FLUSHING Times

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CNG

Blighted land under attack in NE Queens

BY JOE ANUTA

A northeast Queens lawmaker has made a list of derelict or vacant properties around the area that he wants to clean up, including a Flushing home owned by Bank of America that was being used as an illegal apartment. But there is only so much he can do to stop the problems.

After civic organizations, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) and City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) helped

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Phagwah Performance

Urvashie Kissoon, originally from Flushing, takes the stage following the annual Phagwah parade, which celebrates the start of spring. **See coverage on Pages 5, 18.** Photo by Christina Santucci

City asks firms to help clean Flushing Bay

Plants, trees can cure sewer woes: DEP

BY JOE ANUTA

The city wants actual plants in the concrete jungle and is seeking companies to build green infrastructure in central and western Queens neighborhoods that will help clean some of the borough's toxic waterways.

The city Department of Environmental Protection released a request for proposals Monday that seeks to parcel out $12 million total for three contracts to build green roofs, enhanced tree pits, porous pavement and other infrastructure initiatives designed to capture excess rainwater that currently overwhelms the city's sewer system and discharges into New York City's waterways during heavy storms, polluting water bodies like Flushing Bay and Newtown Creek.

It is part of the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan first proposed in 2010 by the mayor, according to Carter Strickland, commissioner of the DEP.

"Implementing the plan will improve water quality throughout New York Harbor and our neighborhoods," Strickland said.

The request for proposals identify three separate contract areas.

The first contract seeks companies to install these green projects on public property in a large section of central Queens, comprising mainly Forest Hills and Rego Park. Another contract seeks companies to install the same devices in another area covering Corona and Elmhurst.

If a contractor installs green roofs on one of the many schools or city-owned buildings in the area, for example, the water trapped in the soil will not flow into the city's sewer pipes and

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MAILING ADDRESS GOES HERE

Elder Ave. project revised

Developers to break ground on mixed-use building this summer

Architect Paul Bonfilio (r.) illustrates his application to add an addition to a home in Bowne Park. Later in the evening, Community Board 7 approved an amended application for a 12-story building in Queensboro Hill. Photo by Rich Bockmann

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A spokeswoman for the company planning to erect a 12-story, mixed-use building in Queensborough Hill said developers plan to start excavating the vacant site this summer after Community Board 7 approved a revised plan for the project Monday night.

The board had previously rejected an application for the proposed building at the corner of Elder Avenue and Main Street, citing concerns over a requested parking waiver. The decision went to the city Board of Standards and Appeals, which ultimately approved plans for 28 residential units, retail and medical office space and 58 parking spaces in 2009.

Nora Martins, the attorney presenting the revised application, said the project had stalled due to the poor economy and the building's planners thought they would have better luck selling smaller condos.

"A two-bedroom unit is not going to do as well," she said, and explained that the developers hoped to attract more buyers by decreasing the size of some of the units, thus increasing the number of units from 28 to 36.

By shrinking the medical office space on the second floor, the revised plan also added three parking spaces for a total of 61, thus eliminating the need for a variance.

"Although this is a building with a whole bunch of issues, the only issue now is they're going from 28 to 36 units," said Third Vice Chairman Frank Macchio.

Several board members said they still had concerns about parking, specifically whether or not the cellar ceilings would provide adequate clearance once a sprinkler system was installed and if the parking spaces were wide enough to accommodate vehicles.

The community board approved the application 31-2 with a request that the BSA review the parking plans. The application is on the BSA's calendar for an initial hearing March 30.

The site, previously occupied by a gas station, is contaminated as a result of leaking underground storage tanks. Martins said the state Department of Environmental Conservation would oversee the site remediation.

Mormon Church going before BSA

BY JOE ANUTA

Flushing civics and lawmakers want the city Board of Standards and Appeals to deny plans for a Mormon church that exceeds zoning regulations, but the agency recently gave a green light to a similar application in southern Queens.

Civic leaders and a state senator turned out to show their disapproval of plans for a house of worship that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints wants to build at 145-13 33rd Ave.

"Why in God's name are we even considering this?" asked state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), standing outside of the empty lot where the LDS church submitted plans to build a two-story church with a 95-foot steeple that seeks to double the maximum allowable floor space.

"The community board has already voted against it. The borough president voted against it. We're here to send a message to the BSA," he said.

But the BSA has not listened in the past.

On Feb. 28, the board approved a variance in Far Rockway for a yeshiva in a residentially zoned district similar to the area of Flushing where the LDS chapel is proposed.

CB 14 recommended to deny a version of the application that was changed slightly before getting to the board, as did Borough President Helen Marshall, who said the application would be out of scale with the character of the surrounding neighborhood, according to the BSA decision.

The application for a three-story yeshiva and dormitory — just like the LDS chapel application — sought to double the allowable floor-to-area ratio.

The BSA granted multiple variances, in part, based on the yeshiva's "programmatic needs."

The Mormon Church

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State Sen. Tony Avella (r.) is joined by civic leaders and Flushing residents to denounce plans for a Mormon chapel on 33rd Avenue that would violate zoning laws and is being considered by the city. Photo by Joe Anuta

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Strawberry celebrates turning 50 at his Douglaston eatery

Family and fans wish former New York baseball player well during packed party at Sports Grill

BY PHIL CORSO

There wasn't an empty seat in the house when Darryl Strawberry celebrated his 50th birthday at his Douglaston sports grill Monday night.

All eyes were on the former New York slugger from the moment he stepped foot into Strawberry's Sports Grill, at 42-15 235th St.

"It's always a real blessing to be a part of something like this," Strawberry said. "I love New York, I love Queens and I love the people of Douglaston."

Strawberry opened his 50th birthday party to the public inside his Douglaston sports restaurant almost two years after it opened its doors in August 2010. He made his rounds throughout the grill to stop and meet with all the eager customers and fans.

By 7 p.m., the entire restaurant was booked with reservations with not an open seat for hours.

Near the entrance of the bar was a large posterboard with Strawberry's photo for fans to sign. Birthday wishes were inscribed all over the photo in black marker, wishing the New York baseball icon well.

Zach Vasilakis was dressed in New York Mets gear from head to toe and watched as Strawberry etched his signature onto a baseball for him.

"I'm very excited to meet him," Vasilakis said.

The 15-year-old said he was a big Strawberry fan and even took his father to the Douglaston sports grill for Father's Day.

Fans Aaron Young, Rob Louie and Michael Vega could not secure a table for Strawberry's birthday bash, but still stood inside the restaurant's front door to get a chance to see the baseball icon.

Darryl Strawberry greets Zach Vasilakis, 15, during the celebration.
Photo by Ken Maldonado

"He's a big boy," Young joked. "He's very nice. We love it here and come all the time."

Strawberry, who played for both of New York's major league baseball teams through his 17-year professional career and won championships with both clubs, posed for photos and shook the hands of anyone who approached him throughout his birthday celebration.

The former outfielder tallied 335 home runs and 1,000 runs batted in during his celebrated baseball career.

He was in the company of hundreds of adoring fans and family members, including his brother Michael Strawberry, who also manages Strawberry's Grill.

"My brother is blessed to be 50 years old today," Michael Strawberry said. "He wanted everybody here to share this special day with him and be a part of this."

The public party included a DJ, dancing and a raffling off of Mets memorabilia. Anyone who attended also received a free birthday cake for being a part of the celebration.

Darryl Strawberry said it was the perfect place to celebrate, full of people he enjoyed being with.

"I have so many fond memories here and it's great to see so many people care," Darryl Strawberry said. "I wanted to be here with them and make this a part of their lives, too. I'm enjoying myself."

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at pcorso@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

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Mourners stand against guns

Hundreds remember Darryl Adams as arrests in SE Queens multiply

BY JOE ANUTA

The more than 1,000 people who filled up a Rochdale church Monday night were there for two reasons.

The first was to pay their final respects to Darryl Adams, the 18-year-old who was murdered earlier this month in South Jamaica. The second was to take a stand against gun violence, as police added another charge against a member of the group the NYPD contended carried out Adams' murder.

The day after the funeral, tensions between family members of Adams and police ran high when a group gathered in a neighborhood park and several people, including Adams' two brothers were arrested and his mother taken to the hospital, according to community activists.

But the night before the community stood united during the service for Adams at New Jerusalem Baptist Church at 122-05 Smith St.

Darryl Adams' brother Ronald Merritt holds a ballon in front of where Adams' was killed at the start of a memorial Tuesday morning. Photo by Christina Santucci

"They took my heart from me," said Adams' mother, Shanta Merritt, speaking softly during the funeral.

Merritt could barely talk, and friends and family often broke down while trying to describe the young basketball player who hoped to get a SUNY basketball scholarship.

But Merritt said she was pleasantly surprised at the throngs of people who showed up at the funeral.

"I don't even know some of you all," she said with a laugh.

On March 2 at about 12:30 a.m., shots rang out near South Jamaica Houses, or the Forties Projects, and a surveillance camera captured Adams running down the sidewalk and collapsing. Two figures then

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Boro lawmaker hopes guv vetoes district lines

BY JOE ANUTA

The state Legislature drafted bills for a new set of maps that would define political boundaries in the state Assembly and state Senate for the next decade, but Queens lawmakers were still hopeful Gov. Andrew Cuomo would veto them.

An initial proposal for the new lines in the Assembly and Senate was released earlier this year. While the Assembly lines did not generate much controversy, the Senate lines did — and Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) said the second and final iteration is 98 percent the same as the first, which sent the borough into an outrage when they were released.

"The maps are almost identical to the first set, which had been deemed the most gerrymandered in the history of the state," he said.

One change between the first and second versions of the senate lines put Gianaris back into the district he currently lives in, as opposed to that of state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst). The two were originally drawn into the same district and might have been pitted against each other.

But the same was not true for Sens. Toby Stavisky (D-Whitestone) and Tony Avella (D-Bayside). Their homes are currently drawn into the same district, which could mean they will face off in a primary.

Another change in the Senate lines put Bay Terrace into the 11th Senate District which is currently held by Avella, as opposed to the 16th Senate District currently held by Stavisky.

"We're really happy with that," said Warren Schreiber, president of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance. "It just puts us in an area of common interest."

And the 16th Senate District remained a majority Asian district, pleasing the Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy, which has been advocating for such a seat based on communities of interest in

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NAACP leaders oppose redistricting

BY RICH BOCKMANN

NAACP and southeast Queens leaders gathered outside Queens Borough Hall Monday, calling on Gov. Andrew Cuomo to veto a proposal by the state Legislature to add a 63rd state Senate seat upstate, a move they said would dilute the voting power of everyone downstate, regardless of race.

"We stand in total and absolute opposition to the LATFOR redistricting proposal for New York state," said NAACP Jamaica Branch President Leroy Gadsden. "We fail to understand how the LATFOR panel can add and create a new district upstate in an area that experienced a decrease in population."

The Rev. Charles Norris Sr. (c.) joins Archie Spigner (l.-r.), Leroy Gadsden and Kenneth Cohen in calling on Gov. Andrew Cuomo to keep his promise to veto LATFOR's maps. Photo by Rich Bockmann

Despite the fact New York City and Long Island have gained population proportionally to the rest of the state, the legislature has proposed adding a 63rd Senate seat in the Hudson Valley.

Gadsden said the proposal flew in the face of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and was reminiscent of the voter disenfranchisement struggles of the civil rights era.

"Just say, 'No.' Veto this proposal," he said.

Former St. Albans City Councilman Archie Spigner said the plan was devised to preserve the state GOP's power in the Senate.

"The Republicans are trying to do with the new math what they can't do with the population," he said.

Gadsden added he wanted to remind Cuomo of his vow to veto any proposal put forth by LATFOR and said the governor was beholden not to legislators

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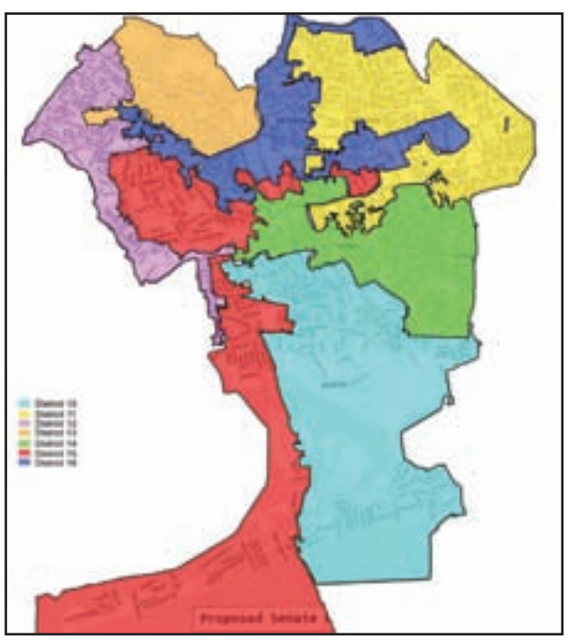

The proposed maps of Queens' state Senate districts were tweaked slightly by the state Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment. Image courtesy LATFOR

Holi inspires Rich Hill with flying colors

Annual Hindu parade celebrating passage of seasons draws kaleidoscope of jubilant onlookers

BY REBECCA HENELY

Spring — and dyed power — was in the air in Richmond Hill Sunday as thousands of South Asians and others came to celebrate the 24th annual Phagwah Parade.

Phagwah, also called Holi, is a festival marking the arrival of spring. For years in Richmond Hill, the Indo-Guyanese population has celebrated with a parade that ends at Phil "Scooter" Rizzuto Park.

During the parade and in the park, the riders on the floats and spectators coat each other with colored powder meant to represent the flowers of spring.

"Every year it keeps getting bigger," said Shanta Khemchaub, owner of Flowers by Shanta at 130th Street and Liberty Avenue.

The parade route began this year at Liberty Avenue and 133rd Street and continued westward along Liberty Avenue to 125th Street, ending at the park on 95th Avenue. The floats, most of which were from temples across the city although some represented businesses, blasted traditional music while their riders yelled out "Happy Phagwah! Happy Holi! Happy Spring!"

When the parade reached its conclusion at the park, the flurries of powder coated the air as celebrants smeared colored dust and sometimes sprayed purple dye on each other.

"It's pretty enjoyable," said Karisama Ramratan, 16. "Everyone's having fun."

Alladdin Moe, 40, came from Park Slope to celebrate Phagwah and rated the festivities 11 on a scale of one to 10.

"I'm not that religious, but it's a celebration to ring in the new year, to ring in the spring," Moe said.

Children use squirt bottles to douse parade goers with dye. Photo by Chrisitna Santucci

Many of the paradegoers were from Guyana and waved the red, black, yellow, white and green flag of the country, but other celebrants came from Trinidad and Tobago, India and Suriname, and some were not South Asian at all.

"It's much bigger, and it's more diverse than it used to be," said 30-year-old Natasha Singh.

South Asian ambassadors and Queens elected officials spoke during the festivities. Dr. Neil Parsan, ambassador from Trinidad and Tobago, said he was happy to see so many young people enjoying the holiday.

Bayney Karran, Guyanese ambassador to the United States, said Holi was about spring and about doing away with past enmities. He said the parade was a testament to the strength and unity of the community.

"Whether you are Hindu or non-Hindu, let us celebrate the principles of Phagwah," Karran said.

The Queens officials said they were proud to represent the South Asian community in Richmond Hill.

"Everybody looks so

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Lancman decries budget cuts to synogogue security plans

BY JOE ANUTA

State Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) took Congress to task this week for cutting funding to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that goes toward beefing up security at Queens synagogues and other nonprofits at risk for terrorist attacks.

Lancman spoke outside of the Israel Center for Conservative Judaism, on 73rd Avenue in Electchester.

"I was shocked and disappointed," Lancman said, rattling off several synagogues in his district that had previously taken advantage of the funding.

The cut came out of a political impasse that was resolved in December, when funding for the department and other federal agencies was set to run out. The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate hashed out an agreement at the 11th hour for the remainder of this fiscal year, which lasts until October.

The resulting agreement cut funding from $19 million to $10 million, which Lancman said had a serious impact on Queens organizations.

Last year, 270 organizations nationwide used the grants to upgrade their security. They used the money to install surveillance cameras, security doors or hiring additional staff, Lancman said.

This year, according to Lancman, only 150 are set to receive the grants.

"This money has been critically important," he said.

U.S. Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village) voted for the appropriations bill in the House, which was passed largely along party lines.

Turner did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

The grants can be used by any nonprofit, but Lancman discussed what he called the heightened risk of attack that synagogues operate under on a daily basis.

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Immigrant biz owners face tough future without help

BY REBECCA HENELY

While running a business can be challenging for immigrants, Reshma Saujani of the city public advocate's office said last Thursday they are often not aware of the many resources available to them.

"People aren't necessarily looking for capital," Saujani said. "They're looking for things to help them sustain their business."

Saujani's talk was part of the Center for an Urban Future and the Fund for Public Advocacy's forum on the unique challenges facing immigrant business owners at LaGuardia Community College, at 31-10 Thomson Ave., last Thursday.

Panel of Queens entrepreneurs at LaGuardia Community College discuss the challenges immigrant business owners face. Photo by Rebecca Henely

Saujani shared the results of a survey of immigrant entrepreneurs' needs while Queens business owners discussed their experiences.

"We have to find better ways to create awareness," said Paul Quintero, chief executive officer of microfinance loaner Accion USA. "We have to go out to businesses. They can't come to

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Schumer adds tax break for transit riders to bill

A straphanger buys a MetroCard.
AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The tax break for New York City's beleaguered straphangers that once seemed as gone as the subway token may be back and $10 richer.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) has campaigned tirelessly for the tax benefit, which offered transit riders $230 per month in tax-exempt income until it expired Dec. 31

Schumer said he has inserted a condition in a federal highways bill restoring the transit riders full benefit — it had been slashed to $125 — adding $10 and making it effective immediately.

The measure was to be voted on this week.

Under the program, employers can deduct funds before taxes from employees' paychecks for savings of a third or more in riders' transportation costs. At this time, half a million commuters in the metropolitan area take advantage of the benefit and 2.7 million nationwide.

"Many people thought that the benefit of such help to New Yorkers was dead," Schumer said. "It is not. "If the [U.S.] House [of Representatives] acts the way the Senate will, we can restore it."

It was not renewed in its original form when it expired Dec. 31, and Schumer said the reason was several "Tea Party candidates from rural areas who don't have mass transit" were to blame.

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Public transit ridership increases across nation

The American Public Transportation Association says Americans took 10.4 billion trips on subways, light rail systems, buses and commuter trains in 2011.

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

A billion more people nationwide took public transportation last year than in 2000, according to a transportation advocacy agency.

The American Public Transportation Association said Americans took 10.4 billion trips on subways, light rail systems, buses and commuter trains in 2011.

It was the second-highest annual ridership on public transit since 1957.

"Two top reasons for the increased ridership are higher gasoline prices and, in certain areas, a recovering economy with more people returning to work," said APTA President Michael Melaniphy.

"Since 60 percent of trips taken on public transportation are for work commutes, it's not surprising to see ridership increase in areas where the economy has improved," Melaniphy said.

The nonprofit said ridership on public transit was up 2.4 percent from the prior year.

"The largest rate of growth was in rural communities with populations under 100,000, where public transit use showed an increase of 5.4 percent," Melaniphy said.

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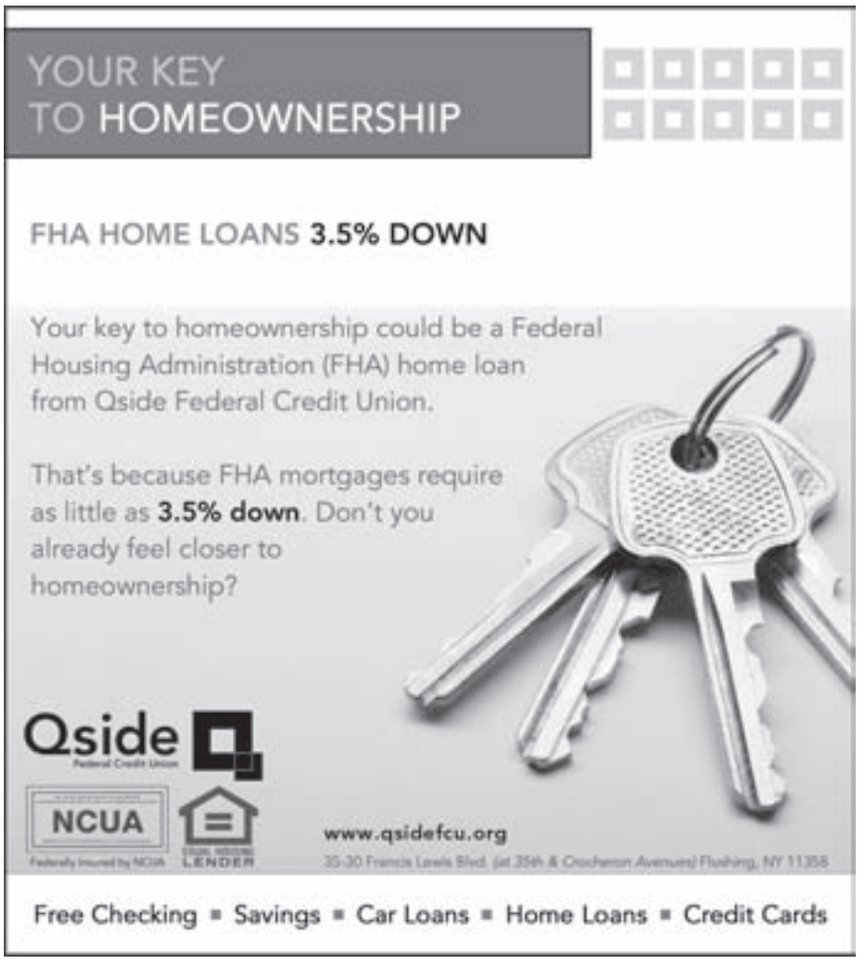

POLICE Blotter

Man, 65, dies after car strikes him in Murray Hill

MURRAY HILL — An unidentified 65-year-old man was hit by a vehicle while crossing the intersection of 149th Street and 45th Avenue in Murray Hill last Thursday and later died, police said.

Authorities said the man was hit by an unknown vehicle at 8:12 p.m. driving southbound while the man was walking east. The driver of the vehicle did not stay at the scene and the man was brought to New York Hospital Queens, where he was pronounced dead on arrival, police said.

As of TimesLedger Newspapers' Tuesday afternoon press time, no arrests had been made, the NYPD said.

Woman robbed of cat keys in Flushing: Cops

FLUSHING — Police were looking for a man who a Flushing woman reported robbed her inside her apartment March 7.

Authorities said a 22-year-old Asian man, standing 5-foot-7 and weighing about 160 pounds, entered the apartment with a knife at about 1:30 p.m.

He demanded money from the woman, but before she could give it to him he took a set of car keys from the table and ran away, police said.

The woman was not hurt in the robbery, police said.

Those with information should contact the NYPD's Crime Stoppers by calling at 1-800-577-TIPS, visiting nypdcrimestoppers.com or texting 274637 and then entering TIP577.

This man is suspected of robbing a Flushing woman. Photo courtesy NYPD

DOE worker, 59, hits minor in school: Police

MURRAY HILL — A 59-year-old city Department of Education employee was arrested on charges of assaulting a minor March 7, police said.

Grace Peterson-Hagendorf was taken into custody at PS 22, at 153-33 Sanford Ave. at 9:45 a.m. in Murray Hill, police said.

A Buick Rendezvous is ruined after a collision near the intersection of Northern Boulevard and the Clearview Expressway in Bayside. Photo by Nykeema Williams

War correspondent hailed from Astoria

BY DON MULLEN

OYSTER BAY, L.I. — More than 200 mourners filled St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church Monday for the funeral of war correspondent Marie Colvin, killed in Syria while covering the attacks by army troops on defenseless civilians.

TV cameras from all the networks were lined up on a lawn across the street as the high mass began with a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace" and six pallbearers carrying her casket into the church.

Colvin's mother Rosemarie, sisters Eileen and Catherine and brothers William and Michael followed as a soloist began the hymn "Be Not Afraid."

The Sunday Times of London correspondent was killed Feb. 22 when the building that served as a makeshift media center in the village of Homs was struck by a Syrian army mortar. Colvin's body was finally recovered and flown home earlier this month.

Born in Astoria, Colvin grew up on Long Island. She was 56.

The high mass was heard by a crowd of more than 200 mourners, including executives and staff from the London Sunday Times. News Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch, who owns the Sunday Times, attended along with members of the media from many parts of the world.

It was a moving service, with readings from some of Colvin's friends, one of them saying God "gave her a voice for the voiceless" and another reading from 2 Timothy: "I have fought the good fight to the end: I have run the race to the finish."

After the funeral, mourners were invited to the Crescent Club in nearby Bayville on Long Island Sound for a buffet lunch.

Colvin, who grew up in nearby East Norwich, was a graduate of Oyster Bay High School and Yale University. After a stint working at a trade magazine, she joined United Press International in New York in the early 1980s, earning laurels as an enterprising reporter, and transferred to the news agency's Washington bureau.

She became UPI's bureau chief in Paris, traveling to Libya in 1986 to cover

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Family members, news colleagues and friends gathered in Oyster Bar for the funeral of Marie Colvin, the fearless war reporter who was killed in Syria late last month. AP Photo/Sunday Times

Corner honors Olympian past

Sunnyside intersection once site of stadium and 'Winged Fist' athletes

Ian McGowan (c.) holds up the ceremonial sign for Winged Fist Way, the new name for 43rd Street and 48th Avenue that honors the historical Irish-American Athletic Club, while City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (l.) and U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley applaud. Photo by Rebecca Henely

BY REBECCA HENELY

Where apartments and car-filled streets now stand in Sunnyside, there was once a grand stadium, Celtic Park, that produced some of the greatest Olympic champions.

With Saturday's unveiling of Winged Fist Way, a street co-named for 43rd Street and 48th Avenue, City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) and historian Ian McGowan hope the stadium and those athletes will never be forgotten.

"This is a recognition that is long, long overdue," U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) said.

About 70 people turned out for the street renaming to honor the Irish-American Athletic Club, an athletic and cultural organization whose members won 50 Olympic medals from 1900 to 1924. The club often practiced in the athletic field called Celtic Park, which stood on 7 acres between what is now 42nd and 49th streets and 48th and 50th avenues. The symbol of the organization was a winged fist.

"Today is a celebration and an acknowledgement of our town and its wonderful history," Van Bramer said.

Celtic Park was razed in 1930 to make room for an apartment complex of the same name, but in its heyday it was a popular gathering spot for Irish Americans, who would come to watch track-and-field stars, like five-time Olympic gold medalist Martin Sheridan.

McGowan said alcohol would be sold out of a "hotel" on the premises that had no rooms but could circumvent the blue laws banning the sale of beer at sporting events on Sundays.

"He would be the sponsor of Vitamin Water today," Crowley said of Sheridan's accomplishments.

The club was Irish American in name only. It produced Dr. John Baxter Taylor Jr., the first black Olympic gold medalist, and Polish-Jewish runner Abel Kiviat. Other members included Germans, Norwegians and Bohemains.

"This is a great story of western Queens no matter what your ethnicity," said state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), who is Greek American and was one of the few speakers without Irish heritage at the event.

McGowan, who lives in the Celtic Park apartment complex and studies the Irish diaspora, created the Winged Fist Organization in 2008 to salute the club's legacy after the Celtic Park co-op board refused to put up a plaque to honor the club.

The board declined to comment on its reasoning.

McGowan said he will be putting his ceremonial sign for the street in his window.

"I have not given up in my efforts to have a plaque up here," McGowan said.

Crowley and Community Board 2 Chairman Joseph Conley said they supported McGowan in his future efforts.

"We really could not understand why the building refused to honor our history," Conley said.

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

EDITORIALS

COMMUNITY IGNORED IN SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN

Despite criticism, the city Department of Education is moving forward with its plan to close "struggling" neighborhood schools and reopen them in the same building with new names.

In northeastern Queens, the DOE is targeting Flushing High School. The school will close at the end of the school year and reopen as a "new school" in the fall. The plan is maddening and opposed by nearly every elected official and the communities that these schools serve.

This is a show put on in order to receive federal School Improvement Grants. The city Panel for Education Policy is scheduled to vote April 26 on whether or not to close Flushing and other schools. The PEP has never voted against the wishes of the puppet master at City Hall.

What sense do the closings make? If these schools are not performing up to the standards set by the DOE, then find out why and make the changes that need to be made. This will require investing more money into the schools and making certain teachers have the textbooks and equipment they need to deliver a quality education. The DOE plan to close and reopen schools will also require a substantial investment.

The DOE needs to look at class sizes, infrastructure and the challenges faced by students in each of these schools. It may be that the administrations need to be changed and some teachers may need to be trained. After years of neglect, it is infuriating the DOE has decided to destroy schools.

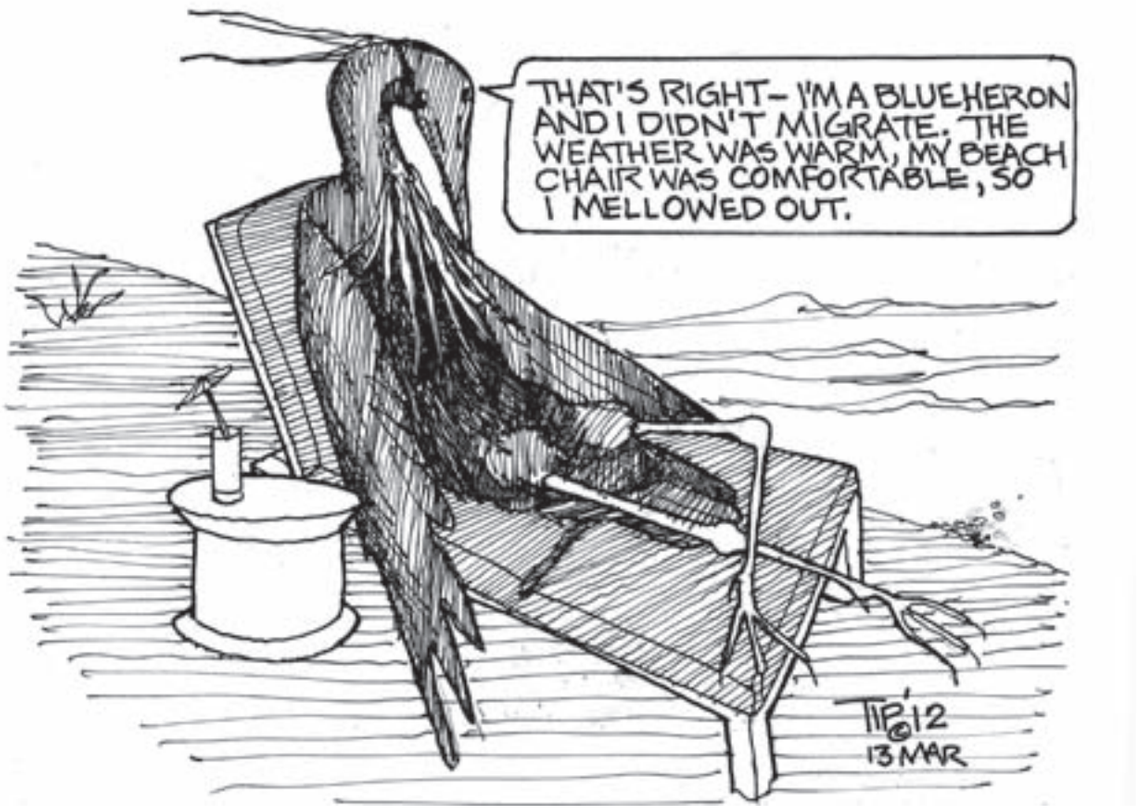
The last time the DOE held a public meeting to discuss this approach, the people who could squeeze in were so angry the DOE officials could not be heard. But the officials did not get the message that parents with children in the targeted schools are mad as hell.

The United Federation of Teachers is opposed to the plan. Sadly, the Bloomberg administration has never listened to or shown respect for the teachers' union.

State Sen. Toby Stavisky, a member of the Senate Education Committee, said "Flushing HS is beginning to turn itself around" and pointed out that graduation rates have improved three years in a row.

"We don't need additional layers of educational bureaucracy," she said.

Good luck.



OTHER VOICES

Standardized tests hamper pupil learning

In Bob Friedrich's March 1-7 On Point column "Underperforming Queens schools should be shuttered," the author misses the point about the objections to the extreme emphasis on standardized test preparation in our local public schools.

As parents like me are aware, the city Department of Education's continual focus on test scores, to the exclusion of all that is meaningful in education, has been a disaster for the students of eastern Queens. Incessant test preparation drills have deadened the curriculum and made standardized tests a ceiling rather than a floor for what goes on in too many classrooms.

Friedrich says complaints of this nature stem from the United Federation of Teachers, but as a father who is in our public schools all the time, I know it is local parents who have deep concerns about how constant test preparation detracts from the real learning children should be doing.

I have spoken to hundreds of parents about this issue, and I have yet to find one who supports the test preparation obsession.

Using tests to evaluate student achievement is reasonable, but allowing the tests to drive instruction and dominate classroom activity is not.

Mark Wperin
Citu Councilman
(D-Oakland Gardens)

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New Yorkers deserve non-political, redistricted lines

On Feb. 7, I testified at the state Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment hearing at Queens Borough Hall regarding the proposed state Assembly and state Senate districts. After waiting more than four hours to testify, I gave my testimony to a commission that seemed uninterested in my thoughts.

Here is the text of my testimony:

"In 1987, as a young political science undergraduate student at the University at Albany, I wrote a paper whereby I suggested that New York state implement a system of independent redistricting of state and congressional districts.

"At the time, the state of Iowa was the only state with such a system. Today, in the year 2012, I would like to thank LATFOR for unquestionably proving the thesis of my college paper. LATFOR, by proposing these lines, has shown the citizens of New York state that our government in Albany is incapable of controlling itself and the New York state Senate and Assembly are incapable of representing their constituents and instead are more interested in political self-dealing and political self-preservation.

"The district lines proposed by LATFOR are despicable. Over the years, The Brennan Center for Justice has called our New York state government the 'most dysfunctional' state government in the nation. The district lines we are discussing today are prima facie evidence that this dysfunction is still alive and well.

"In a state where it seems that every week another elected official in Albany is either indicted or convicted, it is time for our legislators to show some interest in good government. Albany has become a cesspool of corruption. The lines that have been produced by LATFOR have clearly been designed to protect incumbents from being challenged, to protect the majorities held in each house of the Legislature and to punish the political enemies of the minority party of each house. This is no way to resolve the dysfunction that pervades our state government.

"In 2010, when I was a candidate for New York state Assembly, I signed a pledge to a group led by former Mayor Ed Koch that, if elected, I would support independent redistricting. Nearly every member of the Senate and the Assembly also signed such a pledge. Where is the independent redistricting you promised? Do you have to make it so obvious that your word means nothing?

"The New York state Constitution establishes that districts must be 'in as compact form as practicable.' Does anyone in his or her right mind believe that these districts are 'compact' in any sense of the word? These lines represent a 'complete departure' from any understanding of compactness, using the words of the 1972 decision in Schneider v. Rockefeller (31 N.Y.2d 420, 430). The citizens of New York deserve districts that are compact.

"The state constitution also requires that state legislative districts be composed of 'contiguous territory.' A contiguous district is one in which it is possible to travel from any point in the district to any other point in the district without crossing the district boundary. Historically, LATFOR has twisted this idea of contiguity using highways and inaccessible shorelines to connect unrelated towns and neighborhoods into one district. The citizens of New York deserve districts that are contiguous.

"New York State districts are also supposed to be drawn with great deference to county and municipal boundaries. In Queens, special deference should also be paid to our distinct neighborhoods. The lines drafted by LATFOR clearly have not given deference to such boundaries. Districts have been drafted to cross boundaries for nothing other than political gain. The citizens of New York deserve districts that show deference to county, municipal and neighborhood boundaries.

"So where does that leave us today? Since we are up against the time constraints brought about by the upcoming primaries, LATFOR must literally go back to the drawing board and draft new lines that not only follow the New York state Constitution, but also draft lines that are not politically motivated and will show the rest of the nation that New York is no longer interested in being the most dysfunctional government in the nation.

"If this proves impossible for the Legislature, then Gov. Cuomo must veto the districts. Frankly, a court-drawn map is better than a politically motivated, gerrymandered map drawn by LATFOR.

"Going forward, New York state needs to pass a constitutional amendment taking control over the redistricting process away from the Legislature and giving it to an independent commission. Many states, including Iowa, can serve as the model. Independent commissioners should be appointed from a pool of qualified candidates and no district lines should be drawn based upon the party enrollment of the voters or of the incumbent legislators. Districts should be compact; contiguous; give deference to county, municipal boundaries, neighborhood boundaries; and continue the protections of the U.S. Constitution and of the Voting Rights Act.

"It is time that New York state changes its dysfunctional ways and starts a path towards good government and reform. The first step towards that goal should now be independent redistricting. With these district lines, LATFOR is aiding and abetting our state's dysfunction.

It's time for the citizens of New York to stand up and say, 'Enough is enough.' We want good government now."

Steve Behar
Bayside

CB 7 vote against Mormon church OK

I am writing in response to your Feb. 9-15 editorial "Fairness a Stranger at CB 7."

I am amused at how you belittled Community Board 7 for denying a waiver for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to build a facility in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The fact of the matter is that CB 7 did its job by protecting the community it serves.

Granting three waivers would set a terrible precedent, regardless of whether it is a house of worship or not. What would be the purpose of the North Flushing rezoning if the members of the community board would rubber stamp all types of facilities — regardless of whether they are appropriate for the surrounding neighborhood or not.

North Flushing has been besieged by developers over the past decade and the vote by the CB 7 members is a result of this frustration. Members of the community have had enough of developers and regardless of whether they build residential, commercial or religious facilities.

In fact, I am concerned with the tone you take in your editorial, that "[Borough President Helen] Marshall and the BSA should reverse CB 7's decision" and grant the waivers. Are you suggesting our elected officials should ignore the will of the people? The process, which is already weighed heavily against homeowners, is designed to protect the rights of the community that these changes will affect.

I applaud CB 7 for standing up for the rights of the homeowners who would potentially be negatively affected by the granting of permission to build this facility in the middle of a residential block.

While you state that the "community boards and Marshall should encourage Queens development," perhaps you can send us your address. It appears that you are more than willing to have this 23,420-square-foot monstrosity built in your neighborhood — although I imagine your neighbors would not be so pleased either.

I have a feeling you and your neighbors would not be so against the due process the community board follows if this happened to be built next to your home.

Jim Forkan
Flushing

Pols destroy Flushing

Merchants leaving Union Street because Flushing Commons will be bad for business is just the tip of the iceberg ("Merchants leaving Union Street," Flushing Times, Feb. 23-29).

The Willets Point proposal with luxury high rises, upscale shopping and a convention center, together with traffic nightmares on the Van Wyck Expressway, Grand Central Parkway and Northern Boulevard, will spell the end of all small businesses in the downtown Flushing area, as well as an extremely congested residential area beyond the congestion that currently exists.

The fault for this abomination rests with Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Borough President Helen Marshall and the myopic City Council members whose primary constituents are the real estate moguls and not the poor, middle class and small business owners.

Hopefully, term limits may breathe fresh air into our governing process.

Benjamin M. Haber
Flushing

CORRECTION

An article in the March 8-14 edition of the TimesLedger Newspapers should have spelled the name of the Bayside restaurateur as Willie Degel.

Planned changes in district lines create interesting races

Dee Richard
▪
Dishing with Dee

When you were a child, did anyone give you a kaleidoscope as a gift? For those of you who are not familiar with kaleidoscopes, they are similar to a small telescope, but when you twist the rim on the top, you get variations of many different colorful designs formed into intricate geometrical patterns. Each twist forms a different pattern and no two are alike. The possibilities are endless.

Why the reference to kaleidoscopes? Because that is what politics in general and Queens politics in particular are turning out to be. A case in point was last Thursday at **Cathy Nolan**'s fund-raiser at Dazies.

Rory Lancman announced he was going to announce the next day his candidacy for **Bob Turner**'s congressional seat. In Thursday's late paper, however, they said they were going to combine **Joe Crowley**'s and Turner's seats into one.

There was no way Lancman could beat Queens Democratic leader Crowley for his congressional seat. So instead, Lancman hinted he might challenge **Gary Ackerman** for his seat. Now that scenario, if it happens, will be one interesting race to watch!

While Council members, assembly members and senators are required to live in the district they are running in, it appears rules are different for Congress and anyone can run in any district. If they should win, are they then required to move into that district? I don't know for sure, but I'm positive someone will inform us on the correct rules and regulations.

Speaking of upcoming political races, it would seem that if the new lines remain the same, that would then put both Sens. **Tony Avella** and **Toby Stavisky** in the same district, thereby pitting them against each other. As both senators are apparently represented by the Parkside Group, I wonder how that will play out. It looks like there may be many interesting things about to happen on the Queens political horizon.

On March 7, I was invited to a cocktail reception for **Jim Wrynn** at Harbor Lights at the South Street Seaport. The event was packed like sardines. It seems that after serving a number of years at the state Department of Financial Services, Jim has decided to return to private practice. He will now be connected with the Goldberg-Segalla law firm.

It has offices in Philadelphia, New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, White Plains, Garden City, Princeton, Hartford and Long Island. With those many locations, it sounds like a most impressive firm. Good luck to you, Jim. I'm sure you will contribute to your new firm all the accomplishments you provided for the state.

It was an interesting party. While there I had occasion to speak with **Steve Levy**, Esq. Levy, if you recall, was the Democratic executive of Suffolk County. Somehow or other, the Queens GOP managed to convince him to change his party registration and reregister as a Republican. If he did, they would support him to run for governor. Well, we all know how that turned out!

On New Year's Day, Levy was replaced by Democrat **Steve Bellone**, the current Suffolk executive. During the course of the evening, Levy gave me his card. He is now president and CEO of his own consulting firm. He is an attorney and served eight years in the Suffolk Legislature, where I'm sure he has made many solid contacts. Good luck, Steve!

The Samuel Field Y, in partnership with the Central Queens Y, held a business partnership breakfast at the Douglaston Manor March 6. They had a good turnout for that event.

That evening, the Long Island City Chamber of Commerce held a meeting in the Penthouse Bar and Restaurant at the Long Island City Ravel Hotel. What beautiful views of the New York skyline from all the windows, but what a place to find. It's the best-kept secret in Queens unless you have been there before and know exactly where you're going.

That's it for this week.

I look forward to your voice mails at 718-767-6484, faxes at 718-746-0066 and e-mails at deerrichard@aol.com.

Be sure to check out the Focus on Queens page.

Till next week, Dee.

Too much emphasis put on evaluating teachers' performance

William Lewis
▪
Political Action

In 2001, Mayor Michael Bloomberg made it known he was going to take steps to abolish the city Board of Education and take it over himself and run it with the assistance of an appointed city schools chancellor.

At the time, it seemed the new mayor had enough to do in running the city without adding on public school education to his workload, considering that he himself had no background or credentials in public education.

The concept of a board of education is traditional in the United States, with almost every state, city and town having one. Bloomberg, however, thought he could do a better job. The fact is that, based on statistical data, there are shortfalls in student performance with the city education system.

Bloomberg was not going to take the responsibility for an ineffective education system, so the easiest way out was to blame teachers. To emphasize that, he constantly called for more teacher evaluations. In addition, he has called out for shutting eight Queens high schools, thereby replacing teachers with new instructors. Will this really improve education, especially if the new instructors have little experience?

It is difficult at best to implement an equal evaluation system for teachers, given the difference in the type of students they are getting today. A significant number of students from the poorer sections of the city are from dysfunctional families and live in crime-ridden environments. Some cannot speak English well, which detracts from their learning ability.

When these types of students are compared with middle-class students from a stable social environment, there will usually be a wide difference in learning capacity regardless of how teachers perform.

As previously said, academic education is not for everyone. Vocational trades being taught by our public schools, as they were in the 1950s and '60s, would be a more practical way of dealing with the situation. If the city would try to give this educational opportunity to high school and possibly middle school students, it could go a long way toward improving city educational standards.

According to the new evaluation system, 31 percent of a teacher's rating is based on observations by school administrators and 40 percent on state tests given to students. It would seem an instructor who received a good rating by observation would also see his or her students do well on state tests.

If a teacher, however, received a good observation grade and his or her students still did poorly on the state tests, what then? How is an overall evaluation to be given under these circumstances? Too much emphasis is being given to teacher evaluations and not to other factors.

Regarding one important aspect of this situation is the crime problem in city schools. To cite some data at John Bowne High School in Flushing in 2009, out of a student body of about 3,000 students, 509 serious infractions occurred. At JHS 162, in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn in 2009, there were 369 serious disruptions during that school year.

In the school year 2005-06, figures from the state Department of Education indicate the following pertaining to crimes in city schools: assaults with physical injury, 5,084; sexual offenses, 948; robbery, 267; arson, 210.

With a situation like this, how is a teacher expected to teach effectively or a student expected to learn. There are more school safety officers on duty in city schools than there are guidance counselors. At various high schools around the city, we see police cars parked near schools.

Years ago, during the middle of the 20th century, these environments would have been almost unthinkable. A teacher's job today is more difficult than it ever was. Before the focus is put on teacher evaluations, other factors should be considered.

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Malba Gardens wants sign telling tractors to stay out

BY JOE ANUTA

A group of Whitestone residents want the city to put up a simple sign that would stop tractor trailers from barreling through their neighborhood, but the city said no 10 years ago and the answer still stands.

Alfredo Centola first brought up the idea to the city Department of Transportation about a decade ago.

Malba Gardens Exit 3 is the last exit before the Whitestone Bridge. In addition to serving the Malba Gardens neighborhood just east of the bridge, it can also serve as the last escape for confused motorists who want to avoid the toll and for commercial trucks seeking a shortcut to downtown Whitestone, according to Centola.

"It is a huge issue," Centola said, speaking at the corner of 5th Avenue and the Whitestone Expressway service road. "It has gotten a lot worse over the last 10 years because of all the development."

The trucks are supposed to follow a designated truck route into Whitestone that involves getting off the Cross Island Parkway and taking either 14th or 20th avenues, he said.

But Centola and other neighbors, like Sylvia Kanellos, who was walking her boxer along 5th Avenue, can testify that truckers do not always follow the rules.

"They are big and bulky," she said. "When they make turns and you want to walk near the street, they don't stop."

Last year a tractor trailer plowed right into a fire hydrant, she said, and then backed up and ruptured its gas tank, she said.

According to Centola, a sea of diesel fuel flooded the area.

The city Department of Transportation confirmed that 5th Avenue is not a truck route and said it looked at the exit in 2010 and determined that a sign was not needed. The department also recently received another request from Centola and will assess whether a sign is now needed, the DOT said.

But Centola said things will only get worse.

In the spring, the city is set to begin a series of renovations on the Whitestone Bridge. Construction on the bridge means possible lane closures.

And that means traffic backup, he said.

Waterfront

Continued from Page 1

overwhelm the system. In this case, the excess combined rainwater and sewage, called combined sewer overflow, would belch out into Flushing Bay through two pipes at the water's edge.

So much rancid sediment from the sewer outfalls has accumulated in the bay under the pipes that during low tide the exposed soil emits a nauseating odor.

In response, the city had planned to dredge the area and remove some of the soil, but the DEP's request for proposals seeks to eliminate the problem at the source.

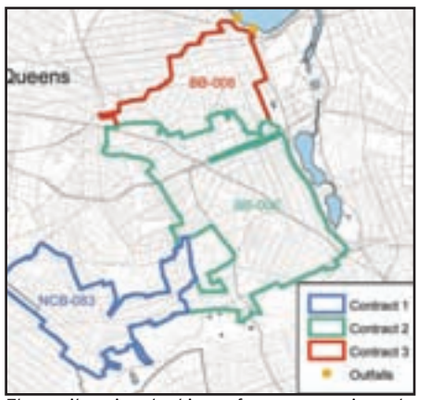
Western Queens is home to a toxic waterway of its own: the superfund site known as Newtown Creek, which has problems similar to Flushing Bay with sewer outfall pipes.

In neighborhoods including Ridgewood and Glendale, the city is seeking a third contract to install green infrastructure there.

Again, public and city-owned property is fair game, including schools and sidewalks.

Some other suggestions for any companies seeking to apply include enhanced tree pits, according to the DEP website.

The extended tree pits provide not only a larger area of soil for water to soak into, but also an underground cistern of sorts that can act as a reservoir for trees and flowers above, and more importantly hold rainwater that might otherwise flow into the sewer system.



The city is looking for companies to build green infrastructure projects in three different areas in Queens.

Porous sidewalks act in a similar manner, allowing light and water to filter through the top surface to some sort of foliage planted underneath it while still permitting walking.

Discharge of sewage and the pollution of Flushing Bay and Newtown Creek have been a concern of Queens residents.

In College Point, residents there are advocating for the DEP to restore wetlands around the bay in exchange for construction that will upgrade sewer pipes in the neighborhood.

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Houses

Continued from Page 1

coerce a negligent property owner in Whitestone to clean up a site along Francis Lewis Boulevard, Avella's office began compiling a list of other abandoned properties that need to be addressed.

He created a task force in conjunction with civics in the area and came up with an initial roster of 21 properties that are either uninhabited or in various degrees of disrepair.

"We are going to look at all of these sites," he said. "Do we need to give the city more legislative power, or are they just not doing anything?"

A TimesLedger Newspapers analysis of the properties found that some have been shut down for dangerous conditions or housing illegal apartments.

A property owned by Bank of America, at 43-19 164th St. in Flushing, was issued an order to vacate by the city Department of Buildings after inspectors found the two-family dwelling was being used as a single-room occupancy facility that housed three or four families, according to DOB documents.

Three single-room occupancy rooms with locks on their doors were found by inspectors, and in a separate complaint an illegal apartment was also found in the basement. On Feb. 12, Bank of America was set to appear in a city Environmental Control Board Court, which addresses hazardous building conditions separate from the state Unified Court System, but the lender did not show up and currently owes a total of $65,000 in outstanding violations, according to the DOB database.

Another property on the list is owned by Chuk Sau Tsnag. It is a construction site that currently has a stop-work order placed on it that has generated 33 complaints since 2007. Tsnag racked up $20,000 in fines from the city for violations like not securing the site with a proper fence.

Halloran, too, is looking out for derelict properties like the vacant lot at 195-20 Northern Blvd., which also has a stop-work order placed on it and $12,500 in fines associated with it.

Avella said unattended property can bring health risks like vermin and mosquitoes or bring down property values of neighboring real estate.

"These locations shouldn't go on for decades, and the city should have the power to say, 'If you can't develop the property, we'll issue sanitation fines or health fines, we're going to put it up for a lien sale,'" Avella said. "How many times do we have to go onto a piece of property before we begin to realize there is a problematic owner?"

But some of the lots on the list are in various stages of development or are completely legal yet uninhabited homes, which the city has no power to address.

An abandoned gas station, at 79-05 Little Neck Pkwy. in Glendale, is slowly being developed into a 7-11, according to DOB documents.

Neighbors have submitted complaints to the DOB about a vacant house at 120-15 9th Ave. in College Point since 2001, but each time the DOB inspectors go out the house is secured and thus legal.

Avella's crusade against these properties pits a neighborhoods' rights to cleanliness against a homeowners' rights to be a slob.

Richard Golden, a lawyer in Forest Hills familiar with property law and foreclosures, said the city has always been limited on the steps it can take, unless a property becomes a public nuisance, a health hazard or the owner fails to pay taxes.

"For the homeowner, it is real estate law. He has a deed to the property that gives him ownership," Golden said. "Just because it is dilapidated, there is not much the city can do."

For Avella, he has not decided exactly how far a property can sink before it falls on the community to correct the problem.

Mormons

Continued from Page 2

said its programmatic needs require a second floor inside the church.

At last week's rally, civic leaders, including Bayside Hills Civic Association President Michael Feiner, also blasted the BSA for granting a variance in October that allowed the owner of a subdivided lot along 51st Avenue to build a house that did not have ample yard space.

In a subsequent interview, Avella said the agency often ignores community opinions with impunity since no one oversees the five members of the board.

"They have gone beyond their mission and undermined the zoning code of the city of New York," he said.

Instead of relief from the zoning code to allow developers to build on unusual lots where construction might otherwise not take place, the board has turned into a body that grants variances to developers who simply want to build outside of the zoning code, according to Avella, who called Queens a "developer's paradise."

He referred to a 2005 study by the Municipal Art Society of New York, a nonprofit that promotes its vision of equitable city planning, which showed that the BSA granted 97 percent of variances.

The BSA used to be overseen by the city Board of Estimates, which was made up of elected officials, including the borough presidents and the mayor, Avella said — people who could be voted out.

But the current BSA is staffed by five mayoral appointees.

Avella has proposed legislation in the past to create an oversight committee that could more easily challenge its decision, and after the Bayside Hills decision City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) proposed two bills that would give communities more say in BSA decisions.

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Happy Holi

Thousands celebrated the Hindu holiday of Phagwah, which marks the start of spring. (Clockwise from top l.) Crystal Sukhwa (r.) covers Kavita Mootoo with color; Kesho Dukhram dances with his powder; children use squirt guns from their porch; participants carry flags in the parade route; Joy Leonard looks out from a tent where dancers were getting ready; teenagers throw powder on one another inside the park; Navin Dass portrays Lord Krishna; and dancers from Vidya Satrohan holds plates of powder. Photos by Christina Santucci

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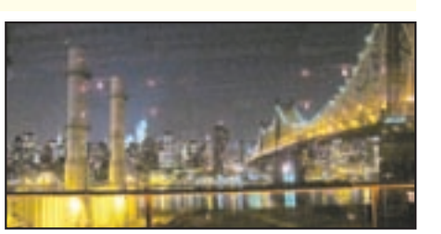

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Glendale man who shot at cops commits suicide in apartment

BY REBECCA HENELY

The Glendale community was shocked by a standoff between a neighborhood man and police Sunday night that required the evacuation of the surrounding residential buildings and ended in his suicide.

Mark Vasquez, 34, of 70th Avenue and 68th Street in Glendale, shot at NYPD officers and then barricaded himself inside his apartment's bathroom before shooting himself in the chest, authorities said.

The tragic standoff lasted for a little more than three hours. Evacuated neighbors stood in the brisk early spring night behind police tape as a helicopter whirled overhead.

"We've never had anything like this," said a 79-year-old neighbor who gave her name as Marie. "This is horrible."

The owner of the building, who declined to give her name, said the situation started when Vasquez's wife left him. After leaving the apartment, the wife called the apartment owner and told the owner her husband was not coherent and, if the police arrived, to let them in.

"When they came, I gave them the key," the owner said. "They went upstairs and that's when all hell broke loose."

NYPD officers arrived at the house at around 6:30 p.m., after which Vasquez fired upon them, police said. The officers were not hurt and did not return fire, but took cover while Vasquez locked himself in his apartment, police said. Those who lived in the surrounding apartments were evacuated as an EMS hostage negotiation team responded, police said.

The owner said Vasquez's attack was a shock and that he seemed like a friendly, normal person.

"I never had a problem with him," she said.

Vasquez did not take any hostages, although rumors circulated among neighbors that he had. In addition to those in the house, neighbors in nearby dwellings were asked to leave their homes. They stood out in the cold and dark while officers taped off streets between Central and Otto avenues and 67th to 68th places.

"The helicopter was flying above our heads for the last half hour," 26-year-old neighbor Karol Urban said around 8 p.m.

Police said they had attempted to make contact with Vasquez when he was barricaded but were unable to do so. A camera was used to locate Vasquez in the apartment, and they found him inside the bathtub in the bathroom, police said.

When the officers entered at 10:10 p.m., they found Vasquez dead with a gunshot wound to the chest.

A neighbor, who declined to give her name, said she had never seen a situation like the standoff and suicide Sunday night.

"I guess it happens everywhere," she said. "It just didn't happen before."

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

Police blocked off several streets surrounding the home on 68th Street. Photo by Christina Santucci

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Going Green in Queens

Weekly harvests feed Queens

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Flushing is going green, offering fresh local, organic food to Queens' "green-deprived" residents. It recently announced its Community Supported Agriculture partnership with Golden Earthworm Organic Farm on Long Island.

Part of a growing trend, CSA is a mutual agreement between local farmers and community members who pay the farmer a fee in advance to cover production costs. Offering weekly harvest shares of fruits and vegetables, the farm promises to provide key features of sustainability as well as fair food, labor and environmental practices.

Living a sustainably-savvy lifestyle, Kristin Allocco, 27, a longtime resident of Bayside, works as education coordinator at the Queens County Farm in Floral Park, where she loved to go as a child. Her job description focuses on teaching about sustainable agriculture and colonial times to adults and kids. She also teaches dance and fitness.

"Golden Earthworm Organic Farm has partnered with several neighborhoods in Queens, including Flushing and Douglaston. Residents of these areas can join the CSA and pay a fee upfront for produce for the year. Members then pick up weekly shares of food brought to them directly from this farm" Allocco said. "Weekly shares vary by season, but each week there will be a bag full of different types of produce. Food is available for pickup on Tuesday evenings at Alley Pond Environmental Center between 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m."

Golden Earthworm Organic Farm is certified organic CSA farm on the North Fork of Long Island's east end, serving more than 1,500 member group in the communities of Queens and Long Island.

Vegetables are certified organic, while fruit is non-certified organic but responsibly grown. "The Flushing CSA is a wonderful way to try foods only available by season. Supporting local CSA's helps us support local farmers and move away

Continued on Page 3

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Queens CSAs

Continued from Page 1

from our dependence on unsustainable factory farms," said Allocco.

Let's face it. We live in a time when pesticides, preservatives, and radiated food products are a fact of life. There seems to be an ongoing battle between organic vs. the other stuff. When we see the word "organic," we tend to think "expensive" or "exclusive." Paradoxically, this way of eating is actually simpler and healthier, more wholesome and literally of the earth.

Perhaps we're not convinced that organic really means all natural – after all, how do we really know? Some people don't trust it, claiming it's a sinister marketing tool. Others will only buy hormone-free milk and dairy products, cage-free eggs, and organic produce if they can find it at a local fruit stand or greenmarket.

"In urban areas, there tends to be a disconnect between food and farming. It's hard to imagine how important it is to purchase local food when we can't see where it comes from," Allocco said. "The Flushing CSA brings the farm a little closer to home. People tend to think of organic as being overpriced, but the Flushing CSA is affordable and breaks down to about $11.00 per week for fresh, organic produce."

Growing up, Allocco said she just assumed all food came from farms like her grandparents' in Manorville, L.I., where the living green expert and her sister would fill empty Maxwell House Coffee cans with juicy peaches and fat strawberries — always coming home with bags full of fruits and vegetables.

"I had the best of both worlds: On weekends, we visited my grandparents in the country and I was able to pick peaches and ride on tractors. Meanwhile, at home we were just a short train ride to Manhattan."

"My mom taught me a lot about sustainability, although I didn't realize it at the time. She is incredibly creative and we always used the resources we had available to us. A lot of that came from the community."

She pointed out that eating locally grown food means Queens residents can eat fresh produce that does not contains chemicals and does not require the heavy use of fuel to transport it to the consumer, which cuts down emissions.

The Queens County Farm Museum offers a farm stand from June 1 through the end of October. It's open Wednesday through Sunday, between noon and 5 p.m.

The Queens County Farm Museum provides a farm stand and information on community supported agriculture. Kristin Alloco (above) is an agriculture educator at the museum.

Photos courtesy of Queens County Farm Museum staff

The Douglaston Greenmarket on 41st Avenue and 235th Street reopens July 8 and runs until Nov. 18. The market operates on Sundays only, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Queens County Farm Museum
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Discover the power of composting at home

BY ALAN KRAWITZ

For the uninitiated, compost is a nutrient-dense material that improves soil health and provides essential nutrients to plants. Compost is a product of the natural decomposition process that transforms nutrients from once-living materials into humus, the rich, organic component of soil.

While the transformation of organic materials is a fairly complex process, it generally involves the introduction of micro and larger organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, worms, and mites into the compost pile to initiate the natural decomposition process.

The compost pile is generally composed of a combination of food scraps and plant waste. Some of the major benefits of composting include keeping waste out of city landfills as well as helping to benefit community and resident gardens as well as contributing to overall lawncare and landscaping practices.

"Composting in Queens is definitely increasing. Our workshops are always very well-attended," says Gina Baldwin, project manager for the NYC Compost Project in Queens hosted at the Queens Botanical Garden. "People are very interested in composting their food scraps, among lots of other things."

The project, created by the city's Department of Sanitation in 1993, is a five-borough endeavor funded by the agency's Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling.

Baldwin's mission involves spreading the gospel regarding compost into various Queens' neighborhoods, including schools, community gardens, public housing projects and co-ops. "People either come to us or we go to them," Baldwin explains. The project offers a range of workshops to teachers and children as well as technical assistance to homeowners and other residents interested in composting.

Noting that there are more single-family homes in Queens than most of the other boroughs, Baldwin says she finds more community gardens in western Queens and more homeowners in eastern Queens. But the common bond is that all are interested in composting.

"Composting is very engaging for people who want to make a difference," Baldwin says. "There is much problem-solving involved. We find that it helps bring communities together and it's also a good team-building exercise as well."

She adds, "You have to work together when you're composting in a housing complex or any location where many people live in one place."

In Queens, numerous city agencies and nonprofit organizations have benefited from receiving NYC Compost. Those agencies and organizations include The Bowne House, Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, Queens Botanical Garden, NYC Housing Authority, Forest Park and Kissena Corridor Park.

Residents and organizations can register to take master composter classes to learn how to teach others to compost. Find information on the classes offered by the project at various times and locations throughout the borough by visiting the Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling website at http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/compost/composting_nyc.shtml

In addition, residents can also purchase compost bins at a discount through the project as well. "We offer help in setting-up compost sites and systems that work best, including all different types of containers for both indoor and outdoor composting," Baldwin adds. "We give a lot of advice and we also work with lots of homeowners throughout Queens."

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Waste is no longer something to get rid of, it's a resource. As North America's leading recycler, Waste Management processes over 8 million tons of paper, glass, plastic and metal each year – enough to fill the Empire State Building more than 12 times. By 2020, our goal is to nearly triple the amount of materials we recover through the use of innovative technologies that capture more of the value in waste.

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WM WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Volunteers are an enormous part of the effort to maintain and upkeep the Idlewild Park Preserve. Photos by Barbara Brown

Discover forever wild Queens

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Protecting, preserving and cultivating our green spaces, parks and wetlands as precious community resources is high on the agenda at the Eastern Queens Alliance, a proactive coalition of civic organizations that joined forces in 1989 to address their communities' issues and concerns.

Home to many rare species, like the snowy egret, ospreys, diamond-back terrapins, and fiddler crabs, Idlewild Park Preserve — the jewel of southeast Queens — is a 324-acre wetland preserve located just north of Kennedy Airport.

Some of the few remaining wetlands within the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary are located in the park, officially designated as a Forever Wild Preserve, one of the protected natural areas within the city that support diverse wildlife and plant populations, by the New York City Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

"Providing the largest volume of fresh water to Jamaica Bay, Idlewild's function as a natural sponge is critical to the prevention/amelioration of flooding in southeast Queens," said Barbara E. Brown, chairwoman of Eastern Queens Alliance.

"EQA organized its Idlewild Park Preservation Committee to work on and advocate for the preservation and restoration of the park, to return it to the ecological wonderland that it was and can be," Brown said.

"It is through EQA and its IPPC's advocacy for Idlewild that shrubs and trees have been planted, that several trails have been blazed, that environmental education is offered to our schools and families at large, and that a canoe/kayak launch has been constructed at Huxley and Craft Avenues - giving community access to the Idlewild Salt Marsh," she said.

> Providing the largest volume of fresh water to Jamaica Bay, Idlewild's function as a natural sponge is critical to the prevention/amelioration of flooding in southeast Queens.
>
> **Barbara E. Brown**
> chairwoman of Eastern Queens Alliance.

"There is a master plan for the restoration of the park, replete with boardwalks, open classrooms, and stopping-off points for just soaking up nature," Brown added.

Events such as concerts, fitness activities, reptile shows, and canoeing/kayaking outings have been offered in cooperation with the Urban Park Rangers, and Science-in-the-Park Programs.

And through the efforts of the Alliance and the IPPC, a $5 million allocation by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall is bringing a full environmental science learning center to Idlewild.

"The center is being planned now, in collaboration with NYC Parks and EQA. It should be ready to open within two years," Brown said. In the meantime, the EQA is running a mini-version of that center, out of an office trailer on the northwestern edge of Idlewild, near 149th Avenue and Springfield Lane.

Much of EQA's accomplishments in Idlewild are due to the volunteer efforts of the community.

According to Brown, the larger challenge is and has been to raise sufficient funds to accomplish all that is outlined in the IPPC's Strategic Plan and to actualize EQA's master plan. A recent challenge is also to cut through some of the red tape involved in getting a permit to complete a small area of habitat restoration along with a trail, overlook and entranceway to the Park.

"Community participation in our efforts is critical. We invite those who are interested in the preservation and restoration of Idlewild to work with us on our Preservation Committee."

For information and to volunteer call: 347-824-2301 or email: info@easternqueensalliance.org.

Grassroot efforts lead tree-planting in boro

BY ALEX PALMER

With trees dotting the streets nearly wherever you turn in Queens, it can get easy to take their pleasing sight for granted.

But while Queens' neighborhood trees may seem robust, able to take on New York's tough weather and even tougher residents using them as leaning posts or restrooms for their puppies, the trees rely on the care of members of the community to thrive.

"It's a harsh urban environment that they have to grow in, and some type of stewardship and care is needed," said Nelson Villarubia, deputy director of Trees New York, a nonprofit group dedicated to planting and preserving trees throughout the city. "It's basically like a houseplant — planted in a small section of the ground with really limited growth space."

One way for a person to care for their neighborhood tree: Don't put garbage bags near the tree bed on trash night. According to Villarubia, chemicals and liquids that are harmful to trees can leak out and into the roots if the bags are in too close proximity.

Individuals can also use a small garden cultivator on the soil every few weeks, loosening the soil, which allows rain to seep in better and it's better for the roots. A small layer of mulch can also be added to protect from dog urine and the rock salt sprayed on the streets during winter.

Those who want to go a step further can consider enrolling in one of Trees New York's workshops. They offer a number of programs, including the 12-hour Citizen Pruner course. The next Queens course starts May 10. Registered at www.treesny.org.

The group also teaches tree identification. Villarubia said there are 16 common trees in the city, and in Queens individuals are most likely to come across ginko trees (with fan-shaped leaves) and London planes (with camouflage-like exfoliating bark).

> It's basically like a houseplant – planted in a small section of the ground with really limited growth space.
>
> **Nelson Villarubia**
>
> Deputy director of Trees New York

Those undertaking a more ambitious tree care project might consider visiting Ioby (http://ioby.org), a New York City-based nonprofit that takes a crowdsourcing approach to neighborhood environmental projects. Individuals can post details about a project on the site, from building a community garden to installing tree guards on their block, and send the link out to friends and community members calling for funds and volunteers.

"We call it crowd-resourcing versus crowd-funding — it's much more than just a funding platform," said Erin Barnes, co-founder and executive director of Ioby, which stands for In Our Backyard.

Typically, those involved with the project live within two miles of where it takes place, according to Barnes, and donations average about $35 a person. This has added up to nearly $200,000 in funds since Ioby was founded in 2008.

Volunteers are the backbone of many organizations working to help green Queens and the city at large.
Photos courtesy City of New York and Trees New York

Those looking to start a project in Western Queens can take advantage of the Greening Western Queens Fund, a matching grant available to those whose projects qualify, though the deadline to apply is March 15.

All of these efforts are aided in no small part by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the City of New York's MillionTreesNYC initiative, aimed at expanding the urban forest throughout all five boroughs. Tthe initiative has resulted in 558,490 trees planted on public, private, and commercial land so far at the time of this writing.

"The mayor's MillionTrees plan not only about the aesthetic improvement of the city, but also has the educational aspect to it," said George Hendrey, distinguished professor of earth and environmental science at Queens College. "It brings back to people's minds the need to be aware of green environment and thinking about sustaining it when we live in a very manufactured environment."

Solar energy growth is imperative: Gennaro

BY TREVINA NICHOLSON

By cutting the cost of their electric bills, Queens homeowners can save money and the environment by using solar energy.

In 2011, according to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, headed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Queens was listed as the top borough in the city for having the highest percentage of application interest in solar energy. In fact, Queens accounted for a third of the applications within the state.

"I don't see solar energy as a trend," said Councilman James F. Gennaro (D-Briarwood), chairman of the City Council's Environmental Protection Committee. "I see it as an imperative for the future."

Since 2003, when NYSERDA's solar energy incentive program first began, the authority has seen a higher demand from residents, who are showing more curiosity to what the solar panels can do for their homes.

Gennaro is one of many council members who is in full support of the green initiative in Queens.. He believes there will be a day when people will have no other choice but to rely on solar energy.

He explained that if we continue to burn off our fossil fuels, the results will not be something worth looking forward to such as dramatic climate change.. He also indicated that solar, wind, and other alternative energy sources are being revamped to be of better use to society.

"This is not what we wish for our children and grandchildren. It's very imperative that we do something about it. That we open the door for solar energy," said Gennaro.

Although turning your home into a solar energy environment can be costly, NYSERDA offers incentives to homeowners that will alleviate some of the worry. One of the incentives that focuses on residences allows the authority to give up to $2 million each month to applicants.

Dayle Zatlin, assistant director of communications for NYSERDA, explained that if the authority has not given out the $2 million fund worth in photovoltaic — a method of creating solar energy — solar panel incentives, it will be allocated to the next set of incentives for another energy project.

"Our goal is to build a sustainable industry in the state," said Zatlin. "We want to help people pay, knowing that it is a little expensive."

Zatlin made clear that an average size home in Queens normally uses a four-kilowatt system, which produces 4,600 kilowatts per year. According to Zatlin, the amount of kilowatts produced by solar panels provides about 70-80 percent of electricity the home needs.

A solar unit for an average single-family home would cost about $24,000, but by using the $6,000 in incentives available through NYSERDA, the price could drop to $18,000.

In addition, the government allows a 25 percent state solar tax credit and a 30 percent federal solar tax credit for homeowners. With those credits, homeowners could only pay $9,400 for a solar system, according to NYSERDA.

As a part of the Going Green in Queens conference on March 24, residents will have an opportunity to learn more about how they can make Queens greener each day. It all starts with education, according to Fred Kress, president of the Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces.

"People say they can't do anything [to help the environment]," Kress said, adding he hopes to change that with the annual conference he organizes.

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QUEENS

Saturday, March 17 – 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Partner: Richmond Hill EDC
Pick-Up Location: 125 St and 95 Ave (Smokey Park/Phil Rizzuto Park)

Saturday, March 24 – Noon to 2pm
Partner: Future Business Leaders of America
Pick-Up Location: 145-00 Springfield Blvd

Saturday, March 31 – Noon to 2:00 pm
Partner: Environment Action Association
Pick-Up Location: 150-51 Northern Blvd (Hanyang Mart)

Sunday, April 1 – 10:00 am to Noon
Partner: Alley Pond Environmental Center
Pick-Up Location: 228-06 Northern Boulevard

Saturday, April 28 – 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Partner: Bayside-Whitestone Lions Club
Pick-Up Location: 23-02 Francis Lewis Blvd

Saturday, April 28 – 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Partner: Roackaway Civic Association
Pick-Up Location: 533 Beach 126th Street

Saturday, May 5 – 10:00 am to Noon
Partner: PSMS 219Q
Pick-Up Location: 144-39 Gravett Rd

Saturday, May 19 – 10:00 am to Noon
Partner: New York Anti-Crime
Pick-Up Location: Astoria Park

Saturday, May 19 – 10:00 am to Noon
Partner: PS 173
Pick-Up Location: 174-10 67th Ave

Sunday, May 20 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Partner: 4Boro Neighborhood Preservation Alliance
Pick-Up Location: 70th Ave & Queens Blvd (MacDonald Park)

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Some simple rules:

- *Limit one tree per household.*
- *Trees must be planted in the five boroughs.*
- *Trees must be planted on private property (ex: front/back yard).*
- *Trees cannot be planted along streets.*
- *Trees must be properly watered and maintained.*

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For more information on tree giveaways, visit **www.nyrp.org/milliontreesnyc**

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B) A nominating letter from your school's guidance counselor and instructors describing the student's abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.

C) Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

D) Categories are:
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Please send nominations and information to:
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Q GUIDE
TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

A Life Unassisted

Author muses on home design and growing old

- Sudoku 28
- Theater Calendar 29
- Crossword Puzzle 30
- Arts & Entertainment 29,31,33

The Baby Boom generation is reinventing home design in their retirement, integrating accessibility and high style.
Photo courtesy of The Moncelli Press

BY ALAN KRAWITZ

Longtime Bayside resident Dr. Jeffrey Rosenfeld teams with NYC architect to show seniors how to leave the nursing home behind.

For those who dread the idea of someday retiring to an assisted living facility — or worse yet a nursing home, — a new book explores alternative ways to age gracefully in the comfort of a redesigned and re-imagined home while staying connected to friends, family and favorite activities.

Written by longtime Bayside resident Dr. Jeffrey Rosenfeld and architect Wid Chapman, the coffee-table-style book "Unassisted Living: Ageless Homes for Later Life" (Monacelli Press, division of Random House), is rich with illustrations, featuring seven chapters and 33 distinct homes and apartments from Los Angeles condos that resemble high-end hotels to smartly designed Midwest hideaways that enable seniors to live "off the grid."

"Today's boomers won't be following the lead of previous generations," says Rosenfeld, who teaches environmental gerontology at Nassau Community College and is the former Director of Gerontology at Hofstra University.

Environmental gerontology examines ways in which architecture and design are affected by the country's aging population.

Continued on Page 32

DR. JEFFREY ROSENFELD

‘Uncanny’ space brings menagerie of arts themes

BY ALEX PALMER

Vaudeville shows, craft nights and electronic music concerts. Not a bad lineup for what was a vacant wood-flooring showroom just a couple months ago.

Uncanny Valley, a new art and performance space, officially opened to the public on Feb. 24, bringing all of these offerings to visitors of its 26-09 Jackon Ave., Long Island City location. It is one of the latest projects from nonprofit group Chashama, which repurposes unused or dormant spaces to create temporary art galleries, studios and theaters.

Uncanny Valley is a combination of all of these. Its opening party featured Balkan no-wave band the Drunkard’s Wife, a play from Williamsburg’s Dome Theater and an installation from artist-in-residence Lisa Ludwig. It holds monthly musical and theatrical evenings, with the next one on March 16 and a reading event the following week, as well as craft and community nights.

Uncanny Valley in Long Island City provides space for a variety of creative arts, including performance and visual art forms. Photo by Lisa Ludwig

The space will also host a series of events after the PS1 Warm Up days on Saturdays throughout the summer.

In addition to being an event venue, Uncanny Valley serves as a workshop space for the National Theater of the United States of America theater company, as it works on a production of “The Golden Veil” that it describes as an “epic micro-spectacle” on its website.

“People can come see the workshop in action. The production value might not be high, but it will be an open and inviting atmosphere and we want people’s feedback,” said Normandy Raven Sherwood, co-director of Uncanny Valley. “The space is not just for the final presentation of work, but all the stages along the way.”

This work-in-progress approach infuses the whole space, and the broader efforts of Chashama, which secured temporary use of the building, as well as two other spaces nearby, including an old Bank of America location, from Manhattan-based Rockrose Development Corp.

“I think it’s a terrific idea,” said Patricia Dunphy, senior vice president of Rockrose Development Corp. “Of course we have certain restrictions in the agreement: It has to be family-friendly, and be sensitive to the community, and it is.”

It was this partnership that helped create the 15,000-square-foot The Palms party in Long Island City last summer, complete with live music, indoor lounge and three pools created from repurposed dumpsters.

Dunphy reached out to Chashama after seeing the group’s 16-foot window display of rotating art exhibitions on 53rd Street in Manhattan, previously the site of the Donnell Library Center until it closed in August 2008. The group currently has more than a dozen spaces throughout the city in addition to Uncanny Valley, including subsidized artist studios, exhibit and rehearsal spaces.

“We’re always looking for new space and proposals for artists,” said Kim Schnaubert, director of development and communications for chashama. “We’ve presented all sorts of independent artists’ work, and really program them according to the needs of the space.”

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #4

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

Hard #4

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

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 11

THEATER CALENDAR

Tango 5 Senses – Eight weeks only.
When: Through March 18, Fridays and Saturdays, 8 pm, Sundays, 4 pm
Where: Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside
Contact: (718) 729-3880
Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

Magic School Bus – Celebrate the 25th anniversary with an all-new musical adventure.
When: March 18, 3 pm
Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 997-5000

Tom Wopat – The star of stage (Catch Me If You Can Annie Get Your Gun, Guys and Dolls) and television (Dukes of Hazzard, Cybill) performs a fun and swinging concert of Broadway hits and standards of the 40s and 50s.
When: March 24, 2 pm and 8 pm
Where: Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Corona
Contact: Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686
Website: www.queenstheatre.org

Oliver! – By Lionel Bart and Theatre by the Bay.
When: Through March 25, Saturdays 8:30 pm and Sundays 3 pm
Cost: $20, $18 seniors, $18 children under 13
Where: Bay Terrace Jewish Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside
Contact: (718) 428-6363
Website: www.theatrebythebayny.com

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: Robin Gorman Newman - robin@lovecoach.com (516) 732-0911

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERTS

Charisa: The Violin Diva – Part of Jazz Educational Concerts. RSVP. Food available. Special guest poet Saiku 720.
When: March 17, 8 pm
Where: Afrikan Poetry Theatre, 176-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica
Contact: (718) 523-3312; www.afrikapoetrytheatre.com

Faculty Recital – Michael Oelbaum, piano.
When: March 19, 12:15 pm
Where: LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: 718-793-8080
Website: www.kupferbergcenterarts.org

Queens College Chamber Music concert series – Two

Continued on Page 31

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• Pasta w/Broccoli, Garlic & Oil

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

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

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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
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Tomato, Marinara, Vodka

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SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH
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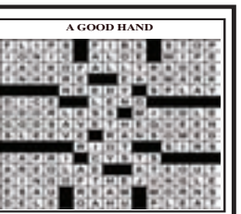
Mar. 15-21, 2012

By Ed Canty

Circular Reasoning

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



Across

1. Bog down
5. Canadian peninsula
10. Carve in stone
14. Fragrance
15. Colorado skiing mecca
16. Waikiki wingding
17. Putdown
18. King Arthur's meeting spot
20. Midmorning
21. Great college for poets?
22. List components
23. Sad song
25. Seafood selection
27. David, for one
29. Witch's vessel
33. Dalai Lama's country
34. Seventh heaven
35. Paris assent
36. Molecule part
37. Computer command
38. Air bag?
39. Kind of shot
40. Corrupt
41. Kind of cap
42. Obedience Class lesson
44. Plumber's need
45. Carnival attraction
46. Solid grade
47. Grouchy Muppet
50. Slave away
51. Kitchen meas.
54. Obese bird?
57. Affirmative votes
58. Give a darn
59. New moon, e.g.
60. Listening devices
61. "Planet of the ___"
62. Customs
63. Card game for three

Down

1. Lion's share
2. Doing nothing
3. Traffic control circle
4. Drop the ball
5. Park place?
6. Stick out like ___ thumb
7. Potato, in slang
8. Confident solver's tool
9. Conclude
10. Jubilant
11. Toothpaste holder
12. Storm preceder
13. Tints
19. Cash drawers
21. Very dry champagne
24. Bit of gossip
25. Peter, Paul or Mary
26. Bounce
27. Office crew
28. Sir or madam, e.g.
29. Hold on tight
30. Lean cut of beef
31. Postal scale unit
32. Chad's neighbor
34. Pickling liquid
37. Settled the bill
38. Humdinger
40. Show place?
41. Raggedy Ann, for one
43. Heavy moving equipment
44. Book parts
46. Gem state capital
47. Marine menace
48. Ivory, e.g.
49. Medical breakthrough
50. Skier's aid
52. Poet Teasdale
53. "Over here!"
55. Dashboard abbr.
56. Exclamation of surprise
57. "I agree"

Quotable Quote

If either the Left Wing or the Right Wing gained control of the country, it would probably fly around in circles.

• • • *Pat Paulsen*

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

Continued from Page 29

premiere) and "My Kinsman, Major Molineux" (New York premiere). Other highlights include performances by Rebel: A Baroque Chamber Ensemble, Trio 101, Queens College Chamber Orchestra (with Charles Neidich), Phillips-O'Connor-Han Trio, Claremont Trio, and the Phillips-Frampton-Rosen Trio. Check full schedule online.
When: March 23, March 30, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 5, May 6, May 11
Where: LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 793-8080; jane.cho@qc.cuny.edu;
Website: www.kupferbergcenterarts.org

Monthly Jazz Jam – The Flushing Town Hall Jazz Jam Series is a unique free jam session right here in Queens. No need to travel into Manhattan, share the stage with our Jazz Jam house band at monthly jams curated by internationally acclaimed trumpeter and Queens College Professor, Michael Mossman. All levels are welcome; just drop by and sign in! (btw, we got the baby grand, drum kit and the house band.)
When: April 4, May 2 and June 6, 7 pm
Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing
Contact: (718) 463-7700
Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Kids & Family

St. Patrick's Day Storytime and Crafts – A special storytime and holiday craft to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
When: March 17, 11 am
Where: Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union TPKE., Fresh Meadows
Contact: (718) 380-7077

Art class – Black and white winter drawing. All supplies are provided. Family friendly but not suitable for young children.
When: March 18, 1 pm
Where: Fort Totten, Fort Totten, Bayside
Contact: (718) 352-1769

Animal Flipbook workshop – Children 10 and older record a video flipbook, then add hand-drawn images to create a unique flipbook that combines animation and live-action.
When: March 18, 3 pm
Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria
Contact: (718) 777-6888
Website: www.movingimage.us.visit/calendar

Events

Astoria Comedy All Stars – Ben Rosenfeld hosts five different comics each week. Comics range from underground NYC acts to nationally touring headliners. The show is absolutely free, no cover charge and no drink minimum.
When: Tuesdays, 8 pm
Where: On the Rox Lounge, 43-03 Broadway, Astoria
Contact: Ben Rosenfeld ben@bigbencomedy.com
Website: www.bigbencomedy.com/blog/archives/astoria_comedy_all_stars/

First Sundays for Families – The Queens Museum of Art and MetLife Foundation invite families of all ages to an exciting array of interactive

Continued on Page 33

The Lawrence Eisman Center for Preparatory Studies in Music
Donald Pirone, Director

Summer Music Programs 2012

Jazz Camp
The Summer Jazz Camp at CPSM is designed to meet the needs of both beginning and experienced jazz performers, ages 12 to 18. Dates: July 2—July 26 (Monday—Thursday), Closed July 4. Times: 9:30 AM—3:30PM

Musical Theater Workshop
This exciting program will consist of classes in vocal technique, dance, song/audition repertoire, acting and scene study. Admission by audition. The program is open to students entering the 5th to 10th grades in September 2012. Dates: July 9—August 2 (Monday—Thursday) Times: 9AM—3:30PM

Chamber Music Workshop
Open to intermediate through advanced string, wind and piano students, ages 12 to 18. This four week program will consist of daily rehearsing, coaching and master classes. A gala showcase performance in LeFrak Concert Hall will conclude the work-shop. Admission by audition. Dates: July 9—August 2 (Mondays—Thursdays) Times: 10AM—3PM

Guitar and Percussion Workshop
Beginner, intermediate and advanced players, ages 10 to 16, will be accepted in this workshop. The workshop will feature instruction for guitar and percussion students, that will focus on performance techniques, and other related issues. Dates: July 9—August 2 (Mondays—Thursdays) Time: 10:30AM—3:30PM

Piano Program offerings
Suzuki Piano Masterclass Open to Suzuki piano students of all levels. Individual instruction in a group setting. Music reading, supervised practice time, parental involvement and performance are all part of this valuable supplement for private lessons. Instructor: Mr. Liccardo. Dates/Times: six Wednesday evenings, TBA

Summer Private Lessons
Private instruction for brass, wind, string, piano, guitar and voice students available for all levels of experience Dates/Times: TBA with instructor.

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Unassisted

Continued from Page 27

"They're (boomers) creating homes where they can 'age in place'," says Rosenfeld, who has written and researched extensively on boomers throughout the world. "… They want to build homes so that they don't have to leave their familiar surroundings."

Bayside author Dr. Jeffrey Rosenfeld's book, "Unassisted Living: Ageless Homes for Later Life," captures the changing art of architecture as generations grow older.

Photo courtesy The Monacelli Press

The term "boomers" generally refers to the nearly 72 million people born in the United States between the years 1946 and 1965. Rosenfeld says that part of his inspiration to write the book stems from his own status as a boomer, now turning 65 and beginning to wrestle with questions of his own home and community.

Rosenfeld contends that boomers are truly transformative and that they are changing the way we will think about home and aging in later life.

"It's a matter of people reacting to their environment and home and their home and environment giving them options or not," Rosenfeld says.

Some of those options include architecture designs that take into account, for example, a chronic or degenerative illness. Examples from the book include a house specially designed with ample floor space, no stairs or thresholds and V-shaped columns that provide structural integrity while making navigation in the home easier.

Rosenfeld asks, "Does your home shape your future?" He adds that boomers are already creating new styles and pathways to later life.

The pathways the book explores include "bistro living," the concept whereby boomers downsize from larger homes into condos, apartments and even studios so they can stay close to things they love in life, such as favorite restaurants, stores, hobbies, etc. just by moving to more easily manageable living spaces.

Yet another way to stay connected, says Rosenfeld, is for boomers to incorporate home offices so they can continue to work at home and keep productive.

He points out that previous generations moved to places like Florida that ostensibly served to isolate them from friends and family. "That might have been a good decision for those people then, but I don't think boomers will be repeating what many of them saw as mistakes."

Complete with accessibility, functionality and aesthetics, retirement home designs of the 21st century are going against the grain of senior living.

Photo courtesy of The Moncelli Press

And as technology has served to link the world via social media and other platforms it will also enable people to age where they want and still be connected to vital services such as health care.

"Telemedicine enables people to live where they want and still have their medical needs addressed," Rosenfeld says.

He also says boomers may be the first generation to actually live independently as they age since more will be able to live "off the grid" because technology will keep them connected to healthcare.

Asked about the role of traditional senior housing solutions, Rosenfeld says that now even nursing homes have begun to get the message that their facilities carry a stigma.

"Nursing homes now realize that everyone dreads them," he said. "They're rebranding themselves and now promoting themselves as sports medicine and rehabilitation facilities, as many boomers will need things like knee and sports-related surgeries."

Calling the book "upbeat and forward-thinking," Rosenfeld says he is thrilled with the response it's getting. "The book is generating very supportive feedback."

For those who wish to offer their own feedback on the book in person, there will be a book signing event at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Manhasset on March 22 from 7-9 p.m.

For more information on the book visit www.livingunassisted.com.

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Continued from Page 31

dance, art and music workshops.
When: First Sunday of each month, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Cost: Free
Where: Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Contact: (718) 592-9700

Galleries & Exhibits

Black History Art Show – Collage work by Edwin G. Cadiz.
When: Through March 30
Where: Long Island City Public Library, 37-44 21 St. at 43rd Avenue, Long Island City
Contact: www.queenslibrary.org

Ralph Weiss Photographs – Working only in black and white, Weiss uses vintage camera and darkroom equipment that is painstakingly maintained. Weiss' images test the edges of light and most of his prints require hours in the darkroom. The exhibition of works produced since the 1990s, drawn from a private collection, focuses on images of ice, water and sea plants. Reception March 24 from 2-4 pm.
When: Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays; Through April 22, 1 pm
Where: Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing
Contact: (718) 359-6227
Website: www.vomuseum.org

In Perpetuum/Forever II – The second of a free two-part exhibition on the evolution of art will be on view. "In Perpetuum/Forever II" will show how one artist's work – that of Anne Sherwood Pundyk – influences the creations of other artists, writers, musicians and dancers. This collaborative residency will culminate on April 4 with a performance and presentation of the artists' works.
When: Through April 24
Where: Queens College Arts Center, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 997-3770
Website: qc.cuny.edu/art_library/artcenter.html

Rapunzel in the Library – Exhibitions of Anne Sherwood Pundyk and others.
When: Daily, until Wednesday, April 25
Where: Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Contact: (718) 997-5000

Vignettes from The Queens Project – The photography of Audrey Gottlieb will be on exhibit in the Visitor & Administration Building Gallery of the Queens Botanical Garden. Artist's Talk May 19.
When: Through May 19
Where: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street, Flushing
Contact: (718) 539-5296
Website: www.queensbotanical.org

Film

Persona Performa Panorama – A 50-foot-long video panorama featuring 24 actors playing 24 "personas" fused together in action and image, inspired by Ingmar Bergman's film "Persona."
When: Through April 1
Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria
Contact: (718) 777-6888
Website: www.movingimage.us

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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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Darryl Adams

Continued from Page 4

entered the frame. One of them raised a gun and shot Adams while he was down, according to the tape.

As word spread of Adams' death, the family began receiving an outpouring of support from all of southeast Queens, according to Merritt.

But police were making connections as well in the aftermath of the shooting after officers first arrested two teenagers at the scene. Cops eventually netted 11 people following Adams' murder, according to the NYPD, and one of those young men was recently charged with a separate murder that occurred last month, police said.

But news of the arrests were absent from the packed chapel, where many of Adams' friends and family got one last look at his face before the casket was closed.

Erica Ford, an advocate trying to end violence in southeast Queens, said Adams' death cannot be forgotten.

"I want every person who is committed to peace in southeast Queens to stand up," she said as the entire chapel got to their feet.

Ford has made this speech before. She listed several other murder victims who died from gunshots over the years.

But she hoped that this time it would be different.

"This is not an accident that Darryl brought out all of southeast Queens," she said. "This has to be the one."

Ford wants to raise $5 million to institute a program called Cease Fire, which would combat gun violence, in all of the public housing projects in the area. She also wants to make a musical tribute to Adams by bringing musicians from different neighborhoods together.

But Ford was also with the family Tuesday, when she said family and friends clashed with police.

An officer at the 103rd Precinct confirmed that an incident took place and that several people were arrested, and Jamaica Hospital Center confirmed that Merritt had been admitted and was in stable condition.

City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) was working to get some of the young men who were arrested released, a community leader said.

NAACP

Continued from Page 4

but the people, who were opposed to the plan.

"A time where everybody, all race, color, creed, religion, age and gender of all walks of life, both rich, poor and in-between are standing together and saying in a loud and clear voice this bill doesn't work for me," he said.

Kenneth Cohen, president of the NAACP's northeast Queens chapter, said that in addition to the controversial proposal to add the Senate seat, LATFOR's plan for Queens is "not appropriate to serve our communities" because it divides them.

The Rev. Charles Norris Sr., pastor emeritus of the Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church in Jamaica, called Cuomo an "ambitious governor" and that, as a Christian, he would be obligated to forgive the governor should he approve LATFOR's plan, but he "certainly won't forget when he runs for something else."

Lancman

Continued from Page 5

"I would ask people who are not involved in Jewish cultural life to appreciate the omnipresent threat of violence and harassment," he said. "The intensity ebbs and flows, but it is omnipresent."

As an example, he cited a 2009 plot to bomb synagogues in Riverdale, the Bronx, which was foiled by a federal agent who helped the men who were convicted hatch the plan.

And on a yearly basis during the high holidays, the NYPD always increases security around synagogues to deal with any potential threats, Lancman said.

While the security upgrades would not do much for identifying terrorist threats, Lancman said they might deter potential attackers.

The NYPD has recently been in hot water over its policy of infiltrating Muslim student groups and mosques, and the New York Civil Liberties Union has called for a federal investigation.

NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly has defended his actions, calling them necessary in the NYPD's attempts to foil attacks against the city.

And in a Tuesday Quinnipiac poll, New Yorkers were found to support the NYPD by a 2-to-1 margin and largely back Kelly and Mayor Michael Bloomberg on crime fighting.

Lancman said he supports the NYPD's policy of gathering information about potential terrorist threats, although he said it must be done within the bounds of the U.S. Constitution.

He also said the security upgrades could have an ancillary benefit of catching vandals and thieves who have hit synagogues and mosques throughout Queens and Brooklyn in recent months.

In November, swastikas were spray painted on two libraries and on the walls of Congregation Tifereth Israel of Jackson Heights in East Elmhurst.

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

Lines

Continued from Page 4

the area and results from the 2010 census. Though the coalition took issue with the fact that Flushing in its entirety was not included.

Under state law, a bill must sit for three days before it can be voted on. Since the bill for both the Assembly and Senate — which ran about 250 pages and outlined each of the districts street-by-street — was finalized Sunday just before midnight, the lawmakers were expected to vote this week.

Along with the bill containing the new district lines, the Legislature is likely to vote on a separate bill containing a constitutional amendment that would reform the process 10 years down the road. Cuomo would also like to see a law passed to ensure that the reform sticks, he said in a recent radio interview.

But Gianaris said he would prefer that Cuomo veto the lines, which would then be drawn up by a special court magistrate.

The argument that it is too late to have a court draw up the lines — since the state primaries are scheduled for September and the congressional primaries for June — does not apply, since a federal judge recently drew congressional lines in a timely manner that were positively received by New Yorkers, although not by incumbent lawmakers, Gianaris said.

"The courts handled the congressional lines, and they were transparent and fair," he said. "The lines that the courts produced have been critically acclaimed, and I think it is certainly better than what the Legislature is able to come up with."

Phagwah

Continued from Page 5

beautiful and colorful," said City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village).

City Comptroller John Liu said the holiday prepares the younger generation to celebrate their cultural heritage and the South Asian community.

"A community that adds so much to Queens, New York City and the United States of America," Liu said.

Gurman Bhumak, 11, said he was having fun and had powdered many people during the parade.

"At least 100," Gurman said. "More than 100. All the people that pass by. Straight on."

Colvin

Continued from Page 9

the U.S. bombing of Tripoli in retaliation for the nation's support of terrorists. She moved to the Sunday Times later that year.

In her years with the Sunday Times, she covered conflicts around the world, chronicling the toll taken on the innocent victims of combat in Europe, including Kosovo, and more recently the Middle East, where spontaneous uprisings pressing for democratic reform swept Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and then Syria.

Long before her death, she was widely extolled as the greatest war reporter of her generation.

At her wake Sunday, mourners passed by a portrait of Colvin by a Sri Lankan artist. She lost her left eye in 2001 in that country's civil war and had worn her signature black eye patch since then.

A group of Sri Lankans gathered outside the church Monday to remember her courageous reporting from their war-torn country with placards saying, "Uncrowned queens of intrepid journalists."

Immigrant

Continued from Page 5

us."

Saujani said the Fund for Public Advocacy and Accion surveyed 625 businesses across the city, 31 percent of which were in Queens, that earned under a million dollars. She said 92 percent of those surveyed did not receive help, but 79 percent wanted assistance in financing, legal assistance or marketing.

She said in response to the survey the advocacy fund would be going on a listening tour of businesses in the five boroughs. It will also be doing initiatives such as partnering with technology companies and offering technical assistance to businesses — 87 percent of immigrant businesses in the city do not have a website — as well as creating and distributing a tool kit of services available to businesses.

"I'm excited about what we're going to do to make change and actually create jobs in this city," Saujani said.

On the panel, Samantha Bailey-Champagnie, a principal at a public accounting firm who co-managed a Golden Krust restaurant in Jamaica, described the borough as not business-friendly. She said the sales tax is a problem, the regulations are difficult to understand and entrepreneurs are lacking in education.

Nevertheless, she said her neighborhood has possibilities.

"We see lots of potential and lots of growth that can happen in Jamaica," Bailey-Champagnie said.

Yiorgos Samios, who sells a garlic dip out of Long Island City's entrepreneur space that is now available in several stores, including Whole Foods, said one pitfall is knowing how to best spend capital when businesses begin.

"People have great ideas," he said. "They have $30,000, $50,000. They don't know how to spend it."

Sports

Holy Cross won the CHSHL Class B title against rival St. Francis Prep. Photo by Robert Cole

Holy Cross hockey captures third title

BY MIKE MCAVOY

Cody Frucht is going to have a hard time taking off his Holy Cross hockey jersey and hanging up his skates for the last time. Winning three championships in four years of high school will have that effect.

"I wish I was staying another year," he said with a smile. "Kids come into high school looking to win a championship. I got three and I couldn't ask for anything better. I'll never forget it."

Holy Cross' nine seniors would agree with their teammate, and their coach, Kevin Goodspeed, cannot say enough about this senior class.

Holy Cross defeated St. Francis Prep 6-0 in Game 2 of the CHSHL Class B best-of-three championship series at the Ice Hutch in Mount Vernon, sealing yet another championship for Holy Cross' veteran-laden squad.

"It's the best senior class we've ever seen at this school," Goodspeed said. "They're irreplaceable, we have five captains out there, and there is a reason for it. It's not even about the championships they've won. It's the level of talent they have and the commitment to the program."

Holy Cross (18-1-1) came into Game 2 of the championship series with one thing in mind: Close out St. Francis Prep and don't give the Terriers any life for a winner-take-all Game 3. One of the senior captains, Sean Dolan, quickly acted on this mindset.

With 9:16 left in the first period, Dolan sniped in a shot over the left shoulder of St. Francis Prep goaltender John Doyle. That one goal would set the tone for the rest of the match.

Less than a minute later, Frucht would score his first of two goals in the period. The second tally came at the 3:45 mark, after he received a pass from Brandon Muller and ripped a shot past Doyle.

Continued on Page 40

Bayside wins for ill coach

Commodores progess in postseason as coach battles cancer

BY MARC RAIMONDI

The Bayside team celebrates after winning in the quarterfinals. Photo courtesy Bayside High School

Steve Piorkowski has suffered from arthritis in his shoulders for years, the product of playing sports and coaching his entire life. One day in late January, though, the pain got bad — intolerably bad.

"The difference is the level of soreness that I had went from one to an 11," the longtime Bayside girls' basketball and softball coach said.

The sensation was so intense that Piorkowski couldn't even hold his head up. After a trip to the hospital and visits to his orthopedist, results turned up something far more serious than arthritis: a plasmacytoma in his neck.

A vicious malignant tumor was eating away at the bone marrow in Piorkowski's CG vertebra. When he woke up that day in January, he had a broken neck.

"When they told me what it was, I never heard of it in my life," he said. "It sounded so foreign. I just really wanted to know, where do we go from here?"

Obviously, Piorkowski, 51, wouldn't be able to coach the Commodores girls' basketball team for the remainder of the season. But other than that, he got good news. There would be pain, but the plasmacytoma hadn't turned into multiple myeloma — it hadn't spread anywhere besides his neck.

With Piorkowski fighting cancer, his Bayside team has embarked on its own incredible journey. The Commodores, seeded 38th out of 40 teams in PSAL Class A, have advanced all the way to the semifinals.

"We're doing all this for him," senior forward Syndy Durugordon said.

The players saw Piorkowski for the first time last Sunday. He came by the school as the Commodores were practicing. It was emotional for both parties. Mitchell said she was in tears. Piorkowski, who is extremely physically fit, was wheelchair-bound and prone, because of his broken neck.

"It was really tough seeing him like that," said Steve Scharf, the JV boys' coach who has taken the reins of the girls' team.

He told the players that they were doing what he always knew they could do, that they were fulfilling their potential. Piorkowski also said how tough it has been to be away from the team during this Cinderella run. During a huge upset victory over defending champion Wings this week in the quarterfinals, senior Sara DeLuca put his name on a piece of paper in her sneaker, dedicating the game to him.

"That feels really good," Piorkowski said. "That's really nice. That's just heartwarming that you can have an effect on a kid like that. It's really sweet. I don't know what to say. It makes me feel a lot better."

Like Bayside, Piorkowski still has work to do. He got good news last Thursday. His blood and protein levels are back to normal. The radiation treatments he's been undergoing have worked. Piorkowski might not need chemotherapy. Doctors even think he could be able to forego surgery, that the bone will regenerate once the tumor is destroyed.

"I'm in really good shape, to be honest with you," Piorkowski said. "It's the neck that's the tough part. If this was in my hand or my elbow, I'd be working."

He has left his teams in able hands. Scharf and JV softball Coach Maggie Kassimis, who will take over the varsity on an interim basis, are both former students of his. Piorkowski, who his players lovingly refer to as "P," hopes to be back in June for a potential Bayside softball playoff

Continued on Page 40

St. Albans' Pathways heads to Class B finals

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

When top-seeded Pathways Prep of St. Albans was turning its PSAL Class B semifinal contest into a rout, ripping off a 19-6 run to create a canyon-sized 19-point lead, Jordan Washington was a key contributor.

But there were others. That's what made Sunday's 68-59 win over No. 5 Health Professions of Manhattan in the basketball semis at CCNY so impressive.

Sure, the highly recruited 6-foot-7 Washington was his usual dominant self, with 20 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks. There were also guards Sam Annorh Jr. (13 points, nine assists) and Izaha Jackson (13 points, six assists) as well as forward Romario Fletcher (14 points) making an impact on the contest as well.

After Washington fouled out, Health Professions (17-3) got within eight behind the splendid play of senior Gelvis Solano — he poured in a game-high 32 points — but his teammates remain composed. Annorh completed a traditional three-point play and Jackson sank two free throws to ice the win.

Pathways (22-4) was Washington's team last year as it won its first city title of any kind. When he was lost for a month due to academics — he was eligible by PSAL standards but Pathways principal Kimberly Mitchell instituted a new rule for student-athletes barring them from failing a single class — the Trailblazers hardly lost a beat. That's because Annorh, Jackson and Fletcher emerged, combining to fill the massive void left by Washington.

"Not many people thought we could play without Jordan and we proved it," Annorh said. "When he came back, it boosted us up. When we were without him, we had to rely on shooting and transition. Now we can beat teams in many different ways."

Pathways' Jordan Washington had 20 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots as the Trailblazers topped Manhattan's Healh Professions 68-59 in the PSAL Class B semifinals.

Photo by An Rong Xu

Health Professions Coach James Castillo was in fact most impressed by Pathways' guards. The Trailblazers' newfound balance figures to help them Sunday against Newcomers and in the state Federation in Albany if they get that far.

"It helps because everybody can't focus on me anymore," said Washington, who has a host of Division I schools after him, such as Louisville, Villanova, Miami, Arizona and Marquette. "It's a lot different. Everybody on the team is scoring."

Not to be forgotten, the 6-foot-2 Solano put on a show. He dropped in four three-pointers from well-beyond the arc, he finished above the rim, made plays for teammates and even pulled down 15 rebounds.

"That's the best player we've seen all year," Peaks raved. "That's an 'AA' player. He can play for anybody in New York City."

When told he may have waited too long to take over, Solano deflected criticism from his teammates.

"It was a team thing," he said. "We should have all picked up for each other. It's a tough feeling, but I'm proud of my team. Nobody expected us to go this far."

No. 3 Newcomers 59, No. 7 WHEELS 50: Cristian Zapata had 29 points and 12 rebounds and Larry Baez added 17 points for undefeated Newcomers, the Queens B West champion which will meet No. 1 Pathways in the 'B' final Sunday at 1 p.m. at CCNY in Harlem.

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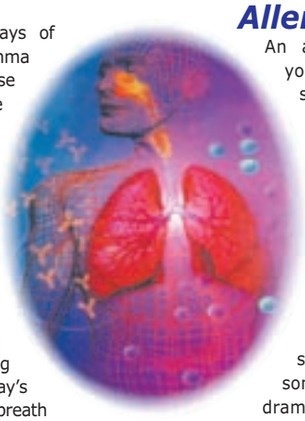

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Lady Royals miss chance against Naz

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The run and the spark came too late for a Christ the King team that has been resilient all season.

"They never folded," Coach Bob Mackey said. "They didn't quit tonight."

The Royals cut an 18-point third quarter deficit to 10 late in the fourth and got as close as five with just seconds remaining in an eventual 52-47 loss to rival and nationally ranked Nazareth in the CHSAA Class AA girls' basketball semifinals Friday at Archbishop Molloy.

"It did come too late," UPenn-bound guard Rayne Connell said. "The worst part about it is we had it. We had it in our hands."

Turnovers (29) and missed layups (eight) doomed CK. Mackey said Nazareth kept sending fresh and long bodies at sophomore star Sierra Calhoun and limited her to just 10 points. Kollyns Scarbrough and Connell each chipped in 11. Christ the King (15-14) had a chance to get back into the game earlier, down just 29-20, after a Taylor Butigian layup with 6:28 remaining in the third quarter and Nazareth point guard Darius Faulk on the bench. Instead the Lady Kingmen (17-5) scored the next six points and jumped ahead 35-20.

"Three less turnovers and it's a ball game," Mackey said. "It was a ball game."

What Connell was most proud of was that she and her team didn't let the game turn into a 30-point blowout. Mackey found a spark in reserve guard Erica Eddy late in the third quarter and Amanni Fernandez also provided energy off the bench.

Fighting back has been a theme this season after CK began the year 0-6 against five nationally ranked teams, lost five league games — including a third-place tie breaker to Molloy — and finished the regular season 12-12.

The Royals, who own a win over nationally ranked Cicero-North Syracuse, beat Nazareth just a week ago in the Brooklyn/Queens semifinals en route to their 26th CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens title in the last 28 years. That win, which earned them a first-round bye in this tournament, came with the Lady Kingsmen missing McDonald's All-American Brianna Butler, out with a knee injury. She had 16 points, 11 boards and seven rebounds on this night.

"She's a tough matchup for her size," Mackey said of Butler. "She settles them down."

Christ the King losses Connell, Adelphi-bound guard Lauren Nuss and reserve guard Ashley Raaf for next season. Mackey talked all postseason how his talented sophomores grew up. More will be expected starting next November.

"With the loss of the seniors, I still think they can take this," Connell said. "They have a lot of talent. They just have to work hard."

Christ the King's Rayne Connell scored 11 points in her final high school game.

Photo by Denis Gostev

Poll-favorite leads Lewis

Jasmine Davis keeps Patriots in the PSAL championship hunt

BY MARC RAIMONDI

The ball is in Jasmine Davis' hands in crunch time for Francis Lewis, but that doesn't necessarily mean the senior guard is scoring the go-ahead or tying basket.

"If it came down to the last shot, I feel very confident in Jasmine taking it," Patriots Coach Steve Tsai said. "But a lot of times, teams will key in on her."

Davis was voted the city's top clutch girls' basketball performer in an nypost.com poll last week. She received 8,009 votes, good enough for 48.73 percent of the 16,437 cast. Horace Mann's Madison Gordon was second with 5,863 votes (35.67 percent) and Nazareth's Darius Faulk was a distant third with 796 votes (4.84 percent).

"I feel when the game is on the line or my team and I are struggling, I have to be a leader," Davis said, "whether it be making a big shot or creating a key play."

Davis is the defacto point guard for Francis Lewis. She is the team's primary facilitator. But she also guards all different positions on defense and, at a strong 5-foot-8, is one of the Patriots' top rebounders.

"Jasmine is so important," Tsai said. "She sacrifices a lot in terms of her shooting. She has to do so much. She's responsible for being a playmaker. She has to rebound against bigger girls."

She's a pretty big reason why No. 6 Lewis upset No. 3 Truman in the PSAL Class AA quarterfinals last weekend. She had 11 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists in that game.

"We're very excited and happy to have made it this far again," Davis said. "We have a lot of respect for [Bergtaum] Coach [Ed] Grezinsky and know the Bergtraum girls are as hungry as we are. We plan to go into the [semi-finals] game as if it were our last because it very well could be. We've been through a lot this season and we're ready to go far."

Francis Lewis has not been to the championship game at Madison Square Garden since 2005-06. It would also be Tsai's first trip if Lewis pulled off a second straight upset. The Patriots did beat Bergtraum in both teams' league finale.

When the season ends, Davis figures to have plenty of college options. Tsai said she could go to any Division II program in the country. And she's also received interest from Stony Brook, Albany, Pepperdine and East Carolina. Her sister, Janine, was a star point guard at St. Michael Academy under Coach Apache Paschall, where she won a New York State Federation title, and now plays at Siena.

"Growing up being in elementary and junior high school, many girls at my age at the time weren't exposed to that type of basketball," Davis said. "I learned at an early age that basketball is more than a game."

Her mother, Celia, played basketball at Clara Barton and coaches her and many Francis Lewis players on the Exodus Lady Lions travel team.

The sport has been part of her life for so long, Davis doesn't let things get to her in those late-game moments.

"I usually save all the nervousness for before the game," she said, "but once I hit the court it's a whole different story."

Francis Lewis' Jasmine Davis won the poll asking "Who is the city's top girls' basketball clutch performer?"

Photo by Robert Cole

Holy Cross falls short of title against Bronx rival

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Two of the city's top players, Kerwin Okoro and Daniel Dingle, led St. Ray's to a 66-58 win over Holy Cross at Fordham University for the program's first CHSAA Class AA intersectional title since 2004.

In front of a sellout crowd, the Iowa State-bound Okoro had 21 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks and Dingle, headed to Temple, had 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.

"This group has cemented their name in St. Raymond's history," Antigua said. "It's special because of what we went through."

Holy Cross' William Davis couldn't stop the onslaught from East Rockaway's St. Raymond in the CHSAA intersectional match.

Photo by Denis Gostev

It wasn't easy when Dingle and Okoro were sophomores together on the varsity going through growing pains. All the senior stars had fled and it was up to them to keep the program afloat.

"There was a point I was definitely thinking about leaving," Dingle said. "I was like, what's going on? But [Antigua] said things were gonna work out. I trusted him."

Added Okoro, "Really, that was a blessing in disguise. If that didn't happen, maybe we wouldn't be here right now."

St. Raymond (21-9), which has won eight straight after a blowout loss to Cardinal Hayes, will meet the PSAL champion in the New York State Federation Class AA semifinals March 23 at the Times Union Center in Albany. But first the Ravens can bask in the glow of bringing the elite program back to the level it had reached six times previously: city champions.

"They leave with this [title] under their belts," said junior guard Shane Rector, who had 16 points.

The 6-foot-5 Okoro, who was awarded playoff MVP, made every big basket, including a pair of free throws when Cross (24-5) creeped within 54-52 with 3:09 left. He was draped all over Holy Cross senior guard Will Davis (21 points) in the second half, limiting his effectiveness after halftime.

"The guy who's been with me for four years had the biggest game of the season — of his career," Antigua said.

Dingle, on other hand, struggled with his shot, but deferred nicely to his teammates, facilitating instead of scoring. Afterward he spoke a lot about sacrifice, including staying with the program during the tough times.

"Those guys who left didn't sacrifice," Dingle said. "I made it."

Antigua has now won three city titles as head coach and two more as an assistant. St. Ray's has seven now total. The other two also featured Antiguas — his oldest brother Orlando, now an assistant with John Calipari at Kentucky, was on the 1991 championship team, and his middle brother Omar won in '93.

"So as long as you have an Antigua, you'll win," the 10th-year head man said with a laugh.

Hockey

Continued from Page 37

The first period came to a close and Holy Cross jumped out on St. Francis Prep 3-0.

"We wanted to avoid a Game 3 at all costs," Goodspeed said. "When you're playing a team you're so familiar with, anything can happen in a Game 3."

Holy Cross erased any hopes the Terriers (12-5-3) had for that Game 3 in the first period, but they didn't skate lightly after that.

In the second period, although it went scoreless, Holy Cross shows its toughness. The period saw a number of scrums, the biggest between the Knights' Ryan Mattino and the Terriers' Ryan Borello, as the two were tied up and exchanged shoves as they fell to the ice.

To get an idea of the tenacity the Knights played with, all one would have to do was look to the penalty box. After that tussle, three members of their team sat in the box at the same time. The Knights came out looking to fight off any hope of recovery the Terriers had, and that's exactly what they did.

"We didn't even give them a chance to come back," Frucht said. "We talked about it before the game. Don't even give them any life, put them down right away."

The Knights would add three more goals in the final period, scored by Steven Cachillo, Brandon Muller and the final goal by Rob Anderson.

With its six-goal victory in the second game, Holy Cross outscored the Terriers 12-1 in the series. The Knights had solid goaltending throughout and the team skated out two goalies in their championship victory, to complete the shutout.

J.D. Schabhuttl played the first two periods, stopping 13 shots, and senior David Pastiglione made 10 saves in the final period to seal the championship.

The best senior class Holy Cross has ever seen went out the only way it knew how to: winning.

How exactly do you put winning three championships in four years into words?

"Speechless," Dolan said.

Bayside

Continued from Page 37

run.

It would be hard to top what the girls' basketball team is doing. Senior forward Ashley Mitchell said she and her teammates were even more inspired to beat Wings in the quarterfinals after seeing Piorkowski three days earlier.

"He said, 'I'm so proud of you guys, I could cry,'" Mitchell said. "And to hear that from 'P?' He never shows any emotion ever. It was amazing."

Added Piorkowski, "I think I'm a little astonished by it, to be honest. They've played dominant basketball against some very good teams."

Bayside, which finished fifth in PSAL Queens A East, defeated No. 6 Beacon in the first round, which sent its confidence soaring. The Commodores took down No. 11 Lafayette in the second round and then powerful Wings — coming back from 27-15 down at halftime — in the quarters. Next up is Curtis, which is arguably favored to win the whole thing.

Piorkowski, who plans to be in attendance, isn't worried.

"They don't think they're going to lose," he said. "They're not going there to lose."

He doesn't plan on it either.

Easy #4

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9	5	6	8	7	1	3	4	2
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Week 11

Hard #4

1	6	8	5	4	9	2	3	7
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DeBlasio Warns Consumers About Classified Ads
Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble.

Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."

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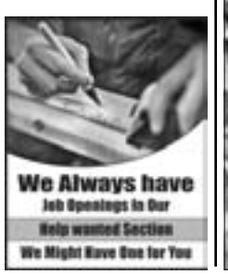

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How to survive in an uncertain job market

Frustrations in your job, industry, or life may make you feel like jumping ship some days, swimming toward whatever job seems the most promising at the moment. Not so fast. If you want to improve your situation long term, you need to step back, take a breath, and approach a career change thoughtfully and deliberately.

"Switching careers takes some effort," said Dr. Mary Hawkins, president of Bellevue University. "You need to figure out what experience and skills you need and the level of education required to enter and excel in a new field."

Determine where the jobs are

Hawkins suggests starting with a website that provides data about expanding and contracting industries. The Monster Employment Index is another good resource that provides a monthly gauge of U.S. job demand.

Earn a relevant degree

According to Education Dynamics, 60 percent of U.S. jobs will require much more than a college degree by 2018.

"If you want to qualify for the jobs of tomorrow, completing a bachelor's degree is a wise move," Hawkins said.

Instead of enrolling in a degree program because you find it interesting, Hawkins recommends choosing a field of study that will translate into a job in a growth industry. She shared the following tips:

• Check job sites to see how many jobs are available in specific industries.

• Use listed educational and skills requirements for these positions as guidelines for researching degree programs.

• Figure out what you will actually be learning in individual courses and how you can apply this.

• Call schools directly and ask directors of the programs you've identified if you'll be engaged in hands-on experience while you learn.

"If you are one of the 38 million Americans with some college credit, finding a school with generous transfer policies may significantly decrease the time required to complete your degree," she continued.

Specialize to stand out

As bachelor's degrees become more the norm, job seekers will need more specialized expertise to stand out. For example, adding a concentration in logistics management or marketing will take you much further than a general business degree sans concentration.

"Employers are looking for people who have relevant skills that are specifically tailored for the job," said Hawkins. "Job seekers must find the degree and learning environment that enables them to develop the specialized skills they will need to get that job."

The workplace is changing and by starting now, you'll have achieved the education you'll need to succeed in the next decade.

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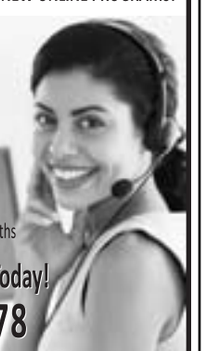

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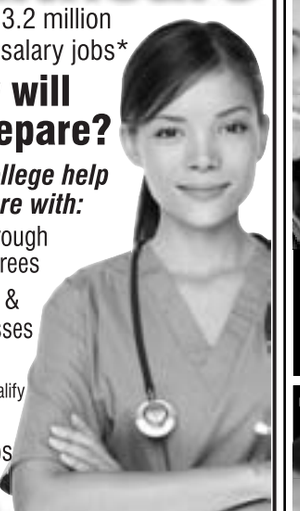

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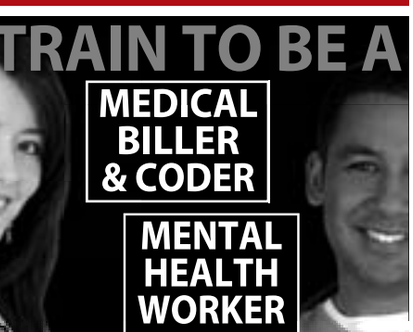

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ANTONIS LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/19/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Maria Spentzouris, 34-20 31 Street, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

FAST BOX, LLC App. for Auth. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/24/2012. LLC was organized in CA on 4/12/2011. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to 2245 Colorado Blvd., #104, Pasadena, CA 91107, Which is also the required office in CA. Cert. of Org. filed with SSCA, 1500 11TH St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 7A PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/23/11. Office loc.: Queens County. The principal business loc. is 95-60 Queens Blvd., Ste. 300, Rego Park NY 11374. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Robert B. Levine, 1431 Broadway, New York, NY 10018. Mgmt. of the LLC shall be by one or more members. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of JOE'S COFFEE SHOP, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/20/2012. Office location, County of Queens. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 41-25 20th Avenue, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: any lawful act

Notice of Formation of LAST I HEARD HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/28/12. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o Gerard Marrone, 66-85 73rd Pl., 2nd Fl., Middle Village, NY 11379. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SAU Ho, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/12/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC 8604 104 St. Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ARTISOUND, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/27/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 44-02 23rd ST, SUITE 414 LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: WOODSHIDE MEHRA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/01/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC C/O PROFESSIONAL CONSORTIUM LTD., 13 EAST 16TH STREET NEW YORK, NY 10003. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: KB SAXOPHONE SERVICES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/23/2012. 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: KB SAXOPHONE SERVICES LLC 44-02 23RD ST STUDIO 220 LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11101-5000. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: LOTTERY TOOLBOX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/26/2012. 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: LEON BENJAMIN 8250 135TH STREET APT 2D BRIARWOOD, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: HDK REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/27/12. 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, 40-19 154th Street, Flushing, New York 11354. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Nine Ten LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 12/29/11. 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 231-09 87th Ave., Bellerose Manor, NY 11427. Purpose: any lawful activities.

Notice of Formation of ROZABURANA TAXI LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/27/12. Off. loc.: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 101-03 80th St., 1st Fl., Ozone Park, NY 11416. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Qualification of SECAC Tunnel Co., LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 2/15/12. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in DE on 2/14/12. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business addr.: c/o Michael A. Capasso, 54-08 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101. DE addr. of LLC: c/o The Corporation Trust Co., 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.

RBC CONTRACTING LLC a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/21/11. 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, 36-25 12th St., Long Island City, NY 11106. General Purposes.

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