

## Dem primary turnout strongest in SE Queens

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## Man stabbed to death near Jax Hgts train

BY PHIL CORSO AND CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Police arrested a Bronx resident on charges of stabbing a 69-year-old Woodside man to death on a Jackson Heights sidewalk near a No. 7 train stop Monday afternoon, but will not charge him with a hate crime, the Queens district attorney said.

Steven Torres, 22, was charged with second-degree murder in the death of Ever Orozco and criminal possession of a weapon, the DA's office said. The Police Department initially said he was being charged with murder as a possible hate crime, but the Queens district attorney's office said that accusation was lifted as the investigation continued.

"The defendant is accused of fatally stabbing an innocent bystander," Queens DA Richard Brown said. "His alleged actions were violent and ruthless and the charges against him will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Torres was arraigned Tuesday and ordered held without bail before his Oct. 1 court date. He faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted, the DA said.

Musarrat Chaudhary, who owns a newsstand and stationery store on 90th Street where

*Continued on Page 50*

# Tower to change Jamaica skyline

## MTA approves real estate deal to bring 24-story hotel to Air Train area

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The MTA and the Greater Jamaica Development Corp. sealed a deal Wednesday that paves the way for Long Island hotelier Able Management to erect a long-

awaited, 24-story lodging-and-retail tower across from the JFK AirTrain station.

The agency's board voted to approve the \$1.7 million sale of 4,181 square feet of property owned by the Long Island Rail

Road to GJDC affiliate 93-43 Sutphin LLC, which owns another adjacent 5,794 square feet.

The properties, which combined allow for about 111,200 square feet of buildable area, will then be sold to Able for \$4.5 mil-

lion, to be split 38/62 between the LIRR and Greater Jamaica.

The Port Authority gave the development corporation \$2.7 million to purchase the property in 2004, the year after the AirTrain

*Continued on Page 50*

## MOTORCYCLE CRASH



Police investigate a fatal motorcycle crash in the Ditmars section of Astoria that took the lives of Michael Fernandez, 32, and Jennifer Manthorne, 36. **See story on Page 29.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

# City busts bribery suspects

Investigators say Councilman Richards reported liquor store men

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city's corruption cops arrested a businessman last week after the southeast Queens city councilman he allegedly tried to bribe turned him in.

The Department of Investigation said police had apprehended Tarsem Singh and two others Friday in connection with an alleged plot to bribe Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) to drop his opposition to their plans for a liquor store across the street from Springfield Gardens High School.

In May, Singh filed an application with the state Liquor Authority for 219 BS Wine & Liquor Inc., at a strip mall on the corner of North Conduit Avenue and Springfield Boulevard, a site where the community had previously protested plans for a pay-by-the-hour hotel.

After Richards and neighborhood leaders made their views known on the liquor-store proposal, Singh and an associate met with the councilman to discuss the application.

City investigators say that at that meeting, which was caught on camera, Singh allegedly tried to buy favor with Richards, who refused a cash bribe and reported the scheme to the authorities.

Singh and two of his associates later discussed the application with someone they thought was one of



City Councilman Donovan Richards and community members celebrate the state Liquor Authority's rejection of an application for a liquor store near Springfield Gardens High School. City investigators say Richards turned in a trio of businessmen who allegedly tried to bribe him in return for his support.

Richards' representatives, but was in fact an undercover investigator.

Two of the men subsequently met with the agent on two different occasions and allegedly handed over \$1,400 in cash and promised another \$1,100 if Richards would support their SLA application.

"Call the Liquor Authority. We are counting on you," the second man, Davinder Singh, texted the undercover agent the next day, according to the DOI.

"Clearly, the good news is that there are public officials unwilling to sell their offices," DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said. "The

Council member's prompt report allowed DOI to investigate swiftly and shut down the scheme."

Richards said his office is not for sale.

"When I was elected, I promised my constituents that I would carry myself with the utmost integrity and that I would do whatever was needed to protect our quality of life," he said. "May these arrests show those who seek to bribe public officials that our communities and children aren't for sale."

South Ozone Park residents Tarsem Singh, Davinder Singh and a third associate, Rajinder Singh, were

arrested Friday on bribery charges. Tarsem Singh has a license with the city Taxi and Limousine Commission, which the DOI said it notified of the investigation's findings.

The investigation department, which recently launched an anti-corruption ad campaign, is on a bit of a hot streak in Queens.

In May, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) tipped the department off about a Long Island City businessman who allegedly pledged to fill the lawmaker's campaign coffers if he would fast-track a city Department of Buildings permit.

# No plans to close 'Big A' right now

BY BIANCA FORTIS

The Aqueduct Racetrack in South Ozone Park will not be shutting down anytime soon, a spokesman for the New York Racing Association said.

The Albany Times Union reported last month that NYRA was considering closing the horse racing facility.

But when asked about the report, Eric Wing, a NYRA spokesman, said flatly Tuesday "there are no plans to close Aqueduct."

NYRA board members and state Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach), however, have both said the closure is one idea being considered in order to make the association financially sustainable.

At an Aug. 28 meeting of the NYRA reorganization board, Chief Executive Officer Christopher Kay said he hoped to develop a plan by next year to make NYRA a private business again, the newspaper re-

ported.

Board members discussed ways to increase revenues and lower expenses. Finance Committee Chairman Stuart Subotnick brought up the possibility of closing the racetrack.

He said a decision to close it had not been made at that time, but the future of the track still was unclear.

He said funds allocated for upgrades at Aqueduct should be spent wisely in case assets are later moved to Belmont Park or Saratoga Race Course, the two other racetracks NYRA operates.

Former Gov. Eliot Spitzer also considered closing the "Big A" in 2007 and selling the property to developers, but pushback by the community, led by then-state Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer halted that proposal.

In May 2012 NYRA's former president and CEO Charles Hayward and general counsel Patrick Kehoe

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Closing the Aqueduct Racetrack is one option board members of the New York Racing Association say they would consider in order to make the association financially sustainable.

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# After long wait O'Neill's finally makes its comeback

Maspeth restaurant, which plans grand reopening Sept. 27, has already seen plenty of business

BY BIANCA FORTIS

In May 2011, firefighters from Squad 288 lowered the flag waving above a smoldering structure fire. The flag was all that remained of O'Neill's in Maspeth, the decades-old restaurant that had been gutted by the blaze.

Now, nearly 2 1/2 years later, those firefighters are set to return to the flag to its owner, George O'Neill, when he hosts the grand reopening of his eponymous eatery Sept. 27.

O'Neill said he is planning to close down 53rd Drive for the event and expects to have professional athletes attend.

Although construction is not quite complete, the restaurant, located at 64-21 53rd Dr., has remained consistently busy since O'Neill and his family held a soft

opening about two weeks ago.

"It was the spur of the moment — we decided to just open the door and see what happened," O'Neill said. "It was so crowded you couldn't get out the door. I couldn't believe it. I'd love to know how it happened."

It seemed, O'Neill said, that people had just been waiting for him to open for the last couple years.

Within days of the grease fire, O'Neill had set a plan in place to rebuild. He has had a few construction setbacks that kept delaying the opening date, but throughout the rebuilding period, O'Neill always sat outside the building overseeing construction.

"He never leaves," his daughter Tara O'Neill Pyle said.

Now he spends all his time inside the restaurant.



Tara O'Neill Pyle and her father, George O'Neill, sit at a table at their family restaurant, O'Neill's, which was just rebuilt after a fire gutted it in 2011.

Photo by Bianca Fortis

"I've been counting — I've been here about 185 hours in the last two weeks," O'Neill said. "I'm wondering when I'm going to get some overtime."

Pyle said neighbors seem to really miss having O'Neill's as their meeting spot.

"It's such a neighborhood place," she said.

O'Neill's, which was originally founded by George's father in 1928 as Plateau Tavern, has long played host to locals wishing to celebrate family events.

Already since its reopening, the restaurant has held parties for birthdays, christenings, communions and baby showers.

Patrons enjoying the food and "the atmosphere of the place" are what O'Neill looks forward to the most, he said. "If somebody tells me they enjoy the food, that really picks me up."

In total the restaurant can hold about 350 customers and offers both a bar menu and a fine dining menu, which includes prime, aged beef and fresh seafood prepared by famed chef Richard Burns, O'Neill said. The kitchen is open from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. every day.

ery day.

The restaurant also offers catering services.

O'Neill's will have about 40 employees, many of whom worked at the restaurant before the fire. Some new employees are the children of former staff members, Pyle said.

"He would probably be more excited if he could run around the place," Pyle said about her dad, who has had some recent health setbacks. "He may not be dancing on opening night but he'll be sitting at his favorite spot at the front table."

The grand opening begins Friday, Sept. 27, at about 3 p.m. and will last all weekend.

Reach reporter Bianca Fortis by email at [bfortis@cnglocal.com](mailto:bfortis@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4546.

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# SE Queens leads boro vote

## Area records heavy turnout in recent Democratic primary

BY JOE ANUTA

Data show twice the number of Democratic voters turned out last week in several southeast Queens City Council primaries compared to other districts in the west and northeast, hammering home the region's political clout.

Out of seven contests in the borough's Democratic primary, three Council districts in southeast Queens led the pack in raw vote numbers and were in the top four for turnout.

"There are parts of southeast Queens that are very politically active, are very active with social issues and they come out to vote," said one political insider.

About 15,400 people voted in a hotly contested Democratic primary in the St. Albans area to decide who would succeed Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), according to unofficial tallies from



City Councilman Leroy Comrie (c.) celebrates with unconfirmed Democratic primary winner Daneek Miller, who the lawmaker supported as his successor.

the city Board of Elections. About 12,200 voters pulled the lever to nominate Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) for the Democratic ticket and about 10,000 people voted to re-elect Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica).

That is compared to

Council districts similar in population but home to fewer Democrats like Howard Beach, where about 5,900 voters turned out for the primary. About 7,700 people voted in each of two races to replace term-limited Councilmen Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) and James

Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows), while roughly 8,700 Democrats came out for a closely watched primary to succeed embattled City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone).

Southeast Queens also recorded some of the high-

*Continued on Page 34*

# Scholars Academy cracks Top 25 list

BY PHIL CORSO

A blue school rolled out the red carpet this week when city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott made a pit stop in Oakland Gardens to congratulate its students and teachers as some of the best in the state.

A total of 22 schools throughout the city cracked the state's Top 25 list, including Oakland Gardens' 2012 National Blue Ribbon school at PS 203. Walcott teamed up with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other top DOE administrators Monday to visit some of the city's best schools, giving thanks to their performance on new Common Core exams.

"The transition to Common Core learning standards has been years in the making, but as demonstrated by these 22 schools, New York City is adjusting to the higher standards as well as anyone could have hoped," Walcott said. "I am extremely proud of the work being done in our schools to better prepare our students for life after graduation."

Walcott said the more rigorous curriculum helped put the city on the map when compared to 2001, when none of its schools made the state's Top 25 list. The chancellor popped his head into several classrooms up and down

the halls of PS 203 in Oakland Gardens before sitting down for a school assembly dedicated in his name.

"You're not just smart, you're good students and great children," Walcott told the crowded auditorium of PS 203 youngsters. "This school's reputation is the best. Not just in New York City, but in New York state."

PS 203 Principal Carole Nussbaum said her school was lucky to visit with the chancellor twice in the past year, with his most recent stop there coming on the heels of its prestigious 2012 National Ribbon declaration. Nussbaum, wearing all blue, touted the school's arts and music programs before students put her words into action in the form of song and dance.

The Oakland Gardens school was one of three Queens schools to make up the 22 of the Top 25 throughout the state, including Baccalaureate School for Global Education in Long Island City and Scholars' Academy in the Rockaways.

The other city schools making the state's Top 25 list included the full range from traditional public schools to charter schools, all ranked in accordance with their performance on an exam standard known as Common Core, the DOE

*Continued on Page 34*

# DOE gives county 13 new district schools

BY RICH BOCKMANN

At a borough board meeting earlier this week, the Bloomberg administration, which has been largely criticized for its focus on closing schools, touted the high-quality options it has provided students as it recapped the 13 district schools it opened in Queens this year and a number of new construction projects on the horizon.

But of the baker's dozen that opened their doors this year, only one is in a new building and a number of the approximately 6,000 seats the department says these schools will house when they are fully enrolled



The city Department of Education plans to move the Corona Arts and Sciences Academy to its new home when it is completed in 2016. In the meantime, the new school is sharing space at the Elmhurst Educational Campus. Rendering courtesy DOE

in the coming years simply replace seats eliminated from existing schools.

The Hunters Point Community Middle School is the lone institution to

open this year in a newly constructed building. The school, which the DOE said will be home to about 400 students when it is fully phased in, shares its new

digs with the Academy for Careers in Television and Film Technical High School, which was housed last year in the same building as the Oliver Holmes School in Dutch Kills.

At the East Elmhurst Educational Campus, the Corona Arts and Sciences Academy opened its doors for its inaugural year alongside the Pan American International High School as it waits for its new home to be completed in 2016. The DOE originally planned to give Corona Arts its own campus in 2015, but construction delays have the department now floating a plan to extend the co-locat-

*Continued on Page 50*



City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott (l.) greets youngsters at PS 203 in Oakland Gardens during a visit to celebrate the school being named one of the best in New York state. Photo by Phil Corso

# D.C. shooter has strong ties to Queens

Dead gunman who killed 12 in military facility rampage was born in borough, attended Hillcrest HS

BY JOE ANUTA

The man who gunned down 12 people at the Washington Navy Yard Monday in the nation's capital was a son of Queens who attended Hillcrest High School, authorities and multiple reports said.

Aaron Alexis, the 34-year-old U.S. Navy contractor who was killed by police after his murderous spree inside the Washington, D.C., military office building, was born in the borough May 9, 1979, according to the FBI.

He lived on 77th Road in Kew Gardens Hills, attended Hillcrest HS and obtained a rifle permit from the NYPD in 2000 to use at city shooting ranges, according to a report in the New York Post.

But authorities were still trying this week to piece together details from Alexis' past and how the

troubled computer contractor was allowed security clearance to gain access to the building.

"We also continue to conduct all other necessary investigation to learn about the activities and contacts of Mr. Alexis," FBI Washington Assistant Director in Charge Valerie Parlave said in a Sept. 16 statement. "We continue to conduct interviews, exploit digital media and run down every lead we can to piece together his recent movements and to determine the motive behind this attack."

Alexis' family still lives in Brooklyn, though a relative told the Post the gunman had not been in close contact with anyone there.

Alexis served in the Navy from 2007-11 and first obtained a security clearance in 2008 as a naval reservist, according to the Post.



Police escort several people out of the Washington Navy Yard after Queens-born Aaron Alexis killed 12 in a shooting rampage.

AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

But following a series of shooting incidents with the law and being discharged from the



Aaron Alexis

AP Photo/FBI

Navy in 2011 for a pattern of misconduct, Alexis nevertheless obtained a security clearance after being hired by a subcontractor for Hewlett-Packard to update computer systems in Washington, according to a report in the Washington Post.

Alexis had been arrested multiple times — in one instance for discharging a gun in his Texas apart-

ment, which shot into the apartment of a neighbor he often accused of being loud, according to the Washington Post. On another occasion, he shot the tires of a car in Seattle in what authorities referred to as a moment of blind rage.

Most recently, investigators discovered he had called police in Rhode Island last month and said he was hearing voices and was being followed by a group of unknown people, according to a CBS report.

Alexis is hardly the first Queens resident to gain national infamy.

Former Flushing High School students Zarein Ahmedzay, Adis Medunjanin and Najibullah Zazi were all found guilty of plotting to blow up New York City subways in 2010.

Last year, Ahmed Ferhani was sentenced to 10 years for his role in plotting to blow up New York

## House plan to limit food stamps would hurt New Yorkers: Maloney

BY BIANCA FORTIS

Political leaders in western Queens are opposing a congressional proposal that would cut \$39 billion from the federal food stamps program over the next 10 years.

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) Monday called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides food stamps, a vital safety net that keeps millions of Americans out of poverty.

"These cuts are part of the GOP's continued affront on millions of low-income families, many of them headed by single woman," she said.

Maloney was joined by state Assemblywoman



Community leaders gather at the Long Island City food pantry Hour Children to protest cuts to food stamp benefits.

Photo by Bianca Fortis

Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) and City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) in front of the Hour Children food pantry in Long Island City to publicly denounce the proposed cuts.

House Republicans,

led by Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.), want to change eligibility requirements for the program, which would leave between 4 million and 6 million Americans ineligible for food stamps, according to

*Continued on Page 34*

## Avella drafting legislation against pension stripping

BY PHIL CORSO

Retirees are afraid.

Those were the words John Hyland used while advocating for a bill state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) intends on submitting to protect retirees from having their pensions sold off by their longtime employers.

Hyland, who spent 33 years working as a union chief steward for the Communication Workers of America at New York Telephone/NYNEX, a predecessor to Verizon, spoke from a firsthand perspective when he said seniors who worked their whole lives should never need to worry about the practice known as pension de-risking, or pension



State Sen. Tony Avella (second from l.) joins constituents and pension experts, including attorney Edward Stone (r.), to discuss legislation he will soon introduce providing basic protections for retirees in New York.

Photo by Phil Corso

stripping.

"All of us are very afraid," Hyland said Monday at a news conference in Avella's Bayside office. "And we have every right to be."

The fear stemmed

from a practice in which a company sells the pensions of its retirees, usually to an insurance company, without notifying its owner. In some cases, retirees would see their pensions convert-

*Continued on Page 34*

# Judge won't postpone stop-and-frisk reforms

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Murders in Queens are down almost 40 percent from where they were last year, and the federal judge who ruled the NYPD's stop-and-frisk practices unconstitutional cited the citywide drop in crime Tuesday when she rebuked the Bloomberg administration's claim that reforming the Police Department would make the streets unsafe.

After filing notice it would appeal Manhattan Judge Shira Scheindlin's August ruling, the city asked the judge to stay her appointment of an independent monitor to oversee the retraining of the police force, arguing her orders had the possibility to create "an environment that may stem and reverse the long-standing record of crime reduction in this city."

The judge rejected the

motion, citing a 27 percent decline in crime through the first half of the year while the number of stops has fallen 50 percent.

"The recent reduction in the number of stops appears to have been a positive step toward remedying an improper practice without sacrificing the security of the community," she wrote.

"Ordering a stay now would send precisely the wrong signal," the ruling continued. "It would essentially confirm that the past practices, resulting in hundreds of thousands of stops — overwhelmingly of minorities — that resulted in little or no enforcement action or seizure of contraband were justified and based on constitutional police practices. It would also send the message that reducing the number of stops is somehow dangerous to the residents of this city."



Manhattan U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin rejects the city's motion to stay the remedies ordered along with her ruling on stop-and-frisk.

AP Photo/Richard Drew

In Queens, the number of murders fell 39.7 percent through the beginning of September, down from 68 last year to 41.

The city argued that Scheindlin's orders were too broad and that retraining officers on what it viewed as an erroneous

interpretation of constitutional law would cause irreparable harm to the NYPD. But the judge said the city was using a circu-

lar argument and pointed out that the reforms were still in the stage where the stakeholders were discussing how to move forward.

In August she appointed Peter Zimroth, former corporation counsel for the city, as the independent monitor.

In response to the judge's decision, the city's current chief lawyer said it was evaluating its next steps as it seeks an expedited appeal in the Second Circuit Court.

"The plaintiffs have opposed that motion, apparently preferring to keep police officers in limbo for the foreseeable future," Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo said. "We cannot afford such delay, as public safety is of paramount concern to the mayor and the police commissioner."

Cardozo said the city will seek a stay with the appeals court.



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# POLICE Blotter

## St. Albans auto shop owners face fraud charge:DA

St. ALBANS — Authorities arrested the owners of a Merrick Boulevard auto body shop who allegedly bilked the state out of \$250,000 in tax revenue, the district attorney said.

Robert Minott, 56, and his wife, 46-year-old Susan Thompson-Minott of Old Westbury, L.I., were arrested Tuesday morning on charges of tax fraud, larceny and forgery, DA Richard Brown said.

According to the prosecutor's office, a state Tax Department audit revealed that between December 2007 and February 2011 the couple allegedly stole \$250,000 in sales tax they collected from customers of the Better Auto Collision shop at 123-40 Merrick Blvd. but failed to report.

If convicted, the two face up to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to \$.5 million, the DA said.

## Cops search for missing East Elmhurst man

EAST ELMHURST — Cops were reaching out to the public with hopes of finding a missing man who lived within the 115th Precinct, the Police Department said.

Rezwan Kabir, 28, was reported missing Sept. 11, when he was last seen around 10:30 a.m., the NYPD said.

Cops said he was wearing a blue T-shirt, blue jeans and black sneakers and was described as standing about 5-foot-8 and weighing 200 pounds.



REZWAN KABIR

## Motorcycle kills woman crossing plaza: NYPD

LONG ISLAND CITY — A woman in her 50s was fatally struck by a motorcycle while crossing a Queens Plaza street last week, police said.

The woman was crossing Queens Plaza North at about 9:45 p.m. when she was struck by a 69-year-old man riding a blue 2009 Honda CRV, according to the NYPD.

When police arrived, they found the woman unconscious in the roadway,

while the biker had driven up onto the curb and hit a pillar, cops said.

The woman was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital in Queens, where she was pronounced dead, police said.

The motorcyclist remained at the scene and the incident was still under investigation, according to the NYPD.

## Crips member guilty in Qns Village theft

QUEENS VILLAGE — A Crips gangbanger from Brooklyn who was foiled when he was spotted wearing a pair of gold-colored sneakers was sentenced to seven years in prison Wednesday for a 2012 gunpoint robbery, the Queens district attorney said.

Victor Santana, 20, pleaded guilty in August to sticking up a 19-year-old victim in August 2012 for an iPhone and a backpack holding a pair of gold-covered Nike Air Foamposite sneakers, DA Richard Brown said.

After the robbery was reported, the victim's mother spotted Santana strutting around in the sneakers and called 911 and her brother for help.

When police arrived on the scene, the victim's uncle and Santana were in a struggle, and after breaking it up, they found the Crip had an unloaded and inoperable .380 pistol inside the stolen backpack, Brown said.

Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron sentenced Santana to seven years in jail plus five years' probation.

## Got tips?

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

# Street named for Boyd in Cambria Heights

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Apostle Dr. John H. Boyd's legacy will live on long into the future in the Cambria Heights community where his ministry first began, his family and community leaders believe.

"Fifty years from now a young man will go past this street and ask his mother, 'Mommy, who was Apostle John Boyd?' That mother will tell him what a great and wonderful man he was and maybe that will make for a follow-up of Apostle Boyd," state Assemblyman William Scarborough (D-Jamaica) told a crowd of several hundred gathered to see the corner of Linden Boulevard and 219th Street co-named for Boyd Saturday afternoon.

"For his name to live on forever in this community on a street sign, there are no words," said Boyd's son, Pastor John H. Boyd II. "It was always about making life better for the people in this community,"

Boyd's New Greater Bethel Ministries started in a small brown canvas tent that the late church leader set up at the corner of Linden and Francis Lewis boulevards in 1972.

"I was 16 years old. I didn't understand what in the world he was doing," said his son, who has since taken over the church.

The congregation quickly grew to more than 2,000 members, and in 1975 the church acquired the Cambria Heights theater complex, which now serves as a school run by the ministry. The church also runs a food pantry, soup kitchen and 24-hour prayer phone line.

"John Boyd's voice went around the world," said the Rev. Charles Norris about the minister's Voice of Bethel radio broadcast, which officials believe reached almost 150 million listeners each week.

Tributes to the late church leader were given by elected officials, including U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica), City Comptroller John Liu, state Assemblywomen Barbara Clark (D-Queens Village) and Vivian Cook (D-Jamaica), Scarborough, and City Councilmen Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) and Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), who hosted the weekend event.

"Apostle Boyd was about teaching and about economic development. He was teaching other people to be ministers," Comrie said. "He was about acquiring property to make sure that the church could be self-sufficient."

Comrie said Boyd's ministry had owned a lot on Linden Boulevard

*Continued on Page 34*



Councilman Leroy Comrie (l.) helps Mother Margie Boyd and her daughter-in-law Lady Boyd pull the cover off the street sign. **See more photos on Page 32.** Photo by Christina Santucci

# Peninsula trustee files suit

Lori Lapin Jones claims fraud and corruption doomed Far Rock hospital

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The trustee appointed to oversee the bankruptcy and eventual closure of Peninsula Hospital has accused a blacklisted health care executive of secretly operating the failed institution and running it into the ground for his personal gain.

Lori Lapin Jones filed a lawsuit in Brooklyn federal court late last month accusing Steven Zakheim of pulling the strings for Revival Home Health Care — the company that swooped down in a failed effort to save the Far Rockaway hospital in December 2011 — and funneling business to other companies he owned while bleeding the institution dry.

Zakheim died earlier this month. The lawsuit identifies a dozen other individuals and corporate affiliates with the executive as defendants.

In 2005, the state Department of Health refused to grant Zakheim a certificate he needed to run a medical company, citing a "cloud of Medicare or Medicaid fraud," so when his wife Faye Zakheim purchased Revival in 2005, the two had to sign an affidavit stating he would have no involvement in the company.

Meanwhile, Peninsula found itself in a precarious financial position.



The trustee appointed to oversee Peninsula Hospital's bankruptcy is suing the for-profit health care company that managed the institution in its final days.

In 2011, it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection with about \$34 million in assets and more than \$70 million in liabilities. As part of the court-ordered agreement, Revival would lay out an \$8 million loan to help keep the struggling institution afloat and appointed one of its executives, Todd Miller, as the hospital's chief restructuring officer.

Jones, a Great Neck, L.I., bankruptcy attorney who was appointed trustee in March 2012, however, claimed that it was Steven Zakheim all along running the hospital.

"Steven Zakheim con-

trolled the operations of Revival HHC and was a decision-maker at all times from 2005," the lawsuit claimed.

In between the time Revival took over and Jones was appointed trustee, she claims, the private company directed at least \$1.3 million in reimbursements to the "Zakheim enterprise," expediting payments to these companies while others had to wait.

Jones said Zakheim saw Peninsula's buying power as a way to get more aggressive pricing for his other companies.

"The debtors would serve as potential sources

of revenue and would also serve as lucrative sources of business and profit for the other enterprise business lines," she wrote.

While Revival and Jones battled in court over control of Peninsula, the Health Department essentially sealed the hospital's fate in February 2012 when it closed the lab, citing untenable conditions.

The hospital closed its doors in April 2012.

Jones is suing for "damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but believed to be at least several million dollars, plus punitive damages."

## Aqueduct

*Continued from Page 2*

were ousted for overcharging bettors and pocketing more than \$8 million. Cuomo then established the NYRA Reorganization Board, placing the organization temporarily under public control with the goal of reforming it.

Addabbo addressed the newest concerns at a recent Community Board 10 meeting.

Addabbo, a member of the Senate Racing, Gaming & Wagering Committee, said the revenue from Resorts World Casino has saved the racetrack for the time being, but NYRA is still in significant "fiscal trouble."

"They're looking at a host of ideas," he said. "One of them, as was mentioned, is the closing of Aqueduct. Do I think it happens tomorrow? No. Do I think that NYRA concentrates on Saratoga and Belmont more

than Aqueduct? Yes."

Funds that were supposed to be used at Aqueduct for capital improvements were not, Addabbo said.

The senator said that should the racetrack close, he would not approve any plans for its replacement unless they benefited the community.

"It has to be something that's amenable to the community and its residents," he said. "The racing is revenue for the city and state. It

creates jobs — something, for me, that is a priority."

Addabbo said he has heard mention of replacing the racetrack with housing, something he will not necessarily support.

"I have nothing against the need for housing, but we already have overcrowded schools," he said. "We have an aging sewer system that can't handle the floods and rain we already have. So development would be a concern."

# DOE moves forward with Van Buren co-location

BY PHIL CORSO

The city Department of Education is inching along with a proposal to co-locate a new school at Martin Van Buren High School next year despite the opposition coming from elected officials and community leaders.

Officials last gathered at the school in July to rally against the proposal, which would co-locate a new career and technical education early college and career high school within the same Queens Village school. The issue came to a head again this week after state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) renewed his push against any potential co-location.

"One of the worst things that could happen to a school like Martin Van Buren is a co-location," said Avella, one of the elected leaders in new Principal Sam Sochet's corner. "The

new leadership I helped install at the school has finally begun to turn things around. Now a co-location is threatening to divert the necessary resources that Martin Van Buren needs to continue to thrive."

The DOE said the plan came on the heels of a 40 percent drop in applications at Van Buren since 2010, according to a spokesman. The co-location consideration was created to offer parents with more options and allow students to obtain a high school diploma and an associate degree as an intern outside the classroom, the DOE said.

"Across the city, we've transformed the landscape with our new school options — and we've been nationally recognized by President Obama for our visionary offerings," said DOE spokesman Devon Puglia. "We're delivering an incredible new early college and career technical educa-



United Federation of Teachers representative Washington Sanchez (c.) stands with City Councilman Mark Weprin (l.) and state Sen. Tony Avella (r.) to urge the city Education Department to leave Martin Van Buren High School alone so it can continue working on improving its progress report standing.

tion school for this community, one of only a handful from around the city. This will be a special new option that will deliver great outcomes for children, and we're confident it will be in

very high demand."

Avella called on the DOE to nix the co-location proposal and give the school more time to thrive on its own. He and other officials said the school was just

gaining momentum under the guidance of Sochet, who was working on restoring Van Buren's below-average progress report grades.

Earlier this year, the principal stood with Avella

and other northeast Queens leaders to introduce a new partnership he helped facilitate with North Shore-LIJ to bring a pre-med program to Van Buren students.

"There is no reason that instead of installing a new school, these programs cannot be incorporated into the Martin Van Buren curriculum," Avella said. "Principal Sochet should be given every opportunity to restore the school to its former eminence."

Martin Van Buren High School recently celebrated more than \$4 million in federal School Improvement grant money after being selected as one of 22 schools citywide. The state set aside a total of \$74.2 million to be doled out to the schools over the next three years, \$4,341,030 of which will go directly to Van Buren to be used at the school's discretion.



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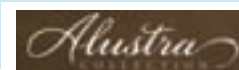
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# TRANSIT TRIUMPHS

Queens is finally coming up on the MTA's radar.

Flushing's Long Island Rail Road station, an embarrassing blight on the vibrant downtown area, is on track to get elevators to take riders up to the elevated platforms above. The only way to reach the platforms now is to climb two steep staircases on each side of the station, which means handicapped riders are out of luck along with many elderly people.

And the stairs to the Manhattan-bound platform rise up out of 40th Road, which is dark at night, icy in the winter and littered with trash much of the time. Once the intrepid commuter reaches the platform, the only shelter from the elements is a dank urban lean-to without any seating.

Time for an upgrade even if it means the Metropolitan Transportation Authority must seize a privately owned building on Main Street to install the elevators. A food stall under the station has already closed.

Flushing is the fourth-largest economic center in the city with a Third World railroad hub, which defies logic. The MTA must be listening at last after years of unanswered pleas from Flushing elected officials and community activists for a respectable station.

The MTA has made some innovative moves with its buses to accommodate visitors to Queens as well as residents.

The new Q70 Select Bus is whisking passengers from the Woodside LIRR subway station to LaGuardia Airport in as little as 15 minutes with a stop at the Roosevelt-Jackson Heights station along the way. A skeptical TimesLedger Newspapers reporter clocked the time in a trip last week.

The MTA says the ride from Manhattan using the No. 7 train and the new bus should take an astounding 35 minutes (if the 7 isn't slowed down by signal problems).

In booming Astoria and Long Island City, the MTA has boosted morning rush hour bus service by 20 percent on the Q103. The bus will also make it easier for visitors to reach Socrates Sculpture Park, the Noguchi Museum and Queensbridge Park, some of the borough's crown jewels.

Over in Ozone Park, the MTA has almost completed design plans for an overhaul of the elevated Lefferts Boulevard subway station, which will get two 24-hour elevators to make it ADA-compliant.

Queens is on a roll at last. Once these projects are completed, next on the agenda should be the mother of all challenges: faster north/south bus service in the borough.



## OTHER VOICES

# Curtail number of political fliers, calls

Over the last month I have received more than 100 fliers in the mail and what seemed like an equal number of calls regarding New York City primary elections. In the five mail delivery days before the primary, I counted 38 fliers, which I had saved for recycling. This does not take into account the endless TV commercials.

I recently read that most of the young people

who move to New York do not bother to register to vote, and only 10 percent of New Yorkers vote in primaries. Most of them are women, older, affluent or educated and candidates are persistent in their efforts to contact these dependable voters. We are inundated with junk mail and phone calls.

This turns us off and does not do a thing to help candidates get elected. If we are interested enough

to vote, we have probably already investigated the candidates and made our decisions. After a while, I do not answer the phone and throw all the fliers in the trash. I cannot convey how annoying this is.

The huge amount of money being spent nationwide makes me wonder what a political office actually offers to those who are focused on getting elected. There must be many unknown rewards and perks

because it is doubtful they all have altruistic reasons for running.

We need to put limits on election spending. Just think of the good that could be done with the billions of dollars wasted on campaigning in the city and across the nation.

Linda Imhauser  
Whitestone

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# Council biased in favor of Willets development

TIMESLEDGER, SEPT. 20-26, 2013

A recent TimesLedger Newspapers article ("Parking permit is crux of Willets Point redux," Sept. 6-12) mentions a public hearing held Sept. 3 by the City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. The article focussed on the developers' decision to seek a special permit for parking at Willets Point, but omitted other newsworthy aspects of the hearing.

At issue was the application of developers Sterling/Related which, if approved by the Council, would result in a 1.4 million square foot Willets West mall being constructed on Queens parkland, Willets Point property worth more than \$200 million gifted to Sterling/Related for just \$1, an additional \$99 million grant of taxpayer funds to

Sterling/Related, no contractual obligation to construct new Van Wyck Expressway access ramps and no clear path to construct any housing — among many abrogations of promises made in 2008.

At the hearing, public testifiers opposed to the Sterling/Related application outnumbered those in favor. Testifiers in opposition included the Queens Civic Congress, representing more than 100 Queens civic associations; individual community organizations, including the Jackson Heights Beautification Group and the Auburndale Improvement Association; the Property Rights Foundation of America, whose president traveled from Albany to testify; and New York City Park Advocates, among others.

Testifiers presented the reasons why constructing a mall on mapped parkland is illegal, and their written demand that the Council's General Counsel provide a formal legal opinion to all Council members before they consider this application; explained how the present plan of Sterling/Related prioritizes constructing a mall while not delivering benefits touted during 2008 or making them susceptible to contractual escape clauses; summarized the severe, unavoidable traffic effects to be generated by the Sterling/Related plan — especially since the huge mall would open with no new Van Wyck ramps; and recounted how a three-year investigation by the state attorney general has determined that city Eco-

nomic Development Corp. and Claire Shulman's local development corporation illegally lobbied for approval of the Willets Point development.

And yet the development not only proceeds despite such illegality, but is awarded to Sterling, owned by the owners of the New York Mets. They are premier financiers of Shulman's development corporation as it illegally lobbied.

The circumstances of the hearing were also newsworthy. With minimal advance notice, it was scheduled for 9:30 a.m. the morning after Labor Day, when many people were away for the holiday. The subcommittee consists of 10 Council members, but less than half of them were present for the Willets Point

portion of the hearing. The Council only published notice of the hearing on its website the prior Thursday, with Friday being the sole business day between the notice and the hearing.

Subcommittee Chairman Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) then slashed the time per public speaker to two minutes and prohibited Willets Point United from showing its PowerPoint presentation at the hearing — even though it would have taken no more time to do so than the combined testimonies of people who would have ceded their time.

All of this demonstrates the Council's contempt for public comment about Sterling/Related's proposed Willets West mall/Willets Point development. Land Use Chairman

Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) and Weprin should be ashamed of themselves.

These latest examples of bias come a year after the mayor's office and EDC selected Sterling/Related and their plan to expand the development from 62 to 108.9 acres, including putting a shopping mall on parkland in a private process that shut out the Queens-based Willets Point Advisory Committee from participation, contrary to multiple written promises.

The fix appears to be in. Let the Council now show us otherwise.

*Gerald Antonacci  
Willets Point United Inc.  
Willets Point*

## Take hint from Far East airports

In view of the increased jet noise over the New York metro area, I thought your readers might be interested in how several large cities in Asia have dealt with this problem.

For decades, Hong Kong had a downtown airport, Kai Tak, that was like LaGuardia Airport: situated in the heart of a densely populated area (Kowloon) with jetliners roaring in nonstop over the tops of apartment and office buildings.

Eventually, Hong Kong decided enough was enough and built a huge, new airport on landfill on one of Hong Kong's outer islands, Lantau. Then Kai Tak was closed. It is a good distance from the new airport to the main parts of Hong Kong, but the people of Kowloon and central Hong Kong are no longer bombarded by incessant jet noise and the

ever-present risk of an airline crash.

Moreover, visitors to Hong Kong go through a new airport, a more attractive gateway than the rundown Kai Tak. I went through the new airport last year and was impressed — remarkable that someone can be impressed by an airport, but that was my feeling.

Here is the kicker: It was done in six years.

Osaka, Japan, also created an island for a new airport away from central Osaka, thus sparing residents the noise and air pollution from increased jet traffic. This project was also accomplished quickly. Tokyo put a new airport, Narita, outside the main city more than 30 years ago.

In Singapore, a new airport was built at Changi Point, about as far from downtown Singapore as you can get. It is also right

on the water.

New York City is on the water and there are many possible offshore locations for a new airport, from Sandy Hook to the Rockaways.

A number of years ago an offshore airport was proposed for New York and New Jersey, but the proposal never got traction. Perhaps it is time for our local officials, the Port Authority and the Federal Aviation Administration to take another look at this idea.

Construction of an offshore airport with underground high-speed rail or highway links would provide large numbers of jobs and related economic development. We could expect even more travelers and less noise and air pollution over Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx and New Jersey.

*Peter Rutledge  
Bayside*

## Say no to Willets shopping mall

There are many reasons for the City Council to reject the application of Sterling Equities and Related Cos., which seeks to amend the 2008 approved Willets Point plan.

The amendment that seeks to build a parking lot at Willets Point is a ploy to sneak through the back door a transfer of the Citi Field parking lots to allow construction on the vacated lots a 1.4-million-square-foot shopping mall. This is without a Uniform Land Use Review Procedure and replacing parkland, since Citi Field is on land that is part of Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Affordable housing will not be built until 2015, if ever.

At the top of the list of deceptions that have ac-

companied the application is the claim for requiring a prioritized Citi Field shopping mall as a financial engine to generate enough funds with which to construct the original Willets Point plan, suggesting that without it the original plan cannot be accomplished.

Ignoring its speculation, it is untrue and a ploy to have the mall, which is what the application is all about. Related Cos. are the developers of the \$20 billion development underway over the Hudson Yards in Manhattan. The claim that these multibillion-dollar companies — which are being given the Willets Point land the city has acquired for hundreds of millions of dollars and more in the future for \$1 and a subsidy of \$99 million — do not have

the financial wherewithal to build Willets Point without a huge shopping mall is an insult unworthy of belief and a reason to reject the application.

The original Willets Point plan approved by the Council in 2008 is one thing. A deceptive huge shopping mall is something different and unacceptable. It remains to be seen if the word from the Council is that its constituents are not just billionaire real estate moguls but the little people, the poor, the middle class and small businesses, which are the backbone of an urban society and reject the application.

*Benjamin Haber  
Flushing*

# Boro Dems have avoided internal strife seen in GOP



**William Lewis**  
■  
**Political Action**

Every two years, major and minor political parties focus on county conventions for the purpose of electing county officers to run the county party during the next two-year period.

This procedure is also done at the state level to elect state leaders. New York state election law directs that these conventions be held. The delegates who attend these functions with voting privileges are members of the county committee, which will be elected during party primary elec-

tions in September.

In the case of the Democratic and Conservative parties, these conventions are held in even years. The county Republican Party holds its convention in odd-number years. That being the case, 2013 is the year for the Queens Republican convention.

For years there has been party strife in the Queens Republican Party. It has been a long, internal party battle that has been going on periodically since the 1980s.

The present chairman is Phil Ragusa, who has served for the last six years as county leader. He has been challenged every two years by insurgents seeking to take over the county organization. Ragusa and his county officers have won re-election by a sig-

nificant majority each time they were challenged.

This year promises to be no different, since the insurgents are putting forth a major effort to take over the Republican county organization. As in past years, though, it has been shown that Ragusa has strong support from the county committee, as it has elected him every two years since he became leader.

Ragusa has served in the Queens Republican Party most of his life. He has been a club chairman, district leader, county treasurer and county vice chairman.

Two years ago there were rumors that former U.S. Rep. Robert Turner would challenge Ragusa, but it never materialized.

It would be beneficial to the Queens Republican

For years there has been strife in the Queens Republican Party. It has been a long, internal battle that has been going on periodically since the 1980s.

Party if the regular organization and the insurgents could work out a compromise solution and end the strife, but at this particular time that does not seem possible.

After the last several county conventions, there were court challenges from both sides. In all these cases, the courts upheld Ragusa and the regular organization.

Looking at the big picture, these party conflicts

have caused damage to the Republican chances of electing candidates to public office. In recent years, the Queens Democratic Party has been united at the county level, which has been a benefit to its candidates for public office.

Hopefully, the Queens Republican Party will emerge stronger next year when there will be state offices up for election.

It will be helpful to the Queens political system if

more residents of our borough would become active in politics by joining political clubs, running for public office and working for candidates during political campaigns. The more citizens show an interest in local politics, the more it strengthens our democratic electoral system.

The last time the Democratic Party had a large internal fight occurred in 1961, and it involved the entire city. Hopefully, in the future internal political party warfare can be kept to a minimum.

For politics to work well in a democratic society, there has to be a significant amount of citizen involvement. We need a lot more interest by the people in our system if our system is to improve.

## Council cares only for Flushing Meadows development



**Bob Harris**  
■  
**The Civic Scene**

Decades ago, when I became involved with civic work, there seemed to be the philosophy that parkland was a sacred trust held for the use of the people of a community. Now it seems the city is willing to give away parkland to private developers in the name of economic development.

It started with Mayor David Dinkins giving the United States Tennis Association acres of land to build a complex in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The talk then was of the prestige of having the famed USTA in Queens. Some of us talked about the loss of

parkland and the fact that the USTA had its offices in Westchester County.

A recent campaign pushed for the USTA to get a small amount of parkland so it could rebuild its stadiums. The fact that two groups also wanted parkland did not stop the process. Even statements by state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) that the USTA could have reconfigured the development so as not to take land and move or cut down 400 trees did not deter the giveaway.

The only good thing which came out of the votes by the City Planning Commission and the City Council was the fact that the USTA agreed to give \$10 million to maintain the park and be in contact with the surrounding community. The city gives little money for park maintenance in Queens. Any money paid to the city by vendors who



A rendering shows what Willets West may look like.

Image courtesy mayor's office

use our parks goes into the general city coffers but not necessarily for park maintenance.

The Council is holding hearings on the proposed Willets Point West Mall, which would use the parking lot adjacent to Citi Field. This land was originally parkland, but was leased to the New York Mets' owners to be used as a parking lot for baseball fans. Now the Mets owners want to build this large mall for private economic develop-

ment. If this parkland was not needed by the baseball team, then it should have been repurposed and used by the community people who come here to play and relax.

Fighting this "giveaway" was the Queens Civic Congress, the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy, the Fairness Coalition of Queens, Save Flushing Meadows Corona Park, New York City Parks Advocates and other groups. As in the case of the

land given to the USTA, the Council also voted to give this land away.

The Queens Civic Council, an umbrella organization of about 100 civic associations in Queens, testified that if this mall is built, it will harm many small mom-and-pop stores in surrounding communities as well as struggling malls in other parts of Queens.

Another land giveaway proposal for the park is to build a soccer stadium.

This idea may or may not have been shelved. There has been opposition to this proposal. One will have to watch carefully to see if it resurfaces.

Willets Point, also called the Iron Triangle, is a desolate area is just north of the park and was neglected by the city for decades. The city is pressuring the auto junk dealers there to sell and move away so private developers can build here using the threat of eminent domain.

Ironically, I saw the repeat of a TV show which tells how concerned people had to fight to prevent developers from destroying the natural beauty of Yellowstone National Park and other western natural areas. In those days, Congress had been like the Council in being willing to give away the people's parks to developers.

# Hindus clean up Rockaway sanctuary after water rites

15

TL



Prem Calvin Prashad  
■  
*New Voices*

Although Queens residents of all stripes are guilty of littering or dumping in Jamaica Bay, Hindu religious rites get some blame for some of the more visible debris. The Hindu rite of Ganga Pooja involves making an offering into a body of water as a way of cleansing one's sins.

Unfortunately, not all of these materials used in the offerings are biodegradable. Fabric outfits, plastic idols (murthis), aluminum pans and Styrofoam wash up on the beaches and nature preserves along Rockaway's coastline. On Aug.

31, a group of conservation-minded Hindus, in conjunction with the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance, decided to pitch in by cleaning up the Dubos Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Rockaway.

The religious basis for the practice of Ganga Pooja is in the Bhagavad Purana, one of Hinduism's sacred texts. The pooja (rite) usually involves a ceremony in the home or temple and all items used in the ceremony must be disposed in a body of water. In India, the Ganges River is one of the more famed spots for Ganga Pooja. The ultimate goal of cleansing one's sin through this rite is moksha — in Buddhism, nirvana — which is the ultimate liberation from the cycle of death and rebirth.

Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism are based on the belief that life inherently involves suffering and

thus securing release from this cycle is the ultimate spiritual goal.

Sadhana: A Coalition of Progressive Hindus is an advocacy group based around the city that tries to advocate a socially conscious, progressive agenda, focusing on inserting tolerance, inclusiveness, non-violence (ahimsa) and faith in action (sadhana) into Hindu and interfaith discourse. As such, activities such as beach cleanups promote awareness of the moral imperative to care for the environment and promote greener practices in worship.

In response to the problem of debris at local beaches, Sadhana launched an environmental initiative known as Project Prithvi.

As Sadhana founding member Aminta Kilawan explained, Project Prithvi "aims to protect both tradi-

The Hindu notion of non-violence (ahimsa) extends to all living things, including the environment.

tion and the environment in a way that benefits society at large."

Kilawan further noted that the Hindu notion of non-violence extends to all living things, including the environment.

Efforts to establish a designated site for religious rites has been met with silence from the city Parks Department, and Kilawan said that "in the past, city parks officials have been quick to close off the beach, post signs and even issue fines to put a stop to any water offerings."

She pointed out that this leads Hindus to dispose

of the materials secretly in Jamaica Bay, which is close to Richmond Hill and Ozone Park.

Kilawan suggests that the best solution to accommodate religious communities would be to allow temples or organizations such as Sadhana to adopt a beach site, which would enable these groups to keep stewardship over that area.

Other measures involve a switch to murthis made of clay or sand, which Kilawan said "would only be possible with the support of local Hindu leaders and their respective congregations."

Traditionally, the clay murthis would melt away in the water. The current murthis made of plastic inevitably break and shatter when disposed, which pollutes the bay and disrespects the religious icon.

Sadhana next plans to do a beach cleanup in conjunction with the American Littoral Society, near the Joseph P. Addabbo Bridge in Jamaica Bay off Cross Bay Boulevard Sept. 21 at 10 a.m.

Vijay Sookai, a student at Townsend Harris High School, served as the link between the two groups and has worked on Sadhana's Project Prithvi for more than a year. Those who wish to get involved can contact Kilawan at [kilawan@gmail.com](mailto:kilawan@gmail.com). Kilawan will be serving as the beach captain for that effort and the group plans to tally pooja-related debris.

TIMESLEADER, SEPT. 20-26, 2013

## Third term curse first haunted Koch, now Bloomberg



Tom Allon  
■  
*Mayoral Spin Cycle*

Back in 1987, more than a quarter century ago, an outspoken and opinionated third-term mayor was not only wearing out his welcome, but also evoking the ire of African Americans.

Every week the editorial on the front page of the largest African-American weekly newspaper, the *Amsterdam News*, ran under the headline "Koch Must Resign."

During that ill-fated third term, there were a few corruption scandals swirling around Edward I. Koch, the gay community was incensed with his AIDS policies and the African-American community was upset

with his handling of a few racial incidents.

No one, it seemed, blamed the third-term mayor for the high murder rate or the crumbling schools, but like a guest who overstays their welcome, the citizens of New York were tiring of a man whose middle initial was also his favorite pronoun.

Fast forward to today. Now we have the final 120 days of New York's next three-term mayor, and the curse of the third term seems to be plaguing Michael Bloomberg as well — but for different reasons than Koch.

Bloomberg's successful crime-reducing policies, which have arguably saved more than 1,000 lives a year when compared to 1990s murder rates, have come under assault because many think that success has been accomplished at too great a cost to civil lib-



Mayor Michael Bloomberg is joined by former Mayor Ed Koch in Forest Hills.

erties.

That this coalescing of anger at stop-and-frisk is occurring during an election year, with a lame duck mayor, is probably not coincidental.

On top of that, the daily barrage of candidates bashing the mayor's policies on homelessness, sick leave, a living wage and other 99 percent concerns

has tarnished the generally warm glow that has bathed the Bloomberg era.

More than four years ago, in 2008, Bloomberg was riding high and even being mentioned as presidential material. His two terms of strong fiscal stewardship, public safety success and public health and environmental innovations made him the most popular

mayor in recent memory.

Like an athlete retiring after a championship season, Bloomberg had the opportunity to exit the city stage on a high note.

It is hard to understand what motivated Bloomberg to want another term. Perhaps he thought he was indispensable in the face of a crippling economic recession or, just as likely, he didn't know what to do next and the limelight of New York's mayoralty was difficult to relinquish.

His willing companion in the reversal of term limits, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan), was coming off an embarrassing slush fund scandal and she knew that she needed four more years as speaker to rehabilitate her reputation before she ran for mayor.

What neither Quinn nor Bloomberg counted on was a populace weary of

a mayor who, despite his confidence-inspiring competence, cast an imposing shadow on many areas of life, including soft drink consumption and hundreds of thousands of street stops of minority youth by police.

The curse of the third term was probably unavoidable. It ultimately defeated Koch and Bloomberg's legacy and reputation may have been greater if he hung up his spikes after eight years.

Then again, if Bloomberg were on the ballot this November, he'd still be a pretty safe bet to win a fourth term.

*Tom Allon, president of City & State NY, was a Republican and Liberal Party-backed mayoral candidate in 2013 before he left to return to the private sector. Reach him at [tallon@cityandstateny.com](mailto:tallon@cityandstateny.com).*

# Student dies in hospital after Maspeth car crash

BY BIANCA FORTIS

A 13-year-old boy who suffered minor injuries in a horrific Maspeth car accident last week when an SUV jumped the curb and struck five students died Saturday, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

Some media outlets reported that the boy, Michael Gomez, died of an asthma attack, but a spokeswoman for the city medical examiner could only say that the death at Elmhurst Hospital was being investigated.

A spokeswoman for the hospital said the boy who died was being treated for minor injuries. The hospital had no comment on the circumstances surrounding his death.

A 40-year-old driver was attempting to park his SUV in front of a deli at the corner of Grand and 71st streets last Thursday, the NYPD said. The driver ac-

cidentally hit the gas pedal instead of the brake pedal, police said. The driver jumped the curb onto the sidewalk and rammed into several IS 73 students before finally hitting the wall of the deli, according to police.

Three girls and two boys were injured, some more seriously than others, and taken to the hospital, police said.

The driver stayed at the scene and no charges have been filed, police said.

A group of parents whose children attend the nearby schools gathered near the accident site Monday to meet with City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) and Dalila Hall, the Queens commissioner for the city Department of Transportation.

The parents complained about a lack of traffic lights and clear signage



Surveillance footage shows an accident that occurred last week in which a driver hit five children walking to school.  
Photo by Joe Anuta

in the area as well as drivers who speed. They also said parents double- or triple-park while picking up or dropping off children.

"It's not just kids being kids," Maryann Johnson, the PTA president of PS 58, said. "It's drivers being bad drivers."

Johnson said drivers need to be aware that there are three schools — PS 53, IS 73 and Maspeth High School — within six blocks.

Parents described a "sea of kids" that floods the neighborhood in the morning and afternoons when children are on their way

to and from school.

"The rules need to be enforced," Johnson said. "Drivers should slow down and be more respectful."

She said children in the local schools participate in a classroom education program offered through the American Auto-

motive Association. Students learn about the importance of wearing seatbelts and safely crossing the street.

"We need something similar for parents," she said.

Hall said she met with the parents to listen to their concerns. She said she would bring their concerns back to engineers at the DOT to implement traffic-calming measures. While some changes are long-term projects, she said some may be implemented as early as this fall.

Crowley said it was important to bring parents into the discussion about traffic safety because they travel those streets every day.

"They are the ones who see what happens," she said.

One goal of hers, she said, was to turn the six-block span into a slow zone.

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## A MESSAGE FROM JOHN CATSIMATIDIS:

I wanted to write to my friends, supporters and hosts of my “friend raisers” to personally Thank You. I will also be reaching out to have a dinner party for my hosts. I WILL NEVER FORGET THE PEOPLE THAT HELPED ME AND THE NEW FRIENDS I MADE.

I have withdrawn from running on Liberal Line at the request of Governor Pataki and other GOP Leaders.

First The Facts. We Lost the GOP primary by approximately 29,000 votes to 23,000 – a 6000 votes difference, which means 3000 vote swing would make it 26,000 each, or a 50 – 50 split. THERE ARE STILL 16,000 POSSIBLE ABSENTEE AND OTHER PAPER VOTES UNCOUNTED. We will see where that goes. The Campaign spent close to 9 million dollars. Currently our Favorable vs Unfavorable rating 65 % vs 15 %. We won Staten Island. Brooklyn was even. In the Bronx we lost by just a few hundred votes. Manhattan I found strange. We only received 3000 votes out of 11,300 cast in Manhattan... Very Strange.

Throughout the campaign I felt I was not fighting Lhota. I felt I was fighting Rudy. Lhota never spoke in one television or radio commercial. It was only Rudy. I felt it was RUDY vs CATS.

There were so many dirty tricks. There were tens of thousands of ROBO calls made to New Yorkers saying it was our campaign causing voters to become annoyed and against us. In another situation, which I cannot talk about because this is an active court case, many Election workers were threatened with their jobs if they did not support certain things. For the record I do NOT blame Rudy or Joe for this. I found out I was the “ANTI -Establishment Candidate” opposed by the major papers. I was attacked for visualizing a better New York.

Despite efforts against me, I was supported by the working people of the outer boroughs who I grew to love. I believe this happened because I can relate to the working families. I spent my OWN money. I was NOT owned by any special interest groups, corporations or unions. And I only wanted what was best for New York taxpayers and those who work in the city.

Well ... Good lessons learned for next time.

I will stay active in politics demanding honesty and integrity in government as well as demanding truth in media without them skewing that facts. They have to learn that they have a responsibility to TELL THE TRUTH to their readers.

My interest is to maintain and reach new heights in the quality of life to ALL New Yorkers in all five boroughs. I will miss the opportunity to create a new Worlds Fair.

Finally, this is NOT GOODBYE but SEE YOU LATER.

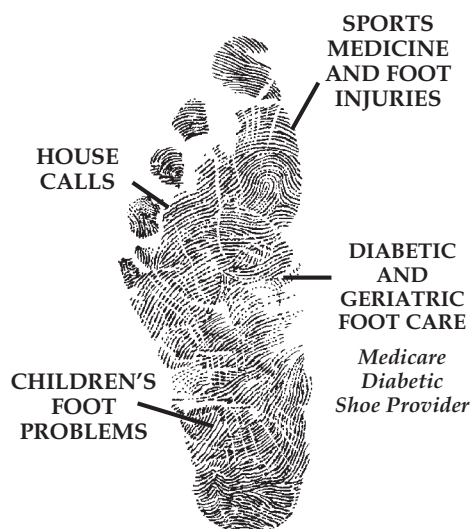
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*John Catsimatidis*



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# S. Jam family seeks to return home after blaze

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Nearly a month after a fire in a multi-family South Jamaica house took the life of a famed furniture designer, the living situation of one family whose apartment was in the basement of the building remains somewhat in limbo.

The family of three currently is staying in the Bronx but hoping to return to Queens.

Naomi Ebouki, 20, and her younger brother must now commute about two hours each way to school in Bayside from their family's temporary apartment near Hunts Point. Before the fire, the trip would have taken her under an hour, she said.

"We are both taking two buses and one train," Ebouki said, describing her route of the No. 6 train to the Q44 bus, which travels from the Bronx to Queens, and then the Q27 bus from



Residents watch as police investigate the fatal fire in South Jamaica last month.

downtown Flushing to get to class at Queensborough Community College, where she is studying business administration. Her brother is a senior at Bayside High School.

A vacate order has been in effect at the 157th Street home where they had lived until soon after Aug 20, when 83-year-old Charles Pollock was found dead inside his ground-floor studio. The Fire Department determined the blaze began with a cooking accident in

his apartment, a spokesman said last month.

The house, which had been OK'd as a two-family residence, had been illegally subdivided into four units, according to the city Department of Buildings.

Ebouki said the family was told it could take three to six months for the city to find somewhere else for them to live in Queens.

And if they were allowed to return to the South Jamaica home eventually, her mother Mary Kayulu

is concerned about staying on the ground floor of the home, where Pollock's apartment is being combined with another unit.

"My mom was saying she doesn't want to live there anymore because she doesn't want to have nightmares," Ebouki said, saying Kayulu did not realize until later that she heard Pollock trying to escape the blaze. "She can't stop thinking about it."



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# OUTDOOR LIVING ROOMS HAVE CREATED A WARM SPOT FOR PATIO FANATICS DURING COOLER MONTHS

As the leaves on the tree lines surrounding backyards in the north-east turn to the colors of autumn and eventually bare their limbs completely, some lovers of the outdoors pack away all signs of patio life while others continue on, fully prepared for the change of season, and even beyond season three into the colder winter months. These folks have recognized the availability of an array of multi-seasonal hardscape products that can warm your bones and your soul right in your own backyard. The products, which fall under the category referred to as "outdoor living room" components and range from fire pits to outdoor fireplaces; grill islands to fully functional, open-air kitchens and pizza ovens; and pergolas to roofed pavilions; are available from leading manufacturers of hardscape products.

"This trend began well over a decade ago when we introduced a fire pit made of manufactured wallstones as a viable accessory to the patio and/or backyard landscape," according to Charles H. Gamarekian, Chairman/CEO of Cambridge Pavers Inc, makers of Cambridge Pavingstones with ArmorTec®, Cambridge Wallstones and a comprehensive line of outdoor living room components in pre-packaged kits and ready-to-enjoy, fully-assembled components, Homeowners



Fully assembled or as pre-packaged kits, a Cambridge fire pit is the ideal addition to a backyard landscape.

soon found themselves blowing leaves off their patios and even shoveling a path to reach the pit where families could sit warming their hands and faces in the crisp evening air. "The evolution continued," added Gamarekian, "as consumers traded their old barbeques for outdoor kitchens with high-end features such as 75,000-BTU burners, rotisseries, built-in stainless steel sinks and refrigerators as well as luxurious granite counter tops."

Cambridge not only

makes several outdoor kitchens complete with those amenities but also has models of outdoor pizza ovens that offer an alternative to driving to your local pizza restaurant for a take-out when appetites are high and temperatures are low. With one of these outdoor living room components, you can bake traditional Italian pizza pies, open-faced baguette pizzas, homemade breads and a variety of other dishes in your own backyard — all with authentic old world flavor. The Cam-



Fully assembled Cambridge Gas Fire Table



Fully assembled Outdoor Fireplace

bridge pre-packaged and fully assembled pizza ovens come complete with a built-in firewood box and a professional quality Care & Cooking Package. Finishing touches include a cast stone surround in bluestone or chestnut color.

Hard core lovers of the outdoors will be adding a fire table for family and friends to sit around — a new item

being introduced soon by Cambridge. Because the items mentioned are either delivered fully assembled or are provided in easy to build kits, you can also add any of them incrementally to your patio, in phases, as years go by. Consider tucking one of these or a fireplace under a pergola or pavilion, also available in kit form from Cambridge and you'll be ready for

an Indian summer patio party, Thanksgiving dinner in the great outdoors, and maybe a snow-flaked soirée. If it is feasible, position your fireplace so the fire can be seen from inside your home as well for a strikingly beautiful bonus effect.

For additional information, visit [cambridgepavers.com](http://cambridgepavers.com) or a nearby authorized Cambridge distributor.

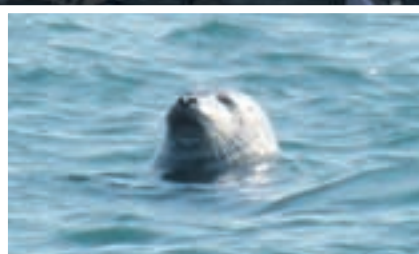
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From the opening day, Rick realized that there was another small niche that was waiting to be addressed; the availability of boat cruises specifically catering to individuals. If a party of 40 passengers were looking for a boat ride, there are many boats that can accommodate them, but if an individual or a couple wants to see the bays from the water, there were none; until now!



Freeport Water Taxi & Tours offers a variety of cruises including, Daytime & Sunset Cruises, Seal Watching Tours, Wetland Tours, regional Wine Tasting, Bike/Boat/Bike events and much, much more! Now folks in Nassau County can hop in the car and come down to the Nautical Mile in Freeport, enjoy all the great things offered on the "Mile" and then cap it off with a beautiful cruise. Or start off with a cruise and be dropped right in the back of a favorite waterside bistro!

One of the great thing about having Point Lookout as a destination is the variety of fine restaurants that are often overlooked due to the remoteness of the town. With the advent of the Freeport Water Taxi & Tours, guests from the mainland can now access all that Point Lookout has to offer without the issue of parking. Joining these communities via water taxi is a perfect marriage of necessities. Both Freeport and Point Lookout can now enjoy a fresh new customer base without their cars.

For more information about Freeport Water Taxi & Tours, please contact Capt. Rick Cohen at, 516-521-7744, or by e-mail, captaincohen@freeportwatertaxi.com.

# 24 floors to be added on top of Rego Center

BY BIANCA FORTIS

Work has already begun to build 314 apartment units on top of the Rego Center shopping mall in Rego Park.

An application submitted by Manhattan-based Vornado Realty Trust to construct the 24-story addition was approved in June, according to documents filed with the city Department of Buildings.

The addition would be 288 feet high and will be designed by the New York firm SLCE Architects, records show.

The new development will not include enclosed parking space, according to the records. The mall already has a parking deck and the Rego Park Mall, in front of the center, has a four-level parking garage. The apartment piece, which was included in the original plans for the shopping center, is considered Phase 2 of the center's development.

Vornado Realty Trust first opened the shopping complex, at 61-35 Junction Blvd., in 2010. While community members were initially concerned about traffic congestion in the area, the center was a welcome addition to the neighborhood because it brought the promise of jobs.

But congestion is



Construction has begun to build 314 apartment units on top of the Rego Center shopping plaza.

again a concern, according to Community Board 6 District Manager Frank Galluscio. He said he has received calls from community members about the construction.

"It's a major concern for everybody," he said. "We have to monitor that closely from a traffic and law enforcement stand point, to make sure that things flow around the area."

Galluscio also said there is some concern among board members about the lack of library access in the area. The Rego Park branch of the Queens Library, on 63rd Drive, requires patrons to cross Queens Boulevard to use it. The Lefrak City branch is on the other side of the Long Island Expressway.

He said board members would carefully watch

the new development so they will be aware of both traffic and other quality-of-life issues.

In late 2010, Vornado had proposed building a multi-use facility across the street from the mall that would include three floors of retail stores, residential housing and even a public school. At the time the company said it would not break ground for at least four or five years.

But, Galluscio said, the board has not heard any new details about that proposal.

Vornado Realty Trust declined to comment about the new development.

Reach reporter Bianca Fortis by email at bfortis@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.

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# Street in St. Albans co-named for NYPD's Arthur Hill

## World War II vet, first black commander of Support Service Unit, oversaw Malcolm X's funeral

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Arthur Hill left his mark through his service in the New York Police Department, with his work at the Guy R. Brewer Democratic Club in southeast Queens and on his family, loved ones said, and now a corner in St. Albans bears his name.

Councilman Leroy Comrie hosted a co-naming ceremony for the late police assistant chief and political activist Saturday at the corner of Hannibal Street and Ilion Avenue.

"He was a real mentor, a real teacher and a real person who cared about people and about seeing the right things done," Comrie said after the ceremony.

An Army veteran who was born in 1922 and served in World War II, Arthur Hill joined the NYPD in 1946 and was assigned

to the 28th Precinct in Harlem.

His brother Elighu Hill, who served in the Fire Department, joked that Arthur Hill wrote in his yearbook he had wanted to be a firefighter. And Elighu Hill had penned that he hoped to be a mounted policeman. However, their wishes ended up nearly reversed.

"I was always proud of him," his brother Elighu Hill said. "As much as I taught him, he taught me."

Arthur Hill rose to assistant chief in 1971, and over the years, he received two commendations, three Meritorious and three Excellent Police Awards, along with numerous citations for his community service, according to Comrie's office. He also served as commanding officer for Malcolm X's funeral in February 1965 and was the first African-American Com-



Arthur Hills' relatives are joined by politicians and community leaders to unveil the street sign in his honor. **See more photos on Page 32.**  
Photo by Christina Santucci

mander of the Support Service Unit, the councilman said. Arthur Hill retired from the NYPD in 1973 and later worked for UPS, Comrie said.

"I am so honored that he was hard on me and hard on all of us because it definitely helped shape my life," Comrie said.

Arthur Hill was also recognized for his political activism.

"He helped me wear out two cars," joked longtime friend Livingston Francis. "They were almost his cars when he got finished. We went to so many meetings that it was as though Arthur was always in my car."

It was through his politics that Arthur Hill became close to U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-Harlem) who attended Saturday's co-naming.

"If he loved anyone,

he loved Charlie Rangel," joked former Councilman Archie Spigner, who works with the Guy R. Brewer Democratic Club.

"He became the executive secretary of the club, and that's the guy who does the work. He's the guy who makes the club look good, and Artie was very generous with his time and his resources," Spigner said.

Several elected officials described how Arthur Hill helped them navigate their way into the city's political world.

"For many of us younger people coming up, Artie was a person that we looked up to, he was a person that took people under his wing and helped us to know what it meant to try to serve your community and be an up-standing citizen," said Assemblyman William Scarborough (D-Jamaica).

*Continued on Page 50*

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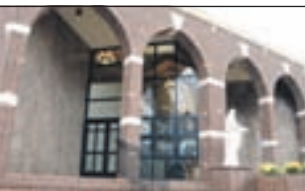
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for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

# S. Rich Hill hit-and-run leaves grandmother dead

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

The family of a 59-year-old woman killed in a hit-and-run crash on 117th Street and residents of the block are calling for measures to slow down drivers on the roadway.

"There should be a stop sign or speed bump or something," said a close relative of Raj K. Chohan, who identified himself as Sam.

Chohan had been visiting a former neighbor to welcome his new daughter-in-law to the family and was walking alongside parked cars near the corner of 97th Avenue at about 7 p.m. last Friday when she was struck by a gray 2013 Toyota Camry, which then sped off, according to cops.

"The husband and wife came to visit," said South Richmond Hill resident Suri Charanjit. "He was with her when it happened."

Charanjit said he and his family came out of their home on 117th Street and saw a crowd of people gathered as EMS performed CPR on Chohan. Her husband had just gotten out of the car when she was struck, her relative said.

Emergency responders were called in and took Chohan to Jamaica Hospital, where she was later pronounced dead, the NYPD said.

Residents along 117th Street said a police cruiser happened to be pulled over on the side of the road near where the crash occurred and immediately chased the vehicle.

Police said the officers caught up with 23-year-old Vishwanand Subryan, of Schenectady, N.Y., a few blocks away at 115th Street and 101st Avenue, where he was taken into custody without incident.

Subryan was charged with vehicular manslaughter, criminally negligent



RAJ K. CHOHAN

Photo courtesy Chohan family

homicide, leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death and DWI, the NYPD said. At his arraignment, Subryan was ordered held on \$200,000 bail and to return to court on Oct. 2, according to the Queens district attorney's office.

Both Charanjit and neighbor Piara Singh complained of cars speeding along 117th Street.

"The cars come straight from 103rd Avenue. They have no stop sign, no bump, nothing but green until 95th Avenue," Charanjit said. "This is just a side street. We want to have a stop sign."

Chohan, who was a mother of two and had two grandchildren, had been in her former neighborhood to visit Singh, according to Charanjit, who translated for Singh. She had moved about a mile and a half away five or six years ago, her friend said.

As part of a Sikh tradition, she had been visiting to greet Singh's daughter-in-law, who recently arrived from India, and present her

with gifts, he explained.

Chohan had called Singh's house to let the family know she was outside and asked that someone open the door.

"When [Singh's] son came out, he saw her on the floor," Charanjit said.

Relatives described Chohan as well-respected in the community and said she doted on her 4- and 6-year-old grandchildren.

"They have no idea what happened. They know she is an angel now," Sam said.

A funeral was held Monday, and Chohan's ashes were brought to the Punjab region of India, where Chohan was originally from.

"She was my best friend. She was my mentor," said Chohan's 27-year-old daughter Lovepreet. "Who I am today is because of her."

Reach Managing Editor Christina Santucci by phone at 718-260-4589 or by email at [timesledgerphotos@gmail.com](mailto:timesledgerphotos@gmail.com).

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# Vallone secures victory in Council primary race

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BY PHIL CORSO

The Democratic primary battle in northeast Queens' 19th City Council District finally came to a conclusive end, with Flushing attorney Paul Vallone emerging as the winner.

Vallone initially declared victory on the night of the five-way primary vote last week, but former Empire State Development spokesman Austin Shafran refused to concede after only trailing by 144 votes with 99 percent of precincts reporting, based on preliminary results. The race became even closer after a recount put Vallone just 134 votes ahead of Shafran.

But final tallies showed Vallone, who was backed by the Queens Democratic Party, collected roughly 2,905 votes - 193 more votes than Shafran's 2,712, after the city Board of Elections released unofficial final

counts.

"We're very proud of the campaign we ran to improve the quality of life for our community," Shafran said after the final results came in Monday. "I'm honored by the support we received and will continue to be a strong voice and relentless advocate for working families across the city."

Vallone also bested three other Democrats in the crowded precinct urban planning consultant Paul Graziano with 1,539 votes, former state Assemblyman John Duane with 1,005 votes and former Halloran chief-of-staff Chrissy Voskerichian with 900 votes.

"We're excited that every vote has been counted and we can now start taking the campaign to the next step," Vallone said. "Now, we focus on bringing Democrats together, fight-



ing for the issues that matter and bringing leadership to District 19 that it hasn't had before."

That next step Vallone mentioned started when his victory was made official and will continue through November, when Vallone will go up against Republican Dennis Saffran to decide who will succeed the embattled incumbent,

Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone).

A Vallone victory in November would keep his family's name in the Council without interruption since his father, former Council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr., was elected in 1974. His brother, Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria), will wrap up his final term in the Council representing western

Queens in January after he was term-limited out of the seat and lost a hard-fought Democratic primary for borough president against Melinda Katz.

Paul Vallone was the first to declare a run for the Council seat back in January and more candidates continued to join the race over subsequent months. The Council campaign

made headlines in early April when incumbent Halloran was arrested and indicted on charges accusing him of using corruption and bribery to get state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) into the mayoral race as a Republican.

The primary campaign included several public forums throughout the district revolving around quality-of-life issues and restoring integrity to the district left bruised in the wake of the scandal.

Vallone was also at the center of criticism in the final few weeks leading up to the primary after Jobs for New York, a political action committee with the Real Estate Board of New York, started distributing negative campaign attack ads in support of his campaign.

Several of those ads zoned in on Shafran, Graziano and Voskerichian, but not Duane.

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## Drive helps Mid Vil fire victims

Community United Methodist Church hosted a fund-raiser Sunday for several families whose homes were damaged by a fire that tore through Middle Village last week. About 200 firefighters were dispatched to the five-alarm fire that started at 78-15 68th Ave.

Ismael Rodriguez, 23, (r.) looks over donated clothing. Rodriguez was among the people who were displaced by the fire.

Emma Dibiasi, 27, (above) helps sort toiletries during the fund-raiser.

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) has also been collecting supplies at his three district offices from Monday to Friday. The three locations are: 66-85 73rd Place in Middle Village, 159-53 102nd St. in Howard Beach and 88-08 Rockaway Beach Blvd. in Rockaway Beach. Photos by Ken Maldonado

# Boro pressures FAA to conduct noise complaint studies

BY PHIL CORSO

Anyone opposed to the idea of the Federal Aviation Administration exempting itself from studying how its flight patterns might affect the environment has less than two weeks to speak up.

Last month, the agency released a draft of Order 1050.1F — Policies and Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts, which proposes that all authority over determining when or if an environmental study must be completed should rest in the hands of FAA administrators. The order also proposed that such decisions can be made without soliciting any public comment.

The FAA did not return requests for comment in time for publication.

Elected officials from every level of government came together Tuesday af-

ternoon in Bayside to oppose the FAA's proposal, accusing the agency of arrogance and trying to pass key decisions under the radar.

"It is outrageous that the FAA is seeking greater leeway to exempt itself from vital environmental studies, which determine whether or not new airplane routes — and the accompanying noise — adversely impact affected communities," said U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing), one of the many elected leaders fighting the federal agency. "The agency's plan to further sidestep this critical process is a slap in the face to all who live and work underneath new flight patterns, and it is imperative that the FAA abandon its intention to proceed with it."

Meng joined U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Melville) in penning a letter to FAA Ad-



U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (c.) leads a joint press conference with northeast Queens elected officials denouncing the Federal Aviation Administration's attempts to exclude itself from conducting environmental reviews of any future flight path changes.

Photo by Phil Corso

ministrator Michael Huerta, urging him to step away from the proposal, adding that consequences could include more of a noise burden over constituents' homes.

The army of lawmakers and northeast Queens community leaders has been battling the federal

agency for more than a year after it revised its flight procedures out of LaGuardia Airport, ultimately resulting in a drastic increase of airplane noise over residential areas like Bayside and Little Neck. The shift was made in accordance with the FAA's NextGen flight procedures

and was made possible by the agency issuing itself a categorical exclusion, voiding any responsibility for an environmental impact study.

Now, elected officials said the FAA was trying to include a similar categorical exclusion but on a much broader level, as outlined

by the proposal.

"Navigation performance and area navigation procedures developed, certified, published or implemented under this section shall be presumed to be covered by a categorical exclusion under Chapter 3 of FAA Order 1050.1E unless the administrator determines that extraordinary circumstances exist with respect to the procedure," the draft order said.

The FAA did, however, establish a public comment period for the controversial draft order, which will close Sept. 30. Until then, residents can submit comments to the agency through regulations.gov docket number FAA-2013-0685.

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at [pcorso@cnglocal.com](mailto:pcorso@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4573.

# CB5 pedals forward on adding designated bike lanes

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City will work together with community to evaluate six proposed routes to increase ridership

BY BIANCA FORTIS

Community members who live within the confines of Community Board 5 will soon have an opportunity to weigh in on proposed bike lanes in the area, according to officials from the city Department of Transportation.

CB 5, which includes Ridgewood, Glendale, Middle Village and Maspeth, now is a void for bike lanes.

DOT and the Department of City Planning received grant funding for bike planning purposes and are partnering to develop the plans for new lanes, the DOT said.

The two departments already are considering several possible paths.

In Middle Village, they are Juniper Boulevard South from 69th Street to Dry Harbor Road and 80th

Street from the Long Island Expressway to Myrtle Avenue. In Ridgewood, there is a proposed route along Woodward and Onderdonk avenues beginning at Metropolitan Avenue.

Another route up for consideration would run through Glendale on Central and Cooper avenues from Cypress Hills Street to Woodhaven Boulevard. Two more routes would run through much of the district: Eliot Avenue from Metropolitan Avenue to Woodhaven Boulevard and 69th Street from Calamus Avenue to Metropolitan Avenue.

Gary Giordano, district manager for CB 5, said the city agencies are in the measuring phase of studying the proposed routes.

He said they are expected to return to the board with a proposal by



Plans are being developed to add designated bike lanes to the neighborhoods within Community Board 5.

late September or early October. From there, the DCP will hold a public meeting to seek input from community members, according to the DOT.

The new routes should be identified by early 2014, the DOT said.

Giordano said the idea

for the bike lanes came from board members who happen to be cyclists.

"They were interested in what was being proposed to Community Board 2 for bicycle lanes," he said. "They basically said to DOT and City Planning, 'We would love to discuss doing

this within CB 5.' That's sort of where it started."

CB 2 covers Woodside, Sunnyside, Astoria and Long Island City.

Bike lanes throughout CB 5 were proposed in May 1997 when the DOT and DCP issued the New York City Bicycle Master Plan as

part of the Bicycle Network Development Project. But a DOT spokesman said that plan is not a driving force behind the proposal.

Instead it is a result of "a community-based planning process," he said.

Giordano said there is some difficulty in choosing roadways to be designated as bike routes because the streets within the district are narrow. He said there was little discussion about putting bike lanes on Myrtle or Metropolitan avenues because of their widths.

Despite not having designated bike lanes, the community does see more cyclists, Giordano said.

"Obviously it's healthy for the cyclists," he said. "It's reducing pollution compared to driving a car. So it's good for those reasons."

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# Businesses oppose Jax Hts BID proposal

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

More than 100 small businesses owners, street vendors, community board and local residents and elected officials rallied earlier this month to protest a plan for a Corona-Jackson Heights business improvement district, which they say would drive out small businesses.

"I have been running my business for 11 years," said Freddy Castiblanco, owner of Terraza 7, a bar and olive juice place in Elmhurst. "And today along with other small business owners, we are leading a campaign against raising rents along Roosevelt Avenue. Our concern is that the BID will put small businesses at a disadvantage to corporate chain stores and that we'll get displaced."

City Councilman Julissa Ferraras' (D-East Elmhurst) plan for a BID would expand an existing



Arturo Ignacio-Sanchez (c.) of Community Board 3 speaks at a rally against a proposed business improvement district in Corona and Jackson Heights.

Photo by Steven Malecki

two-block BID at 82nd Street to be one of the city's largest BIDs from 81st to 114th streets along Roosevelt Avenue, while incorporating retail hubs along Junction Boulevard, Corona Plaza and National Street.

Opponents say BIDs have proved to be devastating for local economies, raising land values and the cost of doing business, and are designed to bring in chain stores.

But Ferraras, who has launched an ambitious program to improve conditions in the ethnically

diverse business area, said "the current problems on Roosevelt Avenue hurt everyone."

In a statement released in response to criticism of her BID proposal, she said: "This is why I believe a business improvement district is a solution to this problem."

The rally in Corona Plaza also brought music by La Cumbiamba NY and poetry by Poetas Nueva York. Some of those at the rally danced to the music or, along with others, held up signs saying "No Immi-

grant Revival" and "BID Excludes Us."

In the background participants chanted, "No to the BID."

Proponents of the BID argue that if property owners agree to start paying a special assessment fee, the BID can deliver supplemental services such as sanitation, maintenance, public safety, marketing and branding, beautification and capital improvements to the area.

But Ruben Pena, a business owner and community leader in Corona, said the BID proposal could not have come at a worse time.

"The economic situation now is very critical, with high real estate taxes and high unemployment," he said. "The rent for the businesses and residents is extremely out of hand, so how can a BID operate under those conditions?"

# 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](http://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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Michael Fernandez and Jennifer Manthorne were killed in a motorcycle crash in Astoria.

# Motorcycle accident kills two in Astoria

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI

Loved ones of a 32-year-old motorcyclist and his female passenger, who were both killed in a collision over the weekend, have transformed an Astoria corner into a massive memorial for the pair.

Dozens of mementos and messages were arranged on 20th Avenue and 24th Street in tribute to Michael Fernandez and 36-year-old Jennifer Manthorne, who police say lived together in Astoria.

The unregistered bike they had been riding slammed into an SUV making a U-turn in Astoria at about 4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon, the NYPD said. A police spokesman said the motorcycle did not have a license plate, and Fernandez's motorcycle license had been suspended.

A 56-year-old woman who had been behind the wheel of the Nissan Xterra SUV was taken to Elmhurst Hospital, where she was listed in stable condition immediately after the crash, according to cops.

"My sister, she heard a

loud bang," said 16-year-old Christian, who lives nearby and came upon the crash's aftermath.

"I saw a lady on the ground and a man on the ground and they were both already dead," he said. "After that you saw the family members start to come in."

The teen described a distraught relative of one of the accident victims fainting and being taken away in an ambulance.

Among handwritten notes for Manthorne at the intersection where she died was one signed by her relatives that read, "RIP Jennifer. Your presence is missed by all of us. We love you!"

More than 50 lit candles lined the sidewalk Wednesday morning in the large display, which also included a stuffed frog riding a motorcycle, bouquets of flowers, rosary beads and crosses. Poster boards were taped to a garage door and a wall.

A funeral for Manthorne was scheduled for Friday at 10 a.m. at St. Rita's Church, at 36-25 11th St. in Long Island City.

# Pre-K seats available citywide: DOE

BY PHIL CORSO

School districts in Queens still have pre-kindergarten seats available for the current school year, the city Education Department said.

A DOE spokesman said the department has been hitting the pavement to get word out that spots were still available throughout the city, including all seven districts in Queens, with hopes of coaxing parents to enroll for the city's Universal pre-K program by the Oct. 2 deadline.

"The Department of Education is supporting families in finding programs by raising aware-



Seema Ranginwala, of the borough's pre-K office, helps students Emanuel Alba (l.) and Konrad Reszuta with their art in Middle Village in 2009.

ness through subway and bus shelter ads, posting updated vacancy fliers online weekly through the end of September, as well as canvassing in high-need areas with staff and volunteers," a spokesman

said. "Research shows that early childhood education is essential in closing the achievement gap. National and local findings demonstrate that high-quality early childhood education expands short- and long-

term opportunities for children in high-need communities."

The program is open to any child born in 2009 who lives in New York City, the DOE said. Its programs offer at least 2.5 hours of educational services at no cost to parents.

"Half of the achievement gap that is evident at the end of high school is already present by kindergarten," the DOE said. "High-quality early childhood interventions have been shown to lead to increased social readiness, higher incomes, less likelihood of drug use and less involvement in the criminal justice system."

# Corona Library one of city's top five

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Queens prides itself on having some of the best libraries in the city, and now the borough's got the proof to back it up.

The Corona Library was chosen as one of the city's top five Tuesday night by a panel of judges including author R.L. Stein, WNYC host Kurt Andersen and Carla Hayden, former president of the American Library Association.

The winners of the Charles H. Revson Foundation's first Neighborhood Library Awards — which include Staten Island's Macon Library, Manhattan's



Corona Library Manager Vilma Daza (l.) and Queens Library President Tom Galante celebrate the branch's NYC Neighborhood Library Award.

Seward Park Library and Bay libraries in Brooklyn — were each given \$10,000

to continue and expand their missions.

"These five libraries are truly outstanding and reflect the extraordinarily important role that neighborhood libraries play in communities all across the city," said foundation President Julie Sandorf. "It was especially moving to seethroughout the entire selection process, the passion of the nominators and their gratitude for the often life-changing contributions of the neighborhood library."

The winners were selected on the basis of more than 4,000 nomina-

*Continued on Page 50*

JACQUES LEANDRE

AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'



# Moon Festival

Hundreds of people turned out Saturday evening for the Flushing Development Center's Moon Festival parade. (Clockwise from top l.) Earl Beckles from E&J Productions sports the costume of a massive winged creature in the parade; members of the Asociacion de Diablos Cojuelos Organizadoes de New York dress as "Dominican devils" for the festivities; Francis Lewis High School's Patriot Battalion JROTC group walks in formation on Main Street; the Huang Sing Kwoon Lion Dance Team carries a dragon; youngster Emily Dong is lifted in the air; and stilt walkers from the Brooklyn-based Kaiohsa Moko Jumbies USA march along Elder Avenue.

Photo by Christina Santucci



# Queens ice cream team wins first place in Vendy Awards

Itizy owners taste sweet victory after taking home best dessert accolades in 'food vendor Oscars'

BY JOE ANUTA

A pair of Flushing food truck owners took home best dessert in the citywide Vendy Awards.

The Itizy Ice Cream Truck licked the competition at this year's event, where judges and more than 1,000 hungry patrons crowned the city's best mobile food carts Sept. 7.

"We're honored to win. It's like the Oscars for food trucks," said Kenneth Chen, who runs the four-wheeled operation with his business partner, Ann Yu. "It is a really big award."

Itizy serves up a variety of unique and truly homemade ice cream treats like hazelnut with chocolate crunch bites, Belgium dark chocolate or toasted banana. They buy their milk and cream from farmers upstate — sometimes getting their own dedicated cow — and thicken their decadent creations with eggs instead of processed chemicals.

The pair only rolled out the

operation last year, and soon afterward won the Queens Economic Development Corp.'s Queens StartUP! Business Plan Competition before going on to capture the Vendy's Best Dessert Award earlier this month.

"There are a lot of really popular trucks out there who got accepted to the Vendy's and haven't won," said a humbled Chen.

But it was no easy task to get to the finish line.

The road to the winner's circle started when the Vendy competition accepted public nominations for the best food trucks throughout the five boroughs. Itizy's strong following naturally stepped up to the plate to get them into the contest. After the slate of nominees had been chosen, the food vendors all congregated on competition day to try and wow judges and anyone lucky enough to score a ticket to the event.

"It was definitely very challenging, just because of the volume of people," Chen said.



Kenneth Chen and Ann Yu show off some of their hand-crafted treats in front of the Itizy Ice Cream Truck.  
Photo courtesy Itizy

He and Yu had to fortify their usual work force with family and friends to sling their treats as fast as possible over a four-hour period, when the line never dipped under 40 people.

The Vendy Awards is run by the nonprofit Urban Justice Center's Street Vendor Project, which seeks to help struggling street vendors navigate increasing city red tape and educate entrepreneurs about their legal rights.

As the weather gets colder, the Itizy Ice Cream Truck will probably wind down operations ahead of winter, when Chen and Yu will take a much-needed vacation and strategize on expanding the business.

Options could include wholesale or catering, but whatever the duo think up, ice cream lovers can be sure they have not heard the last of Itizy.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at [januta@cnglocal.com](mailto:januta@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-2600-4566.

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## FOCUS ON QUEENS

CITY COUNCILWOMAN ELIZABETH CROWLEY HOLDS OPENING FOR CAMPAIGN OFFICE IN GLENDALE *Photos by Ken Maldonado*

**1** Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (c.) is surrounded by supporters during the event at 67-45 Myrtle Ave. Crowley is running for re-election to her City Council seat.



**2** Elizabeth Crowley (c.) hosts a grand opening celebration of her new campaign office in Glendale Sunday. Assemblyman David Weprin (l.) and Mike Miller (r.) look on.



**3** Elizabeth Crowley (c.) is joined by state Sen. Joseph Addabbo (l.), Councilman Mark Weprin (second l.), David Weprin (third l.) and former Assemblywoman Melinda Katz (fifth l.).

NEW GREATER BETHEL MINISTRIES FOUNDER HONORED WITH CAMBRIA HEIGHTS STREET RENAMING *Photos by Christina Santucci*

**4** Councilman Leroy Comrie (second l.), who hosted the street renaming for Apostle Dr. John H. Boyd, is joined by (l.-r.) Councilman Ruben Wills; I. Daneek Miller, who recently won the Democratic primary for Comrie's seat; and Assemblywoman Barbara Clark.



**5** The Rev. Charles Norris speaks about Apostle Dr. John H. Boyd, who established a food pantry and soup kitchen through his ministry in southeast Queens.



**6** Assemblywoman Vivian Cook, (l.-r.) Comptroller John Liu, former City Council candidate Joan Flowers and I. Daneek Miller, who is running for Councilman Leroy Comrie's seat, join hands.



**7** U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks addresses the crowd gathered at Linden Boulevard and 219th Street Saturday to honor Apostle Dr. John H. Boyd, who started the New Greater Bethel Ministries.

## A BOY FOR JULISSA FERRERAS



**8** Councilman Julissa Ferreras and her boyfriend, Aaron Copeland, hold their newborn son, Julian Aaron Copeland, who was born Sept. 11 at 11:55 a.m.  
Photo courtesy Julissa Ferreras

## NILY ROZIC OPENS NEW DISTRICT OFFICE



**9** Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (c.) is joined by her staff for a grand opening of her district office at 159-16 Union Turnpike Sunday. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.  
Photo courtesy Nily Rozic

## CONCANNON CAMPAIGNS IN FLORAL PARK



**10** Joseph Concannon greets visitors to the Queens County Farm Museum in Floral Park Sunday afternoon. Concannon is running as a Republican candidate for the City Council seat currently held by Councilman Mark Weprin.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PAY TRIBUTE IN SOUTHEAST QUEENS TO LATE NYPD ASSISTANT CHIEF *Photos by Christina Santucci*

**11** Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott (c.) speaks about the late Arthur Hill as Councilman Leroy Comrie (r.) looks on. The corner of Hannibal Street and Ilion Avenue was renamed for Hill.



**12** U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (second r.) joins Arthur Hill's family as well as Fred Simmons, representing state Sen. Malcolm Smith (l.) and former Council candidate Manny Caughman (third r.). Hill served as an assistant chief in the NYPD.



**13** District Leaders Archie Spigner and Leslie Spigner both worked with Hill at the Guy R. Brewer Democratic Club.

# R train has worst announcements: Report

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The Straphangers Campaign says that for the third consecutive year, the majority of subway announcements were understandable and correct during delays or disruptions.

The transit advocacy agency said the L and Q subway lines were the best in making announcements while the R line was the worst.

Otherwise, in order and by subway line, it was 2, 4, 6, 5, E, N, J, M, R, A, 7, B, 3, D, 1, G and C.

"For the third year in a row, the majority of subway announcements were clear and accurate during delays or disruptions," said Straphangers Campaign Field Organizer Jason Chin-Fat. "We hope transit officials continue this positive trend, giving riders the information they need when regular service is affected."



The R train brought up the rear in a recent report ranking the accuracy of subway announcements and how well commuters could hear them.

The Straphangers survey was carried out by 79 volunteers between Jan. 5 and May 16. Volunteers made 6,000 observations of in-car announcement opportunities on 20 subway lines. In 2013, surveyors experienced and rated 98 delay and service change announcement opportunities.

Official transit guidelines give conductors a list of possible delay announcements with detailed reasons for them. The announcements range from

"unruly passenger on the train" to "waiting for connecting train." The policy explains "if there is a delay, [the conductor] must make announcement immediately [and again] within two minutes after that."

Subway car announcements of delays were correct, clear and ungarbled 52 percent of the time. Of the remaining 48 percent, delay announcements were not made at all 13 percent of the time, 9 percent were inaudible or garbled and 26 percent were rated "incor-

rect."

The Straphangers said the "incorrect" announcements included "We have a red signal," "This local is now an express" with no explanation or "We have a schedule adjustment."

The transit advocacy unit said 86 percent of basic informational announcements made on subway cars were clear and accurate, largely unchanged from the last survey in 2012, which was 85 percent.

The R train, which came in last for the second year in a row, had 56 percent adequate basic announcements.

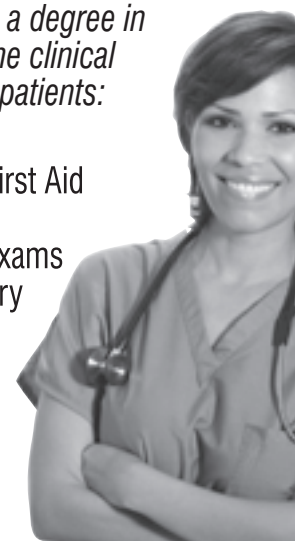
The Metropolitan Transportation Authority said it does not survey delay and disruption announcements on subway cars, but the agency did survey the "percentage of cars with public address announcements" in the first half of 2013.

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# Walcott

*Continued from Page 4*

said. The department spent more than \$100 million to train teachers on the new curriculum, and Bloomberg said the investment has been paying off.

"These schools' suc-

cess outperforming the best schools in the rest of the state represents the incredible transformation that has taken place in our city's schools over the past 12 years," Bloomberg said. "There was once a time when even the best New York City schools struggled to compete with other

school districts in the state. Now, the opposite is true, and the best schools in the rest of the state are trying to keep up with New York City's best schools.

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

# Snap

*Continued from Page 5*

the Center on Budget and Policy Priority. The goal of the cuts is to decrease the national deficit.

The center projects that in 2014, more than 3 million New York state residents will be using the program.

The SNAP program is usually part of the Farm Bill, which is reauthorized every five years. However, Republicans pushed for a cut of about \$20 billion to food stamps, causing the bill to fail. Now Republicans have nearly doubled the amount they want to cut in a new separate bill.

Food stamp recipients throughout New York state already will be hit with more than \$300 million in reductions to SNAP benefits when a cut to the program goes into effect Nov. 1, the center said.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 temporarily increased SNAP benefits as a way to

stimulate the economy, but that boost is now expiring.

"There are countless western Queens residents who heavily rely on SNAP benefits to feed their families every single day," Van Bramer said. "If enacted, these proposed cuts will place a tremendous strain on local city food pantries, like Hour Children, which are already struggling to feed those in need."

Abigail Burke, the food pantry and outreach coordinator for Hour Children, said the SNAP program is the first line of defense for anti-hunger advocates.

"We must keep it strong," she said. "Food pantries and soup kitchens and emergency food programs like my own are the last line of defense and they are already strapped."

Burke said within the last couple of years she has seen an increase of more than 40 percent in food pantry participants and that number is continuing to grow.

Maloney complimented the work done by Hour

Children, but said the organization is underfunded and cannot be relied upon to provide assistance to needy members of the community.

According to the center, 47 percent of food stamp recipients are children and nearly two-thirds of benefits go to women. The bill would also cut 280,000 children from school meal programs.

"No child should have to go hungry because of partisan politics," Simotas said. "I join Congresswoman Maloney in her call to protect the most vulnerable among us by providing access to adequate food for every American."

In a statement, Borough President Helen Marshall said SNAP helps recipients "get the nutrition they need to be healthy. The huge \$40 billion cut that some in the House are proposing to make to SNAP would heartlessly throw millions of Americans out of the program and cut benefits for millions more."

wife, Mother Margie Boyd, had five children together, who all work in the ministry. He died in July 2012 at the age of 85.

"I want to thank all of you for remembering a part of my brother's dream and my brother's life," said Boyd's sister Dr. Cindy Boyd-Hazel, who spoke about how her brother encouraged his six siblings. "He worked with us and let us know we could be whatever we wanted to be."

*Reach Managing Editor Christina Santucci by phone at 718-260-4589 or by email at timesledgerphotos@gmail.com.*

# Pensions

*Continued from Page 5*

ed into annuities, which are not regulated under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act, and not protected under the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.'s insurance coverage.

Avella said residents in his district brought the issue to his office this year after news broke that Verizon sold off 41,000 former management retirees' pensions to Prudential Insurance Co., putting their pensions potentially at risk in the event the purchaser ever fails. The senator immediately started drafting legislation that would protect existing retirees whose pensions were sold off, calling it one of the most important pieces he ever worked on.

In essence, Avella said his legislation would provide the same protections retirees had before their pension plans were transferred so they are not left vulnerable.

"Retirees depend on

their hard-earned pensions and when companies go through the process of pension stripping, they are playing a risky game with a retiree's pension," Avella said. "By leaving affected retirees with virtually none of the longstanding federal pension protection mechanisms provided by ERISA and the PBGC, companies are shifting the burden of risk onto pensioners."

The senator presented the legislation he plans on introducing next session to a packed Bayside district office filled with retirees and members of the Association of BellTel Retirees and ProtectSeniors.org. In that crowd was also Edward Stone, an expert on pension risk protection who offered his legal insight on the risks affecting seniors, specifically those who move out of state.

Stone said retirees who decide to relocate after their pensions are transferred into annuities might "unwittingly divest themselves of guaranty association coverage" and see their lifetime coverage potential drop drastically.

"I do not believe that the state guaranty safety net is sufficient to support an insolvency of a company as large as Prudential," Stone said. "As we learned in the recent financial crisis, no company is too big to fail and Prudential, which purchased the Verizon pension liabilities, is no exception."

Eileen Lawrence, of Douglaston, is a Verizon retiree and was one of the borough residents to bring the issue to Avella's attention.

"It is outrageous that I devoted 37 years at NYNEX and New York Telephone to have Verizon sell off my pension to bolster their bottom line," she said. "My fellow retirees and I once had pension protections under ERISA and PBGC insurance, but no more. Companies must not get away with stripping away protections that retirees have earned."

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

# Turnout

*Continued from Page 4*

est turnout.

The primary to succeed Comrie drew a roughly 20.5 percent turnout of registered Democrats, as estimated by TimesLedger Newspapers using unofficial tallies and the most recent voter registration numbers from 2011 both from the city Board of Elections.

The next highest turnout was in northeast Queens, where an estimated 19.5 percent of Democrats went to vote in the bitter five-way battle for Halloran's seat.

Following that, 18 percent of Democrats in the district covering Laurelton and currently represented by Richards came out, while 17.3 percent voted in Wills' race for the seat covering South Jamaica, South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill. The sheer number of Democrats means the

area's largely black population can play a crucial role in winning Queens, either for a citywide or borough-wide race.

Former Councilwoman Melinda Katz was endorsed by the influential Rev. Floyd Flake from the Allen AME Cathedral in Jamaica in her successful bid to secure the Democratic ticket for the borough president race. The move surprised some political observers because he had been expected to back Comrie, a leader in the southeast Queens community.

"I think it was a very important part of the borough president race, and the fact Melinda made such a concerted effort to lock down support there just exemplifies that," a source said.

Southeast Queens also came out in droves to support city Public Advocate Bill de Blasio in his mayoral primary victory, according to data compiled by The New York Times.

But the leadership in

southeast Queens is undergoing a period of dramatic change.

State Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) has been indicted on corruption charges and disgraced former Sen. Shirley Huntley is now serving a jail term for misdirecting government funds.

The Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club, led by former Councilman Archie Spigner and known in decades' past for its influential endorsements, backed a candidate, Manuel Caughman, in the race to succeed Comrie who came in fourth and garnered just 17.3 percent of the vote.

"Twenty years ago that would be unthinkable," said a longtime Democratic operative.

Comrie, a major player in the Queens Democratic Party, had handpicked Daneek Miller to succeed him early on and the labor leader was leading as a recount was underway despite lacking Guy R. Brewer's blessings.

# Boyd

*Continued from Page 9*

where the Cambria Heights branch of Queens is now built, and former Councilman Archie Spigner had facilitated a deal so that the city could acquire the land.

Clark recalled trying to organize an overnight vigil in Roy Wilkins Park to raise money for cancer research.

"I see this tent, and I said, 'Wait a minute. There is a tent in here. We didn't ask for that,' and I was told that's Rev. Boyd's tent," she joked. "He's in our spot, but it's Rev. Boyd so we are going to have to move and go someplace else."

Clark praised Boyd's impact on Linden Boulevard, his work with prison inmates and outreach to patients at the Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility on Roosevelt Island.

Liu told the crowd that the ministry was left in good hands.

"The saying goes, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. That certainly has been the case with our Pastor John Boyd," he said. "I think he is creating his own legacy as well."

A native of Bracey, Va., Boyd studied at the Manhattan Bible Institute and received his doctor of divinity from the United Christian College. Boyd and his



As cast members Marty Edelstein (l. to r.), Anna McGinty, Sharon Levine and Jonathan Zaccarini look on, Marilyn Welsher as Miss Marple confers with Armand Catenaro as the inspector in Theatre Time's upcoming production of "Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced."

Photo by Kevin Zimmerman

# MURDER IN BAYSIDE, SHE WROTE

Theatre Time tackles Christie mystery for first production at its new home

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

Howard Beach resident and amateur actor Lori Santopetro believes waiting backstage to make an entrance must feel like the seconds before a circus performer gets shot out of a canon.

"The thing for me is, you're scared beyond words," said San-

topetro. "But then you're out on that stage and it's so exciting. You're alive."

For the past 15 years, Santopetro has focused on getting that rush from performing for a live audience with dozens of parts in community theater shows around Queens and Long Island.

This week she steps onto the

boards again as slightly dim-witted Dori Bunner in Theatre Time's production of "Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced" at the Colonial Church of Bayside.

Theatre Time's founders, Whitestone couple Kevin and Judy Vincent, opted for this Christie play because they wanted to stage one of her mysteries that wasn't as well-known as some of the standard community theater fare such as "The Mousetrap" and "Death on the Nile." It also has plenty of roles for every level

of performer, said Kevin Vincent.

"It's got a very large cast and a lot of good parts," said Vincent. "There is a lot of good stuff (for actors) to do, and a lot of suspects."

The Vincents never suspected they would return to the scene where they first met at an audition in 1996.

After connecting at the Colonial Church, the two forged ahead with their passion for theater and created Theatre Time. The company thrived in Whitestone

*Continued on Page 41*

## IF YOU GO

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**Penne Scarpiello**  
(Chicken & sausage sautéed with mushrooms & balsamic vinegar)

**Penne Florio**  
(Baby shrimp sautéed w/ mushrooms, peas & asparagus in a virgin olive oil & garlic)

**Penne Fortunati**  
(Onions, mushrooms & capers in a virgin olive oil)

**Penne Caruso**  
(Onions, mushrooms, peas & prosciutto in a pink cream sauce)

**Penne Gamberoni**  
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## sudoku

Answers in Sports

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

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

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](http://www.sudoku.com)  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

# Kupferberg Center attracts A-list entertainment

Cyndi Lauper, Audra McDonald highlight new season at Queens College performing arts complex

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

When Jeffrey Rosenstock took over as executive director of Queens College's Kupferberg Center for the Arts a little more than two years ago, his first assignment was to turn the campus into the premier fine and performing arts showcase in the borough.

And while that project remains a work in progress, Rosenstock believes he and his team could make the Flushing campus one of the top artistic venues in the city.

"If we market it right, people will come," said Rosenstock. "Before the college felt off the radar a little bit."

Rosenstock expects the school to shine more brightly this fall with such

diverse performers as Cyndi Lauper, Audra McDonald and the Boston Pops.

After the school's president, James Muyskens, sent the then newly appointed executive director off with his first task, Rosenstock sat down and asked himself a question.

"What can we really do that others can't," said Rosenstock.

He quickly realized the college had top tier programs and venues with the Aaron Copland School of Music, the Colden Auditorium and the Goldstein Theatre among others. Some of the facilities were looking a little worn around the edges, but that project would come later with last year's \$18 million renovation of the school's theaters and museums.

Although each of the



Tony-winning actress Audra McDonald performs at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College on Oct. 5.

Photo courtesy Autumn de Wilde

art groups experienced varying degrees of success attracting audience members, Rosenstock had to convince them that by joining forces they could help each other out.

"I banded all these entities on campus under one banner," said Rosenstock.

"I also asked each one to buy into this so we could make things happen they couldn't do on their own."

From this informal agreement came Kupferberg Presents, which is basically the programming unit of the performance spaces. Now, instead of dif-

ferent people handling press releases and programming for each venue, Rosenstock hired one media director to oversee the entire group. This also allows one individual to juggle calendars for each space.

"This way you're not opening an art show and a play on the same night," said Rosenstock.

Rosenstock also hired Leon Denmark as Kupferberg Presents' artistic director and charged him with bringing A-listers to the college.

That started last year with appearances by Jerry Seinfeld and Bill Cosby and continues with a slew of music, dance and art shows for this season. Rosenstock anticipates adding to the roster of performers and meeting with student

groups to make sure Kupferberg Presents brings in artists they want to see.

Other shows on tap include the Boston Pops Esplanade Ensemble's Holiday Concert on Dec. 8, R & B icon Valerie Simpson on Dec. 14, the Ballet Hispanico on Feb. 8 and 9 and Broadway legend Barbara Cook on May 10.

"You need to get visibility and attention so you need to get the big names," said Rosenstock. "In future years we may bring in an artist you may not know of."

But no matter who's on the bill, Rosenstock wants to create a place where residents know they're in for a good time.

"We're trying to make it so when you come, it's a glad-I-came experience," said Rosenstock.

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# THEATER CALENDAR



## PRODUCTIONS

**"Polanski Polanski"** – Actor Grant Neale in a one-man performance that imagines three threshold moments from the brilliant, controversial – and some would say criminal – director's life.  
**When:** Through Sept. 21, Thursday - Saturday, 8 pm;  
**Where:** The Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18, \$15/students and seniors  
**Contact:** (646) 580-6003  
**Website:** www.chain-theatre.org

**"A View From the Bridge"** – Arthur Miller's drama explores issues of love, belonging and betrayal. It centers around Eddie Carbone, an Italian-American longshoreman living in Brooklyn with his wife and his orphaned 17-year-old niece.  
**When:** Through Sept. 21; Friday - Saturday, 8 pm; Saturday, Sept. 21, 3 pm  
**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18

**Contact:** (718) 392-0722  
**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**"Act One: One Act"** – A competition style one-act play festival where each week teams of actors, directors and playwrights will advance to the final round through audience votes.  
**When:** Through Sept. 22; Thursday - Friday, 8 pm; Saturday, 4 pm and 8 pm; Sunday, 4 pm and 8 pm  
**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18  
**Contact:** (718) 392-0722  
**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**"Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced"** – Theatre Time Productions presents a murder mystery involving a newspaper advertisement announcing the upcoming crime, a house full of guests who think it's all a game and the definitive Christie detective, Miss Jane Marple.  
**When:** Sept. 20 - Sept. 29, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm  
**Where:** Colonial Church of Bayside, 54-02 217th St.,

Bayside  
**Cost:** \$16, \$14/seniors and students  
**Contact:** (347) 358-8102  
**Website:** www.theatretime.org

**"Boeing, Boeing"** – The Rockaway Theatre Co. presents Marc Camoletti's Boulevard comedy centers on swinging 1960s bachelor Bernard who juggles three stewardesses, who each believe they're engaged to him, whenever their work brings them to Paris. All goes well, until his friend Robert and the three women show up at the same time.  
**When:** Sept. 20-22, Sept. 27-29 and Oct. 4-6; Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm  
**Where:** The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway  
**Cost:** \$15, \$12/seniors, students  
**Contact:** (718) 374-6400  
**Website:** www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org

**"A Midsummer's Night Dream"** – The Queens Players christen the Secret Theatre's redesigned Little Theater with a re-imagining of Shakespeare's comedy set in the circus world.  
**When:** Sept. 26 - Oct. 12, Thursday - Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm  
**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-

02 23rd St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18  
**Contact:** (718) 392-0722  
**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**"Tartuffe, or The Imposter"** – That Random Company presents its debut production with a retelling of Molière's 1660 play time-warped to the 1960s.  
**When:** Sept. 26 - Sept. 29,

Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 3 pm  
**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$15, \$10/student with valid ID  
**Contact:** (718) 392-0722  
**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**"Arms and the Man"** – Standard Bear Productions joins Byronnic Women to present George

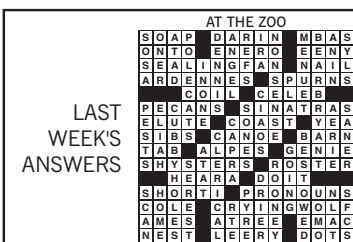
Bernard Shaw's satire about the ironies of war and the fallacies of romantic idealism.  
**When:** Oct. 2 - Oct. 13, Wednesday - Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm  
**Where:** The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18  
**Contact:** (718) 392-0722  
**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers  
 September 20-26, 2013

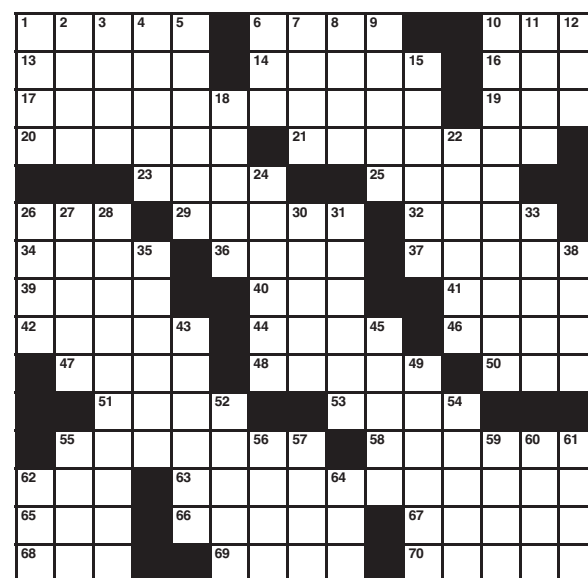
By Bill Deasy

## Fine Feathered Friends



### Across

1. Native American pole
6. "When I Was \_\_\_\_" ("HMS Pinafore" song)
10. Authority at home
13. Ebony's partner
14. "M\*A\*S\*H" character
16. Sod buster
17. Pirate's pet desert
19. Org. for Ginsburg and Thomas
20. Grabs some z's
21. He wrote The Praise of Folly
23. Lever 2000 competitor
25. "The \_\_\_\_ McCoy"
26. It doesn't go full circle
29. Spheres of interest
32. Old Icelandic saga
34. Anthony who married J. Lo
36. Morton product
37. Word after stinking
39. Secret target?
40. \_\_\_\_'easter
41. Bad spots for teens?
42. Flightless New Zealanders
44. Transitional word
46. Record problem
47. Stevie Wonder's ' \_\_\_\_ She Lovely'
48. Camel lot?
50. "Game, \_\_\_\_, match!"
51. Like a fine Merlot
53. Religious schism
55. Fished like a caveman
58. Put the pressure on
62. Beverage measured in spots?
63. Anti-war mail
65. Row boat need
66. Sugar partner, in a verse



67. Unsavory one
68. "Little Giant" Mel
69. \_\_\_\_ gin fizz
70. Roots author Alex

### Down

1. Waiters' rewards
2. Office for Obama
3. Went really fast
4. Proved to be human
5. Mr. Magoo's problem
6. Gallery hangings
7. Add punch to punch?
8. Jewish calendar month
9. Senegal seaport
10. Helpful moving birds
11. Flash \_\_\_\_ (impromptu gatherings)
12. Split \_\_\_\_ soup
15. Tend to the bird feeder
18. Russian royals
22. Plaid fabric
24. Wilderness home
26. Uncontrolled
27. Geometry r's
28. Birds separating
30. Hilo hello
31. Cause of some fractures
33. Tomorrow singer
35. Recoil in distaste
38. Stayed fresh
43. Bed and home attachment
45. Bro's daughter
49. Rob Roy need
52. Hints of rain
54. Tank fish
55. Center of government
56. Villain's forte
57. Art \_\_\_\_ ('20s style)
59. Part of an angler's gear
60. Prairie Indian tribe
61. Award presented by Chris Berman
62. "A Bridge \_\_\_\_ Far"
64. To Kill A Mockingbird author

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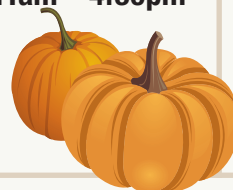
**Hours:** Sat. & Sun., Sept. 21 - Oct. 27, 11am – 4:30pm  
Moonlight Maze: Sat. Oct. 5 & 12, 11am – 9pm  
Monday, Oct. 14, 11am-4:30pm

*(On event days, Sept. 21-22 and Oct. 27 admission to the farm grounds is not free!)*

### THE PUMPKIN PATCH

**Saturdays & Sundays in October  
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## THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**For the most up-to-date listing of events happening  
in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at  
[www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar](http://www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar)**

### FILM

#### **The Complete Howard Hawks**

— The Museum of the Moving Image celebrates legendary Hollywood director Howard Hawks with two months of screenings. Hawks created iconic films in every genre including "His Girl Friday," "Scarface" (1932), "The Big Sleep" and "Rio Bravo."  
**When:** Through Nov. 10, for complete schedule check out MOMI's website  
**Where:** Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave., Astoria  
**Cost:** Screenings are included in the cost of admission: \$12/adults, \$9/seniors and students, \$6/children 3 to 12  
**Contact:** (718) 777-6888  
**Website:** [www.movingimage.us](http://www.movingimage.us)

### GALLERIES & EXHIBITS

**Biala: Vision and Memory** — The first comprehensive survey of Janice Biala's work, known for her charming interiors, still-lives and landscapes.  
**When:** Through Oct. 26; Monday - Thursday, 11 am - 7 pm; Saturday, 11 am - 5 pm  
**Where:** Queens College Godwin-Ternbach Museum, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., 405 Klapper Hall  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 997-4747  
**Website:** [qcpages.qc.cny.edu/godwin\\_ternbach](http://qcpages.qc.cny.edu/godwin_ternbach)

**Silent Beaches, Untold Stories: New York City's Forgotten Waterfront** — An interdisciplinary exhibition exploring the city's waterfront areas that are remote, neglected or little known to the public.  
**When:** Through Nov. 9; Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5 pm; Saturday, Noon - 5 pm  
**Where:** St. John's University, Dr. M. T. Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery, Sun Yat Sen Hall, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica Estates  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 990-7476  
**Website:** [www.stjohns.edu/academics/centers/yehgallery](http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/centers/yehgallery)

#### **Longitude, Latitude, Attitude**

— A photography exhibit by Maureen McTigue and John Rennhack exploring sites from around the world.  
**When:** Through December,

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am - 4 pm;  
**Where:** The Poppenhusen Institute, 114-04 14th Road, College Point  
**Contact:** (718) 358-6322  
**Website:** [poppenhuseninstitute.org](http://poppenhuseninstitute.org)

### EVENTS

**Queens County Fair** — A traditional county fair with livestock, produce and crafts competitions. Other events include corn-husking and pie-eating contests, Lumberjack shows, pig-racing, hayrides and a midway.  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 21 and Sunday, Sept. 22, 11 am - 6 pm  
**Where:** Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park  
**Cost:** \$8/adults, \$5/children 12 and under, Free with Farm Membership; some attractions require additional fare  
**Contact:** (718) 347-3276  
**Website:** [www.queensfarm.org](http://www.queensfarm.org)

**Robert Klein** — As part of its Comedy Series, the Queens Theatre presents the comedian and his take on culture, life and romance.  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 28, 8 pm, Sunday, Sept. 29, 3 pm  
**Where:** Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
**Cost:** \$35/standard, \$25/rear  
**Contact:** (718) 760-0064  
**Website:** [queentheatre.org](http://queentheatre.org)

#### **Farmer's Market at Queens Botanical Gardens**

— Every Friday get fresh and local produce, nuts, coffees and more.  
**When:** Fridays, 8:30 am - 4 pm, through Nov. 22  
**Where:** Queens Botanical Gardens outside the Gardens' fence on Dahlia Avenue near Main Street.  
**Contact:** (718) 866-3800  
**Website:** [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org)

### DANCE

**"Flamenc@!"** — An all-new program of Flamenco music and dance with Andrea Del Conte Danza Espana.

**When:** Through Sept. 29, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 4 pm  
**Where:** Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside  
**Cost:** \$35, \$32/students and senior citizens  
**Contact:** (718) 729-3880  
**Website:** [www.thaliatheatre.org](http://www.thaliatheatre.org)

**Japanese Classical Dance at Resobox** — Workshops teach the 400-year-old nichibu dance popularized in kabuki. All experience levels are welcome and all materials are provided.  
**When:** Mondays, 5:30 pm workshop for children 8 to 11; 6:30 pm workshop for all ages 12 and up  
**Where:** Resobox, 41-26 27th St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$25/adults, \$20/students  
**Contact:** (718) 784-3680  
**Website:** [resobox.com](http://resobox.com)

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

### MUSIC

**Crossing Frets for Tapping** — Chinese pipa player Min Xiao-Fen and Korean komungo player Jin Hi Kim team up with rhumba tapper Max Pollak for an evening for cross-cultural live improvisation.  
**When:** Friday, Sept. 20, 8 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$15/general, \$10/members and students  
**Contact:** (718) 463-7700  
**Website:** [flushingtownhall.org](http://flushingtownhall.org)

**Queens College Orchestra Concert** — Music Director Maurice Peress leads the group in a program of Copland, Mendelssohn and Sibellus.  
**When:** Wednesday, Sept. 25, 12:15 pm; Friday, Sept. 27, 7:30 pm  
**Where:** LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

### KIDS & FAMILY

**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 42*

# THEATRE TIME

Continued from Page 35

from 1997 until 2010, when it lost its home and entered a sort of limbo period, said Vincent. When the Colonial Church became available they jumped at the chance to mount their latest production there.

Set in an English village in the post-World War II period, "A Murder is Announced" depicts a gathering of friends and neighbors at a manor home on Friday the 13th. Many of these guests showed up after reading an ad in that morning's papers, which said a murder would take place at the house that evening at 6:30. And sure enough, at half-past six the drawing room is plunged into darkness and shots ring out. Luckily, one of the guests that evening is amateur sleuth Miss Jane Marple, who quickly sorts out the whole mess.

It's the second time Long Island resident Mari-

lyn Welscher has tackled Miss Marple in this particular play. Despite her history with the part, she admits having to relearn all of the lines.

"It doesn't come back," said Welscher. "But there is familiarity."

For 40 years, Welscher has been a familiar sight both in front of the footlights and backstage with nearly every theater group in Queens and Suffolk counties. Back then she was a suburban stay-at-home mother with a young son and the desire to get out of the house. She saw an ad in the local paper for a production at the Baldwin, L.I. Y and decided to check it out.

"I thought maybe I'll go and help out," said Welscher. "I guess the bug bit me and it has grown and grown."

Over the years Little Neck resident Sharon Levine's acting resumé has grown to include parts in musicals and plays. Like a



Whitestone resident Armand Catenaro (r.) rehearses a scene with a seated Nili Resnick of Bayside while Flushing resident Sergio Fuenzalida looks on.

Photo by Kevin Zimmerman

lot of community theater performers, Levine dabbled a bit in collegiate theatrics but never pursued it much

beyond that. That is until her daughter started school in Forest Hills.

"At my daughter's elementary school the parent-teacher group would put on performances for fund-raisers," said Levine. "I'd go and watch them and I'd be like, I want to be up there. It gets under your skin and into your blood."

It also helps to have someone with talent leading the group, said Levine.

"Kevin is a great director," said Levine. "He will suggest a nuance you might not have seen in one of your speeches."

More importantly than that, said actor Annette Daiell, Vincent brings a skill set you don't always find at this level.

"Unlike some directors, Kevin is not just a blocker," said Daiell. "He understands character and even with something as formulaic as Christie he has a vision that helps the actors."

For Vincent's part, he acknowledges community theater often gets a bad rap,

especially when Broadway is a 7-train ride away. But he and his company pride themselves on the quality they bring to each performance.

That's one of the reasons many in this cast seek out Theatre Time productions and Vincent's direction.

Whitestone resident Armand Catenaro has been with the Vincents since the company's inception. As Catenaro tells it, this former splicer with the telephone company showed up for choir rehearsal at his church only to discover the evening's session was canceled and in its place were auditions for a new theater group.

Although he fancied himself a singer, he decided to give acting a shot and landed in the cast of Theatre Time's first production "Room Service." He's been coming back ever since.

"I think theater is in my blood," said Catenaro. "I like being on stage. It's scary as hell, but it is absolutely thrilling and fulfilling."

## Oktoberfest

### TWO WEEKENDS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY, SEPT. 22<sup>ND</sup>  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 26<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY, SEPT. 29<sup>TH</sup>

BEER AND FOOD SPECIALS ALL WEEKEND LONG

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**9/19** WITH MUSIC FROM  
**JOHN WEBER**

**WRAP UP PARTY**  
**9/29** WITH MUSIC FROM  
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\* CLOSED FOR PRIVATE EVENT SATURDAY, SEPT. 21<sup>ST</sup> \*

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## THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

*Continued from Page 40*

dance, art and music workshops.

**When:** First Sunday of each month, 1:30-4:30 pm

**Where:** Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** (718) 592-9700

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**When:** First Sunday of each month, 11 am to 1 pm

**Where:** Noguchi Museum, 9-01 33rd Road, Long Island City

**Cost:** \$10 per family/includes museum admission and materials

**Contact:** (718) 204-7088

**Website:** www.noguchi.org

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**When:** Weekdays, 10 am-5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-6 pm

**Where:** New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Corona

**Contact:** (718) 699-0005 X353

**Website:** www.nyscience.org

**Laptop Time** – Teens learn how to use a laptop.

**When:** Mondays through Thursdays, 3 pm

**Where:** Hollis Public Library, 202-05 Hillside Ave, Hollis

**Contact:** (718) 465-7355

**Website:** queenslibrary.org

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

**When:** Tuesdays - Sundays, 11 am-2 pm

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**Contact:** (718) 699-0005, Ext. 353  
**Website:** www.nyscience.org

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**When:** Thursdays, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

**Where:** Chabad of LIC, 10-31 Jackson Ave., Long Island City

**Cost:** \$10 per class, \$60 per session, \$50 per session if paid in advance, \$45 per session for club members.

**Contact:** (718) 609-0066

**Website:** Chabadlic.com

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**When:** Mondays, 8:30 pm to 10 pm

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**Cost:** No cover, \$10 minimum

**Contact:** (718) 626-8044

**Website:** www.rapturlounge.com

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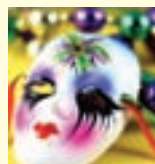
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# Business

## Patrons dine like royalty at Veggie Castle

Family-run restaurant offers customers Caribbean-style vegan fare at South Richmond Hill location

BY BIANCA FORTIS

The restaurant business has always been part of Alex Bernard's life.

His grandmother Sybil opened up her namesake Guyanese restaurant and bakery in South Richmond Hill in 1976.

"After school we came to the restaurant to do our homework," said Bernard, who grew up in Jamaica.

Now he, along with his father Vilburt, runs Veggie Castle II, which serves all-vegan Caribbean cuisine.

Despite what is, for some, unorthodox fare, the customers are a diverse group of people, ranging in age and ethnicity, Bernard said. About half identify themselves as vegetarian or vegan.

"That's what food is about," the 28-year-old said. "There's no discrimination here. Everybody wants good food."

The Queens spot is the second incarnation of Veggie Castle; the first opened in 1997 in Brooklyn and closed after 10 years when the rent got too high.

The idea for Veggie Castle was inspired by a family friend, who also operated a vegetarian restaurant, and came from its location: They opened it in a vacant White Castle. Sybil suggested the



Veggie Castle II offers Caribbean vegan fare. The most popular dish is the soy ginger chicken.

Photo by Bianca Fortis

name.

Eight years ago, when the family needed a new site, they chose one right next to Sybil's.

One of the most popular dishes is the soy ginger chicken, Bernard said.

"The ones who are vegetarians like it because it tastes good," he said. "The others like it because it tastes just like chicken. They don't miss the meat."

Another popular choice is the "chicken drumstick" — seasoned tofu wrapped around a stick and shaped like the leg of a chicken.

They also offer a customizable grill menu and a full juice bar with more than 52 offerings.

The new location was takeout only, but about a month ago the family opened a dining section to accommodate more guests.

Bernard said he has had

a few noteworthy visitors, including rapper Common, singer Erykah Badu, Travie McCoy of the group Gym Class Heroes and reggae artists, many of whom live on a vegetarian diet.

"A lot of them come here as soon as they get off the plane," Bernard said.

John F. Kennedy International Airport is about a 10-minute drive from the restaurant.

Bernard likes to say he is not in the restaurant business but rather in the business of feeding people.

"There's nothing better than seeing someone enjoy a meal you just prepared fresh," he said.

Reach reporter Bianca Fortis by email at [bfortis@cnglocal.com](mailto:bfortis@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4546.

## BUSINESS CALENDAR

### Powerful You! Women's Network

— A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

**When:** Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

**Cost:** Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

**Where:** Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston

**Contact:** Gayle Naftaly, [gnaftaly@accessoffice.net](mailto:gnaftaly@accessoffice.net), (718) 217-0009

**Website:** [powerfullyyou.com](http://powerfullyyou.com)

**Power Networking Group** — Led by Harvey G. Beringer

**When:** Every Wednesday, 7 am

**Cost:** \$10 for breakfast

**Where:** Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside

**Contact:** Harvey G. Beringer at [HGBCPA@aol.com](mailto:HGBCPA@aol.com) or (718) 423-0427

### BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans)

**Weekly Meeting** — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.

**When:** Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

**Where:** Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

**Contact:** Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

**BNI Peak Professionals Chapter** — BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI Provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact Lydie Pellissier, chapter president, to arrange a visit.

**When:** Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am

**Where:** Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnkp., Fresh Meadows

**Contact:** Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986

**Website:** [bniouterboros.com](http://bniouterboros.com)

### The Eastern Queens and Long Island Networking Group

— This unique business networking group discusses today's challenges and helps form alliances. Relationships are built. Facilitator is Gayle Naftaly, rainmaker, entrepreneur, coordinator, leader and organizer with contacts.

**When:** Second Wednesday of every month

**Cost:** \$20, includes food from Marcella's Pizzeria of Glen Oaks. Payment benefits the Ronald McDonald House of L.I.

**Where:** Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park

**Contact:** Gayle Naftaly, [gnaftaly@accessoffice.net](mailto:gnaftaly@accessoffice.net), (866) 391-2780

**Website:** [accessoffice.net](http://accessoffice.net)

### Center for the Women of New York 5th Annual Walkathon

— Join the walk to help fund educational services to support and to prepare women in the workforce. Registration \$15 donation, \$20 donation receive a walkathon T-shirt, while supplies last.

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 am to 12:20 pm;

Registration at 9 am, Walk begins at 10 am  
**Where:** Fort Totten Park, Cross Island Parkway at Totten Avenue, Bayside

**Contact:** (718) 793-0672

**Website:** [cwny.org](http://cwny.org)



St John's University player Sean Sepe (l.) protects the ball.  
Photo by Yinghao Luo

## Sepe leads St. John's to victory over WVU

BY ANTHONY PARELLI

The St. John's University men's soccer team finished its four-game home stand perfectly, winning all games, thanks to the strength of Sean Sepe's second consecutive game-winning goal.

The sophomore's 24th minute score was all the No. 12-ranked Red Storm needed to get past West Virginia Sunday night at Belson Stadium. Sepe corralled a Jimmy Mulligan pass, weaved his way around three defenders near the top of the box and tapped the ball past the keeper.

"I saw the open spot and put it in," Sepe said of the score. "I was mad at myself I didn't score on my first try, so I thought, 'I'm definitely getting one this game.'"

The game was just Sepe's second start of the season. The first came in a loss at Virginia. He is mak-

ing the most of his playing time. The previous game he netted the game winner as a second half sub to give St. John's a 1-0 victory over South Carolina.

"[Starting is] a little different," Sepe said. "Everybody's fresh and you have to get behind defenders, but I'd rather start, obviously."

The one goal has been enough for the Johnnies as, for the third straight game, the defense kept the ball out of the net for a 1-0 victory. St. John's Coach Dr. Dave Masur thought this performance as an improvement on Friday's.

"I thought we didn't defend that well against South Carolina," he said. "We did for sure today. West Virginia has some very good offensive weapons."

Red Storm goalie Rafael Diaz notched five saves, including a full-on diving stop in the first half, to earn his third straight shutout.

*Continued on Page 48*

Related column  
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## Commodores rout Madison

Bayside scores emotional win in memory of coach's late mother

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The week began and ended with Jason Levitt shedding tears.

The Bayside football coach couldn't help but think about his mother Anne as he prepared to face James Madison. She died at the age of 65 from scleroderma, an autoimmune that hardens blood vessels and can affect vital organs, the morning of the Commodores' meeting with the Knights last season.

That game ended up being an excruciating one-point defeat after Bayside blew a 21-point, fourth-quarter lead. Levitt, who turned 37 last week, asked for a different outcome this time: a win for his birthday and his mom.

"He cried after we watched the film on Monday," running back Trevon Moe said. "This game meant a lot to him."

Levitt, who isn't shy about showing emotion, cried again when he huddled with his team after a 37-6 home rout of Madison in PSAL Bowl Conference football Sunday afternoon. His mom was again on his mind.

"She is like my best friend," Levitt said. "She and my dad. Losing her is ridiculous. I'm tearing up right now just thinking about it."

The players cheered his and his mom's name. Levitt hugged his dad Mark after the victory. His father thanked the players for playing for the Levitt family in the locker room after.

The coach's story par-



Bayside's Jeremiah Harris returns a punt 55 yards for a touchdown against James Madison.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

ticularly hit home with quarterback Henry McCoy. The Susan Wagner transfer is new to the team, but not new to loss. His mom died three years ago. It made it easier to connect with the story Levitt told during the week and fueled him to win.

"I felt it because I lost my mom, too," McCoy said. "It made me feel good and it definitely made my team feel good to help a man that helps us every day."

Bayside's playmakers helped themselves to chunks of yards and numerous big plays. The

Commodores (2-0), who were without injured captains Antonio Agro and Bert Cuza, scored 29 unanswered points after Madison (0-1) pulled within 8-6 early in the second quarter. Moe carried the ball five times for 119 yards and touchdowns of 68 and 34 yards.

McCoy completed five of eight passes for 94 yards, including a 51-yard touchdown pass to Tyrell Plaza. McCoy also ran for a 2-yard score and a two-point conversion. Jeremiah Harris had the game's first score when he took back 55 yards

for a touchdown in the first quarter.

"This team has an abundance of playmakers," McCoy said. "We have a lot of people who, when you get the ball in their hands, they can take it to the house."

The victory and strong play of the defense signaled to Levitt that Bayside has a chance to be one of the league's top teams this season. It only added good feelings to an already meaning win.

"We know this is a big one," Levitt said. "We are not going to be satisfied with being 2-0. No way."

# Cross bests Mount with last second touchdown

## Quarterback Paul Yodice launches 57-yard pass to Brandon Jackson for thrilling end of matchup

BY JOHN TOLIS

During the preseason there was a battle for the starting quarterback job at Holy Cross between Paul Yodice and Akini Primis.

Yodice won the job and it looks like the Knights are in good hands after two wins. He was a hero in Cross' thrilling 12-6 win over host Mount St. Michael in CHSFL football play Saturday afternoon.

He rolled out and tossed a 57-yard, game-winning touchdown pass to Brandon Jackson, who did some extra work over the final 20 yards to get the ball in the end zone, with only 20 seconds remaining in the contest. Yodice was just trying to make a play.

"My offensive line stayed with me and I don't know. I blacked out and

threw it to my man Jackson," Yodice said. "Touchdown."

The Knights had barely used the long ball in the game, but Yodice has done well with his opportunities. He is 8-for-17 for 195 yards and three touchdowns in two games.

"He's making the most of his time," Holy Cross Coach Tom Pugh said.

The Knights (2-0, 1-0) ran the ball mostly, but the Mount St. Michael defense did a tremendous job of holding them at bay. Holy Cross got help from its vaunted defense early. It forced a fumble on the Mountaineers' first snap of the game and senior Jordan Francklin recovered the ball. He later ran the ball in from 10 yards out to give his team an early 6-0 lead.

The Mountaineers (0-



Holy Cross quarterback Paul Yodice looks to make a pass.

Photo by Robert Cole

2, 0-1) came right back on the possession after and got through the tough Knight defense. Quarterback Kasim Thomas handed off to junior running back

Albert Sutton. He ran it in the end zone from 9 yards out and tied the score 6-6. It was not until the last points of the game that Jackson found the end zone in the

final minute.

"It's a war," Pugh said. "Every time we play Mount we have these kind of games, physical games ... very physical."

Pugh understands that his defense is top notch, but still thinks his offense needs a little work.

"The offense hasn't caught up to our defense yet," he said.

Yodice agrees with his coach.

"Offense definitely needs something to work on, thank God our defense stayed in the game," he said.

Still, Yodice showed late in the game that he can remain poised in the big moment. His late touchdown showed promise for the future with his ability in the pocket and his throwing arm.

"He made a great play," Pugh said. "He hit the fastest guy in our school down the sideline."

## New SJU formation helps Red Storm to strong start



Joseph Staszewski  
*Block Shots*

A grin quickly appeared on Tim Parker's face at the mention of the St. John's University men's soccer team adjusting its formation this season.

That wasn't always the case. The players were at first skeptical of going from a 4-4-2 formation to a 5-3-2. In Coach Dave Masur's 23 seasons, the Red Storm has always been known as a strong defensive bunch. Why change what is proven to work?

"The first time he said it we all questioned it a bit just 'cause last year we felt



St. John's University soccer players celebrate with Sean Sepe after he scored a goal.  
Photo by Yinghao Luo

we played pretty well defensively," Parker said.

The doubt quickly evaporated.

In the players' minds

the move has bolstered their play on both sides of the ball. The extra defender back makes it harder for

*Continued on Page 48*

## Reloaded St. Francis Prep sweeps rival Molloy team

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The players who made St. Francis Prep one of the city's best and deepest volleyball teams last season are now keeping it arguably its most talented.

The Terriers lost seven seniors, including last year's TimesLedger Newspapers All-Queens Player of the Year Kelly Flynn, from a squad that won the school's sixth straight CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens Division I girls' volleyball title. With old faces moving to more prominent places, St. Francis Prep did not miss a beat in a 25-18, 25-21, 25-18 win over rival Archbishop Molloy in Briarwood Monday in the teams' first meeting.

"They know it's their opportunity," SFP Coach Kevin Colucci said. "They



St. Francis Prep players cheer after a point.

Photo by Christina Santucci

were patient with it. Now they know it's their time. I hope they take full advantage of everything."

Senior setter Nicole Tong recorded 35 assists and four digs. Returning star middle hitter Caroline Gorecki had 10 kills and Ja-

clyn Laforgia added eight. Tong and the Terriers did a great job spreading the ball around to their bevy of hitters. The big front line that includes Johairy Rivadeneira, Stephanie Sokolich and Lauren Drauch domi-

*Continued on Page 48*

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# St. Francis Prep falls to Firebirds in league opener

BY JOHN TOLIS

St. Francis Prep girls' soccer Coach John Jenkins isn't keen on using an attacking style of play. The Terriers take a different and more defensive approach to the game as they try to compete in the top division of the CHSAA Nassau/Suffolk league, arguably the best in the area.

St. Francis Prep did its best to shut down Kellenberg, but a late Firebirds goal gave them a 2-1 win in both teams' league opener at Fort Totten Sept. 11. The Terriers did a good job of clearing the ball out of danger in the back, but Jenkins was hoping for more.

"We know we can play defense, you see that and

there's not too many teams that can play defense," Jenkins said. "I really think that they're better than that and I really think they can play the way soccer is supposed to be played, instead of clearing it."

Senior midfielder Alyssa Argento shares the same feelings as her coach. Just clearing the ball isn't enough. The Terriers will need to work on turning their defense into offense and keeping the ball in their control more.

"We should maybe have a little bit more possession instead of just kicking it up," Argento said. "We need to play more offense."

SFP has a strong defensive unit led by junior and



St. Francis Prep's Angela Careddu keeps the ball from Kellenberg's Paige McDermott.  
Photo by Ken Maldonado

co-captain Tara Ferraris and goalie Samantha Cotic. Ferraris believes the

defense can improve, but is playing well despite the graduation of Aimée Kas-

mally and Gina Baglieri.

"We just need to work more together and communicate better," Ferraris said. "Defensively we could use a little more work, but a big improvement from last year."

The defense was put to the test against Kellenberg and it held strong for most of the afternoon and appeared ready to claim at least a 1-1 tie.

That was until Kellenberg's midfielder, Brooke Salmon, scored the winner from just outside the box with less than two minutes remaining in the game. It came right after the Terriers had just gotten even minutes earlier when forward Sophia DeLeon scored on a free kick just

outside from the right side of the box.

Kellenberg won the possession game in the first half, moving the ball smoothly and putting three shots on goal. The St. Francis defense was kept busy, but batted away every ball that was put in front of them. Autumn Brown was a force for SFP a center back during a scoreless first half.

Despite the loss, Jenkins feels optimistic going forward in a difficult league.

"We're going to keep on improving, that's all," Jenkins said. "We're in a league that's got four teams who are all everything and we'd like to stay in this league to get better."

## St. John's

Continued from Page 45

He gave praise to his defense that stymied the West Virginia attack all day.

"This is the best defensive game we've played," Diaz said. "The second half I don't think they had a clear shot and that's a team that scores a lot of goals."

Keeping the pressure on the West Virginia (3-2-1) defense all night was former Francis Lewis star Danny Bedoya. The forward led the Red Storm (5-1-0) with four shots on goal and narrowly missed connecting



Tim Parker, of the St John's University soccer team, prepares to launch the ball in the air.  
Photo by Yinghao Luo

on several occasions.

"He's got some really exciting change of pace [ability] in the attacking third which we hope will

continue down the road," Masur said.

The game was St. John's' last before starting Big East conference play against Creighton Sept. 21. It is one of three straight contests before once again returning to the friendly confines of Belson Stadium. The Johnnies' lone defeat this season came on the road.

"The last time we went to Virginia we didn't play well at all, and we got played off the field," Sepe said. "So it's personal for everyone on the team when we go away to show we could play on the road and not only at home."

## Red Storm

Continued from Page 46

opponents to score, while allowing St. John's to safely push players up to generate more scoring chances. The Red Storm is off to a 5-1-0 start and ranked No. 12 in the country.

"We are a little bit more of a threat," Parker said. "We keep the ball better in the back. We can play out of the back and we are able to get forward more. I feel like we create more of an attack out of the back."

Unfortunately, more scoring chances haven't always translated into more goals for St. John's. The

Johnnies have struggled to finish, but have won four straight games heading into their conference opener on the road against No. 1 Creighton Sept. 21. The last three victories have come by a score of 1-0.

"We are used to being strong in the back late in games, but we do wish we could have a couple 3-0 games," Parker said.

Defense is still the key to victory for St. John's. That will never change as long as Masur is on the sidelines. It's made the Johnnies one of the nation's most decorated programs. It isn't easy to win that way, with so little margin for error, but St. John's continues to do it behind Parker,

Casey Osborne, Adrian L'Esperance, Jamie Thomas and Jordan Rouse.

"We think to be a great team we have to win 1-0 games," Red Storm keeper Rafael Diaz said.

St. John's has claimed all five of its wins by a goal and its only loss is to then-No. 20 Virginia 2-0. The Red Storm would love to win more comfortably and put away the quality chances it is creating.

"There are a lot of things we have to do a lot better," Masur said.

The Johnnies do have defense down in their new formation and just how good they can be when they put it all together remains to be seen.

## Volleyball

Continued from Page 46

nated the net.

"It's good to always have an available hitter if one isn't performing to their full ability," Gorecki said. "It's always good to have another option."

The Terriers (2-0) needed all of them to hold off Molloy in the second set. Colucci was forced to call time with the Stanners up 16-13. He told his team to refocus and calm down. Their passing became crisper as the match went along. An

ace from Rivadeneira eventually tied the score at 18-18. SFP never trailed again and recorded the last three points of the set to win 25-21.

"When we are positive, that's when we play the best," Tong said.

Despite losing the set, it was the best Molloy (1-1) played all match, but they were undone by a slow start. Needing to get going faster is becoming a bothersome trend to first-year Stanners Coach and alumna Nicole Bagatta.

"Their first game they have to like warmup," she

said. "It's a struggle we have that we are trying to overcome."

Molloy got a strong performance from Katherine Kilkenny (seven kills), captain Emily Rabot (six kills, nine assists) and new libero Emily Noblesala. Bagatta, who took over for Steve Leoutsakos, thought the Terriers won the battle at the net and her team made one too many errors to upset the Terriers.

"Every overpass we make they are just killing it down," the coach said. "They didn't kill us anywhere else."

Easy #6									Hard #6								
6	2	4	5	9	8	3	1	7	9	1	2	8	5	3	4	7	6
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1	7	5	6	3	2	9	4	8	6	4	8	1	9	7	5	3	2
3	6	2	8	4	9	7	5	1	2	7	1	5	3	6	9	8	4
9	5	6	7	1	3	2	8	4	1	2	5	7	8	9	6	4	3
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Week 13



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If you have any questions, you may contact me at:

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# Stabbing

Continued from Page 1

the stabbing took place, said she first heard yelling before she leaned over her counter to look outside around 1 p.m..

“One man was on the ground,” she said. “And one was hitting him.”

Chaudhary said Orozco was crying out, “Help, help!” in Spanish.

She thought the incident was a scuffle and worried that her glass storefront would be shattered again as it had in the past following a fight on the street.

But when she looked out again, she spotted a crowd that had gathered.

“I saw people running behind him, saying, ‘Catch him, catch him.’”

Two plainclothes officers chased Torres to 84th Street and Roosevelt Avenue, where they apprehended him, police said.

Thomas Oniszko, who regularly sits on a milk crate on 90th Street, said he saw Orozco stabbed three separate times and, in the final blow, it appeared the Woodside man was hit in the throat.

Before he was taken away in an ambulance, Orozco was lying on the ground and taking shallow breaths, Chaudhary said.

“Paramedics pulled

off his shirt and he had a wound here,” Chaudhary said, pointing to her neck.

Orozco was taken to Elmhurst Hospital, where he was pronounced dead soon after, the NYPD said.

Oniszko said he and other passersby believed the attack stemmed from the attempted theft of a cellphone, but authorities are investigating whether anti-gay sentiment played a role, the NYPD said.

Police initially charged Torres with assault as a hate crime and criminal possession of weapons in another stabbing in Manhattan Sept. 12, in which he allegedly attacked a 49-year-old man he thought was making sexual advances toward him, cops said.

Torres allegedly told authorities he believed Orozco was also coming on to him, according to court documents reported in the New York Post.

He said Orozco was making sexual gestures. “I got upset because he opened the door to his car. I took out my knife and poke him four or five times,” Torres told allegedly said, according to the documents.

The paper reported the district attorney said there was not enough evidence to charge Torres with a hate crime in Orozco’s slaying.

Elected officials gathered at the corner where

Orozco was killed Wednesday morning to denounce homophobic attacks and to push for a more visible NYPD presence.

“If people do see police officers walking down the street, that may deter them,” said Assemblyman Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst).

At Boulevard Gardens, where Orozco lived with his wife, workers described him as friendly.

“He was a really nice guy. He would always say hello,” said Dimitrios Kosmopoulos, who works in the complex. “He had a good heart.”

The buildings’ super, Timmy Shaughnessy, said he thought Orozco had retired within recently and had lived in his co-op for at least 10 years.

The workers said they often spotted Orozco toting cans and bottles to make sure they were recycled, and he would walk through the grounds.

“He liked to be outside,” Shaughnessy said.

Councilman Danny Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) said Orozco was headed to a doctor’s appointment with his wife, Alba, when he was killed.

Reach reporter Phil Corso by e-mail at [pcorso@cnglocal.com](mailto:pcorso@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4573.

# Schools

Continued from Page 4

tion.

For other new institutions, the DOE has found partners with Catholic schools willing to lease out unused space for public school students. Both the East Elmhurst Community School and the Middle Village Preparatory Charter School opened inside Catholic schools this year.

In western Queens’ District 24, among the most overcrowded in the city, the department cannot keep up with the growing student population.

Nick Comaianni, president of the area’s Community Education Council parents group, said the cramped classroom problem has two parts: finding an appropriate site for a school and getting the city to pay for it.

“We have a budget for about 1,200 seats, and that’s not going to solve the overcrowding,” he said. “We would need a lot more seats than that. I’d say thousands more.”

In other locations, the city has found unused space in buildings where it can open schools.

August Martin High School in South Jamaica and the Virgil I. Grissom School in South Ozone Park were both identified by the BOE as underused and new schools opened in their buildings. The practice, known as co-location, has been criticized for wasting space on administration and creating inequalities when it comes to sharing spaces such as libraries, cafeterias and auditoriums.

Still at others, the department is phasing out enrollment or cutting grades at schools and using the extra space for what it calls new seats.

Student rolls at Flushing High School are being reduced while two new schools are phased in, and at the Campus Magnet complex in Cambria Heights the Institute for Health Professions will gradually grow as two high schools are phased out.

The DOE expects that the seats lost through re-

duced enrollment at the Richard S. Grossley School in Jamaica will be largely recovered by the new Emerson School.

At PS 156 in Laurelton, three grades were eliminated this year, and the DOE opened the new Queens United Middle School in the building.

The DOE said its potential scenarios for new construction include opening five new buildings next year, six schools in 2015 and another three the following year.

Rachel Paster, president of the CEC for District 30, which covers Long Island City, Astoria and Woodside, said attendees at the borough board meeting were frustrated with the jargon the department used when talking about new schools.

“They were particularly offended with what the DOE was saying about high-quality schools,” she said. “What does that mean we have in our neighborhoods now — low-quality schools?”

# Library

Continued from Page 29

tions submitted by parents, students, seniors, artists, teachers, job-seekers and entrepreneurs.

Queens Library spokeswoman Joanne King said Corona specializes in serving the neighborhood’s Spanish-speaking population.

“Those parents are

very education-minded and they are very concerned their children do well,” she said. “It’s so heavily used and it’s always so crowded.”

Earlier this year the foundation commissioned a report that ranked Corona at No. 14 among the city’s libraries in terms of attendance.

The Queens Village Library made the competition’s short list and was granted a \$5,000 award.

King said that in addition to serving the neighborhood, the branch is the hub of the library system’s outreach program for home-bound seniors, distributing books to nursing homes and operating the mail-a-book service.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at [rbockmann@cnglocal.com](mailto:rbockmann@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4574.

# Hill

Continued from Page 22

Francis recalled how he and Arthur Hill would drive around with their wives in the backseat while

they hashed out ideas to better their communities.

“I’m sure we did a very good job because the world continues,” he said with a laugh.

Arthur Hill, who died in 2010, is survived by his

wife, Patricia and his four children.

“He was very influential and I loved him very much,” Arthur Hill Jr. said of his father.

# Hotel

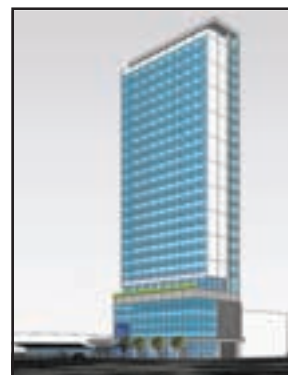
Continued from Page 1

opened, with hopes the non-profit would be able to lure corporate tenants to the site. The PA was supposed to either collect its money or the property, which houses a 6,000-square-foot building GJDC uses for meetings, if nothing had been built by 2008.

In the meantime, the city rezoned 368 blocks in downtown Jamaica in 2007, changing the area across the AirTrain station from low-density manufacturing to high-rise commercial.

The request for proposal issued for the site last summer touted the more than 200,000 passengers who pass through the downtown area each day using the LIRR, subway, bus and the AirTrain link to John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Able is proposing to build a \$35 million, 210-room hotel with a full-service restaurant and retail



A 24-story hotel is in the works near downtown Jamaica’s AirTrain station.

space on the ground floor.

“The location is well-suited for a hotel, as it is directly across from and easily accessible to the Jamaica transit systems. Guests will be able to utilize the AirTrain to and from JFK Airport,” Able CEO Viral Patel said. “We look forward to successful completion of the project and becoming part of the downtown Jamaica business community.”

The company, which manages hotels in Plainview and Brentwood, was

chosen over BRP Development Corp. due to “unacceptable contingencies” in the latter’s proposal.

Greater Jamaica President Carlisle Towery touted the private investment as a long-awaited payoff for the groundwork the nonprofit laid with its public partners.

“Able Hotels’ commitment to build this hotel is a major step in our long-term dream of seeing private investment augmenting Greater Jamaica Development Corp.’s public partnership with the MTA and the Port Authority in enhancing downtown Jamaica’s unique potential for transit-oriented development,” he said. “No other neighborhood in New York offers the convenience of a wide array of commercial and retail outlets, combined with subways, the Long Island Rail Road, buses and the AirTrain providing quick and easy access to John F. Kennedy International Airport just a 10-minute ride away.”

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**Notice is hereby** given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on September 11, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-000736-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) IAN (Middle) RAFFI (Last) MATTIN. My present name is (First) IAN (Middle) RAFFI (Last) ISLAM (infant). My present address is 107-26 122nd St., South Richmond Hill, NY 11419-. My place of birth is Queens, NY. My date of birth is June 03, 2006.

Assume the name of (First) JOEL (Middle) ARIF (Last) MATTIN. My present name is (First) JOEL (Middle) ARIF (Last) ISLAM (infant). My present address is 107-26 122nd St., South Richmond Hill, NY 11419-. My place of birth is Queens, NY. My date of birth is October 10, 2009.

**Notice is hereby** given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on June 12, 2013, bearing Index Number NC-000401-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) JAMEEL (Middle) SHADEED (Last) POTTER. My present name is (First) JAMEEL (Middle) SHADEED (Last) AMIN AKA JAMEEL S AMIN. My present address is 108-41 159th St., 6C, Jamaica, NY 11433-. My place of birth is Queens, NY. My date of birth is November 14, 1979.

**Notice of Sale**  
Supreme Court, County of Queens, Wall Street Mortgage Bankers Ltd., v. Champagne Properties, et al. Index#11991/11.  
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the Queens County Clerk's Office on May 29, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee appointed in this action, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as one parcel, at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica NY on Oct. 18, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., the premises known as 114-12 201st St., St. Albans NY Block:11017, Lot: 11, being in the City and State of New York, County

LEGAL

of Queens, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the Westerly side of 201st St., distant 100 ft, Southerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the Westerly side of 201st St. with the Southerly side of Murdock Ave (f/k/a 114th Ave.); running thence Westerly parallel with the Southerly side of Murdock Ave, 100 ft; thence Southerly parallel with the Westerly side of 201st St, 20 ft; thence Easterly again parallel with the Southerly side of Murdock Ave and part of the distance through a party wall, 100 ft to the Westerly side of 201st St; thence Northerly along the Westerly side of 201st St, 20 ft to the point or place of beginning. Sold subject to the terms and conditions of the filed judgment.

GUY R. VITACCO JR., Referee. FRIEDMAN HARENIST KRAUT & PERLSTEIN, attys for plaintiff, 3000 Marcus Ave., Lake Success, NY

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS US Bank National Association, as Trustee for Credit Suisse First Boston CSFB 2005-6, Plaintiff, against Bibi Z. Latif, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 11/21/2011 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse in Courtroom # 25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on 10/11/2013 at 10:00AM, premises known as 91-30 86th Road, Woodhaven, NY 11421 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block: 8871 Lot: 13. Approximate amount of judgment \$332,012.28 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 3374/09. Stephen D. Hans, Esq., Referee Gross, Polowy & Orlans, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 540, Getzville, NY 14068 Dated: August 29, 2013 1057296

**SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS**  
NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs against PAMELA

LEGAL

PALANQUE NORTH, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on June 7, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., in Courtroom #25, Jamaica, NY on the 25th day of October, 2013 at 10:00 AM premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Queens, County of Queens, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 11015 and Lot 0016 on the Queens County Tax Assessment Map. Said premises known as 114-22 199TH STREET, ST. ALBANS, NY Approximate amount of lien \$ 13,038.88 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index Number 7630/09.

PAMELA JORDAN, ESQ., Referee, Phillips Lytle LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs 1400 First Federal Plaza, Rochester, NY 14614 (\* LAURELTON - \*)

**SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS**  
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff against BENJAMIN ACOSTA, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on June 26, 2013, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County General Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Court Room # 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 11th day of October, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Said premises known as 160-19 111th Avenue, Jamaica, N.Y. 11433. Tax account number: SBL #: 12164-71. Approximate amount of lien \$ 572,544.25 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 18495-11. Richard M. Gutierrez, Esq., Referee. McCabe Weisberg & Conway Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street - Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900

**SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS**  
US BANK, N.A. Plaintiff -against-

LEGAL

ROBERT BANKS, JR., ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated MARCH 28, 2012 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction AT QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NEW YORK, IN COURTROOM #25 on October 4, 2013 at 10:00 AM premises known as 111-18 156TH STREET, JAMAICA, NY 11433.

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the County of QUEENS, City and State of New York. Block 12170 Lot 8 Approximate amount of lien \$545,099.87 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index# 25246/09 LAWRENCE M. LITWACK, ESQ., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: August 29, 2013..... FILE #: USB 52033

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
COUNTY OF QUEENS

CAROLYN SAUNDERS, Plaintiff, -against- BOLADE OHEMA, Defendant. Index No.: 13206/2012 Date Purchased: 06/22/12 Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is CPLR §§ 503 (a) and (c).

**SUMMONS**  
To the above-named Defendant: ... YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the Complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

LEGAL

Dated:...New York, New York June 8, 2012

BRIAN K. ROBINSON, ESQ. /s/ Brian K. Robinson ..... By: Brian K. Robinson, Esq. Attorney for Plaintiff 61 Broadway, Suite 1030 .....New York, New York 10006 (212) 269-2091

To: Bolade OHEMA 115-94 231st Street ..... Cambria Heights, N.Y. 11411

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
COUNTY OF QUEENS

CAROLYN SAUNDERS, Plaintiff, -against- BOLADE OHEMA, Defendant Index No.: 13206/2012

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff CAROLYN SAUNDERS, by her attorney, Brian K. Robinson, Esq., complaining of Defendant herein, respectfully allege as follows:

1. That at all the times herein mentioned the Plaintiff and the Defendant were of full age and residents of Cambria Heights, County of Queens, State of New York.  
2. On or about November 3, 1986 the Plaintiff and the Defendant acquired ownership of premises 115-94 231 Street in Cambria Heights, County of Queens, State of New York (hereinafter "the premises"). A copy of the Deed with respect to the premises is annexed as Exhibit "A."

3. Pursuant to said Deed, the Plaintiff and the Defendant acquired the premises as tenants in common.  
4. That the Plaintiff and the Defendant are each seized of and entitled to an undivided one-half interest in the premises.

5. The parties to this action do not own any lands in common other than the premises described in this Complaint.

6. Upon information and belief, there are no general or specific liens against any undivided share in the premises, except the mortgage lien held by Fleet National Bank/Bank of America.

LEGAL

7. Upon information and belief there are no tax liens filed against the premises as a whole.

8. Plaintiff resides on the premises.

9. Defendant does not reside on the premises.

10. Plaintiff has assumed all financial responsibilities related to the premises since the year 2006, without aid or assistance from, or contact with, Defendant.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for a partition and division of said premises according to the respective rights of the parties interested herein; or, if partition cannot be had without prejudice to the owners, then for a sale of the premises and a division of the proceeds between the parties according to their respective rights, after payment of the tax and any other liens and the costs and expenses of this action, and for such other and further relief as may be just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated:...New York, New York June 8, 2012

.....BRIAN K. ROBINSON, ESQ. /s/ Brian K. Robinson ..... By: Brian K. Robinson, Esq. Attorney for Plaintiff 61 Broadway, Suite 1030 .....New York, New York 10006 (212) 269-2091

VERIFICATION

**STATE OF NEW YORK)**  
**ss.: COUNTY OF QUEENS)**

Carolyn Saunders, being duly sworn, deposes and says, I am the Plaintiff named in the instant action, and as such I am fully familiar with the facts and circumstances herein.

I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint and the contents are true to my own knowledge, except as to those matters, therein alleged to be upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

Dated:...New York, New York June 8, 2012 /s/ Carolyn Saunders CAROLYN SAUNDERS

Sworn to before me this

LEGAL

8th day of June 2012

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Notary Public

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS**  
Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC, Plaintiff -against- Scott Gordon Esq., as Limited Administrator of The Estate of Katherine E. Adams, her respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors, and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming, under, by or through said defendant, who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Lenora T. Miner as heir to the Estate of Katherine E. Adams, United States of America, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Palisades Acquisition V. LLC Assignee in the Interest to Discover Bank, GMAC, New York City Environmental Control Board, New York City Parking Violations Bureau, New York City Transit Adjudication Bureau, Defendants.

Index No.: 10-20647 Filed: 8/13/10  
**SUMMONS**  
Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the attorneys for the plaintiff within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service; or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York; or within sixty (60) days if it is the United States of America. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be

LEGAL

taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Reverse Mortgage to secure payment of an amount, up to \$469,324.50 and interest, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens on August 24, 2005 in CRFN 2005000475731, covering premises known as 183-45 Camden Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11412.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

**NOTICE**  
**YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME**

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

**YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.**

Dated: Bay Shore, New York August 11, 2010

Frenkel, Lambert, Weiss, Weisman, & Gordon, LLP

BY: Todd Falasco Attorneys for Plaintiff 20 West Main Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 631-969-3100 Our File No.: 01-031217-FOO

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• 20 Gauge/10 Gauge  
Reinforced Steel Frame  
• Magnetic Seal  
• Double Insulated Glass  
• Door knob/Dead Bolt



ON SALE ON SALE ON SALE ON SALE  
**\$899 \$899 \$949 \$949**

BRASS  
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**FULL LIFETIME GUARANTEE**

**DOUBLE HUNG**  
**WINDOWS**

FULLY INSTALLED

INCLUDES CAPPING, CAULKING,  
STOP MOULDING AND DEBRIS REMOVAL

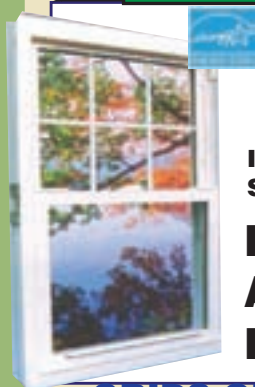
Low E Glass  
Argon Gas &  
Foam Filled

REG. **\$599<sup>00</sup>**

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**\$299<sup>00</sup>**

GRIDS OPTIONAL IN ALL WINDOWS



**COUPON**  
**STEEL SECURITY DOOR**  
• 8 Standard Sizes  
• Real Steel Construction  
• Dead Bolt and Door Knob  
• Black Powder Coat Finish  
• Glass and Screen  
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**\$815<sup>00</sup> \$599<sup>00</sup>**  
NO TAX  
A1-SEN  
Custom sizes and 10 colors available

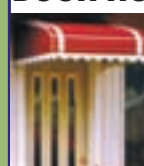
FULLY WELDED **COUPON** FULLY INSTALLED  
**BASEMENT WINDOWS**  
CUSTOM MADE UP TO 32" x 18"  
REG. ON SALE  
**\$349<sup>00</sup> \$154<sup>00</sup>**  
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**\$399<sup>00</sup> \$174<sup>00</sup>**  
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**BASEMENT SLIDERS**



**COUPON**  
**GARAGE DOOR**  
Raised Panel or Carriage Style  
• 2 Inch Thick Steel Door  
• New Tracks and Hardware  
REG. **\$899<sup>00</sup>**  
ON SALE  
8' x 7' **\$599<sup>00</sup>**  
FULLY INSTALLED  
Includes cart away of your old door!



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**AWNINGS & CARPORTS**  
**DOOR HOODS** SAVE **\$150**



42" x 36"  
REG. ON SALE  
**\$499<sup>00</sup> \$349<sup>00</sup>**

6' x 4'  
REG. ON SALE  
**\$639<sup>00</sup> \$489<sup>00</sup>**

CUSTOM MADE  
**BOW WINDOWS**



REG. ON SALE  
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