

Oct. 7, 2012

Your Neighborhood – Your News®



## Creedmoor boss promises Avella better security

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Community members are cautiously optimistic that the security situation — or, rather, the lack of security situation — at the Creedmoor Psychiatric Campus in Bellerose is going to improve after meeting with the head of the state's Office of Mental Health last week.

"I think his exact words were that they 'let the situation get away' from them," said state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), who set up the meeting with OMH Commissioner Mike Hogan and various other stakeholders. "He admitted that security is lax and recognized that more needs to be done."

The Creedmoor campus is split into two sections by Union Turnpike, with the OMH's inpatient hospital on the northern campus, which is locked down by its security personnel. The southern campus, however, is home to a number of programs run by other state departments and various nonprofits, each responsible for

# Queensbridge victim comes home

Community gathers in support of 15-year-old girl shot while doing schoolwork

BY REBECCA HENELY

A 15-year-old Queensbridge girl who was shot in the hand by a stray bullet Sept. 23 was welcomed home Monday afternoon with a march against gun violence in her community.

Amy was surrounded by 250 people, including elected officials and public housing activists, in her first public appearance since the accident. The crowd welcomed the Queensbridge teen home with a march from her apartment, where she was shot through the window, to the Jacob Riis Settlement House in Queensbridge.

"Together we are taking a stand and marching toward a future when gun violence no longer exists," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said in a statement. "Our community has had enough. Now is a time to end the violence."

Amy, who had been doing her homework when she had been hit, had been convalescing at Weill Cornell Medical Center over the past week.

*Continued on Page 16*

## RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT BREAST CANCER



Joseph Purificato explains a poster to Ali Hoering and Jared Beschel Jr. during a fund-raiser at Monahan & Fitzgerald in Bayside in memory of Purificato's sister Tina Di Fava and Beschel's grandfather William Beschel, who both died from breast cancer. **See story on Page 10.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

## Holocaust survivor recounts Nazi horrors

BY PHIL CORSO

Ethel Katz has already told her story of survival more times than she could ever remember, but her eyes still filled with tears when she was asked once again to share her memories of living through the Holocaust.

And because of her fluid narration ability,

*Continued on Page 16*



The owners of the RKO Keith's Theatre in downtown Flushing still owe back taxes to the city.

## RKO owner still owes taxman

BY JOE ANUTA

The owner of the crumbling RKO Keith's Theatre in downtown Flushing still owes more than \$380,000 in unpaid back taxes and entered into a payment plan earlier this year to prevent the city from putting a lien on the property.

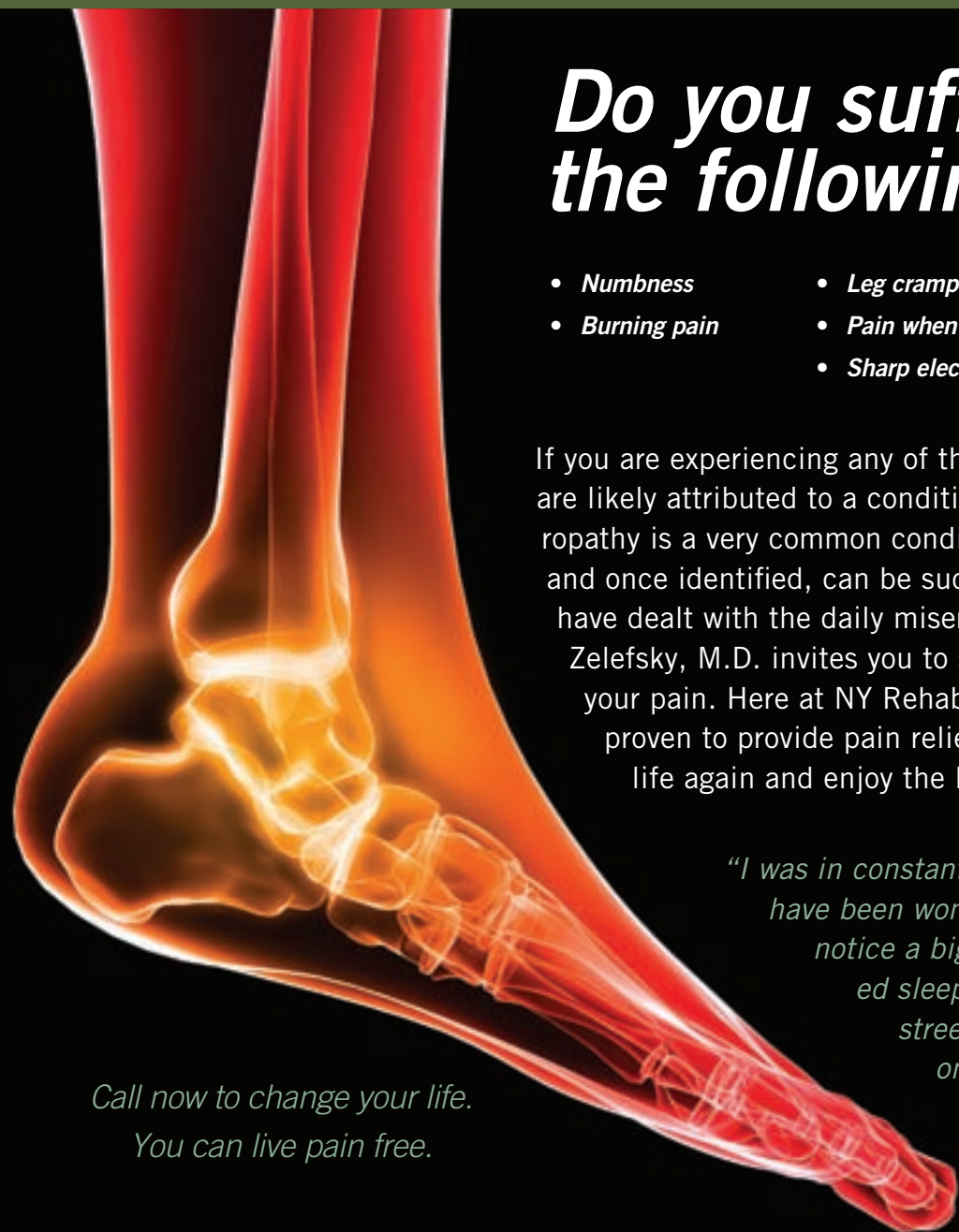
Developer Patrick Thompson is seeking to build a 16-story, mixed-use building around the landmarked lobby of the historic theater, at 135-35 Northern Blvd., and is trying to secure finances to get a shovel in the ground at the site of the \$160 million project.

In March, TimesLedger Newspapers reported Thompson owed the city Department of Finance nearly \$400,000 for 2011 unpaid property taxes. In April, Thompson entered into a payment plan in order to balance the books. At that time, he owed about

*Continued on Page 16*

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# Aqueduct focus of inquiry

Economic pressure to fill racing field led to horse deaths: Report



Gov. Andrew Cuomo's task force looks to make changes to ensure the safety of horses and jockeys at Aqueduct Racetrack.

Photo by Christina Santucci

BY STEVE MOSCO

A task force investigating a spike in horse deaths at Aqueduct Racetrack in South Ozone Park last winter is calling for widespread rule changes in veterinary structure and the prohibition of certain drugs.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo had called on the task force last March in an effort to learn why Aqueduct equine deaths were close to double the national average from November 2011 to March 2012, and the governor announced his office received the findings and recommendations of the New York Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety Friday.

"New York is committed to placing the health, safety and welfare of the equine athlete as the top priority of horse racing," Cuomo said. "As we bring accountability and responsible business practices to horse racing, these recommendations will be an integral part of a new and improved racing product."

The governor directed

the task force to review the circumstances involving the deaths, analyze the causes and recommend any necessary action to prevent equine breakdowns at New York Racing Association-operated facilities.

Howard Glazer, director of state operations for New York, reported the findings and said while the investigation did not yield a single root cause for the fatalities, a combination of factors likely led to an increased rate of equine deaths.

These factors include the use of drugs that may have masked pre-existing medical conditions, leaving the horses vulnerable to catastrophic injuries; a lack of protocol and inconsistencies in pre-race inspections and veterinary procedures; increased purses due to the success of Resorts World Casino, incentivizing stakeholders to place horses in races that were above their skill level; and an unusually mild weather on a track designed for harsher winters.

"The task force has spent countless hours analyzing the circumstances of each equine death at Aqueduct," said task force chairman and veterinarian Dr. Scott Palmer. "We found multiple factors that created a 'perfect storm' of conditions that caused these tragic breakdowns."

Palmer said the task force recommends a complete overhaul of NYRA's veterinary practices, the creation of an equine medical director position within the state's racing association and strict prohibitions regarding medications.

"I want to make it clear that we did not find any evidence of criminal wrongdoing," said Palmer. "We do not believe there was an overt effort to race unsound horses, but rather an economic pressure to fill the racing field."

The veterinary doctor went on to say the investigation found jockeys felt unable to voice concerns about the health of horses, fearing another rider would simply replace them. Palmer said

the task force recommends an anonymous horse safety hotline to enable jockeys to report concerns without fear of retribution.

State Sen. Joe Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) stands behind the governor's effort to overhaul NYRA, and he looks at this as a way of saving horse racing in Queens.

"I wasn't happy to find out there were negative effects on the horses," said Addabbo. "But this is a pathway to correcting the situation."

After meeting with the horse racing association in May, the governor announced an agreement to establish the NYRA Reorganization Board. The board places NYRA under temporary public control in order to reform the association and transform oversight and management.

Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at [smosco@cnglocal.com](mailto:smosco@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4546.

# Rochdale LL coach sentenced to 18 yrs.

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The 54-year-old man who admitted to using his position as a Little League coach at Rochdale Village to sexually abuse his young players was sentenced to 18 years in jail last week, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown announced.

David Hartshorn, once named "Rochdale Village Little League Coach of the Year," was sentenced by Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard Buchter Friday after he admitted to sexually abusing three teenage boys and filming two others in sexual acts between July 2009 and August 2010.

"A coach can have a lasting impact on a child's life. In this case, unfortunately, it was not in a good way," Brown said. "The defendant has admitted to being a sexual predator who took advantage of his position as a Little League coach to get close to young boys before sexually abusing them. For that reason alone, the prison sentence meted out by the court today is more than warranted."

Hartshorn, who has been held on bail since he was arrested in February 2011, pleaded guilty in August to one count of first-degree criminal sexual act, two counts of second-degree criminal sexual act and two counts of using a child in a sexual performance.

Hartshorn collapsed in court in the winter of 2011 when he was arraigned on charges that could have put him away for up to 25 years.

According to the district attorney, Hartshorn had used his position as coach to gain the trust of his young players and lure them back to his home, where he showed them pornographic materials, videotaped them in sexual acts and played a sordid game

of poker, where the loser would have to perform sexual acts with another boy.

The authorities got tipped off when one of the young boys told his mother, who then went to the police.

Brown said a search warrant executed on Hartshorn's home turned up VHS and DVD movies showing the young boys engaged in sexual acts, as well as similar photographs showing boys younger than 10.

In the wake of the scandal, Rochdale Village canceled its 2011 Little League season, and one lawmaker highlighted the case as he made an effort to reform the state's sex offender laws.

State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi (D-Forest Hills) said Hartshorn had pleaded down to similar crimes in the late 1980s, at a time when there was no sex offender registry.

If that happened today, Hevesi said, Hartshorn would still have been able to slip through the system's cracks, so the lawmaker introduced a bill that would have low-risk sex offenders added to the public database. The bill did not gain any traction, but with Hartshorn's guilty plea, Hevesi pledged to redouble his efforts when the state Legislature reconvenes in January.



Former Rochdale Little League Coach David Hartshorn is sentenced to 18 years for sexually abusing teenage boys.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

## Work to close lane in both directions on Cross Bay

Through to mid-autumn, one lane will be closed in each direction most Saturdays on the Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge for work related to the \$17 million project to rehabilitate the concrete piers beneath the bridge.

The closures will take place between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. and continue through November. One lane in each direction had previously been closed on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and this will continue through No-

vember as well.

The entire project, which includes repairing damaged concrete and shoring up materials that protect the bridge, is expected to be completed in November 2013.



# Big bucks from Marshall help LaGuardia library expand

Borough president donates \$6 million to community college to add study space, seating and Wi-Fi

BY KAREN FRANTZ

LaGuardia Community College is expanding its library to include a new, technologically-advanced second floor and nearly double the student seating, thanks in part to a \$6 million donation from Borough President Helen Marshall.

"I have always loved libraries," Marshall said at an event acknowledging her for the donation outside LaGuardia's library last Thursday. "I think they're so important. Anything you learn to do, you can find it in a book, including a lot of enjoyment, a lot of excitement and everything that goes with life."

The donation came out of Marshall's capital funds and will go to increasing the size of the community college's 36,620-square-foot

library by 58 percent. The library, currently one floor, will expand to two floors, and the second floor will include a reading room, media lab, open study space and 11 group study rooms. In addition, student seats will be wired with power and data connections and Wi-Fi service will be expanded throughout the library.

Student Body President Shah Amanat said the extra space will help accommodate an influx of students. The school currently has 18,000 credit-bearing students, compared to 16,000 in the fall of 2009, and has 50,000 total students, according to LaGuardia spokeswoman Randy Fader-Smith.

"It's definitely going to help the students," said Amanat, who is in his sec-



Borough President Helen Marshall discusses the importance of education at an event acknowledging her donation to LaGuardia Community College's library expansion. Photo by Karen Frantz

ond year at the school. "We do have a lot of students, and it gets crowded."

He said in the past he sometimes needed to wait 20 minutes for a computer and he also frequently has had to wait for an open seat.

Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson literally sang Marshall's praises — a short rendition of Neil Young's "Heart of Gold" — at the event, thanking her for the donation.

"We love Helen Marshall. We adore Helen Marshall," he said.

Through the years the borough president has been an advocate for libraries and colleges, he said, and particularly made her mark through her work in the City Council, where she frequently fought to secure funds for education.

"I think that everyone here knows that we have never had a more effective and stronger champion of higher education than when Helen Marshall was chair of the New York City Council Higher Education Committee," he said.

Construction on the LaGuardia Community College library is expected to begin in the fall of 2013. Once the second floor is finished and open to students, renovation will also begin on the first floor. The school will not have to cut services during construction, school officials said.

Reach reporter Karen Frantz by e-mail at [kfrantz@cnglocal.com](mailto:kfrantz@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4538.

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The Korean programs at Flushing Town Hall are supported by Korean Transmitted Sutra Research Association, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, The Traditional Art Society of Korea, Korean Cultural Service NY, Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Dominick and Rose Cusumano Family Foundation, and Bloomberg Philanthropies.



# Anti waste-station group keeps lid on donor IDs

BY JOE ANUTA

A group opposing the city and federal government over construction of a College Point garbage facility near LaGuardia Airport has a policy of keeping its donors anonymous, leading some community members to question who is driving the media blitz about bird strikes.

Friends of LaGuardia Airport Inc. is a nonprofit registered with New York state that has attempted, through advocacy and legal challenges, to put the brakes on the North Shore Marine Transfer Station, a proposed garbage collection point for the eastern half of queens.

The group contends the facility, where trucks would drop off refuse to be sorted and then packed into barges and floated out of the borough, would attract winged creatures in search of food and thus increase the likelihood of a fatal plane crash due to bird strikes.

The facility is less than 5,000 feet from the end of one of the runways, and the group's message has been widely covered in the New York City press.

Friends of LaGuardia Airport is led by Ken Paskar, a pilot who previously worked with the Federal Aviation Administration on mitigating safety issues, but is now leading the charge against the federal agency.

Paskar has a policy of cloaking the identities of donors to the nonprofit. The policy, he said, is designed to protect contributors from potential retribution from the FAA or from the city government — retribution he contends is real and has already been exacted on him.

"I've got to protect everybody else," Paskar said. "This way, the only person anybody can go after is



A group that opposes a trash transfer station near the end of a LaGuardia Airport runway has a policy of not disclosing its donors.

Photo by Christina Santucci

me."

Before Friends of LaGuardia, Paskar was on the FAA Safety Team as a volunteer who acted as a liaison between the aviation community and the agency to try and find solutions to thorny safety issues. In that capacity, the pilot began questioning the safety of the proposed facility beginning in 2009, when the file landed on his desk.

As his opposition to the facility became stronger, he began to sense resistance from the FAA, he said, and he was eventually booted off the team in 2010.

Paskar also claims FAA brass instructed the administration's legal team to go after a close friend's flight school due to the owner's association with Paskar. The Friends of LaGuardia head contends that the FAA wrongfully prosecuted the business for an alleged infraction on federal flight rules. Paskar contends these two episodes justify concealing the source of the funds.

Because Friends of LaGuardia Airport is a relatively new nonprofit — it was first incorporated in April 2011, according to state records — it does not have tax returns on file with the Internal Revenue Service or the state Department of State. And even when those documents become available, Paskar is not required by law to disclose who gives him

money.

That has led others to speculate about alternative motives for Friends of LaGuardia's opposition to the facility.

James Cervino, a marine scientist and chairman of Community Board 7's Committee on the Environment, recently alluded to other reasons why Friends of LaGuardia might want to keep its financiers private.

Other companies who might have a financial interest in seeing the facility fail might be bankrolling the nonprofit under the guise of safety.

"It's all about real estate. It's all about who is going to be getting this land," Cervino said at a recent meeting of the College Point Civic/Taxpayers Association.

Cervino's suspicions are echoed in a 2009 report in the weekly real estate publication Crain's, which ties a lawyer for the then-nascent resistance to the transfer station to Tully Construction, a large Queens firm that deals in transferring garbage.

Tully dismissed any involvement with Friends of LaGuardia, citing the fact that the city is buying out part of his nearby business in the future. And Paskar denied any profit motive, contending that he owns no property and is not getting paid to go to bat for developers or any other special interests.



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# Assembly races heating up

## Primary victors prepare for November challengers in final stretch

BY PHIL CORSO

With November's general election looming, six different races for state Assembly have shaped up throughout Queens, according to the city Board of Elections.

According to a city-wide candidacy list provided by the BOE, Assembly races in the borough will be decided Nov. 6 for the 25th, 30th, 33rd, 36th, 37th and 40th districts.

In the 25th District, which runs from Flushing to Douglaston and includes most of Bayside Hills, September's Democratic primary winner, Nily Rozic of Fresh Meadows, will face off against Republican Abraham M. Fuchs and Conservative William N. Garifal Jr., as well as her defeated opponent Jerry Iannece, who will appear on the Independence Party line.

Rozic, who ran on a platform that pushed improving vital services for women and seniors, bested Iannece in the Sept. 13 Democratic primary with more than 56 percent of nearly 4,000 total votes, the BOE said. Iannece campaigned largely on bringing his experience to Albany after spending more than a decade as president of the Bayside Hills Civic Association and chairman



Democratic candidate Ron Kim (r.) is up against Republican Phil Gim this November in the race for the 40th state Assembly District seat.

Photo (l.) by Joe Anuta and (r.) by Christina Santucci

of Community Board 11.

Fuchs said he was running largely on an education-first agenda while Garifal has campaigned for lower taxes and fiscal responsibility.

As for the 30th District in central Queens, including most of Maspeth, incumbent Margaret Markey (D-Maspeth), who was first elected in 1998, will see a rematch against Republican and Conservative candidate Anthony Nunziato Nov. 6.

In 2010, Markey bested Nunziato in the same race with 9,745 Democratic votes against her opponent's 5,029 on the Republican line, 439 on the Independence line and 768 on the Conservative line, according to the BOE.

Markey has signed

onto several bills throughout her more than 10 years in the Assembly, including one that sought to address sexual abuse in private schools. In his last run against Markey, Nunziato campaigned largely on job creation, capping government spending, cutting taxes, fiscal responsibility and school vouchers.

Democratic and Working Families Party candidate Barbara Clark, of Cambria Heights, will face Clyde Vanel, of the More Jobs Party, in November to decide who will represent the 33rd Assembly District in that region.

Clark bested Vanel in the Sept. 13 Democratic primary with more than 63 percent of about 4,700 votes, campaigning on her experience against Vanel's pro-

business platform.

Clark was first elected to the 33rd Assembly District in 1986, which includes all or parts of the neighborhoods of Bellerose, Queens Village, Cambria Heights, Hollis and St. Albans.

In the 36th District, which encompasses northwest Queens and most of Astoria, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) will defend her seat against Republican challenger Julia Haich, of Astoria. Simotas will be running on both the Democratic and Working Families party lines.

After running unopposed in the Nov. 2, 2010, general election, the Greek-American Simotas said she has focused in Albany on revitalizing New York's economy, protecting neglected consumers and strengthening our criminal justice system. Her opponent, Polish-American Haich, has campaigned on reforming crime prevention, senior outreach programs and lowering real estate taxes.

In the 37th District, which includes Sunnyside, Woodside, Astoria, Maspeth, Queensbridge, Long Island City and Ridgewood, incumbent Catherine Nolan (D-Ridgewood) will defend her seat against Republican challenger John Kevin Wilson.

*Continued on Page 16*

# Convicted lobbyist has boro pols curious

BY JOE ANUTA

The prominent lobbyist sentenced last week to three months in prison for bribing a state senator was involved in several Queens issues, and some in the borough's political circles wonder what he told federal investigators, since court documents showed he cooperated to get a lesser sentence.

Richard Lipsky is a well-known lobbyist in Albany and City Hall and has often taken cases concerning development and commerce. In Queens, he was recently associated with fighting the city's planned \$3 billion redevelopment of Willets Point, the collection of junkyards and auto body shops across from Citi Field.

But Lipsky was hired by many other Queens groups over the years.

His lobbying firm, Richard Lipsky Associates Inc., was formed in 1983, according to records from the state Department of State.

Lipsky recently had a hand in lobbying against another mega-development in Flushing.

In 2010, Lipsky was hired by the Flushing Coalition for Responsible Development, a group opposed to the development of Flushing Commons, an \$850 mil-

lion, mixed-use complex that is set to take the place of Municipal Lot 1 between Union and 38th streets and 37th and 39th avenues. The project eventually received all of the legislative green lights needed, but has not commenced due to funding problems.



RICHARD LIPSKY

Lipsky also attempted to steer small business legislation in favor of Jetro Cash-and-Carry, a nationwide grocery store supplier based in College Point. He was hired by Jamaica Recycling in Jamaica to lobby for a permit to operate a waste transfer station.

But it was his dealings in Brooklyn that led to his arrest, guilty plea and eventual sentence, which was greatly reduced from the maximum he could have served for the crime.

Lipsky pleaded guilty to forking over \$200,000 in bribes to Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Brooklyn), according to The Wall Street Journal.

And while he was initially supposed to be sentenced up to six years, lawyers filed paperwork detailing his cooperation with federal authorities on a high-profile corruption investigation, which led Manhattan federal court Judge Jed Rakoff to hand down the sentence of three

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# JetBlue breaks ground on JFK Terminal 5 expansion

BY RICH BOCKMANN

JetBlue Airways broke ground Monday morning on an extension project to its terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The project, expected to be completed in early 2015, will add approximately 150,000 square feet of space and three additional gates to the airline's Terminal 5. With the conversion of three existing gates, JetBlue's new terminal will have six international arrival gates as well as an International Arrivals Hall with facilities for the U.S. Custom and Border Protection and Federal Inspection services.

"Today is truly a groundbreaking day for JetBlue as we begin work on our international ar-

rivals terminal at T5," JetBlue President and CEO Dave Barger said. "We're excited to work with all of our partners at JFK and beyond to move forward with this project which, when completed, will make all domestic and international operations seamless and convenient for our customers and consolidate our flight operations under one roof."

Barger said the airline opened Terminal 5 in 2008 amid an international expansion to countries such as Colombia and Bermuda, and the company plans to add more international destinations later this year.

He said the design of the expansion will mirror that created by the Gensler firm for the existing terminal in order to create a "seamless ground experi-

ence" for passengers.

The design attributes include an abundance of natural light, low-flow water fixtures, an efficient heating and cooling system and circulation paths designed to get customers through gates and customs with ease.

Barger said the building would even use concrete reclaimed from JFK's aircraft apron as the base for the concrete within the new building.

"We designed this addition to T5 to welcome people to New York, greeting them with natural daylight and a view outside," Gensler Principal Bill Hooper said. "Our goal is to put passengers first and make it easy and fast for people to get where they want to be."

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# Boro nonprofits receive foreclosure-relief funds

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Four Queens nonprofits will receive a share of more than \$16 million the state attorney general's office has set aside this year to assist homeowners in avoiding foreclosure, though it was not certain whether the grants would allow the groups to expand their services or simply compensate for other sources of funding that have run dry.

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced last week that the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project in Jamaica, Queens Legal Services, the Chhaya Community Development Corp. and Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica would be among the 94 legal-service and housing-counseling providers across the state to receive the grants, which represent the first year of his office's three-year, \$60 million program to aid struggling homeowners.

In February, Schneiderman and 48 other state attorneys general reached a \$25 billion settlement with Ally Financial (formerly GMAC), Bank of America, Citi, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo after a joint federal-state investigation found the country's five largest mortgage servicers had improperly signed off on foreclosures between 2008 and 2012.

As the foreclosure crisis heated up, New York took steps — and provided funding — to help borrowers stay in their homes.

In 2008, the state Legislature passed a law that created a mandatory foreclosure-settlement conference for homeowners with subprime mortgages, designed to help them renegotiate their mortgages. As the crisis escalated, the law



Chhaya Director Seema Agnani (l.-r.), city Housing Department official Michael Abel and Chhaya Program Director Afreem Alam, shown in this file photo, announce a new homebuyer assistance program. Chhaya is one of four Queens nonprofits to receive new funding to help homeowners avoid foreclosure.

was expanded in 2009 to include all borrowers facing foreclosure.

The state's budget for 2008-09 provided \$25 million in grants to nonprofits that assisted homeowners with foreclosure prevention services. The next year's budget appropriated another \$21.8 million under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Those contracts expired at the end of 2011.

Mark Weliky, executive director of the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, said starting in 2008 he used the grants to hire three lawyers, who provide legal assistance as well as training to the pro-bono lawyers.

He said the attorney general's funding picks up where the previous grants left off.

"Just on a dollars-and-cents basis, it just about replaces the money that we're not going to be getting," he said.

Schneiderman acknowledged the state was facing what he called a "catastrophic lack" of legal services for low-income

New Yorkers last Thursday when he spoke at one of four hearings state Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman scheduled before he reports to the Legislature on the need for more funding.

Lippman said he estimates that only 20 percent of the need for legal aid services throughout the state is currently being met.

Queens continued to lead the city in the second quarter of 2012 with 106 foreclosures, down 7 percent from a year earlier but up 31 percent from the first quarter from the beginning of the year, according to the real estate website propertyshark.com.

Sujatha Raman, director of development and communications at Chhaya Community Development Corp., said she currently has enough funding for one foreclosure counselor and would like to be able to hire another.

"We're really hoping this will be additional funding, and not just replace existing funds," she said.

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# Food stamp cuts could leave boro poor hungry

QUEENS WEEKLY, OCT. 7, 2012 • TIMESLEDGER.COM 9

BY KAREN FRANTZ

With more people falling below the poverty level in Queens, the unemployment rate remaining high and the sluggish economy showing little signs of a turnaround, New York City's food bank is worried proposed cuts to the national food stamp program could have a devastating impact on the borough's poor.

"None of us want to see a family go hungry, but that's really what's at stake right now," said Triada Stampas, director of government relations and public education at the Food Bank for New York City.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, is what Stampas called the nation's first line of defense against hunger. The program awards a card that eligible people can use to buy food at grocery and convenience stores.

But in an effort to cut down the deficit, the U.S. Congress is considering massive cuts to the program. The U.S. House of Rep-



Dania Peralta picks up bags of groceries for herself and her three kids at the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Long Island City. The Food Bank of New York City says potential cuts to the nation's food stamp program could drive more people to pantries and soup kitchens.

resentatives has proposed up to \$16.5 billion in cuts as part of reauthorization of a larger Farm Bill, and the U.S. Senate already passed its own bill that cut \$4.5 billion from the program.

The House failed to pass the legislation before its deadline last weekend, but it is expected to take up the issue in the lame duck session following the elections.

Stampas said that with the Senate's proposed cuts, 190,000 households citywide would lose \$90 a month in benefits. With the House's version, another 220,000 households would lose benefits entirely, she said.

Stampas said even with the current level of funding for the food stamp program, many food pantries and soup kitchens in Queens have seen people show up at the end of the month after their food stamps have run out — and pantries and kitchens themselves have been stretched beyond capacity, she said.

"What we see in New York is that these benefits aren't adequate to last the month," Stampas

said.

Thus the proposed cuts to food stamps would be "a significant blow" to struggling households in the borough at a time when demand for food assistance programs have gone up in the city, she said.

She said a 2011 Food Bank survey revealed that about 30 percent of Queens residents said they were concerned about needing food assistance within the next 12 months and 40 percent said they would not be able to afford food within three months of losing household income. In addition, almost twice as many people are out of work now as they were before the recession and the costs of living and food in New York remain high, she said.

Such factors mean Queens residents need strengthened food assistance programs now more than ever, Stampas said.

She said representatives in Congress need to take a long, hard look to make sure they are not trying to fix the deficit on the backs of poor people and families.

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# Friends turn shared tragedy into chance to tackle cancer

BY STEVE MOSCO

The scene could have been just a typical Sunday in late September — family and friends gathered at an Irish bar, watching football surrounded by copious amounts of food and drink.

Laughter filled the barroom at Monahan & Fitzgerald, on 41st Avenue in Bayside, as patrons patted each other on the back, dealt some good-natured ribbing and clanged bottles together in cheers.

But the cheers were more than the product of a timely touchdown or game-saving tackle. Two men connected by devastating loss used this Sunday to raise money, awareness and their spirits.

Marco Di Fava and Jared Beschel always had a lot in common. They both attended Oneonta State University, then moved on to Hofstra Law School. And they both had their relatively tranquil lives torn apart

when disease ravaged family members.

Doctors diagnosed Di Fava's mother, Tina, with breast cancer in 2008 — Beschel's father, William, received the same diagnosis soon after. Both were taken by the aggressive cancer, leaving Di Fava and Beschel with a connection they never expected.

That connection brought their friends and family together on this day to help raise money for the American Cancer Society.

"If I could make a career out of this, I would," said Di Fava, who grew up in Ozone Park. "I do it for the memory of my mother — she was a fun-loving person who enjoyed life."

Di Fava recalled his mother's love for gambling, something he will honor when he participates in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk later this month under the team name "Tina's Jackpot."



Maria Di Fava (l.-r., back row), Alexandra Beschel, Jared Beschel, Marco Di Fava, Christina Di Fava and Anna Murray are joined by youngsters Jared Beschel Jr. (l.-r., front row), Ali Hoering and Maria Di Fava.

Photo by Christina Santucci

This will be his third year walking.

His experience with the pain of watching a loved one endure cancer enabled Di Fava to truly be there for Beschel when his father, a well-known Whitestone man and retired police officer, suffered from the same disease.

"We talked a lot," recalled Di Fava. "It really helps to have someone to lean on."

Beschel said the shock of learning his father had breast cancer was a feeling he could barely describe. It just did not seem possible.

"You always hear that women should routinely

check themselves for breast cancer, but men should take precautions as well," he said. "I miss him every day, and it was hard watching him through those years of chemotherapy."

Beschel's aunt, Jo Ann, said losing her brother to breast cancer was heart-breaking — but watching her nephew and his friend work together for this cause is a healing, therapeutic experience.

"It is hard to be here, but seeing this turnout really warms my heart," she said. "Jared and Marco were always very close and both deaths were such a shock to all of us — it never occurred to either family that something like that would happen."

Di Fava's aunt, Anna Murray, who put together a cookbook of Italian favorites called "Zi Anna's Kitchen" with all profits going to cancer research, said both families would rather take action than be

furious at life's tragic happenstance.

"It is better to raise awareness than to be angry," she said. "These two men choose to work together to fight this disease. And we are all very proud of them."

This not-so-typical Sunday in late September raised close to \$5,000 for cancer research through raffles and other activities, giving Di Fava and Beschel one more commonality among them: the master planning of a fund-raiser.

"We had people here early, and we will have more people coming in as the night goes on," said Di Fava during the fund-raiser. He said holding the event on a Sunday, when the New York Jets played early and the New York Giants played late, ensured that crowds would keep coming in all day and all night.

"There is a method to my madness," he said.



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# Horse meat idea nixed at M. Wells' PS 1 cafe

BY REBECCA HENELY

Sarah Obraitis, half of the team behind the much-mourned French-Quebecois diner M. Wells, is furious over a controversy spurred after she and husband Hugue Dufor had considered adding horse meat dishes to their new spot at art institution MoMA PS1.

"It's not on our menu," Obraitis said flatly.

M. Wells, opened as a stand-alone diner in Long Island City in 2010, had to close a year later due to disputes with the landlord. In the ensuing time, Dufor and Obraitis had showcased their Quebecois-style takes on traditional diner fare at food festivals and for special events, but last Thursday they opened a location in the cafeteria of the popular contemporary art museum, at 46-01 21st St. in Long Island City.

"It's a wonderful fit," Obraitis said about the opening of the dinette.

Obraitis said she and Dufor had served horse meat on a previous occasion and had thought about offering it as part of the dinette's ever-changing menu later down the line. But since reports began circulating about the potential equine option, Obraitis said they have had people call them "disgusting."



M. Wells' new dinette in contemporary art gallery MoMA PS1 had ample lines on its first day despite controversy over the eatery potentially serving horse meat. Photo by Rebecca Henely

"It's a total non-issue," Obraitis said.

Quebec has a large horse meat business, and butchers offer the food in other parts of Canada. The United States removed a five-year ban on horse meat last year as part of the passage of the 2012 federal spending bill.

Despite the controversy, many came out to try M. Wells' offerings last Thursday, with the dinette serving long lines of people in the last hour that day. Items on the menu included rabbit terrine, beef tartare, vegetable banh mi and cod brandade. The dinette also offered croissants, coffees, wines and iced hibiscus tea.

Before opening, M.

Wells had partnered with MoMA PS1 to provide food for an art fair in May. In homage to MoMA PS1's former life as a school, the dinette is set up like a school cafeteria with communal tables and the changeable menu written on chalkboards.

Obraitis said the new location initially presented some challenges, since it is a renovated schoolroom, but it turned out to be a perfect fit.

"In a way, it's just another gallery," Obraitis said. "It's a gallery of food."

The dinette is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

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# Woodside honors civic founder

BY REBECCA HENELY AND CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

The Woodside neighborhood honored one of its fiercest advocates at a street renaming Sunday.

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) and about 25 others unveiled the new “Martin M. Trainor Way,” at northwest corner of 58th Street and Roosevelt Avenue in Woodside.

Trainor, who died in August 2009 at the age of 84, was best known as the co-founder of the neighborhood’s community services organization Woodside on the Move and former president of Community Board

2. He was also a member of the Anoroc Democratic Club, St. Sebastian’s Church and the local Knights of Columbus. He worked as an attorney.

“This sign will be here forever as a permanent reminder of all that he did,” said Van Bramer, who advocated for the street rename.

Before the unveiling, Van Bramer, other elected officials and civic activists spoke of Trainor’s passion for the neighborhood.

“Martin was always very positive and he was always thinking about the next thing that we should be working on,” said U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-

Jackson Heights).

Members of Trainor’s family also came to the ceremony. Son Michael, daughter-in-law Bernadette and grandson Thomas, 13, were in attendance, as well as nephew Patrick Trainor. Two other grandsons — Michael and Matthew — were away at school.

Michael Trainor said his family moved to Woodside in the early 1960s, eventually setting down on 57th Avenue.

“He would have passed by here all the time in his travels,” Michael Trainor said of the intersection.

He said his father kept active before forming Woodside on the Move and spent

countless hours working to improve the neighborhood.

“It was in my dad’s DNA to service the community,” Michael Trainor said.

State Assemblywoman Marge Markey (D-Maspeth) described Martin Trainor as a “very good human being.”

“We miss him and we recognize him today for all the work that he’s done,” she said.

Crowley described Martin Trainor as the consistent face of Woodside on the Move. He said the street renaming, and all street renamings, are about keeping someone’s memory alive.

## Lobbyist

Continued from Page 6

months behind bars.

The judge had received about 50 letters on Lipsky’s

behalf, one of which came from Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara indicating that Lipsky had provided substantial help in other investigations.

As news of Lipsky’s

cooperation spread to Queens, many in political circles wondered if the information Lipsky provided to investigators would have any ripple effects.

“Curious is probably

the right word,” said one political insider, who indicated that many in Queens are distancing themselves from the embattled lobbyist. “I couldn’t find anybody to admit that they had even

met him.”

And while no one in Queens would admit they are sweating at the thought of Lipsky’s chats with federal prosecutors, other lawmakers would not be sur-

prised if more indictments were in the pipeline.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at [januta@cnglocal.com](mailto:januta@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4566.



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## Flushing celebrates Moon Festival

The streets of Flushing were filled with people to celebrate the Moon Festival Saturday evening. (Clockwise from top l.) Gigi Rodriguez shimmies down Elder Avenue as part of a presentation by ENJ Production; Shanna Patel jumps as she releases her Barbie kite into the air; Shiyun Shang crafts a small duck; a student of the New York Chinese Cultural Center performs the fan dance; a member of the New York Hung Sing Kwoon Lion Dance Team is visible inside the face of a lion; Yi Zhou (l.) plays the pipa and Liquan Li accompanies her on Yangqin at the Queens Botanical Garden; Dominican diablo cojuelo dancers from the group Adicoony bring a douse of color to the parade; and dancers from New York Chinese Cultural Center show off their flexibility.

Photos by Christina Santucci





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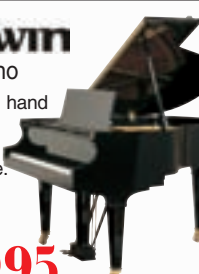
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# Assembly

*Continued from Page 6*

Nolan, who will appear on the ballot as a Democrat and Working Families candidate, has held onto

## Victim

*Continued from Page 1*

Police announced early last Thursday morning that Day Bryant, 37, of 2850 8th Ave. in Harlem, has been charged with criminal possession of a weapon and reckless endangerment in connection with the shooting.

Ray Normandeau, press secretary of the Queensbridge Tenant Council, said last week he was glad an arrest had been made.

“I think it’s fantastic news,” Normandeau said. “Usually nobody’s apprehended.”

Van Bramer said last week, at a Police Service Area-9 meeting, at 34-40 21st St. in the Ravenswood Houses in Astoria, that Amy had been doing schoolwork at 5 a.m. Sept. 23 so she could get it done before going to church. He said she ducked when she heard the shots, an action that could

her seat since her initial election in 1984 and was appointed as chairwoman of the Assembly Standing Committee on Education in 2006. Wilson, an actor and bartender, has campaigned on breathing new life into the Assembly seat and re-

have saved her from being hit in the head. Two bullets had come through the window before a third had ricocheted and hit her in the hand, Van Bramer said.

He said the family came into his office after the incident. He went to visit Amy in the hospital and held the rally in response.

“They wanted some help and they’re afraid,” Van Bramer said.

The councilman described Amy as a great student and writer. He said she has been writing in the hospital.

About 50 people showed up at the Ravenswood meeting and many were concerned both about Amy and the New York City Housing Authority’s role in keeping the peace. One man in the audience said many rules like parking are rarely enforced by NYCHA and the agency is lax on the upkeep of security features, like lighting and whether or not the doors are locked.

“What is needed is the

forming education and spending in Albany.

In the 40th District, which encompasses downtown Flushing, Democratic, Working Families and Independence candidate Ron Kim will face Republican Philip Gim after both

partnership and reinforcement from NYCHA,” said Karen Dennis, president of the police community council for housing. “I don’t think that relationship is great.”

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) said in a statement that Queensbridge Houses needed more police officers.

“While the most recent shooting incident in Queensbridge Houses is outrageous in itself, what’s even more disturbing is that it is yet one more in a growing number of episodes of gun violence in this neighborhood,” Maloney said. “In a city filled with more than 8 million New Yorkers, guns just don’t belong.”

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

## RKO

*Continued from Page 1*

\$373,600, according to Finance.

But the most current records show Thompson still owes about \$385,000 — which is actually \$11,500 more than the initial balance when he entered into the agreement, according to department records.

“He’s on the way to paying it,” said Michael Nussbaum, spokesman for Thompson.

According to the department, if the developer had not entered into a payment plan before May 17, the city would have placed the property on its tax lien sale list, meaning that a third party could have potentially taken possession

of the land.

Not only does Thompson need to fork over installments to chip away at the outstanding balance, he also needs to pay taxes for this current year. In total, if he were to pay off everything he owes for the payment plan and his current taxes for the rest of the year, the developer would be required to write a check for roughly \$500,000 to the city, records show. That is more than double the yearly property tax value of the parcel.

The hefty bill comes at a time when the community is questioning the theater’s fate, since Thompson received all the required approvals to start building in May, but still does not have enough funding to start construction.

“We’re still proceed-

ing with the financing, and they are still proceeding to get the thing done,” Nussbaum said of the project, adding that there has long been an unnamed developer Thompson has partnered with for the project.

The most recent approval from the Federal Aviation Administration is valid until October 2013. If Thompson does not start building by then, the FAA will have to go through another review process to determine if the proposal poses a threat to aviation, since the structure lies in the glide path of LaGuardia Airport.

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

candidates won primaries Sept. 13.

Kim, who received more than 27 percent of the nearly 4,000 votes cast in the Democratic primary,

## Creedmor

*Continued from Page 1*

providing its own security.

Neighbors have long complained that the lack of a comprehensive security plan on the southern campus leaves patients free to act unruly on the edges of the campus, which about nearby residential neighborhoods. They also say the campus, which houses programs for people dealing with chemical dependencies, has become a magnet for drug dealers who can reach a lucrative clientele

has campaigned on promoting small business growth and education. Gim, a small business owner, former postal worker and U.S. census supervisor, ran

at Creedmoor with little or no security deterrent.

Deputy Inspector Joseph Courtesis, of the 105th Precinct, told community members in June that 911 calls to the campus were spiking and that on average he had to send officers to Creedmoor six times a day.

Frank Toner, president of the Rocky Hill Civic Association, said Creedmoor’s executive director has pledged to clear brush around the southern campus, install lighting and increase security patrols as well as look into manning a gate at Creedmoor’s main

his campaign focusing on cutting state regulations that hinder small business growth, which he said would create jobs.

entrance.

“She said there are no plans to add security at this point,” Toner said. “But she said they’re going to increase security patrols. I’m not sure how that’s going to work.”

Toner said two of the outpatient programs have plans to leave the campus within the next few years and hoped that when the state looks to fill those buildings, it will be an opportunity to rectify some of the security lapses.

“Part of our wishes is that we be included in that process,” he said.

## Survivor

*Continued from Page 1*

she has become one of the most sought-after storytellers at the Kupferberg Holocaust Center at Queensborough Community College, the college said.

“She is a gem and, like many of our survivors, unique,” the college said.

At 90 years old, Katz said she is prepared to share her history with anyone willing to listen, whether it is at QCC or neighboring Holocaust centers in the area. The Little Neck survivor said she continues to revisit some of the most horrific memories of her lifetime because she has a responsibility to keep the story of the Holocaust alive for generations to come.

“Anyone I talk to, I always ask them, ‘Please remember what happened. Tell your children,’” Katz said.

Katz grew up with her family in the small city of Buchach, Poland, where she said her life changed forever July 5, 1941. As soon as Adolf Hitler’s forces arrived in the region, Katz said the atrocities began immediately.

Then-17-year-old Katz was put to work on a local farm while her other

siblings were dispersed through other forced labor assignments. She remembered how her twin brother Mordecai Dawid Katz was the first of her family members to disappear after reporting to a local police station, where he was eventually held captive and murdered.

“I could not believe civilized people could do something like that,” Katz said of her initial reaction to the killings.

Katz spent years living in fear of being captured and killed, running with her family from one temporary safe haven to the next until they were finally spotted March 8, 1944, while hiding in a farmhouse outside the city. Katz, her sister and two brothers fled the house while her father urged them on, until they were ultimately captured. While she played dead after being struck in the back of her head, Katz said her family was taken out into a nearby field and murdered, leaving her alone.

“I wanted to run,” Katz said. “But I kept asking, ‘Where should I run?’”

She spent the following months hiding alone in a false wall inside a home occupied by German soldiers until the city was liberated, consuming only one ounce

of bread a day.

While recollecting her thoughts and retelling her tales, Katz used specific dates for different memories from the day her family went into hiding to the last moment she ever saw her father and brothers before they were murdered by Nazis.

“I remember everything,” Katz said. “It is all in here,” as she motioned to her heart.

As she told her story, her daughter Felice Katz sat and listened to what she had already memorized. As a second generation link to a Holocaust survivor, she said it was important to keep her mother’s story alive.

“It is an obligation,” Felice Katz said. “It is not an easy burden to bear. My whole life is different because of these stories, which are so valuable as time goes on.”

That is what keeps Ethel Katz coming back to different Holocaust centers throughout the region, including the one at Queensborough Community College in Bayside, with hopes that the stories of the Holocaust would never be forgotten.



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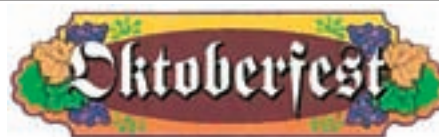
# Zum Stammtisch

Featured  
on the Food  
Network:  
The Best  
Thing I  
Ever Ate

Serving Fine German & Bavarian Cuisine for Over 40 Years

69-46 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale • **(718) 386-3014** • Find out more at [www.zumstammtisch.com](http://www.zumstammtisch.com)

*We pride our reputation on authentic, quality recipes, straight from Germany.*



1 Liter Oktoberfest  
Steins and 2 Liter  
Boots Available

at **Zum Stammtisch Restaurant**

LIVE MUSIC WITH **DIE SPITZBAUM**

Oktober 8th - 11th

Monday thru Thursday

7:30 PM Seating

\$55.00 Per Person

Special Oktoberfest Menu

(\$20.00 Non-refundable deposit required)

Make Your Reservations Early!

COME VISIT OUR RETAIL LOCATION AND TAKE HOME  
HARD TO FIND GERMAN DELICACIES

## Stammtisch Pork Store & Imports

We Have all the Ingredients to  
Make this Barbeque Season a  
Culinary Success.

Including all the classics:  
Bratwurst, Hamburgers, Hot  
Dogs, Shish Kabobs, Steak,  
German Specialities and A Wide  
Variety of Mouth-Watering Salads.



Now enjoy **Zum Stammtisch** classics for your next event.

We offer many of our dishes in half or full size catering trays with all the trimmings.

69-40 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale (Next Door to Restaurant)

**(718) 386-7200** • See more at [www.stammtischporkstore.com](http://www.stammtischporkstore.com)