

## Willets Pt. project gets green light from CB 7

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## BB gun incident spooks parents at Ditmars Pk

BY RICH BOCKMANN AND KAREN FRANTZ

A Queens man who allegedly let his 5-year-old daughter run around Ditmars Park with an illegal BB gun was arraigned on charges of reckless endangerment last Friday, the district attorney said, and an Astoria legislator said the father made the situation worse by allegedly resisting arrest.

"It should have resulted, I believe, in an arrest and a slap on the wrist," said City Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria). "But apparently he resisted arrest and now I'm not sure what's going to happen."

With his two young children in tow, 54-year-old Zbigniew Pawlowski allegedly brought two BB guns to Ditmars Park around 11:30 a.m. May 7, loaded the guns with plastic pellets and began

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# Is it corruption or conspiracy?

## LET'S GO FLY A KITE



Lucas Lopez, 8, of Astoria runs with his handmade kite through Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City during the 11th annual kite-making workshop. **See more photos on Page 18.**

Photo by Christina Santucci

## SE Queens debates prosecutors' focus on its black leaders

BY RICH BOCKMANN

They're neither judge nor jury, but if they were, they'd lock 'em up.

Days after the revelation that former state Sen. Shirley Huntley secretly recorded some of her fellow politicians launched a new wave of headlines, a crowd in St. Albans voted on a debate about whether corruption or conspiracy played a role in the focus on black leaders — and the outcome was not favorable to elected officials.

"We have 24 hands for conspiracy and 27 hands for corruption," Tameek Hogan, a staffer in the office of Sen. James Sanders (D-Jamaica) announced to applause late Friday night at the Black Spectrum Theatre.

Sanders, who defeated Hunt-  
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# Retail revival waits in wings

Developer signs \$50M deal to make downtown Jamaica a shopping hub

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Downtown Jamaica, which at one time was the retail shopping hub of Queens and Nassau counties, may soon have a major department store that community and business leaders are hoping will return the area to its former glory.

The Greater Jamaica Development Corp. last week unveiled plans for a project that would create a 160,000-square-foot space large enough to lure a modern big box retailer to 168th Street.

"Thirty-five years ago and more, when Jamaica was the prime retail center for Queens, Brooklyn, Nassau County and beyond, we enjoyed three of what were then among the major department stores in the Northeast," Greater Jamaica President Carlisle Towery said. "The return of this big format new department store, by one of the region's foremost retail developers, is concrete evidence that Jamaica has once again turned the corner of economic recovery, retail strength and a major regional transportation hub."

Although a retailer has not yet been identified, Greater Jamaica said the developer, the Blumenfeld Development Group, has a strong track record of attracting big names such as Target and Costco.

At its height during



The Blumenfeld Development Group has plans for a 160,000-square-foot building that could attract a big-box retailer to downtown Jamaica. Rendering courtesy Gentsler

the post-war years, Jamaica boasted three major department stores: Mays, Gertz and the first Macy's store outside Manhattan in what is now the Jamaica Colosseum Mall.

But socioeconomic factors led to the overall decline of the shopping district, and by the late 1970s all three retail giants had left.

Efforts such as the Jamaica Center Business Improvement's fashion show, which returns for a second year June 1 at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center, have tried to dispel negative perceptions of the area and rebrand it as a destination that will draw shoppers from all over the metropolitan area.

The Blumenfeld Development Group, which

has not yet signed a lease for the new construction, hopes to capitalize on the district's potential, which is driven in part by a high degree of connectivity through several subway lines and the Long Island Rail Road.

"There is enormous economic potential in the Jamaica business district and we are enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate in the community's growth," partner David Blumenfeld said.

Greater Jamaica said the project will create a parking garage with capacity for 500-plus spots and the \$50 million project will create 180 jobs during construction as well as 400 permanent jobs.

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) played

a role in bringing the two business partners together, and he said more downtown development news is on the way.

"Thanks in no small part to Greater Jamaica, the downtown has once again become a vital center of retail, civic institutions and culture," he said. "In partnership with all levels of government, including my office, Greater Jamaica has stayed the course and been part of almost every significant advance in the downtown area over the last four decades."

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at [rbockmann@cnglocal.com](mailto:rbockmann@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4574.

# DOT installs light after deadly wreck

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A grieving mother Wednesday said it took the death of her daughter for the city Department of Transportation to install a traffic light at a dangerous Cambria Heights intersection, but the DOT's Queens commissioner said that was not the case.

"This is what was needed all along, [but it is] four months after the fact," Paula Rodriguez said as she stood at the intersection of 115th Avenue and 227th Street, where 24-year-old Paulina Rodriguez was killed in a car accident in November.

Family members said Paulina was on her way home from the movies around 3 a.m. when she stopped at the stop sign, turned left and was struck by a speeding car.

Rodriguez said she has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city,

claiming it knew the intersection was dangerous and should have done something before her daughter was killed.

Those who know that stretch of 115th Avenue well said it can resemble a speedway during rush hour with drivers trying to avoid traffic on the Cross Island and Belt parkways as well as at night with people heading back and forth between Queens and Nassau counties on their way to Merrick Boulevard clubs.

"Everyone knew this corridor was dangerous," said Community Board 13 District Manager Larry McClean, adding that community members had requested speed-mitigation measures along the stretch long before Rodriguez's deadly accident.

A similar outcry was made earlier this month after a 7-year-old boy was

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Paula Rodriguez (second from l.-r.) stands alongside City Councilman Leroy Comrie and state Assemblywoman Barbara Clark at the intersection where her daughter was killed last year.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

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# Rockaway teens play dress up in prom gown giveaway

Project Window hosts dozens of girls and allows them to freely pick pretty outfits for special night

BY STEVE MOSCO

Angela Hines believes all young women should feel like a princess on prom night and she is doing her part to make that come true.

The Far Rockaway resident organized and hosted Queens of Far Rockaway at the Action Center, at 57-10 Beach Channel Drive, last week, an event allowing victims of Superstorm Sandy to walk away with a free prom dress, shoes and accessories, including purses, jewelry and makeup tips.

The founder and director of Project Window, a nonprofit that provides girls in low-income housing projects with opportunities to reach their full potential, Hines said many families are still displaced following the storm.

And some parents

might not be able to pay for prom necessities while also shelling out money for storm repair.

"Parents are spending a lot of time working on rebuilding, but what about the kids?" Hines asked. "We want to make sure all girls feel special on prom night."

Dozens of young women from throughout the Rockaways came to the event looking for that special dress. Tanya Saunders, of Far Rockaway, emerged from behind her changing screen with a flowing blue dress, drawing applause from her friends and on-lookers.

"This is the one," Saunders said as she headed over to the shoe table to find a perfectly matching pair of heels. "It's beautiful."

Hines said Project Window received hundreds



Carlesha Murray beams after finding the perfect dress to wear to her prom.

Photo by Steve Mosco

of dress donations from stores, including Manhattan's Kleinfeld Bridal and

KiKi D's in New Jersey.

Arielle Ortiz, a volunteer with Project Window,

said Hurricane Sandy underscored the need for an event like this in Far Rockaway. She said young people in the area need something positive and uplifting to focus on as the adults work on getting everyday life back to normal.

"It's OK for them to be glamorous today," she said. "This is all about them. And we are here to help them find the perfect dress for the perfect night."

Carlesha Murray, also from Far Rockaway, lit up when she found her dress and shyly smiled from ear to ear. The look on her face was a sight that Harris said is exactly why she decided to undertake this dress giveaway.

It is part of Hines' broader mission with Project Window, which was her response to a growing number of young people in Far

Rockaway failing school, joining gangs and abusing drugs and alcohol. The organization forms partnerships with schools, community centers and parents in Far Rockaway, which refer girls to the program.

Hines said the program — and the prom dress giveaway — helps girls believe there is more to life than what they see through their windows.

"To see them smile and to see them feeling beautiful, which they are, it is why I'm here right now," said Harris, who works as a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society. "Every girl deserves to have a storybook prom experience."

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

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# Huntley gets light sentence

Judge gives fallen senator year in jail after she records colleagues

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A Brooklyn federal judge last week sentenced former state Sen. Shirley Huntley to a year and one day in prison for stealing taxpayer dollars, but said in the past the court had proven to be imperfect in deterring such corruption.

"Adequate safeguards at the state and local level would be more appropriate deterrents than the blunt instrument of criminal prosecution," Justice Jack Weinstein said at the disgraced former lawmaker's sentencing May 9.

Huntley, 74, recorded and photographed nine people at her southeast Queens home over the summer in cooperation with the FBI and federal prosecutors, court documents unsealed the day before her sentencing revealed.

Sitting with her husband by her side in Brooklyn federal court, Huntley admitted her mistakes and asked the judge for leniency.

"I'm requesting you grant me another chance,"



Former state Sen. Shirley Huntley (c.) leaves Brooklyn federal court after she was sentenced to one year and a day in prison after pleading guilty to fraud. Photo by Christina Santucci

she pleaded. "I vow to spend my few remaining years to redeem myself in the eyes of the people I've disappointed."

Huntley faced 18-24 months in jail after she pleaded guilty in January to covering up the embezzlement of \$87,000 from the Parent Information Network, a nonprofit run by her daughter.

"The public expects the highest in integrity and

honesty from public officials," Weinstein said, recognizing Huntley's cooperation with the FBI as one of a few "mitigating factors" he considered when handing down a non-guideline sentence of 366 days.

Huntley also got three years' probation and was ordered to pay \$87,000 in restitution and a \$100 fine.

Court documents showed that her work with a team of federal agents

probing corruption in New York provided law enforcement with useful information against three individuals who were not identified, but she was less than forthcoming when providing full disclosure about her own embezzlement and she was unable to secure a cooperating agreement with prosecutors.

Huntley's attorney filed a court memo identifying her as a victim of

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# Meng joins Schumer on immigration bill

BY PHIL CORSO

After speaking out in concern over certain provisions in a comprehensive immigration bill, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) cited the art of compromise for helping her sign onto the legislation authored in part by U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

Meng, the junior congresswoman from Queens, sent a letter to Schumer last week in defense of the Asian-American community objecting to certain limitations in the bill that she said would bar U.S. citizens from sponsoring adult siblings and married adult children to achieve permanent residence.

In the letter, Meng said the original text of the legislation would de-emphasize adult sibling and adult married child relationships, putting a roadblock in the way for those looking for a path to citizenship — especially in the Asian-American community, which makes up 60 percent of the current foreign-born population in America.

"The Asian-American community faces unique challenges that are not addressed in the current proposal and deserve further consideration," Meng wrote. "Asian-American families, like all families, have a strong interest in ensuring that any compre-

hensive immigration bill retains provisions to enable all current family reunification pathways."

Schumer stood by the bill, adding that his bill was especially generous to the Asian-American community.

But after discussing the legislation and establishing some provisions, Meng came out in support of the reforms and praised Schumer's ability to work with his colleagues in government. She is the city's first Asian American elected to Congress.

"Sen. Schumer has a very tough job needing to listen and balance the concerns from people throughout the country," Meng said. "We are excited about this legislation because this is probably in many ways a better bill than originally anticipated and a bipartisan bill at that."

Schumer said present law would allow roughly 600,000 Asian Americans into the country over the next 10 years, but under the current reforms up for debate that number would increase six times to nearly 3.6 million.

In order to achieve that increase, Schumer said his legislation would work to clear up the family backlog over the next decade, which is most prevalent in Asian countries like South Korea,

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# Court orders new judge for FDNY suit

BY RICH BOCKMANN

A panel of appellate judges Tuesday ruled a Brooklyn federal judge overstepped his authority by finding the FDNY intentionally discriminated against black and Hispanic applicants without hearing testimony from the city's witnesses, kicking the case back to the district court and directing a new judge to be appointed.

In an 81-page, dissenting decision, the three-judge panel of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled District Judge Nicholas Garaufis inappropriately assessed the city's evidence rebutting claims



An appellate court has ruled a new judge must oversee a bench trial in a lawsuit claiming the FDNY discriminated against minority applicants.

of intentional discrimination as either "incredible" or out-of-place during the preliminary stage of the proceedings of a lawsuit brought by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Vulcan Society of black firefighters.

The suit claimed two tests the FDNY used in 1999 and 2002 to screen applicants had a disproportionate effect on minority hiring and the department had an institutional practice of discrimination.

The city wanted to

submit evidence showing its efforts to hire minorities and challenge the claim that proportionally low numbers of minorities necessarily proved intentional discrimination, but Garaufis would not allow the evidence and found in favor of the plaintiffs without going to a bench trial.

Appellate Judge Jon Newman, writing for the majority, said at the preliminary stage Garaufis' role was to determine if the city produced enough evidence, not to assess the sufficiency of the evidence.

"Second, and more important, it was improper

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U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (l.) joins U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer at the inauguration ceremony of state Assemblywoman Nily Rozic earlier this year.



# City looks to Brooklyn to push USTA bill

Peralta declines to sponsor legislation in state Senate that would allow for expansion of tennis center

BY JOE ANUTA

The Bloomberg administration probably will be tapping a state lawmaker from outside Queens to carry a state bill allowing the United States Tennis Association to expand its Flushing Meadows Corona Park facility.

At a news conference earlier this week the mayor also alluded to where Major League Soccer would find replacement greenspace should its proposal to site a 25,000-seat soccer field in the same park successfully obtain approvals from the city.

In order for the USTA to expand its 42-acre footprint of the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center by 0.68 acres and perform renovations — a proposal that is currently under the city's land-use review procedure — a strip of land needs to be transferred

from city ownership to the association's lease in a process called alienation.

Parkland alienation involves many steps, but eventually requires a state bill to be passed in both the state Assembly and the state Senate. Typically, the bills are sponsored by the lawmakers whose districts encompass the park to be leased or sold. In this case, those lawmakers are Sen. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) and Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry (D-Corona).

Aubry has said he would sponsor the legislation and support the project provided the USTA meets a set of conditions. Peralta has not decided if he is for or against the project, but said he would not sponsor it.

Multiple sources told TimesLedge Newspapers that instead of Peralta the administration may



Sources say the Bloomberg Administration will try and get state Sen. Martin Golden to sponsor legislation allowing the United States Tennis Association to expand in Queens.

be looking to Sen. Martin Golden (R-Brooklyn) to carry the legislation. Golden has received tens of thousands of dollars from Mayor Michael Bloomberg in campaign funds, but also incurred a tongue-lashing from the billionaire earlier this year for nixing state speed camera legislation.

Neither Aubry, Golden nor the mayor's office responded to a request for comment.

Peralta has said on numerous occasions the USTA needs to replace any parkland taken up by an expansion of the tennis center. He has also called on the association to be a better neighbor and hire more union workers.

After the USTA and the city announced an agreement to transfer roughly 1.5 acres of leased parkland from the USTA back to the city last week — a move widely panned by critics

since it involves greenspace already accessible to the community — Peralta released a statement.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the details and hearing what the community has to say, but it seems that the USTA and Parks Department reached a sensible agreement," he said.

Political observers said Peralta may be trying to distance himself from a controversial subject in an election year.

The senator is running for borough president, and developments in Flushing Meadows Corona Park could become easy ammo.

"That's a political decision that some legislators have to make," said Barbara Bartoletti, legislative director for the good government group New York State League of Women Voters. "If he thinks it is politically unpopular, that explains

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## Seawall work begins at Queensbridge Pk.

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Queensbridge Park's seawall is getting a makeover that many residents and elected officials are saying is long overdue.

The seawall as it stands now is crumbling, with some areas sunken into the ground and tree roots bursting through the cracks. The waterfront is blocked off by a chain link fence, marring the otherwise impressive view of the Manhattan skyline and the Queensborough Bridge.

But several city, state and federal legislators, city Parks Department officials and community activists gathered at the park Friday to announce that after

a multi-year battle, the city is breaking ground on a restoration and improvement project of the seawall that will beautify the waterfront.

"Remember how beautiful it was to walk on warm summer nights and see the water rolling back. Remember children playing in all the park, not being afraid to walk in certain parts of the park?" said Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), evoking the park's past glory before the seawall deteriorated.

"Today we begin restoring this park to what it used to be," he said.

Van Bramer was joined at the news conference by

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## Landmarks considers Forest Park ride

BY STEVE MOSCO

Anyone taking a spin on a recently refurbished carousel in Woodhaven might soon be doing so on an official city landmark.

The Forest Park Carousel took its first turn at receiving the honorable designation this week as the city Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to hold a public meeting on the carousel's status — the first step in the landmarking process, according to a commission spokeswoman.

But the operators of the carousel are not twirling with delight at the prospect of becoming a landmark, mostly because they do not know what that status would mean for the day-to-day operations of the ride.

"If it is good for the community and good for



Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski rides the Forest Park carousel.  
Photo by Christina Santucci

the carousel and allows us to maintain and operate without any added expenses, we are all for it," said Ami Abramson, director of New York Carousel. "We invest in the ride now and will continue to do so with or without landmark status."

Residents lobbied for the carousel's landmark status before New York Carousel took over and it looked like a possibility that Woodhaven could lose the ride, according to Ed Wendell, president of the Woodhaven Residents Block Association.

"When it was sitting there empty, we were all gung-ho about getting it landmarked because we wanted it protected and not chopped up and sold," said Wendell. "Now there is a vendor operating it, so we would like to hear more details before proceeding."

Landmarks said no date has been set for the public hearing, but all parties involved will have an opportunity to ask questions and make their case for or against the status.

Abramson said his biggest concern with landmarking is any bureaucratic red tape that might come up when making simple repairs to the ride or touching it up with a quick paint job.

"We don't know if the status will make it hard

*Continued on Page 46*



# Willets Pt development receives initial approval

BY JOE ANUTA

A Community Board 7 committee switched its vote at the 11th hour Monday to approve the \$3 billion Willets Point redevelopment project, hours before the full board followed suit.

CB 7 gave the green light to the controversial proposal by a vote of 22-18 — nine members were either absent or left early — though the approval came with a list of conditions and commitments from the city and the developers.

“We want to go on record with what we want,” CB 7 Vice Chairman Chuck Apelian said to the board, indicating that they wanted the city to set aside money for ramps off the Van Wyck Expressway and make traffic improvements before opening the first part of the development.

The Queens Development Group, consisting of Related Cos. and Sterling Equities, the real estate arm of the New York Mets, was selected to carry out a portion of the city’s 2008 redevelopment plan to clean up toxic soil within 23 acres of the Iron Triangle. The group will then be able to build a new, mixed-use neighborhood on the site.

Had the developers stuck to that plan, no further approvals would have been necessary for them to break ground.

But the joint venture decided to construct a 1.4-million-square-foot mall to the west of Citi Field on parkland leased to the Mets, in what land use lawyers for the group characterized as an essential component in making the project economically viable.

“What you won’t hear from anyone here tonight with development experience is another plan to clean up Willets Point,” lawyer Ethan Goodman told the board. “This is a



Members of CB 7’s land use committee meet before changing their vote to approve the Willets Point development project.

Photo by Joe Anuta

once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

The city Economic Development Corp., which is facilitating the development of the project, lauded the decision in a statement.

“This community board vote is an important step towards transforming Willets Point and building a new mixed-income neighborhood that will create thousands of jobs and billions in investment,” said EDC Executive Director Kyle Kimball.

The joint venture’s proposal now moves to the borough president’s office before landing at the Department of City Planning and then the City Council for a vote.

But Benjamin Haber, a Queens activist opposed to the plan, called Goodman’s presentation a “Hollywood script” and urged the board to strike down the proposal and ward off untold traffic horrors and avoid building a mall on parkland.

The board’s Land Use Committee had initially voted down a motion to approve the proposal May 8 by a vote of 7-2. But sometime afterward, Apelian had discussions with the developers and city.

As a result of those discussions, the committee re-

ceived a list of written commitments Monday from the joint venture and Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Robert Steel when members reconvened an hour before the full board meeting.

The committee quickly hammered out a new motion, with Apelian and CB 7 Chairman Gene Kelty hashing out amendments with a representative of the city seated a few feet away.

Several board members, including Kelty and Apelian, switched their votes from a no to a yes, and after the regular board meeting was scheduled to begin, and with a roomful of people standing behind them, the motion passed 10-6 with conditions.

Several speakers at the meeting pointed to the city’s unfulfilled commitments from 2008, namely that CB 7 was not included in the process to select a developer for Willets Point. They also questioned why the committee changed its vote after private discussions with the developers.

But Robert Freeman, executive director of the state Committee on Open Government, said lobbyists or heads of projects meet all the time with members

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# POLICE Blotter

## Elmhurst woman, 75, dies after car hits her

ELMHURST — A 75-year-old Elmhurst woman was hit and killed by a car a block from where she lived Sunday afternoon, police said.

Elba Granizo was struck near the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and 90th Street at about 1 p.m. and emergency responders on the scene took her to nearby Elmhurst Hospital Center, where she was pronounced dead, the NYPD said in a statement.

Police said the driver of the vehicle who hit her had been making a left-hand turn from 90th Street onto Roosevelt Avenue, where Granizo was crossing the road. She lived a block away on Elmhurst Avenue, police said.

The driver remained at the scene of the accident and the investigation was on-



Police said Elba Granizo was crossing Roosevelt Avenue near 90th Street when she was hit and killed.  
Photo by Christina Santucci

going, according to the NYPD.

On Monday morning, police had set up a checkpoint at the intersection.

## Man robs cabs with AIDS syringe: DA

FOREST HILLS — Cops said a Forest Hills man is accused of allegedly robbing multiple cabbies with a syringe he said was contaminated with the AIDS virus.

According to a criminal complaint from the Queens District Attorney's office, Chanan Aulov, 31, was arrested after he attacked a third driver within nine days, all in the Forest Hills area. The complaint states Aulov held a syringe to the head and neck of his victims and demanded money. In total, he stole about \$145, the complaint said.

In one incident, he allegedly held a syringe filled with red liquid and told the driver, "I have AIDS, I need money. I have a syringe with AIDS blood in it, give me your money or I'll push the AIDS blood into you," according to the criminal complaint.

Aulov was charged with robbery, criminal possession of a weapon and criminal possession of cocaine. He is being held in lieu of \$50,000 bail and is due back in court May 23, according to the criminal complaint.

## Ridgewood man on cycle dies after hitting tree

LONG ISLAND CITY — Police identified a man killed in a motorcycle crash on Vernon Boulevard Tuesday night as 32-year-old Daniel Nieves, of Ridgewood.

The NYPD said officers responded to a report of an accident at the intersection of 31st Avenue in Long Island City, near Socrates Sculpture Park, at about 10 p.m. Tuesday.

Nieves had been riding a 2011 Suzuki motorcycle while heading north on Vernon Boulevard when his bike collided with a tree, police said.

He was taken to Cornell Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to the NYPD.



Police said Daniel Nieves died when the motorcycle he was riding struck a tree on Vernon Boulevard and 31st Avenue in Long Island City.  
Photo by Christina Santucci

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and enter TIP577 or log on to [nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://nypdcrimestoppers.com).**



# Sandy aid set to flow to hard-hit borough

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Communities in the Rockaways and other neighborhoods in Queens hard-hit by Hurricane Sandy will soon start to receive the first wave of aid from a congressional storm relief package after the federal government approved the city's plan to spend nearly \$1.8 billion to help New Yorkers rebuild the money.

"We're going to see that this Sandy relief money starts flowing to homeowners and businesses as soon as possible," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a news conference announcing the federal approval of the city's plan last week.

The Community Development Block Grants, which Congress approved in a \$51 billion aid package in January, are more flexible than other sources of recovery funding, such as Federal Emergency Management Administration aid or insurance payments.

Under the city's plan, \$648 million will be spent on housing recovery, \$293 million on business recovery and \$831 million on infrastructure and resiliency programs.

The money for housing recovery will be used for funding reconstruction of homes and multi-family buildings, making public housing better able to handle storms or other natural

disasters and providing rental assistance for up to 24 months for displaced families. Business recovery dollars will be used for providing loans of up to \$150,000 and matching grants of up to \$60,000 to business owners and funding two competitions for ideas for spurring economic development and developing resilient technologies.

Homeowners and business owners who apply for loans or grants will be assigned a specialist or account manager to help guide them through the process.

"We're not going to leave you out there with a bunch of forms, we're going to give you a real human being that can guide you through a process," Bloomberg said.

Bloomberg said he will announce in the coming weeks when and how people can register to receive housing grants, loans and rental assistance. Business owners seeking loans and grants may begin applying May 20.

"The money is very close to being ready to go out the door," Bloomberg said.

The city will also use the federal money to repair infrastructure damaged in the storm and invest in

*Continued on Page 45*

## SUPERSTORM SANDY

# Social Security snaps back

Rockaway office returns after superstorm destroyed premises

BY STEVE MOSCO

Not only did Hurricane Sandy wipe out some homes in the Rockaways, it also compromised many of the resources residents need to help with the recovery process.

One of those resources returned to the neighborhood last week, as the Rockaway Social Security office opened the doors to its revamped and rehabilitated facility, at 113-06 Rockaway Beach Blvd.

"The reopening of the Rockaway Social Security field office will restore our service to residents of the Rockaway Peninsula, many of whom were severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy," Acting Commissioner of Social Security Carolyn Colvin said. "The return of the Social Security office to the Rockaways represents the federal government's ongoing commitment to our communities."

Serving the communities of Arverne, Breezy Point, Broad Channel, Edgemere, Far Rockaway and Rockaway Park, the Social Security office was on the front lines facing Sandy's wrath in October.

Since the storm, residents looking to apply for social security aid, supplemental security income and the Medicare Prescription Drug Program had to make the trip to the nearest location in Jamaica or to the office of City Councilwoman Michele Titus (D-Far Rockaway), who allowed the administration to use her office as a temporary regional headquarters.

It sustained millions of dollars in damage to the floor, walls and everything in-between. John Shallman, regional communications director of the U.S. Social Security Administration, said the building's frame was basically the only thing that could be salvaged.



Officials cut the ribbon and welcome customers back to the Rockaway Social Security office after millions of dollars in hurricane repairs.

Photo by Steve Mosco



Students from PS 137 sing about Hurricane Sandy recovery at the reopening of the Social Security office in the Rockaways

Photo by Steve Mosco

vaged.

"Everything you see here right now is new," said Shallman. "After seven months of cleaning, sweeping and gutting, Social Security services have returned to the Rockaways."

Helping to welcome residents back to the Rockaway office was a group of young musicians from PS 317, the Waterside Children's Studio School, at 190 Beach 110th St. in Rockaway Park. Music teacher Gary Heimbauer led the youthful musicians in compositions written by the children in a song writing class.

One of those children, fourth-grader Olivia Remmert, sang an emotional song she wrote about the night Sandy roared into the city. Heimbauer said the children at Waterside used music as a healthy way to deal with the devastation.

"Music is such an amazing way to deal with emotions," he said. "They took all of those feelings and put them to song."

Beatrice Disman, Social Security's regional commissioner, had a hard time dealing with her feelings the night Sandy struck. Disman was thousands of miles away in Munich, Germany, hearing piecemeal details about the storm through text messages.

"All I could think about was my Rockaway family and the neighborhood surrounding our office," she said. "I heard about the fires in Rockaway and there I was out of the country, stranded, with nothing I could do."

Disman said immediately upon returning home, she looked into ways to provide Social Security service to those in need. She was

able to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to set up services at FEMA relief sites throughout the region.

"We knew people needed Social Security," she said, adding that employees affected by the storm worked diligently to help, even though they faced their own post-Sandy crisis. "I never doubted that we would come back and rebuild this office."

After months mired in the dark dankness, the now-bright and clean office returned to normal and welcomed residents just as it did before the storm hit. It was a sight Titus was thrilled to see.

"After all the devastation and the slow recovery, to see children singing in this building — it is hard



The federal government approves the city's plan to spend \$1.77 billion in Hurricane Sandy recovery initiatives.

AP Photo/Seth Wenig



# THE HUNTLEY NINE

What a sad day for Queens. Former state Sen. Shirley Huntley was sentenced to a year and a day in prison for stealing \$87,000 from her own nonprofit to go shopping after secretly recording nine Democratic colleagues at her home in southeast Queens.

She joined another notorious Queens legislator, one-time state Assemblyman Brian McLaughlin, who also wore a wire after he was caught looting the public trust back in 2006 right down to the Little League's coffers in his district. McLaughlin ensnared Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio, who died behind bars after he demanded bribes from hospitals for basically doing the job he was elected for in southern Queens.

Something is rotten in the state of New York and Queens has a starring role in the corruption that never seems to stop, although the Bronx and Brooklyn have impressive footlight rights.

Huntley, a 74-year-old grandmother, put a domestic spin on electronic eavesdropping. She invited the Huntley Nine to her Jamaica home, where FBI agents spent two months listening in on the chats. Whether this was productive remains to be seen, but the names of her guests were released to the public as part of her plea for leniency.

Three Queens electeds were on the list: state Sen. Malcolm Smith, who was recently indicted in a sweeping bribery scandal; state Sen. Jose Peralta, who is running for borough president; and City Councilman Ruben Wills, Huntley's former chief of staff.

Smith pleaded not guilty, while Peralta and Wills have insisted they are innocent of any wrongdoing.

Even though plea deals can help prosecutors root out corruption, they also reveal much about the politicians willing to throw their colleagues under the bus whether they are guilty or not. In street lingo, they are snitches: not cooperating for the common good but to save their own skins.

There are many honest lawmakers in Queens, but it's time we elected more people with integrity who truly care about the borough. We don't want legislators who view public office as a barter exchange where they can get the best deal for themselves by trading power for illegal gains and secret recordings for softer punishment.



## OTHER VOICES

# Ferreras should back people, not biz

It does not require a rocket scientist to make a decision concerning a Major Soccer League stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

All one needs to know is the site is public parkland in Flushing Meadows, a park that for years has not only been neglected, but alienated piece by piece for structures and organizations that have no legitimate right to be in the park.

The culprit is too many myopic public officials who

do not understand the importance of urban parks. That City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) cannot reject a soccer stadium for the benefit of a private, for-profit business makes it clear she is a member in good standing with the mediocrity who should not be on the public payroll.

While Ferreras could be applauded for suggesting a coalition of private groups and companies currently in the park as well as those outside, she is not worthy of

such applause because she has failed to make it clear that contributions to a fund will only be accepted on a philanthropic basis. There is to be no access in any manner because of their contribution — only a name plaque recognition.

Furthermore, while we are stuck with what is currently in the park, Ferreras should have made it clear that enough is enough. Under no circumstances, the gates to the park are to be closed permanently except for passive urban park us-

ers.

Her failure to do so makes one look forward to term limits, which will replace her with an official who understands that it is the public that is her constituency, not private interests ("Community weighs Flushing Meadows' future," TimesLedger Newspapers April 25-May 2).

*Benjamin M. Haber  
Flushing*

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# City must stop practice of solitary confinement

TIMES LEDGER, May 17-23, 2013

It is time to end torture in New York City jails. I am referring to the rampant use of solitary confinement, which has brutalized incarcerated people, cost taxpayers millions of dollars and made our streets more dangerous.

Taking advantage of a City Charter provision guaranteeing access for City Council members, I visited the facilities at Rikers Island to see the conditions for myself. What I saw there and what I heard from experts and activists were shocking. Individuals in solitary confinement spend 23 hours a day in cells, devoid of human contact, in a setting that would be hard

for even the healthiest person to endure. It is obvious to me that the aim of solitary, as it is now used, is to break the human spirit, with devastating consequences for all of us.

Last month, I introduced legislation aimed at compelling the city Department of Correction to end this abusive practice, widely recognized as cruel and inhuman treatment by legal experts. The U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture has reported on the efficacy and inhumanity of solitary confinement and called for its end. In addition, medical organizations have thoroughly documented the deleterious impact on individuals.

According to the DOC's own figures, its jails now contain 1,035 solitary beds. Recent years have seen a building frenzy, with capacity increasing 27 percent in 2011 and another 44 percent in 2012. Advocates estimate that at any given time approximately 8 percent of the total jail population is confined to solitary.

While a few individuals may need to be segregated for the safety of others, this represents only a small percentage of the cases in solitary. Individuals can be thrown into "the box" for a wide variety of infractions, from possessing contraband such as cigarettes to fighting with other inmates. Propo-

nents of the practice have yet to show that solitary confinement is effective in addressing minor infractions, especially when disabled or young individuals are involved.

The number of solitary cells keeps growing at a tremendous cost to city taxpayers. The DOC does not release specific figures describing the cost of solitary confinement, but a recent report from the city Office of Management and Budget revealed that the DOC will save \$323,000 annually by converting one adolescent solitary confinement unit into a general population housing area.

In addition, placing individuals in solitary fosters

violence and exacerbates threats to institutional security, requiring the DOC to expend even more resources. Finally, there is the money needed at public hospitals and programs to treat formerly incarcerated individuals with mental health and drug issues caused or exacerbated by solitary confinement.

We should not forget that the widespread use of solitary confinement has a detrimental impact on public safety. As a society, we cannot brutalize individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues, release them to the streets and expect safe communities. There is a better way for all of us, as Maine has

shown over the past few years by dramatically and successfully decreasing the number of individuals in solitary confinement.

The overwhelming amount of evidence against this practice is more than sufficient to compel its restriction to only the most extreme cases. As a matter of fundamental human rights, how the DOC uses solitary confinement must change.

*Daniel Dromm  
Councilman  
(D-Jackson Heights)*

## Take part in city budget process

As a taxpayer, it is important that you have the opportunity to get involved in the city's budget process. It is your money and it only makes sense that you have a say in how it is spent.

Every year New Yorkers are subjected to an orchestrated song and dance and told that their libraries or fire companies or child-care programs are going to be cut, and while they are distracted, the mayor quietly pushes through the other 99 percent of the budget.

And every year, the threatened services are miraculously restored.

It is time to stop this dance and create a budget that reflects the people's dream for better schools, safer neighborhoods and solid jobs.

For that reason, my office has developed The People's Budget NYC, an easy-to-use online tool that will give you a voice in the budget process.

This powerful website was designed both to col-

lect feedback and give you a chance to offer your suggestions. The costs and benefits of each program are clearly laid out. The platform's interactive features allow users to vote thumbs up or down on an array of spending issues.

The site also offers an opportunity to join online discussions and bring up new ideas. It allows users to share budget proposals with others through e-mail, Twitter and Facebook.

The People's Budget NYC website is based on The People's Budget report my office unveiled last month. We identified about \$15 billion in new revenues over the next four fiscal years and nearly the same amount of new investments for things New Yorkers care about, including investing more in schools, hiring more police officers, creating affordable housing and cutting taxes on small businesses.

Now you can sit at home in front of your computer or use your mobile

device to express your opinion on important budget issues, such as extending library hours or expanding programs to help kids prepare for college. Parents and community members who use this site will better understand what public schools need and how the money budgeted for education is being spent.

My belief and hope is that this new budgeting approach will reduce cynicism in government and produce a better, stronger and fairer budget. In addition, I will take the three most popular proposals and incorporate them into testimony I will deliver before the City Council in June.

Voting will continue through June 2 at 11:59 p.m., so log on to peoplesbudget-nyc.com and vote for those items that matter most to you, your community and our city.

*John Liu  
City Comptroller  
Manhattan*

## Knives have no place on a plane

It is ridiculous that the Transportation Security Administration is going to allow small knives to be carried on board planes. A small knife is just as dangerous as a large one.

The last thing air trav-

elers need is for this to be allowed. It puts everyone on the plane at risk, including the pilot and co-pilot, even with bolted cockpit doors. The government needs to rescind this immediately before we have another potential, deadly hijacking.

Hasn't the TSA learned anything from Sept. 11? Someone needs to get their act together fast.

*John Amato  
Fresh Meadows*

### CORRECTION

An article in the May 10-16 editions of TimesLedger Newspapers should have said that City Councilman James Gennaro will work toward restoring funds for a Hillcrest after-school program by looking elsewhere in the city budget.

### LETTERS POLICY

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# Flushing Meadows development will do more harm than good



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

Officers and board members of the Kissena Park Civic Association recently testified at Community Board 7 about issues concerning the civic. Zoning Committee Chairman Joe Amoroso explained in the civic's March 2013 newsletter what is of concern.

CB 7 is unhappy with the proposal to take land from Flushing Meadows Corona Park to expand the United States Tennis Association and to build a professional soccer stadium where the Fountain of the Planets now stands. He explained that if both of these projects are allowed, then

about 55 acres of parkland will be lost and set a precedent for losing more in the future.

A number of CB 7 members attended a special Community Planning Board Parks Committee meeting concerning the issue of reconstruction of the National Tennis Stadium. The plan calls for giving away a little less than half an acre of parkland, but it means transplanting hundreds of trees, some of which may have to be cut down. Giving away more land as had been done by Mayor David Dinkins years ago, is a bad precedent.

Just a couple of weeks ago I attended a rally held by state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) against the USTA proposals at the NTC. A couple of dozen civic leaders were there. I stood there between the two rows of magnificent trees, along-

side walking paths. On the one hand there is the drive to plant 1 million new trees and then there is this plan, which would relocate many trees and replace the trees that have to be cut.

Richard Hellenbrecht, president of the Queens Civic Congress, commented that, "Parkland is precious. It is historic and we need to keep it that way."

One comment made about the plans to build a new stadium was that an alternate plan would permit the reconstruction without taking more land or disturbing the trees, but people are ignoring this alternative. One must remember that in addition to the parkland the USTA wants there is the soccer land which is wanted and the parking lot next to Citi Field which the New York Mets want to turn into a shopping mall and other

CB 7 is unhappy with the proposal to take land from Flushing Meadows to expand the USTA and to build a professional soccer stadium where the Fountain of the Planets now stands.

commercial properties.

People say the parking lot next to Citi Field is still technically parkland and cannot be developed commercially. That is what you get for giving a baseball stadium parkland.

People are annoyed because when the US Open is played in Flushing Meadows, they let cars park on the grass. The USTA is a Westchester County-based company still makes demands on Queens parkland. It also pays little money to the city in comparison to the large amount it makes.

cus stayed for four weeks. Leaders of the WCPA met with representatives of the circus, CB 8, the city Parks Department, the 107th Precinct and local legislators. They helped alleviate the problems somewhat.

But this year the circus added another weekend when the civic had thought there would be no more days and perhaps a few less. Weekends are the worst because more people come with families and park on residential streets. There are new promises to keep the area quiet and not to add any more days next year. We will see.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS OF THE WEEK: The city says it will add 6 percent to our water bills and double the rate of inflation on top of the three years of 12 percent to 14 percent water rate rises.

Last year, the cir-



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# Queens' Rev. Floyd Flake endorses Bill Thompson in his bid for mayor

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Mayoral candidate Bill Thompson recently got something he missed out on the last time he made a run for Gracie Mansion but didn't really miss: the endorsement of Greater Allen A.M.E.'s the Rev. Floyd Flake.

After backing Thompson in the 2009 Democratic mayoral primary, Flake turned around and threw his weight behind incumbent Michael Bloomberg in the general election, praising his economic savvy and handling of the city's schools under mayoral control.

But a lot can change in four years.

This time around the influential religious leader, who helms a congregation of more than



Mayoral candidate Bill Thompson speaks at the Rev. Floyd Flake's Greater Allen A.M.E. Church. Flake recently endorsed Thompson.

Photo courtesy Thompson

20,000, endorsed Thompson, a former city Board of Education president, touting him as the best candidate to create jobs and turn around struggling schools.

On the campaign trail Thompson has been railing against the mayor's handling of schools and has called for a moratorium on school closings,

arguably the hallmark of Bloomberg's educational policies.

"Bill Thompson has the energy, experience and temperament to lead this entire city," Flake said. "I know Bill. He will never walk away from our neighborhoods or give up on our communities. Bill Thompson will be a voice for every community, every race and every faith. I support his vision to make New York more affordable, bring parents back into the fold of our schools, and keep communities safe while improving the bonds between communities and their police."

Despite missing out on one of southeast Queens' most influential and sought-after endorsements, Thompson still easily carried the area in 2009

with 72 percent of the vote in the general election.

Thompson did not mention the '09 snub in a statement he released.

"I believe we need to create economic opportunity in every community to move our city forward," Thompson, a former city comptroller, said. "As mayor, I will always fight to create good-paying jobs for our working-class families. I want to build a New York City that's stronger than ever and works for families in every corner of our city."

Flake made a few waves in early March where he came out in support of former City Councilwoman Melinda Katz — and not Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) — in her bid for borough president.

## MTA worker faked booth robbery: DA

A Metropolitan Transportation Authority worker was arrested and charged with staging a robbery of her token booth, the Queens district attorney said.

South Jamaica resident Tracy King, 48, was arrested early Wednesday morning and charged with conspiracy and defrauding the government, according to the DA.

Police first spoke with King Saturday, after she told them a man had bound her hands with duct tape, covered her mouth and then stole \$4,000 from the token booth at the 111th Street and Roosevelt Avenue stop on the No. 7 line where she worked, the DA said. King told police the man was wearing an MTA reflective vest and had asked to use the break room, the DA

said.

Using fingerprints found at the scene and call records, police tracked down Brooklyn resident Anthony Brown, 42, arrested him and charged him with burglary, robbery and kidnapping, the DA said.

But Brown then implicated King, telling police it was her idea to hatch the scheme and telling him what time to arrive at the station, the DA said. She had called Brown as recently as May 10, according to phone records.

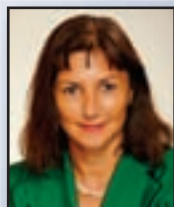
King told Brown he had to tie her up to make the fake robbery believable and she wanted half the cash once the ordeal was over, according to the DA.

Police returned to speak with King again and arrested her.



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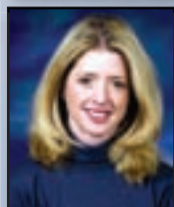
**Saturday, June 1, 2013 • 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Maria Alvarez, Executive Director, NY StateWide Senior Action Council:** Ms. Alvarez will address the entire range of beneficiary issues, i.e., how changes to coverage through Medicare, Managed Care and Medicaid, under the new regulations of ACA and Medicaid Re-Design, will impact the scope, choice and delivery of benefits and services for older adults.



**Saturday, June 8, 2013 • 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Ronald Fatoullah, Esq., Elder Law Attorney:** Medicaid eligibility rules are rapidly changing. Mr. Fatoullah gives an overview of the Medicaid program and explains how to protect one's assets in the event long-term health care is needed. He will also review five essential legal documents that seniors should have. He will explain the importance of a 1. Last will and testament 2. Power of attorney 3. Health care proxy 4. Living will and 5. Living trust.



**Saturday, June 15, 2013 • 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Ann-Margaret Carrozza, Esq., Elder Law Attorney:** Seniors must know how to protect their homes. Ms. Carrozza will explore asset protection trusts for the primary residence, and estate tax planning, in lieu of 2013 Federal estate tax changes. She will also update seniors on how to get the long-term care they need through Medicaid, while still protecting their assets.

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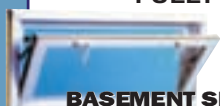
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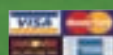
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# DA accuses Queens man of LIC carjacking spree

BY KAREN FRANTZ

A Long Island City man who allegedly went on a carjacking and robbery spree in the borough last week is being held without bail and was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation, the district attorney's office said.

The weapon he was carrying and allegedly used to steal several cars and some cash turned out to be a BB gun, DA Richard Brown said.

"The defendant is accused of terrifying the Long Island City community by walking up to vehicles and pedestrians and demanding their property while pointing a weapon at them," Brown said. "Fortunately, the gun turned out to be a BB gun and nobody was physically injured. However, that does not negate the fear that he instilled in them or the fact that the defendant now faces the possibility of a lengthy prison sentence."

Nicolas Almonte, 27, was arraigned on several counts of robbery, one count of attempted robbery and one count of unlawful imprisonment Saturday. He faces 25 years in prison if convicted.

The suspect is accused of stealing three cars and attempting to steal several others within the course of an hour last Thursday, police said.

The first incident occurred around 9:30 a.m. only a few blocks away from where Almonte lives, at 25-20 Borden Ave., when he allegedly went up to a 22-year-old woman driving a black Mercedes-Benz and waved the gun, Brown said. He then allegedly jumped into car and said, "Drive or I will kill you," according to the DA.

He then allegedly made the woman drive into Manhattan and back into Queens, repeatedly order-



Police stand outside a building on Borden Avenue, where Nicolas Almonte lives.

Photo by Karen Frantz



NICOLAS ALMONTE

Photo courtesy NYPD

ing her to get money, and threw her cellphone out the window, Brown said. He then jumped out of the car at a red light, the DA said.

Then around 10 a.m. Almonte was accused of forcing his way into a white van and ordering the driver to get out and leave his cellphone behind, Brown said. The victim allegedly then saw Almonte grab the cellphone and jump out of the van, heading for a gray Lexus, the DA said.

Almonte then allegedly banged on the window of the Lexus, yelling at the driver, "Get out of the car or I'll blow your [expletive] head off," and then drove off with the car as soon as the victim got out, according to the DA.

Then just 15 minutes later, Almonte was accused of going up to a woman walking her dog, putting the gun to her neck and rummaging through her pockets before running away, and moments later stealing a gold Mercedes from a 61-year-old man who was just about to get into the car, the DA said.

Finally, at 10:20 a.m., less than an hour after the spree started, Almonte al-

legedly ran up to a vehicle at Hunterspoint Avenue and 38th Street and took about \$50 from the driver before dashing off.

Several of the victims said their attacker was wearing a fluorescent orange construction vest, Brown said.

Police said Almonte was arrested at 5:45 p.m. in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and the last car he allegedly stole, the gold Mercedes, was recovered nearby. Brown also said Almonte was wearing a fluorescent orange construction vest when he was arrested and that police found him with a black BB gun.

A man who declined to give his name said he worked with Almonte at Swing Staging, a scaffolding company, and said he heard he had been on medication and that up until a week ago he seemed to be doing fine.

But he said that over the last few days some people said Almonte had been acting strangely and had been having problems with his girlfriend.

"I heard they were having constant arguments," he said.

A woman who answered the phone at Swing Staging said the company had no comment.

Reach reporter Karen Frantz by e-mail at [kfrantz@cnglocal.com](mailto:kfrantz@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4548.



# Bloomberg announces new fire prevention tool

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TIMESLEDGER, MAY 17-23, 2013  
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BY KAREN FRANTZ

The city buildings with the highest risk of fire are first in line for inspections with help from a new technology the city Fire Department is putting to use as the first of its kind in the nation.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the Risk Based Inspection System application at a news conference Wednesday at a firehouse, at 33-51 Greenpoint Ave. in Long Island City.

He said until the system was installed, firefighters had limited information about how to prioritize buildings for inspections.

“Our new system changes that,” he said. “That means we’ll stop more fires before they can start.”

The inspection system ranks a building’s risk of fire by collecting various



Mayor Michael Bloomberg (c.) lauds a new technology that helps the city Fire Department prioritize buildings for inspection based on risk.  
Photo by Karen Frantz

criteria about it, such as its age, construction material and whether it has a sprinkler system and its last date of inspection. The system also tracks buildings’ his-

stories of safety violations.

The buildings are scored and prioritized and automatically scheduled for inspection, and structures with violations are

scheduled for follow-ups.

Bloomberg said the city is a leader in the country in using such data intelligently.

“We have the informa-

tion. Why not give it to [firefighters] so that they can be safer and have them do inspections where it really matters more?” he said.

Individual buildings will also have their own electronic folder, and information about the buildings from other city agencies, such as the Departments of City Planning, Buildings, Environmental Protection and Finance, will also be accessible.

“What we’ve done here is activate more of the city’s brain,” said the city’s chief policy adviser, John Feinblatt. “Mining data like this breaks down agency barriers, knits the city’s knowledge together and helps us prevent injuries and save lives.”

Bloomberg said the technology will help the Fire Department drive down the number of fire-related deaths in the city, which are already at an all-

time low.

There were 58 deaths from fire in the city last year, the lowest toll recorded since record-keeping began in 1916, Bloomberg said. In addition, the city has had fewer than 100 fire deaths a year only 12 times since 1916, and nine of those years were in the last decade.

The number of buildings that have caught on fire has also decreased 16 percent citywide in the last 11 years.

Previously, inspections were determined essentially on a cyclical basis, although risk assessment was still factored in.

City firefighters inspect about 50,000 buildings for fire safety violations each year.

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



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# Kite Runners

Youngsters and those young at heart headed to Socrates Sculpture Park Saturday for the 11th annual kite-making workshop. (Clockwise from top l.) Aris, 7, and Josh, 5, Gamboa of College Point decorate their creations; an eagle-shaped kite soars above the park; Alexa Morales of Long Island City paints her project; Long Island City's Jasper Hoffman, 3, runs with his spool and mother Helena in tow; Rego Park resident Yen Yen Cai, 3, helps with the ribbon-tying process; and The Stachura family (l.-r.) Gabriel, Liam, Rachel and Jules learn techniques from Shaun Leonardo, director of public programs for Socrates.

Photos by Christina Santucci





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# City Council passes paid sick day legislation

BY KAREN FRANTZ

A bill requiring city businesses to provide paid sick leave to their employees passed the City Council with overwhelming support last week, and proponents who have long been fighting for the measure said it was long overdue.

"We're very excited," said Ana Maria Archila, co-director of Make the Road New York, a Jackson Heights-based immigration advocacy group. "This is a huge step forward."

She said Make the Road members have fought for more than three years for paid sick days and many low-wage workers are hit hardest by the lack of paid leave.

"We see our members losing their jobs when they take a day off," she said. "They really always have to choose between making a day's wages and staying at



City Council Speaker Christine Quinn celebrates a sick-pay deal struck last week.

Photo courtesy William Alatrisme/City Council

home to take care of a sick child .... They often have to choose against their families so they can put food on the table."

The compromise bill, which will go into effect April 1, 2014, will require businesses with 20 or more employees to provide five

paid sick days to their full-time workers. Businesses with 15 or more employees will also be required to provide five paid sick days

starting Oct. 1, 2015.

The bill also provides for protections for businesses by including a measure that would delay the law from taking effect if the economy worsens. It also reduced the fines non-compliant workplaces would have to pay by half to \$500 to \$2,500 from \$1,000 to \$5,000 from an earlier version of the bill.

The bill passed 45-3.

Councilman Peter Valone Jr. (D-Astoria) was the only member from Queens and the only Democrat to vote against the bill.

"This gives even more power to the city to regulate and fine our small businesses," he said. "If you don't think the agencies are going to descend like a swarm of cicadas, then you've never run a small business."

He said the law will force every business to keep records and file paperwork

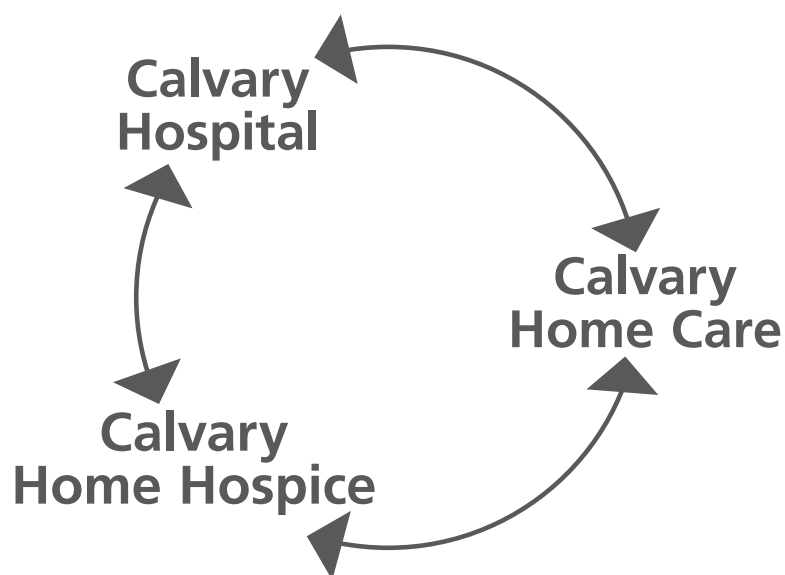
proving they are following the rules or be subject to fines. He also said he expects that in the future a more progressive Council would likely eliminate the 15-employee limit.

But Archila argued that other cities have enacted paid sick leave bills without negative effects on their economies and that the impact on business has often been positive because of a smaller job turnover.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said last month he planned to veto the bill, saying that it would hurt small businesses and stifle job creation, but the Council is expected to have the two-thirds votes needed to override a veto.

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

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- **Plan to keep taking it as long as I live!** One of the clerks in my local health food store recommended the Bladder Control Tea #4b. I was very skeptical. What a surprise it worked! 5 days after starting the tea I noticed a major improvement and it is continually getting better each day. I plan keep taking it for as long as I live. Thank you!\*
- *Frances Baird, 87, Venice, FL.*
- **Exercises didn't help!** After drinking the Bell Tea for Women #4b my life is far less stressful especially when I am at work. Thanks for such an amazing product!
- *Marilyn Sallows, 53, Fort McMurray, AB*
- **Tea represents truth in advertising!** Being a skeptic, I ordered this Bladder Control Tea for Women as a more or less last resort, after trying everything else in the last 5 years. It worked better than I hoped for. Thank you for this great product, and above all, for truth in advertising. *Marina Rosa, 57, Las Vegas, NV\**



\* These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.



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## FOCUS ON QUEENS

VISIONS/SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED HOLDS 29TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON *Photos by Ken Maldonado*

**1** Ralph D'Onofrio, the vice president of Advertising for Community Newspaper Group, receives an award from Visions Senior Director of Fundraising Ruth Schlossman during the event at Terrace on the Park.



**2** Father Walter E. Jenkins, (r.) president of Holy Cross High School, is joined by student volunteers as they were honored by Visions for their service to the visually impaired. Ruth Schlossman (c.) presented the award.



**3** Ruth Schlossman from Visions stands with Queens Borough President Helen Marshall during the Visions 29th annual luncheon. Marshall gave Visions a Declaration of Honor for the group's service to the visually impaired.

QUEENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ORGANIZES BUSINESS EXPO & BREAKFAST AT RESORTS WORLD *Photos by Nat Valentine*

**4** Editorial Assistant Laura Rahill (l.) greets visitors to the TimesLedger Newspapers' booth at the Queens Chamber Business Expo and Breakfast, held at Resorts World Casino.



**5** Members of the JFK Airport Chamber of Commerce gather together for a photo.



**6** Queens Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jack Friedman (l.) is joined by Port Authority Director of Aviation Susan Baer and JetBlue Vice President Richard Smyth (l.) at the chamber's business expo.

COUNCILMAN LEROY COMRIE HOSTS PRE-MOTHER'S DAY FUND-RAISER AT OCCASIONS *Photos by Nat Valentine*

**7** Reshama Saujani (l.), a candidate for the public advocate office, and Bill Thompson, a mayoral candidate, join City Councilman Leroy Comrie at a fund-raiser in support of his Queens borough president bid.



**8** Rev. Philip Craig (l.) joins Councilman Leroy Comrie and his wife Marcia at the pre-Mother's Day dinner dance at Occasions Banquet & Catering Hall in Springfield Gardens.



**9** Mayoral candidates Bill Thompson (l.) and John Liu were both in attendance.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE OF THE GREATER JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEETS IN JAMAICA *Photos by Walter Karling*

**10** Venture House Executive Director Ray Schwartz participates in the meeting of the Downtown Committee of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, held at the Harvest Room in Jamaica Market.



**11** Downtown Committee Chairman William Martin (second l.) joins speakers (l.-r.) Alan Goldsher; Errol Pierre, vice president of Health First Health Insurance Exchange; and Harry Ghaness and his son AJ Ghaness, CEO and account executive respectively of H&N Insurance Agency & Financial Group.



**12** Community Affairs Officer Mark Costa of the 103rd Precinct presents an overview of crime statistics in the area.





Past and present city officials gather for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new legislative archives collection at LaGuardia Community College. Photo courtesy LaGuardia

# LaGuardia releases trove of Council docs

BY KAREN FRANTZ

Scores of legislative documents, photos and other records that recount the sometimes mundane but other times controversial history of the City Council are now available in an online database LaGuardia Community College unveiled last week.

The topics to sift through are seemingly endless. One highlight of the online collection includes text of a local law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and letters in support of and in opposition to the bill dating from the 1970s and '80s.

"I am quite disturbed over the fact that you do not stand for civil rights," said one supporter of the bill, Alfred S. Farrugio, in a letter written in 1975 to then-Council Majority Leader Thomas Cuite. Cuite was the most powerful opponent of the bill, and long kept it from coming to a vote.

"If one really believes in freedom and equality, he would certainly not deny a minority its civil rights. You know, Mr. Cuite, our

country was founded on the principles of freedom and equality," Farrugio wrote.

The Council of the City of New York archive collection includes more than 930,000 documents and 66,000 photographs that have been microfilmed, digitized and put online on the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives website.

Local laws are searchable by date and topic from 1955-2005 and photos of Council members date from the '80s to 2007.

Dr. Richard Lieberman, director of the LaGuardia and Wagner archives, said the legislative archive collection "represents an unparalleled snapshot of the legislative history of America's biggest city."

He said the history of the city has before mostly been told from the mayoral point of view because documents chronicling the legislative side were more difficult to access.

"This archive now makes it possible to tell the story of the New York City Council," he said.

LaGuardia held a

ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling the archives in the college's C-building, at 29-10 Thomson Ave. in Long Island City, last Thursday.

At the event the college recognized former Council Speaker Peter Vallone Sr. and state Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan (D-Ridgewood) for their roles in making the collection a reality.

"From the very beginning both strongly believed that we needed to have a resource for Queens history in our borough," said Dr. Gail O. Mellow, president of LaGuardia Community College.

Vallone came up with the idea for an archive of Council documents and asked Lieberman in 1985 to house the collection, which at that time was dispersed in warehouses across the city. Nolan also recently provided funding for a climate control system for the archives.

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

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# Elmhurst eyesore transformed into community garden

Young Governors youth group spearheads effort to beautify land residents say has long been neglected

BY KAREN FRANTZ

A vacant lot that has been an eyesore for Elmhurst residents for decades is getting a makeover as a community garden, thanks to a number of youngsters who belong to a nearby church group.

"They're helping to make my block nicer and better," said Jennifer Chu, a resident who has lived near the lot, at the corner of Manilla Street and Kneeland Avenue, for nearly 30 years and who is helping to coordinate the beautification project.

She said the lot, owned by a retired lawyer who now lives in Florida, had become a dumping ground and at one point was used for the illegal parking of cars. She said it has been a mess for as long as she can remember.

Other residents said the lot was also overgrown with weeds and tall grass.

"It was a dump," said one resident, Julian, who did not want to give his last name.

But Chu said the Young Governors, a youth development program that is part of the Elmhurst-based New Life Community Development Center, decided to clean up the lot after talking with residents about community needs.

"They thought it would be good to turn this empty lot into a community garden," Chu said.

The youths contacted the lot's owner, who gave them permission to transform the 0.57-acre space.

So now instead of litter, the lot is home to a greenhouse and six garden beds in which tomatoes, basil, eggplant and other herbs and vegetables have been planted.

The Young Governors donate food from the garden to the New Life CDC Food Pantry. Some of the beds are also reserved for families that live in the community, several of whom are apartment dwellers.

Chu said the beds particularly benefit people who live on



Six garden beds that have been planted with vegetables and herbs now adorn a vacant lot in Elmhurst.  
Photo by Karen Frantz

higher floors in apartment buildings and do not have access to a backyard.

"If you just want to grow some tomatoes or some herbs, you don't have the ability to do that," she said.

The effort has been ongoing,

and the Young Governors started working on the lot on a smaller scale last summer. But a large push came after the youths won a \$1,000 grant from the Citizens Community of New York for a neighborhood beautification project. As part of a condition of

the grant, the youngsters were required to use the money in a one-day event that required at least 20 people to participate.

So on April 27 the Young Governors held an Elmhurst Garden Beautification Day and invited the local community to come out and help clean up the lot and start planting.

Chu said she was hoping at least 30 people would show up to help, but was pleasantly surprised when more than 100 turned out.

She said future plans for the garden include constructing additional garden beds and installing a fence for protection.

The enthusiastic resident said the community loves the lot's new look.

"They say it looks great," she said. "And that means a lot."

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

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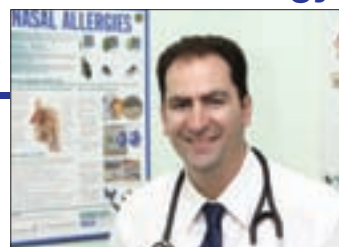
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# Go Red for Women dinner will honor mechanic, executive

25

TL

## American Heart Association recognizes work of Audra Fordin and North Shore-LIJ's Kathleen Gallo

BY TATIANA CASTELLANOS

The American Heart Association will host its sixth annual Queens Go Red for Women Dinner as part of its campaign to wipe out heart disease and stroke, the No. 1 killer of women.

Queens businesswomen Audra Fordin and Kathleen Gallo will be honored for their commitment to raising support for and creating awareness about heart disease and stroke, especially pertaining to women, at the event June 12 at Terrace on the Park in Flushing. The TimesLedger Newspapers is the media sponsor.

Fordin is the owner and CEO of Great Bear Auto Repair and Auto Body Shop in Flushing, while Gallo is senior vice president and chief learning officer of the North Shore-LIJ Health System.

Rita Mercieca, the executive director of the Forest Hills Hospital, part of the North Shore-LIJ



KATHLEEN GALLO

Photo courtesy American Heart Association

System, will chair the event this year.

Fordin, who started out when she was just a toddler watching her father work in the shop, was trained by him and he was trained by his father. Passing the business down from generation to generation, the Fordin family has owned Great Bear for more than 75 years. Although her



AUDRA FORDIN

Photo courtesy American Heart Association

family opened Great Bear in 1933, Fordin is the first woman in her family to work as a mechanic and become owner of the family business.

Before moving into the owner's seat 12 years ago, she studied auto repair in several different professional programs. She claims she was usually the only woman in all of her auto repair

classes.

The attitude of the public has since changed, but Fordin said when she would answer the phone years ago and try to answer customers' questions, most of them refused to speak to a woman mechanic.

Fordin sought to change that.

Now, after growing the family business to almost three times its original size in two years, Fordin said customers are pleased with reasonable prices, up-to-date equipment and the formally educated crew of employees.

What Women Auto Know Inc., a nonprofit founded by the businesswoman, focuses on providing automotive education and resources that empower women of all ages to become safe and confident drivers, auto consumers and passengers in and out of the auto repair shop.

Outside of her busy work life, Fordin has been married for 14 years with three children. She is

a PTA class mom and Girl Scout troop leader.

Under Gallo's leadership, the Center for Learning and Innovation — North Shore-LIJ's corporate university — and the Patient Safety Institute were created.

Gallo, responsible for leadership development throughout the organization, holds a number of titles including system director for emergency medicine, vice president for emergency medical services, associate professor, associate adjunct professor and chairwoman.

Gallo has more than 25 years of experience in emergency nursing and is a noted speaker who has won several awards and was inducted into the Adelphi University hall of fame.

Gallo obtained a doctorate of nursing and a master's in business administration from Adelphi.

The dinner, on June 12, will be at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

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# Ex-wife accuses Sliwa of giving \$400K to Katz

BY JOE ANUTA

The lawyer hired to file a \$1.4 million suit against Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa and former state Assemblywoman Melinda Katz vowed to investigate whether the couple's two children were really conceived via in-vitro fertilization while the beret-wearing crime fighter was still married.

"I've heard something about frozen sperm," said attorney Paul Siegert. "We'll find out about that."

Siegert is representing Sliwa's third wife Mary, who has accused the lovebirds of both having an extramarital affair and siphoning nearly half a million dollars from the Sliwa household to Katz through inflated child support payments, according to the suit filed in Manhattan civil court.

Katz is currently run-

ning for borough president on the Democratic ticket against six other contenders.

Her campaign dismissed the litigation and accused Mary Sliwa of being an opportunist.

"This is a sad, frivolous lawsuit. Unfortunately, it is an attempt to publicly rehash a long-ago settled divorce by using a political campaign for leverage," said George Arzt, a spokesman for Katz. "Given the personal and family nature of the situation, we won't be commenting further."

The suit refers to Sliwa as an "inveterate, world-class liar" and goes into great detail about alleged instances where the Guardian Angel told his wife he would be sleeping at the Empire State Building, where he hosted a talk show, but actually met for illicit trysts with Katz.

Siegert did not elabo-



Melinda Katz holds her two children as partner Curtis Sliwa looks on in the background.

rate about how the plaintiff knew of the exact times and dates of the alleged infidelities.

The suit also alleges that Sliwa and Katz conspired to conceive children via artificial insemination and then "drain marital assets" so Sliwa could leave his third wife for the borough president candidate. The crime fighter allegedly gave Katz \$8,000 a month, several times the standard child support payment, the suit said. At one point, the money sent to Katz was taken from an account designed to help Sliwa's special-needs child with Mary Sliwa, according to the suit.

Siegert said Tuesday that his team planned to investigate if the in-vitro claims were true.

In 2008, while Katz was running for city comptroller, she revealed that she was several months preg-

nant with a child conceived via in-vitro fertilization.

"I did this purely through modern technology. It was done in a doctor's office. It was done at my wish and my desire," she told the New York Post in April 2008, shortly before her 43rd birthday.

Katz told reporters she had struggled through health issues, including having an ovary removed in 1998, and had tried several fertility treatments.

She kept the identity of the donor a secret, even after she conceived a second son in 2011.

But in April 2012, four months before announcing her borough presidency campaign, Katz and Sliwa, 59, invited the Post into their Forest Hills home for a lengthy, sit-down interview to explain how they met and the backstory of how their children were born.



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# LIPA set for overhaul after storm criticism

BY STEVE MOSCO

The utility company charged with lighting Long Island and the Rockaways is reaping the consequences of its highly criticized handling of electrical outages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced legislation this week transforming the Long Island Power Authority in an effort to improve service, stabilize rates, strengthen emergency response and privatize utility operations.

Thousands of residents in the Rockaways remained without power months after the superstorm hit, and much of the blame was attributed to LIPA for its antiquated equipment and disorganization.

"The aftermath of Superstorm Sandy made it undeniably clear that the LIPA status quo was unacceptable and that we needed to create a new Long Island utility system," the governor said. "Today's proposal will transform the utility service on Long Island by ending LIPA as we know it and creating a new structure that is designed to put ratepayers first by prioritizing better customer service, reducing the cost of debt, and placing the new utility under strong oversight."

Cuomo's proposal would shift LIPA's day-to-day operations over to Public Service Enterprise Group, a private utility based in New Jersey. The governor's plan eliminates the old structure by giving PSE&G full authority to manage daily operations including budgeting, operation and maintenance of the utility system, storm preparedness and response, infrastructure improvements and energy efficiency activities.

The October superstorm left more than 90 per-



Gov. Andrew Cuomo (r.) talks with state Senate Republican leader Dean Skelos after announcing a plan to privatize the Long Island Power Authority and freeze customers' energy rates for three years.  
AP Photo/Mike Groll

cent of LIPA's 1.1 million customers without power, some for many months.

Following the storm, Cuomo established the Moreland Commission to investigate the utility's response, preparation and management. The investigation concluded that LIPA's poor customer service, high rates, large debt load, insufficient and antiquated infrastructure and failure to perform during natural disasters is a result of its poorly conceived structure.

Under that structure, many decisions were made using consultants, rather than utility managers. Also, LIPA had not been subject to any state oversight with no accountability for performance.

"LIPA is broken and LIPA has to go away," Cuomo said. "We need a new and better way to provide utility services on Long Island."

But LIPA will remain a state-owned holding company that will allow it to receive federal disaster funding and certain tax advantages, Cuomo said.

The proposal will also cut the number of LIPA board members from 15 to five and LIPA staff from 90 to 20.

State Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) said his constituents in the Rockaways had problems with LIPA even prior to Sandy coming ashore.

"When you provide a critical service, you have to make sure you provide it in a reliable manner," he said. "And LIPA has always had issues with that."

Addabbo said LIPA would typically give his office periodic updates and, three months after the storm, more than 6,000 people in the Rockaways were still without power.

"This is New York City, how can thousands still have no power? It was very frustrating," he said. "Ask any one of my constituents if they are confident in LIPA handling the next storm, the answer is no."

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



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# Candidates cash in for race to replace Halloran

BY PHIL CORSO

The latest campaign funding for the crowded field running to replace City Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) showed Bayside's Austin Shafran, former government spokesman for the Empire State Development authority, in the lead with Whitestone attorney Paul Vallone not far behind.

City Campaign Finance Board records said Shafran's campaign collected \$87,217, while Vallone reported \$73,470 in his coffers.

Earlier this month, Shafran's campaign said city labor unions, including the Working Families Party, Central Labor Council and Hotel Trades Council, voted to endorse him. His campaign has also received widespread support from other labor unions in

the city, such as Teamsters Joint Council 16 and 1199 SEIU.

Vallone also announced an endorsement this week from the Detective's Endowment Association and the New York City Fire Marshals Benevolent Association. Records showed Vallone started raising money for the run



back in October — second earliest only to former state As-

semblyman John Duane, who started fund-raising in April 2012.

Duane had the third-most in campaign funds with \$44,420 in contributions as of the latest filing. His campaign announced Wednesday, however, that it reached its goal of \$165,000 from 291 contributors.

The Douglaston attorney announced he would enter the race late last month, but has been rais-



The six candidates looking to replace City Councilman Dan Halloran include John Duane (clockwise from top l.), Paul Graziano, Dennis Saffran, Austin Shafran, Paul Vallone and Chrissy Voskerichian.

ing money since March, records showed.

Flushing activist and urban planning consultant Paul Graziano raised \$19,493 in his bid for the seat, records showed. Graziano, who started collecting funds for his run in March, has been an oppo-

nent of overdevelopment in Queens and received support from borough architects of the same mindset, such as Douglaston designer Kevin Wolfe.

Former Halloran Chief of Staff Chrissy Voskerichian raised \$11,060 in about a month, campaign fi-

nance documents said. She abruptly left her position in Halloran's office soon after the embattled incumbent was arrested on federal charges of bribery and corruption in early April.

Earlier this month, Halloran announced he would not seek re-election so he could instead devote time to clearing his controversial reputation. A federal grand jury indicted the Whitestone councilman on charges that he was helping funnel taxpayer money to GOP leaders in order to help state Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) run in the upcoming mayoral race as a Republican.

But not all of Voskerichian's campaign contributions were made public after her resignation from her boss' office and later announcement to run.

Records showed Voskerichian collected one \$100 donation from Flush-

ing consultant Ignatius J. Evans, of the Southern Star Shipping Co. It was the only contribution her records showed came before her resignation from Halloran's office.

Republican-backed Dennis Saffran was the only candidate of his party to file for the seat, records showed. The Queens GOP announced the party would back Saffran late last month after Halloran's arrest, saying he was the best candidate they could field for the ticket.

Saffran's campaign has yet to report any funding. Meanwhile, other rumored candidates Rudy S. Giuliani, chief of staff to Councilman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) and a cousin of the former mayor, and Kevin Kim, who Halloran had defeated back in 2009, did not file any campaign finance records.

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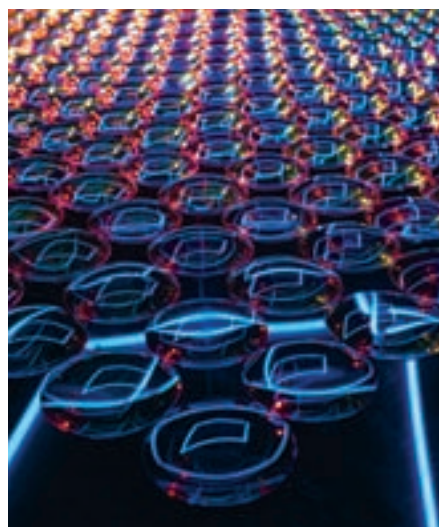
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# Architects preserve past in new boro buildings

BY PHIL CORSO

Some of the borough's most notable and unique architects had their work on display Tuesday when the American Institute of Architects' Queens chapter came together in Bayside.

The networking group showcased members' work inside the Clearview Golf Course clubhouse as part of the city's architecture and design month, underscoring their goal to develop a unique and attractive landscape in the borough.

"Our work is different here," said Joe Sultana, architect and secretary of the chapter. "I strive to build up the old character of Queens in new homes, not just boxes."

Sultana's residential architecture work can be found throughout the borough, from Douglaston and Little Neck to Malba and Beechhurst.

The architect's attention to detail was on full display as he helped install photos of other members' work onto the Clearview Golf Course clubhouse wall, using a red laser level across the wall to make sure the displays were straight.

Other architects featured in the reception included Howard Graff, Larry Werfel, John Calcagnile, Vilehmina Guthrie, Andras Krasznoi and



A 3-D model of a borough building is one of several works on display at the architecture showcase. Photo by Phil Corso

junior architect and NY-Tech student Wingsze Tam. Each of the professional designers had a piece of work from Queens on display, but their designs reached throughout the city.

Each photographic display highlighted the unique attributes of each designer, while some others were supplemented by 3-D models throughout the room.

Sultana, a Queens native, grew up in Astoria and eventually moved to Beechhurst, where he said the identity of the different neighborhoods helped inspire him to preserve the hometown Queens he knew from childhood.

"I've been to all five boroughs, and when homes have their own character, the entire neighborhood benefits," Sultana said. "It's all about the individuality of the homeowner."

Vice President Willy

Zambrano does mostly commercial architecture and said the Tuesday evening showcase was just another chance for the architects to share their work with like-minded designers.

"It's all about sharing what we can actually do," Zambrano said.

While browsing the works on display, Zambrano pointed to the residential designs of architect Kevin Wolfe, whose work can be found on the streets of Douglaston. The houses he helped design were large and unique, each one with its own identity, Zambrano said.

"This is what we try to preserve," Zambrano said. "The goal is preservation through our architecture."

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

## Willets

Continued from Page 6

of government on all levels to try and push a project forward.

"You may not like it, but I don't think this at all unusual," he said.

And if the committee or any legislative body learns new information, Freeman said changing their position is not always a bad thing.



Guillermo Sermar holds a potted plant to represent Flushing Meadows Corona Park and speaks out against the proposed development. Photo by Joe Anuta



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**Courier Life**  
PUBLICATIONS



# Bayside board wants PS 130 back in district

BY PHIL CORSO

After hearing the city proposal to address overcrowding with a new elementary school in the heart of Bayside, Community Board 11 members renewed an old battle to bring back a school in Auburndale their district once had.

Instead of building onto the 48th Avenue property currently owned by Keil Bros. as proposed, the board suggested returning PS 130 to northeast Queens' District 26, where it once belonged. Members have been pulling for the move for years since the school was relocated in the more western-based District 25 to address overcrowding in that district as well.

Even though PS 130 physically resides in District 26, students from District 25 are given preference for admittance, a city Department of Education

spokesman said. Enrollment at the school has remained steady over recent years, a spokesman said.

But now with crowded schools of their own, CB 11's Education Committee fired back at the proposal to allow more District 26 students to attend the 200-01 42nd Ave. school.

"Kids are bused in from around District 25, while local kids who live near the school are bused out to PS 31, PS 159 and PS 162, helping to cause overcrowding at these schools," CB 11 member Melvyn Meer said. "The cost of all of this busing is enormous and unnecessary and is a blight on the neighborhood."

CB 11 had visited the issue in years past and voted in 2010 to push for the school's return.

The city School Construction Authority asked for comment at the board's May meeting on plans to



Community Board 11 is suggesting the city return PS 130 back to District 26 to address overcrowding.

build a new school, only to be met with mostly concern and outrage. The discussion eventually grew rowdy with opposition and ended with city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott reprimanding the community

board for using intimidation and threats to block the new Bayside school.

Before even beginning his presentation on the potential primary school, Site Selection Manager Christopher Persheff tried

to dismiss any proposals to bring PS 130 back into the district. He said PS 130 was transferred to alleviate crowding in District 25 and returning it back to District 26 would not address Bayside's needs.

"That happened some time ago," Persheff said. "The issues that we have right now with overcrowding are in this area, specifically."

The area he said had the most crowding was in the vicinity of Keil Bros. Garden Center, where the city has been in talks to buy the property. The center has been a mainstay in Bayside for nearly 85 years, but an owner there said a declining economy has forced him to consider selling and possibly relocating.

The City Council will make the final call on the new school.

CB 11 Education Committee Chairwoman Laura

James said the board would not support any plans to build a primary school on the property and went on to suggest PS 130 as a worthy alternative in her group's report.

Henry Euler, of the Auburndale Improvement Association, said his group was circulating a petition to reclaim PS 130 for District 26, even despite the city's claims that the discussion was closed.

But bringing back PS 130 was not the only suggestion in months past. District 26's Community District Education Council suggested the city consider the Leviton site, at 59-25 Little Neck Pkwy., as an ideal spot for a school, but the city deemed the site inaccessible.

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



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# Cops seek trio in S. Rich Hill fatal stabbing

BY STEVE MOSCO

A night at the club turned deadly for a 21-year-old Sunday.

Stephen James, identified by the NYPD, was outside of Level Ultra Lounge in South Richmond Hill when he was stabbed, the New York Post reported.

After being wounded, he managed to stumble over to officers for help and was taken to Jamaica Hospital before dying Monday, cops said.

Police were looking for



Cops are seeking three persons of interest in the fatal stabbing of a 21-year-old man in South Richmond Hill Sunday.  
Image Courtesy NYPD

three individuals caught on surveillance video and described them as people of interest in connection with the fatal stabbing.

James, of South Richmond Hill, was holding his stomach when he approached officers at the intersection of Liberty Avenue and 123rd Street, police said.

He was taken to Jamaica Hospital, where doctors initially listed him in stable condition with a non-life-threatening injury, but police said his condition

worsened and he died the following day.

Police released surveillance video Tuesday of three men and said the incident was now considered a homicide.

A phone call to Level Ultra Lounge, at 123-07 Liberty Ave., went unanswered.

*Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at smosco@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.*

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TL  
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Jenny Vidbel leads her equine co-performers.

Photo courtesy Big Apple Circus

## Big Apple Circus plays Fresh Mdws

The Big Apple Circus returns to Queens Sunday for a month of performances packed with trapeze artists, synchronized cyclists and performing animals in its production of "Legendarium" at Cunningham Park.

A slate of global performers will entertain boys and girls of all ages in this nostalgic show that recalls another era of circus traditions.

Watch Bulgarian Andrey Mantchev take to the sky in a solo trapeze act of mid-air flips and catches. From China, the all-female Dalian Acrobatic Troupe performs synchronized poses while atop their bicycles. Russians Valeriy Sychev and Malvina Abakarova, who perform as Desire of Flight, defy gravity with soaring stunts while attached to aerial straps. And marvel at Jenny Vidbel's majestic horses, prancing ponies and playful pups.

Throughout the evening, the Big Apple Circus Band will evoke memories as it plays iconic music from the past. And the Acrobuffs, a husband-and-wife clown team, will elicit laughs as they bring their brand of slapstick comedy to the ring.

Performances begin Sunday, May 19, and run through Sunday, June 16, under the Big Top at Cunningham Park, at 196-22 Union Tnpk. in Fresh Meadows.

Tickets start at \$20 and are available at bigapplecircus.org or by calling 1-888-541-3750. The circus box office, in front of the tent, opens Saturday, May 18.

## St. John's set for graduation

### University welcomes Rep. Peter King as commencement speaker

BY STEVE MOSCO

Thousands of guests and graduates are expected to pack the Great Lawn at St. John's University in Jamaica Estates this Sunday during the school's 143rd commencement.

The procession of graduates is scheduled to start at 10 a.m., rain or shine.

St. John's announced U.S. Rep. Peter King (R-Massapequa Park) would deliver the commencement address, while FDNY Commissioner Sal Cassano will preside over the Staten Island campus ceremony this Saturday.

"A theme of this year's commencement exercises



Students at St. John's University are getting ready for commencement this Sunday.

is the remarkable collaborative efforts of New Yorkers in times of distress in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. We are fortunate to have our class of 2013 hear of the valiant efforts of two major contributors to that recovery effort, as Congressman

King addresses our students in Queens and Commissioner Cassano is honored at our Staten Island ceremony," said university President the Rev. Donald Harrington, who will resign as head of the school this summer.

King, a Republican, is serving his 11th term in the House of Representatives, while Cassano is the 32nd fire commissioner in the 145-year history of the FDNY and was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2010.

## St. Mary's hosts annual walk

BY PHIL CORSO

For the ninth consecutive year, St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children is holding its celebrated Walk for St. Mary's Kids with five children tapped to serve as grand marshals.

The annual walk was scheduled this year at Belmont Park, at 21-50 Hemp-

stead Tnpk. in Elmont, L.I., Sunday at 10 a.m. The Bay-side hospital, at 29-01 216th St., chose five of its patients from all over the city and beyond to lead the way around the racetrack.

Grand marshals for the walk include Parker Chen, 5, of Flushing; Pak Lam The, 23, of Flushing; Jordan Bailey, 4, of Brook-

lyn; Miles Baker, 12, of Brooklyn; and Sophia Res-ti, 6, of Moriches, L.I.

The hospital also selected Joe Matagy, of Rallye Acura, and Joe Chierico, of Local 79, as honorary grand marshals in the walk because of their support of the healthcare system.

The walk includes either a half-mile or a 2.5-

mile walk, family activities and exhibition tents, the hospital said. All proceeds from the event will go to benefit programs and services at St. Mary's Healthcare System.

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



# Addabbo pushes to restore disabilities funding

BY KAREN FRANTZ

A state senator from Queens has joined a number of other legislators in Albany in a fight to restore program funding for people with developmental disabilities that was controversially cut from the budget earlier this year.

Sen. Joseph Addabbo

(D-Howard Beach) recently signed on as a co-sponsor of a bill that would restore up to \$90 million that was eliminated from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

"Without adequate funding, children and adults in need of services will suffer, along with their families," Addabbo said.

"In a state budget that totals \$135 billion, I find it pretty hard to believe that we couldn't come up with another \$90 million to avoid decimating human services programs for those most in need," he added.

Sister legislation has also been introduced in the state Assembly.

The 2013-14 state



CHARLIE HOUSTON  
Photo courtesy Dominick Totino

budget cuts 4.5 percent to Medicaid funding paid to nonprofit service providers that serve people with developmental disabilities. The cuts are intended to help the state pay back the federal government for years of overcharging.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo originally had proposed cutting \$120 million to the office, but after an enormous outcry restored \$30 million of those dollars in the final budget.

Along with the budget cuts, however, an advisory panel was set up to find ways for the agency to save money without sacrificing quality of care.

Last month the commissioner of the developmental disabilities office released preliminary details about how the cuts would be administered and said the direct impact to nonprofit providers of services for people with developmental disabilities would only be about \$14 million under the plan.

A large portion of the cuts is instead proposed to be recouped through audits of nonprofits, a savings projected to be \$40 million.

But Charlie Houston, executive director of the

Queens Center for Progress, a Jamaica Hills-based nonprofit that provides services for people with developmental disabilities, said the plan is not guaranteed and that alternate sources of revenue may not be realized.

"If this were to happen, providers could be facing greater cuts than the \$14.2 million," he said.

Addabbo said the cuts could mean the closure of programs and putting people out of work, resulting in a reduction of support and resources for the developmentally disabled.

"When times are hard, we shouldn't make it even harder for those who [are] struggling every day and who need our help to live up to their highest personal potential," he said.

Houston said he thinks there is a good chance the legislation may pass both houses.

But, he added, "We believe it virtually certain that the governor would veto the bill when it came to his desk."

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

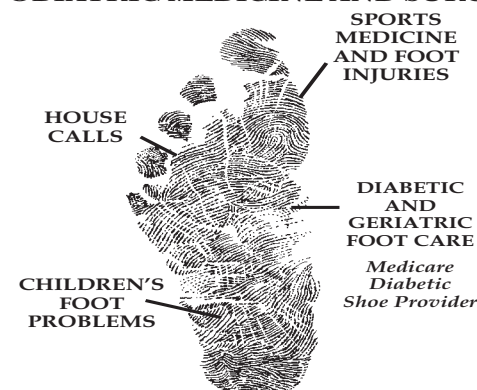
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## Non-profit partners with Flushing Hospital Medical Center in order to reach out to those in need

BY RICH BOCKMANN

Some of the biggest challenges for those wishing to end domestic violence can be both identifying victims and convincing them to leave their abusive situations. This can be especially true in immigrant communities where victims may already be isolated by language and culture from those who can help.

Over the weekend, the nonprofit Community Prevention Alternatives hosted a luncheon at Flushing Hospital Center to get the word out about domestic violence and services available to victims.

Martha Flores Vazquez, founder of CPA, said intervention is the first step but conceded there is often a long road ahead.

"We can remove victims and send them to a



City Councilman Peter Koo (r.-l.) recognizes Dr. Robert Crupi, of Flushing Hospital Medical Center, for his work with Martha Flores Vazquez and her domestic violence awareness group.

Photo by Rich Bockmann

shelter, but sometimes they go back," she said. "It's tough."

Vazquez said victims can call her confidential hot line at 718-909-4634.

She said she works

hand-in-hand with city agencies, such as the Administration for Children's Services, and there are many other resources the government offers.

Dr. Robert Crupi,

chairman of Flushing Hospital Medical Center's Emergency Department, said the hospital works hard to identify possible cases of domestic violence.

"The Emergency De-

partment is a place of last resort, but it's where we sometimes identify victims," he said. "They don't always reveal what's going on."

Crupi said the staff is trained to identify signs of abuse, such as a controlling family member who will not leave a patient's side. He said the hospital has protocols to separate the two so a victim can be free to divulge abuse and at that point the institution has various local religious/ethnic partner organizations it works with.

"It's not just physical violence, but also psychological violence," he said. "The most immediate thing is to get a victim and the children out of danger."

The mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, for example, lists 77 organizations in Queens that can

provide support services, such as the NYC Family Justice Center, at 126-02 82nd Ave. in Kew Gardens.

According to the initiative, there were 14 family-related homicides in Queens last year, down from 16 in 2011. The office said the Queens justice center has served more than 17,000 clients since it opened in 2008.

Visitors to the initiative's Web page are informed that abusers can track their Internet activity, and the site gives directions on how to erase Web history and protect e-mail. It says as an alternative victims may wish to call the city's domestic violence hot line at 1-800-621-4673.

Reach reporter Rich Bockmann by e-mail at [rbockmann@cnglocal.com](mailto:rbockmann@cnglocal.com) or by phone at 718-260-4574.

## Divorce Caribbean Style

For a growing number of New Yorkers, tired of the delays and expense of conventional local divorces, fast, inexpensive Caribbean and offshore US divorces have been the answer.

A leader in the fast divorce business has been Divorcefast.com of Massachusetts, a company that has been providing speedy, low-cost foreign divorces for 50 years. The company provides divorces that can be completed in as little as one day in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the US offshore island of Guam.

According to Alan Alford,

proprietor of Divorce.com, some of the divorces offered require travel to the court, while some can be done without any travel or court appearance. Some require both parties to sign the court petition for divorce, while others can be achieved with only one party signing. All of the divorces happen very quickly and with a minimum amount of paperwork.

The divorces are valid and recognized everywhere, and Alford reports that he processes several thousand of them every year, particularly for New Yorkers. The total cost for fast divorces starts

at \$895, with other options raising the price to as high as \$1,500. All of the divorces, Alford says, are completed within a few days and the clients are then free to remarry or otherwise continue with their lives as single persons. Anyone interested in more details about the Divorcefast offerings should access the company website: [www.divorcefast.com](http://www.divorcefast.com) The forms and instructions are printed out from there and submitted to the company. For those lacking Internet access Alford and his staff are prepared to discuss foreign divorces on the phone, or by mail.

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# Q13, Q16 buses rerouted near Little Bay Park

35

TL

TIMES LEDGER, MAY 17-23, 2013  
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BY PHIL CORSO

Long-awaited construction at Little Bay Park has forced the city to reroute buses around northeast Queens through residential streets and near area elementary schools for the next year, and State Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside) wants that changed.

The temporary changes affect the Q13 and Q16 routes near Fort Totten and Bay Terrace, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, where construction bars buses from hitting their regular stops. Both buses run between Fort Totten and Flushing.

Braunstein met at Fort Totten Tuesday with community leaders and agency representatives to consider any alternatives for the rerouted buses. He said the goal was to keep Fort

Totten as a turn-around point even despite any construction in the area so the routes would not be so drastically changed.

The reroutes went into effect Wednesday and will continue for about a year.

After years of waiting, the city broke ground on a new Little Bay Park comfort station project last month, closing the area parking lot and leaving nearby residents worried over where the summer traffic might divert. The \$5 million project also includes an expanded 100-car parking lot and should be finished by fall 2014, the city Parks Department said.

MTA plans showed that the Q13 will have six stops discontinued: five along Bell Boulevard and one on Totten Avenue at the Cross Island Parkway. A new stop for the route was drawn near 212th Street and 16th Avenue.



A vacant bus stop near Fort Totten in Bayside is one of many affected by a city reroute as construction at Little Bay Park progresses.  
Photo by Phil Corso

The Q16 will also lose six stops, with five of them along the Cross Island Parkway and one on Totten Avenue. The MTA said a new stop would be put near the Cross Island Parkway and Willets Point Boulevard.

Warren Schreiber, president of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance, lives blocks away from the construction site and said he was worried the new temporary routes would lead to dangerous conditions in residential areas. The new Q13 route, he said, would run buses past Bell Academy and PS 169 on 212th Street, where children are already abundant.

"MTA buses would be navigating past not only school buses, but also triple-parked parents who will be dropping off or picking up their children," Schreiber said. "Our children will be placed in danger."

The MTA will contin-

ue to work with the area's elected representatives to explore alternative options to keep heavy bus traffic off quiet residential streets. If not, Schreiber said he and neighbors would act.

The Bay Terrace native and Community Board 7 member warned of potential protest rallies in the future if necessary to have the routes changed.

"This disruption to our community can be avoided if the Parks Department devised a construction plan that would allow city buses to operate on their normal routes," Schreiber said. "I think we all agree that the proposed reroutes will drastically alter the quality of life in Bay Terrace."

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



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# A Taste of the World in Queens

Dozens of eateries brought their flavors to the annual Taste of Queens, held at Citi Field Tuesday. (Clockwise from top l.) Cookies are among the offerings of Rudy's Pastry Shop in Ridgewood; Guillermina Mendez (c.) and Antonio Clos greet visitors to De Mole's table; William Garcia from La Rioja in Astoria carves Serrano ham; Queens Village resident Melissa James came away with a blow-up cow from the event; Jose Lopez prepares a plate of guacamole and chips from La Adelita in Woodside; tiny cups from Restau-Rant in Astoria are filled with sriracha soup topped with Chinese noodles, scallions and shrimp; and The Dog and Duck owners James Dolan (l.) and Padraigh Connolly (c.) toast with Patrick McGinty. The gastropub is in Sunnyside.

Photos by Christina Santucci





# Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

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## the art of friendship

Queens College presents 'Friendly Gestures [namaste]' as part of its Year of India

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

Near the end of Queens College Art Center's new exhibit hang six photographic images that at first glance seem pretty unfriendly.

The piece, by French artists Filomenia Borecka and Caroline Gillot, is titled "Duel" and shows the hands of two individuals engaged in a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors. But take a closer look and you see two of the images capture the individuals clasp hands in a greeting.

"You have the conflict of the Rock, Paper, Scissors, but in between you have the images of their real friendships," Suzanna Simor, director of the college's art

center, said.

For Simor, "Duel" embodies the essence of what she and her co-curators Tara Mathison and Alexandra de Luis hoped to capture in their show "Friendly Gestures [namaste]" now on display at the Rosenthal Library, 65-30 Kissena Blvd. in Flushing, through the end of June.

As part of the college's annual celebration of the cultural diversity in the borough, Friendly Gestures is part of "The Year of India," which includes special events, courses and visits related to the Asian subcontinent.

"India is a very influential country now," Simor said. "This show doesn't present the country, but it presents ideas of the coun-

try. It is something human that connects us all."

Namaste, which translates from Sanskrit as "my spirit bows to your form," is something uttered along with a head nod and clasping of one's hands, Simor said. But she points out it does not have to be something someone says to another friend. It could just as easily be a greeting made to nature, to one's enemies or to the world, Simor said.

"It is something that leads to respect of everything," Simor said. "This is a theme of global respect that is inclusive. These are not the friendliest of times around the globe, but we all had better find a way to live together on this planet and not mess it up."

The 22 pieces in the show each address the theme of respect through a variety of mediums that at first glance do not seem cohesive.

On a small computer screen images from Pawel Wojtasik's video "At the Still Point" play on an endless loop. In the first part, mourners prepare a body for its trip down the Ganges River. The second short, which takes place along a river in Mumbai, shows dozens of men cleaning garments by beating each with rocks like their ancestors have done for centuries. Haunting music accompanies images in both films.

"This bridges the spiritual and ritual of life and death with the practical of daily life," Simor

said.

In his artist's statement to accompany this submission, Wojtasik writes that "making art is about facing fear — the fear of death, of pain, of loss, even the fear of seeing certain kinds of im-

*Continued on Page 40*

### IF YOU GO

#### "Friendly Gestures [namaste]"

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# Head up to Murray Hill for Korean-style BBQ pork

BY SUZANNE PARKER

When we invited our friends to dine with us at a Korean restaurant in Murray Hill, they wondered when Manhattan became our beat. Of course, we didn't mean that Murray Hill. The one we were talking about is a section of Flushing that extends approximately from Union Street to Francis Lewis Boulevard for several blocks north and south of Northern Boulevard.

The similar names are not mere coincidence. The Murray family operated one of the original nurseries when horticulture was the name of the game in Flushing. They sold their holdings when residential development began in the area, and began dabbling in Manhattan real estate. That's where the Murray part of the designation derived from. The Hill part is any-



An employee helps diners grill up pork BBQ at Han Joo Chik Naeng Myun & BBQ in Murray Hill. Photo by Suzanne Parker

one's guess. All we know is that today the nabe is a primarily Korean enclave, with a concentration of some of the most authentic and tasty Korean grub

to be found on this side of the Pacific.

Tucked away, a few blocks south of the more obvious procession of Korean eateries along Northern, is a cluster of Korean restaurants that surround the Murray Hill Long Island Railroad station. This is great news for Manhattanites, as all they would have to do to get there is to hop on the train (Port Washington Line). We could see eating our way through all of them, but a good place to start is Hanjoo.

Han Joo has two specialties: Barbecued pork belly and arrowroot noodles in cold broth (naeng myun). Our first visit was for lunch. The barbecue seemed too elaborate and we were too cold for chilled broth, not to mention too tempted by the bargain-priced lunch specials. The table was laid with an

impressive collection of banchan, those assorted tidbits essential to any Korean meal, including sliced fish balls (gefilte-like, but with more flavor), and a terrific grilled tofu.

A word to the wise is that it is perfectly acceptable etiquette to ask for refills of any banchan you particularly fancy.

For lunch we settled on two of the specials, Dean Jang Jjigae and Daeji Bulgoki. Dean Jang Jjigae is a soup made with home-made bean paste, kimchi, pork vegetables and tofu. We requested a "medium" degree of spiciness. Medium might be a challenge to all but practiced flame swallows. Apart from the heat, the flavors were well balanced, and the contents generous. With all the banchan you want, this is a real lunchtime

*Continued on Page 41*

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**Cuisine:** Korean, specializing  
in BBQ pork and cold noodle  
soup

**Setting:** No frills utilitarian

**Service:** Attentive and  
accommodating

**Hours:** Monday - Sunday, 11  
a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Reservations:** No

**Alcohol:** Wine beer & Soju

**Parking:** Valet or street  
Dress: Casual

**Children:** Welcome

**Music:** Recorded

**Takeout:** Yes

**Credit cards:** Yes

**Noise level:** Acceptable

**Handicap accessible:** Yes  
**WIFI:** No

## sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #73

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

Hard #73

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

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

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



# Jackson Heights artist named an 'Illustrator of the Future' 39

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

After competing in an international contest, much like the "American Idol" of science fiction and fantasy illustration and writing, emerging Jackson Heights artist Luis Menacho found overnight fame when his striking, surreal illustrations were chosen as winners from thousands of entries.

Representing New York, Menacho was one of 12 illustrators and 12 writers who were honored in a ceremony held at a popular Hollywood venue last month, where the 29th Annual L. Ron Hubbard Writers & Illustrators of the Future Achievement Awards were presented to each winner.

More than 1,200 guests attended. Among them were best-selling authors, famous illustrators, celebrity performers and presenters such as, Nancy Cartwright

(voice of Bart Simpson), Marisol Nichols ("Scream 2," "24"), and Aramis Knight ("The Dark Knight Rises," "Crossing Over"). And thousands more were logged on to watch the event as it streamed live over the Internet.

Winners' trophies represented combined cash prizes and royalties of more than \$30,000.

One of Menacho's evocative illustrations was paired with a winning story, "Twelve Seconds," written by Tina Gower, and published in this year's edition of "L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers and Illustrators of the Future Volume XXIX," which features an eclectic collection of stories written and illustrated by the winners.

John Goodwin, president of Gallery Press, which publishes the winning collection, said, "The main determining factor to win the illustrating contest



Jackson Heights artist Luis Menacho accepts his "Illustrator of the Future" award in Hollywood last month.  
Photo courtesy L. Ron Hubbard Writers & Illustrators of the Future Achievement Awards

is the degree of mastery of technique. By definition, an illustration is able to tell a story (or a part of a story), and so complements that story being illustrated."

A School of Visual Arts graduate, Menacho, 24, was born in La Paz, Bolivia and has lived in his neighborhood for 17 years. He says

he found out about the contest from a friend who won last year.

"I actually have no clue what made my work stand out," Menacho said. "I have just been very fortunate that I was one of the winners, and got to experience this amazing adventure."

After his mom gave

him a Spiderman drawing to copy at age 10, the young artist started his budding career. Later on he added drawing family members and cartoon characters to his repertoire. Eventually, as his imagination soared and his love of science fiction grew, the illustrator's paintings took on a fantasy-

oriented dimension, so it's no surprise that nowadays, he likes "the idea of being able to create other worlds. That way, I can show people a glimpse of what goes on in my head."

Menacho credits Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard with helping him become a better artist.

"Mr. Hubbard has a very unique opinion on art, and he helped me look at artwork from a completely different angle," Menacho said.

He now hopes to become a full-time illustrator and travel the world taking pictures for his future paintings.

When the new volume containing the winning entries is released, it will be available on Kindle, Amazon.com, BN.com and in major book stores.

To see the awards ceremony online, go to [www.youtube.com/writersofthefuture](http://www.youtube.com/writersofthefuture).

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# THEATER CALENDAR



## PRODUCTIONS

**“Blood Brothers”** – Astoria Performing Arts Center presents the Tony-nominated and Olivier Award-winning musical that tells the tragic tale of fraternal twins separated at birth, who grow up in different situations but still become best friends. But, when they fall in love with the same girl, their friendship is tested and their fates sealed.

**When:** Thursday, 8 pm; Friday, 8 pm; and Saturday, 2 pm and 8 pm through May 25

**Where:** Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, 30-44 Crescent St., Astoria  
**Cost:** \$18/adults, \$12/student and seniors

**Contact:** (718) 706-5750

**Website:** www.apacny.org

**“Hound of the Baskervilles”** – Douglaston Community Theatre presents a modern adaptation of Sherlock Holmes’ greatest adventure filled with suspense, humor and terror.

**When:** May 17 to 18

**Where:** Zion Episcopal Church, 243-01 Northern Blvd., Douglaston

**Cost:** \$17/adults, \$15/seniors and students with ID

**Contact:** (718) 482-3332

**“Some Girls”** – Variations Theatre Group closes its fourth season with Neil LaBute’s biting comedy about revisiting the ones who got away.

**When:** Wednesday - Saturday at 8pm, Saturday at 2 pm and Sunday at 2 pm, through May 18

**Where:** The Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City

**Cost:** \$18, \$15/for LIC residents with photo ID, Wednesday performances are buy one ticket/get one free, and Thursday shows are “Pay What You Can Nights”

**Contact:** 646-580-6003

**Website:** www.variationstheatregroup.com

**“Reasons to be Pretty”** – Bedlam Ensemble presents Neil LaBute’s final play in his trilogy

about physical appearance and its place in America.

**When:** Friday, May 17, 8 pm; Saturday, May 18, 8 pm; and Sunday, May 19, 3 pm and 8 pm

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

**Cost:** \$20

**Contact:** (718) 392-0722

**Website:** www.secrettheatre.com

**“Peterpat”** – Parkside Players presents this comedy by Enid Rudd about 10 years in the life of Peter, a struggling writer, and Pat, his pregnant girlfriend.

**When:** May 18 to May 19, May 24 to May 26, and May 31 to June 1

**Where:** Grace Lutheran Church, 103-15 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills

**Cost:** \$14/adults, \$12/seniors

**Contact:** (718) 353-7388

**Website:** www.parksideplayers.com

**“Secret Weapons of Fat Destruction”** – Thalia

Spanish Theatre presents the bilingual world premiere of a comedy by controversial Spanish playwright Inigo Ramirez de Haro. Witness the complications of the flesh as an unconventional writer/director involves his audience in

creating a new kind of theater entertainment.

**When:** Fridays at 8 pm and Saturdays at 3 pm, performed in English; and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 4 pm, performed in Spanish

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

**Cost:** \$25, \$22/students and seniors

**Contact:** (718) 729-3880

**Website:** www.thaliatheatre.org

**Liao Wen Ho Puppet Theatre**

– On a colorful high platform stage, glove puppets dressed in ornate and traditional Chinese costumes swirl around smoke and fire, brandishing swords and casting magical spells while telling stories from

traditional Chinese folklore.

**When:** Sunday, May 19, 3 pm

**Where:** Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing

**Cost:** \$20/adults, \$12/children 12 and under

**Contact:** (718) 544-2996

**Website:** www.kupfergcenter.org

**The 2013 Unchained Theatre Festival** – Variations Theatre

Group presents the third annual festival of new works. During the three-week event, each show will receive four showings. Audiences and judges will select finalists to receive a fifth show to compete for awards.

**When:** June 5 through June 22

**Where:** The Chain Theatre,

**Cost:** \$15, \$18/finalist performance

**Contact:** (646) 580-6003

**Website:** variationstheatregroup.com for festival schedule

## MEETINGS

**North Shore Playwrights**

**Circle Meeting** – Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshoping 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

## THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### FILM

**“I Remember Mama”** – Director George Stevens’ 1948 film adaptation of Kathryn Forbes’ memoir about growing up in a Norwegian immigrant family in San Francisco. Part of the Queens Museum of Arts series exploring the U.S. immigrant experience through films.

**When:** Thursday, May 23, 2 to 5 pm

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

**Cost:** \$8/Museum admission suggested donation, \$4/seniors, students and children

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

**Website:** www.queensmuseum.org

### DANCE

**Paul Taylor Dance Company**

– The troupe returns to Flushing Meadows with its innovative and joyous style of modern dance.

**When:** Saturday, May 18, 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday, May 19, 3 pm

**Where:** Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. South, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

**Cost:** \$46, \$25/rear side seating

**Contact:** (718) 760-0064

**Website:** queenstheatre.org

**Anikai Dance Theater’s**

**“Lilith”** – A collaboration between choreographer Wendy Jehlen and architect Huang Zhe, “Lilith” is a re-

envisioning of the story of the first woman, created as Adam’s equal, who rebelled and left the Garden of Eden.  
**When:** Saturday, May 18, 8:30 pm  
**Where:** Green Space Studio, 37-24 24th St., Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$17  
**Contact:** (718) 956-3037  
**Website:** www.greenspacestudio.org

**Japanese Classical Dance**

**at Resobox** – Workshops teach the 400-year-old nichibu dance popularized in kabuki. All experience levels are welcome and all materials are provided.

**When:** Mondays, 5:30 pm workshop for children 8 to 11; 6:30 pm workshop for all ages 12 and up

**Where:** Resobox, 41-26 27th St., Long Island City

**Cost:** \$25/adults, \$20/students

**Contact:** (718) 784-3680

**Website:** resobox.com

**Free Line Dance Lessons** –

Free line dance lessons given by professional dance instructor, Bernardo, every Monday.

**When:** Mondays, 1 pm

**Where:** Pomonok Senior Center, 67-09 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing

**Contact:** Jennifer Buljan (718) 591-3377

### TALK

**What’s New in Long Island City?** – Official Queens

historian Jack Eichenbaum leads a walk from Queens

Plaza to the East River waterfront. Along the way, see how rezoning and demographic change from Manhattan spillover has sparked a revitalization in this once industrial neighborhood.

**When:** Friday, May 17, 5:45 to 8 pm

**Where:** Meet at the fare booth of the lowest level of the Queensboro Plaza subway station, Long Island City

**Cost:** \$15

**Contact:** (718) 961-8406

**Cooperstown: The Baseball**

**History Hall of Fame** – For the 75th anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame, join Al Ronzoni for a humorous look at America’s favorite pastime.

**When:** Saturday, May 18, 1 to 2 pm

**Where:** Greater Astoria Historical Society, 35-20 Broadway, Astoria

**Cost:** \$5/general public, Free for GAHS members

**Contact:** (718) 278-0700

**Website:** www.astorial.org

**Daylight Loft Buildings in Long Island City** – Long

Island City’s reinvention of itself at the beginning of the 20th century coincided with the introduction of this new type of structure that modernized manufacturing and permitted assembly line production. Queens historian Jack Eichenbaum leads a walking tour of LIC.

**When:** Sunday, May 19, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

**Where:** Meet at the northeast corner of 21st Street and 44th Drive

**Cost:** \$15

**Contact:** (718) 961-8406

## Art

*Continued from Page 37*

agery on screen.”

In “Solace Revisited,” Leslie Shaw Zadoian takes leftovers such as metal scraps and bits of wood and by using different color paints creates a piece that “speaks of respect to nature,” Simor said.

“She takes the humblest of castoffs and treats

them with gold and silver and makes them precious,” Simor said.

In her artist’s statement, Zadoian writes “the artist’s mission is to make beauty that never before existed.” She does this, she states, by finding beauty and formal elegance in rather unlikely places and combinations.

Andy Slemenda also finds art where most of us see trash. His “Likewise Painting, Mold and Lichen” consists of Styrofoam pack-

aging sporting the deep rich colors associated with royalty.

“It is such a metaphor,” Simor said. “It is totally throw-away material that he puts through this treatment with purple and gold.”

As he relates in his artist’s statement, Slemenda sees his work as both of the spirit and of the body. He believes this “comments on how we negotiate our consciousness and the physical world, interrelated to Hinduism and the salutation form, Namaste.”

Although each of the nearly two dozen works addresses the overall theme of needing to connect to today’s world, Simor understands at first glance the show could seem, like the photos from “Duel,” contradictory or even as she labels it, “a hodgepodge.”

“You leave with questions and hardly any answers,” Simor said. “But one has to provide one’s own answers.”



Andy Slemenda’s “Likewise Painting, Mold and Lichen” uses gold and purple paint on Styrofoam.

Photo courtesy Queens College Art Center



# Korean-style BBQ

Continued from Page 38

bargain. Daeji Bulgoki, stir fried slices of pork with hot chili sauce, comes on a sizzling platter. This dish scores on spicy, salty, sweet and garlicky, and is another

wallet-pleaser to boot.

Already primed and readied by our lunch foray, we couldn't wait to see what was in store for dinner. We knew that we wanted to try their two signature items. Surprisingly, the banchan

offered at the dinner hour were less substantial and enticing than at lunch. They were mostly various kimchees, pickles, and condiments (ssam-jang)—the stuff meant to be stuffed inside lettuce leaves with the bbq (ssam).

We warmed up with some of our favorite Korean

snack foods before tackling the main event. Kimchi mandoo (dumplings) were both meaty and spicy, and we experimented with dipping them in the various condiments arranged around the table, all with excellent results. Hae Mu Pa Jeon was a worthy rendition of the always lovable Korean seafood and scallion pancakes. The Chap Chae, stir fried clear noodles with beef in vegetables, was bland and forgettable, but a good choice if you happen to have finicky children with you.

As soon as we ordered Do Ya Ji, a combo of their three versions of barbecued pork belly, a crystal slab was placed over the inset gas burner on the table to heat. In the meantime, we devoured the other signature dish, Mul Naeng Myun. Transparent noodles are arranged over a mound of a partially frozen (think shaved ice) tangy beef broth. It is topped with sliced beef, assorted veggies and hard-boiled egg. We can't imagine a more refreshing meal

for a hot summer evening. They also offer a spicy version of same.

The main event had arrived. Our server brought a sumptuous platter of three different style of pork (thin sliced, marinated medium sliced, and thick cut) and proceeded to grill it. The crystal grilling surface was position on a slant, allowing the rendered fat to run off into a catchment container. Kimchee was placed at the lowest end of the incline, allowing it to sizzle in the fat passing by.

As our pieces of meat cooked, we plucked them off with our chopsticks onto waiting lettuce leaves along with some grilled kimchee and varying assortments of condiments. When we remembered, we dipped the meat into first bean powder and then sesame oil, which is a traditional part of the ritual. Our server supervised all the grilling, leaving us only to contend with the assembling and eating.

All of the three little piggies were delicious. The thin sliced had extra

crunch/caramelization. The medium sliced had extra flavor from the marination. The thick cut was just deliciously meaty. As pork belly goes, it was pretty lean and well-trimmed, keeping in mind that pork belly is not a lean cut of meat. We would agree that the three-way combo of barbecued pork is the must-have a Hanjoo.

## The Bottom Line

Han Joo's cuisine is both delicious and authentic. Their offerings can be adjusted to please lovers of extreme spiciness or to those who are spice adverse. If you've tried and enjoyed Korean barbecued beef, now you've got to try the pork, and Hanjoo is the place to do it.

*Suzanne Parker is the TimesLedger's restaurant critic and author of "Eating Like Queens: A Guide to Ethnic Dining in America's Melting Pot, Queens, N.Y." She can be reached by e-mail at qnsfoodie@aol.com.*

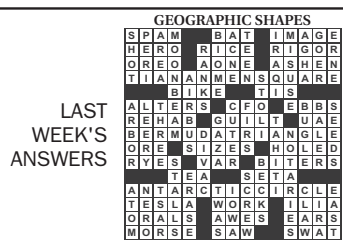
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TimesLedger Newspapers

May 17-23, 2013

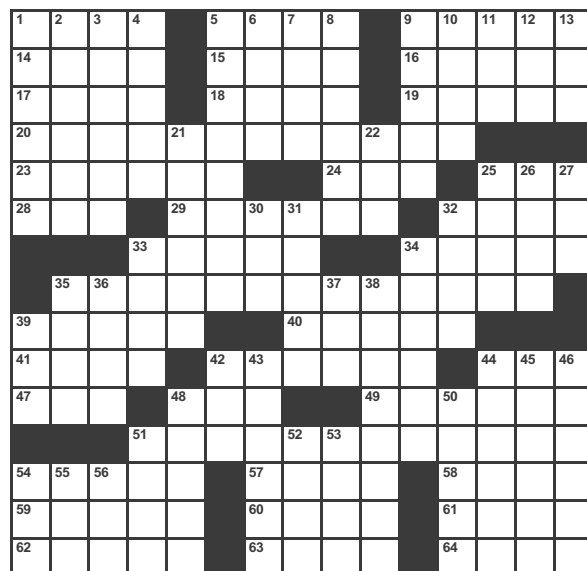
By Ed Canty

### Vent Your Anger



#### Across

1. Biblical "hit"
5. Actress Kudrow
9. Pub game
14. Wedding dance
15. Guinness and others
16. Brothers' keeper?
17. Promising words
18. "Gil \_\_\_\_"
19. Recipe amts.
20. Risky dough
23. Simple animal
24. Dorm V.I.P.'s
25. The Wildcats, for short
28. Buying channel, briefly
29. Strange trait
32. Oktoberfest order
33. The Phantom's rival
34. He tested Job's faith
35. Edgar Bergen for one
39. Turner and others
40. Ticket category
41. Small bills
42. "I just don't feel \_\_\_\_"
44. Mother's Day delivery Corp.
47. "\_\_\_\_ Miserables"
48. Transcript fig.
49. Carpenter's tool
51. Former Minnesota governor
54. Illegal firing
57. Go yachting
58. "Up and \_\_\_\_!"
59. Smallest
60. Book after Proverbs: Abbr.
61. One of the Simpsons
62. Home Depot rival
63. Queens stadium
64. Pro votes



#### Down

1. Jewish mourning period
2. Web connectors
3. Like some transfers
4. One of the senses
5. Type of retriever
6. Latin's that
7. Clothing line
8. Group
9. Takes out
10. "Dear" advice-giver
11. TD scorers
12. Summit
13. Ave. intersector
21. Depth charge targets
22. Tea Party vote on Obama care
25. Hobby store buys
26. Musical chairs goal
27. Big coffee holder
30. MADD target
31. \_\_\_\_ ease (nervous)
32. Can of worms?
33. Genetic materials
34. Mideast V.I.P.
35. Barn topper
36. Chemical endings
37. Prefix with meter
38. Alternative to an exacta
39. Chat room chuckle
42. Pkg. deliverer
43. Doesn't flunk
44. Quarterback Doug
45. Mother \_\_\_\_
46. Playhouse presentations
48. Rest room sign
50. Europe's "boot"
51. "No way, \_\_\_\_!"
52. Per
53. Number two person
54. Pledge of Allegiance
55. Old Olds
56. Toothed tool

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AUGUST 16 | TIBERIUS  
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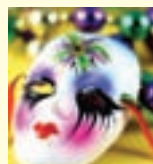
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# Fresh Mdws horse stable set for sale over weekend

BY JOE ANUTA

The operator of a century-old Fresh Meadows horse stable needs to either pony up \$60,000 soon or ride into the sunset.

The owner of the property, the Western Riding Club, plans to finalize a sale Sunday to an unidentified third party, according to his lawyer, Jeff Schwartz.

A group of civic leaders and state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) gathered last week to show support for the anachronistic oddity, which was grandfathered into the current zoning laws.

Avella has filed an application with the city Landmarks Preservation Commission seeking to get the small stable landmarked for its historic value. It was already rejected once for what the commission deemed a lack of architectural integrity, but if the commission considers the second request, the stable cannot be torn down. That may not help the current tenant, however.

Joy Tirado, who operates the stable, is trying to stop the sale by collecting signatures for support, drumming up the \$60,000 deposit and then exercising the right of first refusal outlined in her lease.

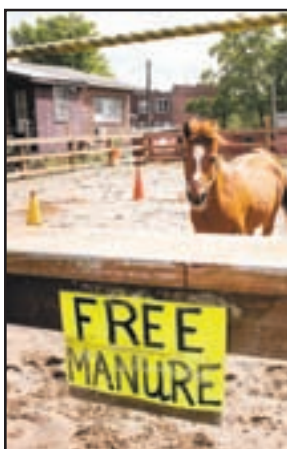
But she admits it is a long shot.

"Everyone is sad to see it in jeopardy. With 10 business days to come up with a down payment, it's highly unlikely," said Tirado, who only pays the \$600 to \$700 in rent each month with the help of family and friends.

Theoretically Tirado would have to make a firm offer by Sunday, pay the \$60,000 at the signing of the contract then a total of \$800,000 by closing in August to take control of the 5,246-square-foot property, which contains a small area for the horses to run, the stable and a house. If she does not come up with the money by Sunday,



Andrew Laszlo, 13, feeds Tex the horse at the Western Riding Club.  
Photo by Joe Anuta



Tex the horse gallops in front of a sign advertising his specialty.  
Photo by Joe Anuta

though, she has 60 days to vacate the property.

She said the loss of the stable, which currently houses seven horses and is located at 169-38 Pidgeon Meadow Road, would be a loss for the community.

"We've had kids here from Day 1 who still come back. We have senior citizens who come here, and have cancer patients who started coming here after their treatments. Basically, what we do here is we teach to love [the horses] and respect them with a gentle hand."

But property owner John Lightstone, who lives in a one-family house next to the stable, said through his lawyer that he just wants to simplify his life.

According to his law-

yer, the 87-year-old has a heart condition and has owned the property for three decades. He now wants to move on.

"Mr. Lightstone, for most of his life, has gone out of his way to make sure there has been some kind of equestrian activity here because he likes horses," Schwartz said.

It was not clear should the sale proceed whether the new owners would tear down the stable or leave it standing.

The stable is registered with the city Department of Health, according to Schwartz.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has responded to seven complaints about the treatment of the horses and the condition of the stable since 2007, but a representative said the society found no violations upon each inspection.

An online petition can be signed at [ipetitions.com/petition/help-save-our-barn](http://ipetitions.com/petition/help-save-our-barn). Money can be donated at [fundanything.com/en/campaigns/help-save-our-barn](http://fundanything.com/en/campaigns/help-save-our-barn).

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

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# Business

## Ben's Best keeps deli legacy alive in Rego Pk.

Community-oriented kosher eatery, part of a dying breed, serves patrons traditional Jewish fare

BY STEVE MOSCO

The once ubiquitous New York City delicatessen is disappearing from the metropolitan landscape. These proud establishments, some owned and operated by the same family for generations, are being replaced by banal fast food chains where the only thing more disturbing than the food is the indifferent glare of the person serving it.

But as those chains came and went, Ben's Best in Rego Park wove itself into the fabric of the surrounding community by maintaining the same unshakable standards throughout its nearly 70 years on Queens Boulevard.

Now part of a dying breed of traditional kosher Jewish delis, owner Jay Parker keeps his standards — originally set by his father and grandfather before him — because it is the only way he knows.

And because his customers will let him know if he deviates even a little.

"I don't change anything here. It was meant to be a certain way and that is the way I serve it," said Parker at Ben's Best, at 96-40 Queens Blvd. "I once changed the salad dressing to something healthier. They begged me to bring the old stuff back. They're



Owner Jay Parker offers up the classic New York deli eats in a setting that is fading from the city stage.

Photo by Steve Mosco

not here for their health, they're here to eat."

Parker took over ownership of the deli in 1984 after his father Benjamin died. A successful municipal bond trader on Wall Street prior to his second life as a deli man, Parker found that running the counter at Ben's meant he could be his own boss. He could keep the tradition of the neighborhood deli alive and not worry

about someone in a three-piece suit and zero knowledge of Jewish heritage compromising the integrity of a good pastrami sandwich.

His attention to detail attracted numerous accolades and praise over the course of 70 years. Parker said besides his valued, everyday customers from the neighborhood, Ben's Best has become a destination restaurant for anyone who craves the essence of New York in

its truest form: ethnic cuisine.

To that end, Ben's Best offers dark and spicy pastrami, cured by hand in barrels. Stacked on custom baked fresh rye bread with mustard, it is the sandwich equivalent of a religious experience. But the tastes of customers are just as diverse as the city itself, so Parker focuses the same amount of attention on his other overstuffed sandwiches, including corned beef, brisket and turkey.

Supplying Ben's Best with its menu items are some of the same vendors the restaurant has used since it first opened.

"If you asked me how much I spend on brisket or anything else, it's hard for me to say," said Parker. "I'm not looking at price. I'm looking at quality."

And the quality goes beyond sandwiches. Parker's chicken matzo ball soup is legendary — a steaming bowl packed with tender noodles and a light matzo ball. Some customers claim it has medicinal powers, a myth easily believed after lapping up a bowlful.

Other traditional deli platefuls are also available, including chopped liver, knishes, kasha, stuffed cabbage and kreplach as well as the ever-present hot dog, complete with mustard, sauerkraut and a delightfully enticing snap that brings the eater back for another bite.

A meal at Ben's Best is a cultural experience worth fighting for and one that continues to dwindle in numbers. Parker said in the 1930s there were more than 1,500 kosher delis in the city's five boroughs, but today only 150 Jewish delis remain in the whole of North America.

"In the old days, four street corners in the city meant four different kosher delis," he said. "But the people running those stores, they never wanted their kids running the business. The kids had to go to school and the parents worked 20 hours a days so the kids could go to school and not end up working in a deli."

Sitting in the back of his restaurant reflecting on his past life as a bond trader, Parker was momentarily interrupted by an older customer who wanted to compliment his food. The quick pleasantries suddenly morphs into a 15-minute sharing of stories between two previously unacquainted people.

A typical scene between a deli man and his community.

"I'm not really in the deli business," he said. "It's a community business and everyone who comes in here is my partner."

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

### BUSINESS CALENDAR

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

**When:** Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 p.m.  
**Cost:** Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

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

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

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

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

**When:** Every Wednesday, 7 a.m.

**Cost:** \$10 for breakfast

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

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

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

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

**When:** Thursdays, 7-8:30 a.m.

**Where:** Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12

Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

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

**BNI Peak Professionals Chapter** — BNI

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

**When:** Wednesdays, 7-8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

**The Eastern Queens and Long Island**

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

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

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

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

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

### FUND-RAISERS

**Happiness Is Spring Dinner-Dance** — The Greater Woodhaven Development Corp. will host a buffet dinner. Door and raffle prizes.

**When:** Friday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** New Woodhaven Manor, 96-01 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven

**Cost:** \$65

**Contact:** (718) 805-0202

**6th annual Queens Go Red for Women Dinner**

— Honorees include Audra Fordin, Kathleen Gallo and Rita Mercieca.

**When:** Wednesday, June 12

**Where:** Terrace on the Park, 52-11 111th St., Flushing

**Contact:** American Heart Association at (516)

450-9123





State Sen. Jose Peralta is not sponsoring legislation to allow the United States Tennis Association to add a new stadium (bottom l.) and renovate another (top r.).  
Image courtesy USTA

## USTA

*Continued from Page 5*

why he would want to remain distant from it.”

Meanwhile, Bloomberg suggested at a Monday news conference that MLS

would replace the 13 acres of Flushing Meadows with acreage at the old Flushing Airport.

“In fact, there’s an old airport, Flushing Airport, which is going to be turned into a park. So the total parkland would be

the same,” the mayor said, according to the New York Post.

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

## Meng

*Continued from Page 4*

where some wait 13 years to enter the United States.

Schumer’s bill would also allow adult siblings over 31 years old of current U.S. citizens an 18-month period to petition onto a list to enter the country in the next 10 years. The lawmaker also said the bill would establish a new type of visa that favors those with skills needed in America, which he said would benefit Asian Americans more than any other group.

“Under our bill, the

number of Asian Americans that will come to New York and America will greatly increase, far more than under the status quo,” Schumer said. “By clearing the visa backlog it will reunite hundreds of thousands of Asian-American families. No one will get everything they want with this bill, but it is very good for the Asian community.”

Schumer said the family provisions will likely receive the most scrutiny from Republicans in Capitol Hill, but he was still confident the bill would pass. He said he worried that the House of Representatives

was not as immigration-friendly as the Senate, so the legislation’s survival relied in part on the Senate passing it.

“I think we’re going to have to do everything we can to keep the present provisions from being watered down because they are so important,” Schumer said. “It would be better for the House to pass the Senate’s bill, rather than to do its own because it likely won’t be as generous.”

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

## Light

*Continued from Page 2*

struck by a car near a pair of Little League fields in Rosedale. Community members there said they had made requests to the DOT and feared they would only get a response after the worst happened.

DOT Queens Commissioner Delila Hall said it is “unfortunate it has to look like that,” pointing out that many factors go into deciding what kind of measures are appropriate where.

After the Cambria Heights accident, she said, the department immediately received a request

for a traffic light study at the intersection, but at the time it did not meet the DOT’s criteria.

She said the department installed the light after conditions along the roadway had changed, but could not recall off-hand the “exact tipping point” that led to the change.

In Rosedale, she said, community members had requested a speed bump, but the DOT could not install one because the roadway is traveled by city buses.

McClean said one of the problems is that if someone makes a speed bump request, the department will study a speed bump and nothing else.

He said a “traffic calming device” request would get a more thorough response from the DOT.

State Assemblywoman Barbara Clark (D-Queens Village) and City Councilman Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) joined the Rodriguez family in remembering their loved one and urging drivers to take it easy on the roads.

Comrie said he will be introducing legislation requiring the NYPD to report the number of fatal or severe hit-and-run incidents each year to the Council and to collect video surveillance from cameras near such accidents.

## Huntley

*Continued from Page 4*

fying the nine people her client recorded, including Sen. John Sampson (D-Brooklyn), who allegedly threatened to take out potential witnesses against him in an embezzlement scheme he was charged in Monday.

Attorney Sally Butler said Huntley’s family was “truly terrorized” by several intimidating calls they had received in the past few days and lauded her client’s efforts, saying the information she provided could be useful in future corruption cases.

The memo also identified one of those recorded as Melvin Lowe and said he was a onetime professional associate of state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, although Schneiderman refuted the association.

Schneiderman, who worked alongside Huntley as a former senator, prosecuted her last year in an embezzlement scheme similar to the one she was sentenced for Thursday.

Butler said Huntley was able to identify a mole in Schneiderman’s office and accused the AG of trying to thwart Huntley’s attempts to cooperate with the feds.

Schneiderman’s office released a statement accusing Huntley of retaliation.

“Attorney General Schneiderman’s commitment to rooting out political corruption is the reason he was the first prosecutor to indict Shirley Huntley and why she is going to prison for lying and stealing,” the statement read. “It’s no surprise that the criminal is



Former southeast Queens lawmaker Shirley Huntley leaves Brooklyn federal court after being sentenced to a year and one day in prison.  
Photo by Christina Santucci

angry at the prosecutor, but Huntley’s lies should not distract from the fact that today justice was served.”

Prosecutors, without being specific, said Huntley provided some information that could not be corroborated and other that was useful.

Among those recorded were Sens. Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) and Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) and City Councilman Ru-

ben Wills (D-Jamaica).

Schneiderman subpoenaed Wills last year to account for close to \$33,000 Huntley had allocated to a nonprofit he ran while he was her chief of staff.

Butler said Huntley’s recordings provided law enforcement with information favoring Wills.

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

## Sandy

*Continued from Page 9*

making the city more resistant to future floods and the impacts of climate change.

Bloomberg was joined at the news conference by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), U.S. Rep. Gregory

Meeks (D-Jamaica) and others.

Meeks said the Rockaways was devastated by Sandy.

“Superstorm Sandy spared not one individual,” he said. “Not one.”

He applauded the New York delegation to Congress, which is made up of Republicans and Democrats, coming together to push for passage of the federal aid package.

“The Rockaways will be back, it will be strong, it will be better than ever and it’s because of people working together,” he said.

*Reach reporter Karen Frantz by e-mail at kfrantz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4538.*



# FDNY

*Continued from Page 4*

er for the district court to make any assessment of credibility in considering the sufficiency of the city's rebuttal ...," he wrote.

The third judge, however, wrote that because the minority applicants claimed the FDNY practiced intentional discrimination as part of its standard operation procedure, the city's evidence should have been held to a higher test.

"Thus, the city's apparent disinterest in fixing what it has known to be a problem for more than four decades and its apparent disinterest in defending itself now ... is precisely the type of disre-

gard the ... test was meant to protect against," Justice Rosemary Pooler wrote.

The panel remanded the case back to the district court and directed a new justice be appointed, writing that an "objective observer would have a reasonable basis to question [Garaufis'] impartiality."

The panel did uphold Garaufis' order appointing a monitor to oversee the department's hiring practices — although with limited authorities — citing a "distressing pattern of limited FDNY minority hiring."

Baher Azmy, legal director at the Center for Constitutional Rights, said the decision confirmed the need for independent oversight of the FDNY.

"We are very pleased

that the city will remain under the court's watch as it hires qualified new firefighters and provides back pay to those who were unlawfully excluded," she said. "That is an enormous victory in itself, and we are confident that we will also prevail at trial on the additional claim of intentional discrimination."

Michael Cardozo, the city's corporate counsel, said the lawsuit was filed to address a narrow issue involving two now-expired exams and the FDNY would continue its diversity efforts.

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

# Seawall

*Continued from Page 5*

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria), Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan), state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), Borough President Helen Marshall, Parks Commissioner Veronica White and others.

Van Bramer was instrumental in securing funding for the restoration project, which will cost \$6.65 million and is expected to be completed next summer. The city Economic Development Corp. will manage the project.

The new waterfront will include a 6-foot-wide

promenade with benches and plantings and a wharf at the north end. Large rocks, which will absorb and deflect waves and slow down erosion, will be used to protect the shoreline.

Maloney said the restoration of the seawall will not only help beautify the waterfront but will help to protect city infrastructure. She said a deteriorating seawall allows water to corrode electrical equipment for the F train that runs under the park.

"All those delays on the F train [are] coming from this seawall," she said.

She also said the seawall will help to protect the city against the effects of climate change, which the

city felt during Hurricane Sandy.

The congresswoman said the fight to get the restoration project greenlighted was a years-long process. She first formed a task force in 2002 with Marshall to look at repairing the seawall, and after some struggle the federal government was expected to complete the project.

But in 2005 the city said it wanted to handle the project yet stalled for five years.

"Our young people are going to be able to break down that fence and enjoy the waterfront," she said. "And we've all be working on this for a long, long, long time."

Carousel's 14-year-lease agreement with the city Parks Department.

Abramson said the carousel has given close to 35,000 rides in its first year since reopening.

"It is one of the main symbols of a community that is vibrant and thriving and a place for young families," he said. "It's a special machine and people truly love it."

Forest Park's historic carousel dates back more than 100 years, when its colorful menagerie was hand-carved by artist Daniel Carl Muller. Originally

situated in Dracut, Mass., the carousel was moved to Forest Park in 1972.

Wendell said the WRBA looks forward to meeting the commission and learning exactly what it means to be landmarked.

"Having something landmarked in Woodhaven would no doubt be a source of pride for the community," he said. "It is not something we have a lot of experience with here in Queens."

*Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at smosco@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.*

# Corruption

*Continued from Page 1*

ley in her Senate re-election bid after she was charged with covering up an embezzlement scam last year, scheduled the debate in between the time Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Jamaica) was charged in a bribery plot and Sen. John Sampson (D-Brooklyn) — whom Huntley recorded along with Smith, Sen. Peralta (D-East Elmhurst) and City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) — was charged with stealing more than \$400,000 to fund a failed bid for district attorney.

In deference to those who had yet to have their day in court, Sanders set a ground rule that the debaters were not to mention any southeast Queens politician by name, and said the event was not a "cut-up job" of any elected official.

"We are in the midst of seeing an unprecedented attack of one type or another. We have to figure out what is the nature of this attack," he said. "Is it corruption has overtaken the whole district — the whole area — and it needs to be

rooted out? Or is it there's a conspiracy, and if that's the case, we need to look it in the eye and deal with it straightforward."

The conspiracy team likened the recent scandals to a "political stop-and-frisk," arguing white leaders can get away with things minority leaders cannot.

"We have 28 [senators] that are Democratic, 14 of which are minorities, 10 of which have had their names linked to allegations," said debater Paul Nichols. "I'm glad to see [the others are] completely pure and pristine."

Nichols disclosed at the beginning of the debate that he is Sanders' chief of staff and was expressing his own opinions.

On the corruption side, Terry De Mendonca, founder of a nonprofit that helps youths with criminal records, argued that race should not be an issue.

"We all know that racism is present; that's neither here nor there. My question is, 'When does the African-American community start to take responsibility for their actions?'" she asked. "If you do some-

thing wrong, you're corrupt. Because you got caught doesn't make it a conspiracy."

Richard Washington, an attorney and former prosecutor, pointed out that the accused were innocent until proven guilty.

"A lot of the people who have been the topic of this entire debate, that means as we sit here right now, they're innocent," he said. "You can indict a ham sandwich."

"The fact that it's already presumed that they are [guilty] just shows you the strength and the power of the conspiracy that we've been talking about," Washington added.

For his part, Sanders said he thought the truth lay somewhere in the middle of both sides, pointing out it is up to informed voters to stem corruption.

"You can't hold a person responsible if you don't know what they're supposed to be doing," he said.

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

# BB guns

*Continued from Page 1*

shooting them at a tree, according to Queens DA Richard Brown.

Pawlowski then allegedly handed the BB guns to his children and let them fire off a few shots at various points around the park, Brown said, adding the 5-year-old daughter waved the gun around at other children.

Brown said that when police found Pawlowski and tried to put handcuffs on him, he flailed his arms in an attempt to keep from being arrested.

Pawlowski was charged with violating city administrative code AC 10-131, which bans the sale or possession of air pistols, as well as reckless endangerment, endangering the welfare of a child and resisting arrest, according to a statement from the district attorney.



Queens parents were frightened last week after a father allegedly brought illegal BB guns into Ditmars Park.

Brown said the Astoria dad faces up to seven years in jail if convicted.

Vallone said that several parents called his office while the incident was occurring to complain, and he called the police to alert them.

"The mothers were very frightened because this gun was very realistic," he said.

At least one woman complained on Vallone's Facebook page that the police took two hours to arrive, but the councilman said the delay was so long because, while a call had been placed to 311, no one had called 911.

"If you want a quick response, you've got to call 911," he said.

About 10 minutes after his office called the police, an officer arrived at the park, Vallone said.

He said some people have argued that the incident is not serious.

"I understand that we all used to play with guns growing up, but unfortunately in the age of terrorism and Sandy Hook, we have to be much more careful," he said.

Brown also said illegal firearms of any kind are a serious threat to public safety.

"By allowing a 5-year-old child to play with the loaded BB gun as if it was just a toy, the defendant is accused of recklessly endangering lives by creating a scenario that could have led to serious injury not just to his own children but innocent others who may have come in contact with the weapon," he said.

# Carousel

*Continued from Page 5*

for us to operate or if it will force us to do things we don't believe in," he said. "We want to make sure the ultimate good of the community is served by landmarking the carousel."

New York Carousel was named vendor of the carousel last year and quickly began revitalizing the ride in time for its first spin Memorial Day weekend. The carousel sat abandoned and shuttered in 2008 prior to New York



## St. John's clinches its Big East berth

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The St. John's baseball team entered the weekend with its future in doubt. The Red Storm was in eighth place in the Big East standings, needing to hold on to that position to secure a spot in the conference tournament.

St. John's, the defending Big East champion, hosted Notre Dame at Kaiser Stadium for three games last weekend, and walked away with two important victories to move itself into a tie for sixth place in the conference with the Fighting Irish. The Red Storm, which had three games left to play, clinched a spot in the eight-team tournament and owns the tiebreaker with Notre Dame because of head-to-head record.

"Anytime you can beat a club two out of three, and they're a highly ranked club, we did ourselves well from that standpoint," Red Storm Coach Ed Blankmeyer said.

St. John's (22-31, 9-12) won the first two games of the weekend series by dominating Notre Dame (29-21, 9-12) on the mound.

Red Storm pitchers allowed just two runs and nine hits in the first two games combined.

"It was two team wins led by the pitching," first baseman Frank Schwindel said. "I don't think we made too many mistakes. We played some good baseball those two games."

Everything changed in the series finale Sunday afternoon as Notre Dame defeated St. John's 16-7. The Irish scored their runs off 18 hits while also drawing seven walks.

It was an ugly performance by the Red Storm pitching staff. Ryan McCormick started the game for St. John's and did not allow a run in the first three innings of the game. After allowing three quick runs in the fourth, he was pulled, which led to a revolving door on the mound.

The Red Storm would need nine total pitchers to get through the afternoon.

"The bottom line is it comes down to pitching, and our young pitching was not good today," said Blankmeyer, who is a victory shy of becoming the program's

*Continued on Page 48*



Construction's pitcher Britney Rodriguez prepares to release the ball during the matchup with William Bryant.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

## Red Hawks cruise by Bryant

### Rodriguez helps lead Construction team to division softball title

BY ELIO VELEZ

Construction softball ace Britney Rodriguez didn't have many slipups on a warm Friday afternoon at Smokey Oval Park.

The junior pitcher stymied the Bryant bats by allowing just three hits and striking out 11 to give Construction a 10-1 victory in its regular season finale that also clinched the PSAL Queens A-II division softball title for the Red Hawks.

"It feels really, really good," Rodriguez said. "I'm happy the seniors left with another division title."

Rodriguez, a three-year starter, made it a goal this season to develop into a well-rounded pitcher after a discussion last off-season with Hawks Coach Marco Migliaccio and her

father, assistant Coach Tito Rodriguez. Britney then incorporated some off-speed pitches and mixed it with her fastball to get more batters out this season.

"I put my head into pitching. I try to focus," Rodriguez said. "I'm throwing more pitches instead of trying to get it past girls."

The Red Hawks, who reached the semifinals last season, have an air of confidence, according to Rodriguez, that has been building throughout the campaign. The biggest win of the season for Construction, which earned the No. 2 seed in the playoffs, came April 19 in a 6-5 comeback victory over defending champion Tottenville.

Rodriguez got an encouraging pep talk from shortstop Amy Pirozek af-

ter the Construction pitcher committed a throwing error in the top of the sixth inning that led to the only Bryant run. It showed an extra maturity that was absent last season.

"Last year we played as a team but not as much like this year. We have confidence and we pick each other up," Rodriguez said. "I was down and she picked me up and said keep your head up and you got this."

The goal of Migliaccio since he arrived at Construction (15-1) was to build a program that would develop players into a contending team on a yearly basis. Pirozek, leadoff hitter Daniella Isabella and Emily Prez have aided to the cause against Bryant (13-3), which was seeded sixth.

"It's 12 girls," Migli-

accio said. "The depth this year is unbelievable. The lineup has no easy outs. Ten girls I put out there, they can do anything."

It was an emotional day for starting catcher Kailan Luciano, who went 3-4 with a home run and two RBIs, as one of three players honored on Senior Day. Luciano wants to go out a winner and thinks the Red Hawks have enough strong pitching and a deep batting lineup from top to bottom to make that run.

"It's bittersweet to know it's our fourth division title since I was a freshman," Luciano said. "We've developed like a great organization to know that we're just five games away from a championship and this makes it even better."



St. John's Frank Schwindel runs to home plate after hitting a home run.

Photo by Yinghao Luo



# Xaverian clips Stanners for division title

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The Archbishop Molloy baseball team won on pitching and defense all season only to see both challenged in the biggest game of the season so far.

The Stanners made three errors, including two in a four-run third inning, when host Xaverian took the lead for good. Molloy went on to lose 8-3 in CHSAA Class AA play and missed a chance to claim the Brooklyn/Queens division baseball title and bye into the league championship division tournament.

"That inning started with a leadoff walk and then we made a couple of errors," Stanners Coach Brad Lyons said. "Now all you need is that one or two big hits."

The Clippers got them in the form of two two-run homers from cleanup hitter Nick Meola. The sopho-



Molloy's Dan Gaitan (r.) is congratulated as he enters the dug-out.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

more knocked the ball over the centerfield fence in the third to put Xaverian up 4-1 and again in the fifth to extend the advantage to 7-3.

"It hurts the morale of the game," Molloy's shortstop Daniel Gaitan said. "They are already ahead. It puts a bigger damper on the inning."

Gaitan, who bats ninth, provided a major bright spot

for the Stanners. His two-run homer in the fourth inning pulled Molloy within 4-3, before Xaverian (15-2) scored a run in the bottom of the frame off the Stanners' Chris Piteo, who was later relieved by Donovan Armas. Xaverian added three more runs in the fifth to break the game open. Lyons wasn't surprised by Gaitan's power display.

"He's been our most consistent hitter all year," the coach said. "He's been our leader all year. We go with Danny."

The Stanners' offense sizzled in the first four innings, collecting 10 hits against Xaverian starter Dom Napoli. Nick Dorcean and Carlos Balmaceda both had two hits and Michael Fuchs added a double and

a run scored. Clippers reliever Anthony Sigismondi proceeded to shut Molloy down (13-4) from there and didn't allow a hit the rest of the way and waked just one batter.

"He just mixed it up well," Lyons said. "His breaking pitches early in the count sort of gave our guys a little bit more trouble."

The defeat doesn't shake Molloy's confidence heading into the playoffs. The Stanners, who are playing in memory of former Coach Jack Curran, finished second in the division and feature three of the city's top pitchers. An eventual rematch with Xaverian is certainly welcomed by the players.

"We are still a strong team," Gaitan said. "I feel like we are going to do really well and hopefully see these guys again."

## St. John's

*Continued from Page 47*

all-time leader in wins.

Schwindel was St. John's lone bright spot in the finale. He led off the fourth inning with his fifth home run of the season to left field. He collected another RBI late in the eighth inning to give him a total of three for the weekend to go along with his seven hits.

Due to a lackluster performance in the out-of-conference schedule, the Red Storm will need to win the Big East Tournament if they want to make their third consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Securing a spot in the Big East Tournament is the first step of their goal, Blankmeyer said.

"We shot ourselves in the foot so many times this year that we took ourselves out of the at-large bid many, many games ago," Blankmeyer said. "We gotta go out and win that tournament."

## Human drama unfolds in sports



Joseph  
Staszewski  
*Block Shots*

The stories behind the box score are what make high school sports special. They produce genuine, raw emotions in the players and connect those watching from the sidelines and beyond to the game at a whole different level.

The current spring post-season in Queens, which is kicking into high gear, is filled with such tales.

On the baseball diamond, look at Archbishop Molloy, which mourned the death of legendary head Coach Jack Curran earlier this year. The players and new coaching staff dedicated their season to Curran and have gone on to be one of the best teams in the CHSAA Class AA baseball league and a favorite for the intersection-

al title.

How fitting would it be for the Stanners to hoist the championship trophy in the air in memory of Curran, a man they all respected, revered and genuinely loved? Acting Coaches Brad Lyons, Matt Rizzotti and Brother James Vagan have done an excellent job of guiding the players through an emotional campaign. And having big-time pitchers like Greg Boyle, Chris Piteo and Donovan Armas on Molloy's roster certainly has helped the team succeed so far.

Rival St. Francis Prep also has a special motivation to play well this season. Student Daniel Fernandez, a close friend of pitcher Dylan Lawrence, died in August when his head hit an overpass while he and other teens were riding a bus. Many of the Terriers players knew the 16-year-old Fernandez well and have kept him in their hearts throughout an

up-and-down season. St. Francis Prep has enough talent to win it all if they get healthy and put it all together.

Hurricane Sandy is still having an effect on high school sports in the storm-battered Rockaways. The Beach Channel girls' lacrosse team has been unable to use the school's field all year for games or practice because of the damage inflicted by the storm surge. But the Dolphins, despite having to get used to a new head Coach Eric Wozniak, have persevered and now have their sights set on their first PSAL Class A title since the program won back-to-back championships in 2009 and 2010.

The Bayside softball program is shaping up to be an interesting story as well. Commodores Coach Steve Piorkowski is a year removed from his successful bout with cancer. He won his second division title of the year last week

when Bayside beat Cardozo to claim the PSAL Queens A-I crown and post a 15-1 regular season record. His other title came on the basketball court in February.

It would be a touching achievement if the fourth-seeded Commodores could make a run at a city crown since victory would provide a fitting finish to Piorkowski's first year back on the bench.

We get to watch these special stories play out in the coming weeks along with Construction's softball team looking to break through to the PSAL Class A softball final for the first time and St. Francis Prep aiming to claim its first diocesan softball title in the last four years.

In addition, underdogs Cardozo and John Adams hope to upset the PSAL baseball powerhouses.

Seeing these human stories unfold is sure to provide surreal moments that are hard to forget.

## Bayside hits past Dozo for crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Steve Piorkowski saw something change in his Bayside softball team's mindset after division rival Benjamin Cardozo dropped a crossover game to Bryant.

The defeat drew the Commodores and the Judges even in the standings in the middle of April and meant their final meeting would likely decide the division title. Bayside, which lost their first game against Cardozo, took advantage of the opportunity presented to them.

"Once the door and opportunity opened up, they were determined to get it," Piorkowski said.

The Commodores handed the visiting Judges a defeat with a score of 11-3 in PSAL Queens A-I softball May 10. Bayside placed second by a game last sea-

son. The win also helped Bayside become the No. 4 seed in the city playoffs. This group of players have gone through the growing pains to get here after many started on the team as freshman.

There is a lot of maturity that's happened with them," Piorkowski said. "It's nice to see."

Bayside (15-1) jumped ahead 6-0, thanks to a five-run third inning and never looked back. The middle of the order shined like it has all season and No. 9 hitter Amanda chipped in by going 4-for-4 with two runs scored against the Judges (14-2).

One of those hits led off the third. Emily Gomez, Heidi Gomez and Jacqueline Perno each singled to drive in a run during the frame and Taylor Moy added a sac fly. The Gomez

*Continued on Page 49*



# Cathedral baseball overcomes slow start to season

BY MIKE MORTON

The 2013 season could not have started worse for the Cathedral Preparatory baseball team. The Crusaders of Elmhurst lost their first five games, failing to win a game against a tough non-divisional schedule. The early struggles against top competition did not discourage Cathedral, however. It motivated them instead.

“I think that fueled us to keep pushing,” sophomore infielder Danny Debiase said. “We felt bad about not being able to win a non-league game, so we knew we had to work harder to win our league games. I think that helped us to work harder and win our league games.” While the Crusaders’ rise to second place in the CHSAA Division “A” might have come as a surprise to

some, it has not to them. Cathedral (6-7, 6-2) finished 6-6 last season and reached the semifinals before being eliminated. Head Coach Rolando Lopez said he expected a team similar to last year’s, which relied on pitching and defense to win. To his surprise, however, the Crusaders have developed into an offensive-powered team. “For some reason this

year our bats have woken up,” Lopez said. “Our kids have understood the concept of trying to hit the ball and putting the ball in play.” The key to the offense has been Debiase. He has come into his own this season after playing sparingly last year as a freshman due to injuries to teammates and ineligible players. He leads the team with a .327

batting average, as well as in RBIs and on-base percentage. “It feels good to be one of the younger players and still playing a big role on the team because a lot of people when they see a sophomore on varsity they’ll think little of you,” Debiase said. “To be able to do big things feels good.” The Crusaders will look to continue their hot

streak into the playoffs, where they will try to keep putting the ball in play and play strong fundamental baseball. “As the season winds down and gets closer and closer to the playoffs; it’s more about details and more about situational, rather than trying to go over everything else,” Lopez said. “It’s all about situations and basic baseball.”

## Bayside

Continued from Page 48

sisters and Perno combined for seven hits, six RBIs and five runs scored. “It’s tough to get through them without [them] scoring,” Piorkowski said. Heidi Gomez, who picked up the win in the circle, kept things interesting

by walking nine batters, allowing four hits and striking out nine. The junior was about to limit the damage, surrendering just two runs in the fifth and one in the seventh. Piorkowski knows she will need to be more efficient if Bayside is going to have playoff success. “She is going to have to learn how to settle down for the next five games if

we are going to do this,” the coach said. Bayside has accomplished the first goal of taking the division and is playing its best softball heading into the playoffs with a city title in mind. “They are finding their confidence and their belief in themselves now,” Piorkowski said.

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1	8	9	2	5	4	3	7	6	4	6	3	2	9	8	1	5	7
6	5	7	9	4	2	1	3	8	9	3	2	8	6	7	4	1	5
4	1	3	5	8	6	7	2	9	8	5	1	4	2	3	6	7	9
8	9	2	7	3	1	5	6	4	7	4	6	5	1	9	8	3	2
7	6	4	3	1	8	2	9	5	3	9	4	1	5	6	7	2	8
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#### NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, CENTRAL MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff, vs. ADRIANA MUNOZ, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on August 30, 2012, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse, Courtroom 25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY on May 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., premises known as 225-36 105th Avenue, Queens Village, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block 11175 and Lot 77. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 29871/10. Giovanni L. Escobedo, Esq., Referee Berkman, Henoch, Peterson, Peddy & Fenchel, P.C., 100 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530, Attorneys for Plaintiff

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF QUEENS**  
INDEX # 2687/10 FILED: 4/13/2013  
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE  
Plaintiff designates Queens County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgage premise is situated. HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED NOTEHOLDERS OF RENAISSANCE HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 2006-3, Plaintiff against

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ONEICA WATSON; MARGAILA PHOENIX; unknown heirs at law of IVY PHOENIX, and if they be dead, any and all persons unknown to the plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or generally or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees, all of them whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to the plaintiff; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12" the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises being foreclosed herein, Defendant(s)  
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEYS 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 HERE-

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BY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not serviced with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, may appear within (60) days of service thereof 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 OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT: THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose on a mortgage which was recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County of Queens where the property is located on September 19, 2006 in Document 2006000527386 and the New York state recording tax was duly paid thereon. The subject mortgage was assigned by written agreement therefore to HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED NOTEHOLDERS OF RENAISSANCE HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 2006-3 by assignment of mortgage dated February 17, 2009, covering premises known as 103-37 107th Street, Ozone Park, NY 11417 (Block: 9512 Lot: 44). The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt described above. To the above named Defendants: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Hon. Dicia Pineda-Kirwan, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, filed along with the supporting papers in the office of the Clerk of the County of Queens on April 11, 2013. This is an action to foreclose on a mortgage. ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York. BLOCK: 9512 LOT: 44 said premises known as 103-37 107th Street, Ozone Park, NY 11417. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. By

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reason of the default in the payment of the monthly installment of principal and interest, among other things, as hereinafter set forth, Plaintiff, the holder and owner of the aforementioned note and mortgage, or their agents have elected and hereby accelerate the mortgage and declare the entire mortgage indebtedness immediately due and payable. The following amounts are now due and owing on said mortgage, no part of any of which has been paid although duly demanded: Entire principal Balance in the amount of \$560,409.04 with interest from July 1, 2008, together with unpaid late charges in the amount of \$584.24 that have accrued prior to this action, together with a reasonable sum representing legal fees pursuant to the mortgage, for a total of \$631,681.73 due and payable, plus interest as stated above, together with any advances made or to be made to protect plaintiff's mortgage. UNLESS YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOUR RECEIPT HEREOF THAT THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, IS DISPUTED, THE DEBTOR JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU AND A COPY OF SUCH VERIFICATION OR JUDGMENT WILL BE MAILED TO YOU BY THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR. IF APPLICABLE, UPON YOUR WRITTEN REQUEST, WITHIN SAID THIRTY (30) DAY PERIOD, THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE FROM THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, YOU ARE NOT PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR THE UNDERLYING INDEBTEDNESS OWED TO PLAINTIFF/CREDITOR AND THIS NOTICE/DISCLOSURE IS FOR COMPLIANCE AND INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE New York State requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT You are in danger of losing your home. If you fail to respond to the summons and complaint in this foreclosure action, you may lose your home. Please read the summons and complaint carefully. You should immediately contact an attorney or your local le-

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gal aid office to obtain advice on how to protect yourself. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid, there are government agencies, and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by New York state Banking Department at 1-877-Bank-NYS or visit the Department's website at [www.banking.state.ny.us](http://www.banking.state.ny.us) FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. Section 1303 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving the copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you may 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 AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Leopold & Associates, PLLC, Attorney for the Plaintiff, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 301, Armonk, NY 10504 Our File 103168498

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