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May 2-May 8, 2014

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Queens DA's office gets short shrift on city funds

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No. 7 to run | Comrie challenges Sen. Smith in some nabes this weekend

BY BILL PARRY

The No. 7 subway line will be in service for customers in Sunnyside, Woodside, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights this weekend after the MTA decided to postpone track work until the end of May.

"We have modified the schedule as a result of community input," MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said without offering any further details.

The weekend service shutdowns, which have plagued residents and business owners in Long Island City since the end of February, were supposed to roll east and include every station between Times Square and the 74th St-Broadway stop in Jackson Heights.

Several straphangers leaving the 46th Street station in Sunnyside Tuesday were surprised to hear that the subway would be running this weekend. "That's news to me, that's good news," said Joe Mack.

The MTA did put out any press release announcing the change. The agency posted the information on its website and relied on its own system.

"We have a robust public information campaign that involves station and street level communications with posters at entrances, turnstile areas, brochures, maps Continued on Page 54

state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) for his southeast Queens seat.

U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (D-Jackson Heights), the Rev. Charles Norris and Councilman I. Daneek

See related story

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Joe Crowley, Rev. Norris and Councilman Miller endorse his Albany campaign

Miller (D-St. Albans) all publicly pledged their support Monday for Comrie's Democratic primary

run against Smith, who is awaiting trial on federal corruption charges.

Comrie said he was pleased to have their backing.

"I am truly humbled to have this strong show of support so early on. It simply means people are ready for a change," he said.

Continued on Page 54

THREE CHEERS FOR PLAYERS

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Leroy Comrie lined up a handful

of endorsements as he made the

announcement earlier this week

that he will challenge embattled

Former City Councilman



Matthew Jackson, 8, leads a chant as his team marches in the HBQVB Little League Parade along Hillside Avenue in Queens Village. The festivities kick off the league's season. Photo by Erin Edwards

A CNG Publication Vol. 2 No. 18

Symphony in the stadium

Tennis Club shares concert plans with neighbors in Forest Hills

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The Forest Hills Stadium's revival as a concert venue has gotten rave and raw reviews alike from the surrounding community.

The West Side Tennis Club, which owns the stadium at 1 Tennis Place, invited neighbors to share feedback on last summer's Mumford & Sons concert with the company hired to put on shows, Madison House Presents, as it finalizes this summer's lineup.

Madison House Presents has booked Zac Brown Band, an Atlanta-based folk group, for June 21 and Modest Mouse and Brand New, two indie bands, for Aug. 9. The concert promoters aim to plan up to four more shows this summer.

Close to 70 people packed into Our Lady of Mercy Church Monday to share their thoughts. Complaints ran the gamut, from a "pop-up shop" hawking gear on front lawns to throngs of concert-goers clogging the path to subway stations.

But others spoke passionately about the need to preserve a structure built in 1923 to host the US Open and went on to welcome music giants such as Bob Dylan and Barbra Streisand. The city considered landmarking the structure, but decided restoring it would be too expensive.

Mike Luba, of Madison House Presents, said selling roughly 16,000 general



Roland Meier, president of the West Side Tennis Club, discusses upcoming concerts at the Forest Hills Stadium.

admission tickets for the Mumford & Sons concert proved too many. Going forward, he said Madison House Presents would limit admission to roughly 13,000 for seated concerts and 14,000 for standing concerts. An assigned seating system will be used to discourage attendees from arriving early in pursuit of good spots.

Luba said neighbors would be given access to advanced ticket sales and deals.

He noted that a permanent stage would be arriving within weeks. Reinstalled seats, wider aisles

Photo by Sarina Trangle and new handrails are also in the works.

"It was a good learning experience for us all," Luba said of the Mumford & Sons concert. "It's a little tricky getting a 100-year-old stadium back up and running."

But the changes did not appease everyone.

Alex Tola, a Forest Hills Garden resident who owns a business on Austin Street, said last year's concert was annoying because it made his commute excruciating and then brought people using marijuana onto his lawn.

"You're bringing that element into our garden.

You're inviting them in. I mean, what's next, Jay-Z?" Tola said, referencing a rap star.

neighbors Other countered that transforming the stadium into a thriving concert venue would ensure that its legacy would be preserved and benefit local businesses struggling to attract customers. They said concerts were much preferred to the Tennis Club's previous plans of selling the stadium to developers interested in building condominiums.

The club, starved for revenue, needed to address close to 30 years of deferred maintenance work, its president said.

Aly Baite said the stadium helped put Forest Hills on the map and provided generations with fond memories, including her mother, who saw The Beatles there.

"This is a public venue space. It has been since 1923, be it for tennis, concerts," said Baiter, who lives across the street from the stadium. "That's what it was created for."

City Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills) praised the club for initiating a dialogue with the community and for the orderly operations last

"They have been very cooperative," Koslowitz said, emphasizing that neighbors should be flex-

Continued on Page 54

Success Academy gets Rosedale site

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city has found a home in Rosedale for more than 100 charter school students who were told earlier this year that come fall the doors would not be open to them at the public school building in South Jamaica where they had previously been promised space.

The de Blasio administration over the weekend announced the Success Academy, which originally planned to open inside August Martin High School for the next school year, would now have a home in the Rosedale building that previously housed the St. Pius X Catholic School.

Under Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the city Panel for Educational Policy last year approved nearly 20 charter school co-locations across the city, but soon after Mayor Bill de Blasio took over in January, he axed three of those propos-

Success Academies in Manhattan and Queens found themselves without a home in late February. The move kicked off a highprofile battle between City Hall and charter school advocates that culminated in a state budget deal last month requiring the city to provide rent-free space to charters.

First Deputy Mayor Tony Shorris released a statement Saturday explaining that the city Department of Education had found space for all three academies in former Catholic school buildings.

"It doesn't matter whether a child attends a district school, a charter school or a parochial school — these are all our kids. We pledged to parents we would have a safe, high-quality environment for these students, and this outcome delivers on that

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The de Blasio administration will place a Success Academy charter school in the former home of the St. Pius X Catholic School in Rosedale. Photo by Christina Santucci

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New 18,000-square-foot production facility worth \$24 million will bring number of filming lots to 10

BY BILL PARRY

Kaufman Astoria Studios, one of the largest film production centers on the East Coast, is about to become even larger.

Construction on a new \$24 million, 18,000-squarefoot sound stage will break ground early next year. Stage N will be the studio's eighth self-contained production facility.

"When you add them to the open-air back lot, and our music recording studio that can be used as a stage, that gives us a total of 10." Studio President Hal Rosenbluth said. "When you compare it to Warner Bros.'s 40 stages, it seems small, but remember, Hollywood is an industry town. No. 2 to L.A. is not such a bad thing."

"Men in Black 3" and "Goodfellas" as well as TV shows like "Sesame Street."

"Orange Is the New Black" and "Nurse Jackie" have all been filmed at Kaufman Astoria Studios.

"Film and television production in New York City has never been stronger." Rosenbluth said. "With Stage N, we'll be able to accommodate even more projects and continue to make New York the film and television capital of the world."

Steadygrowthhasbeen part of a long-term plan to reinvigorate the neighborhood with the studio as an anchor. Last month, it was the centerpiece of the newly designated Kaufman Arts District, a 24-block area that contains the Museum of the Moving Image, the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts and the Queens Council on the Arts.

"After the Army vacated in the '70s this whole



Kaufman Astoria Studios gets bigger with a plan for yet another sound stage. Photo by Bill Parry

area was abandoned and overrun with vandals," Rosenbluth said, referring to the era when the military made training films on the site. "When owner George Kaufman took over in 1982, his goal was to make the studio a big part of the neighborhood — not to own everything but to facilitate growth in the

Delivery 7 Days A Week

neighborhood."

Further expansion may include hotels and residential buildings in the future

"If we're involved in residential projects, the arts district allows us to bring more traffic. That helps all the landlords and restaurants and all the small business owners," Rosenbluth said. "All this is economic growth and it must be sustainable and we're building on that."

That is one of the reasons that a flea market is opening on the studio's back lot starting Sunday.

"The flea might bring more people to the area who might not have been here. They might think, 'That's a neat place, maybe I'll get an apartment there instead of Queens Plaza or Court Square,' That's how all businesses are gaining from our growth," Rosenbluth said.

More than a few evebrows were raised when it was announced the flea market would take place on the back lot. The whole block of 36th Street between 34th and 35th Avenues was de-mapped and turned over to the studio in a deal with the city Economic Development Corp. in 2012.

"There has been a voice of some concern, but I assure you I am not in the flea market business," Rosenbluth said. "It's just five hours on eight straight Sundays. We're just trying to do as many things possible to grow the studio and the whole neighborhood as

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at bparry@ cnglocal.com or by phone at 718.260.4538.

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⁴ DA funding formula sought

Crowley questions whether Queens gets fair share of city budget

SARINA TRANGLE

The Queens district attorney's budget averaged out to \$2,029.20 per major felony, far lower than the \$3.078.29 afforded to Manhattan prosecutors or rates at other borough DAs, according to calculations by the TimesLedger Newspapers based on NYPD crime statistics and last year's city budget.

Not that crime rates are necessarily how prosecutors' budgets are calculated anyway, City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowlev (D-Middle Village) said.

The councilwoman said baseline budgets for the five DAs have held steady since a 2011 Independent Budget Office analysis found there is no standard formula used to allocate city and state funding among the offices.

Crowlev said she wants to change that this budget season and has introduced a resolution calling for the city and state governments to examine arrest rates, prosecution statistics and population size and synthesize the study into a for-



City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley wants a funding formula for allocating money to the five district attorneys' offices.

mula for equitably distributing money to the five DAs and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's office.

"Looking back to 1980, the amount of funding as it's distributed between the five boroughs has been relatively unchanged. Yet here we are the fastest growing borough and we have demands," Crowley said.

The 2011 IBO report found that the portion of city tax revenue directed to each DA office has lingered around the same percentage since the 1980s, with the Manhattan DA receiving 31 percent of the money in 2011, Brooklyn 25 percent, the Bronx 18 percent,

Queens 16 percent, the special narcotics prosecutor 7 percent and Staten Island 3 percent.

But arrest trends were not so steady, with Manhattan's share of felony arrests falling from 35 percent in 1980 to 25 percent in 2009 and the outer boroughs'

Continued on Page 54

Astoria apt. rents for record \$5K

BY BILL PARRY

A three-bedroom, 3 1/2-bathroom apartment has set a new record for rentals in Astoria at \$5,000 per month, according to an agent at Douglas Elliman, which had the exclusive listing.

The Greek owner of the townhouse, on35th Street, lives in Geneva, Switzerland, and did a wholesale renovation of the property with Europeanstyle finishes.

"The apartment is amazing, an exquisite gut renovation of a prewar building," registered agent Justin Kinslow said.

"There is no other renovation that comes close to this in all of Astoria."

Nor do the rents, Kinslow added.

"In terms of reported rents, the only thing close to it is \$4,000 per month,"

The townhouse is fully customized with the latest technological innovations, from central air-conditioning and in-floor heating controlled by remote with an iPhone application. There is also a 500-squarefoot media room in the basement, right next to the heated underground parking garage.

Each room features

European design with exposed brick walls, white cedarfloors, stylized windows with double-paned glass, recessed lighting with dimmers, Paggen Pohl black granite counters, Hans Grohe sinks and high-end appliances including a Subzero wine refrigerator. The apartment came equipped with a video-linked intercom and alarm system.

The unit was listed in late January and Kinslow had his tenants lined up less than two months later.

"They are three guys in their mid-20s, all Ivy League graduates who work in finance and were looking for more space," he

said. "They really like the feel of the community, having moved from the East Village where they say everyone is there to just party."

Kinslow had recordmaking success with the townhouse's second apartment as well.

"The second floor is 500 square feet and it's renting for \$2,750 per month. That's the highest rent per square foot in Astoria," he

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

Budget agency eyes payments to library

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city is giving a second look at the receipts the Queens Library submitted for reimbursement on its controversial renovation of the central library in downtown Jamaica.

"pass-through" The funds, as they are called, go directly to the library in cases when city funds are combined with those from outside sources such as state monies or private donations for construction projects and renovations. In cases when the majority of construction money is city funding, the city Department of Design and Construction holds the purse strings and manages the project.

A spokeswoman for the Office of Management and Budget said the agency has asked the library for more documents relating to its request to be reimbursed to the tune of \$16.2 million for its renovations of two libraries.

""Approvals of the Queens Central and Cambria Heights pass-through projects are pending further documentation requested by OMB," spokeswoman said.

At a City Council hearing Monday members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup

Relations and representatives from the Design Department held a discussion on pass-through contracts, which have little oversight compared to construction projects managed by the

"That money has not been paid to Queens Library. That is currently at the budget office. It has been stopped," DDC Deputy Commissioner David Resnick said. "As of now we are not issuing any passthroughs of any sort to Queens Library."

The committee's chairman. Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), said he thought that was the right move considering the controversy over Galante's use of capital funds.

"I just want to say I think that's the prudent thing to do given where we find ourselves," said Van Bramer, a former Queens Library employee who has held a number of hearings on the library's management.

Library President Thomas Galante is under investigation for the way he managed contracts on the Central Library job and has come under harsh criticism for his executive compensation and outside employment.

pass-through process was designed to Continued on Page 28



The city's budget office is giving extra scrutiny to Queens Library's requests for reimbursements on construction projects.

SLA to vote on Knockdown Center license

Community Board 5 joins civic groups to complain about activities at Flushing Avenue arts center

BY SARINA TRANGLE

One community's art is another's pornography.

The Knockdown Center hosted a lecture series that included a talk by a School of Visual Arts professor who photographed porn sets along with some of her images April 25.

But the 52-19 Flushing Ave. art center did not seem to fit the surrounding Maspeth community's sense of

"That was not the type of event we were told would be happening at that location. They came up with a lot of nice-sounding things and it was supposed to be things people in the neighborhood would enjoy, but that's not what we're getting," said Christina Wilkinson, a member of the Communities of Maspeth and Elmhurst Together civic organization.

Tyler Myers, manager

of Knockdown Center, said it was disingenuous to describe Nitke's talk as a porn event. He said it was an installment of The Lost Lectures, a model devised in London and Berlin where ticket purchasers are sent the details of where and who will be speaking a few days before the lecture.

Musician Dev Hynes, writer Chorie Sicha, scientist Marc Abrahams, filmmaker Deidre Schoo and transgender model and activist Amanda Lepore also gave lectures.

Maspeth was on edge following a delay in the state Liquor Authority's decision on the Knockdown Center's liquor and cabaret license last week, but the lecture series seemed to only exacerbate the neighborhood.

Knockdown Center bills itself as an art center seeking to capture the momentum it has generated



The State Liguor Authority is scheduled to vote on the Knockdown Center's liguor and cabaret license May 6.

while hosting events in the former glass factory with temporary permits. It initially applied for a public access certificate and liquor and cabaret license to serve up to 5,000 people.

But an attorney for Knockdown Center suggested it may be willing to trim its capacity limit during a recent Liquor Authority meeting.

Community Board 5, the COMET civic and the Juniper Park Civic Association have lobbied against the applications because they believed Knockdown Center's appeal to young party-goers overshadows its focus on the arts.

After close to half an hour of discussion April 22, the SLA decided to give Knockdown Center another week to submit a security plan and other paperwork.

The deadline was set a week before the May 6 meeting, when the SLA plans to take up Knockdown Center's application to ensure

that civic groups and CB 5 have time to review and respond to new material.

The morning after the submission deadline passed. Wilkinson said COMET had not received paperwork and CB 5 said it was still requesting any material that may have been submitted.

According to a video of the meeting, the SLA said it denied temporary liquor permits for rapper M.I.A.'s concerts scheduled at Knockdown Center May 8 and May 9.

But Myers said the arts center may be able to acquire consent to serve alcohol during the upcoming shows when the SLA weighs its permanent application.

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

New LIC restaurant blocked from having backyard tables

BY BILL PARRY

A new Vernon Boulevard pizzeria and charcuterie is opening in Long Island City in early June, but it won't have the outdoor seating that the owner had planned on.

L'inizio owner Tom Blaze was informed by Community Board 2 that it was opposed to his using the restaurant's backyard, citing the potential noise as the factor. Failure to comply and CB 2 could block him from getting a wine and beer license.

It is a decision every new restaurant or bar owner has had to confront when opening on Vernon Boulevard in the last couple of years: outdoor seating or a wine and beer license.

Alobar was told they couldn't use their back patio. Owner Jeff Blath tried to get around CB2 with a direct appeal to the State Liquor Authority that failed. Woodbines, a pub that moved into the space vacated by Lounge 47 last year was told by the community board that they couldn't use their backyard either. Owner Pat Burke is planning to build an extension over its backyard so it can use its space.

It has been an issue in the Hunter Point section of Long Island City since 2003, when a group of residents began trying to silence the noise that emanated

nightly from the backyard of Lounge 47. The popular nightspot gave up its lease in January 2013 after the decade-long battle.

"I heard what happened at Lounge 47 over the years," Blaze said. "That was a different kind of place, I live right around the corner, I've been in this neighborhood for 49 years. These people are my neighbors and I respect them. I'm disappointed because I wanted my customers, my neighbors to use the backyard and I have the support of every resident I've talked

Joe Conley, chairman of CB 2, said it is a matter

Continued on Page 28

Rock Park tavern to close after bankruptcy auction

BY RICH BOCKMANN

It's last call for the Irish Circle Tavern in Rockaway Park, which will be closing its doors after the bank that foreclosed on the 20-year-old bar's home snatched up the property for \$1.25 million in a bankruptcy auction.

A bankruptcy judge in Brooklyn federal court last week approved the sale of the two-story, 9,500-squarefoot building at the corner of Rockaway Beach Boulevard and Beach 102nd Street to New York Community Bank for the price of \$1.25 million.

Tavern owner Jerry Perich, who also runs the real estate LLC holding



The Irish Circle Tavern has until mid-May to shut its doors after the bank acquired its building in bankruptcy.

title to the building, has until May 15 to vacate the property under the terms of Judge Elizabeth Strong's January order authorizing the bidding.

Massey Knakal Realty had been retained by NYCB to market the property in the auction, and Queens Sales Director Tommy Lin said the firm will list the property within the next few weeks.

"We're going back out with a normal marketing plan," he said.

According to Massey Knakal, a number of prospective buyers showed interest in the property before the auction and the firm sent out due diligence packages with information on its financials to 20 parties, but none chose to follow up with a site visit.

Continued on Page 50

⁶ Foodies taste Queens at 12th annual culinary event

From truffle orzo to piña colada flavored cakes, restaurants show off savory and sweet dishes

BY ALEX ROBINSON

More than 700 people flocked to Queens Taste Tuesday night to sample food from some of the borough's newest restaurants.

Queens foodies navigated a sea of people at Flushing's Sheraton La-Guardia East Hotel to taste many savory and sweet treats that were offered by the event's 49 vendors.

The annual event, in its 12th year, showcased a diverse array of food, from artisanal meatballs to freshly made sushi.

A panel of judges awarded best appetizer to Sunnyside's Murphy's Seafood Grill for its oysters. Zenon Taverna, a Greek and Cypriot restaurant in Astoria, received the honor of best entrée for serving a Mediterranean octopus dish, lamb meatballs and



Foodies could choose from a large number of desserts on offer.

Photo by Alex Robinson

taramosalata. DF Mavens, which served ice cream, won best dessert.

Newcomers Pa-Nash, a Rosedale restaurant that serves what it calls "Euro Soul" food, the fusion of Mediterranean and Moroc-



Elena Papageorgiou (I.), from Zenon Taverna, and Franwon Francis Zalewski, from DF Mavens, accept their awards for best entrée and dessert. Photo by Alex Robinson

can cuisine with Caribbean and soul food influences, proved to be particularly popular as most of its food was gone an hour before the event ended.

"A great time was had by all," said Seth Bornstein, executive director of the Queens Economic Development Corp., which organized the event. "The food, the beverages, the networking and the upbeat atmosphere were simply fantastic. I'm already look-



Paella from O Lavrador Restaurant sizzles in the pan.

Photo by Alex Robinson

ing forward to next year."

QEDC also took the opportunity to announce the winners of its eighth annual StartUP! business plan competition, which it gives to entrepreneurs who participated in a five-month challenge-and-instruction course.

Gamal Byfield, who runs a Rosedale martial arts studio called the Branch of Life, won first place.

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

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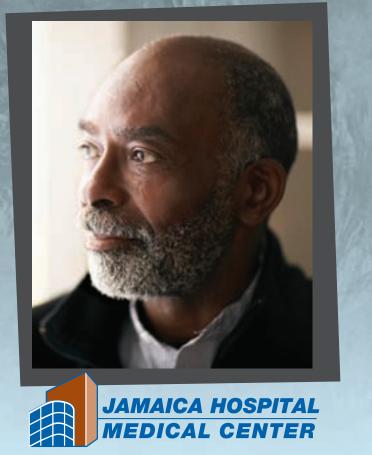
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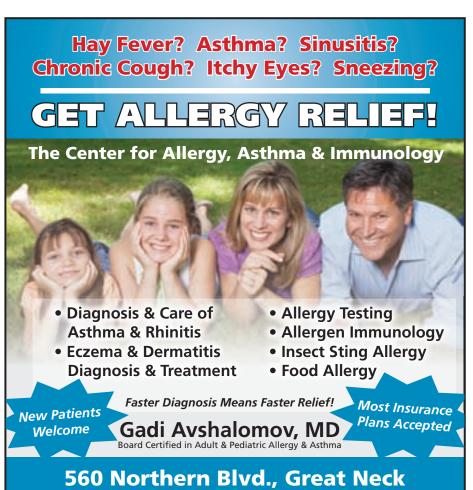
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POLICE Blotter

Fire rips through Ridgewood home: FDNY

RIDGEWOOD — More than 60 firefighters descended on Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood April 24 after police officers spotted smoke billowing out of the front window of a private home, the FDNY and NYPD said.

The Fire Department said 12 units and 65 firefighters battled the blaze in the top floor of a three-story house on Fresh Pond Road near 68th Avenue for more than a half an hour.

No one was injured, according to the FDNY and NYPD.

The Police Department said officers out on patrol alerted the FDNY when they smelled the fire and noticed smoke pouring out of a window on the top floor of the bouse



Flames pour out of the top floor of a Ridgewood building after police officers spotted the blaze. Photo by Roy Renna/BMR Breaking News

Firefighters were called at 11:32 a.m. and had the fire under control by 12:06 p.m., according to the FDNY.

Police hunt suspect in S. Jamaica stabbing: Cops

SOUTH JAMAICA — Police were searching for a man who allegedly stabbed a 15-year-old girl in the face, neck, back and hands in South Jamaica Monday, authorities said.

Supreme Moye, 20, is suspected of stabbing the teen near the intersection of 169th Street and 111th Avenue at around 2:45 p.m. before fleeing, police said.

The victim, who police said was an acquaintance of Moye's, was rushed to North Shore-Long Island Jewish Hospital, where doctors gave her 100 stitches for her wounds, according to cops.



SUPREME MOYE

Thugs beat up person waiting to eat: Police

FAR ROCKAWAY — A group of ultra-violent hoodlums reminiscent of something out of "A Clockwork Orange" beat on a young man as he waited for his food, police said.

The four suspects, one of whom was caught on surveillance footage carrying a cane and another who wore a sweatshirt boldly emblazoned with the word "killer" on it, entered a restaurant on Beach 20th Street last week and attacked their 23-year-old victim as he was waiting to eat, police said.



Police are searching for four suspects in the beating of a 23-year-old man at Classic Quizine in Far Rockaway, the NYPD said.

Images courtesy NYPD

The four goons punched the victim in the head, struck him in the head with a cane and threw a chair at him, police said

All four men were described as black males between the ages of 20 and 25.

Got tips?

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

bid to unseat Markey

BY ALEX ROBINSON

Civic leader Dmytro Fedkowskyj announced his candidacy last weekend to challenge state Assemblywoman Margaret Markey (D-Ridgewood) in her first primary in more than a de-

"I've spent the last 10 years safeguarding the educational interest of our parents, students and school communities, but now I want to safeguard and protect the interest of all our residents, which is why I'm running for the state Assembly," Fedkowskyj told reporters in front of Maspeth High School Saturday, surrounded by family and supporters.

The new candidate, an accountant, has made education a large part of his platform as he served on the District 24 Community Education Council as well as on the city Panel for Educational Policy. He also sat on an educational subcommittee of Mayor Bill de Blasio's transition team.

"We need to secure more funding for our public schools," he said. "We need more seats to relieve overcrowding, and we need to extend yellow bus service for some students in this district in order to safely transport our kids back and forth to school."

Fedkowskyj often voted against plans to phase

out schools and co-locations while serving on the PEP and has said he supports centralized administration of publics schools.

He also supports the Audible Alarms Bill, which if passed by the Council would require door alarms to be installed on the outer doors of all of the city's

"If it's not a state law by the time I get to Albany, I will pursue that piece of legislation right away," he

Other main parts of his platform include advocating to close wage gaps

between men and women, increasing funding for police and emergency personnel and creating more greenspaces for the district.

The Middle Village resident and Community Board 5 member said that what ultimately prompted him to decide to run was the amount of support he has gotten from the community in recent weeks.

"When I've engaged with people in this community and they've said, 'You know, I don't see the current Assembly member. I don't really know what she's about [and] I don't know what she's doing," he said. "Well, I can't speak for her. I can just speak for me

Continued on Page 50

Dmytro Fedkowskyj stands in front of Maspeth High School with Photo by Alex Robinson

Fedkowskyj launches Three challenge Velazquez 3

Congresswoman faces fellow Dem, GOP and Conservative foes

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Half of the candidates running for U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez's (D-Brooklyn) seat live outside the 7th Congressional District, including the incumbent.

City Board of Elections records show Velazquez resides in Red Hook about three blocks away from the district she was elected to represent, which stretches from Sunset Park in Brooklvn through the southeastern tip of Manhattan and over to Maspeth and Wood-

haven.

One of her three challengers, Republican Jose Luis Fernandez, lives in northeast Brooklyn, approxi-

mately five blocks out of the district. BOE records show. Allan Romaguera, the Conservative Party's candidate, and Jeffrey Kurzon, a Democrat who will face Velazquez in a primary this summer, both live within the district in Brooklyn.

The state does not require representatives to re-







Candidates for the 7th Congressional District include businessman Jose Luis Fernandez (I. to r.), attorney Jeffrey Kurzon, U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez. Bank consultant Allan Romaguera is not pictured.

Photos courtesy candidates' websites

side within their districts. but Kurzon has pointed out that Velazquez's primary residence is outside the boundaries.

The 37-year-old attorney described himself as a single-issue candidate bent on reforming the federal campaign finance system and shunning donations from political action committees.

But he took a break from discussing money to highlight his opponent's home address.

"I'd say she's out of touch ... she lives just outside the district, so she's not her representative,"

Kurzon said. "When she takes money from corporate PACs and lobbvists. it creates this perception among voters that it's all about money and then people on Election Day stay home."

Besides pushing to create a public financing system for federal elections. Kurzon said he would create jobs through infrastructure projects, push for industry-specific trade programs in public schools and close a carried interest tax "loophole" to generate close to \$5 million annually in each congressional district.

Velazquez's campaign did not respond to repeated requests for an interview.

Her website notes that Velazquez was the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the House of Representatives in 1992. Since then she has become the ranking member of the House Small Business Committee and senior member of the Financial Services Committee.

The congresswoman, who filed petitions to run on the Democratic and Working Families lines, has focused on working with the U.S. Small Busi-Continued on Page 50

Boro Hall doors still open for Comrie

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Former Deputy Borough President Leroy Comrie will stay on as a special assistant at Borough Hall as he campaigns for a spot in Albany, according to a source who hinted the doors in Kew Gardens may be open should his bid fall short in the crowded southeast Queens race.

Comrie stepped down from his position at Borough Hall Friday and after the weekend he threw his hat into the Democratic primary challenging incumbent state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis), who is awaiting trial on federal corruption charges.

A source with knowledge of the situation said Comrie will serve as a special assistant to Borough President Melinda Katz as he vies for a seat in the state Legislature's upper chamber.

Katz has not yet lined up a replacement and in the meantime her staff will pick up the extra slack, according to the source, who intimated Comrie would be welcomed back at Borough Hall if things do not pan out for him.

"If you know Leroy, you know he is welcome just about anywhere," the source said.

Comrie, who sat on the City Council for three



Borough President Melinda Katz will keep former deputy Leroy Comrie on as a special assistant as he runs for state Senate, a source said.

terms representing an area that makes up a large part of Smith's Senate district, is considered the odds-on

favorite in the race and is likely to receive the support of the Queens Democratic Party.

In a competitive field, however, it is still anyone's guess as to how things will play out. Democratic attorney Munir Avery, U.S. Navy veteran Bernadette Semple and attorney and small businessman Clyde Vanel have already started campaigning for the seat.

Vanel almost pulled off an upset in September when he lost by fewer than 3 percentage points in the Council primary against hand-picked Comrie's successor, Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Al-

Queens Impact Awards to honor boro's unsung heroes

TimesLedger event will recognize 27 people who dedicate themselves to improving their communities

BY KELSEY DURHAM

More than two dozen people who have helped shape Queens over the years will be honored at TimesLedger Newspapers' inaugural Queens Impact Awards May 15.

At a dinner to be held at Douglaston Manor, at 63-20 Commonwealth Blvd., 27 borough heroes will be recognized for the work they have done behind the scenes as volunteers and professionals to make life better for people in Queens. Winners were chosen based on nominations from a six-member committee and the TimesLedger staff to represent the entire borough.

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Bayside), who made history in 2012 when she was elected as New York state's first Asian-American congressional member, will serve as the guest speaker.

Andrea Adams, a Douglaston resident, was chosen for her volunteer work in Jamaica Hills. and Bayside resident Susan Agin

was selected for the decade she has spent as executive and artistic director of the Queensborough Performing Arts Center.

Bellerose couple Ronnie and Hank Arond were acknowledged as winners for the volunteer work they have done in Bellerose, and Jamaica Hills teacher Carl Ballenas will be awarded for keeping Queens' history alive by working with the Richmond Hill Historical Society.

Filmmaking couple Don and Katha Cato, of Jackson Heights, were cited for organizing the Queens World Film Festival. while Long Island City restaurant owner Gianna Cerbone-Teoli will be awarded for the assistance she gave to her neighbors after Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

The Rev. Phillip Craig won for his work as senior pastor at the Greater Springfield Community Church in Jamaica, and in Bayside longtime Sacred Heart Church parishioner Virginia DeMillio will be tapped for the 31 years she has spent coordinat-



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng will be the special guest speaker at the TimesLedger's inaugural Queens Impact Awards May

ing the church's Meals on Wheels program.

Carmine DeSena was chosen for the more than three decades he has dedicated to Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, and Lakia Echols, of Far Rockaway, will be recognized for founding the Make My Mother Proud youth

Audra Fordin is an auto mechanic who runs the Women Auto Know nonprofit in Flushing, and Lily Gavin, a Sunnyside restaurant owner, advocates for other small businesses by serving on various foundation boards.

Lucy Hossain, of Flushing, is a bank manager who has volunteered with several organizations, and Mandy Gor Kelso was chosen as a winner for organizing an arts programs for children at the Ridgewood YMCA.

Kwanghee Kim is a winner for founding the Korean American Family Services Center in 1985 and helping victims of domestic violence. Tenor Andrew Koslowsky was selected for founding The Josephine Foundation and Dr. Joseph Lieber, of Elmhurst, will be honored for teaching about the medical field.

Rockaway Beach resident Salvatore Lopizzo was chosen as a winner for his work to help the neighborhood recover from

Sandy in 2012. Greg Mays, an activist in Jamaica, will be honored for his volunteer work in the community, and Sunnyside bar owner Michael McCreesh was chosen as a winner for raising funds for charity through his business.

Carly Rose Nieves, the voungest honoree, is a cancer survivor who organizes a vearly blood drive at her Maspeth high school. Rodney Pride, of southeast Queens, has served as a mentor to young African Americans for years as a social worker.

Hakeem Rahim was selected for his work as a motivational speaker on mental illness, and George Subraj is president of a fund that helps the Indo-Guyanese community. Mandingo Tshaka, of Bayside, won for his activism that helped improve the quality of the neighborhood.

Tickets for the event, which runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., are \$90 and can be purchased by calling 718-260-4521.



Weekend Q103 service to be offered in summer

BY BILL PARRY

The Q103 bus that connects Long Island City with Astoria will expand its service to include weekends this summer.

The bus line, which runs along Vernon Boulevard, passes cultural institutions and waterfront parks and has had increased ridership, prompting the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to give the expanded service a trial run.

A public hearing will be scheduled for a review before a decision is made on whether or not it will be permanent, according to the MTA.

"Given the continued growth along our waterfront destinations, we've been trying to get transit to catch up," state Sen. Mike Gianaris (D-Astoria) said. "We've been trying to get this expansion, especially the weekends, since 2011. We're always looking to help and this is a good one for us."

The Q103 will take riders past the Socrates Sculpture Park, The Noguchi Museum and the Chocolate Factory Theater.

"The art bus, yeah, I like that," Gianaris said.

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) pointed to the new developments along the waterfront as well as the cultural organizations.

"Currently there is no connection for local residents who need to travel between Astoria and Long Island City on the weekends and evenings," he said. "The expansion of service will allow our cultural organizations the ability to draw in more traffic to their venues and will give local residents additional transportation options as western Queens continues to struggle with consecutive service disruptions on the 7, G, N, Q and R trains."



Socrates Sculupture Park's director is excited about weekend bus service after an MTA announcement. Photo by Bill Parry

On Saturday afternoon, there were less than a dozen visitors in Socrates Sculpture Park despite gorgeous weather and a new display by Polish sculptor Pawel Althamer.

"Queen Mother of Reality," a giant piece measuring 18 feet high and 50 feet long and made from recycled materials, was by itself along the East River.

"The Q103 service is a vital bus line for western Queens, an area truly suffering from the lack of public transportation options," John Hatfield, the executive director at Socrates Sculpture Park, said. "The closest subway is a mile away from here."

Jenny Dixon, director of Noguchi Museum, called the Q103 a vital link for the cultural institutions of western Queens.

"It enables visitors to go from the Noguchi Museum and Socrates Sculpture Center in the north to Sculpture Center, MoMA PS1, Dorsky Gallery and the Chocolate Factory in the south," she said.

Calling the absence of public transportation a barrier between north and south, Chocolate Factory Executive Director Sheila Lewandowski said, "Everyone should be able to get to Socrates or the Chocolate Factory or to the Queensborough Bridge or to free kayaking during the summers in Hallets Cove."

Linking cultural destinations and parks is important for economic development in western Queens, but Jess Nizar, senior organizer at the Riders Alliance, pointed to the residents of Long Island City and Astoria.

"The Q103 is the only means of public transportation along the waterfront community," Nizar said. "It's essential that local residents have reliable and expanded bus service so that they can access community institutions, jobs and healthcare."

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

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New Venues Needed

Across the borough, the caliber of Queens-based theater groups continues to evolve and produce shows that would fit nicely below 23rd Street in Manhattan.

Productions from Titan Theatre Co., Variations Theatre Group, Queens Players, the Astoria Performing Arts Center and the Chocolate Factory have lifted the designations of productions in Long Island City and Astoria from Off-Off-Broadway to Off-Broadway.

Now it's time to focus attention and money on the borough's smaller community theater groups.

Specifically, as TimesLedger theater columnist Ron Hellman writes this week "we need in Queens more theater buildings, venues with the look and feel and state-ofthe-art technology of real theaters."

It is a good thing the U.S. Constitution makes no mention of separation of church and theater since the dozen or so amateur companies in Queens make their homes in places of worship.

Granted, APAC is in the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on Crescent Street, but its space feels like a theater with a good-sized stage, excellent sound and lighting systems and sloped seating via risers.

Contrast that with the Andrean Players at St. Andrew Avellino in Flushing, Maggie's Little Theater at St. Margaret Parish in Middle Village and The Gingerbread Players at St. Luke's in Forest Hills.

Queens' list of makeshift theaters also includes the Free Synagogue of Flushing, the Colonial Church of Bayside and the Zion Episcopal Church in Douglaston.

Anyone who has had to sit under a basketball net or been stuck in the last row of folding chairs on the same level knows that has the makings of a so-so night at the theater even before the (non-existent) curtain goes up.

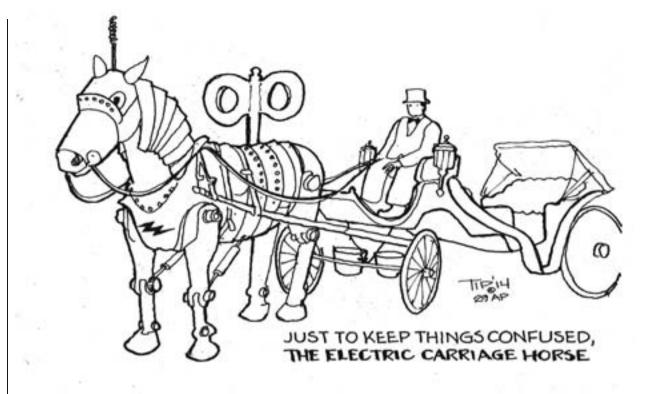
None of these groups are grumbling about their performance spaces. The people we have talked to are grateful to the churches and synagogues that allow them to use the space to put on their shows.

Without the support of these congregations, many of the groups would be hard-pressed to find a suitable or affordable location, and Queens would be poorer for it.

Hellman is correct in his assertion that Queens' civic and artistic leaders need to take their cues from their Brooklyn and Manhattan counterparts and offer up naming rights to pay for some new theaters.

If it's good enough for Lincoln Center and Theatre for a New Audience, it is reasonable to do it here.

Queens has the talent to create top-notch theatrical productions. It just needs better places where these artists can prove it.



OTHER VOICES

World's Fairs are big to-dos over nothing

may well be in a minority, but I have difficulty understanding the media hoopla about a 50th anniversary commemorating the 1964-65 World's Fair ("A Bright Tomorrow," April 25-May 1).

I am old enough to recall attending the '39 and '64 fairs, and while there were interesting exhibits in the '64 fair, the Unisphere and several others, it was not spectacular. Even use of the word "World's" could be questioned since many of the western European countries declined to participate.

It was a financial disaster, as was the '39 fair. The '39 fair returned bond holders 40 cents on the dollar, whereas the '64 fair returned 19.2 cents on the dollar.

At the conclusion of the '64 fair, ignoring the fact its venue had been Flushing Meadows Corona Park, a part of the city park system, it was left with a plethora of structures that did not belong in an urban park and would not have been allowed in Central, Prospect or Bronx parks and rightfully so.

As a result, politicians have over the past 50 years used them as an excuse to dump more structures and permit park misuse. Notwithstanding Flushing Meadows is the second most-used park in the city, it is the most abused, treated as real estate and not a park.

Lost in the euphoria for this celebration is the fact that to construct the fair and its use, FMCP was shut down for about five years, depriving people of its use. A proper remembrance of the '64 fair would be to remove those alien structures and insist the city allocate funds to make FMCP the park Robert Moses promised when he took it for the fair but never delivered.

Indeed, if while walking around Meadow Lake one wanted to sit down on a bench to admire the lake. he or she could not because there are no benches, nor have there been any for 50

> Benjamin Haber Flushing

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Third time's the charm in enrolling for Obamacare wrestle nine times with captcha lettering. Finally I am in! Click Flan." There it is. The

n 1969, Robert Lamm of the rock group Chicago

"Does anybody really know what time it is?

"Does anybody really care?"

In 2014, these are the questions which I am asking myself after my experience signing up with NY State of Health.

There are some people out there who care, who are trying to do a good job and help you out.

But as far as the time is concerned, that is another story.

Are prescription benefits covered from Day One or do I have to meet a deductible first? Are there any plans that cover dental and vision? Does anybody really know what time it

Healthcare Navigator 1 — of three — did not.

In the middle of a crowded hallway in the science building of a college campus, she is sitting behind a tiny folding table set up next to a soda machine. During the next three hours, students will randomly interrupt our meeting in order to ask for change of a dollar. Her laptop will crash multiple times, then it will run low on battery power.

There is no outlet where we are sitting. I suggest unplugging the soda machine. We eventually move to a nearby lecture hall. She plugs in her laptop. Her computer is working again, but she has no answers to my questions.

She is a polite, soft-spoken, middle-aged lady, the type of person it is difficult to get angry with ... except that now it has been more than two hours. The hallway is empty and my application is still incomplete. There will be no discussion about Gold vs. Silver, Platinum or Bronze. No discussion about what each specific plan has to offer only more failed attempts at communication.

And as it is becoming clear to me that my questions will not be answered, that my application will not be finished on this day and as I am still struggling to understand how the tax credits work, she tells me I am going to qualify for Medicaid.

She has only asked me for paystubs from Jan. 1 to the present, paystubs that reflect another bleak winter in the seasonal occupation of being a professional musician. For a moment, I am delighted at the thought of having free, state-paid health insurance, but I know it is a mistake.

I explain to her that my work is seasonal and I will make more money later in the year. It does not matter. It has been three hours and it is time to go. The campus is quiet now and her kids are calling on the cellphone. She is running late for a dinner appointment. That application would never get finished.

The following week, after a futile effort of obtaining and faxing paperwork to Navigator 1. I decide to start from scratch.

I will reach out and meet with Navigator 2. I will find myself sitting next to the same soda machine, with different students asking us for change, but the result will be better the second time around, and for a moment I will feel sane.

But the end of the meeting with Navigator 2 is rushed, and I do not have adequate time to properly select a specific plan. It does not matter, I am told, because I can change my coverage at any time.

No one seems to be able to agree on what time it is, whether it is a navigator, an insurance company, or NY State of Health.

Not even a supervisor. When I called 1-855-355-5777 April 1, less than 24 hours after open enrollment had ended, I was looking for guidance and insight from a healthcare reform professional who could point me toward the right plan.

I did not expect to be told that I cannot change plans because open enrollment was over, nor that a supervisor would tell me that I needed to file a report that would indicate I had had a "life-changing event"

that would qualify me for "special circumstances." Huh?

The following day, Navigator 2's voice mailbox is once again full and I cannot leave a message, so I call the insurance company directly: "There is nothing we can do, but why don't vou reach out to Navigator 3?"

Navigator 3 is sympathetic to my plight but tells me there is nothing she can do, that I will have to wait for a "determination" to be made.

Everyone agrees that none of this makes sense. vet no one can do anything! And so I am resigned to await the outcome of the report which I have made at the behest of a NY State of Health supervisor.

Navigator 3 does something, though, that not many people do. She calls back. She cares. She has the answer. After spending the next hour digging through an inbox inundated with emails from no-reply@nyexchange.org, I will find the elusive "invitation code"

and wrestle nine times with the captcha lettering.

on "Plan." There it is. The magic button. The button that no one seems to know about. "Change Plan."

At the end of the day, I will end up paving roughly the same for health care as I have done for the past 15 vears. Some will pay less. some more.

The state Health Department announced that more than 865,000 residents across the state are now enrolled in health insurance through the U.S. Affordable Care Act, and that 38,000 people successfully enrolled March 31 alone.

The system is far from perfect, but it will improve, as will my mood.

And so I ask myself, "Does anybody really know what time it is?"

Yes. Time to find a new doctor.

> Jeff Lubin Little Neck

Facts get in the way of beliefs

s painful as it may be to the chronically misinformed, but President Barack Hussein Obama II has not only not overused his executive orders, but he has through his second term used it less than any president from Dwight Eisenhower on.

Two exceptions, those who have used them slightly less, are former Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, and that is only because they were one-term presidents. In fact, Eisenhower, whom I voted for, exercised it 484 times.

Facts can be such a

But who needs fabricated facts when you can use obfuscating opinions. Points in fact, the detractors: "Obama is a bully/

Obama is a coward, Obama is a thug/Obama is wimp; Obama is a dictator/Obama is a weakling."

To paraphrase quaint derogatory quip, these despicable, desperate. delusional people are so frustrated that they "don't know whether to sit or go blind."

> Nicholas Zizelis **Bayside**

Thank you, strangers, for kindness

would like to send a shout-out to two Good Samaritans. About a month ago they were driving along an avenue in North Flushing when they noticed an elderly man hitchhiking.

It was not only sometime near midnight that evening, but we were also experiencing another cold spell. These kind, young people, who I understand were in their late teen or early 20s, pulled over and brought the man into their

He was confused, as someone with Alzheimer's can be, and although he told the pair he wanted to get into Manhattan, they did the responsible thing. They brought him home and solicited the aid of his neighbor to help him get safely inside his house.

Sadly, the neighbor did not get the name of the two young people before they left. It is my hope that a friend or family member of these young people reads this and can express my family's gratitude for their selfless act.

Thank you.

D. Iskaros North Flushing

Contact the newsroom:

A third World's Fair in the city would spur economy



William Lewis Political Action

ith the World's Fair anniversary at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, it is time to look at the possibility of a third world's fair in the not too distant future.

Having a world's fair in New York City would give all kinds of benefits to our city and state, and especially to Queens if the event was again held in Flushing Meadows.

This could lead to millions of visitors coming to New York City and tens of thousands of jobs being created. It would be a tre-

mendous incentive for improving the city and state economies as well.

The counter-arguments against another world's fair would be centered on the fact that the first two fairs did not do well financially. This time we could improve from the past and do better in making the event profitable and provide assistance to growing a stronger economy in New York.

If this type of event could be put in place, New York would be emphasized everywhere, nationally and internationally.

At this particular time, with the job market in question and the financial investments not where they should be, a world's fair could stimulate our economic system throughout our city and state.

Queens and especially

Flushing Meadows would become known everywhere.

Some of our news media coverage of the event would be constant and enduring. New York City will have its reputation enhanced as the great city that it is.

It is hoped that during the world's fair anniversary period that our media, including most radio and television news broadcasts and talk shows in New York City, will call for a third world's fair. It is also hoped that most of our city's daily and weekly newspapers will eventually support another world's fair.

If the function comes to pass, it could mean tremendous input by America's large corporations displaying their latest products and inventions.

It could also mean

many foreign countries setting up exhibits of their historical and cultural background as well as products that they produce economically.

This event would also feature the latest technologies for the present and future.

As indicated, this type of event would be a big help to our city's economy. The help this would give to the Queens economy and favorable status if the event is held in Flushing Meadows would be very good.

If ever there was a time to hold this event, now is the time. If there is a united effort made, it can be successful with society at large gaining.

During the last 10 years in some New York City political circles, there has been some discussion about having legal non-cit-

izens being able to vote in municipal city elections.

The argument is that residents of our city who are not citizens pay at least sales taxes and are affected by education, police, medical and other programs of the city government. That being the case, they should have some say in how these programs are implemented by voting in these elections for City Council and citywide races.

Voting for public officials to represent us in the executive and legislative branches of government is the right of a citizen, for if non-citizens can vote it brings into question the validity of the voting process.

From the early days of Greece to the present time, in order to vote people had to be citizens. This concept has rarely if ever been questioned anywhere. Once a person has achieved citizenship, voting rights are obtained as they should be, but voting rights are not being used as much as they should be when we look at the low voter turnout in the last few citywide elections.

The 2014 election should bring a much larger turnout than in recent past years

If citizens want the government to adopt certain policies, then they have to become active in politics to some extent. That includes voting in every election.

If there ever was a time to hold this event, the time is in the near future. If a united effort is made, it can be made successful with society at large gaining.

Testing event increases HIV awareness in Rich Hill



Prem Calvin Prashad • New Voices

n April 18, volunteers from the LGBT community and their allies collaborated with the Gay Men's Health Crisis to set up a mobile HIV testing unit outside the Lefferts branch of the Queens Library, at Lefferts Boulevard and Liberty Avenue.

The event was aimed at increasing HIV awareness in the Caribbean community in Richmond Hill in advance of the GMHC's 2014 AIDS Walk NY May 18.

Team Sundari — led by Sundari, The Indian Goddess; Nalima Amin; and Mohamed Q. Amin encouraged community members to get tested, know their status, be empathetic to those affected by HIV/AIDS and live healthy lives

Sundari, The Indian Goddess is an LGBT rights activist who uses performing arts as a platform to advocate for equality and inclusion for LGBT individuals of Caribbean descent.

"This is the first time [testing] been done openly here in the community," said Sundari.

Reaction from the community was largely positive, though a few passers-by were perturbed by the idea of being tested for HIV

Still, Sundari continued, "this is for the community, so we can have the conversation about it."

People with HIV/AIDS face a stigma in the Caribbean, and that stigma often carries over to immigrant



Members of Team Sundari stand at their table in front of the Lefferts library during their screening day May 18.

Photo by Prem Calvin Preshad

communities in Queens. This stigma inhibits people from getting tested and marginalizes those who are HIV-positive.

Sundari thanked the NYPD and Queens Library for allowing the group to secure the permits and space to carry out the event.

Kenneth Curry, of GMHC, administered the tests from one of the mobile testing units. The test consists of an oral swab that provides a result within 20 minutes. A possible positive result will lead to further testing to confirm a preliminary result.

The test checks for the presence of HIV antibodies, which are present three months after infection. A negative test means the individual is HIV-free as of three months ago.

During the 20 minutes,

those undergoing the test will be provided counseling by Curry, with questions about the individual's support network, habits, behaviors and other risk factors as well as review of a questionnaire. GMHC provides counselling and other services to those diagnosed with HIV.

Paired with the outreach event, Amin, Sundari and other volunteers hosted the Live Yuh LIFE fund-raiser April 26 at Naresa Palace, in South Ozone Park. The Caribbean-themed event channeled Carnival and featured several dance performances from the Caribbean LGBT community.

Team Sundari will wear Carnival-themed attire at the AIDS walk and Sundari noted that the team wanted to "still represent the culture, because we are Caribbean, but we want to do it in a way that we raise awareness [and] be who we are as well."

Beyond the AIDS walk, the group plans to engage the community through HIV-positive speakers and other educational and advocacy events.

For more information on Team Sundari, visit awny2014.kintera.org/sundari_lgbt.

Obamacare fails to deliver lofty goals for middle class



Bob Friedrich On Point

he U.S. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. or Obamacare, as some refer to it, has not lived up to the promise made by elected officials to millions of middle-class workers and families.

Many of these middleclass folks, including myself, were promised a rose garden but have received only thorns. It is distressing to find that if I liked my doctor, I cannot keep my doctor and if I liked my old plan I cannot keep my old

Like millions of Amer-

icans. I received a termination notice from my insurer advising me that my carefully selected health insurance policy has been rendered "noncompliant" by the ACA and is terminated. As a self-employed individual. I heeded the advice of President Barack Obama and sought out a healthcare policy for my family, and I thought that would work as well as my old policy.

What a journey it has

Like myself, millions of other self-employed individuals have been forced into the healthcare exchanges, as they are called, with the promise of lower costs and better coverage. In reality, just the opposite has happened, especially if your annual income exceeds \$46,000.

That is the income

level at which premiumlowering subsidies are no longer available. Without those subsidies, health insurance costs soar. The middle-class working stiffs are the real losers here, as they experience crushing increases in their health insurance premiums.

If my previous and affordable "Chevy" policy served me well for years, why am I now being forced to purchase a "Mercedes" policy with all kinds of bells and whistles that at my age I do not need? Sure my "Chevy" policy did not have child dental care, maternity benefits or access to "free" birth control, all requirements of ACA poli-

But my old policy allowed me to keep my doctors and access to all hospitals. Given the choice, I If you get your insurance through work, your day of reckoning is coming soon as the implementation delays expire and the employer mandate kicks in.

suspect most would choose a plan with the doctors they have trusted for years, a choice of hospitals and affordable deductibles.

If you receive your health insurance through work, you have probably escaped the turmoil of this law, but your day of reckoning is coming soon as the implementation delays of the law expire and the employer mandate kicks in.

Employers will find the cost of employee health coverage so expensive that the only affordable alternative will be to move their employees onto the healthcare exchanges. That is when the rest of the middleclass families will experience the Obama-shock that self-employed individuals are now confronting.

If you are lucky enough to find a healthcare exchange policy that you like with a doctor you are happy with, you are still not out of the woods. I was shocked to learn that many of New York's finest hospitals, such as Memorial Sloan Kettering. Weill Cornell and others, have opted out of most if not all of the healthcare exchange plans.

How disturbing is it

that at the most vulnerable moment of your life your hospital of choice does not insurance. This scary scenario is not imaginary and the ramifications are even more frightening. Losing access to top-quality hospitals to top-quality hospitals means more patients will be pushed into fewer and less-desirable hospitals, at a time when specialized comparison of the comparison care is needed most.

The glaring failure of Obamacare is in its onesize-fits-all approach to healthcare, a system imposed upon us by Washington bureaucrats who in their hubris have exempted themselves from the provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Bob Friedrich is a civic leader and president of Glen Oaks Village.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates Mexico's victory over France



Laura Rahill Remember the Date

exicans will observe the holiday of Cinco de Mayo Monday. This observance commemorates the Mexican army's victory over France in the 1862 Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.

Contrary to popular belief, the "Batalla de Puebla" is not the celebration of Mexico's independence day, which is Sept. 16 to commemorate Mexico being freed from Spanish rule in

In the mid-1800s, Mexico was in a state of crisis economically, and otherwise having been defeated by the Americans. Under terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico was forced to hand over all of California, Nevada and Utah and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado to the United States.

This humiliating defeat left Mexico divided on how to get back on track. The liberals and conservatives fought a bitter civil strife, with each refusing to recognize the other as leader. The liberals eventually won just before a French invasion.

The civil war meant Mexico was still in ruin and debt, owing money to foreign debtors including Spain, France, Britain and America. The president, Juarez, suspended payment of all foreign debt for two years, which caused a backlash, particularly from France.

About 6,000 French troops marched on the capital, backed by vanguished conservatives. President Juarez put together a 4,000-strong but underarmed force against the

On May 5, 1862, the outnumbered and poorly



Reves Xinastle shows his Mexican pride during Cinco de Mayo festivities at Flushing Meadows Corona

armed Mexican army led by Texas-born Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza, defeated French forces in what became known as the Batalla de

Today, this commemoration is more commonly known as Cinco de Mayo which translates to "fifth of May." This was a great symbolic victory for the Mexican government and a huge morale boost. Six vears later, thanks to military support and political pressure from its neighbor the United States, the French withdrew from Mexico.

Today, in the United States. Cinco de Mayo has come into its own as a huge, festive celebration of Mexican culture, heritage and pride. In New York, there are large Mexican-American populations, so the festivities are widespread.

Music and street festivals are not uncommon in both towns across Mexico and the United States. Of course, like many holidays celebrated in the United States, there is a commercial element to the occasion with businesses promoting Mexican services and goods, particularly food, drinks and music.

Those who wish to join the celebration can do so in our own Queens neighborhoods. Queens' biggest park. Flushing Meadows Corona, hosts a free, annual cultural and music celebration featuring entertainers, food and activities.

Queens Museum will also hold a hands-on, interactive experience with great exhibits of Mexican culture.

The Jamaica Center for the Performing Arts and Learning will also host a Cinco de Mavo fun-filled. family day with art activities and musical performances.

Wills calls on city to boost funding for youth

BY RICH BOCKMANN

City lawmakers have about one month to pump up funding for anti-violence initiatives so they are in place when summer comes, City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) said last week.

With the June 30 budget deadline approaching. Wills and community leaders gathered outside the South Jamaica Houses' community center, calling on the city to increase funding for several initiatives they contend will help curb the annual spike in violent crime that accompanies the warm summer months.

"We would like these programs to be done now ... so our children have a familiarity with these programs before the summertime comes," he said. "We don't want them running to the programs because they're running from a violent episode."

A few days before the gathering, shots rang out at the corner near the community center, which is run through a partnership between the city Department of Youth and Community Development and the Southern Queens Park



Shenee Johnson says the city should provide more funding for youth programs so families do not have to experience the pain she felt when her son was killed four years ago. Photo by Rich Bockmann

Association.

"The reason that we wanted to have the press conference here at this community center is not so much as the close proximity to the violence that happened last weekend, but it was also because this is the community center where many of us grew up in." Wills said. "I remember going downstairs and getting training, lifting weights, learning how to box and different things from this very community center."

Wills wants funding so

that several sites in southeast Queens — including PS 40, the Police Athletic League center in South Jamaica and Richmond Hill High School — can participate in a program spearheaded by the Manhattan district attorney's office called Saturday Night Lights.

The initiative opens the buildings to youngsters during certain hours of the day when the risk for juvenile crime is highest.

The councilman is also seeking to expand the Cure Violence pilot program started in South Jamaica and called on the city comptroller to conduct a study on the fiscal impact of violence ahead of the budget deadline. The program targets areas with high incidences of gun violence and — through preventive outreach — tries to stop shootings before they start.

Those who work with the youth said the extra funding would go a long

"We have to reach out to the youth and get back in touch with them. There is a big disconnect between us and the youth," said Talib Bey, who runs a mentoring program at nearby Rochdale Village.

"When I was growing up, we had community centers. We were able to play basketball," said Bey, 50. "We did a lot of stuff children do and today those things are not provided in our communities. For some reason it seems like they disappeared."

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



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Pedestrians killed on Atlantic Ave.

BY ALEX ROBINSON AND **SARINA TRANGLE**

Two pedestrians were struck and killed on Atlantic Avenue in separate accidents within three days last week, police said.

A father of four died after he was hit by a car in Richmond Hill Saturday night while trying to cross the street, police said.

Oscar Pauzhi, 54, of Corona, abruptly stepped out onto Atlantic Avenue at 107th Street at around 11:20 p.m., when he was struck by a 2006 Hyundai Elantra, which was driving westbound in the right lane, according to cops.

Pauzhi was rushed to Jamaica Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The driver remained at the scene and was not charged with any wrongdo-



OSCAR PAUZHI Photo courtesy the Pauzhi family

ing, police said. No criminality was suspected, but the NYPD said the incident was still under investiga-

Pauzhi, who was a construction worker, immigrated from Ecuador to the United States in 1985 to find work, relatives said.

Family remembered Pauzhi as a hardworking and generous man who did not have time for hobbies. as he was often laboring.

"He was really friendly and funny," said Jamie Minchala, Pauzhi's niece. "He always cared about us a lot."

Relatives did not know what Pauzhi was doing on Atlantic Avenue Saturday night, but said it was not uncommon for him to work

Three days before Pauzhi's death, an unidentified man was run over by a white box truck while crossing Atlantic Avenue near 85th Street in Woodhaven April 23.

Police said the driver remained at the scene and was not issued summons-

Witnesses said the victim, who was declared dead at the scene, was not wearing a shirt or shoes and was behaving erratically before he stepped into the inter-

As of Wednesday afternoon, police had still not identified the man.

Dog shot in Astoria put down

BY BILL PARRY

A tragic shooting in Astoria April 12 has claimed a third life. Jack, a Yorkshire terrier that was discovered wounded at the scene, has been euthanized an ASPCA spokeswoman said.

Police responding to a 911 call from a residence on 38th Street shot and killed 86-vear-old Jack Calvello when he refused to drop a shotgun he had allegedly pointed at an officer and a sergeant, according to the

In a search of the home between 31st Avenue and Broadway, police discovered Calvello's daughter, 65-year-old Carolann Matyka, who had been shot in the head and was later pronounced dead. They also found the terrier, which had been shot in the neck.

"Jack was the tragic victim of a brutal crime and his injuries ultimately proved too severe to overcome," said Rebecca Goldrick, of the ASPCA.

When combined with his debilitating pre-existing medical conditions, the traumatic damage to Jack's spinal cord caused significant pain and suffering and made it impossible for him to recover. Jack was humanely euthanized to end his suffering."

Goldrick added that euthanasia is always a last step, an end-of-the-road option to spare an animal further suffering and pain.

Forest Hills movie theater closes

The landlord yelled cut on a Forest Hills movie theater's final act earlier this month.

The Heskel Group Inc., which purchased the UA Brandons Cinema, at 70-20 Austin St., in 1975 and later renamed it, said the theater closed two weeks ago.

Heskel Elias said he decided to bring in a pediatric urgent care facility because it would provide his company with more stable finances. Before inking a deal with PM Pediatrics, Heskel Group considered closing the Midway Theater, a few blocks away at 108-22 Queens Blvd., but decided against it.

"It can draw over 30,000 to 40,000 people a year and if it's captured properly it will be a destination point for people, and while they're there they can visit the restaurants and retail groups," Elias said.

PM Pediatrics is slated to open in late September. It will see patients from noon to midnight Monday

through Saturday and from 10 a.m. to midnight Sundays and some holidays, according to a press release.

But not everyone has welcomed the tenant turn-

City Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills) said she was concerned a few medical groups planning to open on Austin Street threaten the strip's traditional commerce community.



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Former FDNY facility sold for \$13 million in Maspeth

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Years after the FDNY vacated a 100,000-squarefoot lot in Maspeth, the city successfully unloaded the land for \$13.4 million last month.

Vichai Charalaivan. the registered agent with the new property owner 143 Grand Street LLC, said he planed to lease the 55-30 58th St. facility to a restaurant equipment manufacturing company that would move in within the next few months.

Property records show 143 Grand Street LLC purchased the property for \$13,393,250 April 7.

No construction plans or applications had been filed with the city Department of Buildings as of Wednesday. Last year, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services filed

a Uniform Land Use Review application to sell the property. The ULURP notes that the 100,000-square-foot lot had a single-story building used by the city Fire Department's fleet maintenance team and Emergency Medical Service's pharmacy and medical supply unit

The city signed off on the FDNY's maintenance unit moving out of the building and into 30-30 Review Ave. in Long Island City in 2000, according to the ULURP. The remaining EMS divisions were slated to relocate within a few

Community Board 2 unanimously voted to back the city's plan March 7, 2013. Former Borough President Helen Marshall also recommended the move.

According to ULURP documents, Citywide Administrative Services believed consolidating the emergency responder facilities and selling the land "will create an important economic development opportunity within the Maspeth Industrial Business Zone and generate needed tax revenues for the city."

The Maspeth IBZ was established in 2006 as a way for the city to protect a manufacturing district by pledging not to alter the zoning and using tax incentives to lure in new busi-

Jean Tanler, the Maspeth Industrial Business Association coordinator, said she had not spoken with the new owner yet.

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

Jax. Heights pedestrian plaza greets May with arts and music

BY BILL PARRY

A full month of entertainment, classes and services is planned for the Manuel de Dios Unanue Triangle on Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights. and it is designed for families and people of all ages.

The new Jackson Heights-Corona Business Improvement District, the proposed expansion of the 82nd Street Partnership, is promoting a monthlong program at one of the three Pedestrian Plazas in the neighborhood.

The schedule of special events, a celebration of spring called Viva La Primavera, will take place every Thursday and Friday throughout May, it was announced Monday.

Events include Jay Rodriguez Musical Trip Through Jackson Heights



A month-long cultural program gets underway in Jackson Heights Photo by Bill Parry

this Friday from noon until 3 p.m., followed by a Park Beautification Day Saturday at noon.

In the coming weeks, Viva La Primavera will feature traditional Mexican musical performances, book readings, arts and crafts and even a few Zumba classes and Tae Kwon Do demonstrations.

On May 29, the Urzua

Queens Center of Performing Arts will present a Samba Trip to the World Cup as a preliminary for next month's soccer extravaganza in Rio de Janeiro.

"Viva La Primavera is the perfect way to celebrate springtime on Roosevelt Avenue," City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) said.

Continued on Page 28

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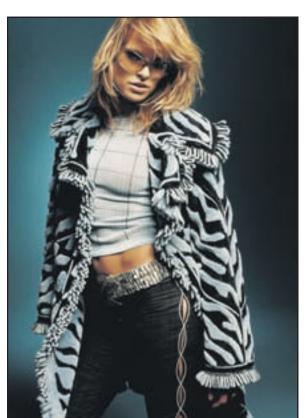
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Four dispatchers suspended after Far Rock fire: FDNY

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The FDNY said it suspended four staffers at the Queens dispatching center after a preliminary investigation found they mishandled calls during a fatal Far Rockaway fire.

The city Department of Investigation began reviewing the FDNY Queens Center of Operations, where dispatchers work, after questions arose about delays in sending ambulances to a basement blaze in Far Rockaway April 19.

The flames claimed the lives of two 4-year-olds staying at their grandfather's house, the Police Department said.

During the first 72 hours of their probe, investigators found that two of the six people working at the Queens Center of Operations were not in their seats just before the emergency arose.

Firefighters reported there was an active fire to dispatchers at 11:57 p.m., but the first call to EMS



The city is investigating delays in dispatching ambulances to a Far Rockaway fire that killed two children.

from the Queens Center of Operations did not go out until about seven minutes later, at 12:04 a.m., according to a memo DOI Commissioner Mark Peters sent to Mayor Bill de Blasio and FDNY Commissioner Salvatore Cassano April 25.

"The supervising fire alarmdispatcherbothfailed to ensure proper coverage and failed to appropriately supervise the response by the three fire alarm dispatchers who were working on the response," Peters wrote. "Each of these three [fire alarm dispatchers] either failed to properly notify EMS when required or failed to take steps that would have prompted/facilitated such notification."

Peters wrote that preliminary personnel records show the four have previously bungled responses and failed to comply with department guidelines.

He recommended that the city immediately remove the dispatchers and supervisor from their dayto-day duties while the investigation continues.

The FDNY said it responded by suspending the employees for 30 days without pay.

Peters said investigators believe FDNY's training for dispatcher supervisors does not comply with state and industry standards and that the Queens Center of Operations has a history of "operational weakness."

Continued on Page 54

Board of Elections eyes new site in Forest Hills for boro offices

BY RICH BOCKMANN

The city Board of Elections is planning to move its front offices up Queens Boulevard from its current location at 83rd Avenue in Kew Gardens to Muss Development's 17-story office tower at the corner of Union Turnpike.

The city plans to lease more than 28,000 square feet in the Forest Hills Tower, at 118-35 Queens Blvd.

"We're taking two floors: 10, part of 11 and space in the lobby," Board of Elections Facilities Manager Nick Squicciarini told the city Planning Commission last week. "Basically

we're at 126-06 Queens Blvd. The landlord wanted to reposition the building, so now we came across this great space and we hope to, you know, occupy this space in the future,"

The board currently about 34,000 occupies square feet at 126-06 Queens Blvd., paying a base rent of \$996,600 a year with an additional \$8,704.32 for four parking spaces, according to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services. The current lease expires in August and the department said the city plans to renew for another

Squicciarini said the

be used for voter registration, poll-worker training and other front-office uses. "The new address will be posted on the website so everybody will have a fair warning where we're moving to," he said. "And again,

it's only a few blocks down

from where we currently

BOE will continue to use

the space for warehousing

purposes and the offices in

the Forest Hills Tower will

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at rbockmann@cnglocal.com

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Power strip sparked flames in Bruson Building: FDNY

BY BILL PARRY

The FDNY reported that the massive five-alarm fire in Jackson Heights that destroyed so many offices and stores in the Bruson Building was sparked by an overloaded power strip.

It was not vet known where in the building, at 74-09 37th Ave., the power strip was located, the Fire Department says.

The April 22 blaze broke out on the third floor April 21 and spread through the fourth floor. More than 200 firefighters from 39 units needed nearly six hours to bring the fire under control.

Following an inspection, the city Department of Buildings said the Bruson Building is stable enough that it did not have to be torn down immediately. The front and side walls are stable, but a sidewalk shed was erected around a rear wall which was in danger of collapse.

The building's owner retained a professional engineer to monitor the rear wall, according to DOB Press Secretary Kelly Ma-

"The property owner has sealed the building as per the department's orders. A full vacate order is in effect," Magee said.

More than 50 businesses and stores will not be allowed back into the building for the foreseeable



Firefighters douse the Bruson Building in Jackson Heights with water. Fire marshals say the five-alarm blaze started with an overloaded power strip.

Plaza College, the fourvear school based on the building's third floor, is hoping to resume classes in a temporary space in a Forest Hills site where it planned to move its campus this summer.

Meanwhile, Queens Community House had to find new spaces for four of its programs that were burned out of the Bruson Building. The nonprofit immigrant service provider was able to place its Adult Education English classes at Sunnyside Community Services, at 43-31 39th St.

The QCH Center for Gay Seniors will operate out of the Kew Gardens Community Center, at 80-02 Kew Gardens Road. Staff members from CASP and Immigrant Services programs will be temporarily housed at QCH's Forest Hills site.

"We will need some help getting all four programs housed in a new location as soon as possible, hopefully in the Jackson Heights or Elmhurst neighborhoods, where the majority of the program participants live," QCH Executive Director Irma Rodriguez

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



Peralta lands crossing guard for dangerous intersection

BY BILL PARRY

It took more than a year and a half and dozens of letters and phone calls, but state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-Jackson Heights) will finally get a crossing guard replaced near PS 206 in Rego Park.

The NYPD Transportation Unit announced last Friday the 112th Precinct had finally assigned a crossing guard to the dangerous intersection of Junction Boulevard and Horace Harding Expressway, just south of the Long Island Expressway.

"There's simply no substitute for the direct, hands-on traffic control and help that a crossing guard provides," Peralta said. "There's no question that there are a number of



A new crossing guard is assinged to a dangerous intersection to protect children from LeFrak City.

dangerous intersections in the area, with the LIE, Queens Boulevard, Junction Boulevard and the Horace Harding Expressway all intersecting or running parallel to each other in close proximity."

Peralta explained that hundreds of children and parents navigate the dangerous crossways, making their way from LeFrak City

to PS 206, at 61-02 98th St. The intersection saw 24 pedestrianinjuries between August 2011 and February 2014, according to Juan Martinez, of the advocacy group Transportation Alternatives.

"It's very heartening to see the city respond with a crossing guard there," Martinez said. "The may-

Continued on Page 50

Schumer says Act of Congress needed to fix Port Authority

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) has called for major reforms in the Port Authority and restoration of the agency's original mission.

"Over the past several decades, the fabric binding the Port Authority to its core mission has frayed, slowly unwinding as states saw an opportunity to use authority funds to cover budget shortfalls and finance pet projects," Schumer told the Partnership for New York Monday.

"More frequently now than ever," he continued, "the Port Authority has come to be seen as the proverbial honey pot, a cookie jar, a rainy day fund whatever metaphor you prefer — for state projects outside the port's core mis-

The Port Authority

operates John F. Kennedy International, LaGuardia, Newark Liberty, Teterboro, Stewart International and Atlantic City International airports and has its own 1,600-member police force.

It maintains some bridges and tunnels, owns the World Trade Center and operates the East Coast's premier marine terminal in Elizabeth, N.J.

Schumer said he was proposing a package of reforms that the Port Authority should consider. Any such changes would be subject to approval by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, of New York, and Gov. Chris Christie, of New Jersey, since the PA is a bi-state agency.

"We need substantial, permanent and lasting reforms, and I believe that with a largely forgotten act of Congress in 1921, we have a way to achieve just that," Schumer said.

"You see, most people don't know it," he continued, "but the Port Authority itself is an animal of Congress. It came into being by an act of Congress and it is still governed by it. For nearly 93 years, the Port of New York Compact has not been comprehensively evaluated. Now, for the better conduct of commerce, we should look to reform the Port Compact."

Schumer maintains that the power to select leadership in the Port Authority should go to its board of 12 commissioners from the two states rather than from selection by the two governors.

Schumer's proposal came after months after members of the Christie administration were accused of carrying out traffic lane shutdowns to deliberately cause a monumental traffic

Continued on Page 28

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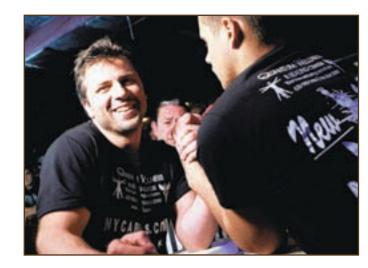
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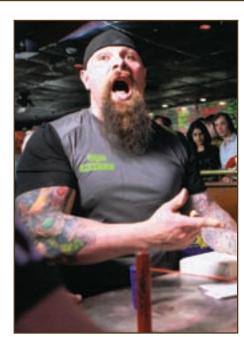




Battle of the Biceps

More than 100 competitors took part in the 37th Annual NYC Big Apple Grapple International Arm Wrestling Championships, held at Cheap Shots bar in Kew Gardens Hills. (Clockwise from top I.) Edwin Safarian (I.) of Bayside prepares for his match; Alexandr Rakhmhnov (c.) challenges Rich Calero of Brooklyn; fans cheer on the competitors; referee Jack Aris lines up two arm wrestlers' hands; participants cover their hands with chalk; Leo Max Maxwell contests the results; and Andrew Kendall from Brooklyn looks to defeat his opponent.

Photos by Christina Santucci







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TIMESLEDGER, MAY 2-MAY 8, 2014

CENTER FOR WOMEN OF NEW YORK HONORS QUEENS LEADERS AT DOUGLASON MANOR LUNCHEON Photos by Nat Valetine



Cheryl Wills, an achorwoman at NY1, is joined by husband John Singleton at the Center for the Women of New York's 27th anniversary luncheon. Wills was honored as a Woman of Distinction.



Center for Women of New York Founder Ann Juliano Jawin (fourth I.) and President Sue Salzberg (sixth l.) are surrounded by honorees (l.-r.) Nancy Chen Balwin, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley, Don Gelestino, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Michele Stoddart, Cheryl Wills, Alexandra Rosa, Lawrence Litwack, David Fischer, Dr. William Duke and Gary Babad.



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, (I.) who was honored as a Woman of Distinction, smiles alongside former Assemblywoman Ann Margaret Carrozza and U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley.

QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS HOLDS NINTH-BIENNIAL CEREMONY AT ANTUN'S IN QUEENS VILLAGE Photos by Christina Santucci



Queens Borough President Melinda Katz (I.) lauds Murray Berger of the Kew Gardens Civic Association as he holds up a clock from the Queens Civic Congress.



Honorees (I.-r.) Barbara Larkin from the Belle Harbor Property Owners Association, Murray Berger from the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association, Paul A. Kerzner from the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association and Seymour Schwartz from the Briarwood Neighborhood Assocation are joined by Michael Cohen from Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz's office and Queens Civic Congress President Richard Hellenbrecht.



Assemblyman David Weprin (I.) introduces Seymour Schwartz from the Briarwood Neighborhood Association with his award as Richard Hellenbrecht presents Schwartz with a clock from the Queens Civic Congress.

FRIENDS FOR GREGORY MEEKS PRESENTS AWARDS DURING GALA IN SOUTHEAST QUEENS Photos by Nat Valentine



Rep. Gregory Meeks smiles beside his daughter, Nia, at the Friends of Gregory Meeks Recognition Awards Gala at Antun's in Queens Village.



Bess DeBetham is given a surprise award by U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks in recognition of her community work.



Broad Channel residents Dan Mundy Jr. (I.) and Dan Mundy Sr. (r.) are 9 presented with Community Service Awards during the gala.

REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION HOSTS 24TH-ANNUAL ASSEMBLY IN MANHATTAN Photos by Walter Karling



Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer and former Councilman Archie Spigner attend the Regional Plan Association's 24th-annual Assembly held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Manhattan. The RPA is an urban research and advocacy group.



The Flushing, Willets Point and Corona Development Corporation's Alexandra Rosa (I.-r.) and Claire Shulman, the former Queens borough president, join John Young from the NYC Department of Planning.



Greater Jamaica Development Corportation Board Secretary Calvin Lawrence, Board Vice Chairmen Jonathan White and Peter Kulka, Regional Plan Association Chairman Elliot Sander and GJDC Chairman Daniel Greene share a light-hearted moment. The GJDC was a sponsor of the event.



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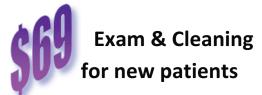
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Backyards

Continued from Page 5

"We go through a process and we listen to the community, it's not just the board saying no. We're listening to the people most affected by these backyards."

Conley added that he is aware of complaints from the restaurant owners and their supporters signing petitions.

"They call it an unfair process," he said, "For the people who think we're trying to put people out of business, they are sadly misinformed. Many businesses are flourishing without the use of their backyards, so we're perplexed by those who think that."

Blaze would have preferred a chance to open before the community board made up its mind.

"Let me open and have the opposition come in and get a feel for what we're about before they oppose it," he said. "Just to say no to everyone is not constructive."

Blaze said the restaurant, his first, is named L'inizio because it means "the beginning" in Italian.

"I grew up here playing stickball as a kid and everyone knew one another. My grandparents moved to LIC in the '20s," he said. "I want to make this place with the quality you had a hundred years ago but with a modern touch, a balance between an old-school pizzeria with a high-end charcuterie."

The restaurant relies on original exposed brick and iron columns for the old-time feel. Even the blackboards are real slate, salvaged from an old school in Brooklyn. The modern touch begins with a state-ofthe-art pizza oven shipped from Italy.

There is still a mural that needs painting and several local artists will hang their work along the 50-foot brick wall. Blaze still has workers fixing up the backyard, even though he cannot use it.

Primavera

Continued from Page 20

"I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the entertainment and educational workshops at Manuel de Dios Unanue Triangle."

The plaza, on the south side of Roosevelt Avenue between 83rd Street and Baxter Avenue, was named for a Cuban-born journalist who was slain in 1992 because of his outspoken crusade against drugs.

"This is an exciting new event for the community," Ernesto Curry, the chairman of the BID's steering committee, said. "Our team has partnered with some great local businesses to provide a fun springtime series that celebrates our diverse neighborhood."

Ruben Dario Ramirez, the owner of Libreria El Dorado, at 84-02 Roosevelt Ave., said, "My father and I have owned this bookstore near Manuel de Dios Unanue Triangle for years. We've always envisioned the triangle to be a more active space with cultural events, which is why we are so eager to participate in Viva La Primavera this month."

Luz Aguirre, the program director for Mano a Mano-Mexican Culture Without Borders, said, "We are thrilled to be part of Viva La Primavera. As an organization dedicated to celebrating Mexican culture and promoting the understanding of Mexican traditions through arts and culture, Viva La Primavera is an ideal venue for us to showcase our work and engage community members.'

It is also something of a showcase for the 82nd Street Partnership and what the future can look like with a large BID.

"We think Viva La Primavera will give the businesses a sense of what a neighborhood BID can do," Seth Taylor, the executive director of the 82nd Street BID said. "We'll show how we can enliven spaces along the corridor with cultural programs on the plaza."

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

Library

Continued from Page 4

encourage the libraries to seek outside funding, but Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria),

chairman of the Subcommittee on Libraries, said it was hard to determine whether the trade-off in transparency was worth it.

"I keep hearing from several sources about the benefits of these passthrough contracts ... that they're going to decrease time. They're going to increase the bang for your buck that we're going to get and that they're worth the trade-off," he said. "I don't particularly agree with that, but I'm trying to get to the bottom of that."

Schumer

Continued from Page 23

jam in downtown Fort Lee, N.J., near the George Washington Bridge.

Some sources said it was a retaliatory act by some members of Christie's office against Fort Lee officials.

"Bridgegate was a symptom, not a cause, of the Port Authority's dysfunction," Schumer said.

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by email at timesledgernews@ cnglocal.com or phone at 718-260-4536.



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2009	Honda Accord EX, 40k	65124	\$7,995	2011	Nissan Rogue, 50k	69968	\$13,995
2009	Chevy Cobalt, 56k	65308	\$7,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 16k	82570	\$13,995
2010	Nissan Sentra, 46k	68559	\$7,995	2011	GMC Terrain, 51k	82272	\$13,995
2012	Hyundai Elantra, 15k	79461	\$8,995	2010	Infiniti G37, 28k	70898	\$18,995
2008	Jeep Liberty, 17k	54235	\$9,495	2007	Lexus ES350, 34k	2242	\$19,995
2010	Chrysler Sebring, 38k	61787	\$9,995	2011	Acura MDX, 48k	1321	\$23,459
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at \$895, with other options raising the price to as high as \$1,500. All of the divorces, Alford says, are completed within a few days and the clients are then free to remarry or otherwise continue with their lives as single persons. Anyone interested in more details about the Divorcefast offerings should access the company website: www.divorcefast.com The forms and instructions are printed out from there and submitted to the company. For those lacking Internet access Alford and his staff are prepared to discuss foreign divorces on the phone, or by mail.

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EXERCISE AND THE **OLDER** WOMAN

he aging process has a way of making people risk-averse. Financial advisers typically recommend that men and women steer clear of risky investments as they age, and men and women over 50 often make lifestyle choices to reduce their risk of developing certain medical conditions. As women age, some may feel exercise is simply too risky. Hormonal changes brought on by aging decrease a woman's bone density, and that fact makes many women over 50 hesitant to embrace exercise. But exercise plays a key role in helping women over 50 secure their longterm health and reduce their risk of injury.

Exercise promotes independence

Some women think that exercising after 50 increases their risk of injury, which can make them overly dependent on their loved ones. But exercise, in particular strength training, slows bone deterioration, helping bones stay stronger longer and reducing a woman's risk of suffering a potentially debilitating injury. Independence is especially important to seniors, many of whom spent years planning their retirements and awaiting the day when they would be free to travel at their leisure. Daily exercise can help women maintain that independence by reducing their risk of injury and other ailments that can be confining.

Exercise can improve sleep

Some women who are fighting fatigue may believe that routine exercise will only make them more

Continued on Page 36

Advice for aging athletes

etired professional athletes often speak about the difficult moment when they knew it was time to retire from professional competition. The transition can be easy for some but far more difficult for others. But aging amateur athletes know vou need not be a professional to realize there comes a time when your body is telling you it's time to ease up.

Athletes are used to pushing themselves and stretching their limits, but some limits are best not pushed. Such is the case with the limits posed by aging. While athletes don't have to completely fold up shop and hang up their cleats, tennis shoes, or other athletic equipment as they approach senior citizen status, there are steps aging athletes can take to ensure they aren't pushing their bodies too far as they grow older.

Recognize your new recovery time

Veteran athletes tend to have a sixth sense about their bodies, knowing how long they need to recover from common ailments like ankle sprains, knee pain. back pain, and shin splints. Despite the body's remarkable ability for recovery, it's not immune to aging, and that recovery time will increase as the body ages. Whereas a sprained ankle might once have been as good as new after a few days or rest, aging athletes must recognize that the same ankle sprain now might require more recovery time. Returning too quickly from an injury can only make things worse for aging athletes, so don't push your-

Take more time to warm up

As the body ages, its response time to exercise increases. This means the body needs more time to prepare itself for cardiovascular and strength-training exercises. Increase your warmup time as you age, gradually increasing the intensity of your warmup exercises until your body feels ready for more strenuous exercise.

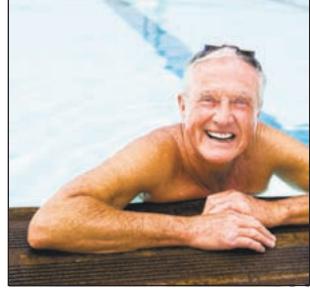
Focus on flexibility

The more flexible you are, the more capable the body is of absorbing shock, including the shock that results from repetitive activities. But as the body ages, it becomes less flexible, which makes it less capable of successfully handling the repetitive movements common to exercise. Aging athletes should focus on their

flexibility, stretching their muscles before and after a workout. In addition, activities such as yoga can work wonders on improving flexibility for young and aging athletes alike.

Don't stop strength training

Some aging athletes mistakenly think they should stop strength training as they get older. No longer concerned about building muscle, aging athletes might feel as if they have nothing to gain by lifting weights and continuing to perform other muscle strengthening exercises. But the body gradually loses muscle mass as it ages, and that loss puts the joints under greater stress when aging athletes perform other exercises. That stress can put people at greater risk for arthri-



Older athletes should stretch their muscles before exercising to improve flexibility

tis, tendinitis and ligament sprains. While you no longer need to max out on the bench press or challenge yourself on the biceps curl, it is important to continue to make strength training a part of your fitness regimen as you age.

Older athletes need not associate aging with ceasing their athletic pursuits. But recognizing your limitations and the changes your body is going through is an important element of staying healthy as your approach older adulthood.



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Don't Panic When Your Family Member Needs Assistance to Remain At Home

BY ALLEN ROSEN, M.A., SPECIAL CONSULTANT WITH PROGRESSIVECARE

I am a member of the baby boomer generation who has been fortunate enough to have parents who lived long, relatively happy lives. My father passed away at age 87 and my mother, who is still with us but has severe dementia, is now approaching 97. Both of my parents' later years have been supported through personal care in their home. This care has been funded through long term care insurance, private funds and finally, Medicaid.

My career for the past 34 years has been focused in New York's Home Health Care Industry. Despite my expertise in the field, I and my younger sister have had to struggle with the emotional, financial and general stress of ensuring that our parents received the care they needed to safely remain in their home.

It's often difficult for us or our loved one to accept the fact they need assistance to remain at home. An unsteady gait, deterioration in hygiene, forgetfulness in taking prescribed medications, inability to purchase, prepare and eat nutritious meals are all signs that assistance may be needed to safely remain at home. A supportive, united family can help the loved one finally accept the fact that this assistance is necessary.

home are appropriately trained, adequate- private.

ly supervised, legally approved to work in the US, checked for criminal backgrounds along with being properly insured and bonded. Additionally, they relieve the family of the responsibility of Government mandates to withhold taxes, pay into Social Security, Worker Compensation, and other requirements. Additionally, the family should choose Agencies that have NY State approved training programs and have earned accreditation status, a voluntary action that signifies the highest level of recognition of quality approval in the United States.

While most seniors have Medicare, it is important to understand that Medicare does not cover long term care, but Medicaid can cover this care. New York has one of the best Medicaid Home Care benefits of any state in the country. Even if the care recipient owns his or her home or has assets, they may still qualify for Medicaid. There are Elder Care Attorneys and other professionals who can assist in the Medicaid application process.

Each family's situation is unique. An important first step is to reach out and contact someone knowledgeable about accessing these services. Don't panic - quality help and peace of mind are available for you and your loved one.

For a referral to a quality Joint Commis-Once you have determined that help sion Accredited Licensed Home Care Seris needed, look for a Home Care Agency vices Agency that specializes in both private that is licensed and regulated by the pay and government funded services, you New York State Department of Health. can call ProgressiveCare at 212.273.5678 This ensures that the Aides sent to the or visit us on the web at www.phhs.com/

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by Michael Davidov and Ilana Davidov

Davidov law group

The funeral is only the start of your family's problems. Even though you've worked hard your entire life and saved up something you'd like to pass on to your family, they may end up with nothing. You can spare your family a second round of grief. Keep reading and we'll share just 3 critical reasons your family may be facing difficulties.

Our names are Michael Davidov and Ilana Davidov, and we have reviewed countless wills and trusts here in New York. Recent legal trends cause us great concern.

In this article, we'd like to highlight just some of the issues which may affect your family.

Risk #1 - Lost in Probate Court

Chances are high your estate is going to wind up in probate court. In probate court they decide if your will is valid, try to settle disputes, distribute your assets to your heirs, and settle any outstanding issues. Probate is a lengthy process, and it may take some time until your will clears probate. Another problem is everything about your will is in the public record so virtually anyone has access to every single detail of your finances.

For example, in New York, assets over 2 Million may be subject to estate tax. But there is a way to pass on your entire estate regardless of its size- to your loved ones while legally avoiding probate and minimizing or eliminating New York and Federal Estate Taxes.

Risk #2 - Not Protecting Yourself or Your **Estate**

You've worked hard your entire life and you'd like to pass on your estate to your loved ones. But unless you quickly take action, there may be nothing left for your family. Statistics reveal you are six times more likely to become disabled before you die. The US Government Census Bureau expects the disability rate to double in the next decade. Yet most people plan their wills for what will take place after their death. This is a serious mistake. Very frequently we see plans people have made for their heirs become undone because of the need for long term nursing care.

The average nursing home stay in NYC exceeds \$137,076 per year. It's been reported that more than 500,000 seniors a year go broke because of these long-term care costs. Before Medicaid picks up a dime, your assets may be exhausted. You may die and leave nothing to your heirs.

Risk #3 - Not Protecting Your Family

Most people fear once they're gone their spouse and kids will be taken advantage of by creditors, lawsuits or divorce or squander the estate with foolish financial decisions. Most wills and trusts we've examined do nothing to protect against these risks. Many wills and trusts give your assets outright to your heirs when you and your spouse are gone. This is a huge mistake. If one of your goals in establishing a trust was to protect your family, your work may have been in vain. There are three principal issues of concern with regard to protecting your family.

Skyrocketing Divorce Rate

With the divorce rate hovering at 50%, you cannot afford to ignore another very real danger. In New York, a divorcing spouse can walk away with 50% of your assets if things are not properly handled. You worked your entire life to build up a nest egg and planned carefully to make sure it was transferred into the right hands. You don't want a sizeable chunk of it to end up in the "soon to be ex" in-law.

Irresponsible Behavior

Sometimes protecting your family means protecting individual members from their own irresponsible behavior. Perhaps there is a young person in your family who has not fully matured yet and may take the money you saved and squander it in one afternoon. There are simple ways around this problem we will detail at our free seminar.

Special Needs Relatives

If you have a child or grandchild with special needs and this child inherits wealth from your estate-all of the government benefits will stop immediately. Your gift may cause them a double problem-first the loss of services, and then when their money rapidly runs out, the inability to arrange for a resumption of government services. We'll show you how you can look after your special needs family member even after you are gone.

Free Workshop reveals a Better Way

If you are concerned about making sure the money you've earned goes to your loved ones without going through probate you owe it to yourself to attend our upcoming Free Legacy Wealth Planning Workshop. At this workshop we'll highlight some of the most common risks you'll want to consider and show you how to protect yourself and your

Here's What You'll Discover

We'd like to invite you to join us at an upcoming Legacy Wealth Planning presentation. In this workshop, you'll find out what a "bare-bones" estate plan is and how dangerous it can be for your family. The most common remark we hear after these seminars is that most people are amazed at how exposed their family was. Some people might even be a little angry their planner didn't advise them of many of these issues. The good news is that it's not too late to fix the problem and get the real peace of mind you deserve.

Seating is Limited,

Call (888) 836-3909 Today! Your RSVP Code # EC502

24-hr Reservation Line or Register Online www.DavidovLaw.com

Bathroom falls can be prevented

alls cause many injuries inside a home. Seniors are especially susceptible to harmful falls in the bathroom, where slippery tiles can prove too difficult for older men and women to navigate.

A 2011 study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that nearly 234,000 Americans ages 15 and older were treated in an emergency department for nonfatal bathroom-related ries in 2008. That adds up to roughly 640 people per day. More than 80 percent of bathroom-related injuries were caused by slips and falls, mostly while getting in and out of the tub or shower, and about 30 percent of those injuries included cuts, scrapes, and bruises.

Bathrooms can be more

dangerous than other rooms in the house for a variety of reasons. The bathroom is generally comprised of hard surfaces that can become slippery when wet or exposed to high humidity. A bathroom may become hotter than other rooms because of the steam that accompanies a hot shower. Heat may dilate peripheral veins and lower blood pressure in some people. This may lead to dizziness that can result in falls. Furthermore, people tend to rush in the bathroom as they get ready for work or school. Rushing around can lead to slips and injuries on wet surfaces.

Installing safety features in the bathroom is a key way to reduce the risk of accidents. Many manufacturers have even designed these features so they blend with bathroom decor.

When renovating bathrooms for safety, consider the following options.

•Anti-scald features: Burns can be serious business. Anti-scald showerheads and faucets prevent sudden bursts of hot water.

•Nonslip mats: Bathroom injuries often occur when people are getting in and out of the shower. Having a non-slip mat on the inside of the shower or tub as well as one with a grippable surface and plush top layer on which to step after exiting the shower can reduce falls.

•Bath bench: The elderly or those prone to lightheadedness in the shower may want to invest in a bench or seat to put into the shower. This enables sitting while washing.

•Safety bars: Safety bars with a brushed surface for traction are recommended.

Grab bars need to be securely attached to a wood stud in the wall and not into drywall or the tub enclosure.

•Raised toilet seat: A raised toilet seat reduces the amount of squatting and the distance that has to be covered to sit on the commode. Grab bars on the raised seat itself will provide added safety.

•Telephone: The bathroom may seem an odd place to install a telephone, but having one nearby in the event of injury can ensure help gets to the injured party more quickly.

•Regular cleaning: Routinely ridding showers and tubs of soap scum and mildew can reduce the slippery coating that forms as a result of these substances. Also, be sure to keep clutter in the bathroom to a minimum to help prevent falls.





Exercise

Continued from page 33

tired. But exercise actually improves energy levels and makes it easier to get a better night's rest. Numerous studies have shown that routine exercise can improve sleep quality and even increase energy levels throughout the day, something that should raise an eyebrow among women who do not exercise but routinely find themselves fighting fatigue. A better quality night's rest improves

vitality, making it easier for women to exercise and make it through the day without feeling fatigued.

Exercise benefits those with limited mobility

Women over 50 with limited mobility may think that exercise serves no purpose because of their disability or physical condition. But even women confined to wheelchairs or those forced to walk with a cane or walker can benefit from cardiovascular exercise and even light strength training. Such exercises can

improve a woman's range of motion while reducing her risk of heart disease.

It's never too late to start exercising

Many aging women feel their time to embrace exercise has long since passed. But it's never too late to start exercising. Women should take a conservative approach when exercising after a long hiatus, beginning with a slow walk around the neighborhood or a local park. Walking is a great beginner's exercise, as it provides a good cardiovascular workout while working a variety of muscle groups. As your body readjusts to physical activity, gradually increase the intensity of your exercise sessions, adding some strength training, ideally under the supervision of a professional. Always stretch immediately after each exercise session, and give your body ample time to recover, especially when you begin your new regimen.



Slight-of-hand professionals honored for their role at World's Fairs with '105th Annual Salute to Magic'

BY MERLE EXIT

Plenty of visitors to Queens World's Fairs might have called the experience magical, but for at least one young man, magic summed up his entire trip to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in 1964.

E. N. Kamarados, who goes by the stage name Kamarr, billed himself as a prestidigitator, and came to Queens to perform magic as part of the entertainment at the Greek Pavilion.

Now, 50 years later, Kamarr returns to the site of the Fairs to take part in the Society of American Magicians' "105th Annual Salute to Magic," at the Queens Theatre May 17 to relive some of his World Fair experiences.

"I worked at night and had all day free. As I was walking IF YOU GO

"105th Annual Salute to Magic"

When: Saturday, May 17, at 8 pm Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Cost: \$45 **Contact:** (718) 760-0064

Contact: (718) 760-0064
Website: www.gueenstheatre.org

around, I saw the Hall of Magic sponsored by the General Cigar Co. and talked to the general manager," Kamarr said. "Do you remember the expression, 'Should a gentlemen offer a Tiparillo to a Lady?' That's where it started."

After he demonstrated his magical skills, the general manager offered him a job at the Hall of Magic, where he stayed until the Fair ended in 1965.

"It was promotional magic," Kamarr said. "I had to do something having to do with a cigar, specifically the Tiparillo."

He would place a coin into a box and a cigar would pop out. Then he would put a second coin into this large box and a Tiparillo would appear. Finally, after putting a third coin into the box, a woman would magically materi-

alize.

"Everything was created by the great magician Mark Wilson, who had a television show," Kamarr said. "Music was played in the background and we didn't talk. Some of the things we did included levitating a woman and cutting a woman in half. There were assistants as well as two other magicians. We had to do two shows and three on Saturdays and Sundays."

Kamaar was about 13 when a magician came to his Greek school to entertain the students.

Continued on Page 43

New exhibition takes root in downtown Flushing

Queens Botanical Garden explores its germination as part of the creations for the 1939 World's Fair

BY MERLE EXIT

If you've ever ventured on over to the Pitch and Putt at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, you might have just seen a plant known as a perennial, one that seems to grow year after vear.

It might even date back to 1939, when it would have been planted at the approximate location of the original Queens Botanical Garden, then known as "Gardens on Parade" during the World's Fair.

Beginning this Tuesday, the horticultural institution opens a new exhibit, "Harvesting Our History — The Story of Queens Botanical Garden," as part of the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the '64 and '39 Fairs.

"The exhibit in our gallery is only a fraction of what we have," Darcy Hector, QBG's director of marketing and development, said. "We are trying to provide a good

representation of the era. Materials were mostly from our archives, which contain about 20 notebooks worth of material, the majority being photographic, as well as information from the New York Public Library."

On May 18, 1939, a fiveacre exhibit opened a few weeks after the Fair's first day of business. By March 1954, the garden had been expanded to cover 15 acres in the heart of Flushing Meadows Corona Park. But when talk began about Queens hosting a second fair, the garden was shuttered in October 1963 and relocated to its present location, 43-50 Main St. in Flushing.

In its new home it was enlarged again, this time to 39

Harvesting Our History will tell that story in photos, memorabilia and documents in an exhibition conceived, designed and produced by Ed and Joyce Morrill, founding

IF YOU GO

Harvesting Our History

- The Story of Queens Botanical Garden

When: May 6 to Sept. 28, Tuesday to Saturday from 8 am - 5 pm, Sunday, 9 am - 5

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

Cost: Included in garden admission - \$4/adults, \$3/ seniors, \$2/students and children

Contact: (718) 886-3800 Website: www. queensbotanical.org

members of QBG's Gallery Committee.

After gathering the notes and photos, Darcy turned all the information over to the Morrills, who selected what would be in the exhibit.

"Maureen Chen digitalized some of our most significant archives over the past year," Darcy said. "We certainly wouldn't have been able to do this without her assistance."

Darcy then focused on writing the text that appears on the 15 panels that make up the exhibition.

"The inspiration for this exhibition is the boroughwide celebration and commemoration of the two World's Fairs, but the Harvesting Our History project has a dual purpose," Darcy wrote. "It is a project of visual storytelling that integrates the collaborative efforts of the designers and Queens Botanical Garden staff, particularly the Gallery Committee and World's Fair Committee members. The Harvesting Our History exhibit celebrates the past and looks to the future of Queens Botanical Garden, the place where people, plants and cultures meet."



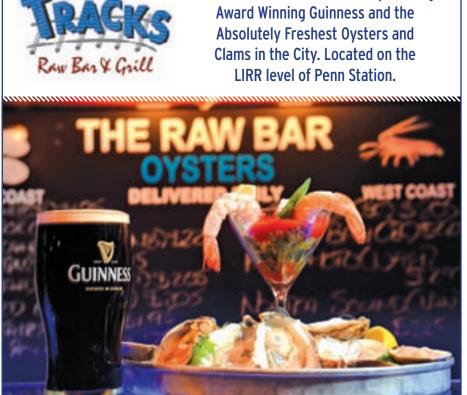
Visitors to the 1939 World's Fair at Flushing Meadows Corona Park could tour Gardens on Parade, which later evolved into the Queens Botanical Garden.

Photo courtesy Queens Botanical Garden









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Dear Madame President Katz: Let's talk theater

It is time to build new venues specifically created for live theatrical performances in the borough



Ronald B. Hellman The Play's The Thing

If I get the chance, I'd like to sit down with Borough President Melinda Katz to talk to her about theater in Queens. She should be interested, not only as our newly elected leader, but as someone with artistic genes — her mother, Jeanne Dale Katz, started up the Queens Council on the Arts in 1966, and her father, David Katz, was founder (in 1953) and maestro of the Queens Symphony Orchestra.

To establish some kind of connection, I'd point out to Ms. Katz that she and I are both na-

tives of Queens, she growing up in Forest Hills and me in Jackson Heights. I was on the Board of the Queens Council for 24 years, three of which as president. We're both attorneys – she's in politics, I vote. I'm a local theater producer and actor, she sings.

With that out of the way, I'd ask the Beep if she has heard of any of these women: Claire Tow. Mitzi E. Newhouse and Vivian Beaumont. They are the names on the three theaters at Lincoln Center. How 'bout Linda Gross? She's got her name on the Atlantic Theatre on West 20th Street. A couple of guys come to mind: Leonard Polonsky (a Townsend Harris High School graduate) and Samuel H. Scripps. You'll find their names behind the Polonsky Shakespeare Center, new home for Theatre for a New Audi**ence**, in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn.

The point being that there are a number of wealthy people who support the performing arts to such an extent that they get to perpetuate their names on theaters. Well, said a friend of mine, that's Manhattan, that's Brooklyn. Meaning, I guess, that that's where the action is. I say, what's wrong with Queens – we have nearly one-third the land area of New York City, more than 25 percent of its population, and we're the fastest growing county in the state?

So what we need in Queens, I would urge the borough president, are more theater buildings, venues with the look and feel and state-of-the-art technology of real theaters, to equal or surpass what our more established neighbors already have. The Polonsky Center, where I recently

saw a production of "King Lear," is a good model, a high rise court-yard theater with 299 seats, all of them good, and a stage and seats that can be configured in various ways.

Where will the money come from is always a key question. With the 50th anniversary of the 1964-65 World's Fair upon us. there's been a lot of talk about saving and restoring the remnants of the New York State Pavillion, with a price tag in the tens of millions. Knowing that site quite well after my many years at **Queens Theatre**, I wonder why? The remaining structures are a decrepit mess, and what good use could possibly come from their restoration? Better a new theater or two. And don't forget those wealthy donors who crave naming rights.

What do you say, Ms. Katz?

Making do with the Good Shepherd United Methodist Street on Crescent Street is the Astoria **Performing Arts Center.** If it's spring then Artistic Director Tom Wojtunik — who announced this will be his last show at APAC will have come up with another seldom produced musical. This one is "Allegro" by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein no less. When they first collaborated in the 1940s, R&H gave us four musicals: "Oklahoma!" "Carousel," "South Pacific" and, yes, "Allegro." APAC is known for its outstanding production values and talented performers, so this show is certainly worthy of your attendance. And maybe you'll get a chance to say hello to its new executive director, Erin Moore.

Contact Ron Hellman at RB-HOFC@gmail.com

SUI OKU Answers in Sports

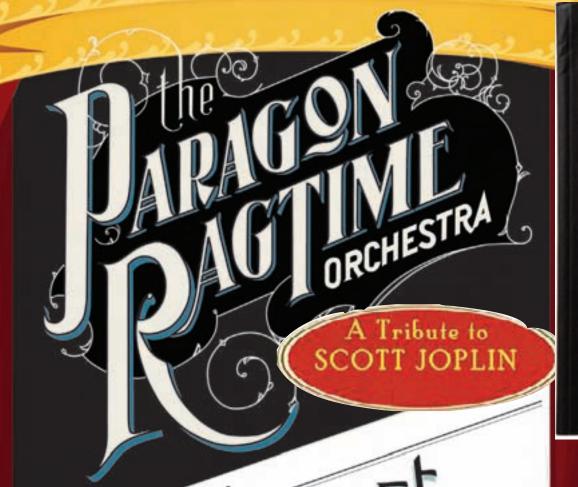
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Tips at www.sudoku.com © Puzzies by Pappocom

The Annual Scott Joplin Memorial Concert and BBQ at St. Michael's Cemetery will be held on May 24 at 2 p.m.



In support of our new
City Council representative,
St. Michael's is
co-sponsoring with
Costa Constantinides,
a School Supply Drive to
raise much-needed school
supplies for the less
fortunate in our community.

Please bring notebooks, pens, crayons, pencils, markers, etc., to the event.







Dr. Ed Berlin will give a PowerPoint Presentation

St. Michael's is dedicated to the celebration of life. St. Michael's continues to be an active participant in the lives of the citizens of New York as it has been since 1852. For further information contact Ed Horn, Director at (718) 278 3240.





Titan delivers a monumental 'King Lear'

Queens Theatre's new resident acting company joins the big leagues with Shakespeare's tragic play

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

Any man who offers to give his children their inheritance only after each one proclaims how much they love him would be lucky to get a tie on Father's Day.

He also shouldn't be surprised if a few of his heirs lie about their true feelings toward the old man.

It sounds like a story line from "Dynasty" or a Telemundo soap, but most people know it's really one of William Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, "King Lear."

From Frank Langella at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, to Michael Pennington at Theatre for a New Audience to this summer's planned Central Park production starring John Lithgow, Lear and his offspring continue to pop up all around town.

Now for its first show

IF YOU GO

"King Lear"

When: Through May 11 Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Cost: \$18 Contact: (718) 760-0064 Website: www. queenstheatre. org or www. titantheatrecompany.com

as the resident company at Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Titan Theatre Co. brings its uniquely fresh take on the classics in a first-rate production that stands alongside those other recent Lears.

Director Lenny Banovez once again works his editing magic and trims "King Lear" down to a more manageable two hours show. But Banovez's real trick is making cuts that don't take away from the story or scuttle the Bard's prose.

If you saw Titan's last show, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," you already know what Banovez and his band of merry actors are capable of creating. However, unlike that last piece, "King Lear," is not a breezy evening of theater, but a bloody tale that examines concepts of loyalty, the nature of mankind and madness.

A quick recap, Lear tells his three daughters — Goneril, Regan and Cordelia — he wants to step down from the throne and will divide the kingdom between the three of them, giving the largest portion to the one who loves him most. Goneril and Regan spout flattering lies while Cordeila offers nothing.

"Nothing can be made of nothing," Lear tells her.

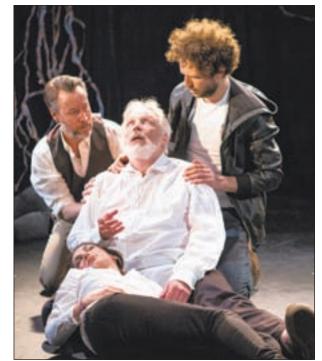
But the voungest daughter insists there is nothing to compare her love to, nor words to properly express it.

With that, Lear tosses Cordeila out, then slowly begins his descent into madness.

As Lear, Broadway veteran Terry Layman delivers a magnificent performance expressing the king's wide range of emotions, which run from anger and vitriol to lightheartedness and jov.

Lear is an old man. made more feeble in the body and brain as the realization of what he has done - rewarded the two evil daughters and punished the only one who really loved him — becomes clear.

Layman is able to convey regalness at the onset Continued on Page 44



Near the end of "King Lear," Greg Oliver Bodine (clockwise from I.) as Albany, and Brendan Marshall-Rashid as Edgar, attempt to comfort King Lear, played by Terry Layman, over the death of Cordelia, portraved by Susan Maris. Photo courtesy Kevin Scott Thomas





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Continued from Page 37

That's when he decided to do magic.

"I was so fascinated and asked if I could assist him," Kamarr said. "Because of our Greek hospitality, I asked my mother if she could put him up for a week while he toured. He taught me my first lesson on how to make a coin disappear. After that I would go to shows and watch other magicians."

After attending a Greek drama school, Kamarr secured roles in films and television. Once settled in New York, he made the talk show rounds, including more than 40 appearances on "Late Night with David Letterman" and over 100 appearances on Joe Franklin. He also starred in revues and stage shows in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and various venues in Europe.

At the performance May 17, Kamarr will be receiving an award. Most likely he will be asked to



These two photographs show Kamarr during his days of performing in Las Vegas.

Photos by Merle Exit

perform.

"If asked, I will be doing a trick that I invented," he said.

"We were excited to be approached by Society of American Magicians," Taryn Sacramone, executive director of Queens Theatre, said. "The World's Fair featured a variety of performances, including magic shows, and I just knew it would be a really unique show that our audience will enjoy. The fact that this is the longest-running magic show in the

world is really special. I'm proud that they've chosen to bring it to Queens Theatre."

Joining Kamarr are headliner Jeff McBride, Master of Ceremonies Jay Scott Berry, conjurors Joe and Bronwyn Devlin and David Oliver. Close-up magic will be performed before the curtain and during intermission by members of the Society of Young Magicians. Sol Stone will be honored as 2014's Magician of the Year.

THEATER

PRODUCTIONS

his three daughters.

Cost: \$18

Website: www.

When: Through May 11

Where: Queens Theatre, 14

United Nations Ave. South,

Contact: (347) 738-5602

titantheatrecompany.com

"Allegro" - This Rodgers and

follows Joseph Taylor Jr., son

of a small-town doctor, on his

Thursday and Friday at 8 pm,

Saturday at 2 pm and 8 pm

Where: Astoria Performing

Arts Center, Good Shepherd

iourney to adulthood.

When: Through May 17,

Hammerstein musical from 1947

Flushing Meadows Corona Park

"King Lear" - Titan Theatre

Co. presents Shakespeare's epic

drama about an aging king and

4

CALENDAR

Crescent St., Astoria
Cost: \$18/adults, \$12/seniors

United Methodist Church, 30-44

 $\quad \text{and students} \quad$

Contact: (718) 706-5750 Website: www.apacny.org

"Night Must Fall" -

Douglaston Community
Theatre Group presents the
psychological thriller by Emlyn
Williams, which tells the story
of a bitter old woman, her niece
and a handsome stranger.

When: Through May 17 Where: Zion Episcopal Church Hall on Hall Street, Douglaston Website: www.

spotlightonstage.com/dct.htm

Boogie Stomp! — Pianists Bob Baldori and Arthur Migliazza tell the story of boogie woogie, its origin, its ongoing development and how it relates to all of American music. When: May 8 to May 31 Where: Chain Theatre,21-28 45th Road, Long Island City Cost: \$45/general, \$95/VIP includes post-performance reception

Contact: (646) 580-6003 **Website:** www.

variations the at regroup. com

"Peter Pan" – Travel with the "Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" to Neverland in the musical version of James M. Barrie's play presented by The Andrean Players.

When: May 9 to May 17, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, and Sunday, May 18, at 4 pm Where: St. Andrew Avelino Church, Northern Boulevard and 157th Street, Flushing Cost: \$18/adults, \$15/seniors and children

Contact: theandreanplayers@gmail.com

"Moon Over Buffalo" – Ken Ludwig's backstage comedy revolves around a not-so-Continued on Page 45

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Homemade mozzarella stuffed with roasted peppers, mushroom & spinach with a balsamic reduction

Pasta

Fusilli al Filetto di Pomodoro

Homemade pasta with sliced onion, plum tomatoes and basil in a fresh tomato sauce

Entrée

Choice of:

Agnello al Forno con Menta Roasted leg of lamb with mint jelly sauce

Maiale alla Dolce Vita

Stuffed pork loin with prosciutto, spinach and roasted peppers in a procini mushroom sauce

Salmon Carmelina

Grilled Salmon filet with chopped onions and tomatoes in a lemon and white wine sauce

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Baked prime rib in au jus sauce

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\$25 per person

as equally as he expresses insanity toward the end and nowhere does he make a false step or hit an unrealistic note in his thrilling performance.

The other two standouts — in a uniformly excellent cast — are Tristan Colton as the conniving Edmund and Laura Frye as the worst of the two rotten daughters, Regan.

As the illegitimate son of Gloucester, Edmund plots against his half-brother Edgar. Through lies and manipulations, Edmund succeeds in having Edgar disowned and turned out into the woods, where he becomes a wild man.

Colton, as he did in his role of John Wilkes Booth in Titan's "This Prison Where I Live," straddles the line between charming gentleman and maniacal villain brilliantly.

As the equally repulsive Regan, Frye effortlessly makes the transition from dutiful, albeit lying, loving daughter to murderous goon. It is a change that becomes chillingly apparent as her husband, Cornwall, lays dying and asks her to take his hand. Realizing he is of no more use to her, Regan ignores the request and walks out of the room.

Alexis Carrington would have been proud.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers May 2-8, 2014

By Pete Canty

Going Green

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Across

- 1. Fiesta fare
- **6.** "____ be my pleasure!"
- 9. Increase
- 14. Rumble
- 15. Revolutionary leader
- 16. Liqueur flavor
- 17. Part of an act?
- 18. Green drink
- 20. Search party
- 21. Hilo hellos 22. Arctic bird
- 23. Dashed
- 24. Taj Mahal city
- **28.** Distort
- 30. Mongrels
- 31. Small fastener
- **32.** Pop-ups, e.g.
- d'oeuvre
- 34. Germany neighbor
- 36. John Lennon classic
- 38. Goalie's gig
- 39. Fragrant flowers
- 40. Yard component
- 41. Easter preceder?
- 42. Baseball stats
- 43. Brink
- 44. Workout sites
- 45. Start over
- 46. Low voice
- 47. Trigonometry abbr.
- 48. Famed TV collie
- 50. Easy wins
- 53. Green animal
- 56. From the East
- 57. Left Bank locale
- **58.** Suffix with persist
- **59.** D.C. subway
- 60. Voice, slangily
- 61. 27-Down or 53-Down sound
- 62. "I don't buy it"

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Down

- 1. Recipe amt.
- 2. Big oil company
- 3. Green appetizer
- 4. Confesses (to)
- 5. Polished
- 6. Childish 7. Some sewers
- 8. Blood driver visitors
- 9. Indian royal
- 10. Worthless
- 11. Zero to a soccer buff
- 12. Expend
- 13. Type of band
- **19.** Everyday article
- 25. Green apple
- 26. Type of note
- 27. Venomous snakes
- 28. Bob Marley back-up 29. Look up to

- 30. Hustles
- 33. Sot's sound
- 34. Chick's sound
- 35. Frequently, in verse
- 37. Jaguar juice
- 38. Pie and pudding, e.g.
- 40. Ford models
- 43. Social strata
- 44. Energizes
- 46. Troop grp.
- 47. Runner's ailment
- **49.** Eons
- 51. Legal intro
- 52. Winter blanket?
- 53. Venomous snake
- **54.** Island ring?
- 55. Back talk
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happily married couple performing "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "Private Lives" in repertory.

When: May 9 to May 24, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm

Where: Rockaway Theatre Co., The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway Cost: \$15/adults, \$12/seniors

and children

Contact: (718) 374-6400 Website: www.

rockawaytheatrecompany.org

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

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

When: May 23 to June 29. Friday at 8 pm and Saturday at 3 pm in English, Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 4 pm in Spanish.

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

students Contact:(718) 729-3880

Website: www.thaliatheatre.

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting - Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties. When: Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck

Contact: Muriel, (718) 225-7382

St. Andrew Avellino Theatre **Group -** The Andrean

Players in Flushing has been staging high-quality theater for half a century. It is now recruiting to fill various positions, including director, set-designer, choreographer, lighting and sound director. There are openings for makeup, costumes, fund-raising, ticketing and refreshments. Contact: theandreanplayers@ gmail.com, put "support" in the subject line. Include contact information and how

you might like to volunteer.

in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar

THE ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

For the most up-to-date listing of events happening

EVENTS

Cinco de Mayo Festival - A day of family fun includes piñata making, Mexican dance and music workshop and traditional folk music performance by Mariachi Real de Mexico.

When: Saturday, May 3, workshops begin at 12:30 pm, concert starts at 2:15 pm Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$15/adults, \$12/children and members, \$10/member children

Contact: (718) 463-7700, ext.

Website: www.flushingtownhall.

Mario Cantone - The "Sex and the City" actor brings his stand-up comedy act to Bayside for one night.

When: Saturday, May 3, at 8 pm Where: Queensborough

Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside

Cost: \$40

Contact: (718) 631-6311 Website: www.qcc.cuny.edu

NYC's Rising Stars - QPAC's second annual fund-raiser brings young talent from the city's most prestigious performing arts schools toaether.

When: Saturday, May 10, at 8

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

Cost: \$35 Contact: (718) 631-6311 Website: www.gcc.cuny.edu

Sacred Sites Open House Weekend - New York

Landmarks Conservancy's fourth annual event allows visitors to explore the art and architecture at religious institutions across the city. When: Saturday, May 17, 11 am -

Manifest in the Garden

Contact: (212) 995-5260

Elmhurst

Resurrection, 85-09 118th

St., Kew Gardens; St. Joan

of Arc Parish, 82-00 35th

Ave., Jackson Heights; and

First Presbyterian Church of

Newtown, 54-05 Seabury St.,

Website: www.nylandmarks.org

- Welcome spring in the traditional German way with an evening of music, food and drink, art and friendship in a garden setting.

When: Saturday, May 17, at 5:30

Where: Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing Cost: \$30/all inclusive, \$25/

members Contact: (718) 359-6227 Website: www.vomuseum.org

Music

Queens Symphonic Band hosts an afternoon of Latin, big band and jazz groups.

When: Sunday, May 4, from noon - 4 pm

Where: Queensborough Continued on Page 46

Queens Music Fest - The

AUDITIONS

"Bye, Bye Birdie" - The JC Players announces auditions for its upcoming musical. All roles are open. Men, women, teens and children over 10 are wanted. Sheet music is necessary to audition.

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

When: Sunday, May 4, from 3 pm - 6 pm; and Monday, May 5, from 7 pm - 9 pm

Where: Community United Methodist Church, 75-27 Metropolitan Ave, Middle Village

Contact: jcplayers95@yahoo. com or babba0310@gmail.com

"Gypsy" - Auditions for Rockaway Theatre Co.'s summer production take place in May. Bring a resume and headshot if available and come prepared to sing.

When: Saturday, May 10, from 10 am- 2 pm; and Monday, May 12, from 7 pm - 10 pm Where: Rockaway Theatre Co.,

The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway Contact: (718) 374-6400

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Continued from Page 45

Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside Cost: \$10/general, \$8/seniors

and students

Contact: (718) 631-6311 Website: www.qcc.cuny.edu

Happy Mother's Day Concert

- Mother's Day Eve show includes solo and group musical performances, solo and group dance numbers, and famous Chinese songs and dances. When: Saturday, May 10, 6 pm Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$15/general, \$10/seniors, \$5/children 7 and younger **Contact:** (718) 463-7700 Website: www.flushingtownhall.

Barbara Cook - The Broadway legend, who originated roles in "The Music Man," "Candide" and "Carousel" brings her silvery soprano to the Kupferberg Center for the Arts.

When: Saturday, May 10, at 8 pm Where: Colden Auditorium, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing Cost: \$45 - \$69

Contact: (718) 793-8080

Website: www.

"To Bird & Dizzy With Love"

kupferbergcenter.org

- The Queens Jazz Orchestra pays musical homage to Charlie "Bird" Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. The evening begins with a 30-minute discussion with Jimmy Heath, music director/conductor of Queens Jazz Orchestra.

When: Friday, May 16, at 7:30 pm Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

Cost: \$40/general, \$32/ members, \$20/students, \$120/reserved table for two with wine and snacks. \$100/ members reserved table Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.

Queens College Choral Society

- The 73rd annual spring concert features the Queens College Choir, Queens College Women's Choir and Queens College Orchestra performing Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

When: Saturday, May 17, at 7:30

Where: Colden Auditorium, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing Cost: \$20, \$5/Queens College students with ID

Contact: (718) 793-8080 Website: www. kupferbergcenter.org

Oratorio Society of Queens - For its annual spring concert,

the group performs Anton Bruckner's "Mass in F minor" as well as highlights from the American choral experience. When: Sunday, May 18, at 4 pm Where: Queensborough Performing Arts Center at QCC, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside **Cost:** \$30/general, \$25/seniors and students, \$10/children 12

and under Contact: (718) 279-3006 Website: www.queensoratorio.

Mets Concert Series - This

year's Mets concert series kicks off June 14 with a performance by 50 Cent. Concerts take place following that days game, and the show is included in the price of the game ticket. When: Saturday, June 14 - 50 Cent; Saturday, July. 12 - Huey Lewis and the News; and Saturday, Aug. 16 - Boyz II Men Where: Citi Field, 123-01 Roosevelt Ave., Flushing Cost: \$17 - \$163 Website: newyorkmets.mlb.

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The Whispers and Jeffery Osborne

Annual 'Mother's Day Weekend Concert' at the NYCB Theatre at Westbury

Live Nation in association with Marquee Concerts is pleased to present The Whispers and Jeffery Osborne at The NYCB Theatre at Westbury on Saturday, May 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$59.50, \$49.50, and \$39.50 and are available online at www.ticketmaster.com, charge by phone at 800-745-3000 or at the Westbury box office. Event, date and time subject to change. All ticket prices are subject to applicable service charges. For further information, please visit www. thetheatreatwestbury. com. The Whispers and Jeffery Osborne will also appear at New Jersey's Newark Symphony Hall on Friday, May 9th.

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most legendary and beloved groups, The Whispers began their timeless career in 1963, perfecting their tight harmonies on the street corners of Los Angeles and in nightclubs around the San Francisco area. With an impressive catalogue of hits over the course of forty years, they continued to rack up seven gold albums, two platinum albums, and twelve top twenty singles. Their quintessential hits include "And the Beat Goes on," "Rock Steady," and "It's a Love Thing."

Launching his professional career in 1969 with the popular funk & soul group L.T.D., Jeffery Osborne always knew that R&B was for him. After a decade with the band as the lead vocalist, he decided to pursue a solo career, which produced such Top 40 hits as "Don't You Get So Mad," "Stay With Me Tonight," and a duet with Dionne Warwick, "Love Power."



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New Asian fusion eatery proves popular in Astoria

The Bao Shoppe offers an inventive take on Chinese steamed buns with non-traditional ingredients

BY ALEX ROBINSON

A new Asian fusion restaurant in Astoria, which takes a fresh approach to bao, has already started to gain a loyal following in a matter of weeks.

First-time restaurant owner Johnny Shek opened the Bao Shoppe, at 30-66 Steinway St., at the end of March and he is already starting to recognize faces.

"People in Astoria have really taken to us," he said. "We already have a good amount of regulars, who we see every day. People who work and live in the area are starting to come by a lot."

The restaurant serves bao, traditional Chinese steamed buns, with a creative assortment of toppings, many of which one would not usually see on bao.

"It's just a very whimsical menu. We're trying to have fun with everything," Shek said. "We're trying to use not just Asian-style ingredients."

The restaurant's menu has six core buns, which include braised pork belly,



smoked brisket, smoked pulled pork and fried chicken. There are also a number of vegetarian offerings on the menu, including the Hungry Buddhist bao, which has crispy tofu with daikon and kimchi.

The baos, open-style

buns, are also topped with a variety of slaws, kimchi and homemade sauces. The menu also offers a number of side dishes and bubble

"It's fun food and something different that people don't see a lot of," Shek



Shek's bao sandwiches are filled with an assortment of home made toppings. The Colonol Bao (pictured) is topped with fried chicken, coleslaw and fresh pickle.

The Bao Shoppe opened at 30-66 Steinway St. March 22.

Photo sby Alex Robinson

said. "We try to put a lot of combinations together."

The Bao Shoppe has also started introducing specials every week, some of which have evolved into permanent fixtures on the menu because of their popularity.

Shek chose to open the Bao Shoppe in Astoria because the neighborhood has a vibrant and diverse restaurant scene that is quickly changing.

"I wanted to do it somewhere the food scene is changing and up to date," he said. "In Flushing, it wouldn't be as unique as there are already so many steamed buns places you can go to there."

The new restaurateur grew up in Fresh Meadows and is a lifelong Queens resident. He received his formal training from the Institute of Culinary Education in Manhattan and worked in a number of restaurants, including his uncle's catering hall, before venturing out on his own.

"I decided to open my own business rather than work for someone else for the rest of my life," he said.

As the summer approaches, Shek said he is going to start introducing seafood baos to the menu. He said a new crab cake bao will soon be on the menu as a special. The store will also be unveiling a new Nutella milk shake with chocolate-covered pretzels in May along with a number of new smoothies and drinks.

"There are a lot of different things we're developing," he said. "We just want to see what we can do and what we can get away with."

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Powerful You! Women's Network

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

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon

Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglastor

Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@ accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009 Website: powerfulyou.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

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

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly Meeting - BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit. When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12

Willets Point Blvd., Bayside **Contact:** Martin Koos (516) 488-8877,

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

When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986

Website: bniouterboros.com

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

Website: accessoffice.net

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: (718) 260-4521 Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@ accessoffice.net, (866) 391-2780

FUND-RAISERS

Queens Impact Awards -

TimesLedger Newspapers will honor 25 borough residents whose volunteer efforts make a difference in the community.

When: May 15, at 6 pm Where: Douglaston Manor, 63-20 Commonwealth Ave., Douglaston

Cost: \$90/per person, \$850/ table of 10

Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts 35th Anniversary Gala -

Honoring Melinda Katz, Louis Vlahos and Tai Wang. RSVP by May 1.

When: May 15, 6 p.m. Where: Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushina

Contact: (718) 463-7700,

Ext. 229

Website: flushingtownhall.

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- B) A nominating letter from your school's guidance counselor and instructors describing the student's abilities and why they would be worthy of this recognition.
- C) Please make sure that the student's bio and a recent photo are included with the nomination.

D) Categories are:

1) Middle School 2) High School 3) College

Please send nominations and information to:

srossi@cnglocal.com, or mail to: S. Rossi - 41-02 Bell Blvd. 2nd Floor, Bayside NY 11361.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at: 718-260-4522

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7th District

Continued from Page 9

ness Administration to get entrepreneurs the financing they need, particularly those in underserved communities, her website notes. She has also prioritized protecting the environment and improving access to affordable housing and a quality education.

Romaguella, an international banking consultant from Park Slope, said he is running mainly because the Brooklyn Conservative Party asked him to so the party could maintain a presence on the ballot.

"If I didn't run, there would be no candidate and then there would be no

work for the poll workers ... it would probably go down a little bit," said Romaguella, 58. "There's a lot of people that depend on this election to make extra cash."

Romaguella, who said he has made previous congressional, City Council and state Senate bids with the same partially committed philosophy, said he would conduct random samplings to gauge constituents' stances and guide his voting if elected.

Fernandez, 35, did not respond to requests for an

His campaign's Facebook page notes that Fernandez was born in San Juan, P.R., studied music and piano performance at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music and then

studied business administration.

He has worked as president of the Inter American **Entrepreneurs Association** and director of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce. Fernandez produced and hosted a Univision Radio show in New York and Puerto Rico that discussed federal legislation and policies' impact on Hispanics.

Velazquez had about \$132,705 on hand, as of the last campaign finance disclosure filing at the end of March. At that point. Kurzon had \$41,336 in his war chest, Fernandez had \$3,604 and Romaguella had not raised enough to require him to register a committee.

Irish Circle

Continued from Page 5

"Of those potentially interested parties, no interested parties took a tour of the property," Massey Knakal partner Thomas Donovan wrote in an affidavit.

Only one bid came in on the building, a \$1.2 million offer by Mark Schachner, owner of the Mill Basin Kosher Deli in Brooklyn.

The Irish Circle, which for years served as the terminus of the Queens Coun-

ty St. Patrick's Day Parade on the Rockaway Peninsula, fell on hard times after it lost an Off-Track Betting parlor in its restaurant when the bookmaking business folded in 2010.

The recession and an acrimonious business split also took their toll, and by the time the bank filed a foreclosure action in November 2011, the bar had been in arrears for nearly two years on rent owed to the real estate arm of Perich's operation.

In August 2013, the realty company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy

protection listing assets of \$1.4 million and liabilities of \$3.5 million, \$3 million of which were owed to the bank.

Late last year Bankruptcy Judge Elizabeth Strong ordered Perich to begin making rent payments and square away the water and property tax bills, but when the company came up short, the court ordered the building put up on the auction block.

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

Fedkowskyj

Continued from Page 9

and tell you I'm going to be your voice in Albany and I'm going to support your

Fedkowskyj said that while he thought Marky did a good job in earlier years in office, he has heard many people say she has been largely absent from her duties and has poorly represented the district recently.

The 30th Assembly District, which Markey represents, includes Maspeth, Woodside and parts of Long Island City, Middle Village, Astoria and Sunnyside.

Crossing

Continued from Page 23

or's Vision Zero plan should lead us to expect immediate action at these problematic intersections."

The new crossing guard will be hired in early June, according to a Peralta spokesman.

> Meanwhile, Mayor

Bill de Blasio is applauding the state Senate for passing a bill Wednesday that will add 140 speed cameras in the city, a major part of his Vision Zero plan, now pending the approval of Governor Cuomo.

"With the Senate's vote today, our lawmakers have put forward a powerful commitment to protect our children from dangerous speeding cars on our city's streets," de Blasio said. "This bill will bring us a critical step closer to achieving this administration's goal of zero pedestrian deaths in New York Citv."

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





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Sports



Holy Cross Coach Tom Marchesini is stepping down from his role as varsity hoops coach.

Marchesini steps down as Cross hoops coach

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Holy Cross will be looking for its third boys' basketball coach in the last three years after Tom Marchesini stepped down following his second season leading the team because of time constraints.

He led the Knights to a 23-27 record in his short tenure, but felt he no longer could dedicate the time and attention needed to run the program the right way.

Marchesini, teaches physical education and health at the school, saw a large part of his time taken up by studying to get his master's degree. He also has three children to raise and he bartends at night for extra money. It became apparent that coaching would be too much.

"If I had the time, I definitely wouldn't give it up," Marchesini said. "I'd still do it, but I just don't have the time. There is a right way to run a program and a wrong way to run it."

The school's former freshmen team coach was promoted to the job in the fall of 2012 after longtime headman Paul Gilvary was removed for alleged improprieties, the New York Post reported. Marchesini, a Holy Cross alumnus, said he didn't want the job at that point because he thought he would not have enough time, but the school was in a bind.

He stayed on for a second season to give it another try and keep continuity in the program.

"I just figured I'd help them out," he said.

Marchesini said he would not completely remove himself from the program. He will stay on in a moderator's role and handle logistics, including helping with scheduling and arranging practice time. He will not have a say in who the next coach is.

Knights Athletic Director Ron Vallar did not return phone messages requesting comment.

Continued on Page 53

Molloy slugs way past Prep

Stanners score seven runs to beat Terriers in fourth-straight win

Related column

Page 52

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Consecutive haven't come with regularity for Archbishop Molloy this season — that is, until the fourth inning of a pivotal game against rival St. Francis Prep.

In that six-run frame, Stanners collected seven hits, including four straight with two outs. It was enough to power them their fourth-straight league victory with a score of 7-2 against the host Terriers in CHSAA Brooklyn/ Queens girls' softball Mon-

Molloy, which moves into sole possession of second place, found its timing against SFP starter Alyssa Siess and began hitting her pitches hard.

"Back-to-back singles we haven't seen, not like five in a row, six in a row," Stanners Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said. "Not like that. We've had a couple of back to backs. We haven't had a long rally. It was great. It was all line drives."

Siess, who had a nohitter through 61/3 innings against Fontbonne Hall April 23, appeared as if she might be able to get out of the inning unscathed when she got Holy Cross-bound first basemen Taylor Moss to pop out for the second out with two runners on.

Stanners ace Alex Yule then delivered a two-RBI single to left center that scored Kristen Maurer and Camille Sears to make it 2-0. Molloy (5-3) got another run when St. Francis Prep tried to catch Jamie Durso, who had singled, stealing second.

A long two-run triple by Ally Klesin brought home Durso and Grace Crockett and broke the inning open by giving Molloy a 6-0 lead. The hit put Klesin at ease after not making

contact with the ball recently to her liking.

"When I had that shot, it felt really good," she said.

"It was nice. It was a relief. It was like, 'OK, I got it back."

The Terriers (5-5), which had eight hits in the game, scratched a run across the bottom of the frame, thanks to an RBI single from Anna Prisco. They then loaded the bases

with no outs in the bottom of the fifth only to see Briana Emanuele line ball hard Yule that

turned into a double play. Kelly Licul popped out to end the threat.

"I was a little scared, but probably the happiest line drive I ever had," said Yule, who struck out four.

Mollov tacked on a run with an RBI single from Gabby Bruno in the top of the sixth and St. Francis Prep added a sack fly by Jessica Menna in the bottom of the frame. Terriers Coach Anne Maria Rich, who watched her team top Fontbonne earlier in the week, saw the squad miss its chance to get back in Continued on Page 53



Molloy's Maria Bruno (r.) slides into home plate for a run during the Stanners girls' softball matchup with St. Francis Prep. Photo by Ken Maldonado

52 Commodores crush Construction team

Pitcher Heidi Gomez powers Bayside to statement victory over defending PSAL softball champions

BY PATRICK MCCORMACK

Up until this point in the season, it looked like Construction was the top PSAL girls' softball team in Queens and arguably the best in the city.

That was until visiting Bayside showed it could top the defending city champion Red Hawks with a 13-1 victory in six innings Monday. The win put the Commodores into a tie for first place with Construction in the Queens A division.

Bayside was led by senior ace Heidi Gomez. who was able to shut down a powerful Construction lineup. Gomez gave up just one run on two hits, walked four and struck out six in six innings.

"I was relaxing," she said. "I was trying not to overthink or going ahead of myself. I was taking it one pitch at a time. I wasn't thinking about what was going to happen next, just every pitch at a time."

Bayside Coach Steve Piorkowski didn't expect anything less from Gomez. She came into her own this season with an under two ERA and 102 strikeouts to iust 18 walks.

"She has been doing this all season long," he said. "She is throwing strikes. She's challenging batters and the defense is doing their job. She has been pitching spectacular all season long.'

Gomez also went onefor-two with four RBIs and pitched in with her bat. In the fourth inning, she hit a triple to right center that brought in three runners and gave Bayside (11-1) a 6-1 edge. Gomez knew she had to get a hit and looked for the proper pitch to drive.



Bayside High School pitcher Heidi Gomez takes the mound for the Commodores. Photo by Yinghao Luo

"I knew she was throwing me outside," Gomez said. "I eased up, relaxed and didn't think home run, didn't think out.".

Bayside was able to put the game away with a sixrun sixth inning, thanks to two hits, four walks and two errors. Piorkowski sees an improvement in his team since the Commodores' 9-7 loss in the first meeting with Construction (11-1) March 24. Tara Berstein and Jacqueline Perno each drove in a run for Bayside.

"My kids were very selective," he said "They had very intelligent atbats. They walked when they should have walked, and they attacked when they should have attacked. They went down swinging on what would have been Ball 4 at times but I'll take that."

Red Hawks head Coach

Marco Migliaccio said the game was a bad one for his team, especially coming off a big 5-3 victory over Tottenville April 25. Construction made six errors against Bayside.

"It got sloppy, every aspect of our softball." Migliaccio said. "We knew this was a tough team. This is one of the top teams in the league and they should get the respect."

Piorkowski sees this victory as a stepping stone for his program. His team knows what it takes to be a top club in the PSAL.

"You know the team is undefeated. You know they beat Tottenville," Piorkowski said. "My team has never beaten Tottenville ever. It's the fact we haven't been there, and now we know that we are capable of doing it."

Well-matched teams compete for top spots in CHSAA league



Joseph Staszewski Block Shots

Ann Marie Rich gets a reminder on a daily basis of just how competitive her league is this year.

Still, the St. Francis Prep coach and CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens sion softball chairwoman continues to be amazed as teams vie for the top spots in a league that usually features a clear hierarchy.

"To be in charge and when I get the scores to be like, 'What? Really?' I have to look at it a second time like, 'Are you kidding me?""

For nearly a decade St. Francis Prep and Archbishop Molloy have dominated the division. Either one or the other has won eight of the last nine diocesan crowns, until Fontbonne Hall took home the regular season and playoff titles last year.

You usually knew before the season started which teams were supposed to meet in the diocesan championship series, and predictions usually ended up being correct. The Bonnies were again supposed to be the CHSAA's frontrunner, but have fallen on tough times in the last two

"There is really no distinguished team, no No. 1 team yet," Archbishop Mollov right fielder Alyssa Klesin said. "I believe it's us."

You can make the case for the second-place Stanners, winners of four straight victories, including recent wins over Fontbonne (8-3) and St. Francis Prep (5-5). Molloy (5-3), though, has lost to both of those teams along with Mary Louis (5-5) this season. The Terriers appeared to be on the rise with a win over the Bonnies, before losing to Molloy 7-2 Mon-

Mary Louis and firstyear Coach ToniAnne Campuzano have beaten Molloy, SFP and Fontbonne, but have also been defeated by last-place Christ the King.

"It is more open than for as long as I can re-Continued on Page 53

Red Storm bashes Hoyas during three-game sweep

BY PATRICK MCCORMACK

St. John's University and its bats remained red hot.

The Johnnies clobbered visiting Georgetown 15-5 to complete a threegame weekend sweep in Big East baseball Sunday afternoon.

The Red Storm, which has won seven straight games and 10 out of their last 11, improved to 19-1 at Jack Kaiser Stadium with the victory. St. John's Coach Ed Blankmeyer sees things starting to come together for his team during their winning streak.

"Once you get a comfort level and guys know where they are batting and know what they expected to



The Red Storm's Chris Kalica prepares to release a pitch. Photo by Christina Santucci

do, I think they get a little more comfortable," he said.

The Johnnies were led by their offense, which had 22 hits Sunday and got solid starting pitching from Chris Kalica. He gave up three runs on five hits and struck out seven in 6 1/3 innings to improve to 6-1 in the season.

St. John's' offense was led by first baseman Matt Harris. He had seven RBIs in the weekend, including a career-high four RBIs in Saturday's 12-4 victory. Harris, who had two RBIs Sunday, has a simple but effective approach when he is at the plate with runners on base.

"When there are people on base, I try to hit the ball hard and put it in play," he said. "Hopefully, I can end

Continued on Page 53

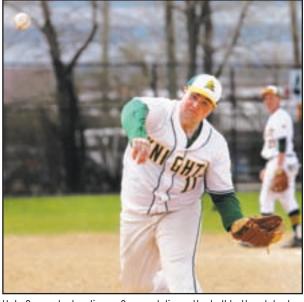
Holy Cross defensive slipups hurt Knights' record 153

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Holy Cross continues to be its own worst enemy against the top teams in the CHSAA boys' baseball league.

The Knights have proven they are talented enough to play with any club in the division, but they haven't been able to overcome errors in the field that have allowed for close games to

"The beginning of the season was rough," junior first baseman Brandon Simone said. We are in a lot of games now. We always have that inning that just messes us up for the rest of the game."



Holy Cross starter Jimmy Curran delivers the ball to the plate during the game against Xaverian. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

The mistakes bit Holv Cross again in an eventual 10-1 loss to visiting Xaverian, the defending division champion, in CHSAA baseball April 23. The Knights trailed just 2-1 until the Xaverian scored six runs in the fourth inning. Two Holy Cross errors set the stage for the big frame.

"Todav we made a couple of bad plays in that one inning and we just [fell] apart," Knights Coach Steve Adams said.

Holy Cross (4-4) is still an inexperienced team. Only three seniors — centerfielder Chris Moussa, catcher Nick Milata and second baseman Jack Thorsen — are part of the starting lineup. Only Moussa, a three-vear starter, has seen significant playing

Holy Cross made five errors in a 3-2 loss to Xavier and slipups cost them in a 4-2 defeat at the hands of St. Francis Prep. Starting pitcher An-

thony Sigismondi stifled the Holy Cross lineup for Xaverian (6-2). The Knights' lone run came on a single to right field by Frankie Tribble that drove in Milata to make it 2-1. Simone added two hits. The team's miscues are something the Knights think they can reduce as the season goes on and the players gain more experience.

"The more we work in practice, the more we will figure it out," Simone said.

One of Holy Cross' biggest assets so far has been its pitching. Starter Jimmy Curran threw strikes and allowed eight hits, five in the fourth over 3 2/3 innings of work. Reliever Marcus Mari surrendered two runs on two hits in his 21/3 innings on the mound. Their defense needs to begin helping them out more.

"We've pitched well," Adams said. "The pitching has been a surprise. We've pitched pretty well this year. We are just letting our team down defensively. We are just making too many errors."

CHSAA

Continued from Page 52

member," Molloy Coach Maureen Rosenbaum said. "Fontbonne had a runaway lead in the beginning as defending champion, but it appears people are gaining on them."

The parity should make for an interesting final weeks of the regular sea-

son, especially with Molloy headed to Fontbonne Hall Friday with first place on the line, and the Terriers need to beat TMLA on the road to remain in third.

There are reasons for the close play. There is a lack of consistent dominant pitching besides Fontbonne's Nicolette Trapani. The Terriers are relying on sophomores Alysa Siess and Monica Zhivanaj, and Molloy junior Alex Yule is just beginning to come into her own.

Mary Louis has two seniors in Nicole Hubert and Angela Pfeffer, but plenty of inexperience behind them in the field.

It leaves the door open for inconsistency, uncertainty and likely plenty of drama to unfold.

"It's anyone's game on any given day, it seems to be," Rich said.

It's a welcome change.

Molloy

Continued from Page 51

the game in the fifth with Emanuele's hard-hit ball.

"She's been struggling at the plate, and low and behold she gets a hold of a good one and there it goes," Rich said.

Molloy, on the other hand, is getting an opportu-



Molloy's Camile takes a swing during the game against the Terriers.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

nity to move into a tie with Fontbonne at first place when they travel to Bay Ridge Friday. The Stanners appear to be playing their best right now.

"We always like to peak late, but a little luck helps out, too," Rosenbaum said. "The schedule brings us a lot of late games this year. Hopefully, we are peaking at the right time."

Red Storm

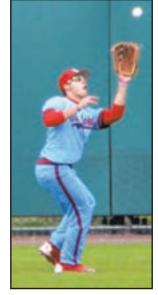
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up scoring some runs."

Second baseman Robert Wayman added three RBIs for the Johnnies Sunday. He drove in what turned out to be the winning run when he hit a two-RBI single in the second inning to make it 7-0. Robbie Knightes also had three RBIs, adding to the Red Storm offense with an RBI double in the first and a two-run triple in the third that made the score 10-1.

St. John's scored 34 total runs in the three games against the Hoyas.

"We swung the bats very well today," Blankmeyer said Sunday. "We jumped them and it cer-



Outfielder Michael Donadio makes a grab near the wall. Photo by Christina Santucci

tainly paid dividends for us. Over 20 hits in a college baseball game — that is swinging the bat pretty well."

The strong performance against Georgetown gives St. John's momentum heading into the Big East series against first-place Creighton and Xavier, with which the Red Storm is tied with for second place. Blankmeyer said his team needs to take things a game at a time, and if they play well and rack up victories, they can achieve their goal of winning the conference.

"Our goal is to play good baseball every weekend," Blankmeyer said. "When we play in conference, we want to win our series. If we continue to do those things, we will get to the tournament and we would like to win the tournament."

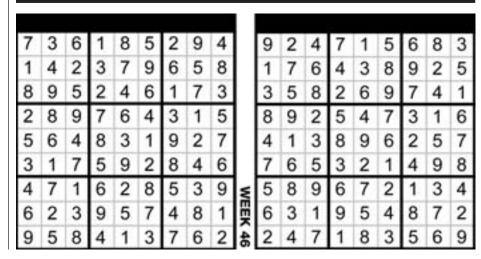
Marchesini

Continued from Page 51

Despite his time limitations, Marchesini said he does not regret taking the job. Marchesini enjoyed being back around the CHSAA coaches and said there is still no better feeling than winning a big game. He did not rule out a return to the bench after he finishes his master's, but not as a varsity coach.

"I'll be done next May,

maybe in a year or two come back and help the freshman or something." Marchesini said. "That's something that would interest me. Having strong coaching on the lower levels makes it easier on the upper levels."



Comrie

Continued from Page 1

"The 14th District will not be sidelined waiting for a leader to do the right thing. I've received a lot of positive feedback from a lot of people and I am honored that they are putting their faith in me."

Comrie threw his hat into the Democratic primary Monday to challenge Smith, who is waiting for his trial to begin in June on charges he allegedly tried to use state money to buy his way into the 2013 mayoral race on the Republican line.

Crowley is chairman of the Queens Democratic Party, although he was speaking for himself when called Comrie a "dedicated public servant who has delivered for his community and the people of Queens."

"Leroy has been on the

forefront of building better schools for our children, protecting our seniors and helping to create thousands of jobs across New York," Crowley said. "Now, we need Leroy in Albany delivering for us on the issues that matter most."

Comrie sat on the Council for three terms from 2002-13, serving as chairman of the powerful Land Use Committee and leading the Queens delegation. Facing term limits, he made a run for Borough Hall and, after abandoning the bid, took a position as deputy borough president under Melinda Katz.

Comrie stepped down from the position late last week but will stay on as a special assistant, according to a source.

Norris is a political power broker in southeast Queens and a longtime supporter of Smith who was rankled early last year when the senator jumped to the Independent Democratic Conference.

Norris said southeast Queens "suffers when it cannot depend on an elected official to leverage his relationships on our behalf."

"We appreciate Leroy Comrie's ability to get things done," he said. "Throughout his public service, Leroy Comrie developed and maintained good relationships with others in government and at nonprofits. The people of southeast Queens will benefit through Leroy's ability to work successfully with others in government and in the nonprofit arena."

Miller, Comrie's successor on the Council, said, "Southeast Queens will reap the benefits when Leroy Comrie enters the state Senate. Leroy enjoys the respect from all of his colleagues in government to deliver what southeast Queens needs from Albany."

visited by the City Council to insure that we are getting our fair share of the criminal justice dollar. We are still about \$2 million behind where we started in fiscal [year] 2002 — or the equivalent of cheut 30

DA funds

"The existing work-

load formula is almost five

years old and must be re-

Continued from Page 4

portions rising.

in fiscal [year] 2002 — or the equivalent of about 30 new full-time attorneys," Queens DA Richard Brown said in a statement.

The city's preliminary 2014-15 fiscal plan does not break with tradition. It sets aside \$85,012,000 for the Manhattan DA, \$82,748,000 for the Brooklyn DA, \$52,254,000 for the Bronx DA, \$48,322,000 for the Queens DA and \$8,752,000 for the Staten Island DA.

The Council's budget priorities urged the de Bla-

sio administration to have the Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office recalculate its workload analysis to ensure that each DA is given the resources it needs.

NYPD arrest statistics do not offer a complete take on prosecutors' workloads because DAs spearhead their own investigations and make arrests and a number of cases are disposed.

The IBO report found a growing number of cases were not being taken to court, with the number of felony cases the Queens DA declined to prosecute increasing from 1 percent in 1980 to 7 percent in 2009.

Still, using 2013 NYPD statistics as a barometer, the Queens DA had less funding last fiscal year to work with than prosecutors in other boroughs.

The Police Department noted it made 24,108 major felony arrests in Queens last year. The borough's fiscal year 2014 adopted budget of \$48,920,000 left about \$2,029.20 per case.

In Manhattan, the NYPD logged 27,617 such arrests and the DA's adopted budget included \$85,013,000, which amounted to \$3,078.29 per case.

The other boroughs fell somewhere in between.

The Manhattan DA's budget is boosted by settlement payments, which must be shared with the other offices when they surpass a certain threshold, and asset forfeitures.

The IBO found that the Manhattan office brought in 95 percent to 98 percent of settlement payments citywide.

It also received close to \$10 million in revenue from seized assets in 2010.

Queens got nothing from such actions that year, according to the IBO report.

7 train

Continued from Page 1

and info on both our on-thego kiosks and digital panels — all of which is updated with a new schedule," Ortiz explained. "There is also signage on the trains with updated information."

Ray Tappas, another Sunnyside resident, said, "I was looking for information today on the 7 but I didn't see anything on the subways or in the stations."

David Becker, the general manager at Woodside's Big Six Towers complex, said, "High-tech info systems don't help many of our residents. We have so many in our 1,000 units that don't even own computers. We have a significant elderly population and other people of limited means who still depend on broadcast TV and newspapers for all of their information."

Several elected officials were unaware of the service change on the No. 7.

Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) said, "I understand the need for track



The No. 7 subway line is running this weekend, catching some in Jackson Heights by surprise.

repair, but they have got to find a better way to inform people. It's amazing to me because commuters will be totally confused. We need to make riders more aware, we need better transparency. This is everything that's wrong with the MTA.

The ongoing project, which will disrupt weekend service on the No. 7 in varying degrees through the summer, is actually three projects being done at once.

A 90-year old signal system is being replaced with a \$550 million state-of-the-art system in one project that will not be completed until 2017. Track Panel replacement is another project that relies on cranes and other heavy equipment

to lay new tracks.

The third project is repairwork on the Steinway Tube that runs under the East River. The 100-year-old tunnel was originally built for trolley cars and is too narrow to move trains when crews are working. The tunnel flooded during Hurricane Sandy with saltwater that caused damage to its infrastructure.

At a town hall meeting in Long Island City last month, MTA President Carmen Bianco went to great lengths to explain why the three projects were so important. "We are cognizant of the impact this has on our customers. It's inconvenient, but it's necessary work in order to meet increased ridership," he said.

Dromm agrees, but he still thinks the MTA does not fully appreciate the economic impact it has on communities.

"When the 7 is shut down on June 1, that's the day of the 22nd Queens Pride Parade, a day when 40,000 people come to Jackson Heights and spend their money in our stores and restaurants," he said. "When you disrupt the 7, it really hurts the neighborhood."

Rockaway

Continued from Page 21

The FDNY agreed to review personnel records at the Queens Center of Operations and place any staff with call-related disciplinary histories on administrative assignment pending further investigation, according to the memo.

The department also pledged to examine its training protocols and ensure they comply with state and industry protocols, Peters wrote.

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village), chairwoman of the Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services, reiterated her call for the FDNY to change its protocol and dispatch EMS and firefighters immediately after a call is received.

Dispatchers currently 'wait for FDNY to confirm the flames before an ambulance is sent.

"Lives are always at risk when a fire occurs, whether it's a person trapped in the building or an emergency responder doing their job," Crowley said in a statement. "The fact remains that EMS should have been dispatched immediately after the initial call was placed."

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

Charters

Continued from Page 2

promise," Shorris said.

Back in February, the city said it reversed course on the co-location with August Martin HS because it thought the space-sharing agreement with the K-4 Success Academy was a poor fit.

Success Academy's plan is to enroll somewhere between 150 and 210 kindergartners and first-graders beginning in September, adding a grade level each year until it levels out around some 500 students in 2018.

It will be one of two Success Academies in Queens, the other being a K-8 charter set to open in the fall inside IS 59's building in Springfield Gardens.

As for August Martin's building, the DOE has proposed co-locating a new district high school there in the fall.

The PEP will consider the proposal at its May 29 meeting in Manhattan.

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

Concerts

Continued from Page 2

ible about music content. "Mumford & Sons, this isn't really my kind of music. I like Jay-Z. And my grandson just e-mailed me

today that July 11 they're going to be at the Giants' stadium, so Jay-Z's not coming here."

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on April 10, 2014, hearing Index Number the Civil Court, Queens NC-001283-13/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) OCTAVIA (Last)
LAW. My present name is (First) DANIELLE (Middle) RENEE (Last) MERCIER AKA DANIELLE R MERCI-ER. My present address is 153-01 JAMAICA AVE 153-01 JAMAICA AVE #229, Jamaica, NY 11432-My place of birth is TEXAS. date of birth is August

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by that all Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on April 10, 2014, bearing the Index No.: 141/14, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, in Room 357, grants me the

the name GREGORY NORMAN
DANIEL GEORGE My
present name is GREGORY N. GEORGE a/k/a UHGE a/k/a
UHY GEORGE
GREGORY NORRICHARD a/k/ GREGORY MAN DIGITION NORMAL GREGORY NORMAN DANIEL GEORGE A/k/a GEORGE, address present address is 150-27 115th Drive, Jamaica, NY 11434, my place of birth is St. Lucia, my date of birth is November 16,

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by Civil Court, Queens County on March 04, 2014. Number NC-000013-14/QU, a copy of which may be examined

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located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) ROBERT (Last) VELASQUEZ. My present name is (First) MALE (Last) VELASQUEZ AKA VELASQUEZ. My present address is 177-50 South Conduit Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11434-4965. My place of birth is Bronx, NY. My date of birth is October 26,1971.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on March 04, 2014, bearing Index Number bearing Index Number NC-001016-13/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) DAQUAN (Last) of (First) DAQUAN (Last)
BROWN. My present name
is (First) DAQUAN (Middle)
MALIK (Last) BERRYMAN
AKA DAQUAN BROWN,
AKA BROWN, AKA DAQUAN MALIK BROWN,
AKA DAQUAN M.
DAQUAN M. BROWN. My present address is 147-38 108TH Avenue, Jamaica, 11435-5412. My place of birth is Queens, NY. My date of birth is March 31, 1992.

NOTICE OF SALE SU-PREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR DEUTSCHE ALT-A SE-ALT-A SE-MORTGAGE CURITIES MORTGAGE
LOAN TRUST, SERIES
2007-2 MORTGAGE
PASS-THROUGH CER-TIFICATES, Plaintiff, against MARIA MARSZAL AS ADMINISTRATRIX Plaintiff ADMINISTRATRIX AND HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF TOMASZ MARS ZAL, EMMA M. MARSZAL AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF TOMASZ MARSZAL,

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HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF

TOMASZ MARSZAL, MASZ M. MARSZAL HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF TOMASZ MARSZAL, et al. Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 8/17/2013 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Court-house in Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New 05/30/2014 at York on 10:00AM, premises known as 1077 SENECA AVENUE, Ridge-wood, NY 11385 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 3578 LOT 68. Approximate Approximate of amount of judgment \$701,043.28 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provibe sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 17691/12. Gregory J. Newman, Esq., Referee Gross, Polowy & Orlans, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 540, Getzville, NY 14068 Dated: April 28, 2014 1092016

NOTICE OF SALE SU-PREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY M&T Bank Plaintiff against Sandy Pedro-Ramos A/K/A Sandy Pedro et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) The Law Of-fice of Fein, Such & Crane, LLP 28 East Main Street Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale Entered January 29th, 2014 I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the Queens County Supreme Court, Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435 on May 23rd, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Premis-

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es known as 103-33 177th Jamaica, N/A 11433 Sec. Block 10330 Lot 138. All that certain Plot, Piece or Parcel of Land with the Buildings and Improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York Approximate Amount of Judg-ment is \$254,452,33 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No ment Index 24440-2012. Martha Taylor, Esq. , Referee

SUPPLEMENTAL MONS Index No.: 3575-13

Date of Filing: February 26, 2014 SUPREME COURT THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF QUEENS
JPMORGAN CHASE
BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

-against-

USHA DEV AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF AVINASH DEV, if livor if either or all be d, their wives, husdead. bands, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, assignees, administrators, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said USHA DEV AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF AVINASH DEV, by pur-chase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the husbands. respective wives, widow or widowers of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to names are unknown to plaintiff DEPRIKA DEV (IN-FANT) AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF AVINASH DEV; PRIYA DEV AS HEIR AT LAW

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AVINASH DEV, if living, or if either or all be dead, their wives, husbands, heirs-at-law, next of kin, disnext of tributees, executors, ad-ministrators, assignees, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said; PRIYA DEV AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF AVINASH DEV, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the respective husbands wives, widow or widowers of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to plaintiff RISHA DEV AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF AVINASH DEV, if living, or if either or all be dead, their wives, husbands, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or ally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said; RISHA DEV AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF AVI-NASH DEV, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or in-terest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the respective husbands, wives, spective nusbands, wives, widow or widowers of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to plaintiff USHA DEV AS GUARDIAN OF DEPRIKA DEV (INFANT) AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF WIND OF OF W KIN OF AVINASH DEV, if living, or if either or all be dead, their wives, husbands, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said; USHA DEV AS GUAR-DIAN OF DEPRIKA DEV (INFANT) AS HEIR AT (INFANT) AS HEIR AT by default for the relief de-LAW AND NEXT OF KIN manded in the complaint.

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OF AVINASH DEV, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the respective husbands, wives, widow or widowers of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to plaintiff NEW YORK CITY VIOLATIONS NEW YORK PARKING BURFAU! CITY TRANSIT ADJUDI-CATION BUREAU; NEW YORK STATE DEPART-YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND UNITED FINANCE; UNITE STATES OF AMERICA REVENUE NEW YORK INTERNAL SERVICE; ENVIRONMENTAL CITY ENVIRONMEN IAL
CONTROL BOARD; MOHAMMED B. QUAIZAR;
WASHINGTON MUTUAL
BANK FA; "JOHN DOES"
AND "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parintended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises, Defendants TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the plaintiff's attor-

ney within twenty (20) days after service of this sum-

mons, exclusive of the day

of service, where service of

this summons is made by

delivery upon you person-

ally within this state, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service

where service is made in

any other manner, and in

case of your failure to ap-

pear or answer, judgment

will be taken against

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LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the company who filed 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 atforney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the sum-mons and protect your property. Sending a pay-ment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE FOR THE (MORTGAGE ATTORNEY PLAINTIFF COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. YOU ARE HERE-BY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPT-ING TO COLLECT A
DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. TO THE TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon-orable Timothy J. Dufficy of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed December 18, and filed with supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens. State of New York. The object of this action is to foreclose a mort-gage upon the premises

described below, by AVINASH

BANK, F.A. in the principal amount of \$225,000.00,

which mortgage was re-

corded in Queens County

State of New York, on July

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2003000233482. ter said mortgage was acquired by the Plaintiff by agreement dated 2. 2008. Said October premises being known as and by 94-02 216TH STREET, QUEENS VIL-LAGE. NY 11428. Dated: December 10, 2013 Bata-York Tanisiic York Tanisiic ROSICKI, O'ATES P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Batavia Office 26 Harvester Avenue Batavia, 14020 585.815.0288 For Homeowners In closure New York Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. people may approach you g" your home. be extremely about "saving" You should careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit that you may contact for in-formation about foreclosure your lender during this pro-cess. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York
State Banking Department
at 1-877-BANKNYS at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website ing state ny us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.



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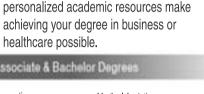
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