use a laptop.

When: Mondays through Thursdays, 3 pm
Where: Hollis Public Library, 202-05 Hillside Ave, Hollis
Contact: (718) 465-7355
Website: queenslibrary.org

The Last Reef — Fly across tropical reefs, brush through a cloud of a million jellyfish and visit an alien world where the tiniest creatures live in this 3D theater presentation. Recommended for children 6 years and older.

When: Tuesdays – Sundays, 11 am–2 pm
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005, Ext. 353
Website: www.nyscience.org



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

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

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

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\$23.95

Any 5 Items
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 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

CHOICE C
\$26.95

Sit Down Dinner 1 of 3 Choices
VEAL CUTLET
 Marsala • Picatta Parmigiana
CHICKEN
 Marsala • Parmigiana Francaise
FISH
 Filet of Sole • Broiled • Parmigiana
 Tilapia Oreganata
PASTA COURSE
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MUSIC *provides* key to HEALING

Continued from Page 39

ing me a title and enabling me to work also with the title of therapist, as well as teacher," she said. "I passed the national certification exam one week ago. Therefore, I am a BC-MT, a board certified music therapist. This means I can practice legally anywhere in the U.S.A. I also did my master's in MT, a 1,500-hour practicum, and a tough exam."

Ask Long and she'll tell you: Whether you're a music lover or not, sing off key or can carry a tune, when you experience music in a psycho-therapeutic setting, it can be transformative.

Through proven musical intervention techniques she has helped patients who have experienced grief or lacked emotional expression.

Helping a brain-injured child to build her cognitive skills through responses to music is a powerful thing. As is the ability to lessen the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder during group therapy. And, with activities such as drumming, Alzheimer's patients have learned to de-stress.

"It has been found that we naturally connect to whomever we are with through these individual body rhythms and tend to synchronize. As therapists, we recognize someone's body rhythms and mirror those musically to connect to them. This is called the ISO principle and the act of connecting is called entrainment," she said. "For example, with autism, where the client has extreme communication skill limitations and therefore difficulty connecting linguistically and visually, we can connect to them musically and begin creating a relationship, finding another 'language' to communicate through."

Long points out that music is a right brain ac-



Some of the instruments music therapist Susan Long uses in her practice include (clockwise from top l.) an ocean drum, gourd cabasa, cabasa and guiro. Photo by Tammy Scileppi

tivity while language is left brain. The addition of music provides another way to get inside the patient's mind, she said.

Because music is so prevalent in our society used in a variety of mediums, such as advertising, film and TV, to generate various responses, there is more than one form of music therapy, Long said.

Analytical Music Therapy uses music to access the subconscious and its memories. Vocal Psychotherapy works to access emotional content through singing. Free-improvisation turns music into a metaphor for the patient's present life experiences. And Guided Imagery uses listening to music to access emotions.

"As you can see, music is a language and a tool and its applications are really limitless," Long said. "Depending on the client, their needs and pathology, I use the voice, the piano, the guitar and simple percussion instruments. Every client is unique. Therefore, each client will be met where their psychological, physical, emotional and cognitive skills lie. It is age-specific in that it is client specific. Each client should be shown the maximum of re-

spect, which is only how it should be in everyday life, too. So, it is not a question of age but individual needs."

Music therapy happens through a process of activities and analysis. Initially assessing the patient, then sometimes in collaboration with the patient's psychiatrist, social worker, doctor or family, the therapist formulates a specific treatment outline. Issues are discussed with other caregivers and the patient's progress is assessed throughout the treatment.

"I started on this path originally to heal myself," Long said. "That is a lifelong journey...so I am traveling."

Long has done several workshops at Brooklyn/Queens Conservatory for their Restorative Workshop Series. She will be doing one July 15 (bqcm.org/restorative_workshops.htm). She is also participating in a free concert Sunday, June 29 at 5 p.m., organized by Woodside Piano Studio on 58th Street. The June 29 show is at The Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (85 South Oxford St., Fort Greene, Brooklyn. For more information, www.susanlong.it.

World's Fair event

Continued from Page 42

really excited and proud of this festival."

Weiman's "Beyond the Trylon" will not be part of the Queens Theatre performance, but later this summer she will help organize a World's Fair anniversary event at Regal Heights Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, where she will display her collection.

"I have been a collector

since I was a child. I mostly started with stamps and antique postcards," Weiman said. "These tiny pictures of artwork not only transported me to another time and place, but also sparked my interest in history."

The event, held at the Jackson Heights facility where Weiman works as a recreational therapist, will be open to the public and will include songs from the Fair, performed by the Re-

gal Heights chorus, as well as exhibiting memories and memorabilia from the center's residents.

"It's important for me to share my collection and not have it sit in a drawer," Weiman said. "I like to use many of my collections for entertainment, educational and therapeutic purposes. I've used them as props for walking tours I've conducted. I conduct reminiscence, education and discussion groups with the residents using some my collection."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
June 13-19, 2014

By Ed Canty

Al Capp's World

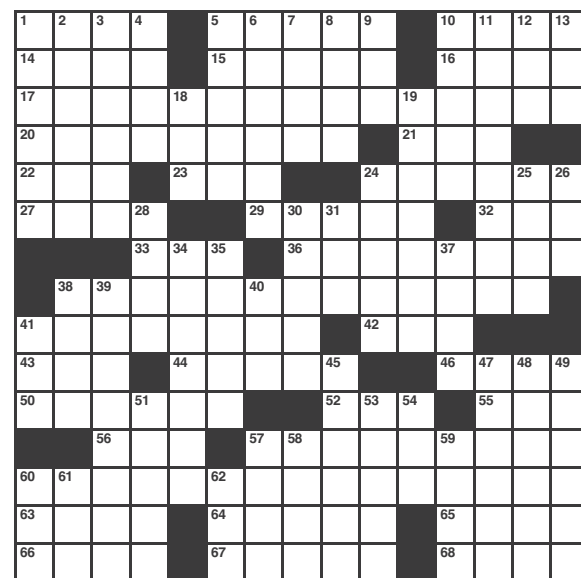


Across

1. Volvo rival
5. Home
10. Pro or con
14. Actor Ray
15. Fisherman, at times
16. Frank or Francis
17. Al Capp parody of Dick Tracy
20. Steve Grogan, for one
21. Mouse catcher
22. Op. ____ (footnote abbr.)
23. Numbered hwy.
24. One with a flag
27. Bone: Pref.
29. "M*A*S*H" role
32. Hubbub
33. Ukr. neighbor
36. Major flop
38. Al Capp character (nee Scragg)
41. Old Dixieland classic
42. Baton Rouge inst
43. Bobby of the Bruins
44. ____ Banks
46. Bigmouth, for one
50. Get together
52. Halloween mo.
55. Balancing pro
56. Have something
57. Head of State, e.g.
60. Capp's yearly event in Dogpatch
63. Object of worship
64. French thoughts
65. Yearn
66. Catches some rays
67. Exams
68. Droops

Down

1. Seattle's ____ Field
2. Smith of "Dallas"



3. Responds to change
4. When doubled, island near Tahiti
5. Watchful
6. Having less free time
7. Guesstimate words
8. Skillful
9. Ranch addition
10. 1978 Peace co-Nobelist
11. Launch
12. Certain party org.
13. Startled cry
18. Env. contents
19. Jewelry beetles
24. Kind of spray
25. Brandenburg's river
26. Neither's partner
28. Old railroad name
30. Saying
31. It's spotted in casinos
34. 1 running from Maine

- to Florida
35. Pancake topper
37. Give the cold shoulder
38. In ____ straits
39. Saw eye to eye
40. "Welcome" site
41. Actor Arnold
45. Atlas, for one
47. Maine's ____ National Park
48. Arose
49. Agree
51. Flip response?
53. ____ -cross
54. Half a score
57. Marquis de ____
58. Lady bighorns
59. Dosage amts.
60. Canine command
61. Oklahoma town
62. Big success

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

Student artists address social issues in works

45

TL

BY GABRIELLE PRUSAK

Learning through an Expanded Arts Program, student artists have created artwork that speaks to major social issues in their communities.

Earlier this week, students at two Queens middle schools, PS 9 Walter Reed in Maspeth and PS 75 Robert E. Peary in Flushing, presented their original, large-scale public artworks: cafeteria tables that they transformed into colorful and meaningful works of art.

In their pieces, they addressed the issues of drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, dropping out of school and bullying.

"We chose drugs because it was a big problem in the United States and all the boroughs in New York," PS 75 student Kenneth Brabhyam, 13, said. "I hope that people change their ways and I hope that this table influences their lives



Students from the Robert E. Peary School unveiled their lunch table art piece in Evergreen Park.

Photo courtesy LeAp

to stop doing such a bad thing. I hope that they stop smoking and doing drugs and drinking because it can really kill your brain cells and it will make a big effect on your life."

These two Queens schools are part of 10 throughout the city — two per borough — to have created works that comprise the largest student art exhibition in the history of city

parks, and also the first to span the five boroughs.

This is LeAp's seventh-annual, citywide student exhibition and is titled "A View from the Lunchroom: Students Bringing Issues to the Table." As a symbol of students' conversations and the ideas they create within them, school lunchroom tables were used as their canvases for this art project.

LeAp teaching art-

ists started working with students in January and helped them explore community issues and study the history, practice and power of public art.

But they ultimately were there to help the students create works of art for the exhibition on the surfaces of the lunchroom tables and help students express their ideas and feelings about these issues.

Many internationally renowned artists served as guest artists for the program and had met with students to discuss their work. Some of the artists who were a part of this program were Christo, Lorna Simpson, Jenny Holzer, Daze, Crash, Emma Amos, Federico Solmi, David Katzenstein, Sherrie Nickol, Joseph Peller, Joseph Sorren and Carol Goebel.

"LeAp is a wonderful New York organization that Jeanne-Claude and I have been proud to be involved in for many years," said environmental artist Christo. "It is important for young students to learn about the arts, and we have always appreciated LeAp's hands-on and personal approach to education."

Before the installation of the artwork tables in the 10 parks, the student artists presented their pieces and talked about the issues they explored at an opening event at Union Square last

month. There were also many top city officials who were there to honor and congratulate the students.

City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña spoke at the event and said, "The visual and performing arts not only make learning fun, they help students develop the critical-thinking skills they need to succeed in school and in life." She continued, "I thank LeAp for being a valued partner in bringing innovative arts education to our public school students."

LeAp is a nonprofit arts education organization committed to improving the quality of teaching the arts in public education through a unique, hands-on, arts-based approach.

Since 1977, the organization has provided more than 2 million city students in kindergarten through 12th-grade with music, dance, theater, digital media and visual arts programs that directly teach the academic curriculum.

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Continued from Page 1

cent Tabone, in what the government described as an elaborate ploy by Smith to buy his way onto the Republican ballot line in the 2013 mayoral election.

In a scheme not directly tied to Smith or Tabone, prosecutors said Halloran solicited donations for his unsuccessful congressional bid in 2012 as bribes in exchange for agreeing to steer \$80,000 in taxpayer funds toward buying the Bayside YMCA. He then planned on having a management company affiliated with Raj and Stern use the Y, they said.

"We are going to purchase the Bayside YMCA," Halloran said during a Nov. 15, 2012, meeting in The Ritz-Carlton in White Plains, according to a transcript. "That management company will operate it for several senior centers, several youth programs as a community facility ... so it will give us almost unlim-

ited discretion."

Later in the conversation, Halloran said this tactic would portray him as a hero to organizations such as the Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association, a volunteer ambulance corps and a senior program that could move into the Y and avoid paying rent, the transcripts show.

Conversely, prosecutors said the Republican viewed it as an opportunity to offer up a no-show job.

"All I'm concerned about is at the end you guys are there for me with my campaign stuff," Halloran said, according to the transcript.

Halloran grimaced occasionally as his conversations were played in federal court in White Plains Monday.

His attorney, Vinoo Varghese, said in his opening statement that Halloran was attempting to steer people he believed were astute businessmen toward legitimately helping neighborhood organizations and that Halloran never submitted paperwork necessary to



KIM CODY

facilitate the \$80,000 allocation in Council funding earmarked for nonprofits.

The central thrust of prosecutors' charges are that Halloran helped broker Smith's deals to get on the Republican ballot while accepting kickbacks.

As a registered Democrat, Smith needed three county GOP leaders to sign a certificate permitting him to run as a Republican for mayor.

Prosecutors allege that he funneled \$500,000 in state transportation funding to a pseudo real estate project in exchange for recipients financing suspected bribes for Republican leaders' backing.

Tabone was charged

with pocketing \$25,000 to help Smith secure the GOP line, prosecutors said.

Attorneys for Halloran, Smith and Tabone have maintained their clients' innocence.

Kim Cody, president of the Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association, said he met with Halloran in late 2012 or early 2013 and was told that the civic group was not eligible for discretionary funding because it was only open to neighborhood residents.

Cody vaguely recalled Halloran floating the idea of transforming the Bayside Y into a nexus for several community groups to mitigate rent costs at a meeting, but never heard discretionary funding brought up outside of that one meeting.

"We have nothing to do with it," Cody said of the case, but noted that he may be subpoenaed to testify by Halloran's attorney.

Reach reporter Sarina Trangle at 718-260-4546 or by e-mail at strangle@cn-glocal.com.

Continued from Page 2

here," said Chun Hyukin, owner of Su Ra Chung Korean Restaurant, at 149-09 41st Ave. "They turn around when they see the barriers."

Dae Chong Chang, who owns a video store directly across from the bridge, said he has seen his profits fall by more than 30 percent since the bridge closed down.

"Our business has been badly impacted," he said through a translator.

DOT officials gave updates on the bridge last week to Stavisky, state Assemblyman Ron Kim (D-Flushing) and City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) in a closed-door meeting, according to Stavisky.

The city is in the process of redesigning the bridge and expects to put out a request for proposals in two months, she said.

City DOT will then start construction nine months after the RFP is is-

sued and expects the bridge will be completed by November 2015.

A DOT spokeswoman said the agency's top priority is public safety and the bridge will remain closed until it is deemed safe for traffic.

"The agency continues to meet with local stakeholders on this, including at last week's event, and we will continue to provide updates to the community as we work to reopen this important connection," she said in a statement.

Stavisky said she and her elected colleagues have requested future periodic status updates on the project and have urged Queens DOT Commissioner Dalila Hall to meet with the neighborhood's business owners to talk about the plan.

"The inability to open the 149th Street Bridge for four years is a sign that our government bureaucracies have been failing our communities in Flushing," Kim said.

"The community has waited way too long," he added.



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Business

James Patterson donates \$3,500 to Astoria Bookshop

Independent bookstore receives grant for upgrades as it approaches first anniversary in neighborhood

BY ALEX ROBINSON

In an age when e-readers are becoming more common than physical books, independent bookstores need all the help they can get.

It therefore came as a pleasant surprise for Astoria Bookshop owner Lexi Beach when she won a grant from James Patterson, a best-selling author who has pledged to donate \$1 million to bookstores across the country.

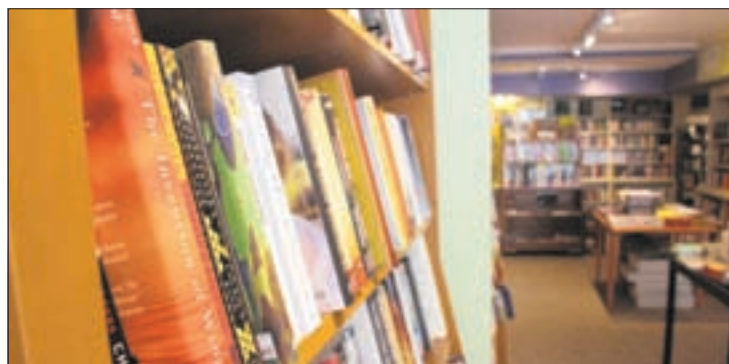
"I was really grateful to get this kind of vote of confidence that I've been doing things well," said Beach, who opened the shop, at 31-29 31st St., last August. "It gives me room to make some improvements I had been thinking about and hadn't quite justified the expense yet."

The \$3,500 grant will allow Beach to buy a new receipt printer and barcode scanner so that she can process transactions electronically at school book fairs. It will also allow her to purchase acoustic grade storm windows to lessen the noise from the N and Q trains, which run right on top of the store along 31st Street.

"I will be very happy if I can minimize the impact of the noise on my customers during events," Beach said.

The store holds a busy schedule of events including story times for children and author readings.

Beach heard about Patterson's program when he gave out his first round of grants in Feb-



Above: Lexi Beach, owner of the Astoria Bookshop, sits behind her desk.

Left: The store received a \$3,500 grant from James Patterson as part of his program to give independent bookstores \$1 million.

Photos by Alex Robinson

son's website. A few weeks later, she received an e-mail informing her she had been awarded one of the donations.

"I thought since there was no clear way to apply, it seemed unlikely I was going to get anything, but Patterson has been a real advocate for independent

book stores," she said. "I think he wants to make sure we can all continue to be doing the good work we're trying to do in providing a space for the community to come and browse for books."

The shop is one of the two independent bookshops that opened in Astoria last year, along with Enigma Bookstore, a science-fiction and fantasy book seller, which opened in July.

When Beach, who lives in the Upper West Side, was looking for a location for her new business, she said Astoria was an obvious choice as there was a high demand for a small bookstore in the neighborhood.

"There wasn't anything else at the time and there are tons of people in the publishing industry that live here," she said. "The more research I did on what it takes to run a bookstore, the more I realized if I didn't do this, some one else was going to."

As the store approaches its first birthday, Beach said she is grateful for the warm reception she has gotten from the neighborhood.

"I have people come in every day who say how happy they are there is a bookstore in the neighborhood," she said "I feel very lucky to have the community that I do."

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Powerful You! Women's Network

— A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston

Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009

Website: powerfullyou.com

Power Networking Group

— Led by Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am

Cost: \$10 for breakfast

Where: Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or (718) 423-0427

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans)

Weekly Meeting — BNI is a business and

professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI Provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact Lydie Pellissier, chapter president, to arrange a visit.

When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows

Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986

Website: bniouterboros.com

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Networking Group — This unique business networking group discusses today's challenges and helps form alliances. Relationships are built. Facilitator is Gayle Naftaly, rainmaker, entrepreneur, coordinator, leader and organizer with contacts.

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Races

Continued from Page 5

Henriquez for an interview, a campaign volunteer named Meghan Tadio fielded inquiries on her behalf.

Tadio, who works as Moya's chief of staff, said Henriquez was in the process of registering a campaign committee with the state. She said Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) and state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) were carrying petitions for Henriquez. Both are also district leaders in Moya's territory.

The trio hail from the New Visions Democratic Club, which Ramos said was slated to take up the Sept. 9 district leader election this week.

The Queens Democratic Party referred inquiries to Executive Secretary Michael Reich, who did not respond to requests for comment.

The party pick for a district leader vacancy in the 24th Assembly District,

which stretches from Glen Oaks to Richmond Hill, has also raised eyebrows.

The party seeks to replace Rebecca Lynch, who left her post when joining Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration, with Susan Seinfeld, district manager of Community Board 11 in northeast Queens.

Some have grumbled about the move, noting that county Democrats missed an opportunity to promote South Asian Democrats in a district where Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) nearly faced a primary challenge from Ali Najmi, an attorney who has been involved with the South Asian and West Indian advocacy group SEVA NY.

"If there was a South Asian person that was respected and was appointed, I think that would make waves," Gurpal Singh, co-founder of SEVA NY, said while not speaking on behalf of the organization. "It's just business as usual."

Weprin said he was confident Seinfeld would

excel at representing Democrats of all backgrounds.

And state Sen. James Sanders Jr.'s (D-South Ozone Park) relationship with the party has grown sour enough that he has been interviewing prospective candidates to run as district leaders in the 39th Assembly District, which includes South Ozone Park, Springfield Gardens, Rosedale, Far Rockaway and Laurelton.

Sanders said he was open to endorsing the party's slate, which includes Assemblywoman Michele Titus (D-Far Rockaway), Valerie West, Robert Simmons and Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica), but also considering newcomers. The party petitions do not bear his name.

He characterized his impasse with the party as the result of his bucking its "top-down leadership style."

"We are all ears," Sanders said. "We want to see change in southeast Queens and want to see

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Vallone

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as a special needs child or an elderly person who might require specific instructions for being cared for in an emergency.

The cards are meant to help homeowners whom he said may panic during a fire or other emergency and not be able to clearly remember the necessary information to give to a 911 operator, but Vallone also said the cards would benefit baby-sitters or house-sitters who may need to make an emergency call while at a home they are not familiar with.

"If my mother is watching my kids or if I'm

visiting a friend's home, we might not know addresses or cross streets off hand," he said. "This card would provide that information."

He said the bill, which stemmed from a recent oversight hearing he attended regarding delays in the city's emergency response system, has not yet seen any real opposition, and former FDNY commissioner Salvatore Cassano also previously showed support for the bill.

The councilman said he also looks forward to meeting with newly appointed commissioner Daniel Nigro and filling him in on the basis of the legislation and said he hopes the FDNY will be interested in

helping to decide what information should be included in order to maximize the help a caller can give a 911 operator.

"We'll start with the basic information and go from there," Vallone said.

The councilman is also hoping to find a way to minimize costs for producing the cards by having them available online for homeowners to download or print out.

Vallone said he is waiting to find out when hearings will be scheduled on the bill but hopes to push the legislation through quickly.

"It's just one of those common sense scenarios to do this," he said.

LaGuardia

Continued from Page 6

Services have helped more than 17,000 small businesses grow and created more than 8,000 jobs in little more than a decade.

• LaGuardia has gained support from such foundations as Bill and Melinda Gates, Robin Hood and the Ford Foundation.

• Destinations of LaGuardia graduates: Queens College 20 percent, Baruch College 17 percent, John Jay 11 percent, Hunter 10 percent,

City College 8 percent, private colleges 7 percent, SUNY 4 percent and other SUNY colleges 23 percent.

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by e-mail at timesledgernews@cnglocal.com or phone at 718-260-4536.

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Caffebene

Continued from Page 26

China and 100 in the United States.

By 2020 Caffebene is expected to grow to 4,000 franchises in the country and 10,000 globally.

Barry believes a simplistic approach is working.

"It's the whole coffee experience with much more hospitality, where every customer is treated like an honored guest," Barry said.

Shana Choi, owner of the newly opened Sunnyside franchise, at 41-31 Queens Blvd., knows the neighborhood well.

"When I first came to the United States 20 years ago, I lived right down the boulevard on 42nd Street," she said. "I know these people really well, they're

always looking for a nice, clean place to spend their time and relax. Starbucks is always so crowded and not everyone likes to spend their time in bars."

Barry said he bristles when he hears Caffebene called the "Korean Starbucks."

"I respect their identity, but I think they made a mistake when they started serving alcohol — that changes the entire brand," he said. "What we offer is an oasis where you can relax and get out of the craziness. We took what works well in Korea and fine-tuned it to the American culture just like we've done in Paris and Rome."

In addition to Brazilian coffee, Caffebene offers Belgian waffles, pastries and sandwiches.

"We even have gelatos and mojitos, we're truly global," Barry said.

DOE

Continued from Page 29

al city agencies, including the city Buildings and Fire departments and city Administration for Children's Services, makes inspections in every school.

"No center will open on Sept. 4 if they don't meet the safety criteria," she said. "I don't want to lose one child."

Josh Wallack, chief DOE strategy officer, said

that part of the focus for the pre-K policy will address the needs of English language learners.

"We have put a huge focus on teaching teachers how to work with children that are English language learners," he added. "A huge percentage of kids in pre-K are English language learners and we want to help them."

According to the DOE, children who attend school in New York City speak over 160 languages.

Parkway

Continued from Page 29

bribery case.

Neighbors have complained that maintenance has been neglected at Parkway and it has attracted graffiti.

City Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills) would like to see senior housing developed on the property, but her office had said she has not heard from either 70-35 113th St. LLC or Auberge Grand Central LLC about their plans.

Longtime Bayside resident Krach died at the age of 94



Ruth Krach Chester, of Chatham, N.J., who was born and raised in Ridge-wood, has died. She was 94.

She resigned from Time-Life Inc. to marry Frank Chester, who died in 1997, in 1955.

A 36-year resident of Bayside, she raised her four children; served on the parish council of Sacred Heart Church, where she helped write the parish history; and volunteered at Ozanam Hall nursing home while her husband headed the Bayside Historical Society's restoration of the Officers Club at Fort Totten.

The couple moved to Spring Lake, N.J., in 1993. She was a resident of the Essex & Sussex until 2012.

She is survived by her four children, son-in-law, two daughters-in-law and four grandchildren.

A memorial mass will be held at a later date.

Ruth Krach Chester was a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Bayside, relatives say.

Photo by Christina Santucci

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to Franciscan Bread for the Poor Inc., at 135 W. 31st St., New York, NY, 10001. Its website is stfrancisbreadline.org.

Arrangements were under the care of Burroughs, Kohr & Dangler Funeral Home, of Madison, N.J.

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Construction beaten by Tottenville in final

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The Red Hawks left more upset with how they lost than the fact that consecutive city titles eluded their grasp.

Top-seeded Construction turned in a less than stellar performance in a 13-3 defeat at the hands of No. 3 Tottenville in the PSAL Class A softball final Sunday at St. John's University.

Construction made two of its six errors in the opening frame and watched the Pirates score five times on their way to avenging Tottenville's title game loss last year.

"I know we are a better team than that," Red Hawks senior ace Britney Rodriguez said. "We just fell short. We didn't come out the way we're supposed to."

It was her own wild throw to first from her knees that set a bad tone in the opening frame, but Construction Coach Marco Migliaccio said his squad should have picked its leader up.

Instead, Tottenville (19-1) scored five times on three hits in the first in-

ning. The Pirates added six more runs in the third to make it 11-0, while pounding Rodriguez for five hits including a two-run homer by freshman catcher Jamie Holmes.

Holmes and her Tottenville teammate, senior shortstop Jillian Regan, combined to go 7-for-14 with six runs scored and five RBIs. Migliaccio recalled when his team turned in a similar performance in a 13-1 loss to Bayside in late April.

"Horrible flashbacks," the coach said. "Those two innings were just unbelievable, totally unexpected. That first inning, it set the tone."

His team did attempt to rally in the fourth when it loaded the bases with no outs. Construction's Nicole Ovelheira delivered a two-run single and Amy Pirozek later scored on an error to make it 11-3 with no outs.

A pop-out, ground-out and Ovelheira being thrown out on a close play at home ended any hope of more runs. Construction (18-2) managed just four hits against Tottenville

Continued on Page 53



Construction pitcher Britney Rodriguez (l.) cries as she applauds after Construction lost to Tottenville in the CHSAA championship.

Photo by Ken Maldonado



Scholars players celebrate their comeback from a five-run deficit in the last inning to win 7-6.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

Scholars wins PSAL 'B' title

Dramatic comeback lifts Seawolves over Robert H. Goddard team

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Scholars Academy never stopped believing the game was over, because it has given itself plenty of reasons to feel that way.

The Seawolves trailed Robert H. Goddard by five runs heading into their final trip to the plate but didn't bat an eye at their predicament in the PSAL Class B softball championship.

Why would they after scoring nine times while down two runs in the top of the seventh to beat defending champions Queens High School of Teaching in the semifinal? Scholars has beaten Goddard three times in the last four years when trailing and going into the final frame. Comebacks are

kind of its thing.

"We've done it before," Seawolves Coach Jessica Henck said.

And they did it again in dramatic fashion.

Scholars Academy was down to its final out for four batters and its final strike twice, but scored six times in the bottom of the seventh inning to rally past Goddard 7-6 to win the school's PSAL Class B title Sunday at St. John's University.

The undefeated Seawolves celebrated in front of their dugout as stunned Goddard players stood frozen at their positions after a comeback that stunned everyone but Scholars.

"We never really lost our confidence in ourselves," said centerfielder Jessica Glaz, who had two

hits and two RBIs.

Instead, it kept building as her team drew closer and closer. Hannah Molino scored on an error with one out and Kayla Nolan came home on a pass ball to make it 6-3 with two outs. The game appeared over when Luisa Belfiore lined the ball to left, but it was dropped to give Scholars another run and new life.

Lauren Hegel followed with an RBI-double to left with two strikes and Glaz tied the score at 6-6 with a double, again with two strikes. Saravo ended the game by lining the first pitch she saw from Goddard ace Victoria Picarella to score Glaz as the winning run.

"The pressure was on and I tried to dismiss it,"

Saravo said. "I was scared, but I guess I have to hit it."

Goddard, which lost to Scholars (18-0) twice in the regular season, was in complete control of the game until the final frame. It jumped all over its division rival early with a five-run first inning. Goddard's Marissa Maisonet brought home Jayne Samoleski with a walk and Victoria Tibball and Danielle Caputo each delivered two-run singles to push the lead to 5-0. The Jaguars (16-4) made it 6-0 when they added a run and sac fly by Maisonet.

Picarella was fantastic again after being a hard luck loser in last year's title game. The senior allowed five hits over the first six innings, none for extra bas-

Continued on Page 53

Beach Channel aims for baseball crown

Pitcher Kely Aponte leads Dolphins after team rebuilds in wake of Hurricane Sandy on Rockaway Peninsula

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Hurricane Sandy delivered the worst to the Rockaways but brought out the best in Kely Aponte and his Beach Channel baseball teammates.

More than a year after the superstorm slammed the peninsula, leaving many of the players without homes and displaced from their school, the No. 10-seeded Dolphins reached their first baseball championship game since 2004 and will take on No. 5 Bronx Science at Yankee Stadium June 12.

The events leading up to this run brought the team's 12 players closer together.

"This is a very tight-knit group," fourth-year Beach Channel Coach John Mangieri said. "All of the families know each other. This year they are more



Beach Channel's Kely Aponte (r.) cheers with his teammates after the Dolphins won their quarterfinal game against Banneker.

Photo courtesy Michael McLaughlin

settled in. They are back in their homes so it's just been a great time for all these

boys."

But it wasn't always that way. Aponte, a team

captain and ace on the mound, saw both his parents out of work at the Mad-

elaine Chocolate Factory for a month and a half after Sandy and dealt with the electricity and water outages for weeks in the family's Far Rockaway apartment complex.

On top of that, Aponte's school inside Beach Channel/Channel View was temporarily placed in Maspeth High School and not Franklin K. Lane, where most of his other teammates were sent. They kept in touch and scheduled hitting sessions at batting cages to help take their minds off what was going on.

"We were trying to stay as close as possible and forget about what happened," Aponte said.

Since then, he has emerged as one of the team's biggest leaders. He returned more confident in himself and his skills, after being on Mangieri's Storm Baseball Academy

travel team with Long Island kids from the likes of Chaminade and Holy Trinity, among others. Aponte wanted to impart what he learned to his teammates at Beach Channel (16-2).

"This year he has taken the team on his back and really been a true leader," said Mangieri, who played minor league baseball and was on Archbishop Molloy's team. "He's everything any coach could ask for and a very, very modest kid."

Aponte is a humble kid sporting impressive numbers. A pitcher and shortstop, he batted .465 during the regular season. This year on the mound his record is 9-0 with a 0.88 ERA and 82 strikeouts.

And he now has three playoff wins under his belt — Beach Channel had none in his first three seasons, with Aponte taking the loss

Continued on Page 53

Day at the races proves to be afternoon of disappointment



Joseph Staszewski
Block Shots

Only California Chrome may have had a worse day than me at the Belmont Stakes.

While the California-bred horse couldn't end the 36-year-old Triple Crown draught, finishing tied for fourth behind winner Tonalist, this reporter endured struggles of his own among the crowd of 102,199 people.

Nonexistent cellphone service on my work and personal phones made making calls, texts and social media a near impossibility Saturday at Belmont Park. I would have had better luck

reaching TimesLedger photographer Steven Schnibbe and fellow reporter Kelsey Durham with two tin cans attached with string.

The race itself was anti-climatic. The last time I was at Belmont for a potential Triple Crown clincher was in 1998 when Real Quiet came down the stretch. Ironically, the building was the loudest I've ever heard any sports venue as Real Quiet lost by a nose.

With California Chrome never moving into a place higher than third, the nosiest the crowd got was with chants of "Let's go Rangers" later in the evening on their way out the doors.

"I'm sure one of these days, he will," said California Chrome jockey Victor Espinosa, when asked if a horse will eventually win the Triple Crown. "Sooner



California Chrome (r.) races to the finish line during the Belmont Stakes.

Photo by Steven Schnibbe

or later, we need to break this, this bad, you know, karma."

My bad luck continued as well. In order to get home I sat in exiting traffic with Schnibbe. I did so in an attempt to avoid walking more than the 2 miles I had already trekked while using Google maps with 3 percent battery to find my ride along a jam-packed

Hempstead Turnpike. Oh, and I lost my notebook.

So why would anyone want to go to the Belmont Stakes?

The day is unlike any other sporting event in New York City.

It is more than just bets being placed and horses running. It is a celebration of summer in a way. Consider it a rather large

barbecue or tailgate party filled with good food, music, some adult beverages and plenty of eclectic fashion.

People are camped out in the park area with beach chairs and blankets, watching the races on TV screens in a setting reminiscent of street fairs or neighborhood feasts.

"We haven't missed a Belmont Stakes in the last 10 years because of the music and the food and the hanging out," said former Kew Gardens resident Indy Sankaran, who came with his cousin.

Your eyes are continually drawn to each outfit that tries to outdo the next as you make your way through vast Grand Stand and park areas. There were large straw hats, bright red jackets and loud shorts — one pair was emblazoned

with an American flag design. One gentleman was in a suit full of rainbow swirls that would have given Joseph's multicolored dream coat a run for its money.

"It's so cool," Bayside native Sara McGuinness said. "There are so many guys here in full suits, like, that's nice."

Added Astoria native Nicol Martin: "It's fun to dress up and bet some horses."

But be prepared that sometimes hassles are part of the festivities when you are dealing with crowds a little less than double the size of a sell-out for a World Series game at Yankee Stadium.

If you want a unique experience, then just \$10 will get you through the turnstiles. After my day, watching at home next year sounds just fine.

Judges track star Branch given Wingate awards

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Denise Branch received a culture shock when she arrived at Benjamin Cardozo, but it may have been the best thing to happen to her track career.

She transferred there from Midwood during her sophomore year and immediately she was training and competing with a different class of athletes, who have more natural ability. Branch joined a team that included Sabrina Southerland (Georgetown) and Alexis Panisse (Tennessee).

It was intimidating at first, but motivational in the end.

"It was definitely a big change coming from one program to the next," said Branch, who is headed to Illinois in the fall. "Some of the athletes, they were practicing at my race pace when I got there. It was a challenge to match their pace."

That's why it meant so much to earn All-American honors in the 2-mile race indoors and be named the PSAL Wingate Award winner in the girls' cross-country and indoor track and field category Monday at a ceremony at the Brooklyn Marriott. The honor is given to the top senior student-athlete in each respective sport.



Cardozo's Denise Branch is joined by head Coach Gail Emmanuel after receiving her Wingate Award.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

Throughout her high school career, Branch has put her name among the Cardozo's top runners.

"She was following behind Sabrina and Alexis," Judges head Coach Gail Emmanuel said of being named an All-American. "They all had different events, but similar type of events. She wanted to claim something to say, 'I did this.' [I] think she wanted that same type of accomplishment."

Branch, with the help of Emmanuel and assistant Coach Ray James, was a three-time PSAL cross-country city champion. This year she won and set PSAL records in the 3,000 meters (9:47.25) and also took home gold in the 1,500 meters at the indoor championships.

Her 2-mile time of 10:27.48 at the New Balance Nationals was the best in

the state this season and earned her All-American honors. Outdoors she took home the city championship in the 1,500 meters with a mark of 4:43.73. Branch was proudest of being an All-American like some of her former teammates.

"It was very far-fetched in the beginning of the indoor season," she said. "I didn't think I had a chance. Once I started training, I knew it was something to shoot for."

With graduation on the horizon, it brings the realization that her high school career has come to an end. But Branch is excited to move on to the next level at Illinois.

"I'm looking forward to being in a new environment and running in the Big 10, just starting a new chapter in my career," she said.

Scholars

Continued from Page 51

es, walked just three and struck out seven. But the Jaguars just couldn't complete the win.

"We kept them [down] the whole game, but for some reason [the Seawolves] always have a big seventh inning, which we knew, but we still couldn't stop them," Goddard Coach Jessica Vogt said.

Scholars' victory is the completion of a three-year quest for the team's four seniors, who helped start the school's softball program



Pitcher Kayla Nolan leaps into the arms of Emma Michaels.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

in 2012. Hurricane Sandy complicated the beginning of last season, but brought the team closer together and even more focused on bringing home the crown.

"We all just came back stronger than we were before," Saravo said. "It just all really worked out."

Just like they believed it would.

Red Hawks

Continued from Page 51

starter Gilizia Mendoza.

"I had the feeling that, if we would have gotten a couple more hits, it would have brought everybody's spirit up and would have helped us," Pirozek said. "It didn't work out."

While the end wasn't the storybook conclusion

they had envisioned, seniors Rodriguez, Pirozek, Daniela Isabella and Karina Aquino leave behind careers that will never be forgotten at the Ozone Park school.

They helped propel the Red Hawks from a Class B team to one of the city's best softball squads. Construction reached at least the semifinals each season and won the Class A title last year. By doing so,

they became one of just two teams to beat Tottenville in the final during the last 11 years and own a 3-2 record against the Pirates in the last three years.

"This is not how I wanted it to end," Rodriguez said. "I wanted to end with another championship, but I have a strong team behind me. They all pick each other up and we tried out best."

Dolphins

Continued from Page 52

each time. Aponte said he promised Mangieri when the year started that he'd get the Dolphins to the title game.

"Here we are in the championship," Aponte said.

He's had plenty of help

from a roster that has nine freshmen and sophomores. Catcher Joe Calandra and third baseman Ryan Suglia were key cogs in the Beach Channel offense. Marvin Hernandez was a steady force on the mound. Shortstop Sergio Galdamez and centerfielder Antonio Moccia also contributed.

"These kids are just fearless," Mangieri said. "They have a lot of heart."

He and his players have produced one of the best seasons in program history a year and a half after their community was ravaged by flood waters. That in itself is worth as much as a title.

"These kids are going to have lifelong memories whether we win or we lose," Mangieri said. "They are going to remember this forever."

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WEEK 52

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Creek

Continued from Page 1

rainfall because the city's sewer system cannot handle the extra water.

"Our whole mission is to promote projects that clean up the creek and we want to return it to community use," said Alexandra Rosa, a consultant who presented the group's plan to Community Board 7 Monday night.

The group, Friends of Flushing Creek, is composed of a number of developers and businesses, some of which own land adjacent to the creek.

Representatives from Skyview Park and Crystal Window and Door Systems and developers F&T Group are stakeholders in the group and sit on the organization's board of directors.

"We need a creek people will want to come to that meets water standards," Rosa said. "We are all about restoring the creek so it can be used by the community."

Rosa said the group's initiative complements an effort by Claire Shulman's Flushing Willets Point Corona Local Development Corp. to redevelop a 60-acre waterfront property bordered by Flushing Creek, Prince Street, Roosevelt Avenue and Northern Boulevard.

Shulman's LDC was awarded a \$1.5 million Brownfield grant by the state in 2011 to explore the possible development.

Rosa, Shulman's for-



Friends of Flushing Creek plan to pressure the city Department of Environmental Protection to clean up the body of water.

Photo by Christina Santucci

mer chief of staff, stressed in an interview that Friends of Flushing Creek is operating separately from the former borough president's effort, but added some of the same stakeholders in the LDC are also involved with the group.

F&T Group, also belongs to Shulman's LDC, has developed at least seven buildings in downtown Flushing and is on the cusp of breaking ground on the first phase of its \$850 million Flushing Commons development.

Other members of the group include developers Briarwood Organization, Asian Americans for Equality, Assi Plaza and the Richmond Hill Business Persons Corp. The most recent addition to the group's advisory board is James Cervino, the chairman of CB 7's environmental committee, a professor in marine pollution at the Woods Hole Oceanography

Institute in Massachusetts, and president of the Coastal Preservation Network, a nonprofit that advocates for the restoration of the waterfront.

Former wetlands around the creek, which once absorbed a significant amount of rainwater, have been developed over the years into neighborhoods, parks and stadiums. The water that normally would have been absorbed by these lands streams into the city's combined sewer system instead of being discharged into waterways.

Nearly 72 percent of the city's ground does not absorb water, according to city Department of Environmental Protection.

The city built a combined sewer overflow tank, which can hold 43 million gallons of sewage, in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in 2007 to try to alleviate the problem, but this does not tackle the root of the

overflows, said environmental planner Eymund Diegel who conducts research on the area's overflow dilemma.

"Solutions will have to focus on targeting the cause of the sewer overflows," he said in an e-mail.

More needs to be done to divert natural streams of water that flow from paved over lands into the sewer system, Diegel said.

DEP has said it will start working on what it called a Long-Term Control Plan to study the impacts of combined sewer overflows on the creek's water quality.

The agency was set to discuss the plan Wednesday night at a meeting at John Bowne High School. Friends of Flushing Creek invited board members to attend the discussion.

Rosa said Friends of Flushing Creek is going to push the city to dredge the creek and build infrastructure to stop the overflow of sewage into the water.

DEP has plans to dredge 16.8 acres of the larger Flushing Bay, but has yet to commit to doing the same for the creek, Rosa said.

The group also hopes to push DEP to build more green infrastructure, such as curbside bioswales, to absorb more water.

"We've got to get New York City to up its ante," Rosa said.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

Soccer

Continued from Page 9

Klinsmann, is the coach of the U.S. national team. Both squads are in the same group and will face off June 26.

On Steinway Street, there is a place with a trick. At Caffè Borbone, at 25-07 Steinway St., fans will be waving different flags depending on who is kicking the ball.

Algerians will pack the house.

"This place will be full when Algeria plays," said Rosina Vasquez, a worker at the restaurant.

But Caffè Borbone is an Italian place, and Italy, which has won the title on four occasions, is another soccer-mad nation.

"We are also very busy when Italy plays," said Vasquez.

Another Italian restaurant, Cucino a Modo Mio in Corona, at 51-01 108th St., will jump with every goal. The place is already booked for the Saturday game between Italy and England, but the establishment also becomes the headquarters for Latin American fans.

"They come from all over to watch their teams," said Gregory Gigliotti, owner of the restaurant.

He expects fanatics from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Honduras, Uruguay, Colombia and Brazil.

The spot's outdoor beer garden is ideal to have a drink, cheer and let your passion flow. It has a

70-inch-screen TV, but if one prefers indoors, there are four more TVs in the dining area and the pizza parlor.

At La Gran Uruguay in Jackson Heights, at 85-06 37th Ave., Central and South America fans also merged.

"This is the house of soccer," said Clever, manager at the place. "I am Ecuadorian, so first it's Ecuador, but then I like Uruguay, USA, Spain."

Brazil 2014 will be special for Bosnians. This is the first World Cup appearance for the Balkan country.

"We are a small country, but we have big hearts," said Ifeta Huskovic, owner of Cevabdzinica Sarajevo, a Bosnian restaurant in Astoria, at 37-18 34th St.

Come the first game Sunday, Cevabdzinica Sarajevo will be jamming. It will not be an easy game. Bosnia faces Argentina, another top favorite to win the title.

"It's going to be tough, but we love soccer, and we are going to enjoy this World Cup a lot," added Huskovic.

Spain, Greece, Mexico, Portugal, Slovakia, Ivory Coast, Cameroon — all fans from the 32 countries have a place to call home. After all, this is Queens.

"For Greeks, this is a good place to be," said Emmanuel Mantalis, waiter at the Athens Cafe, at 32-07 30th Ave. "For Greeks, for Americans and for everyone else."

Weprin

Continued from Page 4

by federal leaders.

Mark-Viverito said in comments last week that she would be more comfortable with a rate in the range of \$13 to \$15 an hour and said she was ready to begin hearings on the idea, though they have not yet been scheduled.

Weprin said that while he supports a minimum wage increase, he thinks a statewide raise would

have fewer consequences on the border neighborhoods in Queens, which he said would level the playing field between businesses in Queens and those they compete with on Long Island.

He said he worries that a New York City minimum wage that is nearly twice the rate of the rest of the state would be "extremely detrimental" to business owners in Queens and will deter future entrepreneurs from wanting to start a business in the borough rather than traveling the short distance across the

border into Nassau.

"Why open an ice cream shop in Queens when you could go 1,000 feet and open one in Long Island and pay a lower salary?" he asked. "Most of the businesses on our border operate on a very small profit margin, and if they're making money, they're just barely doing it. The money for a pay increase has to come from somewhere and most businesses can't afford that."

Weprin added that he would like to see the state as a whole raise its mini-

mum wage and hopefully others will follow suit. He said he has spoken with some business owners and community members in his district who share his concerns and said he hopes the Council will be cautious in deciding how to approach a minimum wage increase in order to avoid hurting businesses in the process.

"I represent Queens County, so my concern is Queens," he said. "We can't do this haphazardly because it will end up costing people jobs."

CB 7

Continued from Page 4

DOT officials said will not disrupt No. 7 train service.

The rehab will reconstruct the deteriorated roadway and replace some of the bridge's overstressed steel beams. New lighting will be installed on the bridge and sidewalks will be widened, DOT officials said.

The bridge will be rehabbed in three stages. The first and third stages

will have two lanes and one sidewalk closed down while both sidewalks will be open during the second phase.

CB 7 also voted to pass a resolution that would encourage developers to have units in their buildings where smoking was not permitted.

The board passed the resolution 18-17 after a lengthy discussion.

Reach reporter Alex Robinson by e-mail at arobinson@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4566.

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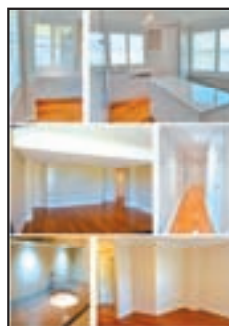
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► LEGAL NOTICES

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590218 KISSENA REALTY LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 09/18/13.Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 45-15 215th Street, Bayside, NY 11361.Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Big Kang Realty, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/18/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 87-15 51st Ave, Elmhurst, NY 11373. Purpose: General.

CINDY & TONY, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 3/17/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Chao Li, 94-11 46 Ave., 3FL, Elmhurst, NY 11373. General Purpose.

Fitzco Coffee Company LLC Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 2/28/14. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to princ. address & RA: c/o Corey Michael Fitzgerald 8909 69th Rd. #1 Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activity

KADEE VENTURES LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/26/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 104-39 165th St., Jamaica, NY 11433. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

KLEINE AMSTERDAM U-TRUSTING LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 2/3/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 2 Roosevelt Ave., Ste. 200, Syosset, NY 11791-3064. General Purpose.

MV26 REALTY, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 3/31/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Vito Scilla, 151-39 26th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354. General Purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION

OF 168 Astoria LLC. Articles of Organization were

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filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/06/14. Office located in 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, 168 Astoria LLC 169-05 21st Ave, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: For any lawful purpose

Notice of Formation of 185 Beach 116th St. Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/6/04. 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 Trainor & Seplow, P.C. 225 Beach 116th St., Rockaway Park, NY 11694. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of AMYDINGMD LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 5/12/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 136-40 39th Ave., Ste 508H, NY11354. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FUTURE GLOBAL HOLDINGS LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 05/19/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 143-51 Roosevelt Ave., #1H, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of GOLDEN ARROW PARTNERS LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 4/23/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 206-16 EMILY RD, NY11360. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION

of limited liability company (LLC). Name: GWOOKLE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/25/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of

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process to: Darly Coupet, 21848 110th Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11419. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: hourglance LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on March 28, 2014. Office located in Queens. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC at 12-10 Astoria Park South, Apt 2E, Astoria, NY 11102. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: LIC CLOCK TOWER LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/11/14. 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, 35-11 36th Street, 3rd Floor, Long Island City, New York 11106. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PROGRESSIVE MANAGEMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/08/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The Limited Liability Company, 66-36 Yellowstone Blvd., 4C, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: WING88 REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/28/14. 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, c/o Wing88 Realty LLC, 32-37 214th Pl, Bayside, New York 11361. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Sai & Fy Trading LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 3/31/14. 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 Bibi W. Yasin, 109-09 112th St., S. Ozone Park, NY 11420. Purpose: Any lawful activities.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: IT TAKES A VILLAGE DAYCARE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/13/2014. 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: Renee V. Beckford, 114-36 223 Street, Cambria Heights, NY 11411. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Mickey 83 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/22/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 217-79 Hempstead Ave., Queens Village, NY 11429. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of The Club Gate LLC. Articles or Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 12/26/2013. Office located in QUEENS County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC 5409 100St, Suite 614, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Qualification of CONCORIA LLC Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/21/14. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 05/16/14. Princ. office of LLC: 32-02 Queens Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation Service Co., 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of DE, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St. - Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NO WAY FOODS LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 4/9/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 165-35 145th Dr. Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Qualification of LF Freight (West) LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 5/8/14. Office location: Queens

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County. LLC formed in DE on 3/18/14. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: 230-19 International Airport Center Blvd., Suite 250, Jamaica, NY 11413, Attn: Scott Ornstein. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

SOUTHOLD SUNSETS LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 4/14/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 125-06 18th Ave., College Point, NY 11356 . General Purpose.

SPEAK AT YOUR PRIME, LLC., a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 5/5/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 41-30 249th St., Little Neck, NY 11581. General Purpose.

SPMM 2 LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/25/2014. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 37-20 Broadway, 2nd Fl, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

TPEC CRESCENT LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 2/27/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 41-10 Crescent St., Long Island City, NY 11101. General Purpose.

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SUMMONS Index No. 6418-13 D/O/F: April 3, 2013 Premises Address: 200 -16 111TH AVE SAINT ALBANS, NY 11412 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, -against- FAMILY AND

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CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION AS GUARDIAN FOR HATTIE FELS AKA HATTIE MAE FELS; HATTIE FELS AKA HATTIE MAE FELS; VIRGINIA F GREENAS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF GEORGE FELS; JOHN DOE 1 THROUGH 10; JANE DOE 1 THROUGH 10, INTENDING TO BE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF GEORGE FELS DECEASED WHO DIED ON OCTOBER 30, 2008, AND WHO DIED IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS WHO MAY BE DECEASED AND THE RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DISTRIBUTUTES, DEVEISEES, GRANTEES, TRUSTEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, ASSIGNNESS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSONS, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF AN, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; ARGENT MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises, Defendant(s), TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this

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foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The following notice is intended only for those defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. The amount of the debt: \$647,188.46 consisting of principal balance of \$515,521.31 plus interest of \$113,477.86, escrow/impound shortages or credits of \$15,879.02, late charges of \$10.73; Broker's Price Opinion, inspection and miscellaneous charges of \$661.85; attorney fee \$1,100.00 and title search \$537.69. Because of interest and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive the check, in which event we will inform you. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed: JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION. Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after receipt hereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the herein debt collector. If you notify the herein debt collector in writing within thirty (30) days after your receipt hereof that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment against you representing the debt and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by the herein debt collector. Upon your written request within 30 days after receipt of this notice, the herein debt collector will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor if different from the current creditor.

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Note: Your time to respond to the summons and complaint differs from your time to dispute the validity of the debt or to request the name and address of the original creditor. Although you have as few as 20 days to respond to the summons and complaint, depending on the manner of service, you still have 30 days from receipt of this summons to dispute the validity of the debt and to request the name and address of the original creditor. TO THE DEFENDANTS, except HATTIE FELS AKA HATTIE MAE FELS: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action. TO THE DEFENDANTS: HATTIE FELS AKA HATTIE MAE FELS: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law firm is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises. Dated: March 12, 2013 Tyne Modica, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road Plainview, NY 11803 516-741-2585 Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

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