

CB 9 skeptical of DOT report on SBS lanes

BY GABRIEL ROM

As the Department of Transportation gave Community Board 9 a status update on Select Bus Service at its monthly meeting, it began to dawn on community leaders that SBS on Woodhaven Boulevard is not a matter of if but of when and how.

After public testimony from nine residents, all opposed to SBS, DOT Senior Project Manager Taylor Gouge faced the board, gave her presentation and fielded questions from skeptical members.

Gouge focused on showing that the DOT is sensitive to community concerns and receptive to feedback. SBS, she said, will be implemented in a phased initiative and that the decision was made in direct response to community input.

"We will have a lot of tools to make sure the short-term project works," Gouge said.

She summarized the chronology of the project as two phases - short-term and long-term.

Phase 1 will include street resurfacing, roadway and pedestrian safety improvements, bus lanes and transit signal priority and the installation

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City pans music festivals

Applications for summer shows in Flushing Meadows Corona Park rejected

BY BILL PARRY

There will be no large-scale music festivals in Flushing Meadows Corona Park this summer after the city's Parks Department Monday rejected all current applications by for-profit companies to hold paid-admission events in the borough's largest green space.

The city received three applications to use the park for multi-day festivals from concert promoters AEG Live, The Madison Square Garden Company and Founders Entertainment, but Parks determined it would not be appropriate to add these events.

"Parks reviewed all permit applications thoroughly," Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver said. "While we are heartened by the interest in one of Queens' most historic parks, our primary concern is ensuring the park is available for the many New Yorkers who call Flushing Meadows Corona Park their backyard."

Parks intends to explore the possibility of rule-making to create an appropriate framework for approving large-scale multi-day events in FMCP, officials said. Rule-making would include limits on the potential number, scale, and nature of any such events so as not to

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CHRISTMAS CLEANUP



Headed for the wood chipper is little Samson Garber's first Christmas tree. With his father, Craig of Forest Hills, Samson brought the tree to Juniper Valley Park to be made into mulch for parks around the city.

Photo by Michael Shain



NYPD Chief of Community Affairs Joanne Jaffe discusses new units, including an immigrant outreach initiative, at the 103rd Precinct's community council meeting.

Sadeef Kully

Crime drops 6% in Jamaica precinct

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Despite the fatal shooting of a 16-year-old man on Dec. 31 in South Jamaica, newly promoted Inspector John Cappelman said Tuesday night overall crime was down 6 percent in the surrounding neighbor-

hoods of downtown Jamaica at a 103rd community precinct meeting.

The monthly meeting included a special guest, NYPD Chief of Community Affairs Joanne Jaffe, who discussed new units including an outreach initiative to help immi-

grants feel welcomed and understand that police officers were there to protect them.

"Crime going down 6 percent is a major achievement for us," Cappelman said, who was promoted Dec. 18 from the post of deputy inspector. "We

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Hoverboard bill re-do

Peralta makes changes to his legalization legislation

BY BILL PARRY

Less than a week after he introduced a measure to legalize and regulate hoverboards, state Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) announced he is making substantial policy changes to the legislation.

In light of recent reports that some of the devices are igniting into flames or exploding, the new proposal empowers the State Department's Division of Consumer Protection with the capacity to investigate complaints about these incidents, as well as keep a public database that catalogues them.

If the division determines that hoverboards or electric unicycles have exploded, the agency would post the brand, model, manufacturer and retail seller of the malfunctioning device on its website.

"We have to deal with this issue head-on because the reality is this is a new technology," Peralta said. "As we await new safety standards from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, we must take interim steps to ensure that shoddy versions of these devices and poor components are not finding their way into the marketplace."

In addition, manufacturers and retail sellers that distribute devices that explode or burst into flames will face a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each violation. On a third violation, these businesses would lose the ability to sell hoverboards and electric unicycles in New York State.

"This is a three strikes and you're out scenario," Peralta said. "We simply cannot have people selling products that may endanger the safety of consumers."

Another amendment to the legislation relates to the "reck-



State Senator Jose Peralta announces substantial changes to his hoverboard and electric unicycle legalization bill. Photo courtesy of alibaba.com

less operation" of these popular devices. If a person rides these devices in a manner that endangers the safety or property of another, the hoverboard or electric unicycle operator will face fines under New York state law.

Like current New York City rules that apply to skateboarding or in-line skating on sidewalks, operators of hoverboards and electric unicycle users would not face a fine if riding them safely on sidewalks. However, reckless operators of hoverboards or electric unicycles will face penalties ranging from \$50 to \$100.

"Hoverboard and electric unicycle riders don't belong in urban streets where a sidewalk is available," Peralta said. "The last thing we want is to have a hoverboard operator get into a major accident with a truck, car or motorbike, and while riding on a city side-

walk, they have to make sure they do so in a safe manner, while providing pedestrians with the utmost respect."

The legislation further mandates that hoverboard or electric unicycle riders under the age of 18 wear protective gear while operating these devices—specifically a helmet, knee pads and wrist guards.

"We must ensure that our kids ride these popular devices in a manner that is very safe," Peralta said.

The bill continues to provide municipal authorities with the power to create their own additional regulations regarding these devices since there is no "one size fits all" approach available at the State level to address the wide range of varying traffic concerns across New York State.

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

Sloan science award won by boro teacher

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

used later in life."

A Bellerose teacher at the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College said she would not have been named one of the seven to receive a Sloan Awards For Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics without support of her colleagues.

The awards recognize New York City public high school teachers who motivate students to reach further, work harder, and develop and expand their love for science and mathematics. The teachers must also inspire students to pursue careers in science and mathematics.

Queens High School for the Sciences at York College teacher Shanaz Baksh was chosen out of thousands of teachers.

Baksh's science research course pairs students with scientists and professors across the city who guide students in crafting original scientific research projects.

"I like to make them love science," Baksh said, a Bellerose resident. "My courses include skills that can be

Baksh, who teaches AP Biology, freshman research and advanced science research, said skills such as citing sources for research, oral presentations and peer review can go straight from the classroom into the workplace.

"The AP biology exam has changed and there is more argumentative writing so I try to incorporate that into my classes," she said.

Baksh said that her students sometimes become the teacher.

"Students are very open to anything and sometimes if I find out about some new technology, they will tell me about it. They do not turn their nose down on me just because I might not know something."

She said in the future she would love to teach computer programming after she learned more about computer science at a teacher's conference.

Baksh said the award would not have been possible without the help of her supportive colleagues, principal and York College, which neighbors Queens High School for the Sciences.

According to the Sloan Foundation, in order to qualify, a teacher must have taught math or science in the city's high schools for at least five years and must demonstrate excellence in teaching and in achieving results.

The winners are chosen by an independent panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators.

Each teacher will be awarded a prize of \$5,000 and each school will receive \$2,500 to strengthen their



SHANAZ BAKSH

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Students develop mobile apps for Forest Park

Grover Cleveland High School kids strut their tech stuff for Crowley, Fariña and others

BY GABRIEL ROM

Five years ago, Grover Cleveland High School's Academy of Information Technology received a grant from computer technology company Lenovo to start an app development workshop under the instruction of GCHS teacher Andrew Woodbridge.

At Forest Park's Oak Ridge, Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Glendale) and Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina gathered with Woodbridge and a group of talented students Jan. 7 to showcase six mobile apps.

Crowley, who worked at Forest Park when she was younger, proposed that this year they develop an app focused on the park.

"Forest Park is over 500 acres with many different attractions, from the Ridgewood Reservoir to the bandshell to the carousel," Crowley said. "Whether you have lived in the area for 50 years or just a



Grover Cleveland High School students developed six mobile apps relating to Forest Park: Who's Buried Near Forest Park, Forest Park Birding, Rocky's Forest Park Adventure, A Tour of Forest Highland Park, Reservoir Racing, Sports Navigator and Forest Park Attractions. Photo courtesy of Councilwoman Crowley's Office

few months, it's a tough park to navigate. These different apps will let residents and visi-

tors alike take advantage of all our community has to offer." Daranne Ponce, a Grover

Cleveland student who worked on the Revisor Racing app, said she was inspired by For-

est Park's "beautiful, scenic views."

Along with her two other teammates, Isra Bisharat and Gustavo Espinoza, Ponce developed an app that would time users as they raced past a series of checkpoints around the reservoir.

Espinoza, who worked on coding the app, said he only had a single year of computer engineering experience before embarking on the project.

"We try to keep it simple," he said.

For many of students this was their first foray into mobile application development.

"We immediately got thrown into this, so we're happy," said Stephanie Veslasquez who was part of the Rocky's Forest Park Adventure app development team. That app was developed from pictures the group took on a tour of the park.

While Woodbridge says he offered help to his students

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Muslims praise NYPD settlement

Community welcomes changes in city policy as response to Muslim surveillance lawsuits

BY MADINA TOURE



The Muslim community praised a settlement of lawsuits regarding the NYPD's surveillance of Muslim groups. Photo by David Goldman/AP

Borough Muslims said they are pleased with the city's settlement of several lawsuits from 2013 that accused the NYPD of improperly investigating Muslim groups.

While the city did not admit to engaging in improper practices, it plans to provide additional guidance to police officers. The changes are an effort to offer more thorough guidance to NYPD personnel within the existing Handschu Guidelines, rules that shape investigations of terrorism and other potentially unlawful political activity.

Mohammad Rahman, president of the Jamaica Muslim Center at 85-37 168th St., said his center has had good relations with the Police Department, but that the surveillance program violated Muslims' constitutional rights, calling the settlement "a victory for the Muslims."

"It did not affect us much, but as a Muslim a lot of people were under the surveillance program they had," Rahman

said. "It was a discriminatory thing. It definitely does not go with the Constitution of this country."

Bengali community activist Mazeda Uddin said Muslims are not treated well but that they are at least not afraid to speak up.

"Before, they don't want to

even bring up issues with anyone, even to the police... even to the state," Uddin said.

The Handschu Guidelines were implemented after a class-action suit brought by American political activist and lawyer Barbara Handschu and others in 1971 accusing the NYPD's Red Squad, a political

intelligence unit, of spying by keeping dossiers on political activists. A judge agreed to modified the guidelines in 2003 at the request of the NYPD due to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. They will be changed as part of a resolution of *Raza v. City of New York*, a lawsuit alleging "suspicion-less surveillance" of Muslims, and *Handschu v. Special Service Division*, a challenge to numerous NYPD surveillance and investigative practices aimed at political organizations.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said the changes "make it easier to maintain best practices in intelligence gathering and investigations" and Mayor Bill de Blasio called communities of faith "strong partners in the fight against terrorism."

The changes include clearly incorporating regulations against religious profiling in police policies, a provision for considering the effect investigations have on people who are not targets in the same community, reasonable time limits for certain investiga-

tions and adding a civilian member to an internal NYPD Handschu Committee. The NYPD also agreed to remove the 2007 report "Radicalization in the West" about terrorism from its website.

But Tanjir Alam, secretary at Masjid Baitul Gaffar in Richmond Hill, said there must have been a reason that prompted the NYPD to spy on the Muslim community in the city, but he could not comment on the settlement.

If a member of the Muslim community had plans on doing something wrong, "I definitely support the NYPD or any law enforcement," Alam said.

Rahman cited Bratton and de Blasio have had good relations with the 107th Precinct and the Muslim community compared to previous administrations. De Blasio visited his center last month.

"He's (de Blasio) been working very well with all the communities and as a Muslim, I don't have (any) complaints about this mayor or this police commissioner," he said.

Cuomo puts hope in Stringer to clean up homeless shelters

BY BILL PARRY



Gov. Andrew Cuomo pledges \$20 billion over five years to combat the homeless crisis during his State of the State Address.

Courtesy of Governor's Office/Darren McGee

Mayor Bill de Blasio thought he had gained some momentum in his battle with the city's homeless crisis in the days before Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State Address. Last week the mayor vowed his administration was "taking the gloves off" and "we're owning this issue 110 percent."

On Monday he announced his administration has financed more than 40,000 affordable apartments since taking office, and Tuesday the mayor rolled out a Supportive Housing Task Force to help the city implement its plan to create 15,000 units of supportive housing.

"It means thousands of people off the street, out of shelter, away from the revolving door

of the criminal justice system and emergency rooms," de Blasio said. On Wednesday, he traveled to Albany, where he explained to legislators how the city is handling a shelter

population of 58,000 people with another 3,000 to 4,000 living on the street.

Then de Blasio and Cuomo had a meeting Wednesday
Continued on Page 9

Nolan adds her voice to garbage train plea

BY GABRIEL ROM

State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (D-Ridgewood) has raised objections with Gov. Andrew Cuomo over the procurement process of new locomotives by the New York and Atlantic railway company, which operates Glendale's Fresh Pond Rail Yard.

"I am concerned that New York and Atlantic, which is a private company, is being put in charge of an RFP that is publicly funded," Nolan wrote in the letter Jan. 6.

The Request For Proposal that Nolan cites in her letter pertains to the first of the three low-emission locomotives and was awarded on Feb. 1, 2014. The locomotives have been funded by more than \$9 million in state money since 2011.

In a February 2014 interview with the TimesLedger, NYA Railway President Paul Victor said the quieter and cleaner PR30B locomotive would be delivered by the end of the year. No engines have yet been delivered.

"How is this arrangement possible?" Nolan asks in her letter. "What is the NYS DOT's role? What is the MTA/LIRR's involvement? I...believe that both the LIRR and NYS DOT should be responsible for the RFP and take control of these remaining funds."

According to the RFP Nolan cites in her letter, the engine is to be delivered "on or before Dec. 31, 2104."

Mary Perisen, co-chair of CURSE, does not find the typo so amusing and says the delays point to larger problems
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Astoria N/Q stations to be closed for work

BY BILL PARRY

Astoria straphangers will lose the use of four of their subway stations on the N/Q line for six months to a year for major renovations, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last Friday.

MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said it is too early to tell when the shutdowns will occur, but sources said the MTA will stagger the closures and no two stations in a row will be closed at the same time.

The station redevelopments will take place at the 30th Avenue, Broadway, 36th

Avenue and 39th Avenue stations. Each station will be cleaner, brighter and easier to navigate when they are reopened.

"This is about doing more than just repair and maintain," Cuomo said. "This is thinking bigger and better and building the 21st-century transit system New Yorkers deserve. We are modernizing the MTA like never before and improving it for years to come."

The MTA will use design-build procurement to deliver the projects more quickly, at

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The 30th Avenue station is among four Astoria stops that will be closed for six months to a year as they are upgraded by the MTA.

YouTube

Subway gets face-lift

Cuomo unveils plan to remodel 30 stations in system

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has come up with a far-reaching plan to push the often beleaguered Metropolitan Transportation Authority into the 21st century, including a complete overhaul of 30 subway stations, "contactless payment" from straphangers as they board subways and buses and WiFi in all stations by the end of this year.

The MTA and the transit head of the union representing more than 30,000 transit workers hailed the blueprint.

"The MTA is absolutely vital to the daily functioning of New York City, but for too long it has failed to meet the region's growing size and strength," Cuomo said. "This is about doing more than just repair and maintain — this is thinking bigger and better and building the 21st century transit system New Yorkers deserve. We are modernizing the MTA like never before and improving it for years to come."

"The MTA is committed to meeting Gov. Cuomo's chal-



Seven subway stations in Queens are set to close completely for full-scale renovations.

lenge hands-on eliminating every possible inefficiency to deliver these improvements faster, better and at a lower cost," said MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast. "We'll accomplish this by incorporating the governor's suggestions" in improving the transit system.

The governor's plan would remodel 30 subway stations, including seven in Queens.

"These cleaner, brighter stations will be easier to navigate with better and more intuitive wayfinding as well as a modernized look and feel," Cuomo said.

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New hope for Dream Act

BY BILL PARRY

There is renewed hope for supporters of the Dream Act in New York state.

The legislation authorizing undocumented students who graduate from high schools in New York to apply for college financial aid is on track to be a priority during the 2016 legislative session.

When he opened the session Jan. 6, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, who has the power to decide which bills are considered, set an agenda that included more funding for education and additional resources for struggling schools as well as adequate funding for universal pre-kindergarten. Heastie also declared that the Assembly would once again pass the Dream Act. The high-profile measure sponsored by Assemblyman Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights) has passed the Assembly for several years in a row, only to be

stymied by the Republican-dominated Senate.

"Year after year we have fought for our bright young students," Moya said. "And year after year, the Assembly has acted with vision, while the Senate has chosen to act with fear. I am confident that with Speaker Heastie's help, 2016 will be the year of the Dream. I believe — now more than ever — that a young person's status should not be a barrier to his or her success."

It is estimated that of the 4,500 undocumented students who graduate from New York high schools every year, only 5 to 10 percent pursue a college degree—mainly due to the financial hurdles such students must face. Heastie said the measure would enable more students to successfully complete their education and build "sound, lasting careers and make a meaningful contribution to our communities."

67 Ave., Parsons on rehab list

BY GABRIEL ROM

The 67th Avenue subway station in Forest Hills and the Parsons Boulevard stop in Jamaica are among 30 stations citywide to be completely renovated, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has announced. The upgrades, which will be covered by the MTA's 2015-2019 Capital Program, will be constructed through a "design-build process," which Cuomo said will cut work time by half.

The MTA has not yet announced when the Forest Hills and Jamaica stations will close for upgrades or for how long, but work on all the stations is estimated to be completed by 2020.

"The bottom line is we don't know anything," said Michael Cohen a spokesman for Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills).

The renovations will close off the 67th Avenue station (on



The MTA said they will use "design-build" procurement to deliver the renovations more quickly and at a lower cost.

Photo by Michael Shain

the M and R lines) and the Parsons Boulevard stop (on the F line), each for six months to a

year, according to the MTA. They are part of a citywide effort to modernize the subway system and make it more "millennial friendly," according to Cuomo.

Four Astoria subway stations will also close for several months as part of the plan.

Elected officials applauded Cuomo's plan.

"What is there not to be happy with a modernization of a station," Cohen said.

Design-build projects have found success in Queens. In May, Swedish construction giant Skanska in a joint venture with the firms of Kiewit and ECCO III, along with lead design firm HNTB, was awarded a \$555 million design-build contract with the state Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of the Kosciuszko Bridge. The project was considered an ideal candidate for design-build, which

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Ex-con looks for cop who helped him land a job

LaGuardia Airport worker thankful after a decade of unemployment because of jail time

BY BILL PARRY

An ex-con from the Bronx has been driving the streets in and around LaGuardia Airport searching for an NYPD officer for the last month.

James Roberts, 58, is not sure of the cop's name or the precinct he is stationed at, but he is positive about one thing.

"That man changed my life," Roberts said. "I'm just trying to find him so I can thank him properly, maybe take him to lunch. I'm pretty sure his name was Anderson or Andrews, something like that, and he's a bald black man in his mid-30s with a little mustache. And he was very polite and very nice."

Roberts was a small-time drug dealer with the street name "Mousie" in the '80s and '90s, selling crack and marijuana. He claims he was not a violent criminal.

"I didn't believe in gun violence or knives," Robert said. "Killing people is wrong, but I



Ex-con James Roberts lands a job with some timely help of a cop at LaGuardia Airport last month.

Photo by Bill Parry

came to realize that I was killing people, too, but I was doing it with crack. I saw what crack was doing to God's children

and when I came to that realization, I just had to retire."

Roberts stopped dealing drugs in 1999, but several

weeks later he was arrested and charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance. Roberts claimed he was set up

by a woman he had refused to sell to because she was pregnant.

"When she pointed me out to the cops, I had nothing but \$7 and four cigarettes in my pocket," Roberts recalled. "It was my rap sheet that caught up with me and they sent me upstate."

Roberts spent the next four years in Clinton Dannemora Prison, the maximum security jail for men just south of Montreal. Roberts steered clear of trouble, spending all of his free time studying in the prison's law library.

After his release in 2005, Roberts found that his incarceration was a barrier to employment. For the next 12 years he tried a job readiness program and spent time in the Doe Fund, but the only work he could get was as a disc jockey technician two or three times a month making \$25 a party.

In November, an acquaintance suggested he try talking

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Crash

Continued from Page 4

lems with NYA.

"This process took longer than it should have, it's more expensive than it should be, and there are no new engines working today," she said.

Paul Victor, president of NYA, said the first locomotive engine is currently undergoing testing and should be delivered to the Fresh Pond Rail Yard by the end of March. Victor said that the second train should arrive only a few weeks after the first.

"It's new technology, it's a high-tech thing, it's going through additional testing because it's a prototype engine," Victor said.

In a 2014 letter to the state Department of Transportation, KLV President Jim Wurtz argued that NYA's award to Progress Rail disregarded the Green Locomotive Repower Project.

The state DOT's Freight and Passenger Rail Bureau Director Raymond Hessinger responded to Wurtz a week later, saying NYA was managing the project on its own and that the state had full confidence in the company.

NYA is currently under investigation by the Federal Railroad Administration after an August crash in Mas-



A train operated by New York Atlantic Railways derailed Sept. 15 in Hicksville one month after a federal safety probe was opened on the company.

Photo courtesy of WCBS/2

peth that left one injured. One month later on Sept. 15, another train operated by NYA derailed in Hicksville, Long Island. The causes for both accidents are cited in preliminary safety reports as speeding along with "a result of improper train handling."

Victor disputes the findings, and says the accident in Hicksville was caused by "harmonic rock," a complex phenomenon caused by certain car types travelling at specific speeds.

The sweeping federal

safety probe will review both technical and human factors.

Once the safety review is complete, FRA will issue a report that includes findings and recommendations and will also evaluate NYA's follow-up to the recommendations and determine if additional actions are necessary to strengthen safety at the freight railway.

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at grom@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

Shelters

Continued on Page 4 morning.

"The governor and I talked for, I think, about a half an hour," he said. "It was a productive conversation and (we) went over some of the details of his speech."

At 12:30, Mayor de Blasio took his seat in the third row of an Albany convention center and waited for more than an hour until Cuomo reached the point in his speech where he addressed the city's homeless crisis.

Calling the explosion of the number of homeless on the streets "a true human crisis," Cuomo said, "we will not allow people to dwell in the gutter like garbage."

He proposed spending \$20 billion over five years as part of an effort to reduce the growing number of New Yorkers who are homeless. Cuomo said the state will add 100,000 permanent affordable housing units, 6,000 new supportive housing beds and 1,000

emergency shelter beds. He pledged the state will continue supporting 44,000 units of housing with supportive services and 77,000 shelter beds.

"People have been attacked and victimized in some shelters, and some would rather stay outside in the frigid cold than risk entering -- and they are right to do it," Cuomo said. "It's imperative that we improve conditions of the shelters and restore the public's trust in the system. We need a true independent review, inspection and action plan from objective experts to go forward."

Cuomo then appointed City Comptroller Scott Stringer to inspect the city's homeless shelters and promised to shut down those that are not up to standards. Stringer had blasted the de Blasio administration over the shelter system in an audit last year.

He has also rejected a permanent contract proposal of the Boulevard Family Shelter in the former Pan American hotel in Elmhurst four times since it opened in June 2014.

Stringer, who was in Albany for the address, spoke briefly after the governor's address.

"Homeless shelters are our invisible city," Stringer said. "I will work with my fellow comptrollers, as well as our partners in city and state government to continue to audit and investigate our shelters in a comprehensive way and ensure they are safe for our most vulnerable citizens. Increased state support is critical to addressing this challenge."

In a media briefing following Cuomo's address, de Blasio said he did not believe the announcement gave Stringer any new powers. He said the city Department of Investigation had already looked into shelter conditions last year.

De Blasio added that Stringer has the existing authority to conduct audits, but he called the power to close shelters "an entirely different matter that has to be worked through."

Helpful cop

Continued from Page 6

to America Works, a private workforce development firm that has found jobs for a half a million hard-to-place workers since 1984. America Works has placed military veterans, long-term welfare and food stamp recipients, people who are homeless and living in shelters, and like Roberts, former criminal offenders.

On Jan. 7, his case worker told him she found a job for him at LaGuardia Airport servicing cars at the National, Enterprise and Alamo rental-car depots and he raced to Queens. When he got off the M60 bus at 82nd Street and Astoria Boulevard North, Robert realized his appointment was not at the airport but at the offices of Cavalry Staffing in Fresh Meadows. But since he only had enough fare for his return trip to the Bronx, he began to get uptight and visibly agitated and that's when he heard a voice.

"This police officer was sitting in his patrol car at the bus stop and he tried to calm me down," Robert said. "When he looked at the address, he said he knew the place because he took his wife to the Applebee's around the corner. I said point me in the direction and I'll start walking because I don't have the fare. That's when he told me to get in the car and

he'd take me there. He said it was OK, he was on his lunch break."

When the officer dropped him at the proper offices on 186th Street, he shook Roberts' hand and wished him the best of luck.

"I told him if I got the job I'd take him to lunch at that Applebee's on 188th Street," Roberts said. "Well, I got the job the very same day and ever since I've been driving around hoping to find him, so I can take him to lunch and thank him for caring."

America Works CEO Dr. Lee Bowes found the whole story to be heartwarming from beginning to end.

"First off, Mr. Roberts has been collecting Social Security disability checks, so he could have spent the rest of his life at home collecting checks, but he preferred to work," Bowes said. "And then to see how this officer helped him was touching. We would love to be able to let Commissioner Bratton know what this officer did, but we haven't been able to find him."

The NYPD's 114th and 115th Precincts and the Port Authority Police Department have been unable to find an officer matching the description.

Roberts said he will keep searching until he finds him.

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

Grover

Continued from Page 3

when they hit roadblocks, he also encouraged them to tackle problems on their own and to adapt on the fly, developing what he sees as crucial skills for the job force.

"This is all about how what they're doing is transferable to their careers," Woodbridge said.

"These are skills that can transfer over to any industry--both technology skills and soft skills, like public speaking and interpersonal skills," he added. Crowley solicited help from various community partners including the Forest Park Trust, Woodhaven Cultural and Historical Society, the Ridgewood Reservoir, the Highland Park Alliance, the

Queens Historical Society, the Department of Parks and Recreation and H2O.

"It is wonderful to see a program like this that engages students in STEM learning while teaching them about social studies and civic engagement," Fariña said.

As the showcase came to a close, Denise Vittor, principal of Grover Cleveland, took a small group of students aside and asked them what they could improve on. The kids shifted uneasily.

"Be confident and be sure of yourself," Vittor said. "There are a lot of people who have never done what you're doing."

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at grom@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

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POLICE Blotter

Suspects sought in Jax Hts attack: NYPD

JACKSON HEIGHTS — The NYPD was looking for three men in connection with a felony assault in Jackson Heights last month.

At about 8:30 p.m. Dec. 19, three men approached a 21-year-old man in front of La Escuelita Nueva Bar Lounge at 78-07 Roosevelt Ave. from behind and one of the suspects cut his left hand with a knife, police said.

The three individuals fled eastbound on Roosevelt Avenue and the victim was taken to Elmhurst General Hospital where he was treated and released, officials said.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic man, 5-foot-2 tall, weighing 160 pounds and was last seen wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt with blood stains on the front, blue jeans, a blue Yankees baseball cap and black sneakers.

One person of interest who accompanied the suspect is described as a Hispanic man, 5-foot-5 tall with black hair and glasses wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, black jeans, brown shoes and a black backpack.

The other person of interest is a Hispanic man, 5-foot-tall, with black hair and glasses wearing a black hooded "Echo" sweatshirt, light blue jeans and black sneakers with a black and gray backpack.

The investigation was ongoing, a police spokesman said.



Police released these video images of two of the three men suspected in an assault in the 115th Precinct.

Photo courtesy of NYPD

Man swiped iPhone on M train: Police

LONG ISLAND CITY—Police were searching for a man who stole a 26-year-old woman's iPhone while they were on the M train in Long Island City on New Year's Eve.

At about 6:10 a.m. Dec. 31, the victim was riding the northbound M train at the Court Square—23rd Street train station when a man approached her and forcibly removed her iPhone 5C, police said.

The suspect then left the train at the Court Square station and fled to an unknown location, officials said.

There were no injuries reported as a result of the incident, police added.

The suspect was described as a 30-year-old black man, 5-foot-10-tall, with brown eyes, straight black hair and a dark complexion. He was last seen wearing a gray and blue hooded jacket with the letters "KA on the back."

No arrests have been made and the investigation was going, a police spokesman said.



Police released this image of a suspect in a robbery in the 108th Precinct.

Photo courtesy of NYPD

After 25 years, VIP youth program ends

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

After a long battle with the state for public funding to keep its doors open, Varied Internships Programs, a Jamaica-based nonprofit youth program, shut its doors on the eve of the new year.

Varied Internship Program, better known as VIP, provided workshops, mentors and employment for more than 100 participants annually while providing a stipend and travel costs. The deadline to file a request for state funding was Dec. 31 and the annual cost to run the program would have been an estimated \$250,000.

"VIP really cemented the relationship between public service and private businesses. It is really sad to see our doors close after 25 years of services to the community," said James Blake, founder of VIP.

After 25 years, VIP is one of the dozen or so nonprofit youth programs across the city that have found themselves without funding from the state Office of Alcohol and Substance



Professor James Blake sat with supporters of the Varied Internships Program, based in downtown Jamaica, one of about a dozen nonprofit youth programs that recently lost state funding. Photo by Sadeef Kully

Abuse. Policy changes forced understaffed and overworked nonprofits such as VIP to apply for funds through a request for proposal -- something no one at VIP knew how to do.

Last year in an email interview, a spokeswoman from the state office said all programs

that "did not win a new contract under the Prevention [Request For Proposal] were awarded an additional six months of funding until Dec. 31 to allow time for transition planning and for seeking alternate funding sources."

According to Blake, the

program would cost a bare minimum of \$50,000 to continue until May 2016, but the deadline came and went.

VIP had applied and gotten the proposal rejected by a few points, then appealed the rejection. The appeal was also denied.

Blake said the fight to bring back funding has been nothing short of complete frustration. In the last few months, he reached out to elected officials and the Cuomo administration for help, with little to no response.

Blake did mention the continued support and effort he found with the office of state Sen. Leroy Comrie's (D-Hollis) office. "They kept checking in and that meant something," he said.

In mid-December, Blake realized the program would not be able to stay open and decided to tell his staff.

"We fought until the very end -- we are still very necessary. VIP keeps kids off the streets and away from gangs," he said. "It has been very sad to close our doors."

Blake said his group will continue to look for other public and private funds.

"I tell my students all the time words plus action equals results. My psychology is not a period but a comma that continues into the next phase," he said.

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From humble beginnings, born to West Indian parents, Olivier was instilled with a sense of pride in heritage and community. Olivier has served as a former assistant district attorney for many years and now continues to serve the community in private practice.

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PARKS, NOT PROFITS

Every piece of public green space is a precious commodity in Queens. At the top of list is Flushing Meadows Corona Park, a sprawling 900-acre expanse that plays host to the US Open, Citi Field and the ambitions of developers who want to build a mall on a parcel outside the ballpark.

Flushing Meadows also happens to be the people's park, where residents come to play cricket, hold soccer matches and attend ethnic festivals. Others just chill, strolling around the Unisphere and the foundations on a Sunday afternoon.

As Queens' profile has risen—the Lonely Planet travel guide called it the top spot to visit in America last year—interest in staging a major music festival in the vast park has grown. Such an extravaganza could burnish the borough's reputation internationally.

There are at least three promoters with plans to transform part of Flushing Meadows into a concert venue that would require the audience to pay admission. But it would also mean making that section off limits to regular parkgoers.

Borough President Melinda Katz has been cautiously receptive to the idea, which would put Queens on an even bigger world map as the destination for tens of thousands of music fans. She has acknowledged the obvious benefits, but has expressed serious reservations about renting out public parkland for events where patrons must pay.

This would set a precedent in Queens, where it has never been done before.

Several Queens lawmakers have been cheerleaders for a giant music festival, which they believe would make the borough a showcase for the city and bring jobs, as well as tourism, to the county. On the other hand, civic groups, the Queens Civic Congress and at least two community boards have been opposed to the plan even though some of the promoters have vowed to be good neighbors.

Katz, concerned about the lack of public policy on for-profit use of city parks, sought guidelines from the de Blasio administration and this week she got an answer. The Parks Dept. denied all current applications by private companies to hold large-scale concerts requiring admission fees in Flushing Meadows.

Katz called Mayor de Blasio's decision "fair" and said it gives the city time to develop an official policy on whether to close down parks and rent out the space to private companies.

The borough president was on target by pressing the administration to draw up a citywide framework for how our parks should be protected. When the profit motive comes face-to-face with public land, there is room for both sinners and winners.



OTHER VOICES

Making Queens a more livable place

It's time to make New Year's resolutions for your community—and AARP's Livability Index can help you do just that.

In 2015, AARP launched the Index, a web-based tool to measure the quality of life in American communities across multiple dimensions: housing, neighborhood characteristics, transportation, environment, health, civic and social engagement and opportunity. New York City scored

among the top five large cities in the country.

Queens scored a 59 out of 100 for overall livability—scoring high on the availability of transportation and neighborhood characteristics (access to life, work and play), but low on measures of environment and civic engagement. Explore the tool and check out how your neighborhood scores or view Queens data at <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>

aarp.org/

The Livability Index helps people to better understand their communities, learn how to take action to make their own communities more livable and make decisions about future needs. Use it to better Queens in 2016!

Chris Widelo
Associate State Director of
AARP for New York City

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Bring city shelters up to standards

Gilbert Taylor, former commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services, has voluntarily or involuntarily resigned. Regardless, this is a much-needed change, which provides the city with an opportunity to rectify some of his poor decisions as well as reform the agency to effectively help those in need.

Aside from his dismal failure in stemming the tide of homelessness, Taylor fundamentally misled the Elmhurst community and broke the law when he illegally converted run-down commercial hotels

like the Pan Am and Westway into family homeless shelters.

Although New York City Administrative Code 21-124(b) requires that all family homeless shelters provide a bathroom, a refrigerator, a cooking facility and an adequate sleeping area within each unit, Taylor blatantly disregarded the cooking facility requirement and had homeless families move into small hotel rooms. These families were forced to languish in these rooms for over a year without access to a kitchen. As a lawyer, was he clueless or simply

being reckless?

By not requiring these shelters to install kitchens, DHS is endangering these families and depriving them of essential services. In addition, the City is back-stopping the hotel industry. If the hotel owner's business is not doing well, they will convert their hotels into shelters and collect \$4,000 a month per room without having to invest in any renovations. They would simply reduce their staff and collect an exorbitant amount of taxpayers' hard-earned money from DHS.

Additionally, community boards and local residents in every neighborhood are now wary of developers who are looking to build a hotel. Are the developers really building a hotel or are they building a homeless shelter because, according to Gilbert Taylor, there is no distinction between the two? This is an unnecessary uncertainty and hinders the city's economic growth.

For a progressive mayor who came into power by pledging to implement policies that will help the poor, this is

complete hypocrisy! Mayor de Blasio is not helping the poor or the working class, he is actually helping the rich by fleecing taxpayers. We ask the Mayor to restore the people's faith in government and force these operators to adhere to the law and install a kitchen in each family shelter living unit. Otherwise, no contract or taxpayer funds should be awarded.

*Anna Orjuela
Resident of Queens Community
Board 4 for over 30 years,
Member of Elmhurst United*

Commuters are facing a long wait for improvements

Remember over three years ago—December 2012—when the NYC officials and developers who broke ground for the new Hudson Yards project, which is to be built over the Long Island Rail Road Westside storage yard between 10th and 12th avenues in Manhattan, were all smiles?

Transit riders and taxpayers are still not happy. The existing 42nd Street Port Authority Bus Terminal is antiquated, lacking sufficient capacity to deal with current and future needs. Upon completion of their morning a.m. rush hour trips, hundreds of buses have to “dead head” back to New Jersey for midday storage. Then, they have to make another return trip in the afternoon back to New York City for outbound evening service.

Eliminating this dead heading of buses would open up additional capacity for the already overcrowded Lincoln Tunnel. Relocating this facility to the Hudson Yards site would have provided the ideal

solution. There would be the ability to expand capacity for new bus services. Hundreds of buses could lay over in Manhattan, saving the costs of both fuel and deadheading to and from New Jersey.

Intermodal connections would have become available for the Long Island Rail Road; New Jersey Transit; Amtrak; No. 1, 2, 3, 7, A, E and C subways; and ferry services at Pier 79 on West 38th Street, along with the 34th Street Bus Rapid Transit route and other local bus services. Long term, there is also the possibility of future connections with Metro North. This is based upon implementation of providing Metro North direct access to Penn Station.

These new services would use existing Amtrak connections via the Bronx and Manhattan westside and or Bronx/Queens via the Hellgate Bridge at a later date to begin service. Relocation of the Port Authority Bus Terminal to this new location would also complete

the multibillion-dollar ongoing Farley Building project. This project will convert the old Post Office to a new Amtrak Passenger Station as part of the Penn Station complex.

Reopening the old Hilton passageway (which was abandoned in the early 1970's) could provide a direct underground connection from the Long Island Rail Road at 7th Avenue to Herald Square at Broadway. This provides easy access to the B, D, F, M, R, N, Q and W subway lines along with PATH.

Imagine the possibilities for Queens residents transferring from the Long Island Rail Road at Penn Station to access connecting ferry services, New Jersey Transit, Amtrak, PATH, 14 subway lines and possibly Metro North at a later date, as well as with all the bus routes currently operating out of the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Virtually all the connections would be underground indoors, and easily

walkable within minutes between services. With climate controlled facilities, passengers would be warm in the winter and cool in the summer. No one would be exposed to either rain, wind or snow. This would have been the greatest intermodal transportation facility, moving more riders utilizing public transportation than any in America!

You have to ask if there are enough potential tenants to fill all the new office space being created at Hudson Yards. Prospective businesses have many other options. They include numerous existing vacancies along with new office space under construction or planned for at the World Trade Center, rezoning of midtown East, other Manhattan locations, downtown Brooklyn, Hunters Point/Long Island City along with others scattered around Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, Staten Island, Town of North Hempstead, Nassau County, other surrounding suburbs and across the river in New

Jersey. The same holds true for new residential units.

The current Hudson Yards project has been heavily subsidized by taxpayers, commonly known as corporate welfare. Between direct government funding, low-interest below-market-rate loans, long term tax exemptions, favorable eminent domain and free infrastructure improvements, the bill to taxpayers in the end could end up greater than the so-called public benefits. Have any of these “favors” been granted to the Hudson Yards developers in exchange for “Pay to Play” campaign contributions accepted by public officials who were in a position to “deliver” these “gifts”?

Fast forward to today. The PANYNJ now has to find \$10 billion for a new 42nd Street Bus Terminal. They could have built a new facility at Hudson Yards for billions less.

*Larry Penner
Great Neck*

Contact the newsroom:

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LETTERS POLICY

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Parents take the playing out of play dates



Lenore
Skenazy
■
*Rhymes
with Crazy*

As Brooklyn mom Tamara R. Mose was preparing for a play date with a mom and child she didn't know well yet, she paused to look at her home: "All the bathrooms are clean, dishes put away, beds made, floors Swiffered, laundry folded, garbage cans emptied, and toys put in their place and sorted for age appropriateness."

And then there was the food: "The kitchen is full of aromas, boiling pasta, simmering sauce, freshly sliced carrots, celery, and oranges, all displayed on sparkling white plates. Lined up are juice boxes boasting their 100 percent organic label, plastic forks and plates, and beside them some half-folded dispos-

able white napkins."

Add to this some whole-wheat crackers, cheeses (three varieties), and the fact her daughter had straightened up her room, too, and Mose, a sociology professor at Brooklyn College, couldn't help but notice: This was not just about fun. This was a performance—"an effort to present ourselves as a decent black family."

From there it was just a hop, skip, and a jump—and a year of interviewing a broad swath of New York parents—to writing "The Playdate: Parents, Children, and the New Expectations of Play," which will be published by NYU Press this spring.

A play date, Mose argues, is sort of a double date—"You're essentially dating the other parent. You're checking them out. What do they do for a living?" Parents arrange play dates ostensibly for their children's fun and enrichment, but really, there's more going on. Yes, they want their kids to make friends and play, but the parents want to make friends,

too. Usually, Mose observed, they want to make friends with other parents demographically the same as them—friends who might even be able to help them in the job world.

At one play date Mose arranged at her son's request, she and her then-husband invited over two couples. One was a lawyer married to an artist, the other was a screenwriter married to the curator of a book lecture series. By the end of the play date, Mose and the curator realized that they knew someone in common and he invited Mose to give a lecture at his series.

"It was at this moment that I started to realize how many times the parents I had invited to a play date either knew someone I knew," says Mose, or they offered some kind of connecting: Come to this show with us, let me introduce you to so-and-so.

The upside is obvious: friendship, networking, even babysitting backup. But Mose's book looks at the downsides, too, starting with the way play

date culture perpetuates class stratifications. The parents who believe in organic hummus and no television are unlikely to have many play dates with the parents who put out soda and chips with SpongeBob in the background—even if the kids really like each other at school.

What's more, simply by perpetuating the play date imperative—that is, the idea that *of course* children need constant supervision either by parents or caregivers—the idea of kids running around on their own seems preposterous. When she was growing up, Mose recalls, she'd go down the street knocking on friends' doors, asking them to come out to play.

"Almost all the parents that I interviewed did the same thing," she says. Play was kid-driven and often out in public.

Now that kind of fun is considered too dangerous (even though crime is back to the level of 1963). The modern play date is organized, supervised, and private.

"So if Joe and John get in a

fight and they're in the room next door, they can come out and complain to me to make it better," says Mose. "Whereas if they're out on the street playing they need to figure it out." Play-date-raised kids lose out on certain childhood lessons their parents got just as a matter of course: How to deal with a quarrel, or even a bully. Is this one reason we have so many anti-bullying assemblies today? Kids just don't get any real-world practice in standing up for themselves, or shrugging off an insult?

What's more, Mose says: Kids who are indoors, surrounded by amusements, may not learn how to make a sword out of stick, or a boat out of a square of pavement. They do, however, learn how to speak to adults. And in the end, she says, that confidence and poise may serve them well in the business world.

In fact, play dates may help both generations in the business world. They just might not help children actually learn how to play.

CUNY requires a 21st-century level of support



Prem
Calvin
Prashad
■
New Voices

The City University of New York is in dire straits, due to political rivalries and a lack of will to fund these institutions at levels consistent with the 21st century. Notably, aside from chronic facility underfunding, many staff members have gone without raises since 2010, at a time when the cost of living has increased dramatically across the city.

Countless artists, scientists and civic leaders emerged from City, Lehman, Brooklyn and Queens Colleges—institutions that would later form the backbone of the CUNY system. City College in particular served as a haven for Jewish-American

intellectuals in an era of institutional anti-Semitism in higher education. The civil rights movement flourished on CUNY campuses and forced the system to take steps toward racial integration. At its inception, CUNY promoted open enrollment for all New Yorkers and began remedial education efforts for incoming freshmen.

Today, the system is among the most diverse in the country, providing the children of immigrants and native New Yorkers alike the opportunity for a quality and affordable education. Indeed, my first experiences on a college campus were through summer programs offered for local high school students at Baruch and Queens Colleges.

Albany took control of CUNY's senior colleges during the financial crisis of 1976 and instated tuition consistent with SUNY schools. Budgetary concerns and uncertainty on the state level have shrunk

CUNY enrollment, forcing the system to backtrack from the "open enrollment" policies instituted in 1970.

In reaction to soaring staff turnover rates and student protests, the budgetary crisis became a political football between City Hall and Albany, with both sides disagreeing on how to close CUNY's reported \$51 billion budget gap. About 45 percent of CUNY's budget comes directly from Albany.

While a solution has not been forthcoming, the mayor and the governor have traded recriminations, each placing the responsibility on the other to provide additional funding. Last month, citing his opposition to adding \$600 million to the state budget outside of a normal budget process, the governor vetoed a bipartisan bill to cover inflationary increases to rent, utilities and healthcare costs at CUNY.

Notably, Governor Cuomo's recent announcement to in-

state the \$15 minimum wage requirement across the SUNY system as part of the Mario Cuomo Campaign for Economic Justice, made no mention of CUNY schools, despite its announcement at a rally in Manhattan. The only schools within New York City subject to the increase would be Maritime College and Downstate Medical Center, both SUNY schools. Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress, which represents 25,000 CUNY faculty and staff, criticized the exclusion of CUNY workers from the announcement.

New York's economic might and greatest asset is its workforce. Investing in higher education is an economic necessity that drives competitive wages. The postwar economic expansion was the largest in American history and coincided strongly with the establishment of public education institutions and efforts by the government, such as the G.I.

Bill, to promote a skilled and educated workforce. Higher wage earners also are good news for Albany's budget, as the lifetime tax contributions provided far outweigh a modest investment in education.

Studies by organizations such as the Economic Policy Institute have found a strong tie between educational attainment and high wages in states, with the only notable outliers being Alaska and Wyoming, whose economies hinge on resource extraction.

I will not prescribe the appropriate balance of funding between New York City and Albany, as the layperson cannot begin to comprehend the complexities of that relationship. Rather, I would urge New Yorkers to lean on their legislators, as well as the offices of the mayor and governor, to begin the conversation about stabilizing the CUNY system, as well as create a plan to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Do City Council members deserve a raise?



Bob
Friedrich
On Poinr

This is what a classified ad would look like for the position of New York City Council member:

Part-Time Job Available. No Experience Necessary. Flexible Hours—Attendance Optional. Free Parking. Unlimited Vacation and Personal Time. Compensation: \$112,000 per annum, plus bonuses, pension and health care.

Sound good? To sweeten the deal, New York City Council members are attempting to give themselves a 71 percent pay increase, to \$191,500 per year, for their part-time job. Since their astronomical salary-hike plan has been exposed, they have been back-pedaling “tirelessly”—a word they often use on campaign literature to describe their work effort. Now that their hands have been caught in the cookie jar, they are striving to draw attention away from this subject.

Make no mistake: The fix

is in. Council members will vote themselves an increase. It may not be the \$192,000 they seek, but it will be substantially higher than their current \$112,000 windfall. After all, this is the “progressive” city council that takes pride in lambasting the 1 percenters, forgetting that they are part of the club. As the old bromide goes, “Do as we say, Not as we do.”

Does the City Council merit such a large pay increase and does the proposed increase comport with percentage increases of other city workers? Let’s take a look at some of their recent actions, which many New Yorkers might feel call into question even their current compensation of \$112,000. The proposal to gift themselves a whopping 71 percent increase should be contrasted with the 1 percent increase recently awarded to the NYPD. The Council wants to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, which works out to \$31,200 annually for unskilled entry-level labor. This is not very far below the \$44,500 starting salary of NYC police officers, who risk their lives for us every day.

Does this City Council take

actions to protect our safety? Their recent “ban the box” regulation severely restricts an employer’s right to ask job applicants about prior criminal arrest records. “Ban the box” refers to the box on employment forms that asks if an applicant has ever been arrested or convicted of a crime. This newly enacted restriction on employers will make families and seniors more vulnerable in their communities.

As president of Glen Oaks Village, I face this: Recently hired maintenance personnel—whose jobs require them to enter residential apartments—can no longer be asked about prior arrests or criminal records. Previously, a criminal background query would have been part of the employment vetting process that residential housing co-ops and other businesses utilize, but the City Council has now made this unlawful.

In another action recently taken by the City Council, landlords are prohibited from inquiring about prospective tenants’ credit scores prior to subletting an apartment. This will make it more difficult for landlords to properly screen new tenants making monthly

rent collections much more uncertain.

This City Council is reportedly considering decriminalizing public urination, turnstile-jumping and other nuisance and public-health infractions. As a civic leader, I can assure you that there is no clamoring from civic groups to “remove criminal penalties” for these quality-of-life offenses in our neighborhoods.

And if Council member Rory Lancman has his way we will soon be using taxpayer funds to bail out low-level offenders so they can be immediately returned to the same streets from which police officers had just removed them.

Lastly, the City Council’s track record for malfeasance and corruption is well known. Two examples: Council member Ruben Wills, who was arrested again last year, and Council member Dan Haloran, who is now serving a 10-year prison sentence.

Councilmembers seek to justify their coveted pay increase by agreeing to make “sacrifices” such as foregoing outside income and ending the generous “lulus” that are bestowed upon committee

chairs. But let’s be honest here: Councilmembers never should have been permitted to double-dip with outside income in the first place and should never have authorized the bonus payment of lulus. It is just more business as usual for the City Council when two unjustifiable perks become bargaining chips in the self-dealing negotiations for an unprecedented pay hike.

The average New Yorker’s salary is less than half of what a city Council member earns. Adding in the perks and benefits, Council members’ part-time jobs are one of the city’s most lucrative. Council members seeking to profiteer from a 71 percent pay hike while most city residents tighten their belts and live within their means is shameful. Council members should ask the public—their employers—if they deserve a raise. I can assure you that seniors who have received a zero percent increase in their Social Security this year would have a lot to say. Perhaps they will in the next election.

Bob Friedrich is a Civic Leader and recent candidate for the New York City Council.

Some good news for readers of the Daily News

BY SHAVANA ABRUZZO

There’s still some bang left in the old buck!

A dollar doesn’t stretch very far these days, but it can still get you a slice of pizza, a song on iTunes (sometimes) and now a copy of the Daily News. Our pals at the paper—all Community News Group and New York Community Media publications are printed at the News’ printing press—slashed the newsstand price by a quarter in all five boroughs as of Jan. 11.

The media grapevine buzzed over the price drop, which comes just seven months after the News hiked its price to \$1.25 per copy. Some print pundits speculated the News drove up sales with its strong gun-control advocacy after the

San Bernardino shootings, while others credited its financial fluidity to a fresh round of layoffs.

News nabobs only said readers shouldn’t look a gift horse in the mouth.

“As New York’s Hometown Paper, we look for every opportunity to bring our loyal readers the news they need at a lower price point,” Bill Holiber, president and chief executive officer of the Daily News, said in a press release.

Consider the quarter saving no chump change, either.

“Life in New York City is hard enough and we figured we’d put 25 cents back in the pockets of our faithful readers,” said Ricardo Flattes, circulation sales and consumer marketing director. “It all adds up.”

The New York Daily News, founded in 1919 as the Illustrated Daily News by Joseph Medill Patterson, was the first successful tabloid newspaper in America, with the largest circulation in the nation. It later changed its name to the Daily News, attracting readers with its sensational coverage of crime, scandal, and violence, and lurid photographs, cartoons, and other entertainment features. By 1930 its circulation had leapt to more than 1.5 million and in the next decade increased to 2 million, as it delivered the low-down on political wrongdoings behind President Warren G. Harding’s Teapot Dome Scandal and the socially intriguing romance between Wallis Simpson and Britain’s King Edward VIII that led to his abdication.



A New York Daily News truck as it traveled north on 1st Avenue at East 40th in Manhattan on Monday. Theodore Parisienne for New York Daily News

On Oct. 30, 1975 the Daily News brought the nation to a hush with its gut-punching screamer, “Ford to City: Drop Dead.”

Now, trusty readers applauded the cheaper price.

“It means that the New York’s hometown paper is still in business,” said Flatbush resident Tom Harris, 54. “And I won’t have to rummage about looking for that extra quarter.”

107th Precinct officers make very special delivery

Parents-to-be flag down cops who bring their baby into the world in a car on the LIE

BY MADINA TOURE

Two police officers from the 107th Precinct helped a mother who went into labor give birth in her car Saturday on the Long Island Expressway and Kissena Boulevard.

At about 4:15 p.m. officers

from Highway Unit 3 responded to a report of a woman in labor, but when they arrived on the scene, no one was there, according to the police.

During a canvass of the area, Police Officer Anthony Barton found a blue Subaru on the eastbound L.I.E. service road, at Francis Lewis Boulevard, where he saw a man flailing his arms to get the officers' attention, police said.

Barton approached the front passenger side of the car and discovered a woman sitting in the upright position, who was in labor with the baby's head crowning, officials said.

Officer Michael Pyzikiewicz, also assigned to Highway Unit 3 and a paramedic since 1997, directed Barton over the radio to ensure that the mother was lying in a flat position, keep the baby warm and clear the fluids from the mouth once the baby is born.

Barton reclined the seat's backrest and received the baby

with a white baby blanket that was in the car, police said.

He then turned the car's heat up and began to clear the fluid from the newborn's mouth before Pyzikiewicz arrived at the scene and took over, police said.

EMS arrived shortly after and handed Pyzikiewicz a bulb syringe, which he used to extract additional fluid and then clamped the umbilical cord while EMS cut it, officials said.

EMS then took the baby into the ambulance, while Barton and Pyzikiewicz helped the mother onto the stretcher and put her into the ambulance along with the father, where they were taken to Long Island Jewish Medical Center, officials added.

Police said the mother and the baby boy were doing well.

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



The police officers from the 107th Precinct pose with the woman who went into labor on the Long Island Expressway.



Cops found the mother in labor in a car parked in front of St. Francis Prep. Photo by Michael Shain

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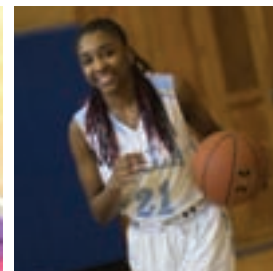
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Elmhurst loses leader

BY BILL PARRY

One of Elmhurst's most active community leaders was killed in a single car crash on Astoria Boulevard Sunday, according to the NYPD.

Robert Valdes-Clausell, 56, suffered a medical episode, most likely a heart attack, sources said, before losing control of his 2006 Ford Explorer and crossing three lanes of traffic. He slammed into a concrete barrier near 77th Street, police said.

Valdes-Clausell was found unconscious and unresponsive by officers and transported by EMS to Elmhurst Hospital Center, where he was pronounced dead.

"Robert Valdes-Clausell's passing is a great shock to the Elmhurst community," City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights) said. "Robert was involved in numerous organizations and was a strong advocate for the community. As a board member of the Newtown Civic Association, Robert fought to keep historical buildings in Elmhurst intact, advocated for the re-opening of the Elmhurst LIRR and was involved in many other worthy civic activities."

He was also a vocal critic of the homeless shelter at the former Pan American hotel.

"Robert knew a lot about the legalities of the multiple dwelling laws so we leaned on his knowledge quite a bit,"



Longtime Elmhurst civic activist Robert Valdes-Clausell dies after crashing into a concrete barrier on Astoria Boulevard.

Photo by Bill Parry

said Jennifer Chu, a founding member of Elmhurst United. "We were also representatives of the 110th Precinct at the Citizens Police Academy. He was very involved in everything."

Valdes-Clausell was working on a startup of a non-profit Newtown Preservation Society and was a member of the Land Use Committee at Community Board 4.

"His presence will be sorely missed," Dromm said.

CB2 holds Paragon talk

BY BILL PARRY

Community Board 2 will hold a public meeting Wednesday to discuss a mega-project that would transform Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City. The owners of the Paragon Paint building wants to develop the property at 45-50 Vernon Blvd., as well as adjacent parcels, for residential and retail use.

The project would contain a 28-story tower that would rise alongside the dilapidated Paragon Paint warehouse as well as two other buildings, which would combine to provide 344 residential units, of which 20 percent would be affordable units.

The plans feature a waterfront public access area providing more than 18,000 square feet of park space along Anable Basin. The development would also contain 14,000 square feet of retail space.

The consortium, including Simon Baron Development, Quadrom Global and CRE Development, is seeking a variance because the site is currently zoned for manufacturing and the principals will make a presentation and answer questions at the public meeting. The session will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Academy for Careers in Film & Television, located at 1-50 51st Ave., in the fourth floor auditorium.

Ulrich holds tax info meetings

BY GABRIEL ROM

Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) announced Tuesday he will be hosting two Property Tax Assessment Town Halls this February for residents to discuss their property tax assessments and notices of property value with representatives of the Tax Commission and Department of Finance.

Ulrich is convening these property tax assessment workshops to help homeowners better understand their property tax assessment and to answer any questions they may have and/or to help them navigate the appeals process.

"Understanding your property taxes is never an easy task – especially when it can involve different city agen-

Continued on Page 42

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Avella offers program to fight homelessness

BY MADINA TOURE

At a news conference last week, state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) outlined proposals to address the homeless crisis in New York City, including investing \$2 billion over five years for supportive housing, increasing shelter allowances and reforming shelters.

The proposals follow a public forum on homelessness that Avella, chairman of the Senate Task Force on the Delivery of Social Services, held in October. He released a report summarizing the testimonies given by agency commissioners and homeless advocates during the forum.

Avella said his proposal is in contrast with Mayor Bill de Blasio's, which seeks to invest \$2.6 billion over 15 years to increase supportive housing. He said advocates for homeless individuals complained about the timeframe.

"That's a long period where you're stretching this out, so my recommendation to the mayor and hopefully with support from the governor, will be \$2 billion over five years," he said. "We have to do this right now. We can't wait 15 years."

Among the senator's proposals are raising the New York state shelter allowance, which has not been increased since 2003; making shelters cleaner and safer; and ensuring that there is a licensed social worker at every site. He also wants to eliminate vacancy decontrol, which allows landlords to charge market rates for a rent-stabilized apartment when the tenant moves out and the rent is more than \$2,500.

The city is facing criticism for not sufficiently managing the homeless crisis, with nearly 58,000 living in shelters and another 3,000 to 4,000 estimated to be living on the streets.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order Jan. 3 to bring homeless individuals off the streets when temperatures decline to 32 degrees or below.

Two days later, de Blasio announced that Herminia Palacio would serve as deputy mayor for Health and Human services starting Jan. 25. She will be tasked with addressing homelessness across the five boroughs.

Last month, Gilbert Taylor resigned as commissioner of the city Department of Homeless Services after two years in the position. Human Re-



State Sen. Tony Avella unveiled his shelter reform and homelessness recommendations at a news conference last week.

Photo by Madina Toure

sources Administration Commissioner Steven Banks took over DHS Jan. 1, while Deputy Mayor Anthony Shorris leads the review of all city homeless services.

Avella said the crisis is an "emergency situation" but that the city should still communicate with neighborhoods before placing the homeless in shelters. He cited the Pan American Hotel shelter in Elmhurst, where the homeless arrived without the city notifying the community or elected officials.

"I said it to the commissioner, and by the way, some of you may remember, I was the person who first asked for Commissioner Taylor to step down and resign, because I thought he was doing a terrible job," he said. "I'm glad to see that finally happened. It should have happened sooner."

Other proposals from Avella include recalculating affordable housing eligibility with an area median income by zip code, providing priority status to homeless veterans and victims of domestic violence and increasing shelter capacity for homeless youth.

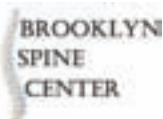
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Audra McDonald
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Housing lawyers give free help to Flushing tenants

Queens Legal Services offers multilingual support at Koo's office as evictions rise

BY MADINA TOURE

City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing) and Queens Legal Services launched a partnership to provide free monthly legal housing assistance to Flushing residents.

Starting Friday and following on the first Friday of every month, Queens Legal Services will have an attorney at Koo's office to help constituents with housing issues including tenant/landlord disputes, harassment, rent stabilization and evictions. Consultations with the QLS attorney must be made by appointment by calling Koo's office at (718) 888-8747.

Attorneys fluent in Korean, Chinese, Spanish and other languages will be onsite. An immediate telephone interpretation service is also available for any other languages not covered.

During a news conference at his office, Koo said tenant and landlord disputes



Jennifer Ching, director of Queens Legal Services, and City Councilman Peter Koo announce a partnership that will provide Flushing residents with monthly legal housing assistance.

Photo by Madina Toure

and harassment are common complaints his office receives but that over the past several months there has been a spike in the number of housing-related complaints.

Issues include landlords harassing tenants, taking

a long time to make repairs or not making repairs at all, and not cashing tenants' rent checks.

"There are many tricks landlords can use to evict tenants and many tricks tenants can use to take advantage of

the landlords, too," Koo said. "Property values in Flushing are rapidly increasing and development is on the rise. Flushing also has a high number of rent-stabilized buildings, about 450 buildings, so it's important that the tenants

know their rights."

Jennifer Ching, QLS' director, said New Yorkers struggle with escalating housing costs on a daily basis.

"What we have been seeing in northern Queens, and in particular in the Flushing community, is a rapid rate of gentrification and displacement of low-income, longtime tenants and residents from all backgrounds," Ching said.

She encouraged people to reach out to Koo's office about any critical civil or legal needs.

"We don't mean to limit the topics by which people can come see us, but we agree with the Council member that the housing issues in particular here in Flushing right now are so particularly acute that they warrant a separate clinic," she said.

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



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Home invasion turns fatal for dad: NYPD

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

While 51-year old Frankie Nieves was getting his daughter ready for school Monday morning, two robbers entered his home and fatally shot him in Ozone Park, police said.

Police said officers from the 106th Precinct responded to the call of a male shot around 7:56 a.m. and found Nieves unconscious and unresponsive with a gunshot wound to the chest inside his home on Peconic Street.

Emergency responders took Nieves to Jamaica Hospital where he was pronounced dead. According to a police source, Nieves had had a couple of drug-related arrests several years ago and six other prior arrests not related to illegal drugs.

On the 106th Precinct Community Council's Facebook page, Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff wrote Monday, "It's a new year and, unfortunately, we have taken our 1st shooting homicide for the year. It occurred this morning at 7:56 a.m. ... [Two] dark skinned male Hispanics have been reported to have committed this crime. It seems to be drug related at this time. The investigation is continuing."

Based on friends' Facebook posts and comments, Nieves was a good person and a regular at the Howard Beach branch of Gold's Gym at Crossbay Boulevard.

Police sources said Nieves's brother, who was not identified by police officials, arrived a little before the fatal home invasion took place. Police said the daughter and brother both were



Police are investigating the death of Frankie Nieves from Ozone Park who was shot inside his home, seen here, during a home invasion according to police officials.

Photo by Sadeef Kully

present at the time of the incident — neither was injured, according to police officials.

Police said Wednesday no arrests had been made and the investigation was ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding the shooting is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 800-577-TIPS, visit website www.nypdcrimestoppers.com or send a text message to 274637 (CRIMES), then enter TIP577. All calls and messages are kept confidential.

Ponte slows Rikers reforms after sudden violence spike

BY BILL PARRY

After a spate of violent episodes involving teenage inmates on Rikers Island, the head of the city's Department of Correction sought a delay in implementing one of his integral reforms. Commissioner Joseph Ponte sent a letter to the chairman of the Board of Correction last Friday that seeks a six-month delay to ending isolation for young adults ages 18 to 21 until June when his staff would be better prepared.

Ponte fired off the request two days after five officers were hospitalized, one with a fractured nose and another with severe bruises on his face, after they were attacked by a group of teen inmates when they refused to follow

orders, according to union and DOC officials. Two months ago, Correction Officer Ray Calderon required more than 20 stitches to his face and arm after he was brutally slashed in an ambush by teen inmates.

In his letter, Ponte said the DOC needed more time before it could safely implement its Young Adult Plan, including necessary infrastructure repairs, staff training, expansion of programming targeting the young adult population and the creation of a new admission center. The goal of the plan is to separately house young adults and eliminate solitary confinement for the 18- to 21-year-old inmates.

Ponte told The New York Times that after the recent attacks on officers

Continued on Page 41



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This Crunch in Brooklyn has similar equipment to the one that recently opened in Richmond Hill. Photo courtesy Crunch

Crunch gym opens outpost in borough

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Crunch, the New York-based national gym chain, opened its first Queens gym in Richmond Hill in December in time for borough residents making new year resolutions for a healthier lifestyle in 2016.

The brand new health club boasts top-notch amenities including state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment, full-service locker rooms, tanning and HydroMassage.

In addition to these top-of-the-line amenities, the Richmond Hill gym has a designated group fitness studio where members can enjoy Crunch's classes.

The current fitness classes offered at the Richmond Hill franchise include the Bodyweb with TRX, a strength, cardio and balance workout; Zumba with Bursts, a high-intensity cardio workout; Tread N' Shed cardio workout on a treadmill; Fat Burning Pilates, a pilates-based cardio workout; Cardio Tai Box, a martial arts and boxing workout; Absolution workout focused on core upper-body muscles; Yoga Body Sculpt, a Vinyasa flow class; Retro-Robics, a flashback to Eighties style workout; the Belly, Butt and Thigh boot-camp focusing on the lower body; and 360-3X, a total body workout.

A Crunch spokeswoman said those looking for guidance for reaching their New Year's fitness goals can join



A sign outside the Crunch on Jamaica Avenue in Richmond Hill advertises the gym's fees. Photo by Sadeef Ali

Camp Crunch, a program that gives members of all fitness levels the opportunity to work one-on-one with an expert trainer.

According to Crunch, trainers develop personalized plans to help members meet their individual fitness goals through signature small group training, cutting-edge personal training and unique nutrition programs.

Crunch has over 120 locations across the country and an estimated 650,000 members.

Crunch Richmond Hill officially opened for workouts on Dec.15, at 115-02 Jamaica Ave.

More information can be found at www.crunch.com or by phone at 646-780-2050.

Resolved: Make 2016 the best year ever

BY GABRIEL ROM

As Queens rings in the new year, five movers and shakers share their hopes for themselves and the borough with the TimesLedger.

Rob MacKay, director of the Queens Tourism Council and director of Public Relations, Marketing & Tourism at the Queens Economic Development Corporation:

"My New Year's resolution is always to be nicer to my mother, but I'm adding to my list in 2016. First of all, I'm going to attend more cultural events at places such as the Kupferberg Center for the Arts, Flushing Town Hall and Queens Theatre," MacKay said. "Then, I am going to explore more local restaurants, participate in more parades and outdoor events, and get to the Rockaways more often, especially during the summer. Finally, I want to enjoy everyday life in the borough. We're lucky to live here and we should be appreciative."

Thomas Grech, executive director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce:

"I resolve in 2016 to drive the Chamber to have more events, increase advocacy and growth overall," Grech said. "On a personal level, I'm looking to the Mets to win the 2016 World Series"



ROB MACKAY



THOMAS GRECH



BOB HOLDEN

Bob Holden, president of Juniper Park Civic Association:

"On the civic level, last year I wanted to expand our civic magazine, and we did—to 96 pages. This year I want to make it a recruitment tool to bring in

more serious-minded volunteers to help protect our quality of life in Middle Village and Maspeth. With each passing year the threats to our neighborhoods seem to increase. We need more eyes and ears out there," Holden

said. "On the personal side, to spend more quality time with my family and travel more. Each year my wife keeps reminding me to be more patient, so my resolution this year is to really try

Continued on Page 30

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ALISON RODMAN



SUSAN LACERTE

Resolutions

Continued from Page 29

harder and finally listen to my wife... the one person I know who is seldom wrong."

Allison Rodman, director of Communications at MoMA PS1:

"This year I resolve to commit to the resolutions I made last year and did not commit to," Rodman said. "Beyond that and the regular roster of resolutions like exercising more, I have a few borough-specific resolutions: making

sure I visit every museum in Queens more regularly; feast on dim sum in Flushing and Greek food in Astoria; explore Jackson Heights; and lastly, to tackle LIC's incredible rock climbing wall, The Cliffs."

Susan Lacerte, executive director of the Queens Botanical Garden:

"Every four years, there's a presidential election, the Olympics... This year, my resolution is to have the best leap-year birthday yet. Check out QBG's calendar to celebrate with me!"

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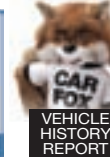
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Art and art lovers congregate in Bayside

Photos by Michael Shain



State Sen. Tony Avella is a surprise submitter to this year's Bayside Art Show, his first year in the show. "Swirl on Yellow" is one of two abstract paintings he has in the show.



A rainy Sunday did not hold down the crowd at the Bayside Historical Society's 15th Annual Winter Art Show at the society's Ft. Totten landmark castle.



Mother and daughter, Elsie (l) and Elise McKay, enjoy the show organized by daughter/sister Alison McKay, executive director of the Bayside Historical Society.



Painter and art teacher Neill Slaughter, one of the judges of the art show, presents an honorable mention prize for watercolors to Naomi Klosner.



Elaine Hajiam of Holliswood, who has two pastel landscapes in the show, chatted with a friend at the opening.



The winners of the judges awards in six categories, painting, pastel, drawing, photography, watercolor and mixed media.



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Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



Shoppers stroll along 37th Avenue in Frederick Wiseman's documentary "In Jackson Heights."

Photo courtesy Zipporah Films

DOC hollywood

FREDERICK WISEMAN'S FILM 'IN JACKSON HEIGHTS' SCREENS AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

BY MERLE EXIT

Frederick Wiseman was a no-show at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards Jan. 5.

When Susan Sarandon, born in Jackson Heights, presented the award for best non-fiction film for Wiseman's latest "In Jackson Heights," the director was in Eu-

rope, shooting his next movie.

However, City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), who appears in the highly acclaimed project, was in attendance to do the accepting.

"I was extremely honored to be asked to accept the award for this documentary," Dromm said. "I was very pleased to receive the award from Susan Sarandon. As Ms. Sarandon and I both stated at the event, 'In Jackson Heights' has a lesson of tolerance and acceptance to teach to the rest of the world. What an honor it was to be among so many important people."

What makes this epic three-hour documentary different from most is noticeable within its first 10 minutes.

There is not any narrator, or anyone being interviewed. Wiseman simply takes his camera and travels around the area as if he is just

dropping in, with everyone seemingly oblivious to the fact that being filmed is not something that happens to them every day.

Dromm calls Jackson Heights "the most diversified community in the whole world. We have 167 languages spoken here."

In fact, so many languages are spoken in the film, that English subtitles are provided.

"There are communities of people from every country in South and Central America as well as large groups of people from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Nepal and Tibet," Wiseman said in a statement. "They live together with the descendants of earlier immigrants to America — Italian, Jewish and Irish. The area is a true American melting pot reminiscent of the Lower East Side of New York City at the end of the 19th century."

Continued on Page 39

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When: Jan. 28 through Feb. 14

Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City

Cost: \$18

Contact: (718) 392-0722

Website: www.secrettheatre.com

"City Girls & Desperadoes" – The world premiere of Pamela Enz' play tells the story of a group of hipsters lost in a world of drugs and dealing.

When: Through Jan. 17

Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City

Cost: \$18

Contact: (718) 392-0722

Website: www.secrettheatre.com

"Shrek The Musical Jr." – Rockway Theatre's Young People's Theatre Workshop presents a musical version of the hit animated film about Shrek the ogre, his sidekick Donkey and Princess Fiona.

When: Jan. 29 - Feb. 14

Where: Rockaway Theatre Co., The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway

Cost: \$10/general admission

Contact: (718) 374-6400

Website: www.rockawaytheatrecompany.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

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

sudoku

Answers in Sports

Very Easy #4

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

Medium #4

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

Week 4

New play looks at desperate times

Long Island City's Secret Theatre debuts tale of drugs, sex with 'City Girls & Desperadoes'

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

In his director's note for Pamela Enz's play "City Girls & Desperadoes," now at the Secret Theatre, Richard Mazda writes that it "is not about drugs, sex or dealing," but rather "is a play about relationships within that bankrupt yet thrilling late '70s New York City world."

That's not to say drugs, sex and dealing don't drive this story about six New Yorkers getting through life by playing a game of musical bedrooms, strung out on a ton of white powder snorted up their noses.

Dani, played to perfection by Julie Atlas Muz, sells cocaine from her Second Avenue apartment.

She juggles visits from her supplier Rita (a very funny Karina Ortiz) and her lover Arthur (Austin Pendleton in a raw and honest performance), while she goes through life in a drug-in-



Austin Pendleton (l) and Annette Benda-Fox perform a scene from "City Girls & Desperadoes," playing at The Secret Theatre through Sunday.
Photo courtesy Steven Speliotis

duced stupor as a form of self-medication. Rita and her girlfriend Lilli (a hilarious Connie Castanzo) drop in and out of Dani's apartment to fool around

and offer samples of their wares.

Dani laments the fact the world won't let her "sit out on the side," but insists she live with her

pain and longing. "The only thing lonelier than dying is living," Rita tells her.

At the onset, Dani does not seem that lone-

ly. The evening begins with a graphic scene as Muz and Pendleton—both completely naked—simulate sex.

IF YOU GO

"City Girls & Desperadoes"

When: Through Jan. 17
Where: The Secret Theatre, 44-02 23rd St., Long Island City
Cost: \$18
Contact: (718) 392-0722
Website: www.secrettheatre.com

While it hits the audience with a jolt, the scene still comes across as two people expressing the love they feel for each other. As these characters relax in their post-coital glow, it becomes clear that they both deal drugs and that Arthur is married to someone else.

Arthur's wife, Susan, played by Annette Benda-Fox, slaps the two back to reality when she calls Dani's apartment looking for her husband.

Later, Arthur complicates matters when he brings Susan, or Susie as *Continued on Page 39*

Chain Theatre offers programming to the end

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

In a little more than three weeks, The Chain Theatre will shut the door for the last time on its 45th Road home.

Its current lease expires Feb. 9, and the property's owner has already confirmed the building is slated to be remade as another high-end residential development in booming Long Island City.

That is not to say that The Chain and Artistic Director Kirk Gostkowski plan to go quietly.

Gostkowski has even called in a few political favors and convinced Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) to produce a video to support the theater.

"I love The Chain for a lot of reasons," Van Bramer states in the video. "These are folks who built a place that is a home away from

home for New Yorkers seeking a unique and diverse cultural experience."

And while it skews more unique than cultural, this weekend the theater hosts its movie parody comedy group, The Usual Rejects, with a encore presentation of its first program, "Yippee-Ki-Yay: Die Hard."

Five actors don a series of rotating costumes as they take on every role in this reimagined staged reading of the Bruce Willis mega-hit.

During the last weekend of January, the Rejects return for a special version of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom."

Other events include a special screening of the original "Blues Brothers" film in conjunction with Cinema Under the Influence.

"We're on a mission from God to save The Chain,"

Gostkowski, paraphrasing a line from the film, said.

Benny & Griff, who mix music and comedy, play a show Jan. 22.

Then a party to thank all of the people who have supported The Chain since its opening in 2012 is slated for Jan. 31.

Gostkowski has known for a few months that he was going to lose the space.

He has been looking for another venue, and would like to stay in LIC, but so far he has been priced out of the market.

"Rents have doubled since we looked for this place three years ago," Gostkowski said.

Although The Chain may not have a building to call its own, Gostkowski intends to continue producing works in spaces he will rent around Queens.

He will also keep seeking donations through Indiegogo.
Continued on Page 39



The Chain Theatre in Long Island City will be forced out of its current home on 45th Road.

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

EVENTS

Glass Bottle Art— Spend the evening socializing and finding your inner artist while painting glass bottles. All supplies will be provided.
When: Friday, Jan. 15, at 6:15 pm
Where: Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center, 93-29 Queens Blvd., Rego Park
Cost: Free, but registration is required to kashfia.tasmi@parks.nyc.gov or by phone
Contact: (718) 263-1163
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service— Spend the day volunteering to help clean up Idlewild Park.
When: Monday, Jan. 18, from 10 am - 1 pm
Where: Idlewild Park, 230th Street and 149th, Brookville
Cost: Free, but pre-registration - at joseph.homsey@parks.nyc.gov - is required

Contact: (212) 360-2761
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

Candle Art— Mix socializing with art in this afternoon workshop. No experience is necessary, and all supplies will be provided.
When: Thursday, Jan. 21, from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Where: Detective Keith L. Williams Field House, Liberty Avenue and 172nd Street, Jamaica
Cost: Free
Contact: (718) 523-69-12
Website: www.nycgovparks.org

MUSIC

BeBe Winans — The legendary gospel and R & B singer leads a celebration to honor Martin Luther King Jr. which includes a keynote address from the Rev. Floyd H. Flake.
When: Sunday, Jan. 17, at 4 pm
Where: Colden Auditorium,

Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing
Cost: \$35
Contact: (718) 793-8080
Website: www.kupferbergcenter.org

DANCE

"I Understand Everything Better" — The return engagement of David Neumann's multidisciplinary dance-based performance explores calamity, unseen realms, concurrence of unrelated events and letting go.
When: Through Jan. 16
Where: The Chocolate Factory Theater, 5-49 49th Ave., LIC
Cost: \$20
Contact: (718) 482-7069
Website: www.chocolatefactorytheater.org

Take Root— The monthly series provides choreographers the chance to present a paired evening of work. In January, Mersiha Mesihovic, CircuitDebris and Underground DanceWorks perform.
When: Friday, Jan. 22, and Saturday, Jan. 23, at 7 pm
Where: Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Long Island City
Cost: \$17

Contact: (718) 956-3037
Website: www.greenspacestudio.org

Fertile Ground — Green Space's monthly program highlights emerging and established artists. In January, the show includes Cassandra Cotta, Humanistics Dance Co., Kathleen Kelley Dance, Megan Christine Dance Collective and Titilayo Majoyeogbe.
When: Sunday, Jan. 24, at 7 pm
Where: Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Long Island City
Cost: \$14

Contact: (718) 956-3037
Website: www.greenspacestudio.org

The History of Salsa — The award-winning Colombian dance company, Cali Salsa Pal Mundo, presents a show of intoxicating rhythms and mesmerizing moves that traces the development of Salsa.
When: Feb. 5 through Feb. 21, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sundays at 4 pm
Where: Thalia Hispanic Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside
Cost: \$40/general, \$37/seniors and students

Contact: (718) 729-3880
Website: www.thaliatheatre.org

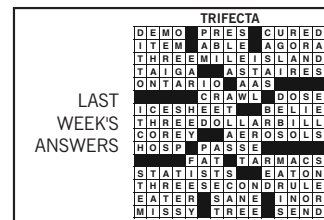
Japanese Classical Dance at Resobox — Workshops teach the 400-year-old nichibu dance popularized in kabuki. All experience levels are welcome and all materials are provided.
When: Mondays, 5:30 pm workshop for children 8 to 11; 6:30 pm workshop for all ages 12 and up
Where: Resobox, 41-26 27th St., Long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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Jan. 15-21, 2016

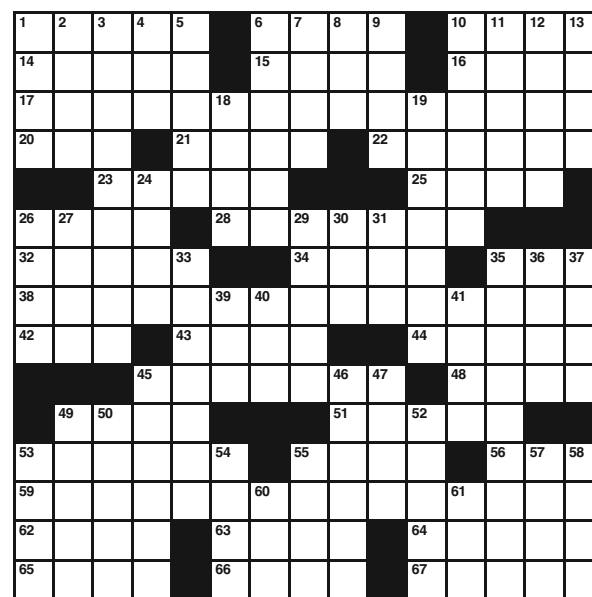
By Ed Canty

JEWELS



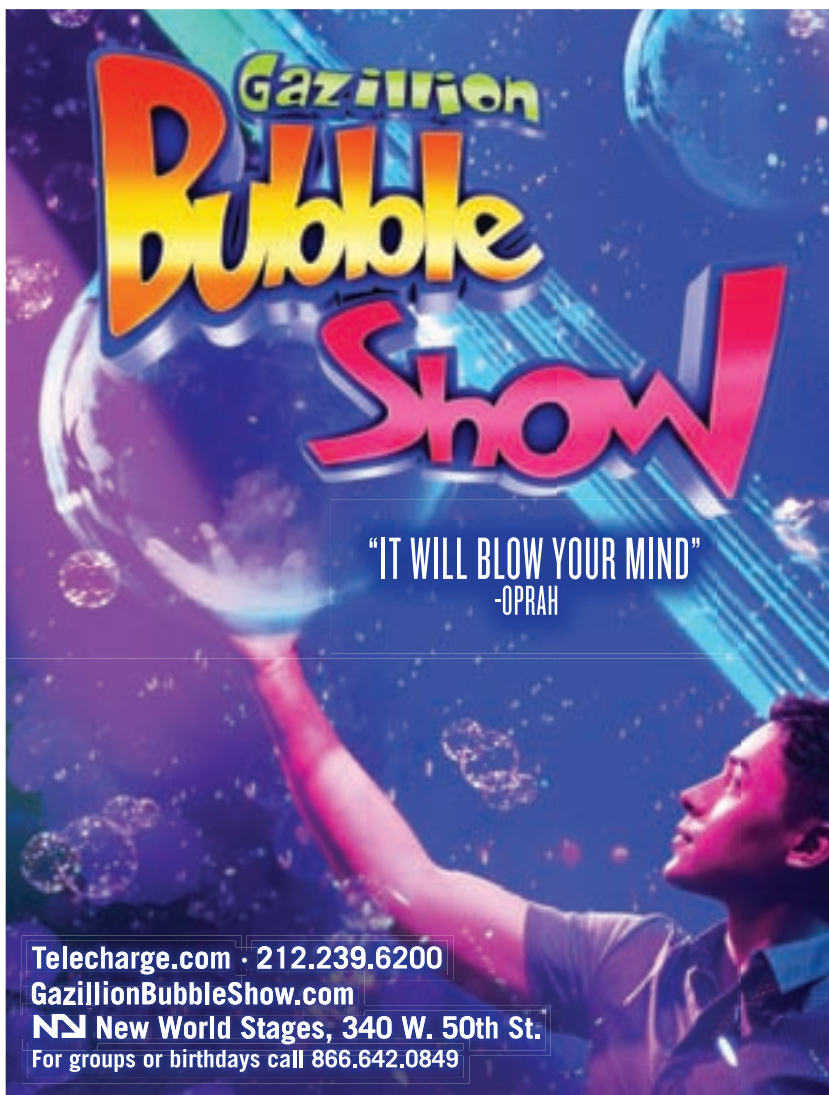
Across

1. Secret store
6. Amusing old guy
10. Like taking candy from a baby?
14. Best way to leave Vegas?
15. Kuwaiti, e.g.
16. A Grimm beginning?
17. C.E.O. protector?
20. Pupil's spot
21. One kind of order
22. Laughed loudly
23. Begin
25. Prevaricated
26. Taxi door info
28. Insect-repelling compound
32. Type of bay?
34. "Attention please..."
35. Bud holder?
38. Gem of a financier
42. Maglie of baseball
43. "Bye now"
44. Chaplin and others
45. Ancient writing material
48. Wound healer?
49. "The ____ thickens"
51. Agents making busts
53. Conversation
55. A shade of beige
56. Leaves in hot water
59. Like Dorothy's traveling shoes
62. Workers' purchase arrangement, for short
63. Kitten's pick-up spot?



64. Makes bread?
65. Board members: Abbr.
66. "Roget's" info: Abbr.
67. German coal city
18. A crack investigator?
19. Capital of Sri Lanka
24. Rain cats and dogs
26. Casting requirements?
27. Pavarotti specialty
29. "Hot Lips"
30. Beta preceder?
31. Border line?
33. 'You are here' arrow, e.g.
35. Kitchen containers
36. Bachelor No. 1?
37. Wall St. workplace
39. Barely beat
40. Calendar square
41. Campus military org.
45. Sea anemones, e.g.
46. Sam and Tom, relatively?
47. Apology from Indian seamstress?
49. First of 12 popes with a religious-sounding name
50. Motherly business?
52. Indian coin
53. Great Scott?
54. D.D.E. and others
55. Inits. for an armchair quarterback?
57. Another graceful seabird
58. Org.
60. Calendar square
61. Faux finish?

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



Film

Continued from Page 35

Those many languages are just one example of the wide variety of people and cultures who appear in the film. From Muslims praying and teaching, to Latino groups, East Indians, seniors and the largest LGBT community in Queens, the film examines the many sides of the neighborhood, as well as the issues that concern them.

Those issues, however, are not simply a Jackson Heights topic but one that much of America deals with.

There is no "town hall" here. In fact, it appears that the local Jewish Center is the largest gathering venue, particularly for seniors and the LGBT population.

A gay Latino bartender, Julio Rivera, was the victim of a brutal hate crime in 1991. It could have been brushed off by the police if the neighborhood hadn't taken active steps to address this as a community.

Another issue involves a transgender Latina who launches a boycott of a Greek-owned pizzeria that she be-



Mariachi band, Mariachi Flor de Toloache, performs in Frederick Wiseman's documentary "In Jackson Heights." Photo courtesy Zipporah Films



FILMMAKER
FREDERICK WISEMAN

IF YOU GO

"In Jackson Heights"

When: Through Jan. 31

Where: Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria

Cost: \$12/adults, \$9/seniors and students, \$6/children

Contact: (718) 777-6888

Website: www.movingimage.us

lieves is guilty of discriminating against her and her transgender friends.

You may want to turn away when chickens at a live-poul-

try farm have their throats slit. You will hear the Muslim workers doing solemn prayers for the lives that are about to be taken. Business Improvement Districts become a hot topic as the livelihoods of Latino neighborhood residents are threatened by the effects of gentrification, with real-estate mongers buying out long-time "Mom and Pop" storefronts. Priced out of areas such as Long Island City, they see Jackson Heights appearing to be the next "trendy" neighborhood.

The immigrant experience

is one of the largest topics of the movie. We become a part of a meeting held by a group called Make the Road, NY as its leader asks for someone to talk about their experiences of crossing the border. Celia, a middle-aged Mexican illegal immigrant, shares an approximately 10-minute-long narrative about how her daughter was abandoned in the desert by the coyotes, guides who help people cross the border, with the promise of helping her. If not for two "acts of God," she says her daughter would have died in the desert. One of those acts involved a blinding white light in a hazy horizon; the other a sudden rainfall.

"In Jackson Heights" also has a less serious side, showing us concerts in the street, people playing instruments in a Laundromat as well as other uncommon venues, and the cheering or non-cheering of Latino groups as they watch soccer games.

"The Jackson Heights depicted in the film is a large part of the Jackson Heights that I know and love and is the Jackson Heights that people travel from around the world to visit," Dromm said. "Jackson Heights is hot."

Play

Continued from Page 37

she introduces herself, to Dani's birthday party. Armed with an ice cream cake in honor of the celebration, Susie does not hide her disdain for this other woman.

But Dani keeps the upper hand, delivering a few of the evening's funnier lines, such as "I don't trust any woman over the age of 20 who goes by Susie." Holding the frozen dessert, Dani roams the apartment looking for a knife and lamenting the fact that it "is going to take two weeks to defrost."

By the end of the party, Susie's

blood has spilled over the cake and Arthur admits that he never loved Dani.

As Act II begins, Dani has moved on and is living with much younger actor Gary, played by Peter Collier, who believes he can save this lost woman from herself.

But instead of him getting the coke out of her system, Gary succeeds in developing his own habit.

Arthur returns and now confesses his love for Dani, who realizes existing in a world of numbness is not a life worth living.

"I have to start feeling or I'll die," Dani says.



Connie Castanzo (l) offers Julie Atlas Muz a sample of cocaine in a scene from "City Girls Desperadoes."

Photo courtesy Steven Speliotis

Celebrate best of borough's theater

The QGuide is seeking nominations for the 2015 Queens Kudos theater awards.

Send your nominations in the following categories: Outstanding Play, Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Director, Outstanding Costumes and Outstanding Set Design.

There will also be awards for Outstanding Actor, Actress, Supporting Actor and Supporting Actress in both play and musical categories.

Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2016, and should be e-mailed to queenskudos@gmail.com.



Members of The Usual Rejects perform their parody of "Jurassic Park" at The Chain Theatre in Long Island City.

Photo courtesy Chain Theatre

Chain

Continued from Page 37

go—igg.me/at/savethechain.

"If everybody who's ever seen a show here gave \$10 that would be a huge number," Gostkowski said.

Gostkowski also plans to continue to look for a new home in Queens.

"No matter what neighborhood it is in," Van Bramer said, "that neighborhood would be lucky to call The Chain part of its community."

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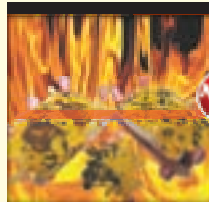


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N/Q stations

Continued from Page 5
a lower cost and with better quality as a single contractor will be held accountable for cost, schedule and performance. Stations will be closed to give contractors unfettered access that would speed up the process, rather than a piecemeal approach that would close stations for short periods

of time at night and on weekends over an extended period. That approach could take two to three years or more to be completed, officials said. Due to the high ridership at each of the Astoria stations, the MTA is aware that they can't be closed for very long periods of time, according to sources. State Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) welcomed the much-needed

upgrades. "While our growing community needs additional, accessible public transportation, station closures must not unnecessarily disrupt the lives of my Astoria neighbors," she said. The MTA has not determined whether shuttle buses will service riders of the closed stations. The funding is part of the MTA's four-year \$26.1 billion Capital Program.

Subway plan

Continued from Page 5
The Queens stations to be remodeled are: 30th Avenue on the N, Q line; Broadway on the N, Q; 36th Avenue on the N, Q; 39th Avenue on the N, Q; Parsons Boulevard on the F; 67th Avenue on the M, R; and Northern Boulevard on the M, R.

In September the Citizens Budget Commission identified 33 stations in the subway system in need of repair, nearly half of which were in Queens. Six of the 10 worst stations were in the borough.

The 52nd Street station in Woodside/Sunnyside on the No. 7 line was called the worst in the city, but it does not appear on the governor's rehabilitation list.

"Stations will be closed to give contractors unfettered access with a singular focus – get in, get done and get out," according to the plan. "Work on the majority of these 30 stations will be completed by 2018 and all will be finished by 2020.

On average station redvelopments from start to finish will be reduced to take between six and 12 months.

"Once again Gov. Cuomo

is stepping up on behalf of transit workers and transit riders," said Jon Samuels, president of Local 100 of the Transport Workers union.

The plan to overhaul the MTA was among Cuomo's list of improvements, including a new plan to resume work on the stalled Javits Center, including a new Pennsylvania railroad terminal, a Hudson River tunnel as well as upgrading of highways and bridges, many upstate.

The governor also called for addition of a third track to part of the Long Island Rail Road's Main Line in Nassau and increased educational opportunities in prisons.

The governor's proposal also accelerates the process of bringing mobile payment methods to subways and buses, allowing riders to pay their fares by waving a cellphone, a bank card or another payment device over contactless reader devices. This will speed up payment and boarding. Non Contact boarding is scheduled to start in 2018.

All 277 underground subway stations will have Wi-Fi service by the end of 2016 and cellphone service will be available in all of them early the following year.

Rikers reform

Continued from Page 24
the "confidence of the staff to move this project forward was a bit shaken."

On Tuesday the Board of Correction agreed, voting unanimously to grant the six-month delay in implementing the Young Adult Plan.

Norman Seabrook, president of the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association,

has argued that solitary is an important disciplinary tool, especially with inmates ages 18 to 21, who make up just 12 percent of the Rikers population but are responsible for a third of the violence.

"We've been saying all along that the department's plan to end punitive segregation for young adults was never well thought out and lacked serious input from our members," Seabrook said. "We told them they needed to rethink

this. We've been asking for a seat at the table for months, and the recent vicious attacks on officers seems to be forcing people who think they know better than our members to reconsider this plan and to keep an open mind. We welcome the delay and the opportunity for a more informed conversation."

The delay will not affect 16- and 17-year-old inmates, who were exempted from solitary confinement last year.

67th Ave.

Continued from Page 5
combines the design and the construction phases of a project and bundles them into a

single contract. City agencies, however, have, until recently, been unable to use design-build projects because of political wrangling in Albany.

The MTA said it will use design-build procurement to de-

liver the subway station projects more quickly, at a lower cost and with better quality, as a single contractor will be held accountable for cost, schedule and performance.

Do you know a Student of Distinction?

TimesLedger Newspapers and Community Newspaper Group invite your school to participate in our feature highlighting young people who are excellent students as well as role models for their younger peers.

Nomination requirements are:

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

D) Categories are:

- 1) Middle School 2) High School 3) College

Please send nominations and information to:

srossi@cnglocal.com, or mail to:

S. Rossi – 41-02 Bell Blvd., 2nd Floor, Bayside, NY 11361

If you have any questions, you may contact me at:

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MacDonald Park gets awaited safety upgrades

BY GABRIEL ROM

After years of complaints from Forest Hills residents, steps have been taken to improve safety in the area around MacDonald Park.

The city Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz announced Tuesday that the DOT has completed pedestrian improvements near the park.

After calls for repairs, the DOT installed enhanced crosswalks on Queens Boulevard Service Road at 70th Avenue and mid-block, in front of the Forest Hills Jewish Center. Each crossing has new ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps. DOT has also improved the visibility for pedestrians and motorists.

"These enhanced pedestrian safety measures are welcome improvements to this increasingly busy intersection of the neighborhood," said Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

"The redesign delivers upon the important goals of the Vision Zero initiative," she added.

MacDonald Park has many pedestrian crossings, with both vehicular and pedestrian foot traffic. The park is near the Forest Hills Post Office, Forest Hills Jewish Center and close to Austin Street, one of Forest Hills main commercial drags. In the past five years, there have been four pedestrian injuries at this intersection of Queens Boulevard and 70th Avenue.

"In our work to make Queens Boulevard safer, easing access to popular spots like MacDonald Park in Forest Hills is a real priority," said Trottenberg.

"Parks appreciates the efforts DOT has made towards enhancing accessibility to green spaces like MacDonald Park," said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. "Constructing ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps



The new safety improvements by MacDonald park.
Courtesy of Borough President

and opening up sightlines provide much improved access points that are safer for everyone, especially in such a heavily trafficked area."

Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills) added: "The installation, including ramps and painted crosswalks, will greatly aid individuals who have asked for increased accessibility at this specific location so that they can safely access MacDonald Park and the United States Post Office."

As a DOT Priority Corridor and a Vision Zero Great Street, Queens Boulevard has seen many safety improvements, including the installation of a protected bike lane and improved pedestrian crossings from Roosevelt Avenue to 73rd Street and pedestrian improvements at Yellowstone Boulevard last year. DOT has already begun the planning and outreach for redesigning another portion of the corridor from 73rd Street to Eliot Avenue for implementation later this year.

Taxation

Continued from Page 18

cies and confusing paperwork," Ulrich said. "These workshops will afford homeowners the opportunity to discuss their specific property tax issues with the Department of Finance and Tax Commission and appeal if necessary."

The townhall meetings will take place at the following locations:

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016
6:00pm-8:00pm
Living Word Christian Fellowship
132-05 Cross Bay Blvd

Ozone Park, NY 11417
(Corner of Cross Bay Blvd and Sutter Avenue)

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016
6:00pm-8:00pm
Knights of Columbus
333 Beach 90th Street
Rockaway Beach, NY 11693

Any questions may be directed to 718-738-1083.

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at grom@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

Out with the old and in with the new



U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley pitches in for clean-up duty after the annual Three Kings Day kids party he helps to host in the gym at IS 61 in Corona.

Photo by Michael Shain



It's the official end of holiday season when the city starts turning Christmas trees into Christmas mulch. Parks Department worker Roland Drahmi is doing the honors at the wood chipper in Juniper Valley Park.

Photo by Michael Shain



At the Queens Botanical Garden in Flushing, the cars kept coming all day long for an "after the holidays e-waste collection," unloading old and outmoded electronics for recycling. These events have become more popular since the Sanitation Department stopped collecting old electronics last year.

Photo by Michael Shain



ORT, the world's largest Jewish service organization, helped raise money for a library for its affiliated college in Forest Hills, Bramson ORT. Rabbi Asher Vaknin of the Bukharin Jewish Community Center hangs a mezuzah at the front door at the opening day party.

Photo by Michael Shain



City Councilman Paul Vallone, with Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, shows how he filled out an IDNYC card application card at the Bayside library, where an enrollment center is open through Feb. 5.

Photo by Michael Shain



Remember the name Michelle Sorokko (l), 14, from Little Neck. She and her partner, Dasha Kourkina of Brooklyn, just won the girls doubles title at the 16-and-under USTA National Winter Championships in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Courtesy of USTA/Shelby Payne

Music

Continued from Page 1

have an unreasonable impact on the park and its users and would provide clear opportunities for public input.

Even as a host of elected officials, including U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) and City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras-Copeland (D-East Elmhurst), voiced their support for a Coachella-style festival by the industry giant AEG Live, Borough President Melinda Katz and several civic groups from neighborhoods surrounding the park, including Community Boards 4 and 5, drew a line in the sand.

"Events of any scale that enhance our borough are encouraged," Katz said. "The use of public parks, however, needs to be publicly vetted and coordinated under an official city policy, because the absence of one renders the entire process unfair. The merits—or lack thereof—of any existing or future individual application cannot be fairly considered in the void of policy and public participation, which are paramount."

AEG Live's production company, Goldenvoice, had been engaging the community for the last two years, according to Ferreras-Copeland. Just hours after the Parks Department rejected its application, the company announced it would move its Panorama festival to Randall's Island Park. Three days of music, art, technology and food will take place there July 22-24.

"We look forward to bringing Panorama to New York City and introducing a new



Users of Flushing Meadows Corona Park are the big winners as the city denies applications for several large-scale music festivals.

Photo by Michael Shain

festival that showcases today's top music acts," Festival Producer Mark Shulman said. "We're committed to creating an event that will provide significant benefits to New York City with the level of experience and meticulous attention to detail for which Goldenvoice is known."

Shulman said his company would remain engaged with the elected officials, park institutions and the communities surrounding Flushing Meadows Corona Park in the hopes of bringing a large-scale event to the borough in the future.

"I am disappointed that the event has moved to Randall's Island because our community has so much potential and so much to offer," Ferreras-Copeland said. "However, I will continue to work towards bringing world-class events to Queens and improving parks

for everyday visitors and district residents."

Crowley was disappointed but understood Katz and the civic associations' objections.

"Just as the World's Fair was a source of pride for the people of Queens for its lasting legacy in commerce and innovation, I believe a world-class music, technology and food festival has the potential to become a driving economic force for the borough as well as an opportunity to showcase Queens," he said. "I do, however, appreciate the concerns raised by members of the surrounding communities and I thank NYC Parks for thoroughly reviewing the applications submitted. I hope the city can now explore developing a protocol for such events moving forward."

speeding.

According to DOT data, at midday over 50 percent of drivers along Woodhaven Boulevard were clocked at speeds over the limit.

There were 17 pedestrian deaths along the Boulevard between 2009 and 2013. Six of the deaths were in CB9.

"This is not just about buses. This is a complete street project," Gouge said.

Gouge cited a petition which received over 6,000 signatures in support for SBS. That claim was met with an eruption of boos from the board, who questioned whether the petitioners had explicitly voiced support for the SBS project rather than the more general claim of better bus service.

left behind.

"The human element has been left out," said Maria Thomson, a CB9 member and president of the Woodhaven Business Improvement District. Multiple Board members, Thomson included, also raised concerns over banning left turns along Jamaica Avenue and safety for bus riders at the new medians.

Gouge responded that the DOT has not made a final decision on the issue and recognized that it was a significant community concern.

"This is also about how to make roadways more consistent for drivers," Gouge said.

She mentioned that Woodhaven Boulevard suffers both from traffic choke points and

103rd

Continued from Page 1

had a great year."

The 103rd Precinct covers neighborhoods in and around the downtown Jamaica Business District, including Hollis Park Gardens, Hollis, Lakewood and Jamaica.

"But a major concern for us is gang violence," he said. "We are working really closely with gang units."

According to Cappelman, there were 18 shootings and 18 shooting victims in 2015, but overall crime has decreased 6 percent when compared to 2014.

In 2015, at the 103rd Precinct there were a total of six homicides, 28 rapes, 383 robberies, 444 felony assaults, 249 burglaries, 505 grand larceny and 108 grand larceny auto incidents reported, according to the latest NYPD statistics.

For an eight-month period, from January through August 2015, the 103rd Precinct had a total of one homicide, when 30-year old Russell McKee was the victim of a fatal shooting robbery by two male suspects while waiting on the corner of Camden and Liberty Avenues for his friends, according to police — compared to seven in 2014 during the same time period, according to NYPD statistics.

In 2015, a total of six homicides occurred within the 103rd Precinct, according to the latest NYPD statistics.

The last murder of the year took place 30 minutes before midnight on Dec. 31 when 103rd Precinct police officers found 16-year-old Ji-

had Jackson, from Rosedale, shot once in the neck at the corner of 109th Avenue and Merrick Boulevard. He was unresponsive, according to police officials, who also said emergency responders pronounced Jihad dead at the scene.

Cappelman said Jihad Jackson had traveled back to his Rosedale home from Washington, D.C. during a family trip. He stopped over at a friend's house and hung out with some pals for the new year when a gun went off and shot him, according to Cappelman.

According to the criminal complaint filed by the Queens district attorney, three suspects, were arrested and charged with tampering with evidence—Eduardo Placencia, 18; Natalie Placencia, 49, Eduardo's mother; and her boyfriend, Dorian Carr, 48. All three live near the scene of the slaying.

Police sources said there was evidence from the Placencia home on Merrick Boulevard indicating that after Jihad was shot, he was moved outside and investigators at the scene found a bloody cloth outside in the bushes near the Placencia home.

Carr, admitted that Jackson's body was removed from the home.

Investigators have not yet found the gun involved in the shooting, according to Cappelman, and police said the investigation is ongoing.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at skully@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

CB9

Continued from Page 1

of median bus stops along the 1.3-mile corridor. It will begin in the spring of 2017.

DOT hopes the full roll-out of SBS, which will extend past the Rockaway Boulevard-Liberty Avenue intersection deep into the Rockaway peninsula, will be shaped by the community response to the short-term project. The long-term project, which does not have a completion date, will include new and extended bus medians and additional medians at already existing bus stops along Woodhaven Boulevard.

Yet board members still felt

Teacher

Continued from Page 2

science or mathematics department.

The winners were chosen from applications submitted by parents, students, teachers, and administrators throughout the five boroughs. These schools range in size from 400 students at the Queens High School for the Sciences at York College to more than 3,400 students at New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at skully@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

Sports



Mary Louis' Danielle Patterson, splits Bishop Loughlin defenders during CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens action. Photo by Robert Cole

Mary Louis passes big test vs. Loughlin

BY TROY MAURIELLO

If Saturday afternoon was the first test of whether or not Mary Louis can challenge the elite teams in CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens, the Hilltoppers aced it.

Behind dominant efforts from junior Danielle Patterson and senior Jasmine Brunson, the Mary Louis girls' basketball team pulled away in the second half for an easy 70-56 win over Bishop Loughlin at Holy Cross.

Patterson poured in 25 points, including 11 from the foul line. Brunson added 20 points of her own as she was able to get to the basket with ease most of the game.

"We just came in confident," Patterson said. "We stuck to our game plan and we didn't let them dictate the tempo."

Senior Skydajah Patterson scored 21 points to lead Bishop Loughlin, which placed second in the league

last season. Junior Milicia "Mimi" Reid, the Lions' leading scorer, was held to just 10 points, including only two in the second half.

Mary Louis controlled most of a sloppy first half and held a 15-8 lead after the first quarter and 30-26 going into the half.

Patterson (10 points) and eight from Brunson, who is headed to Minnesota next season, carried Mary Louis (9-2, 2-0) before the break. It could have been more with Patterson getting to the foul line 10 times in the first half, but making just four.

Loughlin (8-5, 2-2) had to consider itself lucky to be trailing by only four. The Lions struggled to score and were turning the ball over in the first quarter, before outscoring Mary Louis 18-15 in the following frame.

But the Lions would not be as lucky after halftime. Their sloppy play continued, and

Continued on Page 46

Royals top Stanners

CK holds on to notch statement win over Molloy

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Christ the King found a way without Jose.

Royals star point guard Jose Alvarado picked up his fourth foul in the closing seconds of the third quarter with his team down a point. His backup quickly turned his absence into a non-factor, set the tone and gave Christ the King the lead for good.

Sophomore guard Tyson Walker wiggled his way through the Archbishop Molloy defense for a hoop on the opening possession of the fourth quarter. Senior wing Jared Rivers followed by hitting consecutive 3-pointers. That put the Royals up by eight and put them on their way to an important 68-61 win over the Stanners in CHSAA boys' basketball in front of a standing-room-only crowd at Jack Curran Gymnasium Jan. 8.

"I just said, 'Someone needs to step up. Someone needs to make it happen,'" Christ the King Coach Joe Arbitello said. "Tyson Walker started it off with the great move for a layup and Jared just kept going."

The spurt put his team up 47-35 with 6:30 to play in the game. Molloy (7-2, 2-1) got a hoop from center Moses Brown, who battled foul trouble, and did not score again for the next 3:00. CK (7-2, 7-2) went up 58-49 when Rivers fed Yashawn Bright for a hoop with 3:21 remaining.

"Being a senior and a leader, I know the ball is going to be in my hands most of the time, especially in crunch time," said Rivers, who scored eight of his 14 points in the fourth. "It's my last year. I'm a senior. I've been through everything. I know what it takes to get the win."

Walker scored 11 points and Bright added 13 for CK. Freshman guard Cole Anthony, son of former Knick Greg Antho-



Christ the King's Tyrone Cohen shoots a jumper against Molloy.

Photo by William Thomas

ny, paced the Stanners with 17 points, Issac Grant had 12 and Khalid Moore added 11.

Christ the King had blown a 10-point fourth quarter lead to Bishop Loughlin earlier in the week in what Arbitello called a "meltdown" by him and his players. The Royals turned to their defense, and to offensive fouls drawn by David Cole and Bright, to not let this one get away.

"One thing we were lacking was making those big defensive stops at the end of the game," Arbitello said.

It made shots tougher in the paint and fouled out Stanners freshman guard Cole Anthony, son of former Knick Greg Anthony, on a charge with 11 seconds left, clinging to a five-point lead.

"It was very big" Bright said "Taking the charge at the end of the game, rebounding, clearing everything out, talking on defense."

Stanners coach Mike McCleary said his young team showed its lack of experience

down the stretch in the jam-packed gym. Molloy missed five free throws in the fourth, including the front end of a 1-and-1 and had key defensive lapses.

"We talk about focus. We have trouble sustaining our focus for 32 minutes," McCleary said. "That's a youth thing. That's kids just not doing it, but I definitely think it was a tough environment, big crowd, boiling hot, every possession matters. I think some of those kids aren't ready to do it for 32 minutes but hopefully they get there."

While Christ the King hoping to nab a fourth-straight city title, it currently finds itself in a dogfight for the Brooklyn/Queens regular-season crown. Beating Molloy was a big step toward achieving that goal.

"It was a huge win for us, knowing they beat Loughlin and we lost to them, coming in here," Rivers said. "It's a crazy environment and we had to come in ready to play and just get the win."

Toussaint powers CK squad past Molloy

BY STEPHEN ZITOLO

Christ the King's Dominique Toussaint put on a dominant performance against Archbishop Molloy in a rematch of last season's CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens and New York Federation final.

Toussaint had an extra load on her shoulders, with senior guard Sydney Zambrotta and sophomore guard Jaenna Sutton getting into early foul trouble and sitting out portions of the first half.

The senior and Virginia-bound guard took on the added role as she led the Royals girls' basketball team with 24 points and to a 65-52 win over the Stanners (8-4) Jan. 7. Senior center Ashlie Howell was a force under the basket and crucial to the victory as she chipped in with 17 points before fouling out in the fourth quarter.

"When you've got really good players they have to show up and play hard," CK head coach Bob Mackey said. "They did. That was a good part."

However, "our defense didn't really look good and I thought we were sloppy in the



Virginia-bound guard Dominique Toussaint scored 24 points for Christ the King in a win over Archbishop Molloy. Photo by William Thomas

fourth quarter," Mackey said. "That's not the way we should play. It's a long season and you have to do everything you can to get through."

Even though Christ the

King (10-2) won, Molloy (8-4) looked like the better team in the first quarter. The Stanners defense held the explosive Royals offense to only 14 points and made four three-pointers

to take an 18-14 advantage. In the quarter Molloy's junior wing Jenna Mastellone scored eight of her game-high 25 points, but they could not sustain the lead.

"We learned a lot ourselves. A lot of the kids have a lot more confidence and our kids needed some convincing that they're great players too," Molloy coach Scott Lagas said. "Christ the King goes on runs. We have to try to find a way to not let one mistake turn into many more mistakes."

In the second quarter, Christ the King stole whatever momentum Molloy had. The Royals showed how deep their squad is, as they outscored the Stanners 22-6 in the quarter. They did so playing most of the quarter without Zambrotta and Sutton, who both had three fouls. Christ the King led 36-24 at the half behind 13 points from Toussaint and 12 points from Howell. "Our coaches got on us about the little things and made us realize that we didn't have the game in hand," Toussaint said. "There was a lot more game to play."

Christ the King picked up right where it left off after the

break, starting the third quarter off on a 16-6 run. It led by as many 22 as CK took a 52-35 lead into the fourth quarter.

Molloy took advantage of Christ the King's foul trouble in the fourth and Mackey was not pleased with his team's defense in the frame. The Stanners cut the Royals lead to as little as 60-49 with 2:06 remaining in the game, but Toussaint would immediately she made a layup and converted the 3-point play to ice any chance the Stanners had at the comeback.

"We played our hearts out," Mastellone said. "We have to build off this and beat Loughlin and next time we play King we will hopefully beat them."

Christ The King picked up the win, while honoring its teams of the early 90's by donning the squad's retro jerseys. Those teams marquee the beginning of the program's rise to national prominence.

"This is an honor to ne wearing these uniforms because Chamique Holdsclaw wore these uniforms and it was Mackey's first teams," Toussaint said. "It was great just to represent them."

CHSAA boys' hoops off to unpredictable start



Joseph Staszewski
■
Block Shots

Uncertainty is the only thing that's certain about the CHSAA Class AA boys' basketball league right now, because of a level of parity we haven't seen in years.

Over the last five seasons, there has been a clear hierarchy in the league, with three-time defending champions Christ the King, along with Cardinal Hayes, Bishop Loughlin and St. Raymond, being consistently at the top. Xaverian, Holy Cross, Xaverian, Iona Prep, and even for a season St. Peter's, poked their heads into the group. With former Royals star Rawle Alkins now playing at Word of God in North Carolina, the title is up for grabs.

There is no clear favorite.

You could argue it is Christ the King until someone beats the Middle Village school at Fordham University in March. It's a fair point, but the Royals don't belong on that pedestal at the moment, after league losses to Iona Prep, Bishop Loughlin and most recently Xaverian on Sunday. CK can't seem to get any momentum going, even with senior center David Cole back in the lineup for the first time in a victory over Archbishop Molloy last Friday.

The Stanners are this year's addition to the pack at the top half of the league thank to the addition of Cole Anthony, Khalid Moore and Moses Brown around stalwart forward Issac Grant, one of the city's most underrated players. A look at Molloy's last three games tells you all you need to know about the state of the CHSAA. The team fended off Loughlin two weeks ago, fell to Christ the King in a tight contest and then beat up on a short-handed St. Raymond team on Sunday.

The St. Raymond Ravens, who own a win over Iona, lost to Cardinal Hayes and Molloy in the same weekend. No team is undefeated and only three (Molloy, Loughlin, Iona) have just one league loss. Fourth-place Holy Cross, which beat Xaverian, is just a game out of first place in Brooklyn/Queens. The ups and down and twists and turns of this season are far from over.

You got a sense how special a year it could be if you were lucky enough to squeeze into Molloy Friday night to see the Stanners going against Christ the King. Fans, college coaches and media lined the baselines, stood three or four rows deep on the stage and filled the balcony behind the basket. Jack Curran Gymnasium was sold out and the game didn't disappoint all of us who tough out the heat and sweat generated by hundreds of people sitting and standing shoulder to shoulder for hours.

Nights like that will be more prevalent. Don't be surprised if Christ the King has to pull



Freshman Cole Anthony (r.) has helped Molloy become a title threat in a balanced CHSAA league. Photo by William Thomas

out both sides of the bleachers and runs out of pizza bagels at the concession stand when the Stanners visit Middle Village on Jan. 31. People will be fighting their way into Bishop Loughlin on two Friday nights

in February when Molloy and CK come to Brooklyn.

If you aren't there, you just might miss something, because the only certainty in the CHSAA is that you can't predict what will happen.

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Francis Lewis falls hard to South Shore



Taliyah Brisco of Francis Lewis attacks the South Shore defense.
Photo by William Thomas

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Repeating past mistakes caught up to Francis Lewis in its most important game to date.

Patriots coach Steve Tsai believes his team has been getting by on its talent in the majority of its games. Their lack of attention to detail and letting themselves get swept up into South Shore's style of play led to a disappointing 64-44 loss in PSAL Class AA girls' basketball Jan. 8.

"The way we have been kind of nonchalant with things, even with our wins, we haven't been playing that well," Tsai said. "I don't think there is a sense of urgency. Hopefully, today this opens up their eyes."

He watched his team get lazy on the boards and allow Vikings center Selena Philoxy to score 21 points and grab 17 rebounds. Except for a small run in the first and second quarters his team played fast and shot fast, which fed into the up-tempo style of South Shore (10-1, 8-0).

"We just let them impose their will on us, whether it was their transition or dominating us with their transition," Tsai said. "We just felt like they were going to let us stay in the game and everything."

After a sloppy start, Lewis used an 8-1 run to tie the score at 13-13 on a hoop by Dominique Williams with 7:00 to play in the second quarter. South Shore, the defending city champion, responded

with a 14-0 spurt over the second and third quarters. It gave the Vikings a 35-17 lead with 6:32 left in the third, and they never looked back.

"Making stupid turnovers going up and down, up and down that means we are rushing," senior guard Taliyah Brisco said. "We are playing their game. We need to play our game and slow the pace down."

Francis Lewis (9-2, 8-1) was unable to respond because it settled for quick shots and was unable to find consistent offense with star guard Sierra Green being guarded in a box-and-1 defense by Destiny Philoxy (15 points, six rebounds). Dominique Williams scored 18 points to lead Francis Lewis. Green and Brisco each chipped in 12.

"Sierra can't do it all by herself," Brisco said. "We have to help her."

When the Patriots did attempt to clamp down on defense and rally, Selena Philoxy converted a 3-point play late in the shot clock to put her team up 40-24 with 4:02 remaining in the third.

The loss is Lewis' first in league play, with games against top teams like Truman and Grand Street still to go. The team knows it needs to start clicking consistently if it is going to finish strong.

"Hopefully this is a wake-up call for us," Tsai said. "Sometimes that is the great thing about having it in the earlier season. We still have half a season left."

SJU beats ranked Seton Hall

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

St. John's dynamic back-court duo was exactly that and the supporting cast helped them close out the team's second win this season over a ranked opponent.

Senior Danaejah Grant recorded her third double-double of the year with 29 points and 13 boards, both season highs, to lead the Red Storm women's basketball team to a 71-69 win over No. 20 Seton Hall at Carnesecca Arena Jan. 9. St. John's also topped No. 17 South Florida on Nov. 29 in Queens.

Classmate Aliyyah Handford tallied 17 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals. She played just two minutes in the second half because of foul trouble and eventually fouled out. St. John's coach Joe Tartamella has seen his stars take things to a new level this year.

"They have bought into each other even more so this year than I've seen and it doesn't matter if one's struggling or the other is struggling they seem to pick each other up," he said. "Maybe it's because they are roommates now, hopefully that's helped their communication level."

The two still needed some help down the stretch to se-



Danaejah Grant scored 29 points against Seton Hall
Photo courtesy of St. John's Athletic Communications

cure a win over last year's regular-season winner and bounce back from a loss to Big East tournament champion DePaul. Tabatha Richardson-Smith led Seton Hall (13-3, 3-2) with a game-high 34 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Shakena Richardson chipped in 15 points.

"Any time you can win a game, especially when you have three in one week, it's important to do this in an opportunity over a very good and ranked Seton Hall team," Tartamella said.

St. John's (13-3, 4-1) took a 61-54 lead with 5:30 to go in the game on consecutive hoops from Grant off feeds from Handford. Seton Hall pulled

within two before a 3-point play from Jade Walker (nine points, six rebounds) put the Red Storm back up 66-61.

The Pirates responded by scoring the next four points before Grant and the Hall's Richardson-Smith traded jumpers. Seton Hall got with in one twice in the final 15 seconds, but Aaliyah Lewis, who scored eight points, made a pair of throws each time to put the game away.

"I think in the end our experience helped us out a lot," Grant said. "We were able to knock down some free throws at the end and keep our composure. As much as we turned the ball over in some key situations we remained composed."

Mary Louis

Continued from Page 43

Mary Louis took full advantage. The Hilltoppers rolled to a 21-11 third quarter that saw their four-point lead blossom into a 14-point advantage heading into the final frame. Loughlin never cut the Mary Louis lead to any less than 12 in the fourth.

"We said that we needed to come out and definitely build on the lead," said Mary Louis coach JoAnn Artibello-

Pinnock regarding her team's third quarter. "One of our big things was to get the ball inside and take advantage of our height."

Although it was mainly the Patterson and Brunson show for TMLA, it did get contributions from others. Freshman Taylor Holmes had nine points, while junior Kayla Podlovits added eight, including a pair of 3-point shots.

This loss was a clear setback for Loughlin, which also lost to defending champ Christ the King after winning of five

of its last seven coming in.

"They didn't play with intensity," said Loughlin coach Chez Williams regarding his team's second half. "You have to sustain the same intensity into the second half, and they didn't do that."

Mary Louis, on the other hand, raised its level of play, but knows it can't rest on the laurels of the big victory.

"We have to keep it going," said Brunson said. "We have to continue to improve each game, each practice, and we're going to continue to do that."

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

Week 4

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

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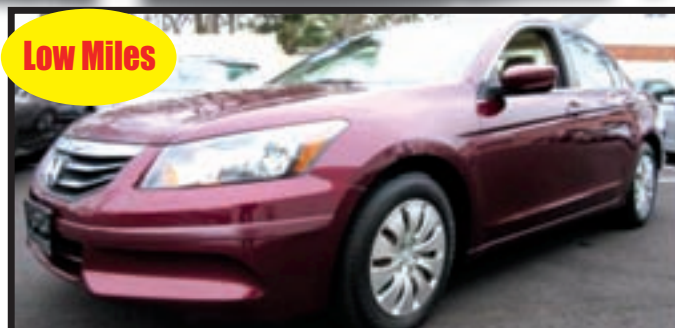
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\$15,995

Navigation



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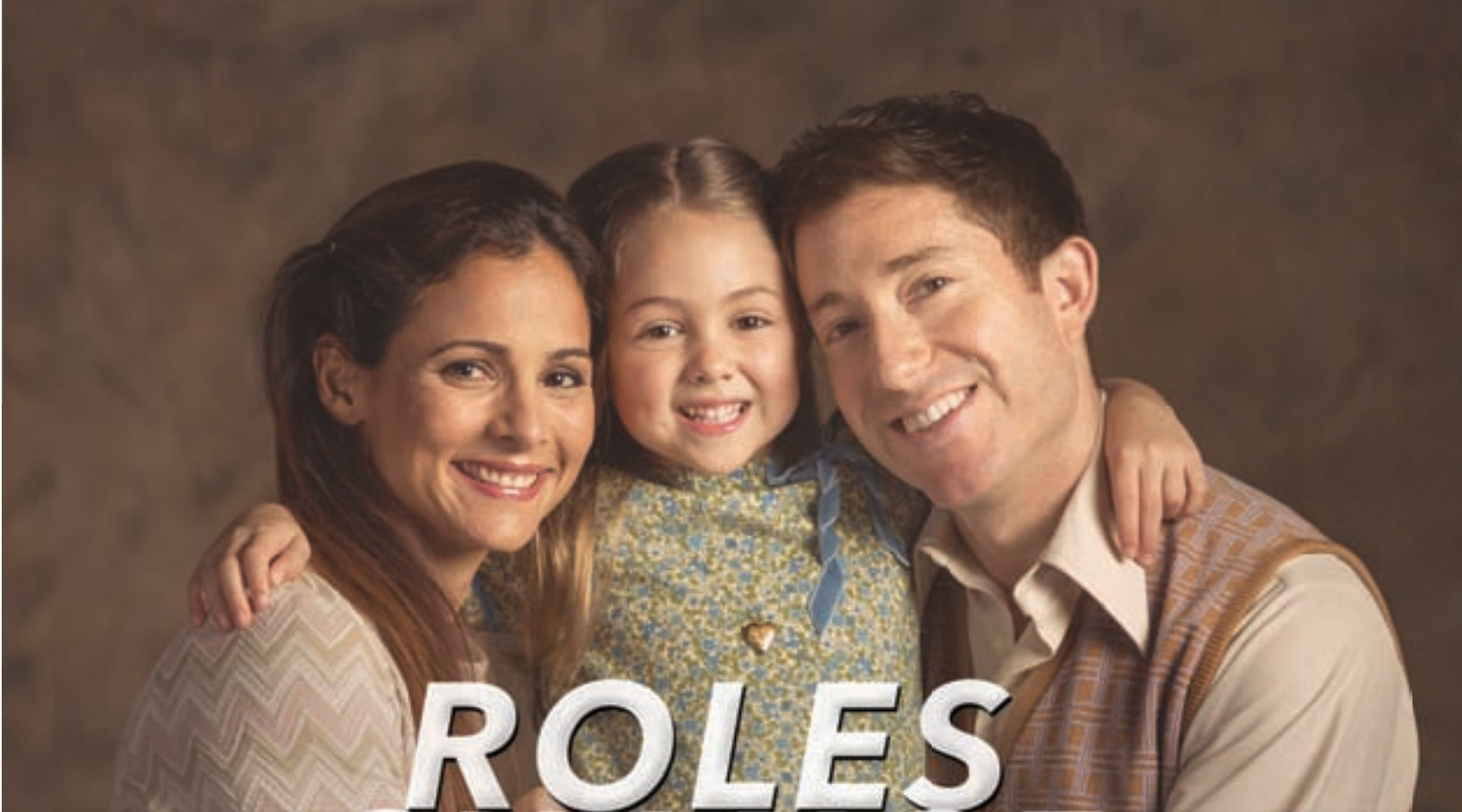
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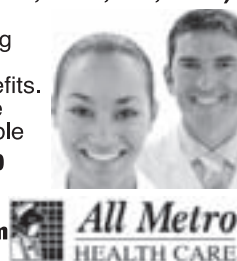
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**Letitia James Warns
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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 22 2015, bearing Index Number NC-0000878-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) TYRECK (Middle) ANTHONY (Last) THORPE. My present name is (First) TYRECK (Last) THORPE AKA TYRECK A. THORPE, AKA TYRECK ANTHONY THORPE. My present address is 102-16 215th Street, Queens Village, NY 11429-1121. My place of birth is QUEENS, NY. My date of birth is April 04, 1996.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on OCT 01 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000526-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) TINA (Middle) MARIE (Last) CRUZ-TILLERY. My present name is (First) TINA (Middle) MARIE (Last) BARJON AKA TINA MARIE POTOOKIAN, AKA TINA BARJON, AKA TINA POTOOKIAN, AKA TINA M. BARJON. My present address is 223-45 107th Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11429-2407. My place of birth is BELLEVILLE, NJ. My date of birth is May 13, 1970.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 21 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000890-15/QU, a copy

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of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) SHAHRIAR (Middle) SHAFIN (Last) RAHMAN. My present name is (First) NO NAME GIVEN (Last) SHAHAREAR AKA SHAHAREAR (infant). My present address is 164-30 Hillside Avenue, Apt #10J, Jamaica, NY 11432. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is July 31, 1998. Assume the name of (First) SANZEDA (Last) RAHMAN. My present name is (First) NO NAME GIVEN (Last) SANZEDA AKA SANZEDA (infant). My present address is 164-30 Hillside Avenue, Apt #10J, Jamaica, NY 11432. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is December 31, 1999.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on NOV 12 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000767-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) SULIAT (Middle) AFOLAKE (Last) ADELEKAN. My present name is (First) SULIAT (Last) ADELEKAN-FLEETWOOD, AKA SULIAT FLEETWOOD, AKA AFOLAKE ADELEKAN. My present address is 173-17 89th Avenue, Apt. #4A, Jamaica, NY 11432-4608. My place of birth is NIGERIA. My date of birth is October 15, 1977.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 17 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000846-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) JAMIL (Last) ASHRAFUZZAMAN. My present name is (First) JAMIL (Middle) ASRAFUZ (Last) ZAMAN AKA JAMIL ASHRAFUZZAMAN, AKA JAMIL ZAMAN. My present address is 86-20 162nd Street, Jamaica, NY 11432-3432. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is February 11, 1994.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on DEC 04 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000799-15/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) SEEMA (Last) DAY. My present name is (First) SEEMA (Middle) RANY (Last) DAY. My present address is 148-45 89th Avenue, Apt. #2K, Jamaica, NY 11435-3557. My place of birth is BANGLADESH. My date of birth is September 18, 1987.

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S U P P L E M E N T A L
S U M M O N S
Index No.: 1367-14
Date of Filing: December 29, 2015
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF

LEGAL

QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-3, A S S E T - B A C K E D CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-3, Plaintiff, -against- SHERBERT CAESAR INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; PHILLIP CAESAR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; JOYLYN CAESAR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; SEON CAESAR AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF BERTHA D. CAESAR; UNKNOWN HEIRS, D E V I S E E S, DISTRIBUTUTES OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE LATE BERTHA D. CAESAR, IF THEY BE LIVING OR DEAD, THEIR SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, DISTRIBUTUTES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION B U R E A U ; COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK SOCIAL SERVICES DISTRICT; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; "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, Defendants.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) 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 to 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.
YOU ARE HEREBY PUT

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ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable Leonard Livote of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on December 3, 2015, and filed with supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens, State of New York.
The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by BERTHA D. CAESAR and SHERBERT CAESAR TO THE MORTGAGE E L E C T R O N I C R E G I S T R A T I O N SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR FREMONT INVESTMENT & LOAN, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS bearing date August 24, 2006 and recorded in CRFN 2006000525064 in the County of Queens on September 18, 2006. Thereafter said mortgage was assigned to ASC D/B/A WFB, N.A. by an assignment of mortgage dated September 9, 2010 and recorded in CRFN 2010000403372 in the County of Queens on December 1, 2010.
The aforesaid instruments were thereafter modified by agreement dated August 18, 2008 and recorded in CRFN 2009000272349 in the County of Queens on August 25, 2009. Said modification agreement was then re-recorded in CRFN 2010000207790 in the County of Queens on June 22, 2010. Thereafter

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said mortgage was assigned to Plaintiff by an Assignment of Mortgage dated November 3, 2010 and recorded in CRFN 2010000403373 in the County of Queens on December 1, 2010.
Said premises being known as and by 107-14 157TH STREET, JAMAICA, NY 11433-2356.
Date: November 19, 2015
Batavia, New York
Virginia C Grapensteter, Esq.
ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Batavia Office 26
Harvester Avenue
Batavia, NY 14020
585.815.0288
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 - 8 7 7 - B A N K N Y S (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.



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