

Jamaica plans the future of its downtown

BY MADINA TOURE

Hundreds of Jamaica residents and leaders, elected officials and city agencies brainstormed and discussed ideas for the revitalization and improvement of Jamaica at the Jamaica Planning Initiative conference Saturday at York College.

The Mayor's Office and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz are leading the neighborhood-based Jamaica Planning Initiative to come up with short- and long-term projects to encourage and sustain Jamaica's growth.

Recommendations from residents and community leaders included better transportation, more collaboration between nonprofits, more job readiness programs and paid internships for youth, pedestrian safety and holding banking institutions accountable for revitalizing the area.

The conference provided residents and leaders with an update on the progress made since the "Fulfilling the Promise of Jamaica" conference in June. The initiative focuses on downtown Jamaica, the neighborhood's civic, commercial and regional transit hub.

"We want to keep the flavor and the culture of Jamaica and we want to make sure that with the development and with the affordable housing, we don't lose that," Katz said in opening remarks.

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica), for his part, commended residents and community leaders for their participation in the conference.

"The most precious resource, what makes Queens 'Queens,' what makes us that diamond of a borough is the people, because you know that

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Queens tunes in to Obama

Hopeful immigrants gather to weigh impact of executive order



State Sen. Jose Peralta shares his support for President Obama's executive order. **See related story on Page 5.**

Photo courtesy J. Sebastian Barreneche

BY BILL PARRY

President Obama's executive action on immigration echoed along Roosevelt Avenue, where hundreds of newcomers gathered to view the speech at watch parties last week. The corridor is famous for its ethnic neighborhoods like the old Irish and new Filipino communities in Woodside that abut the heavily Hispanic population in Jackson Heights and Corona.

At the packed offices of Make The Road New York, at

92-10 Roosevelt Ave., immigrants celebrated the policy that will shield 5 million from deportation and enable families to stay together.

"The president's announcement gives me confidence that I won't be separated from my family," undocumented immigrant Sene Vasquez said. "I came here for my family, because of poverty and violence in my country. My family faced many challenges here in the United States because of my immigrant status. Now I hope to obtain a Social Security

number which would allow me to get a job and provide for my kids, give me a sense of security."

Make The Road New York member Jorge Cedilio, a Queens resident whose undocumented wife has American-born children and will likely benefit from the policy, said, "As I understand it, this will greatly help my wife and oldest son who currently live in fear of deportation. This would keep my family together, and that's the most important thing for us."

Not everyone was pleased with what they heard from the president, whose message had particular resonance in Queens, the most ethnically diverse county in the nation and perhaps the world.

Queens resident Lina Pacio, an undocumented transgender woman said, "With the new executive action from the president, I feel excluded because I'm from the LGBT community and likely will not benefit because I don't have

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Bld of Death slows

DOT decides on a new speed limit for notorious road

BY BILL PARRY

Queens Boulevard will have its speed limit reduced after all. The commissioner of the city Department of Transportation added the dangerous thoroughfare to a list of other roadways that were slowed to 25 mph from 30 mph as part of a citywide speed limit reduction that went into effect Nov. 7.

Queens Boulevard was not included because it was deemed a major artery designed to accommodate faster driving. But Polly Trottenberg, the commissioner, had a change of heart and announced that she anticipates that the speed limit will be reduced by the end of the year.

"Lowering Queens Boulevard's speed limit to 25 mph will help save lives," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said. "For far too long, the Boulevard of Death has claimed the lives of too many innocent victims. Together along with increased enforcement by the NYPD and a reduction in the speed limit I believe we are taking a step in the right direction toward protecting the precious lives of our community's seniors, schoolchildren and families."

The boulevard cuts straight through the councilman's district from Long Island City through Woodside. State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) said, "Queens Boulevard has been known as the Boulevard of Death for far too long, and our work towards Vision Zero would not be complete without addressing this street that has too often proven fatal. I'm glad DOT plans to make Queens Boulevard safer and I hope that with time this major street will come to be known for its pedestrian plazas and



Motorists on Queens Boulevard will have to slow down as DOT lowers the speed limit to 25 mph. Photo by Bill Parry

great restaurants rather than traffic fatalities."

When U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) hosted a Vision Zero town hall in Astoria in March, he spoke of how he lost a friend on Queens Boulevard. Woodside resident Marion Kurshuk was struck and killed by a motorcycle while trying to cross the Boulevard at 58th Street just before Christmas 2013. He recalled how the 78-year-old woman was a volunteer who helped the homeless and the needy.

"Reducing the speed limit on Queens Boulevard will no

doubt help save lives," he said Monday. "For too long, this major thoroughfare has been one of the most dangerous corridors in our city. A great many of us have lost either a friend, family member or neighbor to the hazardous conditions on Queens Boulevard and I am pleased to see the DOT include it in its Vision Zero plan as they continue to work with our communities on the implementation of this much-needed initiative."

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

City works to stop floods in Laurelton

BY JUAN SOTO

The recurring image of Laurelton streets flooded after heavy rainstorms discharge their rage will soon be an image of the past.

The city began an \$18 million project to increase sewer capacity that would reduce flooding in the affected area. The city Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Design and Construction sent workers to execute a plan that includes the installation of about four miles of sewer lines and 142 new catch basins. The work will increase drainage capacity.

While work is being done and the roadway is open, the agencies will install three miles of new water mains to replace the old ones.

The project in Laurelton "will help to better drain precipitation from the roadways, reduce localized flooding and protect the homes and property of neighborhood residents," said Emily Lloyd, DEP commissioner, who described the work in the southeast Queens community as "a priority."

The city agencies will also construct more than 12,000 feet of storm sewers that will collect the precipitation that drains through the catch basins on the streets. In addition, the construction will put into place a 17,700-foot new ductile iron distribution water mains. The new mains will improve the quality and pressure of the water.

"This project should bring significant relief to homeowners and businesses that have been coping with persistent flooding," Feniosky Peña-Mora, DDC commissioner, said.

During heavy rainstorms, sewers in Laurelton overflow.



This map shows the Laurelton streets affected by the construction project. Photo courtesy DEP

The work is being done along a stretch on Brookville and Hook Creek boulevards, and between 241st and 244th streets and 134th and 131st avenues.

A similar project is being completed in Bayside, where the city agencies are installing 7,000-foot trunk water mains with a 48-inch diameter, 13,000-foot distribution mains and 657 sewer pipes.

"Neighborhoods throughout southeast Queens have long been subjected to flooded streets and excessive ponding whenever it rained," said City Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton). For Richards, the installation of the sewer infrastructure in Laurelton is "welcome news."

"The persistent flooding in Laurelton has had a significant negative impact on the neighborhood's quality of life for far too long," said Melinda Katz, the Queens borough president. She added the project will expand Laurelton's sewer capacity and will provide "residents with much needed relief from the property damage, inconvenience and safety risk that flooding can bring."

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Row New York captures prestigious city prize

Group is first Queens organization to win Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Award

BY BILL PARRY

There are more than 4,200 non-profits in the borough, representing 15 percent of the New York City total, but no Queens organization has ever won a prestigious New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Award. Until now.

Row New York, a 12-year-old Long Island City-based organization that empowers youth from under-resourced communities, was one of three nonprofits to win the award Nov. 20. The three organizations were recognized for their outstanding management practices.

"We're very excited about it," Row New York Founder and Executive Director Amanda Kraus said. "It's a seal of approval when someone that is respected takes a long look at your organization and decides, after careful analysis, that yes — they are a good nonprofit."

The Nonprofit Coordinating Committee sponsors the award.

"Basically, it's a trade association for nonprofits," awards committee member Diana Davenport said. "We're experts at analysis and run a really nice and successful program and people really pay attention to the winners. They can use the award to generate more interest and press recognition. This helps them in their fund-raising because people will know that their money is going to a well-run, professional organization."

Row New York began in 2002 with the simple idea that competitive rowing paired with rigorous academic support for underserved youth could change the trajectory of their teen years and beyond. Row New York teams have medaled at the New York State championship for six years in a row and compete regularly at regional regattas against athletes who have every advantage.

Each girl averages 1,008 hours in the year-round intensive program and it's not all on



Row New York Executive Director Amanda Kraus (c.) accepts a Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Award. Photo courtesy Kate Lord

the water. The program offers intensive academic tutoring and college preparedness with nearly 100 percent going on to higher learning, most on scholarship.

"We get girls from neighborhoods like Flushing and Jamaica, from schools that don't have much in the way of athletics, and we teach them the sport of rowing," Kraus said. "Row-

ing is the ultimate team sport where there are no stars. It's not always fun, it's hard work, but you push through it and see the rewards. It helps to forge character. They travel, compete and transform into strong confident women."

The awards are based on eight areas of excellence: focus on results; governance structure; financial management;

human resources; diversity and responsiveness; information technology; communications; and fund-raising.

"Amanda crafted her organization after our eight areas of excellence," Davenport said.

Kraus agreed, saying the focus on the eight areas helped Row New York develop into a well-run organization. "We're just over a decade old with just 23 full-timers on staff; these other winners have been around for 120 years," she said.

Leake & Watts was founded as an orphanage in 1831 and continues to give support to thousands of children. Graham Windham was founded in 1806 providing innovative child welfare and youth development programs.

As for being the first Queens nonprofit to win the award, Knaus said, "We are very aware of that, but I think Queens doesn't get the attention it deserves for all the great works its nonprofits are doing."

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Tabone trial on for '15

Federal judge dismisses request to delay his case

BY SARINA TRANGLE

A judge struck down a pregnant lawyer's bid to delay the corruption trial of former Queens GOP leader Vincent Tabone and state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis), propelling the case back to the issue that initially derailed it — Yiddish.

White Plains Federal Court Judge Kenneth Karas dismissed Deborah Misir's request to adjourn the court proceedings for Tabone, her client, until September. She sought the delay because of what she and her doctor described as a high-risk pregnancy and planned maternity leave.

But prosecutors successfully convinced the judge last week that Tabone's right to an attorney of his choice did not outweigh Smith's right to a speedy trial. They also prevailed on their point that splitting the two trials would impede the government's case.

Misir's firm called the decision disappointing.

"We believe the U.S. government should comply with the Civil Rights Act and Americans with Disabilities Act, and provide reasonable accommodation to women who have high-risk pregnancies," Lally & Misir, LLP said in a statement. "As a result of this decision, Mr. Tabone will be deprived of



Former Queens GOP Vice Chairman Vincent Tabone stands outside White Plains Federal Court.

his choice of counsel at retrial, which involves charges never before prosecuted by the U.S. government, namely the use of the federal honest services statute to prosecute political volunteers for 'disloyalty' to their political party."

Lally & Misir is a Nassau firm led by Misir and her husband Grant Lally, a Republican who lost his bid earlier this month to unseat U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Great Neck).

Karas' decision gives Tabone about six weeks to decide whether Leo Ahern, who was retained by Lally & Misir as co-counsel, will take over his case and whether he wants to hire other attorneys.

It was unclear who would represent Tabone.

Jury selection was scheduled to begin Jan. 5 in what federal prosecutors have branded as an elaborate ploy by Smith to bribe his way onto the GOP ticket in the 2013 mayoral election.

As a registered Democrat, the senator needed at least three of five county GOP parties to approve of his running on their line.

Prosecutors contend Smith routed about \$500,000 in state funding to a sham upstate project in exchange for its recipients agreeing to pony up money for his suspected bribes.

Tabone is charged with pocketing one of these alleged bribes — a \$25,000 payment — while acting as the day-to-day leader of the Queens Republican Party when its chairman, Phil Ragusa, was battling the leukemia that ultimately claimed his life.

Lawyers for both have maintained their innocence.

A jury previously found

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Sunnyside BID big on Small Biz Saturday

BY BILL PARRY

Sunnyside takes Small Business Saturday very seriously.

Commissioner Maria Torres-Springer, of the city Department of Small Business Services, held a roundtable discussion with neighborhood business leaders last week at Los Verdes, a restaurant at 46-26 Greenpoint Ave.

Sunnyside Shines, the area's Business Improvement District, plans a kick-off event for Small Business Saturday at noon on Bliss Plaza at 46th Street and Queens Boulevard. The BID will have the official release of its first-ever Shop Local Holiday Gift Guide in partnership with photography students from LaGuardia Community College. The full-color brochure features gift ideas from 22 neighborhood stores with over 35,000 copies printed this month.

"Resources like the Sunnyside Shines Shop Local Holiday Gift Guide are creative, important tools to help promote local business and engage residents as they start shopping for the holiday season," Torres-Springer said at the Nov. 20 talk. "We look forward to continue working with Sunnyside Shines to strengthen local businesses and support this dynamic Queens neighborhood."

More than 18,000 of the guides were mailed to area residents this week and the remainder will be handed out during the kick-off event.

"I am delighted that the BID has produced a holiday gift guide to promote local businesses like mine in the neighborhood," Bing's Hallmark owner Czarrina An-

dres said. "Every bit of publicity helps local business. Launching the gift guide on Small Business Saturday is a perfect way to make the community more aware of the importance of shopping locally."

In addition, Sunnyside Shines will again sponsor a holiday window photo contest to encourage area stores to decorate their windows for the holidays. That is combined with the decorations the BID puts up along Queens Boulevard and Greenpoint Avenue to make the district more inviting to holiday shoppers.

"Sunnysiders understand the importance of shopping locally, but we wanted to make it even easier by publishing the gift guide and promoting local business on Small Business Saturday," Sunnyside Shines Executive Director Rachel Thieme said. The kick-off event begins at noon this Saturday with free giveaways, live music and further distribution of the gift guides.

Two classes at LaGuardia Community College contributed research and design ideas along with the photography for the project. Hector Fernandez and Nicole Lytle of the Business & Technology Department at the school called it a valuable collaborative effort between faculty, students and the BID.

"Students learned a great deal about small business needs, working efficiently on short timelines, and the importance of effective communication with several parties — experience that will carry them into their business careers," they said.



Bing's Hallmark owner Czarrina Andres takes part in a Small Business Saturday promotion. Photo courtesy Sunnyside Shines

Astoria honors two WWII vets

BY BILL PARRY

Astoria honored two of its oldest residents: Sal Gagliardo was celebrated for his service to the country and community on the occasion of his 100th birthday, and his much younger friend, Luke Gasparre, was honored as well at the age of 90.

Both men were recipients of Bronze Stars for bravery during World War II and returned home to serve Astoria civically and politically.

"I've known these men pretty much all of my life," featured speaker Peter Vallone, Sr. said. "I couldn't imagine Astoria without them. They're all that's good about this place."

The event was sponsored by the Catholic War Veterans Post #1 and it drew more than 100



Sal Gagliardo and Luke Gasparre share a laugh as the birthday cake is cut. Photo courtesy Peter Figetakis

veterans, community activists, family and friends to the Hellenic Federation at 22-51 29th St. last Friday.

"To have that many people turn out on such a cold night says a lot about those two men," Astoria Civic Association President Antonio Meloni said. "It was really heartwarming to

see."

Gagliardo saw combat in both the Pacific and European Theaters. "He fought after Pearl Harbor and returned home to train with the OSS because he spoke Italian, then they sent him to work with the Italian partisans against the Nazis," Meloni said. The Office of Strategic Services was the forerunner of the CIA.

"Then he comes back and becomes the first president of the Astoria Civic Association and spends decades on Community Board 1," Meloni said.

Vallone, who represented Astoria on the City Council for more than three decades, added, "I put him on City Planning because of his brilliant mind

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Electeds back Obama on boro immigrants

BY BILL PARRY

Queens has become such a bastion of immigrant rights in recent years that when President Obama issued his executive order, the borough's only Republican elected official, City Councilman Eric Ulrich (D-Ozone Park), did not release a statement. Others did.

City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst), who represents the most immigrant-dense district in New York City, said, "The families in my community — the heart of the immigrant community in New York — that have worked long and hard deserve this opportunity to lead respectable lives free of the fear of deportation."

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing), the daughter of immigrants, said, "I welcome the president's broad and bold step to improve the nation's broken immigration system. Of course, I prefer Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform; but with the GOP leadership still refusing to act, the president had no choice but to use his authority; the same authority have also used on immigration. Nearly a year-and-a-



Make The Road New York will help community members apply for relief.

Photo courtesy J. Sebastian Barreneche

half after the Senate approved bipartisan legislation to overhaul our country's immigration laws, the bill continues to hang in limbo. Families remain separated, people continue to live in the shadows and progress is virtually non-existent."

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks

(D-Jamaica) also applauded Obama's decision. He said Obama's executive action "is an important step towards fixing our decades-old broken immigration system."

The congressman said immigration reform "will not only provide relief and clar-

ity to hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are living as second-class citizens, but it will create jobs, strengthen small business, fuel innovation, reduce the deficit, and energize the economy."

Two lead sponsors of the Dream Act, that failed to pass in Albany in March and would have allowed state financial aid programs to cover the college children of undocumented immigrants, added their support for Obama's announcement.

"The good news is that millions of upstanding, hardworking undocumented immigrants will now be able to continue contributing to our economy without having to live in fear of deportation," state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) said. "The bad news is that millions of other upstanding, hardworking, undocumented immigrants will remain in the shadows of our economy and society."

State Assemblyman Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights) added, "As a lawmaker who represents a part of New York with a large immigrant community, I am intimately aware of how deportation rips families apart and tears our social fabric. Regularizing the status of undocu-

mented immigrants who have deep economic and familial ties to the U.S. will allow our economy, our law enforcement and our society to function better."

When Mayor Bill de Blasio last week signed two laws that limit the city's cooperation with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement deportations, he came to Corona. Two weeks later he is planning to bring at least 20 of the nation's mayors together for a summit at Gracie Mansion Dec. 8 to determine how to move forward and implement the president's executive order.

"This summit will offer a unique opportunity for mayors of many of our nation's progressive cities to restate our leadership and responsibility on this decisive issue," de Blasio said, adding that the mayors will develop "an unbeatable master plan that truly prepares our localities for swift implementation of changes and also advocates for further reforms from the municipal level all the way of to Washington."

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Carpenters' union takes on Jamaica Development Corp.

BY SARINA TRANGLE

The Greater Jamaica Development Corp. has heralded The Crossing, a \$225 million mixed use development slated for its property beside the LIRR stop, but one union contends the project offers surrounding residents anything but a bridge to betterment.

Michael Donnelly, a New York City District Council of Carpenters representative, said GJDC neglected the union's offer to train local residents while constructing The Crossing and find them employment after the planned towers rose above Sutphin and Archer avenues.

"They said, 'We're selling the land.' And we said, 'Why don't you put in the contracts that you have to employ people from the neighborhood, provide health care and all



Greater Jamaica board member Isa Abdur-Rahman (l.) listens as Executive Vice President Andrew Manshel discusses plans for new development.

that?" Donnelly said, noting he did not get a clear answer on whether any agreements had been signed. "Greater Jamaica doesn't care one way or another, as long as they get their building done."

No deed or land disposition has been signed for 93-01 Sutphin Blvd., which Greater Jamaica Development Corp. plans to sell to BRP Devel-

opment Corporation for the 25-story and 14-story development. The towers will stand above 300 parking spots, 100,000 square feet of retail and community space and reserve half of the 580 apartments for those making less than the area median income, according to GJDC's website.

GJDC, a non-profit dedicated to revitalizing Jamaica through responsible development, characterized its meeting with the District Council of Carpenters as productive.

"We had a very positive meeting with the carpenters union and shared the discussion with BRP," a spokesman for GJDC said in a statement. "It is our mission that these projects should be done for the benefit of the community, including those who work on

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City Council pushes 10-cent plastic bag fee

BY JUAN SOTO

To pay or not to pay?

That's what the City Council is trying to decide when it comes to the future of the urban plastic bag. Some Council members support a bill calling for a 10-cent fee on every plastic bag stores give out to their customers when they shop for groceries, electronics or clothing.

Supporters argue the fee will help the environment by reducing waste. But opponents say the 10-cent charge is just another tax on New Yorkers disguised as a fee.

Proponents of the bill maintained plastic bags "are among the more problematic types of trash and litter." They added that it takes the bags between 500 and 1,000 years "to decompose in a landfill," according to the Committee

on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management.

Some municipalities in Calif., including San Jose, Los Angeles and Santa Monica, have banned plastic bags outright, and they have added a fee for paper bags.

And across the Atlantic, Ireland, for example, imposed a 15-euro cent per bag in 2002, reducing plastic bag use by 90 percent.

According to the Sanitation Department, the city generates about 100,000 tons of plastic bags a year at a cost of \$10 million. The city agency said plastic bags accounted for about 2 percent of the city's waste stream in 2013.

I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) and Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton) are two of the 21 councilmen sponsoring the bill.

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Astoria Cove gets Council's full approval

BY BILL PARRY

The massive Astoria Cove project finally got the green light Tuesday when the full City Council voted unanimously in favor of the plan. The vote was perfunctory, having passed through the Land Use subcommittee last week.

City Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-Astoria) pushed for additional affordable housing units during the final phase of the six-month approval process. After negotiations with 2030 Astoria Developers stretched into the final minute, the builders agreed to make 27 percent of the residential floor area of the building available to varying income levels.

"Residential development in the 21st century must be innovative, contextual and inclusive of its community," Constantinides said outside City Hall. "I am proud to have reached this goal by passing this historic agreement at Astoria Cove."

The project proposes to transform an isolated and underutilized area of the Hallets

Point peninsula. "This transformational project will be one of the most environmentally friendly and sustainable in the city's history," 2030 Astoria Developers Managing Partner John Mavroudis said. "It will result in a public waterfront esplanade with two-acres of parkland, a 456-seat elementary school, 110,000-square-feet of street-level retail, and so much more. Astoria Cove will bring overdue and significant investment to transform the future of the immediate community and enable connections to the rest of Astoria."

The deal was seen as a coup for the de Blasio administration because it was a test case for his new mandatory inclusionary zoning policy, which requires developers to include affordable units as a precondition for construction.

"For the first time in city history, the developer will be required by law to provide permanently affordable housing that is within reach of Astorians," Constantinides said. "In one of the largest agreements on affordable housing in city



Councilman Costa Constantinides talks about Astoria Cove getting final approval Tuesday.
Photo courtesy Costa Constantinides

history, a record 27 percent of the development will be permanently reserved for low- and middle-income households. The development will also use a fully unionized work force, bringing good jobs in an area that needs them."

Jay Valgora, the architect who designed Astoria Cove as well as the nearby Hallets Point project that was approved by the City Council last year, said, "It's the right project for the community and it achieves

everyone's goals. Right now it's nothing but dirt roads with trailers on it and fences keeping the public away from the waterfront. We want to break down the walls and reconnect the community with their waterfront."

Astoria Houses Resident Association President Claudia Conger and Vice President Renee Edwards are supporters of the project.

"The Astoria Houses are in arguably one of the most

segregated pockets of poverty in Queens, and it's been that way for decades," they said in a joint statement. "Now the Astoria Cove development offers a chance to help change that for the better. This project will bring hundreds of construction and permanent jobs to the neighborhood for residents to take advantage of."

Transportation issues in Astoria led Community Board 1 and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz to not endorse the plan during the early stages of the approval process. The mayor's office agreed to commit \$5 million toward the construction of a ferry dock to help make the deal happen.

"This agreement shows what we can achieve when the private and public sectors work together," Constantinides said. "This agreement provides real benefits to the neighborhood and will also help further link our booming communities along the East River."

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POLICE Blotter

Flushing doctor accused of fraud

FLUSHING — A Flushing doctor is facing charges of defrauding six insurance companies out of more than \$25,000 by billing them for medical services that he never provided, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said last week.

Dr. Stanley Sangwook-Kim, 41, of Manhasset, L.I., who has a medical practice at 33-34 Parsons Blvd., and is the director of the surgical residency program at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, was arraigned Nov. 19 before Queens Criminal Court Judge Michelle Armstrong.

He is facing charges related to insurance fraud, grand larceny, petit larceny, criminal possession of stolen property, falsifying business records and scheme to defraud, the DA said. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

"To a dishonest healthcare provider, a patient's medical data is like having access to their credit card — and can be more valuable as most people scrutinize their credit card statements much more closely than they do explanation of benefits printouts," Brown said in a

statement.

"Today's criminal charges send a clear message to those who attempt to fleece the system for their own personal gain that law enforcement's fight against insurance fraud is ongoing and that those who cheat will be sought out and prosecuted," he continued.

Kim is accused of submitting more than \$63,000 in fraudulent claims to six health insurance carriers — Aetna, Cigna, United Healthcare, Affinity Health Plan, Optum Health

Care (United Healthcare) and Health Plus (Amerigroup) — for medical treatment he allegedly provided to 13 patients between May 2012 and September 2013, Brown said. He did not provide services during that time period, the DA contended.

Kim was released on his own recognition.

His next court date is Dec. 10. St. John's Episcopal Hospital started its internal investigation, according to Thomas Thompson, assistant to the chief executive officer.

NYPD detective sentenced in DUI

HOWARD BEACH — Former New York City Police Detective Jay Poggi was sentenced on charges of driving while under the influence of alcohol and reckless assault, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Tuesday.

Queens Criminal Court Judge Ernest Hart sentenced Poggi, 57, of Long Island, to participate in a Victim Impact Panel, have an ignition interlock device placed on vehicles registered in his name and a \$500 fine. Poggi already completed a 12-week alcohol treatment program. His driving privileges were also suspended.

Poggi pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and third-degree assault.

On April 21, Poggi showed his Smith and Wesson revolver to his partner, Detective Matthew Sullivan. The weapon discharged, leaving Sullivan with a gunshot wound in his right wrist. The officers were in an unmarked police vehicle parked on Cross Bay Boulevard and 165th Avenue in Howard Beach. Poggi drove Sullivan to Jamaica Hospital.

A field sobriety test at the hospital revealed that Poggi's blood alcohol content level was .113 percent, above the legal limit of .08 percent in New York. Poggi refused to submit a Breathalyzer test at the 112th Precinct.

Poggi was officially terminated May 23.

Jax Hghts man shot

JACKSON HEIGHTS — Police from the 115th Precinct answered a 911 call Monday at a residence on 93rd Street near 32nd Avenue where they discovered a man in his 20s with a gunshot wound to the head, the NYPD said.

Police say the victim was taken to Elmhurst Hospital Center, where he was listed in critical condition.

There have been no arrests and the investigation was continuing, according to police.

Baby, 3, found dead

ROSEDALE — A 3-year-old girl in Rosedale died after she was found unconscious Saturday morning, according to police.

Police found Kay-lee Williams, unconscious at her Rosedale home on 246-18 137th Ave., Saturday at 10:34 a.m. She was taken to Franklin General Hospital in Valley Stream, where she was pronounced dead.

According to a police spokesman, Williams' mother stated that she left her child playing in her room unattended for a second and found her unresponsive with a plastic bag over her head.

The investigation is ongoing. A medical examiner will determine the cause of death.

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Boro industrial execs sound off on city study

BY SARINA TRANGLE

Manufacturing zone leaders are hoping a recent city study will usher in a more industrious era for the sector, particularly those in Queens staving off residential encroachment.

The City Council released a study last week of industrial districts and proposed three new zoning codes — a stronger industrial overlay that requires permits for non-manufacturing uses; a creative economy district integrating industrial uses with tech, media and art businesses; and mixed-use residential-commercial areas that retain manufacturing companies through mandates or incentives.

The study found about 10 percent of the city's private work force is employed by industrial companies. They report contended manufacturing businesses and related wholesale, transportation, warehousing and utilities work pays an average salary of \$51,000, nearly double that of the nightlife, dining and service jobs that typically replace them.

The study stressed that the sector is particularly lucrative for immigrants who may not have access to education. And merchant leaders seemed to agree.

"Manufacturing jobs are the kind of jobs that immigrants with very little education can get a foothold and build an economic base for themselves in this country," said Theodore Renz, executive director of the Ridgewood Local Development Corp.

Legislators representing districts with at least 10 percent of constituents employed in the industrial sector included all but six of the borough's

14 Council members — Paul Vallone (D-Bayside), Cost Constantinides (D-Astoria), Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens), Rory Lacnman (D-Hillcrest), Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills) and Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton), according to the study.

After decades of decline, the report said the sector held steady from 2010 to 2013 and grew 4 percent during 2013-14.

To cultivate continued growth, the report proposed three zoning types to supplement the Industrial Business Zones, an initiative developed in 2006 to prevent manufacturing businesses from getting priced out of the city. IBZs offer companies tax incentives to move to the zones and come with the city's pledge not to re-zone those areas.

The report floated an Industrial Employment District overlay plan, which would require City Planning Commission permits for other uses, such as hotels, offices or entertainment venues, and allow bulkier buildings with less parking space.

Jean Tanler, the Maspeth Industrial Business Association coordinator, said fewer limitations on building size and height could go a long way toward shoring up industrial zones because it would increase landlords' likelihood of profiting from industrial tenants.

"If they are limited to one story, it would be a low return for an industrial use," she said.

The second proposal called for a creative economy district that would authorize commercial office space additions to industrial buildings, while requiring that a minimum square-foot-space remain re-

Continued on Page 61

No pride in prejudice

Head of QCC Holocaust center wants all stories told

BY JUAN SOTO

Arthur Flug retired at the turn of the century after 40 years of work, first at the city's Board of Education and then with a Queens lawmaker because "I wanted time for myself."

But before he could enjoy his retirement, he decided to pack his suitcase and volunteer for a few months with the Israeli Army. He was 61.

As a volunteer with the army, he drove military trucks, worked at military warehouses and army bases. "I rolled up my sleeves and got my hands dirty," said Flug, the middle child of a Polish immigrant Jewish couple who came to the United States in 1920.

It was his third visit to the Middle Eastern country.

"I felt I needed to do more than just be a tourist," Flug, who is now executive director of the Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College, said.

But before he went back to work and ended up at the helm of the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg campus center, Flug was the director of the Manhattan's American Jewish Congress delegation and worked for U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside), then City Councilman David Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens).

One day, Eduardo Martí, then president of the Bayside college, met Flug when he was Weprin's chief of staff. The head of QCC was requesting city funding for the academic institution.

Soon after, Flug said, it was time to retire once again. He was 68.

Then his phone rang. Martí was on the other side of the line.

The QCC president told Flug, who was an assistant principal at JHS 109 in Queens Village from 1968 to 1979, about the Holocaust Center located in the college library's basement.

"He asked me to do community outreach one day a week, and I said why not," he recalled. "The day a week became more, and when the director of the Holocaust Center (William Schulman) left, I became the director."

Schulman started the center. "I just picked up where he left," said Flug, who between



Arthur Flug poses next to a Torah at the Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College. Photo by Juan Soto

1990 and 1999 was district administrator for Ackerman.

"We then looked to expand the center, and after heavy duty fund-raising we put up the new building," he said, referring to the current house for the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives.

Flug couldn't have had a better 70th birthday.

On Oct. 18, 2009, the Holocaust center officially opened. Since then the research center has expanded. "I woke up that morning with a big smile," he said. "Not because it was my birthday, but because I said I know now what I want to do when I grow up."

The mission of the center is to educate the public using the lessons learned in the Holocaust about racism, prejudice and stereotyping. It goes beyond the Nazis. At the Bayside campus, Flug said, a majority of the 17,000 students "haven't heard of the Holocaust because they come from over 150 countries where the Holocaust is not really on the curriculum."

At the center, three internship programs stand out. In one of them, students are trained to interview a Holocaust survivor. "It is a way to study about the Holocaust from someone that was there," Flug said. As the survivor population is aging, Flug pointed out, "we made a commitment to see that they are not forgotten. The students retell their stories."

Flug estimated there are about 4,000 Holocaust survivors living in Queens.

In the Asian Social Justice Program, students learned about the 200,000 teenage girls,

known as comfort women, rounded up by the Japanese Army in Korea and other parts of Asian and sent to military brothels.

And the third program is the Hate Crimes internship, in which students study the New York State Hate Crimes Law.

Flug grew up on Manhattan's Lower East Side, in a five-story walk-up tenement at the intersection of Delancy and Orchard streets.

At the age of 12, the family left the island behind and moved to South Jamaica. "Moving to Queens from the Lower East Side was considered a step up back then," he said.

In southeast Queens, his father opened up Sam's Candy Store at 157th street and Rockaway Boulevard in 1951. The family-owned operation lasted 15 years until 1966.

Flug remembers his father opening the store at 5 a.m., and closing the shop at 10 p.m.

"My brothers and I helped before going to school with getting the newspapers and other stuff ready," Flug said. "After coming home from school and having dinner, we went to the store to work and do our homework on the store's counter."

He went to PS 45 in Jamaica, JHS 109, and then graduated from the now-closed Jamaica High School. He was a history major at Queens College.

Come Dec. 31, he plans to retire, again. He hopes the third time is a charm. His wife, a Supreme Court judge, will retire a year after him.

"I am 75. I am in the home stretch," he said. "There are a lot of things I want to do I don't even know about."



A restaurant equipment manufacturing company is slated to move into a former FDNY facility in the Maspeth Industrial Business Zone.

108th gets new commander who knows nabe

Veteran of NYPD Highway Patrol pledges to crack down on drunk drivers

BY BILL PARRY

If you are going to drink and drive, it's best you don't travel through western Queens now that Capt. John Travaglia is in command at the 108th Precinct. From his new station house at 5-47 50th Ave. Travaglia will oversee the squad that covers Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside and a chunk of Maspeth where burglaries and property-related crime normally rank high on the priority list.

The new commander will put traffic concerns right at the top of that list after spending nearly half of his 22 years at the NYPD on the Highway Patrol.

"This precinct is in the crossroads of the city's nightlife, including Astoria," Travaglia said. "You've got drivers coming off the Queensboro Bridge and through the Midtown Tunnel using the big thoroughfares like the Long Island Expressway and Queens

and Northern Boulevards. I've seen too many drunk driving incidents in the 108 over the years. They've had a great DWI program already in place and I think I can improve on it."

The captain also believes his Highway Patrol experience gives him the upper hand in further implementing Mayor Bill de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative. "No question, it absolutely does give me an edge in that department," he said.

This will be Travaglia's first time as a commanding officer after spending the last eight months as the executive officer at the 114th Precinct in Astoria. Before that the self-described Jets fan from Long Island spent 3 1/2 years at the 104th Precinct in Maspeth.

"Between Highway Patrol and the two precincts, you can say I have a great familiarity with the streets of western Queens, a great familiarity with the entire region," he said. After beginning his



Capt. John Travaglia, holding his son Joseph, has been named commander of the 108th Precinct.

Photo courtesy Capt. John Travaglia

career in 1993 at the 105th Precinct in Queens Village, Travaglia moved on to stints at the 113th in Jamaica and

the 104th in Ridgewood.

Travaglia's latest move fills the post that was vacated two weeks ago when the NYPD shifted Capt. Brian Hennessy to the larger 114th Precinct in Jackson Heights. Both men believe that community policing is a core component of the NYPD's methodology and Travaglia plans to work diligently to build on the efforts of his predecessor.

"I was telling my officers just the other day that I love Capt. Hennessy," Travaglia said. "I've known him for years. He's a wonderful guy, very involved with the community. He's left me with a well running ship. There's nothing I see here in the 108th that needs to be changed. I'll just put my touch on things during the next few months."

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

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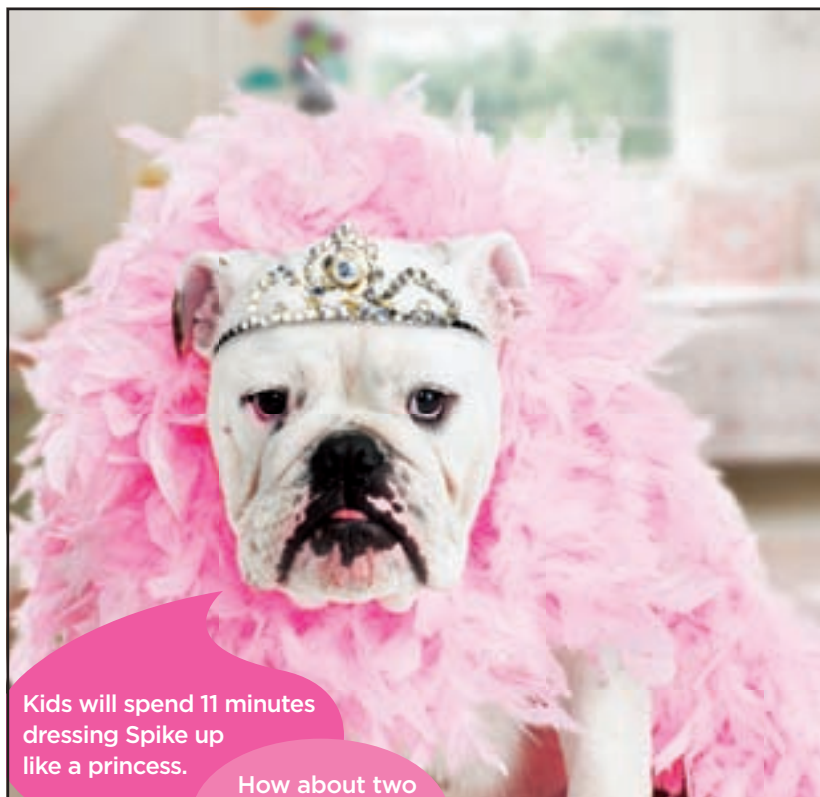
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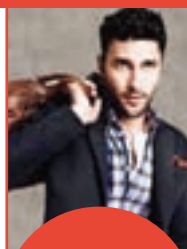
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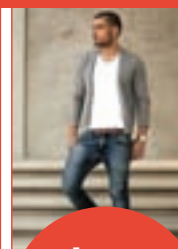
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DELIVERING DREAMS

President Obama's bold move to break the logjam in Washington over immigration reverberated across Queens, where nearly half the population is foreign-born.

His executive order to protect the undocumented parents of American citizens by deferring their deportation and giving them the right to work was felt in every corner of the nation's most ethnically diverse county.

About four million people will be eligible for the new program, while another million will have greater protection against deportation. We don't know how many in Queens will be covered by Obama's reform package, but a more accurate accounting of who lives here will give the city a better handle on school crowding, illegal conversions and emergency services.

It should also paint a truer population picture of Queens and the entire state in the next Census, which could lead to more congressional seats in the future.

Even before Obama acted, New York City had stopped police from routinely referring undocumented immigrants arrested for minor infractions, such as parking tickets, to the federal government to be detained for long periods and then deported. Under the new plan, only high-priority suspects will be targeted, which presents a danger, of course.

The president's order is far from perfect, but it's a long overdue step in the right direction. Queens is filled with stories about families broken apart by deportation, people working in the shadows with no benefits just an illness away from losing their livelihood and families living six to a room in windowless basements.

What must not be overlooked, however, is the long list of people who are here legally but waiting for their green cards, family members ready to emigrate after filing applications years ago and the partners of foreign-born professionals assigned to under-served areas who cannot work. Striking a fair balance is imperative.

The Republicans will battle Obama on his humanitarian move, but the gates have finally opened to people in Queens who have worked here for years and deserve a real crack at the American dream.



OTHER VOICES

Beware of gridlock at PS 188

I am a resident of Hartland Avenue where PS 188 is located. I have been looking for some help with the dismissal time problems we residents of the block have been experiencing.

The parents who are picking up their children have been parking across our driveways and leaving their cars. As a result, when we come home during this time, we either have to drive around the block until the parent returns to his or her car and vacates our driveway entrance or we are forced to double park, blocking the flow of traffic. Some parents are even pulling up into our driveways (which is private property) and leaving their cars there while they walk up to the school to pick up their children.

I have contacted the principal, but she will not help. I know of

several other principals of public schools in the neighborhoods who are out there preventing parents from parking in residents' driveways, but the principal of PS 188 refuses to do that.

I have contacted the police, but their answer is that they don't have enough cars. A small mobile unit could give out enough tickets between parents double parked and leaving unattended vehicles, to blocked driveways, to parking in front of fire hydrants, to meet the precinct's ticket quota for a month.

I have contacted the Civic Association and they have helped but once the requests from the association to the school get old, the problem resumes.

I have contacted Mr. Weprin, but unless this problem is monitored on a regular basis it will

never ever improve.

I have been told that I must take care of this on my own. Really? Should I park in front of my blocked driveway and refuse to move? Should I barrel my way out of my driveway so I can get to work on time?

What is a reasonable solution? The ones who can actually do something about it, won't.

I invite you to come to Hartland Avenue at 2:30 p.m., to actually witness what goes on.

The blatant disregard that some of these parents have for property that belongs to someone else is appalling. They are rude and curse prolifically when confronted about the illegal parking.

Liz Grasso
Bayside

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Find some time to help your neighbors

I had gotten a phone call a while back from an old friend from my old neighborhood in Queens Village. His name is Henry and he is over 90 now and still hanging in there as last I heard.

It was good to reminisce about old times and how the old neighborhood has changed and how some things have remained the same. He told me his wife Teresa had passed away before Christmas a few years back but he still attends St. Joachin and Anne parish in Queens Village. He tells me some of the priests retired or have moved on but the message is the same, "Love

one another."

As I had hung up the phone, it occurred to me what a good neighbor Henry was to me and my family and how he put a proper focus in my life. Back in 1963, my mother died and I was 14 years old and living with my father, who was 72 years old and said he had to remain strong for me. We didn't have family close by and we were really hurting. My father had friends and distant relatives who said, "if you need anything be free to call."

But Henry was different, he actually came over to help. He got my father to write a list of what he needed from the grocery

store because we didn't have a car and he had troubling walking and I was in school. He told us he traveled to various stores to get the very best prices. Henry told me that I had an increase in responsibilities because my father would need a lot of help. He showed me how to clean the house and how to do simple repairs. Now, he wouldn't do the work and I would have to do it myself and he would be back to inspect my work.

I think he imbued in me a deep sense of responsibility that has stayed with me my entire life. So much so, later in

life I had dedicated myself to serving the community and St. Anastasia parish in Douglaston and today I have worked for Northeast Plumbing in Mineola for 35 years and I am also Grand Knight of St. Anastasia Knights of Columbus Council #5911.

I guess my gripe is that today how many of us see a neighbor hurting and just offer sympathy and lip service and don't go the extra mile. Some may say they don't have the time to help others because they have their own families who need them as well.

Well, Henry found the time and he had a full-time job and four children to be concerned with. I think we all should try to help our neighbors in need and do our best even though we may be going out of our way to do so.

Now, to my old neighbor Henry who as a teenager I would respectfully call, "Mr. Herte," let me say thanks for being such a good neighbor, mentor and a friend for you are truly very special indeed.

*Frederick R. Bedell Jr.
Glen Oaks Village*

Animals owed respect just like human beings

The story about the man who hung 25 dead cats from trees is just appalling.

What would possess a person to commit such heinous acts of violence against innocent animals? This man needs to be prosecuted to the fullest extent that the law will allow for committing such a horrible crime.

There is no respect for animals anymore. There is no reason for what this sick and demented individual did to those poor, innocent cats.

Animals, like people, have a right to live their lives without being harmed. What is happening to our society?

*John Amato
Fresh Meadows*

Major snow may be norm in our warming world

The monster snowstorm in Buffalo last week was downright scary. But storms like this are exactly the sort of extreme weather that climate scientists predict will become more frequent in New York unless we rein in the carbon pollution fueling global warming.

We know what we have to do: limit carbon from the largest sources — our power plants — and shift to clean energy like wind, solar, and energy efficiency. And that's just what the Environmental Protection Agency would do under the newly proposed Clean Power Plan.

But instead of letting EPA

do its job, polluters' allies in Congress are actually threatening to shut down the government instead of cutting carbon from power plants.

It's time for New Yorkers, along with our leaders like Gov. Andrew Cuomo, to do everything they can to support EPA's action.

Gov. Cuomo has stuck up for our health by investing significantly in renewable energy. Now it's time for him to come up with a strong plan that uses wind and solar energy to beat the Clean Power Plan targets.

*Heather Leibowitz
Director of Environment NY*

Election Day brings little change

On Nov. 4, Americans rejected President Barack Obama and his progressive agenda and elected a majority of Republicans to Congress as well as many state governments.

The Democrats lost because the voters rejected their redistributionist liberal policies, but they claim it was simply because the voters were not sufficiently informed of the awesome utopia that is planned for them.

The Republicans, on the other hand, campaigned with nothing more than a tepid antipathy to Obamacare and no clear discernible mission or agenda. They think the voters elected them to simply avoid gridlock, to compromise, to reach across the aisle and accommodate the opposition as

Republicans are wont to do.

The sad reality is that the Republican Party of today is not the party that was embraced by President Ronald Reagan. It rarely speaks of the virtues of self-reliance, creativity and achievements of man, enabled and empowered by the Constitution, but echoes the grumbling and grouching of those whose life styles are supported by our unselfish generosity.

Social programs have become entitlements and attempts to curtail them provoke accusations of bigotry and racism.

The priorities of our representatives are not in sync with those of most Americans.

The growing unsustainable debt, unemployment, a flawed Affordable Care Act, terror-

ist threats and beheadings, racial tensions, uncontrolled borders are some of the issues that affect my life and pursuit of happiness.

Our representatives have exhibited neither concern nor outrage at the revelations by Jonathan Gruber of the great con called Obamacare, the intimidation of citizens by the IRS, the porous border, the abuse of our veterans by the VA, unexamined and uncontrolled spending, the egregious unconstitutional abuse of Executive Orders by the president.

There is no doubt that all we've done is just rearranged the chairs on the deck of the Titanic.

*Ed Konecnik
Flushing*

Contact the newsroom:

718-260-4545 • timesledgernews@cnglocal.com

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten, and those longer than 300 words may be edited for brevity and clarity. All letters must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. Names may be withheld from publication if requested, but anonymously sent letters will not be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday noon to appear in the next week's paper. All letters become the property of Queens Publishing Corporation and may be republished in any format.

Time to fix our country's voting system



William Lewis
Political Action

tracts. All 50 states have state and local Boards of Elections to supervise voting procedures.

Up to the 1930's and 1940's, most states used paper ballots for elections. That being the case, it was believed there was a significant amount of fraud in the process such as voting more than once at several locations and people voting under different names.

Once voting machines came into being, it was at first believed by some political observers that total honesty would be restored to our voting system with paper ballots gone. Our voting procedures would be improved for future elections. However, in due time fraudulent means came into the system.

Paper ballots came back from the standpoint of absentee ballots cast through the

mail by people who did not go to the polls and vote on Election Day. This system raises the possibility that someone other than the person designated to sign the ballot, signed and sent in the vote. In recent years, absentee paper ballots have increased enormously.

There have been calls for online voting. If such a system came into being, it would bring into question constant challenges to voting results.

Some states have started early voting, weeks before the fall scheduled election. Some voters who vote early may want to change their vote by the time of the regularly scheduled election.

To ensure the maximum check on the system, elections should all be held on the same day. The Boards of Elections should encourage citizens to go to the polls and vote rather

than send in paper absentee ballots.

In the State of Israel when they have national elections, no absentee ballots are allowed. All citizens who vote must go to the voting sites to cast their votes. Elections in Israel are usually over by the evening hours. There is no waiting for absentee ballots to be counted in close elections.

With the constant increase in paper ballots, it is becoming increasingly difficult to monitor the results in a reasonable amount of time.

It is not helpful to the American voting system for the election results in some elections, especially statewide races, to be known weeks and sometimes months after the election was held.

In Great Britain elections results are usually known within hours after the polls

are closed. It would be beneficial to our voting system to move in that direction.

In recent years there have been efforts to allow non-citizens who are legal residents of the United States, to vote in local citywide elections.

This type of voting will challenge the very concept of what is an American citizen. If a non-citizen can vote, then they may be eligible for other citizen benefits as well.

This concept brings into being the question as to who is a U.S. citizen. Possibly it should be more carefully defined in our federal Constitution.

Voting is the right of a U.S. citizen only. That has always been the case.

We are a nation of citizens and voting is one of our most important rights. Hopefully, that will continue.

Our democratic system of government has always, since its founding, featured American citizens voting at the local level for candidates to represent them for town, city and state government.

The entire state votes as one unit for U.S. president, vice president, the U.S. Senate and governor. We have just seen a portion of our states voting on Nov. 4 for the Senate and governorships.

In federal elections, only U.S. congressional seats are broken down according to dis-

Bringing back the middle class to America



Tom Allon
Mayoral Spin Cycle

It seems that our government has in the past decade leaned in favor of "the haves" and that is why there is a perception of a shrinking "middle class." Income inequality has widened, with CEOs and financial industry leaders making an ever-growing piece of the national pie. Tech industry start-ups have lavished gobs of money on enterprising entrepreneurs and so everyone under 30 these days seems to be working on developing a new app.

But we need to keep sight of the fact that there are three important things in society that are making it very difficult for working-class people to make ends meet. In many urban centers like New York, people spend more than 35 percent of their net income on housing. Even with Obamacare trying to bring down costs, health care coverage costs continue to spiral upward. And perhaps the most egregious problem stressing not just middle class parents, but also their children, is the outlandish cost of

higher education.

Housing, health care, and education are the pillars of our society, and they shouldn't be so expensive that working families feel that they will drown in debt in order to attain them.

Now, with the holiday season approaching, it is a good time for us all to take stock of our station in life and to count our blessings, even if we are not one of the one percent or one of "the haves." If you are relatively healthy, and those in your family and circle of friends are healthy, then you are very lucky. If you have a roof overhead and food on the table, then you should consider yourself lucky. If you have a job that you look forward to each day and work with people who you trust and respect, then you are also very lucky.

If you have someone in your life who you can talk to about your triumphs and defeats and who loves you through all life's ups and downs, then you are extra lucky. If you feel that your children and the next

generation can benefit from your hard work to make a world better than the one you were born into, then you have an important purpose in life.

If those things mentioned here mean more to you than material wealth, then you are part of life's "upper class." You have figured out what matters in life and you have your priorities straight.

Being "middle class" is still certainly something many of us should aspire to, but it's more than just about your income and material wealth. Being "middle class" should mean that you are content with your lot in life and that you are contributing to the betterment of society. Being "middle class" could mean that you recognize that life is not a "zero sum" game and that you can make things better for those around you in many ways that have nothing to do with money or possessions.

It seems to me that "middle class values" are probably something that we should all

strive for: from the poor to the .001 percent. These values are that an honest day's work should be rewarded with an honest day's pay. That you can provide for yourself and your family, while making sure that those you work with can do the same. "Middle class values" can mean that you are content with yourself and with your life, so that you have enough time and energy to make life better for your family, your friends and your colleagues.

So, I think we should resurrect "middle class values" as an aspiration in society. It seems very 1950s, but wasn't that a more innocent period in America, when we felt that we can all do better and that the deck wasn't stacked in favor of the few over the many?

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



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Lung cancer deadliest of all cancers

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Many people are quick to assume they will be immune to lung cancer if they simply avoid smoking tobacco, but the disease is much more complex than that, and understanding it could mean the difference between life and death.

What causes lung cancer?

While the National Cancer Institute reports that smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, that doesn't mean nonsmokers — or those who quit smoking — still aren't at risk.

Secondhand smoke has long been known to be very harmful, and no one, not even children, is immune to its effects. The American Cancer Society notes that, in the U.S. alone, roughly 3,000 nonsmoking adults will succumb to lung cancer each year because of secondhand smoke. Choosing not to smoke is a good decision, but being around smokers and breathing in their smoke could prove just as deadly as smoking. The less a person is exposed to tobacco smoke, the lower his risk for lung cancer.

Another risk factor for lung cancer is radon, a radioactive gas that cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted. Radon forms in soil and rocks, and people who work in mines could be exposed. Radon can also be found in homes when it pushes its way through cracks in floors or gaps around service pipes or in suspended floors. Testing a home for radon is inexpensive and won't take much time.

Older people are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer, as are those with a family history of lung cancer.

Are there symptoms?

Lung cancer is perhaps so deadly because it does not often have many symptoms in its early stages. Most will wait until the cancer begins to grow before they make their presence felt.

As the cancer grows, the following symptoms might appear:

- A cough that continues to worsen or won't go away
- Constant chest pain
- Coughing up blood
- A voice that grows hoarse
- Frequent infections of the lungs, including pneumonia
- Constant feelings of fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss

Each of these symptoms can occur even if a person does not have lung cancer. However, those who experience any of the above symptoms should consult their physicians immediately.



Choosing not to smoke is a good decision, but being around smokers and breathing in their smoke could prove just as deadly as smoking.

How is it diagnosed?

In many cases, individuals will experience one of the aforementioned symptoms of lung cancer and then visit their doctors. Such a visit should be made immediately, and patients should expect certain tests to be performed upon visiting their doctor. In addition to ordering some blood work, a doctor will likely perform a physical exam to check for general signs of health and listen to breathing. During the physical, the doctor is likely to check for swollen lymph nodes, fluid in the lungs, and a swollen liver.


A doctor will also order X-ray pictures of the chest to detect if there are any tumors or an abnormal fluid buildup. A CT scan, which takes pictures of the tissue inside the chest, will likely be taken as well. These pictures can show if there is a tumor, abnormal fluid or swollen lymph nodes.

When determining if a patient has lung cancer, a doctor will also enlist the help of a pathologist to study cell or tissue samples. These cells or tissues can be collected in a number of ways, and a doctor might order more than one test.

Bronchoscopy: A thin, lighted tube is inserted through the nose or mouth into the lung, allowing a close exam of the lungs and the air passages that lead to them. A cell sample can be taken with a needle, brush or other tool.

Sputum cytology: Sputum, or thick fluid, is coughed up from the lungs and then checked for cancer cells.

More information about lung cancer is available from the National Cancer Institute at www.cancer.gov.



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FEMA ought to nix debts caused by its error: Meeks

BY SARINA TRANGLE

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) announced Monday he introduced legislation that would forgive debts incurred by Hurricane Sandy survivors who the federal government mistakenly overcompensated and then sought to recoup the extra money from them.

Meeks said thousands received more from the Federal Emergency Management Agency than they were entitled to, and two years after the October 2012 disaster, they are in no financial position to pay it back.

"More than two years after Sandy, victims who received FEMA assistance are now being asked to relieve the emotional and financial distress as FEMA takes action to collect accidental overpayments. These overpayments occurred through no fault of the recipients and are a result of the overwhelming size and scope of FEMA's response," Meeks said in a statement. "It is my hope that Congress will take swift action to fix this problem."

Meeks said some overpayments amounted to no more than \$1,000 and went to senior citizens in the Belle Harbor Manor assisted-living facility in the Rockaways.

"For these seniors, many of whom live on a fixed income, as well as the tens of thousands of other recipients of overpayments, the debt-collection process potentially includes attaching one's Social Security benefits, reducing their credit scores, and lengthy and costly litigation," he said in a statement.



U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks plans to introduce legislation that would forgive FEMA debts incurred when the agency overpaid Sandy victims.

FEMA said it does not comment on legislation, but was striving to work with those who owe the agency money.

"Federal law requires FEMA and other federal agencies to recover improper payments," FEMA said in a statement. "FEMA remains committed to working with applicants and ensuring they have an understanding of the options available to resolve their debt, which include making a payment, filing an appeal, requesting a compromise based on inability to pay and establishing a payment plan."

FEMA said 2 percent of Sandy survivors who received financial assistance were later sent recoupment notices because they got money they were not entitled to through fraud, human error and accounting mistakes. The agency estimated the collective \$23 million debt incurred represents about 2 percent of money dispensed in the wake of the hurricane.

U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.),
Continued on Page 55

Queens pols push vet bill vote as Albany considers convening

BY SARINA TRANGLE

A bill boosting all veterans' access to civil service job credits has a fighting chance, if state legislators vote to override the governor's veto during special session, Queens officials said.

City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park), chairman of the Veterans Committee, City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) and the committee's three other members urged state Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos (R-Long Island) and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) to put the measure back into the Legislature's chambers in the event of a special session. In a memo attached to copies of the Nov. 20 letter sent to Skelos and Sheldon, Ulrich contended that Cold

War era veterans and women traditionally barred from combat roles are unfairly penalized by the current system. Only those who served and were honorably discharged during specific conflicts are now eligible for the pension credits.

"All military service is public service and it should be acknowledged as exactly that," Ulrich said in a statement. "Those who have served our country honorably, regardless of time or era, should be entitled to the same benefits. The state Legislature has already voted to approve this bill by an overwhelming margin. They should affirm their support for our vets by overriding the governor's veto."

Sen. Will Larkin (R-New Windsor)
Continued on Page 55

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Sanitation garage renamed for Frosch



Crowds watch the city dedicate a Maspeth Sanitation Garage to Steven Frosch.

Photo Courtesy of the Department of Sanitation

The city dedicated a Maspeth Sanitation Garage in Steven Frosch's honor last week, paying tribute to a sanitation veteran who died on the job this summer.

Frosch spent 15 years at the city Department of Sanitation and was beloved by co-workers in Queens West 5A Garage, according to a dedication ceremony program.

On June 21, Frosch was struck and pinned by a mechanical broom while on duty. He died of his injuries at the scene, the program said.

Last week, the city Department of Sanitation formally named the garage,

located at 58-02 48 St., Steven Frosch Garage.

Community Board 5 voted to co-name 67th Drive between 78th and 79th streets on behalf of the Middle Village resident.

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Glendale) said she submitted a request to call the stretch Steven Frosch Way and received hundreds of signatures and letters of support from colleagues, friends, the Sanitation commissioner, Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association president and other people.

— Sarina Trangle

Young Dems host game

Borough elected officials eked out a win against the Queens Young Democrats at a basketball game hosted last weekend to benefit a Rego Park food pantry.

The Queens Young Democrats, a youth arm of the Queens Democratic Party comprised of 16- to 36-year-olds who seek to encourage more political participation, hosted the 27-25 showdown at Resurrection Ascension Church.

More than \$1,200 was raised for the church's food pantry, according to Angel Vazquez, the group's diversity and outreach director.

"I am proud that we were able to really benefit the Resurrection Ascen-

sion Church Food Pantry with over \$1,200, which will go a long way in helping families this holiday season," Vazquez said in a press release. "Playing basketball and engaging in a little healthy competition with the elected officials exposed our members to another side of politics — the more light-hearted side. I thank the church for hosting us, and I thank everyone who attended for this good cause."

The elected official team included City Council members Costa Constantinides, Elizabeth Crowley and Mark Weprin; state Assemblymen Michael DenDekker, Ron Kim and Jeff Aubry; and state Sen. Jose Peralta.

— Sarina Trangle

Nonprofit nixes Ridgewood shelter

A Brooklyn non-profit said it has decided against using a former convent at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal church in Ridgewood for a 24-bed shelter.

Providence House, a Brooklyn-based charitable organization, said it explored the possibility of converting the convent into a 24-bed transitional shelter for single women, but decided not to move forward for undisclosed reasons.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of

Brooklyn, which oversees parishes in Brooklyn and Queens, declined to comment on the future of the 62-81 60th Place property.

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) and City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Glendale), who represent the surrounding area, said the city Department of Homeless Services was not clear about whether it was eyeing the Ridgewood location during an earlier meeting.

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In 2014, LIU Brooklyn was recognized for leadership in the following areas:

- Speech-Language Pathology graduate program ranked #1 nationwide by graduateprograms.com
- Program in Mental Health Counseling ranked in the top 25 nationwide by graduateprograms.com
- School of Health Professions ranked #1 in the nation as the Best School for Health Care Majors' Salaries by payscale.com



"The honors bestowed upon LIU Brooklyn's programs that prepare our students to succeed in their chosen fields illuminate the

university's position as a leader in health sciences education," said Dr. Kimberly R. Cline, president of LIU. "Students come to be taught by renowned experts in their fields, for the school's partnerships in the health care industry, and for its record of excellent career placement."

At LIU Brooklyn, the spirit of real-world connectedness is palpable. In addition to offering the most human service-related courses of any university in New York City, LIU Brooklyn partners with hundreds of health care providers in the metropolitan area. At LIU Brooklyn's Harriet Rothkopf Heilbrunn School of Nursing, students work in state-of-the-art simulated hospital environments. Faculty and students conduct research that enhances classroom and lab instruction, cementing LIU Brooklyn's leadership status in health care and human services as well as the success of its graduates in the workplace.



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SHOOTING STARS

The United Black Men of Queens Foundation, Inc., hosted its 39th annual Mentoring and Scholarship Awards Benefit at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center Nov. 14. More than a dozen people were honored for community service and for academics. (Clockwise from l.) Members of The United Black Men of Queens Foundation, Inc., are seen with all the honorees from the awards benefit; Acapella Soul provided entertainment during the benefit; and Bishop Charles L. Norris, Sr., delivers the invocation.

Photos by Nat Valentine



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COLLABORATION OF CULTURES

Cultural Collaborative Jamaica celebrated another year of culture, economic development and musical talent from southeast Queens at its Seeds of Change Awards, Nov. 1. Community leaders, artists, musicians, and business owners helped celebrate the accomplishments of notables from Queens. Denise Richardson, director of communications for The Salvation Army and a former "Good Morning America" correspondent, served as the mistress of ceremonies. (Clockwise from l.) Debra Inwald (r.), architect for Works in Progress, receives the Economic Development award from Tyra Emerson, executive director of Cultural Collaborative Jamaica; remarks are given during the award ceremony; Ventriloquist, magician, and illusionist Wayne Garland performs for the crowd; Reeza Gibbons (l.), branch leader, Citibank, received the Community Service award and Bulbul Hashan (middle) accepts the Cultural Ambassador award from Tyra Emerson (r.) for Bishwo Shahitto Kendro; and Bobbi Humphrey (l.) receives the the Musical Icon award from Tyra Emerson. Cultural Collaborative Jamaica will be passing out gifts and hot chocolate to children as part of the Holidays on the Avenue event scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 13.

Photos by Samuel Lee



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St. Michael's renews last year's efforts to make the upcoming Holiday Season joyful for needy children.

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Ozone Pk. man arrested with 1,300 pills: Brown

BY SARINA TRANGLE

An Ozone Park man was arrested after surveillance allegedly led police to more than 1,300 oxycodone and valium pills in his car, basement safe, kitchen cabinet and dresser and \$811 in his possession, prosecutors said.

Queens district attorney Richard Brown said George Kurz, 36, was cuffed last week and charged with illegally possessing 1,385 prescription drugs as part of a long-term investigation.

"The drugs which the defendant is alleged to have trafficked in each have a street value of \$20 to \$25 a pill and are popular with club patrons despite the fact that they pose serious health risks," Brown said in a statement. "Drugs such as oxycodone are extremely potent and have a high potential for abuse and death. Shutting down sources such as alleged in this case



Queens DA Richard Brown said an Ozone Park man had been arrested and charged with illegally possessing hundreds of pills.

will save lives."

It was not immediately clear who was representing Kurz.

Kurz was arraigned on criminal possession of a controlled substance charges before Queens Criminal Court Judge Elisa Koenderman last week, the DA said.

If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison.

According to the complaint, police staked out Kurz's home on Eckford Street near Raleigh Street Nov. 20 after a continuing investigation by the Police Department's Organized Crime Investigations Division and the DA's Rackets Bureau heard Kurz allegedly discussing and arranging the sale of narcotics in numerous conversations monitored under an eavesdropping warrant.

A detective stopped Kurz as he pulled out his car, and he allegedly told the detective he should remove his wallet from a bag on the front seat, the DA said.

Besides the wallet, prosecutors contend the detective uncovered a pill scrapper, six blue oxycodone pills stamped "215" and two bottles — one containing 103 blue oxycodone pills with "M30" on them and the other 14 green oxycodone pills marked "80."

Authorities then used a
Continued on Page 61

Arverne man charged in infant assault: DA

BY SARINA TRANGLE

An Arverne man was arrested and charged in the assault of his ex-girlfriend's child, which left the infant with a severe skull fracture and hemorrhages, the DA said.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Bishme Allah, 30, was allegedly babysitting his former girlfriend Jazmyn Reyes' son, Jassier Reyes-Meyers, Nov. 10 in his Arverne home while she ran errands for half an hour. When Reyes returned, prosecutors said Allah told her the toddler was asleep and the couple allegedly smoked marijuana and ate a sandwich. She then crawled into bed with her 13-month-old. When Allah joined them later and she shifted his body, Reyes discovered her son's head was swollen, prosecutors said.

Brown said she demanded Allah drive them to Cohen

Children's Medical Center in New Hyde Park, where doctors diagnosed Jassier with a severe skull fracture, subdural hemorrhage, retinal hemorrhages and patterned contusion and bruising on the head and lower abdomen.

"The defendant is accused of assaulting a defenseless child with such force that it fractured the child's skull and left a pattern of injuries on the infant's head and body," Brown said in a statement. "The fragility of a small infant cannot be emphasized enough."

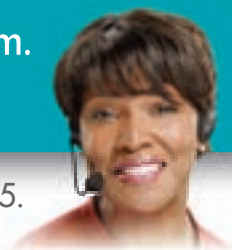
Allah's attorneys could not immediately be reached for comment.

Prosecutors said medical personnel determined the Jassier's injuries were consistent with non-accidental inflicted trauma and that the nature and pattern of the injuries were consistent with forceful impact.

Allah was arrested and
Continued on Page 61

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SHOP LOCAL SHOP QUEENS

Astoria/LIC offer old-fashioned shopping

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

What brings shoppers to Astoria?

Well, Steinway Street, of course.

The main drag has something for everyone. But Broadway, Ditmars Boulevard and 31st Street draw plenty of shoppers, as well, while Queens' hipsters come here for the cafés and fun specialty markets.

As one shop owner said, "It's really popular here because it gives people an old-fashioned shopping experience."

Need a gift or a stylish outfit or accent pillows for your home? You can get something really different at Astoria Market that offers shoppers locally made products in one popular place, Astoria's beloved Bohemian Hall. You'll find everything you need for holiday gift-giving here, from jewelry to handmade soap to wonderful crafts to home-made cookies.

(The market is open most but not all Sundays from noon - 5 p. m. in the main hall of Bohemian Hall).

Astoria resident Isabel Stoker believes Steinway



The Citi building looms over downtown Long Island City.

Street has been attracting more young shoppers than ever.

"Shopping here is very affordable compared to many of the other areas, like Brooklyn," she said. "I enjoy walking around and browsing in special shops and thrift places, like Goodwill. My boyfriend hates shopping but loves checking out ethnic eateries. We're both adventurous in different ways."

New York's shopaholics can't get enough of Astoria's cool indie shops, run by independent owners who really know what sells. And everyone in Queens knows that this neighborhood has the best artisanal coffee and espresso in Queens.

Joaquin Valez said he shops Steinway with friends because it has "a retro chic quality to it, and the prices rock."

At the all-things-Astoria website, We Heart Astoria (weheartastoria.com) Liz Nieves is an expert when it comes to everything her community has to offer.

"Shopping locally in Astoria has always been an amazing option. I like to support local businesses and one of my favorite places to shop is Lock-

wood and Lockwood Style. Mackenzi's style and taste are on point and one is sure to find a unique gift."

Foodies know where to get their fix in the heart of 31st Avenue's food scene. Immigrants have made Astoria famous for its bounty of international offerings.

"Steinway Street has a lot to offer from fashions to jewelry to accessories to everything for the home. Over 300 stores include some national chains and many family-owned businesses," said Marie Torniali, executive director of Steinway Astoria Partnership. "We encourage all to shop locally in their neighborhood, where they can find it all, along with friendly neighborhood service, and where many businesses are offering deals for the holidays."

The Steinway Astoria Partnership will be hosting Santa on Steinway this year at the Kids Playhouse (34-17 Steinway St.) on Saturdays, Dec. 6, and 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free gifts and photos with Santa, cookies, cocoa and play space also provided. More information on Steinway at steinwaystreet.org.

Continued on Page 40

Bayside provides a mix of unique shops and more

Once you hit the stores, Bell and Northern boulevards offer plenty of dining options

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Take your holiday lists with you and explore Queens' vibrant shopping areas, where you can find a potpourri of options, good deals and great value.

What's special about Queens? Every neighborhood here has its own flavor and vibe, so why not shop till you drop, eat and play locally, while supporting your community?

And where else in NYC can you and your family and friends find the variety of merchandise and a bounty of international food options offered by thousands of local merchants and establishments?

If you're looking for brand names and convenience, head

over to Queens' malls. With so many retailers in one location, shopping is easy and browsing is fun, and you can start crossing off items from your holiday gift list, while you treat yourself to lunch at the food court.

Queens' nightlife

On Friday and Saturday nights, Bayside's bustling main drag, Bell Boulevard, comes alive with people dining out or gathering at local bars or pubs for drinks. It's a popular singles' strip.

As the holidays get closer, more shoppers are out and about, especially on weekends. Others just come here for retail therapy.

When you walk down Bell Boulevard, you'll find many upscale, trendy shops and the occasional mom-and-pop store



Matthew Nye hangs an ornament on the Christmas tree during last year's Bayside Hills Holiday Lighting as his sister Emily looks on.

that's still owned by a local family. Bayside's restaurants cluster along Bell and offer a variety of dishes to suit every

palette. They're a bit pricey, but well worth it.

There's more in store on Northern and Francis Lewis

boulevards, the big commercial streets. While there's a thriving Italian community in Bayside, Chinese, Greek, and Korean families also are calling the area home.

And many locals bring their families and friends to Northern Boulevard, which is also known for its Korean restaurants, while the rest of Queens comes to that neighborhood when they get a craving for Jackson Hole Diner's famous super-sized burgers. The iconic eatery is considered a landmark of sorts here.

For more finds you've got to check out the nearby Bay Terrace Mall, where you can relax with a cappuccino or enjoy some frozen yogurt. Later on, see what the major

Continued on Page 40

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Explore Eastern treasures in Flushing

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Saving money during the holiday season and getting more for your buck is easy when you shop in Queens.

From department and big box stores to mom-and-pop shops, there's something for every style, palette and budget.

Getting married? Areas like downtown Flushing provide an amazing variety of shops that specialize in weddings. The quality and value of local goods and services is better here than anywhere else in the city if you're looking for beautiful wedding/bridesmaids dresses, as well as cakes, flowers, and catering.

Check out downtown Flushing for great holiday buys. It's the largest urban center in Queens and the second largest Chinatown in the city, serving an ever-growing Chinese and Korean population. Visitors from all over come here to shop and sample the street



At times, Main Street in Flushing can look more like a busy thoroughfare in downtown Beijing.

food, dim sum, and dumplings, and residents will let you know where you can find the best fish markets and supermarkets on Main Street that stock Chinese and Asian groceries.

Teens and the younger

crowd can't get enough of the yummy bubble tea varieties offered in the area and like meeting their friends in popular cafés that are adjacent to their favorite Chinese bakeries. Here, they're known for

their tasty sweet buns filled with pork or other meats.

"The area is booming and it's a great time to visit," said Dian Yu, executive director of the Flushing BID. "Downtown Flushing is the windows to the

world and it's so close to JFK and LaGuardia; that helps business."

From chain stores to Chinese herbalists, Main Street offers a ton of options and is a major retail area. Then there's plenty to choose from at the mall. With four floors of stores, shoppers can get deals on fashionable clothing, Asian-themed home furnishings, and Asian-inspired art at Queens Crossing Mall.

Bargains abound at The Flushing Mall, a favorite with Chinese residents. Many stores stock items from East Asia; small shops sell Hong Kong fashion, jewelry, art, toys and more. Plus there is a food court.

There's more shopping action to be had just west of Main Street on Roosevelt Avenue. Residents know where to go for household goods, and visitors come to Roosevelt for Chinese imports, including woks and cooking implements at decent prices.

Continued on Page 38

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Whatever you seek is in Forest Hills

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Longtime Forest Hills resident Rhonda Bloom boasts her neighborhood has everything any shopper could ever need.

"If I need a gift, I shop on Austin Street," Bloom said. "When my friends come in from out of town, I take them to the shops and we have dinner at Cabana, then go to Martha's Bakery for cake. The only problem is we have to wait on line for 15 minutes or more 'cause it's always packed."

Bloom, 66, said she raised her family here in Forest Hills and has witnessed the area's transformation over the decades.

"Even though many small businesses closed down due to high rents, and some of my neighbors' rents have gone sky high, I still feel lucky to be living here in my rent stabilized studio," she said.

Forest Hills is still charming and attracts tons of shoppers and young families, along with gastropub enthusiasts,



In Forest Hills, shoppers will discover stores along Queens Boulevard as well as Austin Street.

who frequent the four popular establishments that have recently sprouted up. Austin Street also has the area's first hookah lounge that serves up a mean falafel and other Mediterranean fare, and a new buffalo burger joint, as well as the super-popular Mexican restaurant (Five Burros).

Over the years, Forest Hills has lost a bunch of small boutiques and storefronts that once gave it more character. Regardless, the nabe is always teeming with people who are used to dealing with limited parking.

There are plenty of hair salons and nail salons that cater to residents and loyal patrons, who are willing to look for a parking spot just so they can spend a couple of hours shopping and getting a mani pedi.

"Forest Hills and especially Austin Street is a great shopping destination. You can walk down the street and find outstanding restaurants and bars, trendy boutiques,

Continued on Page 40

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Hit malls and unique spots in Ridgewood

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI



The Shops at Atlas Park, located in Glendale, is home to several national retail chains.

Montauk Branch of the LIRR crosses over Myrtle Avenue and serves as a border between Ridgewood and neighboring Glendale.

Locals are familiar with the area's smaller shopping strips on Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Avenue, and Seneca Avenue.

"Mall rats" prefer the Metro Mall on Metropolitan in Middle Village for BJs and more chains.

These days, you can still enjoy authentic Polish and Italian dishes in Ridgewood, or buy what you can't get anywhere else in the city, like tasty, home-cooked pork, still available at the last remaining German Pork Store on Forest Avenue. And some residents recommend a special eatery on Fairview Avenue that serves up Bosnian beef and lamb burgers.

At the retro heart of the neighborhood is the Ridgewood Market.

One family from Brooklyn called it "a very creative mar

Continued on Page 40

There's something for everybody here in Queens and savvy shoppers know where to go to find what they need and crave, like great African-inspired clothing and furniture buys on Jamaica Avenue, or superb espresso in Astoria, or Asian sweets in Flushing, or a great selection of trendy shops to choose from at the popular Bay Terrace Mall in Bayside.

As a wave of nostalgia hits the city, many young shoppers are searching for one of a kind artisan and vintage finds for the holidays. Many have been flocking to "old school" Queens to scout out the borough's flea markets, specialty shops and arts and crafts fairs.

With its brownstone-lined streets, Ridgewood has been described as quiet and homey. At one time, this working-class neighborhood had German and Italian residents, but now it's home to Polish, as well as Latin American immigrants.

Less than 45 minutes from Manhattan and almost bor-

dering Williamsburg and its hipsters, the main shopping areas in one of Queens' oldest neighborhoods are on Myrtle

Avenue and Fresh Pond Road, which are lined with nostalgic mom-and-pop stores and very few chains.

Myrtle Avenue's Business Improvement District runs from Wyckoff Avenue to Fresh Pond Road, where the elevated

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Flushing

Continued from Page 32

Jenny Lee is a Chinese American who lives in Elmhurst. She said downtown Flushing is her favorite area to buy the food she grew up eating and still cooks: genuine Chinese fare, like chicken legs, certain vegetables and creamy custard. She said she goes every Saturday and shops for the entire week and cooks dinner from scratch every evening after work, then takes leftovers for lunch.

"Flushing is the second busiest neighborhood in the entire city and more people are coming here to enjoy the restaurants and retail stores than ever," said state Assembly member Ron Kim. "It's the only place in the entire city where one can experience the pan-Asian and immigrant cultures that contribute to the fabric of the American experience. Underneath the diverse cultures, the hardworking entrepreneurs in Flushing also represent the American values that make this country great: determination, resiliency, and grit. The moment one enters Flushing, these traits can be felt everywhere."

Just north of downtown



Customers wait for their turn to enter the Old Navy store in Flushing's Sky View Center during last year's Black Friday.

Flushing, shoppers will find the College Point Shopping Center, which boasts popular department stores but also attracts shoppers who like big

box shopping. When you're done, you can take a relaxing break at Starbucks.

The heart of the neighborhood is known for the last Ger-

man restaurant (Five Corners), old-fashioned mom-and-pop butcher shops and residents suggest visitors check out the area's famous Empire Market,

run by a third-generation German-American family. These folks have been selling wunderbar sausage and German foodstuffs since 1920.

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In downtown Jamaica, shoppers will find national chains, like this Children's Place outlet, alongside unique, independent stores.

Latest in urban hip is found in Jamaica

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

This holiday season there's something exciting and new or retro to discover here in Queens, without breaking the bank.

Shoppers know they can enjoy all the borough has to offer by boarding the E or J trains and heading to the center of New York City's capital of urban hip.

In downtown Jamaica, it's all about energy, authenticity, and style.

Jamaica Center has more than 300 stores that offer bargains galore and reflect a multi-cultural community. And it's fast becoming one of New York City's most vibrant shopping destinations for urban fashions that include

African-inspired clothing.

The Jamaica Center Business Improvement District encompasses the area's primary retail shopping thoroughfare, which stretches from Sutphin Boulevard to 169th Street and its goal is to make sure this business district remains a thriving hub.

Shopper Hazel Jackson said she supports her fashionista shopping habits by buying stuff at deep discounts for herself, her family and her home. She teaches her young daughter to do the same.

A former shop owner who lives on Long Island said he still comes here occasionally just to see what's going on.

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Shoppers arrive early and brave the bitter cold in front of the Best Buy store on Northern Boulevard in Long Island City during last year's Black Friday.

Astoria/LIC

Continued from Page 30

restaurants and bars when you visit this neighborhood during the warmer months, but you should also explore the open backyards, gardens and patios behind many of the establishments south of 30th Avenue, where you can find Greek cafes that serve up rich and tasty frappes.

Long Island City is one of the most vibrant areas in Queens and all of New York City. Visitors come to experience its museums and unique shops along Vernon Boulevard and Jackson Avenue.

Here, it's all about transformation, beer gardens and brew houses. The cocktail scene attracts people who enjoy hanging out at popular local spots that serve interesting mixed drinks and cocktails.

LIC's Hunters Point section is rapidly changing, as restaurants and bars have gradually multiplied and there are more shopping options.

Even though chain stores and shopping malls aren't part of LIC's shopping scene yet, you will find a small number of shops and boutiques — both new and old — giving people more places to shop, while they discover the area's thriving

artist community.

In the last 20 years this mostly industrial section of Queens has become a major cultural center and visitors come here for the neighborhood stores, where they can shop for artisan-made items, or find work by local artists.

"From May to November, they come here to shop for crafts and fine arts at Agora LIC," said one store owner. Long Island City's open-air market opens on select Saturdays during its market season. Shoppers can enjoy live music and other presentations from visiting artists.

Agora LIC hosts up to 50 booths on market days. Each one features handmade goods from local vendors. You'll also find: specialty and gourmet foods, sweets and desserts, paintings, pottery and sculpture; clothing and jewelry.

One resident suggests that visitors check out the only local import shop that carries gift items originating in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The family-owned shop offers giftware, glassware, and Czech and Slovak folk music. Every Christmas, there's a special wall stocked high with puzzles, marionettes, and wooden toys for kids.

And there's a small Irish gift shop on Vernon Boulevard that's known for offering love-

ly Celtic jewelry at affordable prices. Holiday shoppers from all over can also find Belleek china and widely collected pottery from Northern Ireland here.

An entire wall showcases paintings by Irish-American artists, but locals say the most original art is made by the shop owner, who is known for creating stunning mosaics out of hand-cut Italian glass.

"Local stores tend to hire local people, support local little leagues and civic groups, participate in graffiti and garbage cleanups, and generally care about their surroundings. Plus, they pay taxes that local municipalities need to provide services," said Rob MacKay, Queens Tourism Council director, Queens Economic Development Corp. "You can even make a good argument that shopping locally is a good environmental practice because it reduces pollution caused by travel. Luckily, in Queens we have some very strong commercial corridors that offer everything from international brands to quirky, homemade items. We also have tremendous diversity as areas cater to certain demographic, ethnic groups."

a birthday? Why not ring in the holidays at Outback Steakhouse?

And each time you visit, you've got to sample one scrumptious dessert at Martha's Country Bakery on Bell.

Visitors love Bell Boulevard's hip village atmosphere that many shoppers in the

know find similar to Forest Hills' Austin Street.

And as the holidays near, local BID's make sure street decorations go up along busy streets, lending a festive air to these trendy shopping districts.

Forest Hills

Continued from Page 34

salons and upscale chain stores. We offer more than the mall...we are large enough to serve you and small enough to know you," said Leslie Brown-Salnavé, Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce president.

Certain established stores, like the ever-popular Natural Market on Austin is considered by many residents as their go-to store for fresh produce, specialty food items, and more. It's always busy, as is Forest Hill's famous Italian restaurant, Portofino, which attracts patrons from every borough, who love to celebrate the holidays and different events there, while locals also come in for a slice or a pie.

Forest Hills, once predominantly Jewish, has become very diverse. Certain parts are home to residents who are Russian, Asian, Middle Eastern and East European. The town's cuisine reflects this diversity. Some shoppers said they come here for Cuban, Cajun, Japanese, Thai, Italian,

Indian and Turkish fare.

The area has an abundance of drugstores and banks, along with several hip chain stores, shoe shops and a well-known discount store on busy Continental Avenue, which is flanked by two subway stations and the LIRR. It seems this part of Forest Hills is always teeming with commuters, who crowd the smoke shop, Starbucks, bagel store and fast food places nearby. And the famous Midway Theater attracts people from different parts of Queens.

During the warmer months and in the fall, the area's restaurant row off Austin Street, is alive with folks enjoying outdoor dining or just taking in the sun.

Many young professionals and their pooches have made Forest Hills their home and it seems to be transforming into a mini Manhattan. The area has become a family fun and shopping spot on weekends and to some extent a singles hot spot at night.

A local mom said she discovered that giving books from the local Barnes and Nobles clearance section makes her holiday gift-giving simpler and easier on her wallet.

Ridgewood

Continued from Page 36

ket" and said, "Before, you had to go into Williamsburg or the city for what vendors sell here. We hit it up every month now for Christmas gifts and we love the food selection."

"I love finding new and unusual things," said one woman who shops regularly at the popular market. "I think handcrafted items make great gifts and I like that some neighborhood businesses are selling here as well."

Another shopper from Manhattan said, "The market has a very neighborhoody Queens vibe and doesn't feel so much like some of the similar craft markets held in other boroughs; it's less pretentious."

Ridgewood's older neigh-

bor, Glendale, is known for the modern Atlas Park mall located near Middle Village and Forest Hills. Many families bring their kids here to the mall to enjoy the ambiance and grab a bite, while searching for good deals. Others come here to forage for brand name merchandise on sale at the higher-end stores. Many locals enjoy the mall's frequent events and farmers market.

Myrtle Avenue is Glendale's main street, and residents agree that its small shops, delis, restaurants, and businesses are conveniently located and that the area provides a unique shopping experience for visitors.

If you have a craving for schnitzel, you'll enjoy a cozy German restaurant (Five Corners) that has been nestled in the heart of Glendale since the close-knit community was mostly German.

Bayside

Continued from Page 30

chains have to offer at holiday discounts or just splurge and don't look at prices.

How about taking your date to the movies or out for a steak dinner at the mall to celebrate

Holiday Happenings

For up-to-date listings on Christmas concerts, visits from Santa, menorah lightings, Kwanzaa events and New Year's Eve celebrations, check www.timesledger.com/sections/queens-calendar/.

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2003	Honda Accord, 91k	72885	\$3,995	2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$9,995	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995	2011	Honda CRV, 24k	4923	\$13,995
2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995	2013	Nissan Altima, 20k	1226	\$13,995
2012	Ford Fusion, 27k	1880	\$8,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995	2012	Chevy Traverse, 50k	1260	\$12,888	2012	Nissan Murano, 12k	5822	\$16,995

>>>>MANAGER SPECIALS<<<<

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2007	Acura MDX, 104k	10125	\$8,995	2013	Chevy Malibu, 3k	1382	\$13,995
2011	Honda Accord, 31k	2651	\$9,995	2011	Honda Odyssey, 35k	4830	\$13,995
2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2009	Infiniti G37x, 52k	1255	\$14,888
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2012	Dodge Charger, 8k	1030	\$15,995
2012	Honda Accord, 32k	1223	\$10,995	2012	Nissan Maxima, 20k	3788	\$16,400
2013	Dodge Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995				
2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995				

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GIVING THANKS

Holy Cross High School honored first responders at its Mass of Thanksgiving Tuesday. The annual Holy Cross High School First Responders Mass began in 2011 to mark the ten-year anniversary when Father Frank Grogan and 16 members of the Holy Cross alumni community died on Sept. 11, 2001. Bishop Octavio Cisneros joined Father Walter Jenkins, president of Holy Cross High School celebrate the mass. (From top left) Frank Korzekwinski '80, EVP Flushing Bank, Walter Jenkins, President of Holy Cross High School, Bishop Octavio Cisneros, New York City Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro are seen following the mass; Council Member Paul Vallone, Father Walter Jenkins, and Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro; and a group of first responders stand together after the mass.

Photo courtesy of Dominick Totino Photography



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Toy drive for hospital



Student ambassadors from Councilman Paul Vallone's (L.) program organize a holiday gift drive for the children at St. Mary's Hospital in Bayside. Photo by Juan Soto

BY JUAN SOTO

Bayside students organized a toy drive for the children of St. Mary's Healthcare System that will run until Dec. 8. The students are part of City Councilman Paul Vallone's Student Ambassador Program. Neighbors can drop off their toys at Vallone's office, at 42-40 Bell Blvd, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"St. Mary's Hospital for Children is a vital organization, not only to northeast Queens but to New York City," said the legislator. "I cannot think of a better way to give to those who are in most need and their families during the holiday season."

Edwin Simpson, president of St.

Mary's, thanked Vallone's student ambassadors for the effort. "St. Mary's kids are facing complex medical challenges and I know that these gifts will put a smile on each child's face and bring some holiday cheer," he said.

Two allies in the toy drive are the Dwarf-Giraffe Athletic League and the Auburndale Soccer Club.

Christine Coniglio, manager of the Auburndale Soccer Club, said, the club was "thrilled to be helping the children of St. Mary's Children's Hospital."

José Rodríguez, president of the Dwarf-Giraffe Athletic League, pointed out "this holiday gift drive affords us another avenue in which to serve and it addresses those children most in need."

Atlas Park food donation to Glendale Food Pantry

On November 20th Atlas Park delivered \$2500 worth of food to the Glendale Food Pantry to distribute for the Thanksgiving season.

Items included stuffing, biscuits, corn, cranberry sauce, green beans, mashed potatoes, yams, turkey gravy, cake mix, peas & carrots, rice, chocolate pudding, jello, mac & cheese and soup.

In the words of Peter DeLucia, Jr. Marketing Manager at the Shops At Atlas Park

"At the heart of every community are its people. Atlas Park has been a part of the Glendale community for over 8 years. The center is so much more than a collection of stores and restaurants, we are a community gathering spot. Atlas Park is proud to



(Back L-R) Liza Diaz - property manager Atlas Park, Senator Joe Addabbo, Peter DeLucia - marketing manager Atlas Park. (Front L-R) Sister Margaret - Glendale food pantry, Nancy Baer - Glendale Food Pantry, Nina Maurello - leasing manager Atlas Park

be able to give back to the community in which we serve."



Schumer: Regulate drones

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) called on the Federal Aviation Administration to regulate the use of commercial drones after three near-misses between the small unmanned flying objects and passenger planes at JFK this month. He also said two additional drones were spotted flying around the Queensboro Bridge.

"It is clear that commercial drone use has crossed over from unregulated to potentially deadly," Schumer said.

The senator pointed out the FAA and the Office of Management and Budget should "release their new regulations so that our space stays safe."

In one case, a drone was seeing

within two miles of one of the runways at JFK. Days earlier, a pilot flying from London spotted a drone at about 3,000 feet from the airplane.

In July, a drone almost collided with a police helicopter over the George Washington Bridge.

"Drones are an important technology for business, law enforcement, agriculture and more," said Schumer, "but the lack of clear rules about small drones, the difference between commercial and a hobby drone, and how and where they can be used is creating a serious threat to New Yorkers' safety."

lawmaker said.

The winners of the contest were Adriana St. Clair, a second-grader from PS 94; Ashley Cho, a third-grader from PS 159; Elicia Chau, a fourth-grader from PS 94; and Angela Chen, a fifth-grader from PS 169.

Braunstein unveils essay winners

More than 600 students participated in the latest edition of Assemblyman Ed Braunstein's (D-Bayside) Halloween Essay and Drawing Contest. Last year, the number of entries totaled only about 300.

"I was extremely impressed with their creative and artistic entries," the

ANNUAL CITYWIDE PUBLIC MEETING

On New York City's CSO Long Term Control Plan

Thursday, 11 December 2014

Hostos Community College
Savoy Multi-Purpose room
500 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451
6:00pm to 8:00pm

DEP will provide a brief presentation at 6:30pm.

When there are heavy rains and the sewer system is at full capacity, a diluted mixture of rain water and sewage, known as combined sewage, may overflow into local waterways as a combined sewer overflow (CSO). The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is currently developing CSO Long Term Control Plans (LTCP) that will identify and evaluate alternatives to reduce the impact of CSOs in NYC's waterbodies and waterway.

At this Annual Citywide Public Meeting, DEP will report on the work performed in 2014 on the individual LTCPs for Alley Creek, Westchester Creek, Hutchinson River, Flushing Creek and the Gowanus Canal and provide a look ahead to the upcoming LTCPs for Bronx River and Coney Island. In addition, DEP will provide an update on its Green Infrastructure program and NYC's Climate Resiliency Plan.

Join us as we seek your input to improve water quality in the City's waterbodies.

How to Get Involved?

To RSVP, please email ltcp@dep.nyc.gov or call (718) 595-3496.

For more information on DEP's CSO program, please visit our LTCP Program website at www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NYCWATER.



Tabone

Continued from Page 5

Bayside's former GOP Councilman Daniel Halloran guilty of brokering Smith's deals and accepting kickbacks.

Halloran's case was severed from Smith's and Tabone's in June. Their attorneys successfully sought mistrials because prosecutors did not release hours of conversation and text messages in Yiddish from a wiretap on a cooperating witness's phone ahead of the trial.

Discussion about Yiddish has resumed a place in the case as attorneys prep for jury selection.

Gerald Shargel, Smith's attorney, filed a model questionnaire that he suggested be used to screen potential jurors. The 63-question document

asks whether respondents rent or own their home, whether they believe politicians tend to be dishonest and whether they speak, read or understand Yiddish.

Shargel said Yiddish speakers could pose a problem if they brought their own understanding of translated tapes into the juror's deliberations, while comparing this to an attorney sitting on a jury.

"A lawyer is sometimes chosen as a juror. And the lawyer is not supposed to go back into the jurors' room and say, 'Well, I am a lawyer, so I can tell you more about the instructions,'" he said.

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

For more hyper-local Queens news on your computer, smartphone, or iPad, visit **TimesLedger.com.**

Custodians reach pact on school maintenance

BY MADINA TOURE

Local 891 School Custodians has reached a \$211.1 million agreement for their cleaners and handymen with the city.

The nine-year agreement, which covers the period of Oct. 22, 2007 through Oct. 21, 2016, includes 18 percent in raises and a \$1,000 bonus for 32BJ cleaners and handymen, who mainly work in the city's public schools. The agreement also includes health savings, which will neutralize the cost of the contract.

"The custodial workers in the public schools have worked far too long without an increase," said Robert J. Troeller, president and business manager of the Local

891 International Union of Operating Engineers. "Due to numerous budget cuts, these workers have become increasingly productive. It's good to see these men and women recognized and rewarded for their work."

The agreement keeps existing benefits for roughly 5,000 full-time equivalent school cleaners and handymen who serve more than 1 million children in the city's public schools. The gross cost of the agreement will be balanced out by roughly \$21 million in guaranteed health savings — a net cost of \$190.2 million.

"By conforming with the established pattern, including guaranteed health savings, this agreement is affordable for the city and its taxpayers, while still providing workers

with the fair wages they deserve," Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

The 18 percent in raises that employees will receive includes 8 percent in restructured payments for the 2008-2010 round of bargaining, which will be given out in lump sum payments through 2020. This replaces the raises granted to the rest of the municipal workforce by the previous administration.

Employees will also receive approximately 10 percent in raises through 2016 for the 2010-2017 round of bargaining.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at mtoure@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

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Kit Krugman



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Transportation**

Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



TAKE A TRIP **BACK IN TIME**



27th Annual Holiday Historic House Tour brings visitors to sites around Flushing, Corona

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

You don't need a time machine to visit a bygone era and experience Queens' colorful and surprising history.

Long ago will be just a stone's throw away Dec. 7 when the 27th annual Holiday Historic House Tour takes participants to seven architecturally unique landmarks decorated for Christmas celebrations.

Visitors can begin their journey to the past, sponsored by the Queens Historical Society, at any of these venues: Kingsland Homestead,

Friends Meeting House, the Bowne House, Voelker Orth Museum, Lewis H. Latimer House Museum, Corona's Louis Armstrong House Museum and Flushing Town Hall.

"It's a great event for people to come out and visit an area of Queens that is filled with history, and enjoy themselves to welcome in the holiday spirit," said Karyn M. Balan, Queens Historical Society's interim executive director.

And kids and teens can learn a thing or two about the borough's early days, while finding out how everyone got along without cell phones or

iPads.

"We feel it really helps people to explore the neighborhood better and discover something that they might have passed by a million times but never really noticed, like some of these historic sites, which will be decorated in their holiday best to add to the experience of an old timey holiday celebration," Balan said.

For example, Voelker Orth Museum will have some holiday music sing-a-longs in its old-fashioned parlor, which will be decked with boughs of holly.

The beauty of this event is that people can pick and choose where they would like to go — there's no starting

point — and you can visit as many or as few of the sites as you'd like, all for one price.

Balan pointed out that a majority of the sites are all within walking distance of one another (with the exception of the Louis Armstrong House in Corona).

Enter another dimension at Kingsland Homestead (143-35 37th Ave.) which was occupied by the King/Murray family until the 1930s. During the tour, families will enjoy musical performances, along with a special holiday gift sale and exhibit: "Remembering Yesterday: Queens and its World's Fairs." Currently serving as the headquarters of the Queens Historical So-

ciety, Kingsland offers school programs, tours, and lectures documenting local history.

Built in 1694, the Friends Meeting House (137-16 Northern Blvd.) is the first house of worship in Flushing and the city's oldest structure still being used for Quaker religious services. The holiday tour will include a walk around the property to view its historic cemetery.

The Bowne House (37-01 Bowne St.) will extend a warm welcome to curious visitors, who will have the chance to hang out in the festively decorated vintage parlor and sneak a first peek at its newly restored exterior. They will

Continued on Page 48

Pictured top, the Bowne House will be decorated again for the season during the upcoming Holiday Historic House Tour.

Photo courtesy APdP Design



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Holiday Happenings

GingerBread Lane – The world-record setting 11/2 ton, 300-square-foot village returns to Queens. Special gingerbread house workshops held Dec. 7 and Dec. 28.

When: Through Jan. 11, 2015

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

Cost: \$11/adults, \$8/seniors, students and children 17 and under

Contact: (718) 699-0005

Website: www.nysci.org

Breakfast with Santa – All members of Queens Center's Nat Geo Kids Club are invited to enjoy a complimentary breakfast, music, dancing and games in the Food Court.

When: Saturday, Dec. 6, from 8 am - 10 am

Where: Queens Center, 90-15 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst

Cost: Free, Visit the mall's Guest Services to sign up for the Nat Geo Kids Club.

Contact: (718) 592-3900

Website: www.shopqueenscenter.com

Holiday Happening in Forest Park – Celebrate the season with crafts, games,



Chef Jon Lovitch, pictured with some of last year's village, brings his world-record holiday GingerBread Lane back to the New York Hall of Science in Corona.

music and a surprise visitor.

When: Saturday, Dec. 6, from noon - 3 pm

Where: George Seuffert Bandshell, Forest Park, Woodhaven

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 235-4100

Website: www.nycgovparks.org

Swingtime Christmas Concert – Enjoy a Christmas concert with a big band

sound. All proceeds benefit the school.

When: Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 pm

Where: St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Academy, 88-08 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven

Cost: \$15/adults, \$12/seniors, \$5/teenagers

Contact: (718) 847-3904

CoolYule! Tree Lighting

– The first tree lighting event at the Louis Armstrong House Museum will feature live jazz by the Ben Flocks Trio and holiday treats.

When: Saturday, Dec. 6, 4 pm

Where: Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107th St., Corona

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 478-8299

Website: www.louisarmstronghouse.org

Wreathmaking Workshop

– Make an evergreen wreath at these workshops. All materials provided, but bring a garden shear.

When: Saturday, Dec. 6, and

Continued on Page 49

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #18

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

Hard #18

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

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

Tips at www.sudoku.com
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Exhibition explores cultural identity in art

Flushing's Crossing Gallery joins Queens Library to display the diversity of borough

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Queens Library has teamed up with Flushing's Crossing Art Gallery for an exhibition of international artworks to celebrate the uniqueness and continuity of Queens' communities.

"The View Over Here: Constructing Cultural Identity" exhibit is composed of pieces that range from paintings and videos to installations and photography, on view now at the gallery through Dec. 13.

"From a pool of national and international artists, our jurors selected eight artists whose work not only reflected our belief that art can serve as a cultural unifier, but that art can inspire others to have a deeper understanding of other cultures," said Rebecca O'Malley, Crossing Art Gallery manager.

The judges — John Hatfield, executive director of Socrates Sculpture Park; Larissa Harris, curator at Queens Museum; and Catherine Lee, Queens Library Foundation

board member — selected three artists to display their works at the Queens Library Foundation gala, which will be held at the Queens Museum in the spring.

"From arts institutions to libraries, the exploration and celebration of cultural identity is part of the fabric of Queens," said Hatfield. "Many of the artists we considered are producing compelling work on the topic, and I was pleased that Kyoung Eun Kang's 'Islands' was selected, whose video art exemplifies the struggle, grace, courage, and balance one may experience navigating multiple identities and cultures in our wonderfully diverse society."

Along with Brooklyn-based Kang, the two other finalists picked were Rumi Hara, also from Brooklyn, and Antonietta Grassi from Quebec.

Kang, whose work was part of a group exhibition at Socrates Sculpture Park in 2011, said she was excited to be part of Crossing Art's "The View



This photographic still is from Kyoung Eun Kang's video "Islands," which is part of the Crossing Art Gallery's current exhibit.

Photo courtesy Kyoung Eun Kang

Over Here" exhibition.

"I create, not wishing to manipulate the outcome, but to provide a transformative experience, which is open-ended," said Kang. "I hope to capture the subtle beauty of human encounters and growth, embracing dynamic actions that resonate in the human experience, such as walking, breathing, eating and gathering."

Kang explained that most of her video works are filmed

in a variety of outdoor environments, including New York City parks, Korean river basins and remote, isolated lighthouses. She will often place objects related to her Korean childhood alongside New York scenes in order to prompt question heritage, culture and family.

Grassi has been exhibiting her creations in Canada and Europe since the 1990s, and now her edgy pieces are on display at Crossing Art Gallery.

"My current work, which borders on abstraction and representation, references skewed architectural structures to reflect a shaky, unstable reality," she said. "I derive my imagery by combining logic and intuition, embracing dynamic interactions between chaos and order, spillage and containment. Despite the work's structural references, very little is planned, and much is left to chance."

Hara said she felt honored to have her work featured in this show that should shed light on cultural identity from different viewpoints.

"Queens is a unique place, with so much energy, and I was inspired and encouraged, not only by meeting the people involved in the exhibition, but also by exploring the neighborhood of Flushing," she said.

Born in Kyoto, Japan, Hara eventually moved to Atlanta. Through her project titled "Borderland," the artist said

Continued on Page 48

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GREENERY**

HOUSE TOUR

Continued from Page 45

also enjoy a talk on traditional holiday foods, sample some recipes and hear music performed by a musician from the Mannes School of Music.

Built in 1661 by English settler John Bowne — best known for his courageous defense of religious freedom in America — this city, state, and national landmark tells the story of Queens through nine generations of the Bowne family.

In this dressed-for-the-holidays Victorian house, visitors will enjoy afternoon piano performances and a special gift and plant sale.

At one time, Voelker Orth Museum, Bird Sanctuary & Victorian Garden (149-19 38th Ave.) was home to three generations of a prominent Queens family, who lived there since 1891. It was originally purchased by Orth, an immigrant who published German-lan-

guage newspapers.

Pay homage to African-American inventor Lewis H. Latimer (34-41 137th St.) during the tour and visit the house that bears his name (constructed from 1887 to 1889).

The son of fugitive slaves, he lived in this home from 1903 until his death in 1928. Many people are not aware that Latimer played a vital role in the development of the telephone and the incandescent light bulb.

Open house and traditional holiday refreshments will be offered throughout the day, along with a glass painting demonstration.

New this year for the holiday tour, the Louis Armstrong House Museum (34-56 107th St., Corona) will recreate an outdoor Christmas tree in the garden as a tribute to a tradition started by Lucille, the jazz legend's beloved wife.

One of Queens' most



The Kingsland Homestead in Flushing will again be decked out for the season during the Holiday Historic House Tour.

Photo courtesy Karyn M. Balan

recognizable city and national landmarks, the house became the couple's permanent home in 1943 until Armstrong's death in 1971. But his spirit lives on there, through rare audio clips from Satchmo's personal recordings. Visitors will have the opportunity to hear his well-known voice reading "'Twas the Night Before Christmas, A Visit from St. Nicholas." This was the last recording he ever made.

Built in 1862, Flushing Town Hall (137-35

Northern Blvd.) is an example of Romanesque Revival architecture. In its heyday, the venue transformed itself into a popular cultural hub, where folks enjoyed operas and performances by P.T. Barnum and Tom Thumb. The landmark once welcomed Teddy Roosevelt and Ulysses S. Grant when it served as a political center, and Fredrick Douglass once spoke to the community from its portico.

Kids and teens may get the creeps when they

visit Flushing Town Hall's old jail cell and find out that several murder trials were held in this historic building.

Now home to the Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, this popular performing and visual arts space has proudly maintained its cultural status over the years.

"We are proud to be part of this annual tradition and to show New Yorkers — and visitors to New York — all of the wonders of Flushing Town Hall," said Executive and Artistic Director Ellen Kodadek. "This year, as a special treat, we will be unveiling a holiday market showcasing artistic and culinary items, many handcrafted in New York City."

Works from Queens-based artists and artisans will be available for purchase in the gallery from 1–5 p.m.

You'll have lots to choose from: handmade jewelry, Christmas ornaments, naturist paintings, handcrafted ceramics, paper goods, T-shirts

IF YOU GO

Holiday Historic House Tour

When: Sunday, Dec. 7, from 1 pm - 5 pm
Cost: \$25/adults at door, \$20/adults advance purchase, \$10/children 12 and under
Contact: (718) 939-0647
Website: www.queens-historicalsociety.org

and much more. You can also sample honey, jams, and granola made by Green Earth Urban Gardens.

"Participants will get increasingly amazed as they go along, because each house will offer its version of holiday fun and decorations," said Queens Tourism Council Director Rob MacKay. "They'll learn about interesting people, local history and awe-inspiring architecture, while getting in the spirit."

A shuttle bus will connect the Louis Armstrong House Museum with the other sites via Flushing Town Hall.

Art

Continued from Page 47

she wanted to "collect and communicate the forgotten or hidden memories in coastal Georgia, and to more deeply understand my experience there as an Asian person."

She did all the research and image-making while living and studying in Savannah from September 2012 to August 2014.

Integrating watercolor illustrations, hand-drawn comics, and photographs, Hara's project tells a story and documents the present landscapes of the Sea Islands along the Georgia coast. "The story follows the migration of the endangered right whales, revisits the memory of slavery, and incorporates the African-American folklore from the region."

Since moving and traveling have been an important part of her life since childhood, Hara said she's particularly interested in "memories that make

IF YOU GO

"The View Over Here"

When: Through Dec. 13
Where: Crossing Art Gallery, 136-17 39th Ave., Flushing
Contact: (212) 359-4333
Website: www.crossingart.com

a place special, all the real and imagined stories that connect people and cultivate a sense of belonging."

Crossing Art and the Queens Library both believe that art can indeed serve as a cultural unifier and that building upon this common ground can heal wounded or distant relationships, and also promote new affiliations and stronger communities.

A Queens Library representative said, "The exhibition seeks to view aesthetic expression through an international lens, highlighting the interactions of nationalities, and expounding upon the use of art as a way of expressing one's origins."

THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

EVENTS

Wheelchair Football League — Wheelchair athletes come out for a weekly pickup game every Sunday in Bulova Park.
When: Sundays, from 8 am - noon, through Nov. 30
Where: Bulova Park, 76-01 25th Ave., East Elmhurst
Cost: Free
Contact: (347) 512-7186

Website: wheelchairsportsfederation.org

Reusable Art Making — Artists from Materials for the Arts will lead this adult workshop in exploring how reusable material can become art. No experience is necessary.
When: Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 6 pm - 8 pm
Where: ARROW Field House,

35-30 35th St., Astoria
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 349-0444
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

Van Alst Playground Community Input Meeting — Have your say in how the NYC Parks department should utilize funds to rebuild and reshape this playground.
When: Wednesday, Dec. 3, from 6 pm - 8 pm
Where: PS 171, 14-14 29th Ave., Long Island City
Cost: Free
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

MUSIC

Tableau Vivant — The

duo, Karen Marie Marmer and Dongsok Shin, will perform sonatas by Mozart, Bach and others on violin and fortepiano. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

When: Friday, Dec. 5, at 6 pm
Where: King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave., Jamaica
Cost: \$25/advance, \$30/at door
Contact: (718) 206-0545, ext. 13
Website: www.kingmanor.org

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THEATER CALENDAR

PRODUCTIONS

"The Foreigner" — In Larry Shue's comedy a painfully shy man pretends not to understand English leaving the other characters to speak freely in front of him about things they should keep private. Appropriate for ages 9 and up.

When: Nov. 22 - Dec. 6, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm
Where: Parkside Players at Grace Lutheran Church, Union Turnpike and 71st Road, Forest Hills
Cost: \$17/general, \$15/seniors
Contact: (718) 353-7388
Website: www.parksideplayers.com

"Christmas Carol" — Titan Theatre Co. presents a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of redemption set on Christmas Eve.
When: Dec. 11 - Dec. 21
Where: Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Cost: \$25 - \$30
Contact: (718) 760-0064
Website: www.queentheatre.org

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting — Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.
When: Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Where: Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck
Contact: Muriel, (718) 225-7382

Holidays

Continued from Page 46

Sunday, Dec. 7, at 10 am, noon and 2 pm

Where: Queens County Farm, 75-30 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park

Cost: \$20/per person, advanced payment required

Contact: (718) 347-3276

Website: www.queensfarm.org

Queens Botanical Garden's Winter Solstice Celebration and Tree Lighting

Kick off the season with tours of the garden, musical performances, crafts and a visit from Santa. Tree lighting is scheduled for 4:45 p.m.

When: Sunday, Dec. 7, from 1 pm - 5 pm

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

Cost: Free, additional fee for craft activities

Contact: (718) 886-3800

Website: www.queensbotanical.org

Holiday Historic House Tour

Visit seven historical sites in Flushing and Corona that will be decked out for the season.

When: Sunday, Dec. 7, from 1 pm - 5 pm

Cost: \$25/adults at door, \$20/adults advance purchase, \$10/children 12 and under

Contact: (718) 939-0647

Website: www.queenshistoricalsociety.org

Bayside Village Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting

The return of the children's holiday parade highlights this year's Bayside Winter Festival and tree lighting. Meet Santa, sip hot chocolate and enjoy festive activities.

When: Sunday, Dec. 7, from 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Where: Parade steps off at 36th Avenue and Bell Boulevard, tree lighting takes place at the Bayside LIRR station

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 423-2434

Website: www.baysidevillagebid.com

Christmas Concerts at St. Francis Prep

The 11 ensembles from St. Francis will perform holiday music.

When: Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13, at 7:45 pm

Where: St. Francis Prep, 61-00 Francis Lewis Blvd., Fresh Meadows

Cost: \$5

Contact: (718) 423-8810, ext. 255

Website: www.sfponline.org

Winter Holiday Festival

Celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa with an art-making workshop along with storytelling performances by Robin Bady and Tammy Hall.

When: Sunday, Dec. 14, at 1 pm

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

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Contact: (718) 570-0909

Website: www.queenssymphony.org

The Ugly Sweater Run — Don we now our hideous apparel. Take part in this Save the Children charity 5K walk/run wearing your ugliest yuletide attire.

Runners receive a vintage knit hat and unlimited hot chocolate.

When: Saturday, Dec. 20, at 11 am

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

Cost: \$45-\$60/per participant

Website: www.theuglysweaterrun.com

Winter Solstice Cookies and Crafts

Families are invited to the Bayside Historical Society's walk-in workshop to create decorations celebrating the winter season. Hot cocoa and cookies will be available for purchase.

When: Sunday, Dec. 21, from noon - 4 pm

Where: The Castle at Fort Totten, 208 Totten Ave., Bayside

Cost: Free

Contact: (718) 352-1548

Website: www.baysidehistorical.org

Classical Singer's Holiday Concert Jam — Queens College alumnus Alex Schirling, joins Erick Urgiles and Classical Singer's Career Development Club in a concert filled with holiday music.

When: Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2 pm

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

Cost: \$5/general admission, Free/members and students

Contact: (718) 463-7700

Website: www.flushingtownhall.org

Oratorio Society of Queens Holiday Concert

The annual event includes excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" performed by OSQ and Orchestral Arts Ensemble of Queens. The audience will also sing along to tradition Christmas carols and Chanukah songs.

When: Sunday, Dec. 21, at 4 pm

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

Cost: \$35/adults, \$30/seniors and students, \$10/children 12 and under

Contact: (718) 279-3006

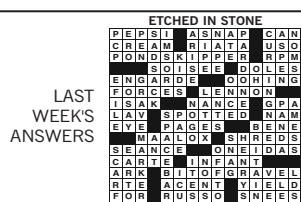
Website: www.queensoratorio.org

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Nov. 28-Dec. 4, 2014

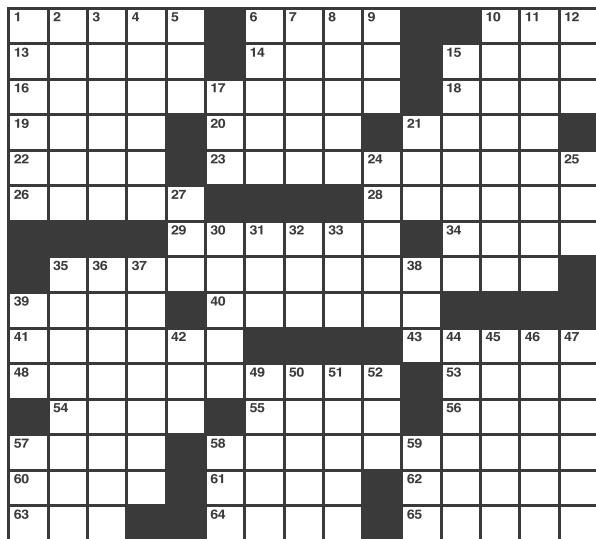
By Pete Canty

B-Plus



Across

1. Jeweler's weight
6. Nose-in-the-air type
10. Alert
14. Previously, formerly
15. Bring on board
16. Rink shape
17. Hesitation in finding the answer, perhaps
19. Underground party
20. Muscat resident
21. Built more?
23. Ideal suffix
25. Signs up
26. Passed away
31. Rapper Mos



63. Deflect a bull's charge, perhaps
66. Forest dweller
67. "Pay _____ mind"
68. Pass over
69. Messes up
70. Follows long and dead
71. Crowded

Down

1. Popular NYC vehicle
2. 60's hairdo
3. Wander
4. Soprano's song, maybe
5. Net game
6. That girl
7. Guitarist Lofgren

8. Use a soapbox
9. Above partner
10. Homer's son's output, perhaps
11. Benefit
12. Tangle
13. Reds and Cards, e.g.
18. Drying rack items
22. Canadian tribe
24. Butcher's stock
26. [Hey you!]
27. Canyon effect
28. Pool table part
29. "Chicago is my only football team?"
30. Float with the current
35. Depressed
36. "If all _____ fails..."

37. Salon supplies
40. _____ of Sandwich
41. Mouse sound
44. Ice melter
48. Caged pet
50. Exhaled expressively
51. Diamond alternative
52. Mosaic artist
53. Rage
54. United competitor
57. Ages
59. Stage part
60. The Emerald Isle
61. Heads and tails
64. Hotel room addition
65. Observe

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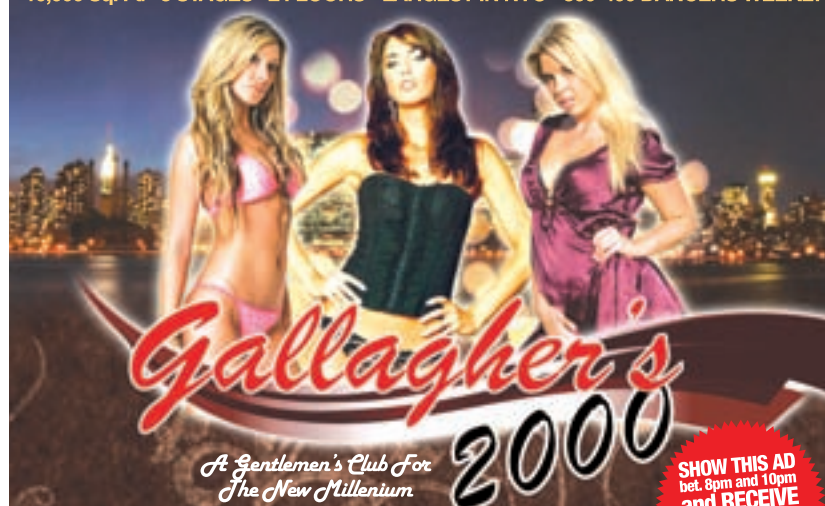
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Sweeten the Season at Queens Center



On Saturday, November 15 over 2,000 attended the Queens Center Tree Lighting Ceremony. Guests were treated to contests, prizes and everyone received a "Magic Wand" to help light the enchanted tree. Afterwards all children were invited to have milk and cookies with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Also on had for the ceremonial Tree Lighting was Queens Center Senior Property Manager, Jeff Owen, City Council Member Daniel Drumm and 214 Ms. Supermodel Petite USA, Margaret Skourlis all of whom had some inspiring words to share with the crowd! Santa will be at the mall now through December 24.

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Walk through this winter wonderland — and stay cozy and warm the entire time. The Queens Center may be all decked out for the winter season, but the temperature inside is always perfect for shopping. The one-million-square foot mall is anchored by stores that include Macy's, H&M, JC Penny, and more than 200 other retailers. For sure, there's something for everyone on your gift list.

It will be a shopping bonanza from Nov. 26 to Dec. 1 when many of the stores will open at 5 pm on

Thanksgiving, so shoppers can get a jump on Black Friday savings. It's an opportunity to take advantage of some of the best buys of the season. Aldo Shoes invites shoppers to its Early Bird special: 20 percent off full-priced merchandise, beginning Thursday, Nov. 27, from 6 pm through Friday, Nov. 28 at 10 am.

On Friday, Adidas will be giving shoppers an exclusive deal — a free backpack with every \$150 purchase while supplies last. Stop by Banana Republic on Black Friday, and get 50 percent off one full-priced item until

1 pm plus 40 percent off purchases all day long. Certain restrictions apply; see store for details.

Bath & Body Works will be having a super sale: buy three, get three free, beginning Nov. 27 at 6 pm, until Nov. 28 at 10 pm. But this is just a mere mention of a handful of the shopping excitement to be found at Queens Center. You can be sure many more retailers will be offering special savings, creating a fabulous way to kick off the gift-giving season.

Bring the entire family so they

can join in the mall's holiday festivities. Santa has flown all the way from the North Pole and will be on Level 3 of the JC Penny wing, ready to hear who has been naughty or nice this year. Create magical memories when you bring the kiddies for breakfast with Santa on Dec. 6, from 8 to 10 am at the food court.

Queens Center [90-15 Queens Blvd. in Elmhurst, (718) 592-3900, www.shopqueenscenter.com]. Open Mondays through Saturdays, 10 am–9:30 pm; and on Sundays, 11 am–8 pm. See website for extended holiday hours.

Borough Beat

COMPILED BY PAUL JANNACE



City Council Member Eric Ulrich, (third from l.) chairman of the Council Veterans Committee, received the Freedom Award from New York City Helmets to Hardhats at the second annual luncheon. The Freedom Award is the highest honor given by the organization. IBEW Local #3 Senior Assistant Business Manager Raymond Melville and Lend Lease Executive Vice President Donald DeNardo also received awards.

Photo Provided



Rego Park resident Alyssa Pannizzo (fourth from left) was one of 10 SUNY Potsdam students inducted into the Order of Omega Greek Life Honor Society. The Order of Omega is the national leadership honor society for members of Greek organizations, recognizing men and women who set a higher standard for Greek Life. Pannizzo is a sister of Phi Kappa Pi.

Photo courtesy of SUNY Potsdam



Maspeth's Moot Court team placed sixth out of 15 schools in the preliminary rounds of the citywide Moot Court competition at Fordham University School of Law. The counsel for the petitioner, Julio Almonte and Kay Maung, received praise for their use of case law. Kevin Maldonado and Marie Pesch, the counsel for the Respondent, excelled in responding effectively.

Photo courtesy of Maspeth High School



Queens Community Outreach Partners attended The Fresh Air Fund's fall meeting to discuss successes this past summer. (From l.), Elizabeth Ortiz and Cynthia Fernandez, Child Center of NY; Felisha Da Silva, The River Fund; Jenny Morgenthau, executive director of The Fresh Air Fund; Monica Loja and Kris Czerniachowicz, The River Fund; and Jennifer Smith, Catholic Charities.

Photo Provided



Berkeley College honored Joanne Snider (middle), accounting and finance, with the 2014 Faculty of the Year Award for excellence in online instruction in the Larry L. Luong School of Business. Snider is a Bayside resident. Snider is joined by Rahul Bedi, PhD, (l.) interim management chairman, and Joseph Scuralli, DPS, (r.) Interim Dean, Larry L. Luong School of Business.

Photo courtesy of Berkeley College



Council Member Elizabeth Crowley (second from r.) joined Ridgewood seniors for their annual Thanksgiving turkey dinner at the Ridgewood Older Adult Center last week. Crowley also delivered a basket of canned goods to the center's food pantry for local veterans. Since Nov. 10, Crowley has been collecting canned and non-perishable food items at her Glendale district office as part of the Council's Veteran's Food Drive.

Photo courtesy of Council Member Elizabeth Crowley's office



The office of Councilman Eric A. Ulrich collected more than 1,000 pounds of nonperishable food donations for the City Council Veterans Food Drive Initiative in partnership with the Food Bank for New York City. The food was delivered to the Borden Avenue Veterans Residence in Long Island City. A total of 35 council members also participated in the food drive from all five boroughs, collecting a combined 3,000 pounds of food.

Photo courtesy of Councilman Eric A. Ulrich's office

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Business

Book passage for boro's newest eatery

Architect by trade, Station LIC's owner aims to build Queen's next big hangout spot

BY BILL PARRY

A new ponzi scheme is a big hit in Long Island City. The long-anticipated opening of Station LIC finally happened Nov. 17 and several of the 200 customers ordered the Ponzi burger, which you get for free provided you buy the burger for the next diner.

"I had a tear in my eye, the scheme worked to perfection right away," Station LIC owner Greg Okshteyn said. "Table 11 and table 14 ordered the Ponzi and by the end of the evening their tables were moved together, business cards were exchanged and new friendships were made. The Ponzi created friends and that was the whole idea."

The first few nights customers filled out comment cards and from the feedback, everyone seemed pleased with the new Long Island City hotspot in a long vacant building that sits atop the Vernon Jackson subway station at 10-37 Jackson Ave.

"People love the atmosphere and while we were slammed for the opening the kitchen and the staff were up to speed 100 percent," Okshteyn said.

An architect by trade, Okshteyn is the founder of Studios Go, a firm that specializes in designing restaurants. He first fell in love with LIC while living in a loft apartment while in grad school at Columbia University.

One thing he thought the



Over 200 customers pack Station LIC at last Monday's opening.

Photo courtesy Greg Okshteyn

neighborhood was lacking was a good place to hang out.

"There are plenty of good restaurants with great menus, but no place to grab a drink after work and hang out with friends," he said.

So, 2 1/2 years ago, Okshteyn took over the vacant property that used to be a tavern called Blessinger's that was made famous in the 1988 Tom Cruise hit "Cocktail." He set about giving the 2,400-square-foot space the feeling of a 19th-century European rail station complete with antique turn of the century signs and railroad

lanterns.

Station LIC was supposed to open last spring but several obstacles were in the way.

"Dealing with municipalities really, permits from the Department of Buildings, there were new codes we had to comply with, a new sprinkler system, even the MTA got involved needing to see where we were digging because we're right above their station," Okshteyn said. "But what do you expect when you take over a property that's been vacant for 12 years. But now that we're open we've forgotten all about



Station LIC's railway motif is inspired by the neighborhood's past as a rail road hub.

Photo courtesy Greg Okshteyn

the delays already."

The American-bistro menu is infused with European underpinnings, the Ponzi burger is creating a buzz and his customers are pleased with the aesthetics in both the restaurant and the bar.

"It's amazing, I'm so pleased," Okshteyn said. "We worked so hard for so long to

make it the best place we could and the response has been overwhelmingly supportive."

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

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Powerful You! Women's Network – A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

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

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

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

Website: powerfuleyou.com

Power Networking Group – Led by Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am

Cost: \$10 for breakfast

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

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

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

Weekly Meeting – BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI

provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

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

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

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter – BNI

is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI Provides positive, supportive and

structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact Lydie Pellissier, chapter president, to arrange a visit.

When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpl., 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 month
Cost: \$20, includes food from Marcella's Pizzeria of Glen Oaks. Payment benefits the Ronald McDonald House of L.I.

Where: Ronald McDonald House of Long Island, 267-07 76th Ave., New Hyde Park
Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (866) 391-2780

Website: accessoffice.net

Business

Continued from Page 5

of shopping locally.”

In addition, Sunnyside Shines will again sponsor a holiday window photo contest to encourage area stores to decorate their windows for the holidays. That is combined with the decorations the BID puts up along Queens Boulevard and Greenpoint Avenue to make the district more inviting to holiday shoppers.

“Sunnysiders understand the importance of shopping locally, but we wanted to make it even easier by publishing the gift guide and promoting local business on Small Business Sat-

urday,” Sunnyside Shines Executive Director Rachel Thieme said. The kick-off event begins at noon this Saturday with free giveaways, live music and further distribution of the gift guides.

Two classes at LaGuardia Community College contributed research and design ideas along with the photography for the project. Hector Fernandez and Nicole Lytle of the Business & Technology Department at the school called it a valuable collaborative effort between faculty, students and the BID.

“Students learned a great deal about small business needs, working efficiently on short timelines, and the importance of effective communication with several parties — experience that will carry them into their business careers,” they said.

Plastic bags

Continued from Page 5

“Our community has been a victim of environmental injustice for far too long and issues such as this are a part of that greater picture, along with waste capacity and fair share,” Miller said. “We host regular community cleanups in our district and certain products are repeat offenders when it comes to litter, but none more so than plastic bags.”

Richards also believes the community should act now.

“It is time that we carefully reconsidered our reliance on the misleading disposable bag,” said the lawmaker, chairman of the Committee on Environmental Protection. He pointed out the

bill “challenges the notion that consumers must rely on these bags to complete everyday tasks.”

Others councilmen oppose the legislation.

“Plainly speaking, the plastic bag fee is just another back door tax that I cannot, in good conscience, support,” said City Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park.) “My constituents already pay enough taxes, fines and fees and don’t need the city thinking of more ways to nickle-and-dime them.”

Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) believes that there are other solutions to the plastic bag conflict.

“I think there are better ways to address the problems caused by the plastic bags that too often end up in landfills or entangled in trees and catch basins,” the lawmaker said.

Veto

Continued from Page 18

carried the bill in the Senate, where the 47 present lawmakers voted for it. Ulrich maintained the measure received near unanimous support in the lower chamber, where Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) introduced it, but a tally breakdown was not available on the Assembly website.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo vetoed the so-called Military Buy-Back Reform Bill, saying extending up to three years of public retirement system credit to those who served and were honorably discharged during any period would be too costly.

In his Nov. 7 veto memorandum, Cuomo estimated the legislation would force municipalities to wrangle with a collective \$57 million obligation. He said the city alone would incur an an-

nual \$18 million liability, an amount the governor claimed the mayor’s office balked at.

“This bill would run roughshod over systematic reforms carefully negotiated with the Legislature to avoid saddling local property taxpayers with additional, unmanageable burdens,” the governor wrote.

Ulrich’s office did not respond to a request for comment on how many city vets would be eligible for job credits should the measure pass or on the governor’s criticism.

State lawmakers have publicly toyed with the idea of taking up their compensation and travel expense system in a special session next month.

Neither Skelos nor Silver responded to requests for comment on the likelihood of the Military Buy-Back Reform Bill coming to the floor during such a session.

Sandy

Continued from Page 18

who is backing the bill in the Senate, and U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm (R-S.I.) touted the measure as a bipartisan effort.

“With countless Sandy survivors

still not in their homes over two years after the storm, I’m proud to work with my friend and colleague Congressman Meeks on this common sense solution that will spare thousands of these disaster victims from digging into their own pockets to make up for the government’s mistake,” Grimm said in a statement.

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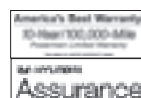
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Sports

Royal Focus

Loaded Christ the King eyeing historic three-peat

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

History is the only thing on Christ the King's mind.

The Royals have been the dominant force in New York state boys' basketball by winning four of the last five CHSAA Class AA inter-sectional titles and three state Federation crowns, including the last two. This year CK can become the first team to win three straight city championships since Tolentine did it from 1979-81 and the first school to bring home three consecutive Federation titles.

"It's all they talk about," Christ the King coach Joe Arbitello said. "It's the only thing they talk about. Six of them have Division I (scholarship) offers. They never talk about that stuff. All they talk about is the three-peat, three-peat. They just want to do it."

If they do, sensational wing Rawle Alkins, a four-star recruit, will be a big reason why. It's clearly the junior's team now with the graduation of Adonis Del La Rosa and Andre Walker and Travis Atson transferring to South Kent. Alkins, who holds a host of the high Division I offers, is the reigning TimesLedger Newspapers All-Queens player of the year. He is a dominant force on both ends of the floor, and there is nothing he can't do on the court. Alkins is ready to lead as well.

"It's hard to stop him offensively," junior Yashawn Bright said. "He's great defensively. He's a great teammate, a leader for us. He's taken us to a whole other level."

A high level is what Bright and the rest of the supporting cast will have to play at, especially on a team that is going to play small to start the year. Bright and Tyrone Cohn both played last season, but are in the starting lineup now. Alkins said he would guard others teams' bigs, but



Christ the King's Rawle Alkins will try to lead his team to a historic third straight state Federation Class AA title.

Photo by Ken Maldonado



Flushing's Terrence Chavis (3) runs with the football in the PSAL City Conference quarterfinals against Abraham Lincoln Saturday.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

Flushing's season ended again by Railsplitters

BY STEPHEN ZITOLO

Flushing had a shot at redemption against after Abraham Lincoln ended its season in lopsided fashion last season in the semifinals.

The seventh-seeded Red Devils were more competitive this time around, but five turnovers led to a 31-6 loss to the No. 2 and host Railsplitters in the PSAL City Conference football quarterfinals Saturday.

"Turnovers killed us," Flushing coach Jim DeSantis said. "We just kept turning the ball over."

Defending champion Lincoln (9-2) was able to jump out to an early 7-0 lead on the first possession when senior quarterback Paul Litvak hooked up with classmate Luis Rodriguez for a 15-yard touchdown. Rodriguez scored four times

on the afternoon.

"We didn't lose to any bums," DeSantis said. "We got the score to 17-6 and had a shot at winning this thing."

Flushing fumbled the ball on its opening drive, but luckily the Railsplitters couldn't capitalize. The turnover bug still got to the Red Devils. Senior quarterback Terrence Chavis fumbled the ball at the 15-yard line and Lincoln would recover. This time the Railsplitters took advantage of the turnover as Rodriguez ran the ball in from two yards out for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead.

The Red Devils tried to get back in the game in the second quarter. They drove down to the Lincoln 29, but turned the ball over on downs. Rodriguez continued to have his way.

Continued on Page 60

Bayside rally falls short in loss to FDR

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI



Bayside's Robert Williams runs down field during the PSAL Bowl Conference semifinals against FDR Saturday at the Midwood Athletic Complex.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

Tyrell Plaza refused to let his career end without a fight.

The Bayside senior running back scored twice after halftime, but it wasn't enough to overcome a poor first half and an explosive Franklin D. Roosevelt offense. The fourth-seeded Commodores fell for the third straight year in the PSAL Bowl Conference semifinals thanks to a 32-20 loss to No. 2 FDR last Saturday at Midwood Athletic Complex. Bayside, which trailed 18-6 at the break, twice got with in a score.

"We knew we still had to do our jobs in the second half," Plaza said. "As soon as we came out we knew that we can't give up because the outcome could be different in the second half."

His team got within 26-20 after Charles Flug threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Plaza with six minutes left in the game. Bayside (8-3) had a chance to halt the ensuing Cougars' drive on a fourth-and-1 from their 46-yard line. Instead, Tristin Thomas took the play up the middle and all the way to the end zone for a game-sealing score. Commo-

Continued on Page 60

Francis Lewis still seeking respect after city title



Joseph Staszewski
■
Block Shots

resigned.

"Since we won the chip people are coming for us," junior guard Chi La Bady said.

The Lewis starters, all guards, have heard the chatter that they don't win it all if Robinson isn't controversially cleared by the PSAL to join Lewis before the playoffs. They will counter with the fact that they were still the No. 3 seed without her and beat South Shore in the title game with Robinson in foul trouble. The Patriots just want to put it all to rest.

"We will have a lot to prove," senior guard Robin Francis said. "I feel like people think we won because Chelsea was there and because of our size. I feel like we can show them it's not just because of her size."



Francis Lewis is hungry to win its second straight PSAL girls basketball city title.

Photo by Steven Schnibbe

Continued on Page 60

Revived Queens College ready for next step

Expectations high for Knights after netting first 20-win season in 15 years

BY MERLE EXIT

Expectations are high for the Queens College women's basketball team after the program completed a tremendous turnaround.

Fourth-year coach Bet Naumovski last season led the Knights to their first 20-win season in the last 15 years. Queens College, a Division II program, went 15-5 in ECC play and lost in the semifinals to District of Columbia. The big year came two seasons after the program won just a single game during the 2011-12 campaign.

"Last year was a great year for us. It was the best year that Queens College women's basketball had in about 30 years," Naumovski said.

There has been gradual improvement during Naumovski's tenure. In year two, Queens College made the conference playoffs, reached the semifinals last year and the Knights are aiming for the championship game this time around. Naumovski knew she had to change the program's culture when she took over. Accepting just being okay was unacceptable.

"Mediocrity isn't going to make us successful," she said. "We want people who are going to come in and strive to be better each day and contribute to being a team. As we start to succeed, the players have more confidence."

Queens College returns six players from last season, including leading scorer Madison Rowland (20.4 points per



The Queens College women's basketball team is hoping to build off one of the best seasons in program history.

Photo by Merle Exit

game). It lost only graduate student Raychel Shannon from the group. Joya McFarland, Janeen McFarlane, Kristen Korzevinski and Elisabeth Gully also return, along with Rowland's older sister MacKenzie. Naumovski considers Kozevinski the team's unsung hero and is expecting her to step into a bigger role this season.

"She doesn't have those eye-

popping statistics that grab the media, but she is the most experienced member of the team in regards to time on the court," the coach said. "I'm looking to her to become more of a leader."

The Knights are off to a 2-1 start after last weekend and take on Immaculata University as part of the Maggie Dixon Classic at Madison Square Gar-

den Jan 4. The contest is a rematch of the first-ever women's basketball game played at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 22, 1975 that brought in a crowd of 11,969 fans.

Queens College opened this season with a 60-58 loss to St. Michaels. MacKenzie Rowland, Korzevinski, and Imani Davidson each produced double-digit scoring with Madison MacKen-

zie adding eight points and six steals.

Queens bounced back to beat Franklin Pierce 61-59 as the Rowland sisters combined for 32 of those points and Korzevinski had 10. It followed that up by beating Dominican 78-60 behind double-doubles from MacKenzie and Madison Rowland. Korzevinski chipped in 19 points.

Easy #18								
6	8	4	5	2	3	1	9	7
2	9	1	4	7	6	3	5	8
5	7	3	1	8	9	4	2	6
9	3	5	8	4	1	7	6	2
7	2	6	9	3	5	8	1	4
1	4	8	2	6	7	5	3	9
4	5	2	3	9	8	6	7	1
3	6	9	7	1	4	2	8	5
8	1	7	6	5	2	9	4	3

Week 25

Hard #18								
3	5	6	1	4	9	8	2	7
4	2	9	7	3	8	1	5	6
1	8	7	5	6	2	3	4	9
5	6	1	2	8	3	9	7	4
9	3	4	6	1	7	5	8	2
2	7	8	4	9	5	6	1	3
6	9	2	8	5	4	7	3	1
8	4	3	9	7	1	2	6	5
7	1	5	3	2	6	4	9	8

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Bayside

Continued from Page 58

dores coach Jason Levitt said a missed assignment led to the big play.

"He scored right where we were supposed to be," Levitt said. "It's high school kids. They make mistakes. That is going to be tough for me to swallow that somebody went into the wrong spot."

Bayside wouldn't have been in position to win without Plaza and Flug. The Commodores were already short-handed with seven starters out for the playoffs because they didn't meet the school's standards to stay eligible for athletics.

Plaza used a second and third effort to get in the end zone from five yards out to pull Bayside within 18-12 late in the third quarter. The drive was set up by a fumble recovery by Elijah Rimpel.

FDR (10-2) answered with a 20-yard touchdown pass from Kaseem Morrison to Monrico Cummings early in the fourth quarter. Flug's two-yard touchdown toss to Plaza made it 26-20, but that was as close as Bayside got.

Thomas carried the ball 16 times for 136 yards and two touchdowns. Morrison rushed for 67 yards and a score on eight carries and also threw two touchdown passes to Cummings. Flug completed 14 of 22 passes for 128 yards. Freshman Robert Williams threw a 29-yard touchdown to Jason Benton on a reverse in the first quarter, but special teams mistakes hurt Bayside.

"We gave short fields three times," Levitt said. "They scored three times."

The season again ended too early in Bayside's mind, but playing as well as it did shorthanded has them leaving with their heads held high and optimistic for the future.

"It shows we still have potential on this team," Plaza said. "All they have to do is work hard."



Bayside's Charles Flug throws a touchdown pass against FDR.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

Francis Lewis

Continued from Page 58

Lewis is the one of the favorites to again claim the crown along with South Shore and Bergtraum, which saw its 15-year reign ended by the Patriots in the semifinals. Robinson was the only player lost from last year's club. Francis, star guard Sierra Green, point guard Taliyah Brisco and Bady, a do-it-all guard, all return. That latter three are all juniors.

Green established herself as one of the city's best players and has worked on her defense in the offseason. The group won last year not just because of her emergence, but because all of the players flourished in their roles.

"We are not a one- or two-person team," Lewis coach Steve Tsai said.

"Everyone has to be aggressive. Everyone has to do their part."

This year, that means getting more from its younger players with Robinson now at Graceland junior college. Sophomore forward Sabrina Clement has taken a step forward and junior Dominique Williams will continue to provide clutch shooting and athleticism. Tsai talked highly of his freshmen and the players believe back-up point guard Xuanrui Hu can make an immediate impact.

Lewis doesn't want to look too far ahead, but understands what a second straight title would mean. It would quiet its detractors and with a junior core put it in position to be the PSAL's next dynasty.

"I don't want to start talking, but maybe," Green said of taking up that mantle. "We will see."

Flushing

Continued from Page 57

His 58-yard run set up Lincoln at the Flushing 13, but the Railsplitters managed just a field goal to make it 17-0.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," Chavis said. "We put ourselves in a good position and we lost the grip."

Flushing's defense came up huge in the third quarter. Senior Keron Hermitt grabbed an interception in the end zone and returned the ball over 100 yards to the Lincoln 1-yard line. Se-

nior Marcus Mendez ran the ball in for a score to pull the Red Devils within 17-6. The momentum was short-lived. Rodriguez scored two more times, including a 65-yard touchdown from to put the game away.

Flushing may have lost the game, but DeSantis will always have a special place in his heart for his senior class and what they accomplished the last two years.

"I love every one of those guys," DeSantis said. "They were the reason we were here today. They worked hard throughout the whole season and did everything they were supposed to do."

Royals

Continued from Page 57

Christ the King knows how hard it is to win and that everyone will need to contribute to get by the likes of Car-

dinal Hayes, Iona Prep and St. Raymond. It is a historic challenge this group has embraced since the season ended last March.

"For the school it would be great history," Cohen said. "We can't wait for it. We've got to work though."

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Jamaica

Continued from Page 1

the people care and when the people care, you can't hold back a community," Meeks said.

The initiative is a jumping off point for the upcoming Jamaica Action Plan, a strategy for economic growth and development in the area led by Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development Alicia Glen, Katz and the community. The plan will be unveiled in the coming weeks.

Katz's office has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars in the capital budget to fix the sewer systems, she said.

Katz also announced the formation of a leadership council which will manage and assess the execution of the Jamaica Action Plan. Members of the neighborhood are being recruited to serve on the council.

City Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans), stressed the importance of assisting Jamaica's youth.

"As the chair of Civil Service and Labor and the most densely populated community of municipal workers, we're certainly addressing that," Miller said. "But we also need to ensure that we have opportunities for our young people, that we continue to attract and retain our young minds with education, with culture and arts but most important, housing that they can afford."

Individuals participated in workshop sessions on transportation, public space, and urban design; housing and commercial development; Jamaica identity, branding and marketing; and Jamaica jobs.



City Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Alban's) speaks at Jamaica Planning Initiative conference.

Photo by Madina Toure

Proposed solutions that came out of the sessions included the need to manage the buses better, accessibility and congestion in subway stations, holding banking institutions accountable for revitalizing the area, more youth councils, greater need for job readiness programs and paid internships.

Jamaica resident Vanessa Sparks, 52, who lives on 111th Street and Sutphin Boulevard, worries that people living in the arteries leading into downtown Jamaica, such as Sutphin Boulevard and Merrick Boulevard, will not benefit from the revitalization of Jamaica Avenue, which includes affordable housing and new stores. She also noted the lack of crosstown buses in southeast Queens as well as the unregulated dollars cars that run along Sutphin Boulevard.

But what she really wants to see is young professionals making a difference in their communities.

"I would like to see some revitalization of some young professional people come back into

the Jamaica/southeast Queens community," Sparks said. "I want them to come with their money and ideas and their talent."

Homeowner Nancy Bradford, 67, also a Jamaica resident, said that developers and homeowners have different priorities. "I think the concern of the developer is how are they able to afford to build whereas what was brought up by the homeowners were lack of concerns about foreclosures of the people who are homeowners," Bradford said.

Tyrell Hankerson, 20, who lives off Merrick Boulevard, participated in the jobs workshop, said the main issues for Jamaica residents are lack of exposure for young people and lack of skills.

"Not too many people know about jobs that may be open to them and then for a lot of skills, some residents in Jamaica don't have certain skills that meet the criteria for certain jobs so there needs to be some type of training," he said.

The conference included presentations on the Jamaica Planning Initiative's area of focus as well as the next steps by Cali Williams, the city Economic Development Corporation vice president, and John Young, the Queens Borough director for the Department of City Planning. Melva Miller, director of economic development at borough president's office, also spoke. Adrienne Adams, chairwoman of Community Board 12, facilitated the conference.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at mtoure@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

Roosevelt

Continued from Page 1

U.S.-citizen children. I'm disappointed that the executive action will not include all 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country and their families."

Make The Road New York, an advocacy group for immigrants, will begin screening community members for eligibility immediately, as the first step in helping community members apply for relief.

The day after the president's Nov. 20 announcement, the South Asian Organizing Center known as DRUM held discussion with other grassroots organizations in their offices near Diversity Plaza in Jackson Heights. Leaders credit the 1-1/2-year-old #Not1More campaign grassroots groups ran in order to pressure the Obama administration to halt deportations, end programs that criminalize immigrants and expand the relief granted to young people in 2012.

"The national consensus turned against hateful politics and for inclusion," DRUM Director Fahd Ahmed said. "Nationwide cities are limiting local involvement in federal deportation efforts, including New York City. With ICE's abusive actions being rejected across the country, it was only a matter of time before

the president had to act. Now, with more of our community safe, we have to fight for everyone left out. Every single person in our communities is fully deserving of relief and equality."

DRUM members passed out flyers that warned the program doesn't begin until spring and further warned of scams asking for money to begin paperwork. DRUM will also hold upcoming information sessions.

At the Emerald Isle Immigration Center at 59-26 Roosevelt Ave. in Woodside, meetings were held in the Walter McCaffery Conference Room Monday, to plan their own information sessions that will be held next week. They plan one at the Sunnyside Community Center at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 followed by another at the St. Sebastian Parish Center Wednesday at 6 p.m.

"Thanks to the president's order now 'The Irish Can Apply.' Our work is just beginning," EIIC Chairman Brian O'Dwyer said. "We look forward to continuing to provide comprehensive and solid advice to immigrants in need, especially with this much-needed and important program."

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

Astoria

Continued from Page 4

and here he is 100 years old and he just left the Community Board two months ago!"

Gasparre was a combat soldier who served in Europe where he saw fought in the Bat-

tle of the Bulge.

"At one point he was in combat for five straight months," Meloni said.

Gasparre became the longtime leader of the Tamiment Democratic Club and various other civic groups.

"These men spoke not of their bravery and sacrifice but

of their thanksgiving for being alive," Vallone said. "They're wonderful guys, always with a warm smile for everyone, and at age 90, Luke is still the best dancer I've ever seen."

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Study

Continued from Page 9

served for manufacturing use.

And the final mixed use proposal suggested blending residential uses with commercial or light industrial uses by mandating that a certain portion of buildings be set aside for the in-

dustrial sector or encouraging diversity through incentives.

"(Mixed use) is not going to work unless industrial is mandated," Renz said, noting landlords typically reap the highest income from residential buildings. However, he said he and Paul Kerzner, of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association, had discussed a

similar idea. "You're not going to live above a chemical factory, but light manufacturing, like a metal working facility, that might work."

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

Carpenters

Continued from Page 5

these projects, and encourage developers to hire minority- and women-owned contractors that employ local residents."

BRP, a Brooklyn-based and minority-led development business, did not respond to inquiries about the union's request or how far along it was in signing construction contracts.

"BRP Companies is focused on advancing the development and will have more to say soon," spokeswoman Zoe Tobin said in a statement.

Meredith Marshall, BRP's co-founder and managing partner, sits on the GJDC board of directors.

The union contended its calls to BRP went unanswered and days have passed since GJDC agreed to pass its pitch along to BRP.

"They just weren't very forthcoming," Donnelly said.

City Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans), who represents the project site and serves as chairman of the Committee on Civil Service & Labor, declined to comment.

Donnelly said the union had partnered with the Rockaway Development and Revitalization Corp. on other projects.

"If they were to work with us, they'd have formal training. You can then take them to anywhere in the country and they can read the blueprint," Donnelly said. "Otherwise, they're told to put a wall up here, and they don't know how to read the blueprints or why the wall is going there."

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

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LEGAL

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on the 10 day of November, 2014, bearing Index No. NC-000968-14/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435 in Room 357, grants me the right to: Assume the name of ANITA KHEMAL. My present name is ANITA KHEMAL-RAMASAR. My present address is 176-15 Henley Road, Jamaica, New York 11432. My place of birth is Queens County, New York. My date of birth is March 16, 1982.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on OCT 06 2014, bearing Index Number NC-000783-14/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 the right to: Assume the name of

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(First) MOHAMED (Last) KABBA. My present name is (First) SAIDU (Last) GASSAMA AKA SAIDU B GASSAMA AKA SAIDU BARRIE GASSAMA. My present address is 150-36 107TH AVE, Jamaica, NY 11433-. My place of birth is SIERRA LEONE. My date of birth is June 24, 1982. Assume the name of (First) UMU (Last) KABBA. My present name is (First) UMU (Last) GASSAMA (infant). My present address is 150-36 107TH AVE, Jamaica, NY 11433-. My place of birth is QUEENS, NY. My date of birth is September 19, 2011. Assume the name of (First) AMINATA (Last) KABBA. My present name is (First) AMINATA (Last) GASSAMA (infant). My present address is 150-36 107TH AVE, Jamaica, NY 11433-. My place of birth is QUEENS, NY. My date of birth is November 22, 2013.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on SEP 30 2014, bearing Index Number NC-000764-14/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 the right to: Assume the name of (First) PRINCE (Middle) JOSEPH (Last) ABDIEL. My present name is (First) JOSE (Middle) A (Last) PEREZ AKA JOSE ANTONIO PEREZ. My present address is 15007 88TH AVE, APT 2A, Jamaica, NY 11432-. My place of birth is QUEENS, NY. My date of birth is DECEMBER 04, 1974.

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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of NY, Queens County. KONDAUR CAPITAL CORPORATION v. JEANNETTE C ALVEAR; HAROLD L CEDENO, 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

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under, by or through said HAROLD L. CEDENO, 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 or them, if any, all whose names are unknown to plaintiff; ADVANTAGE ASSETS II, INC.; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as NOMINEE FOR WMC MORTGAGE CORP.; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; ARROW FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC. Index No. 27646/2010 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated December 19, 2013, Referee Jason Vishnick will sell the premises known as 90-42 Pitkin Avenue, Ozone Park, NY at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Court-house in Room 25 at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11435, on December 19, 2014 at 10:00AM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough and Count of Queens, City and State of new York known as Block 11406 , Lot 18, will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment Index #27646/2010. The approximate amount of judgment is \$531,700.52 plus interest and costs. PULVERS, PULVERS, THOMPSON & FRIEDMAN, LLP 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, Attorneys for Plaintiff

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS PHH Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff, against Ramona Pigford a/k/a Romona Pigford et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated July 14, 2014 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, New York 11435, in Courtroom #25 on December 19, 2014 at 10:00AM, premises known as

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107-20 172 Street, Jamaica, NY 11433 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 NY, Block 10247 Lot 99. Approximate amount of judgment \$182,416.32 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 25265/2012. Gary M. Darche, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: October 20, 2014 11/6732 11/21, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/2014

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS The Bank of New York Mellon fka The Bank of New York as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Holders of SAMI II Trust 2006-ART, Plaintiff, against Vaneta Grant, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 7/11/2014 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, in Courtroom #25 on 12/12/2014 at 10:00AM, premises known as 176-53 132nd Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11434 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: 12545, LOT: 357. Approximate amount of judgment \$353,112.84 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 16406/10. William F. Mackey Jr, Esq., Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff, 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706 11/8043 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 12/05/2014

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS NYCTL 2011-A TRUST, and THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, as Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 2011-A TRUST, Plaintiffs against INNER CITY BUILDERS AND DEVELOPMENT INC., et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated August 11, 2014 and entered on October 3, 2014, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Court-house, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., in Courtroom #25, Jamaica, NY on the 12th day of December, 2014 at 10:00 AM premises situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the Westerly side of 146th Street, distant 308.15 feet South of the intersection of the Southerly side of 130th Avenue and the Westerly

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side of 146th Street; being a plot 71.99 feet by 25.0 feet by 73.32 feet by 25.04 feet by 25.04 feet. Block: 12082 Lot: 15 Said premises known as 146TH STREET (VACANT LAND), JAMAICA, NY Approximate amount of lien \$ 3,554.92 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index Number 7609/13. DENNIS S. CAPPELLO, ESQ., Referee. Seyfarth Shaw LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs 620 Eighth Avenue, 32nd Floor New York, NY 10018-1405 (* JAMAICA TI - *)

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SUMMONS Index No.: 705547-13 D/O/F: November 27, 2013 Premises Address: 188-02 DORMANS ROAD SAINT ALBANS, NY 11412 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS NATION-STAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff, -against- PIERRE RICHARD MATHURIN AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF SOEURETTE LUBIN: JOHN DOE 1 THROUGH 50; JANE DOE 1 THROUGH 50, INTENDING TO BE THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF SOEURETTE LUBIN WHO WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 19, 1936 AND DIED ON MARCH 3, 2012, A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST IF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED, THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DISTRIBUTES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, TRUSTEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, ASSIGNEES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSON, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF ANY, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK ; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA- INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT;; "JOHN DOES" AND "JANE DOES", SAID NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS, PARTIES INTENDED BEING POSSIBLE TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS OF PREMISES, AND CORPORATIONS, OTHER ENTITIES OR PERSONS WHO CLAIM, OR MAY CLAIM, A LIEN

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AGAINST THE PREMISES, Defendant(s), TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The following notice is intended only for those defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. The present amount of the debt as of the date of this summons: \$ 275,236.06 consisting of principal balance of \$235,550.00 plus unpaid accrued interest of 23,106.74, escrow/impound shortages or credits of \$966.37, late charges of \$0.00; MIP charges of \$13,418.53; Broker's Price Opinion/ Appraisal, Property Inspection and miscellaneous charges of \$435.00; surrogate search of \$21.73; attorney fee \$1,200.00 and title search \$537.69. Because of interest and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive the check, in which event we will inform you. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage Company. Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any

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portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after receipt hereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by the herein debt collector. If you notify the herein debt collector in writing within thirty (30) days after your receipt hereof that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment against you representing the debt and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by the herein debt collector. Upon your written request within 30 days after receipt of this notice, the herein debt collector will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor if different from the current creditor. Note: Your time to respond to the summons and complaint differs from your time to dispute the validity of the debt or to request the name and address of the original creditor. Although you have as few as 20 days to respond to the summons and complaint, depending on the manner of service, you still have 30 days from receipt of this summons to dispute the validity of the debt and to request the name and address of the original creditor. TO THE DEFENDANTS: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action. TO THE DEFENDANTS: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law firm is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises. Dated: November 25, 2013 Susan A West, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road Plainville, NY 11803 516-741-2585 Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website

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at www.bank-
ing.state.ny.us. The State
does not guarantee the ad-
vice of these agencies.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS MLB SUB I, LLC, . Filed: Plaintiff Index No. -against- QUEENS RELIABLE MANAGEMENT CORP.; SANDRA MORRISON; GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE; BROOKHAVEN SERVICING CORP.; CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK; QUEENS SUPREME COURT; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10" inclusive the names of the ten last name Defendants being fictitious, real names unknown to the Plaintiff, the parties intended being persons or corporations having an interest in, or tenants or persons in possession of, portions of the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint, . Plaintiff designates QUEENS County as place of trial Venue is based upon County in which premises are being situate SUMMONS WITH NOTICE ACTION TO FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE AND TO

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DEEM A SENIOR MORTGAGE SATISFIED 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 upon the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the date of service or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. If you fail to so appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. DATED: ...Elmsford, New York May 15, 2014 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY

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SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF MLB SUB I, LLC AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Richard F. Komosinski Knuckles, Komosinski & Elliott, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 565 Taxter Road Suite 590 Elmsford, NY 10523 Phone: (914) 345-3020 TO THE ABOVE DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to order the Hon. Howard G. Lane, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Queens County, dated Oct. 23, 2014 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Queens County Clerk's Office, Jamaica, NY. Prem. k/a 217-14 133rd Rd., Springfield Gardens, NY a/k/a being in Springfield, Long Island, N.Y., known and designated on a certain map entitled, "Map of Ryder Heights, 4th Ward, Borough of Queens, N.Y., City of New York surveyed February, 1906, by E.W. Conklin, City Surveyor" as part of Lots Nos. 17 and 18, in Block No. 1, being 40 ft. wide front and rear by 80 ft. deep on both sides. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS: MLB SUB I, LLC IS FORECLOSING AGAINST THE OWNER OF THIS PREMISES. IF YOU LIVE HERE, THIS LAWSUIT MAY RESULT IN YOUR

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EVICTION. YOU MAY WISH TO CONTACT A LAWYER TO DISCUSS ANY RIGHTS AND POSSIBLE DEFENSES YOU MAY HAVE. NOTICE OF OBJECT OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above-entitled action is for the following: (a) to foreclosure a mortgage bearing date July 24, 2006 given by Sandra Morrison to MERS as nominee for BNC Mortgage, Inc. to secure the sum of \$374,000.00 and recorded as CRFN: 2006000501031 in the office of the County Clerk/City Register of Queens County on September 5, 2006 and which mortgage was ultimately assigned to the Plaintiff herein as later evidenced by written instrument dated April 7, 2014 which is to be recorded with the County Clerk/City Register of Queens County; and cancellation/satisfaction of the following: (b) a mortgage bearing date January 16, 1975 given by Dantes Fluery LeBlanc to Nationwide Holding Corp. to secure the sum of \$24,500.00 and recorded as Liber 812 at Page 1159 in the office of the County Clerk/City Register of Queens County on January 21, 1975 and which mortgage was ultimately assigned to Brookhaven Servicing Corp. as later evidenced by written instrument dated February 18, 1975 and recorded in Liber 822 at Page 1855 with the County Clerk/City Register of Queens County

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on March 15, 1975 covering the premises described as follows: 217-14 133rd Road, Springfield Gardens, New York The relief sought in the within action includes a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the mortgage described above. The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against any Defendants in this action Sandra Morrison.- #85112

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE Index No. 704456/2014 Date Filed: 10/27/2014 Bank of America, N.A., Plaintiff, against Shanmati Narine, if she be living or if she be dead, her spouse, heirs devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff; Hadrian Narine; City of New York Environmental Control Board; City of New York Parking Violations Bureau; City of New York Transit Adjudication Bureau, State of New York; and "JOHN DOE", said name being fictitious, it being the intention of Plaintiff to designate any and all occupants of premises being foreclosed herein, and any parties, corporations or entities, if any, having or claiming an interest or lien upon the mortgaged premises. Defendants. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 10209 187th

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Street, Hollis, NY 11423 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 a notice of appearance on the attorneys for the Plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$329,600.00 and interest, recorded in the QUEENS County Office of the City Register on April 18, 2008, in CRFN 2008000156733 covering premises known as 10209 187th Street, Hollis, NY 11423. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. Plaintiff designates QUEENS County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND

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TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Dated: September 29, 2014 Frank M. Cassara, Esq. Associate Attorney Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14624 (585) 247-9000 Our File No. 14-03412 Premises known as 10209 187th Street, Hollis, NY 11423. All that certain property situate, lying and being at Hollis, Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York. Block 10366, Lot 163

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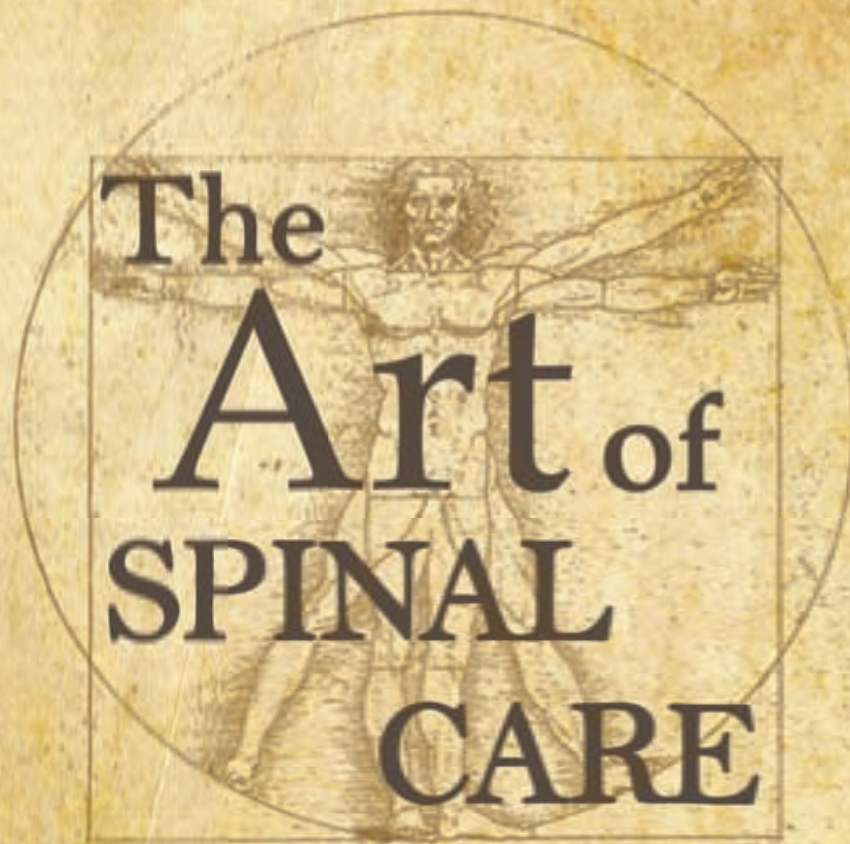
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