

QUEENS TIMES

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25 CENTS



TV/Radio Host

Support Our Troops Wear Blue Every Friday

Point Of View Mystery Shopper Scam

How does the crime take place?

A potential victim is sent a solicitation via mail, text or email asking the consumer to evaluate their retail experience, products and services at stores. After responding to the ad, the consumer receives an "employment packet" containing a training assignment, a list of products to purchase at various stores and a realistic looking check often for \$2,000 to \$4,000.

The "training assignment" is for the consumer to deposit the check into the consumer's bank account, purchase the items on the Shopping List and then use a wire transfer service to send the balance of the check's proceeds, after the consumer finishes shopping, to an address outside of the US, often in Canada. The check that the consumer deposited in their account is counterfeit, a fact unbeknownst to the consumer. The balance of money sent to the fraudster is real and the consumer is now out that money and is liable for any and all penalties associated with the bounced check.

Tips

Should you receive an email soliciting you to become a "Secret Shopper:"

- Don't open or respond to unsolicited e-mails asking

(Continued on page10)

Helen Marshall's Final Public Appearance As Queens Borough President



In her final public appearance as Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall (r.) attended the dedication of the "Helen M. Marshall Learning Center" at the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens on Friday, December 27. Joining Marshall for the unveiling of the learning center's ceremonial plaque was Joseph Ferraro, Chairman Emeritus of the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens. See story on page 2.

Assemblyman Weprin holds a Holiday Party and Toy Drive Distribution Event for Special Needs Children



Assemblyman David Weprin, Santa Claus and Principal Joseph Zacherman at the Lifeline Center for Child Development's Holiday Party and Toy Drive Distribution. See story on page 2.

Meng Holds Queens Holiday Card Drive For U.S. Troops



Congresswoman Grace Meng has borough residents fill out holiday cards for members of the armed forces serving abroad. See story on page 2.



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What If Your Car Gets Toted? By Jason Alderman

Each year, auto insurance companies declare millions of vehicles to be "toted," meaning it's not worth the cost to repair them. It doesn't matter whether the car was damaged in a collision, during a flood or after a thief's joyride went bad.

It's hard to argue with such an assessment if your car was wrapped around a telephone pole or the gas tank exploded. But what if the damage was more cosmetic, such as major dents on the roof and hood from a hailstorm?

A vehicle is considered a total loss if the insurance company determines that the total cost to repair your car to pre-accident condition, plus fees for storage, salvage and a replacement rental car (if included in your policy), is more than a certain percentage of car's retail value. Insurers set their own allowable percentage, within state-mandated guidelines (typically around 60 to 75 percent), and use their own formulas to determine a car's value and estimated repair costs.

Thus, if your \$4,500-valued 2002 Honda Civic sustains \$1,800 worth of damage – moderate bodywork and repainting these days – it might be deemed totaled, even though the engine still runs fine. On the other hand, a late-model Mercedes could

sustain far greater damage and still be considered salvageable.

What's worse, if the accident was your fault, or you must otherwise tap your own insurance (e.g., it was caused by an uninsured driver), you would only receive that \$4,500 minus your deductible. Good luck finding a comparable car for that amount.

Other big losers when a car is totaled are people still paying off their auto loan. Since the lender technically owns the car, they'll get first crack at any insurance payment; and you'll still be responsible for paying off the loan balance.

As a preventative measure, you may want to purchase gap insurance if you owe more than the car's retail value – or if you rolled past debt into the new car loan. It will pay the outstanding loan balance if your car is totaled or stolen. Most insurers will let you add gap insurance at any time.

Here are a few additional points you should know about when and why a car is declared totaled, and precautions you can take ahead of time to lessen the impact:

- Make sure the insurance appraisal includes the value of all extra features and aftermarket accessories, like heated seats, custom wheels or an upgraded audio system.
- Be prepared to show docu-

mentation of any major repairs or upgrades you made that might boost the car's value – say you recently replaced the engine or bought new tires.

• Do your own research. Use independent pricing sites like Kelly Blue Book or Edmunds to determine your car's worth, factoring in its mileage, added features and overall condition before the accident.

• If your estimate is far off from the proposed settlement, ask whether your policy includes the right to hire your own appraiser for a second opinion. Most states have a procedure for settling such disputes. Understand, however, that no matter the arbitration outcome, you'll still have to pay your appraiser, and likely, a portion of arbitration costs.

• Make sure the insurer's totaled car value includes estimated sales tax to replace the car, as well as registration and title costs, since you wouldn't have incurred these costs if you didn't need to replace the car.

Let's hope your car is never totaled, but it pays to know in advance what to do if it is.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

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Meng Holds Queens Holiday Card Drive For U.S. Troops

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) today hosted "Operation Honor Card," open houses at her Flushing and Forest Hills offices where Queens residents stopped by to fill out holiday cards for U.S. troops serving abroad.

Borough residents wrote thank

you messages, well wishes and holiday greetings to the servicemen and servicewomen. The cards, which were supplied by Meng, will be delivered to troops around the globe within the next few days.

"As a Member of Congress, one of my top priorities is supporting our troops and their families," said Meng. "We can never thank our

brave men and women enough for all the sacrifices they continue to make for our nation, and sending them well wishes and messages of thanks during the holidays lets them know that they're in our thoughts during this special time year. I thank all my constituents who took the time to stop by to fill out a card."

Assemblyman Weprin holds a Holiday Party and Toy Drive Distribution Event for Special Needs Children

(Continued from page 1)

Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) hosted a Holiday Party and Toy Drive Distribution event to benefit the autistic children of Lifeline Center for Child Development on Thursday, December 19, 2013 from 1:00pm-2:00pm at 80-09 Winchester Blvd, Queens Village, NY 11427. Lifeline Center for Child Development provides treatment to emotionally handi-

capped children with disabilities which may include Asperger's Syndrome, Psychotic Disorder, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Severe Adjustment Disorder, Mood Disorders and Pervasive Developmental Disorder. Assemblyman Weprin collected over 200 toys that will be distributed to children at Lifeline Center for Child Development and Heart Share Human Services of New York.

Assemblyman Weprin stated, "Every toy brings a smile to a child with autism. Lifeline Center for Child Development and Heart Share Human Services of New York are institutions that provide vital education and health services to special need children and their families. I hosted a toy drive and holiday party to provide over 200 educational toys for the autistic and underprivileged children in Queens."

Helen Marshall's Final Public Appearance As Queens Borough President



In her final public appearance as Queens Borough President, Helen Marshall (r.) attended the

dedication of the "Helen M. Marshall Learning Center" at the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens on Friday, December 27. The new learning center will host educational programs including homework help, tutoring and a new iReady literacy and math program that will help students meet new core competency standards.

Marshall has been a steadfast supporter of the Boys and Girls

Club of Metro Queens, having allocated \$4.75 million to the club's ongoing expansion and renovation efforts during her tenure as Borough President. Thanks to her support, the club early next year will open a new building adjacent to its current facility at 110-04 Atlantic Avenue in Richmond Hill. Renovation of its existing facility will also begin in 2014, thanks in large part to Marshall's support.

Addabbo Says A Variety Of Vital Education Issues Will Be In Spotlight During Upcoming 2014 Legislative Session



NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D-Queens), a long-time member of the Senate Education Committee, today noted that a variety of important issues deeply affecting New York's school children, families, teachers, school administrators and the state's entire educational system are expected to take center stage during the upcoming 2014 legislative session.

"During the first three months of the session, we will be developing and negotiating the new State Budget for 2014-2015, and a big part of every state spending plan is centered within our efforts to provide necessary and equitable funding for schools in New York City and across the state," Addabbo said. "But on top of the education policy and funding issues that are part of the State Budget, the Senate, Assembly and Governor will also be looking at a number of complex initiatives impacting how our children learn, how our teachers teach, how our overall education system is judged, and who we hold accountable for the ultimate operations and performance of New York City schools."

Among these issues, the Senator said, are the implementation of the "Common Core" federal learning standards, the effectiveness of teacher evaluation procedures and policies, and discus-

sions about the fate of mayoral control of New York City schools, which expires in 2015.

Addabbo noted that he has been hearing frequently from many constituents, parents and educators regarding the controversial "Common Core" learning standards that were devised by the federal government and are being pursued with the goal of better preparing school children for a college education and future careers. The new learning standards are now being applied for English and Math and are expected to be integrated into other courses of study in the coming years.

"No one can argue against the ideal of better preparing our kids for good jobs through a higher education, which is increasingly necessary for adult success in this global economy," said Addabbo. "However, imposing federal standards in a 'one-size-fits-all' manner doesn't take into account significant differences in local schools, their student populations, their staff, their funding levels and many other variables. Many of my constituents have questions about the implementation of the standards, their cost, their effectiveness, associated student data collection proposals, and how they will affect the quality of education our children are receiving."

The Senator said he is going to continue to discuss Common Core and possible reforms of the standards in his district with concerned parents, teachers, principals and other education stakeholders.

Addabbo said the issue of teacher and principal evaluations will also continue to be reviewed and debated by state legislators in the coming year. "In 2012, New York State passed a law to implement a statewide system of teacher and principal evaluations, as well as a measure to provide parental access to certain evaluation information," Addabbo said. "We

need to examine how this is working, and most of all, determine whether it is helping or hindering the performance of our educators and children. While I support the basic concept underlying these laws, I have also expressed my concern that some aspects of teacher and principal evaluations can be very subjective and that the personal family lives of many students – including those living in poverty or whose first language is not English – can certainly have a tremendous impact on their success in the classroom. We need to continue these discussions."

With the law establishing mayoral control of New York City schools expiring in 2015, Addabbo said that discussions whether to abolish, continue or reform the current system governing local schools are also likely to have a place during the 2014 session. "I would like to see some reforms to provide school principals with more authority and flexibility and offer parents more meaningful input into the education of their children," Addabbo said. "With all of the other significant changes taking place in our educational system, it makes sense to start thinking now about what we want our New York City school governance structure to look like in 2015."

Addabbo, who currently serves as a member of the Senate Education Committee and Senate Select Committee on Libraries, said he will continue to make educational issues a top priority when the new legislative session begins on January 8th with the Governor's State of the State Address. "I look forward to being back in our State's Capitol to work on education policy and other important issues and urge my constituents to contact me at any time with their concerns," Addabbo said. "Hearing from the people I represent is both a pleasure and a necessity in being able to speak on their behalf in Albany."

Vallone's Animal Abuse Registry Fetches Council Vote



On December 19th, the City Council voted on legislation introduced by Council Member Peter F. Vallone Jr., which would create a registry of animal abusers.

Crimes that would result in inclusion in the registry are animal fighting, abandonment, aggravated cruelty and failure to provide proper sustenance, among others, and all persons included on the registry would be prohibited from owning an animal.

Entities that sell or adopt out

pets, such as animal shelters, pet shops, veterinarians, and duly incorporated animal rescues would be required to consult the registry before transferring ownership of any animal in its care and would be prohibited from transferring ownership to anyone listed on the registry.

The registry will be made available in electronic form to all law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, humane societies, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, dog or cat protective associations, animal control officers, pet shops and animal shelters.


Residents convicted of animal abuse crimes would be required to register upon release from incarceration, or if not incarcerated, within five days of sentencing. Once convicted of animal abuse, the abuser will remain on the registry for five years following their first offense, and 10 years for any subsequent convictions. Anyone convicted of animal abuse who fails to report to the registry or who owns an animal while listed in the registry faces punishment

of up to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

"This is a Christmas present not only to New York City animals, but animals in all of the areas that will now move forward with similar registries," said Council Member Vallone. "Abusers are now on a short leash and this registry will help prevent them from being able to torture another animal."

Vallone is hopeful that after this bill is passed other areas will emulate it and create a safer environment for animals across the United States and maybe the world. Council Member Vallone is extremely proud of this bill – he is the self-proclaimed "Chair of the Animal Safety Committee" and has been working hard to get this passed. This bill is also special because it marks the Council Member's last piece of legislation in the City Council as he is term limited out. This bill could not have been a reality without the support from animal rights groups across the country, such as NYCLASS, ALDF, The Humane Society and many others.

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Mayor Bloomberg, Dot Commissioner Sadik-Khan, Police Commissioner Kelly Announce Bid For Contract To Allow New Yorkers To Pay For Parking By Cell Phone And On-Line

Program would bring wireless payment to all five boroughs by early 2015

Bid for a vendor follows success of Arthur Avenue pilot in the Bronx

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly today announced that New York City motorists will soon be able to pay for parking by cell phone and on-line as part of a newly announced contract bid. The City opened the search for a company to provide motorists a means to use their cell phones to pay for parking at all 14,000 parking meters across the five boroughs, eliminating the need for motorists to place paper receipts on their dashboard. Motorists will be able to pay by launching an app on their smartphone or other device, or by calling a toll-free number, and identifying their location by entering a number prominently displayed on muni meters. The system would also allow payment by cell phone, landline phones and via any internet-enabled device. Motorists will pay the posted meter parking rates; surcharges will not be charged. Payment information will be instantly accessible to NYPD Traffic Enforcement Agents on their handheld ticketing

devices indicating that a motorist has paid. Motorists may also pay for additional time, up to the maximum allowable limit, without having to go back to the meter itself. The city-wide contract follows a successful pilot project with similar technology along Arthur Avenue in the Bronx conducted earlier this year. The initiative is the latest in a series of projects designed to make it easier to find and pay for parking in New York City. Bid documents will be available starting today.

"Residents and visitors of Arthur Avenue have put this technology to the test and now the rest of the City is ready and waiting for the expansion of the pay-by-phone technology to reach the City's 14,000 parking meters," said Mayor Bloomberg. "Innovative solutions like these are making it easier for everyone to get around New York City and will be a boost for business across the five boroughs."

"By eliminating the need for coins, credit cards or receipts, pay-by-phone parking has already been a game-changer for drivers in the Bronx, and it's just one way we've made parking easier citywide," said DOT Commissioner Sadik-Khan. "Expanding the system across the boroughs

(Continued on Page 5)



Whirl With Merle

SHEN YUN HEADS CHINESE NEW YEAR by Merle Exit

Amidst its eighth annual world tour, Shen Yun Performing Arts will return to Lincoln Center, at the David H. Koch Theater, in January, 2014, for a limited two-week run of performances. Shen Yun has sold out performances at the David H. Koch Theater for the past two seasons.

At the core of Shen Yun's performance is classical Chinese dance with its explosive techniques, synchronized movements, and expressive powers. China's numerous ethnic and folk dance styles round out the evening. In a collection of short pieces, audiences travel from the Himalayas to tropical lake-filled regions; from the legends of the culture's creation over 5,000 years ago to contemporary tales of courage; from the highest heavens down to the dusty plateaus of the Middle Kingdom.

The entire performance is accompanied by the Shen Yun Orchestra, which combines two of the world's greatest classical music traditions, Chinese and Western. Ancient instruments like the soul-stirring erhu and the delicate pipa lead the melody on top of a full Western orchestra.

For me, this is a true experience for the entertainment senses. It blew my mind! Like nothing you've ever seen. There will be only ten performances from January 10 - 19, 2014, ending just a few weeks prior to the Chinese Lunar New Year.

For thousands of years, China was known as the Divine Land. But under 60 years of communist rule, authentic Chinese culture, including traditional arts, have been almost lost. That is why you cannot see a performance like Shen Yun in China today.



Shen Yun's Flushing resident soprano Haolan Geng, soon at Lincoln Center. © 2013 Shen Yun Performing Arts.

Based in New York, Shen Yun is entirely non-profit. Its artists have come from around the world to revive this glorious heritage. Since its establishment in 2006, the company has become a global sensation, performing for over a million audience members across five continents around the world.

Featured is Queens resident Ms. Haolan Geng who began studying music at the age of six, and is a graduate of the music department of the Guangdong Conservatory

of Music. She went on to star with the Guangdong Provincial Opera, winning the gold medal (professional division) at the first music competition of the Guangdong Festival of Arts. In 2009, Ms. Geng earned gold medal honors at NTDTV's third International Chinese Vocal Competition. She is currently a soloist with Shen Yun Performing Arts.

Ticket prices range from \$80 to \$300 available at www.ShenYun.com/NYC

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For the Week of ... 1/2/14 - 1/8/14

For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
(Mar. 21 - April 20)
Get involved with groups of interest it will bring you in touch with important individuals. Your need to get away could lead you into greater debt. Your lucky numbers are 5,2,1.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Keep your cool at work this week. You may be stressed out by all the rushing around. You can make extra cash, if you put your knowledge and head to it. Your lucky numbers are 2,9,1.

TAURUS
(Apr. 21 - May 21)
Real Estate investments will payoff. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. Travel this week looks promising. Your lucky numbers are 4,9,2.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Travel will be of interest this week. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. You may need to make a choice. Your lucky numbers are 5,2,8.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)
You may be misunderstood if you're not careful. Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Be careful not to overexert yourself. Your lucky numbers are 1,3,2.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. You might get behind if you spend too much time debating senseless issues. Your lucky numbers are 6,9,2.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)
Concentrate on getting ahead financially and let your personal life settle down for a while. This may not be the time to lend or borrow. Your lucky numbers are 7,3,6.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
Don't try to deal with issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Resist secret affairs that could be detrimental to your reputation. Your lucky numbers are 8,4,3.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)
Opportunities to improve your living standards will come to you this week. Problems with co-workers at work with will try your patience. Your lucky numbers are 9,3,2.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Spend more time with children and relatives. You can make major accomplishments while on short trips. Focus your efforts on details. Your lucky numbers are 2,1,9.

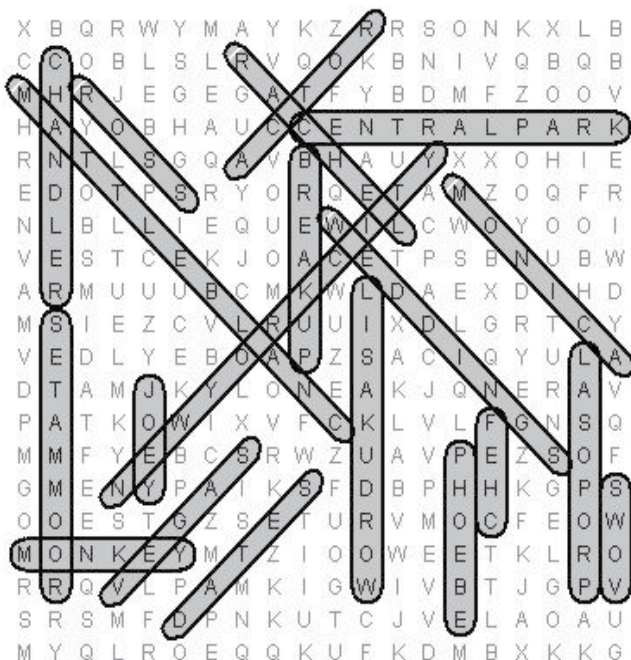
VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
Be careful disclosing information about yourself. Your outgoing personality will capture hearts. Join social activities this week. Your lucky numbers are 1,4,8.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
You are best not to discuss your personal life with others. You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,3.

Did you know ...?

The greatest recorded number of children that have been born by one mother is 69! The poor lass gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and a measly 4 sets of quadruplets. Even in the days before IVF!

Answer to Last Weeks "Try and Find It!"



Poets Corner

Happy New York 2014
by Frederick R. Bedell Jr.

It is time again to bid our adieu to another year with maybe a few tears too.

War, poverty, homelessness cause the many to suffer and fear what another year might bring.

But hope and prayer is all that there is to get us through another year of uncertainty.

Hope springs eternal for that's all we can do and maybe helping neighbor hand in hand will make a good year.

Now have a Happy and Healthy New Year !

Allow New Yorkers To Pay For Parking By Cell Phone And On-Line

(Continued from page 3)

will now help more New Yorkers people dial in for faster, more convenient parking."

"Technology is critical to making daily interactions with government simpler and easier," said Commissioner Kelly. "This innovative program will allow motorists to remotely pay from their mobile devices, and it's another way we are bringing parking into the 21st Century."

In addition to pay-by-phone technology, the agency has also tested sensors embedded in parking lanes to deliver information on available parking spaces on Arthur Avenue, and is developing potential expansion of parking availability systems for implementation elsewhere in the city. DOT has also greatly expanded Park SMART, which increases parking turnover by using variable rates, encouraging motorists to park at a location no longer than is necessary and making it easier for all to find parking while also reducing congestion. The first Park SMART program included portions of the West Village in Manhattan and was successfully tested and then made permanent in 2009. Additional PARK Smart projects were implemented in Park Slope, Boerum Hill and Jackson Heights. For more information on Park SMART and all DOT initiatives, visit nyc.gov/dot.

www.queenstimes.com

Answer to Last Weeks "Sudoku"

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

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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M	U	O	H	P	Y	T	Z	U	P	H	V	S	E	T	D	Z	Y	E
K	I	N	G	O	T	C	O	M	M	I	T	T	E	E	T	A	N	R
L	D	F	I	R	S	T	D	A	N	C	E	E	O	K	H	H	T	P
Q	V	K	H	P	M	X	A	C	H	J	Y	U	W	M	J	T	E	E
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| Corsage | Gown | Perfume | Tuxedo |

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown Delivers Year-End Message To The Residents Of Queens County



Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown – who begins his twenty-third year as Queens County's chief law enforcement officer in 2014 – delivered a year-end message to the residents of Queens County in which he noted that Queens County was again among the City's leaders in crime reduction in 2013.

District Attorney Brown said, "During the more than two decades that I have had the honor and privilege of serving as district attorney of Queens County, my office has steadfastly committed itself to ensuring a safe environment for those who live and work in Queens County. Through our law-enforcement initiatives and the utilization of an array of cutting-edge interventions and prevention programs, we have made tremendous progress in accomplishing that goal which, in turn, has contributed greatly to New York City's historic decline in serious and violent crime. Over the last twenty years, overall crime in Queens is down by 77.7

percent, murders have fallen 78.1 percent, robberies are down 76.3 percent, burglaries are down 78.9 percent and felony assaults are down 40.9 percent. As Mayor Bloomberg noted earlier this week during his visit to Queens, the drop in crime has made 'Queens a safer place to live, work and visit than ever before.'"

District Attorney Brown added, "We continue to be, I believe, among the best and busiest prosecutor's offices in the country. Last year our office handled more than 70,000 arrest cases – cases running the gamut from quality of life offenses to serious violent felonies. And, by any standard, we handled those cases efficiently and judiciously. We have a presence in all of the diverse communities of our county in seeking to prevent crime and in helping to turn young lives around. In sum, we continue to have the respect of our law enforcement colleagues and the confidence of the people of Queens County."

District Attorney Brown continued, "In pursuing the office's core mission to increase public safety and reduce crime in 2013, we have vigorously pursued hate crime cases against those individuals who chose their victims based on religion, sexuality, the color of their skin and other factors. We have aggressively gone after illegal cigarette traffickers, organized trademark counterfeiting rings and legitimate businesses and franchises that annually cheat the government out of millions of dollars of much needed State and

City revenue. On a local level, we have focused our attention on homeowners who impact on the quality of life of their neighbors by illegally sub-dividing their private residences into multiple dwellings that potentially can put the lives of tenants and first-responders at grave risk. We continue to do our part in protecting our younger residents by going after on-line child pornographers, as well as sex traffickers and sexual predators who attempt to meet underage children on-line for sexual relations."

District Attorney Brown added, "The Queens County District Attorney's Office has long been recognized as a nationwide leader in the number of court-authorized wiretaps that we handle. Our Special Prosecutions Division runs a host of crime prevention, school-based and community outreach programs and staff members attend our precinct council and community board meetings. We have dedicated Child Advocacy and Family Justice Centers – and a Domestic Violence Bureau that maintains the highest domestic violence conviction rate and the lowest dismissal rate in the City and which takes more pre-indictment pleas than the rest of the City combined. We statistically maintain the best arrest to arraignment time in the City and because of our assertive bail jumping program – in which defendants are indicted if they fail to appear in court for their felony cases – we have the

(Continued on page 9)

Senator Gianaris Introduces Legislation Cracking Down on Suspended Drivers in Deadly Crashes

Days after a crash involving a truck driver with a suspended license tragically took the life of an 8 year old in Woodside, Senator Michael Gianaris introduced legislation that would make it a felony for drivers who drive with suspended licenses and kill or seriously injure someone in the process. Currently, drivers like the one involved in the recent tragedy can get away with only a misdemeanor. Senator Gianaris also proposed the immediate impoundment of the license plate of a vehicle being operated by someone with a suspended license.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of Noshat Nahian, and my thoughts are with his family, friends and classmates," said Senator Gianaris. "Nothing is more important than protecting our children, and this tragic accident is a stark reminder that we must redouble our efforts to make our streets safer, including bringing chronically reckless drivers to justice. A little boy is dead because this driver was still on the road despite repeated unsafe driving violations. I am hopeful that these bills will become law and help prevent more tragedies like this one."

"Once again, our community has endured a heartbreaking loss due to the dangerous conditions on our local roadways," said Rep. Joe Crowley. "The tragedy that took place when a tractor-trailer claimed the life of an 8-year-old



boy in Woodside is a painful reminder that more has to be done to ensure pedestrian safety. I commend State Senator Gianaris for taking action and introducing legislation that will strengthen existing laws to protect us from reckless and irresponsible motorists who put our lives at risk. Everyone deserves to walk the streets of their own neighborhood without the fear of being struck by a vehicle. I look forward to continuing to work with our local elected officials and community advocates to prevent any more pedestrian fatalities in our city."

"Before yet another tragedy occurs, we need a comprehensive street safety plan for the city. Speed cameras and other technol-

ogies, as well as school crossing guards, need to be included. And we need vigorous enforcement of existing traffic laws and to create new, smart laws such as the one Senator Gianaris is proposing. I'm proud to have co-sponsored the speed camera legislation. I will continue advocating for more school crossing guards. And I will work with my colleagues to ensure this bill passes," said Senator Jose Peralta.

"I have attended far too many events honoring and commemorating those killed by unsafe drivers. Eight years ago, I sponsored Vasean's Law which eliminated the need to prove criminal negli-

(Continued on page 9)

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HOORAY FOR CHALLYWOOD by Merle Exit

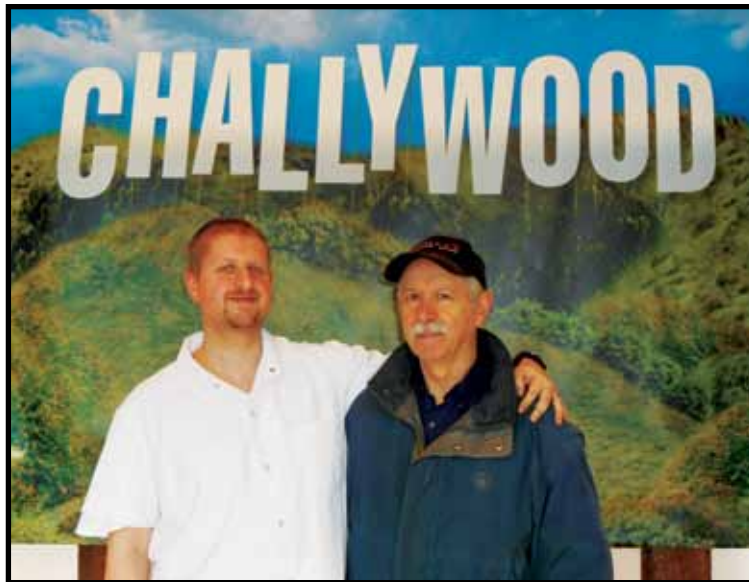
Challah bread, once a staple of the Jewish community, now gets placed at your table at most diners and considered the best for indulging in a great French Toast. In most cases this sweet bread comes in the form of a traditional braided loaf and given the choices of plain with poppy or sesame seeds covering the top, or with raisins.

Over at Violet's pareve kosher bakery the shapes and varieties are more unusual since her son Michael has formed a business within called, Challywood. You might have heard the name as the ABC show The Chew got word of a particular flavor of apple cinnamon, ventured over to do an interview, and satiated it on air. It was obvious how much they enjoyed it as most of the hosts were coming up with both breakfast and dessert ideas.

Michael Kahan left his Wall Street career to assist his parents, Violet and Marty, in what seemed to be becoming a failing business and in came a TLC (The Learning Channel) program Bakery Boss to "rescue". The most important changes were made and Challywood was featured.

"When eating Challah, it is customary to break off small rounded pieces from the braided loaf instead of slicing it. With this in mind, the more modern version of Challah can be found in a rounded version baked in a tin pan. This "Pull-Apart Challah" has gained popularity over the last 2 decades."

One day, Michael added lemon and found how good it tasted. That started the idea of the bakery's expansion and added name of Challywood.



Having watched the segment on tv, I went over to the location at 189-09 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows to view both signs of Violet's Bake Shop and Challywood. Although Challywood's address is 189-07, the only entrance at this point is into the bakery.

I met the family and toured the back where two bakers were at work just tending to some of these "Pull-Aparts", piping in the "flavors" prior to the baking. Another employee was focused on making the pastries.

A bit too early for the "fresh out of the oven" I viewed several of the "bun" ilk already packaged. Needless to say I had to sample some of them beginning with the apple cinnamon. This is where challah bread crosses with a Danish but not as sweet nor crusted.

I've never had bread made with chocolate. OMG. Only dark chocolate is used at a pareve bakery

and it suited me just fine. Cocoa baked in the bread itself and then drizzled with chocolate. They do have a Chocolate Chip as well.

Other "sweet-dessert type" flavors include: blueberry splash, cherry, chocolate cherry, chocolate coconut, raspberry, chocolate raspberry and lemon chip. Imagine your own creations of bread puddings.

Let's not put aside the more savory flavors such as Southwestern Spice, Garlic and Italian Herb and Everything...superb choices for the dinner table. Meatballs with pasta anyone?

Challywood's website provides further information on the products as well as the ability to shop and have your order delivered. Think of friends and family from "out of town". You may want to call 718-776-1905 before popping in to see if the more special ones are available. www.challywood.com

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown Hosts Build-A-Bike Workshop

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that 30 Far Rockaway children who attend public schools that participate in his STAR Track (Straight Talk About Risks) anti-violence program received brand-new bicycles as a surprise gift over the weekend in a partnership with the D'Brickshaw Ferguson Foundation, which was created by the New York Jets offensive tackle for whom it is named.

District Attorney Brown said, "The children - who were told they were putting together bicycles for someone else - were delighted when they learned that the shiny new bikes they each helped to build were instead a gift that they could take home. I commend D'Brickshaw Ferguson and his foundation for their generosity and thoughtfulness during the holiday season."

D'Brickshaw Ferguson said, "A new bicycle is on almost every child's wish list. Unfortunately, in these tough economic times every parent can't afford to buy their child a new bike. We are happy to be able to make a few wishes become reality."

The District Attorney said that the children - who were selected by their school's principal based on their community service



- were invited to participate at the event which took place on Saturday morning at P.S. 104 on Mott Avenue in Far Rockaway, Queens, and told that they were to help build a bicycle that would be given as a holiday gift to a child who was less fortunate than themselves. Once the tasks had been completed - with the help of their parents and other volunteers - the children were told that, in fact, they had just built themselves a bicycle that they would be taking home with them. The children were also provided with helmets and bicycle safety tips.

The District Attorney said that five children between the ages of nine and 12 were chosen from each of the following STAR Track schools in Far Rockaway:

P.S. 104, P.S. 197, P.S./M.S. 43, P.S. 215, P.S. 106 and P.S./M.S. 333. Lunch for all of the children and volunteers was provided by White Castle.

The District Attorney's STAR Track anti-violence program features assistant district attorneys and other members of the District Attorney's Office, members of the New York City Corporation Counsel's Office and members of the Queens Law Associates being assigned to classes at each of the 10 participating Far Rockaway schools - from elementary through high school - throughout the school year to talk about the risks of guns, drugs, gangs and how to make the right choices.

(Continued on page 10)

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Queens Sports *by Robert Elkin*

Henry Seeks Playing Time

Jason Henry, like the rest of his teammates, are struggling on the basketball team at Queens College, a member of the East Coast Conference, a league that also includes such institutions as CW Post, Molloy and New York Institute of Technology. The latter three colleges also draw student athletes from this borough of Queens.

Henry is a junior with the Knights that lost their first 10 overall games to start a dismal season.

He and his teammates recently (Thursday, January 2) were on the court to face LeMoyne College. And then they hit the road again for three straight East Coast Conference games before hosting New York Institute of Technology of Old Westbury for a 7:00 p.m. tip off on January 22.

The center has been primarily coming off the bench but also starting at times for a team that needs to get more experience of working together and not turning the ball over so much.

For example, against Bridgeport before the winter break he played only for five minutes in a losing cause. In addition, injuries to key players have been also playing a key factor with the Knights.

While all the negatives and some positives are going on, Henry is still learning the four year college game and style of play by sitting on the bench and watching, along with the other reserves on the team.

First year Queens College Head Basketball Coach Darryl Jacobs is trying for his team to at least post a .500 overall and league record.

"We got growing pains which I expected," said Head Coach Darryl Jacobs after the team's eighth game of the season.

"We'll get better with each game, and we have to keep working. The scores are getting closer."

The 6'7 junior started off his athletic career not in this borough but out of the country-in his native land of Jamaica, West Indies. His sport was soccer and he was a goalie for Bellifield, a primary school in Jamaica, His father Livingston

Henry never was involved in sports but his mother Dakcia Brown had some experience with net ball in Jamaica.

"Net ball in Jamaica is very similar to basketball (here in the United States)," Henry went on.

After residing in Jamaica, West Indies, the family moved to the Bronx. At that time Henry was 14 years of age. While residing in The Bronx, he gave up playing soccer and concentrated on basketball, the sport that most Americans play during the winter and summer months. At Gompers High School, he was the leading rebounder for the Public Schools Athletic League of New York City

After high school he landed at Lakeland Community College from where he went to Queens College. Jacobs and his team are having problems on the court.

"He (Jacobs) was very high on me, and (expected) me to rebound and play defense," he said, about his roles on the court. "I believed that I could do 'it' both offensively and defensively."

Henry has also to bring his energy to the college's offense when he is called upon.

The regular season ends in early March, following which are the playoffs. And that's where the Knights want to be; but first they must start winning the league games. It's not easy but it still could be done.

Turning from NCAA Division II to NCAA Division I, and located in Jamaica, is where more fans in this borough follow and that's St. John's University. The Red Storm is trying desperately to get into the NCAA Division I tournament and go deep into it.

Off to a decent start, the Red Storm of the Big East Conference is concentrating on the league portion of the schedule.

The Red Storm's next Big East Conference game comes against visiting Villanova for a 1:00 p.m. start at Madison Square Garden.

The Red Storm opened the week supporting a 9-3 overall record after defeating Columbia University at Barclay's Center, 65-59, as part of three game Brooklyn Hoops Winter Festival.

St. John's Coach Steve Lavin continues to be proud of his team after their victory. Freshman Rysheed Jordan continues to impress with his backcourt work. And Junior D'Angelo Harrison heads the offensive play. Earlier in the week Harrison was named Big East Conference Player of the Week. A returning nucleus with a lot of experience, and team depth are some of their strengths.

"I like the make-up of this team as we are progressing," Lavin said. "And I love the team because of its depth. Our numbers and free throw shooting are up from last year."

Runners Hit Road Race in Forest Park

More than 50 participants -- including members of Queensboro Tri, Alley Pond Striders, North Brooklyn Runners and Prospect Park Track Club -- rambled through prime Queens real estate during the Toy Drive Forest Park 5 Miler on Sunday. Organized by the newly formed nonprofit Queens Distance Runners, this first-ever fun run made loops through the park before finishing near Metropolitan Avenue. Ricardo Cauhizo won the men's division in 28:11, while Blanca Lucero took women's division honors in 34:46. The event had a charitable aspect as well, as some joggers brought toy donations for the Queens Centers for Progress to distribute to needy children. Plus, a portion



of the event's proceeds went to the Queens Tourism Council. The next Queens Distance Runners event

will be a 10-kilometer tag team race in Cunningham Park on Feb. 15, 2014.

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Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown Delivers Year-End Message To The Residents Of Queens County

(Continued from page 6)

lowest failure-to-appear in court rate in the city.”

District Attorney Brown said that among the office’s successful prosecutions in 2013 were:

- People v. Urban Fermin and Darius Lowery. Fermin and Lowery were convicted of the attempted murder of a police officer during a one-hour crime spree in which they shot at a marked police vehicle attempting to stop them after they stole a car, burglarized a house and robbed a woman on the street at gunpoint. Fermin was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison and Lowery was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

- People v. Simon A. Watts. Watts, a former Springfield Gardens public school teacher, was sentenced to 35 years in prison for sexually abusing five of his students – four females and one male who ranged between eight and ten in age. The incidents all took place at the school – many during class time.

- People v. Hikeem L. Green and Darcell Marshall. Green and his girlfriend, Marshall, were sentenced to up to 12 years and up to three years in prison, respectively, following their guilty pleas to sex trafficking in connection with the prostitution of two young women – a 19-year-old upstate runaway and a 20-year-old from New York City – against their will.

- People v. Natasha Munchkin Marks. Marks was sentenced to a term of one to three years in prison for jumping bail shortly after pleading guilty in March 2007 under New York State’s hate crime statute to stealing an 85-year-old Howard Beach man’s life savings by falsely claiming to need the money to pay medical bills and to help start up a business and for investments. The bail jumping prison sentence is to be served consecutive to the two to six years in prison she was sentenced to in absentia in May 2007 on the larceny charges.

In addition, District Attorney Brown said his Investigations

Division conducted “many significant long term investigations over the past year into criminal enterprises throughout Queens County. Particularly telling is our auto theft numbers. Since 1991, my first year as district attorney, the rate of auto thefts in Queens has plunged more than 90 percent. This record-setting drop in crime was accomplished, in part, by focusing our attention on organized car theft rings and by curbing the illegal scrapping of stolen cars. In 2013, we continued to put pressure on the drug dealers and gangs hawking their illicit wares at the city’s housing developments and elsewhere by taking part in major anti-drug initiatives with the New York City Police Department.”

District Attorney Brown added, “New York City’s two major airports are located in Queens County and are often the first point of contact for tourists. As tourism is one of New York’s most revenue-producing industries, it is vitally important to our economic health that we provide a safe and welcoming environment at our airports. In carrying out that responsibility, we earlier in the year took down a group of contract baggage handlers who were charged with stealing thousands of dollars worth of luggage items from arriving and departing flights at John F. Kennedy Airport when they were supposed to be loading or unloading the luggage. We also continue to prosecute unregulated taxis and unscrupulous drivers at the airports who unlawfully solicit fares and charge exorbitant rates to drive passengers the shortest of distances.”

In addition to his office’s many investigations during 2013, District Attorney Brown noted that this past September his office co-hosted the New York City Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome Conference, a biennial event presented in partnership with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York. The conference was attended by more than 300 doctors, medical examiners, prosecutors,

detectives, nurses and defense attorneys. Among the topics discussed at the conference were the challenges in diagnosing Shaken Baby Syndrome as opposed to accidental trauma and the inherent difficulties in investigating and prosecuting such cases.

Also in June and September, the office hosted two open public forums at the Campus Magnet High School in Cambria Height that focused on the so-called “Don’t Snitch” street code. “The purpose of the initiative is to combat the destructive ‘Don’t Snitch’ street message that has hindered the pursuit of justice for violent crimes committed in Queens communities,” said District Attorney Brown. “The forums provided an overview of the Don’t Snitch street code and gave residents of Queens County a platform for safe, open discussion on the topic and an opportunity to ask questions.”

District Attorney Brown noted with pride on behalf of his office Mayor Bloomberg’s comments from last summer. “In a tenure of more than twenty years, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown has made his office, I think it’s fair to say, one of the most widely respected prosecutor’s offices in the nation.”

District Attorney Brown concluded his message by wishing all a happy and healthy New Year and by saying, “The reason why I have so much enjoyed my tenure as District Attorney over these many years, why it is that I’ve found those years to be so rewarding, and why I look forward to continuing to serve as the District Attorney of this county for many years to come, is the successes that we have enjoyed in lowering the level of violence in our County and improving the quality of life of the people of our great county and because of the dedication and professionalism of those with whom we work. I am optimistic that by continuing the very successful strategies that we have employed over the years we, together with our law enforcement colleagues, can make Queens County even safer in 2014.”

Senator Gianaris Introduces Legislation Cracking Down on Suspended Drivers in Deadly Crashes

(Continued from page 6)

gence in vehicular manslaughter cases involving drunk driving. The assumption is that the driver’s intoxication caused the death or injury. This concept must be extended to reckless driving. Noshat Nahian deserved to make it to school that day, and to live a long and full life. We must not rest until these tragedies are a thing of the past, and that’s why I’ve joined my colleagues in supporting Senator Gianaris’ bill for tougher penalties for unlicensed drivers. This is an issue far too important to ignore,” said Senator Toby Ann Stavisky.

“I applaud State Senator Gianaris for introducing legislation

to increase the penalties for drivers who operate vehicles with a suspended license,” said Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. “With the implementation of this bill we will be able to prevent countless fatal collisions that have claimed the lives of innocent victims like 8-year-old Noshat Nashian in Woodside. No pedestrian should fear losing their life while walking on our City’s streets. I look forward to working with the State Senator at the City-level and will continue to advocate for the implementation of traffic safety improvements that will help put an end to pedestrian fatalities here in Western Queens.”

“Suspended license drivers threaten our kids and kill scores

of New Yorkers every year. For deterrence and prevention, this long overdue, common sense legislation must pass the State Senate and Assembly as soon as possible,” said Paul Steely-White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives.

Senator Gianaris was joined by Senators Toby Ann Stavisky and Jose Peralta, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, Transportation Alternatives Executive Director Paul Steely-White, Christian Amez from Woodside on the Move, and parents from Make Queens Safer, including Cristina Furlong. Congressman Joe Crowley and Assemblyman Michael Dendekker offered their support for the proposed legislation.

For Tom Seaver, No Time for Sour Grapes

Writer Pat Jordan, in an exclusive for Sports On Earth, details how Hall of Fame pitcher and longtime friend Tom Seaver brings the same determination that he brought to the pitching mound to maintaining his vineyard and persevering in spite of health issues.

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“I have stage-three Lyme disease from a deer tick back in Connecticut, years ago. A few months ago, I thought my mind was going. I couldn’t remember things.”

Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver, considered perhaps the greatest right-handed pitcher of the modern era, is now bringing the same relentless determination to his career as a gentleman vintner—and to persevering in the face of sometimes debilitating illness—as detailed in an intimate profile by longtime friend and writer Pat Jordan at Sports On Earth this week.

Jordan, a former minor league pitcher himself and a Seaver confidante for more than 40 years, visited with his long-time friend to discuss his new post-baseball life, as the owner of The Seaver Family Vineyards on Diamond Mountain in Napa Valley, CA.

What Jordan found, as outlined in detail in his 9,200 word profile, is that the strategies Seaver used to win 311 games, earn three Cy Young Awards and strike out more than 3,000 batters over his playing career are the same ones he puts to use in his new career at the vineyard. “Outlining a vineyard is the same as outlining your pitches for a game, or outlining an artwork,” says Seaver. “...My pleasure has always been in the work, not the ego.”

His work, however, extends beyond the long, grueling days of tending to the vineyard; it also includes Seaver’s ongoing struggle to combat the sometimes brutal effects of Lyme disease.

“I have stage-three Lyme disease from a deer tick back in Connecticut, years ago,” says Seaver. “A few months ago, I thought my mind was going. I couldn’t remember things.”

The disease sometimes affects Seaver’s short-term memory, but with the help of his vineyard and the notebook that he carries

around, noting the events and happenings of each day, Jordan observes that his struggles don’t seem to affect him noticeably. As is the case with working his vineyard, Seaver’s ability to persevere can be traced directly to his resilience on the mound as a pitcher.

To read the full profile, visit Sports On Earth (<http://www.sportsonearth.com/article/64585192/>). Sports On Earth is the first product of the New York City-based joint venture between the USA TODAY Sports Media Group and MLBAM, which was formed in February 2012 and was created to develop and produce new content and products for sports fans across all digital and mobile platforms.

About the USA TODAY Sports Media Group:

The USA TODAY Sports Media Group encompasses all sports initiatives across USA TODAY Sports and Gannett’s more than 100 well-known local media brands. It also includes the sports photography wire service USA TODAY Sports Images, leading high school sports destination USA TODAY High School Sports; For The Win, the first mainstream sports media property focused exclusively on “social news,” and designed specifically to resonate on social networks and non-traditional media channels and platforms; Sports On Earth, a joint venture with MLB Advanced Media dedicated to great sports writing in all its forms; and the hundreds of sites within USA TODAY Sports Digital Properties, such as HoopsHype.com and mixed martial arts site MMA-junkie.com, among others. USA TODAY is owned by Gannett Co., Inc. (GCI).

About MLBAM: Established in June 2000 following a unanimous vote by the 30 Major League Baseball club owners to centralize all of Baseball’s Internet operations, MLB Advanced Media LP (MLBAM) is the interactive media and internet company of Major League Baseball. MLBAM manages the official league site, <http://www.MLB.com>, and each of the 30 individual Club sites to create the most comprehensive Major League Baseball resource on the Internet. MLBAM powers more live events on the Internet than any other website in the world.

Park Crime Reports Heading To City Council Vote

Vallone’s amended parks crime reporting bill to be voted on Thursday

On December 16th, the City Council’s Public Safety Committee – chaired by Council Member Peter F. Vallone Jr. – held a hearing where they voted out of committee Vallone’s proposed local law requiring the police department to submit to the Council reports of crime in all parks and playgrounds that are greater than one acre in size and all public pools, basketball courts, recreation centers and playgrounds. The law will now be voted on by the full City Council.

Currently, the NYPD only discloses crime data from the City’s 31 largest parks. The amendment would close a loophole to ensure that ALL parks and playgrounds

greater than one acre as well as public pools, basketball courts, recreation centers, and playgrounds would receive the appropriate attention and be subject to the same reports. It would also require the NYPD to post this data on the department’s website within five days of providing it to the Council.

In 2006, Vallone passed his original bill that required the reporting of these statistics. In the original bill the NYPD did not have to submit data if the technology wasn’t available to do so. The original bill from 2006 required reports on the 20 largest parks. The reporting would then extend to encompass all of the ap-

(Continued on page 10)



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Queens Parents Protest Changes To Gifted Student Program

About 30 parents of fifth graders in school district 26 in Queens gathered at a district meeting in December to protest against a sudden policy change by the Department of Education that stops automatically promoting students in the gifted and talented programs in primary schools to such programs in junior high schools.

The Department of Education (DOE) announced last month the termination of the privileges on promotion previously enjoyed by students in certain primary schools in the district, and required all students to be treated equally and the admission decisions of the gifted programs in junior highs to be based on the students' test scores in the fourth grade region exams.

Some parents complained the process of making the new policy was not transparent. Many people who moved to the district solely to give their children a better education said they "feel as though they have been cheated." Officials from the DOE said the gifted programs were designed to cover kindergarten to fifth grade. The department has never promised that the original admission can be extended to eighth grade. Also, students who lag behind after being admitted have to be transferred to regular classes. Under the new policy students with higher test scores get to select schools before their peers.

The officials promised they'd pass the thoughts of parents to the higher-ups. The parents said they understand the new policy is based on the interests of majority students. But they suggested that DOE add more seats in the gifted programs.

Schools affected by the new policy include P.S. 18, P.S. 115, P.S. 188 and P.S. 203, with a total of 120 fifth graders. Under the old policy these students can move directly into gifted programs in JHS 216, M.S. 172, M.S. 158, JHS 67, and J.H.S. 74, depending on their home addresses. The parents said that in fourth grade region exams in this district, 710 students received level 4 (the highest level) in math, and 434 students received level 4 in English.

Almost all these students are qualified for the gifted programs. But there are only 33 seats in total in the programs offered by the junior high schools.

A parent whose child is in a gifted program in P.S. 203 was told before the region exams, by teachers



Anita Saunders, superintendent of school district 26, at the December meeting with parents. (Photo via World Journal)

in the school that this is the first time exams are based on the new standard, and the results would not affect their applications to middle school. It was not until before Halloween, when her child brought back the middle school application form and instructions, did she learn about the change and to her dismay the principals of the primary school and the middle schools could not provide a clear explanation.

Some parents said district 30 in Long Island City has encountered similar policy changes in the past. But the DOE announced the change a half year in advance. Still, the change was canceled because of strong protest from parents.

Anita Saunders, Superintendent of district 26 and Sara McPhee, Director of Middle School Admissions of the DOE, said the DOE started to discuss the change in March. The challenge to adding seats is contributed to not having an additional budget to hire additional teachers certified to teach gifted students.

Unlike the citywide universal policies of the gifted programs in primary schools, the school district has the authority to make decisions on the gifted programs in middle schools in its district. But the district cannot make decisions on adding seats.

Some education experts pointed out New York State adopted Common Core standards for the first time in the last school year. And many academically competitive students got scores below their regular levels. The results should not be used as reference in promotion.

Parents complained before that they didn't know enough about the Common Core to participate in their children's education. Parents said the region exams

are not designed to test student's gifts and talents, yet now they are going to be used as entrance exams for the gifted and talented programs, and that is unfair.

They are also worried the change would put too much pressure on their children and make them feel they had had the entrance exam for specialized high schools in advance.

Some parents understood. They said the new policy provides opportunities to students who are smart and hardworking now rather than those who were when they were younger. It shows students that even if they are not admitted to the gifted program in kindergarten, they can catch up later.

Although the deadline for application on the 13th has passed, parents against the new policy still hope they can reverse it. They have started collecting signatures for a related petition on www.change.org. They plan to send the petition to the Mayor and the Chancellor, as well as elected officials in Queens.

In the petition, they emphasize that students currently in the gifted programs have spent a lot of their time after school studying and tried their best to fulfill the higher academic requirements, including extra homework. And parents also paid extra on purchasing houses and on real estate tax in order to live in the district.

The parents understand the good intention of the policy change. But the current students have contributed a lot to the hefty academic performance of the district. They deserve some benefits. More than 300 people have signed the petition. Parents interested can search "district 26" on the change.org website. The discussion will continue in the district meeting next month.

Park Crime Reports Heading To City Council Vote

(Continued from page 9)

proximately 850 parks over one acre in size after three years. Instead the police have relied on a claimed lack of technology and have provided reports on only ten additional parks.

According to the most recent report for July through September of this year, crime has again risen and this quarter marks the highest on record with 162 incidents of crime compared to 149 incidents over the same time period in 2012. In the third quarter – July through September – crime has increased by 48% since 2009. Last quarter – April through June – the two parks with the most crime were Central Park and Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. This quarter the two parks with the most crime were Crotona Park in the Bronx with 20 incidents (10 robberies, 5 felony assault incidents, 1 burglary, and 4 grand larceny incidents) and Highbridge Park in Manhattan with 7 incidents (3 felony assaults and 4 grand larceny incidents). In the 3rd Quarter of 2013, grand larceny and robbery were the two types of crimes with the highest number of incidents in parks citywide. The same trend held true in the third quarter last year. This is the largest increase in parks crime since Vallone passed his original bill.

At the hearing on November 22nd, Alyson Beha, Director of Research, Planning and Policy at New Yorkers for Parks said "Reporting crimes in all parks over one acre is in everyone's best interest. It will help New Yorkers better understand the reality of perceived concerns about safety in parks, both generally and specifically, and could lead to a more informed and efficient distribution of police resources."

Sen. Gianaris Statement on Nighttime Closure of Deadly Queensborough Exit Ramp

(Queens, NY) "I applaud the DOT for finally giving this dangerous stretch of road the attention it deserves. Hopefully, the nighttime closure of the Queens-bound outer roadway will provide the time for a proper evaluation of the street design coming off the Queensborough Bridge exit ramp so we can eventually solve this problem once and for all.

DA Brown Hosts Build-A-Bike Workshop

(Continued from page 7)

The program's curriculum is designed to drive down the crime rate and build up self-esteem, confidence and the quality of life for the students.

The D'Brickshaw Ferguson Foundation was founded in October 2007 by the New York Jets offensive tackle to build stronger communities through various means including awarding scholarships and providing resources to schools, churches and food and clothing banks

Mystery Shopper Scam

(Continued from page 1)

you to become a mystery or secret shopper.

- Never deposit a check you receive in the mail from a "mystery shopping" company. No legitimate business will pay in advance and ask you to send a portion of the money back.
- If you have posted your resume to an online job site, verify with the site any job solicitations you receive.
- Don't click on or respond to online ads or Web sites offering free gift cards.
- Remember, if it sounds too good to believe, it is!

Two Queens Libraries To Close For Upgrades

Two Queens Library locations will close for several days at the end of business on Friday, January 3, 2014 while they are upgraded to RFID-powered self service check-in and check-out.

Queens Library at 98-30 57th Avenue in Lefrak City will re-open for public service in approximately one week. When it re-opens, customers will enjoy fast 24/7 self-check in and self-check out. Library customers are invited to use any other Queens Library location. Queens Library thanks Council Member Daniel Dromm for funding this upgrade to Queens Library at Lefrak City.

Queens Library at 128-16 Rockaway Boulevard in South Ozone Park will re-open for public service in approximately a week with new self-service check-in and check-out. Queens Library thanks the Queens Borough President for funding this upgrade to Queens Library at South Ozone Park.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County, on September 24, 2013 bearing Index Number NC-000765-13/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) VERONICA (Middle) ALMA (Last) ROSARIO. My present name is (First) VERONICA (Middle) FREEBORN (Last) BRADY. My present address is 3250 93rd St., Apt. B20, East Elmhurst, NY 11369. My place of birth is White Plains, NY. My date of birth is April 28, 1993. 1/2/2013

Notice of formation of HAZELL LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) On 12/02/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to 107-12 Guy R Brewer Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11433. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 1/2,9,16,23,30&2/6/2014

240-10 LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/7/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 102-10 Metropolitan Ave Ste 200, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: General. 1/2,9,16,23,30&2/6/2014

Legal Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: K&O Partners, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 21, 2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of any process to: K&O Partners, LLC, c/o Pliskin, Rubano, Baum & Vitulli, 137-11 Northern Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date. 1/2,9,16,23,30&2/6/2014



LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE

Index No. 6598-13

NYCTL 2012-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs,

vs.

The heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through FRANKIE M. ANDERSON, DECEASED, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective husbands, or widowers of hers, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs; THE PROVIDENT BANK F/K/A PROVIDENT SAVINGS BANK; CITIBANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA), NATIONAL ASSOCIATION F/K/A CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA), N.A.; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; PATRICE BURROUGHS and "JOHN DOE #2" through "JOHN DOE #100", the names of the last 99 defendants being fictitious, the true names of said defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the lien premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the lien premises, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in the above-entitled foreclosure action, and to serve a copy of your answer on plaintiffs' attorney within thirty (30) days after the service of this supplemental summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal service within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or

LEGAL NOTICES

appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Queens County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the subject premises.

Dated: October 8, 2013

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

The foregoing supplemental summons and notice is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an Order of Honorable Robert J. McDonald, a Justice of the Supreme Court, dated November 14, 2013, and filed with supporting papers in the Queens County Clerk's Office.

This is an action to foreclose a tax lien covering the property known as 107-11 221st Street, Queens, New York and identified as Block 11187, Lot 0029 (the "Tax Parcel"). The relief sought is the sale of the Tax Parcel at public auction in satisfaction of the tax lien. In case of your failure to appear, judgment may be taken against you in the sum of \$14,291.59, together with interest, costs, disbursements and attorneys' fees of this action, and directing the public sale of the Tax Parcel. Anthony J. Iacchetta Phillips Lytle LLP Office and Post Office Address 1400 First Federal Plaza Rochester, New York 14614 Tel. No. (585) 238-2000 12/12,19,26/2013&1/2/2014

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF QUEENS

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, SOLELY AS TRUSTEE AND NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY FOR THE HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED TRUST, SERIES INABS 2006-B UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT DATED MARCH 1, 2006, Plaintiff against DIEGO P. MUNOZ A/K/A DIEGO MUNOZ, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 26, 2013.

I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County General Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Court Room # 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 17th day of January, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Said premises known as 102-16 Martense Avenue, Corona, N.Y. 11368.

Tax account number: SBL #: 1952-2.

Approximate amount of lien \$685,940.44 plus interest and costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 24439-10.

Jerome Patterson, Esq., Referee.

McCabe Weisberg & Conway Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street - Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900 12/19,26/2013,1/2&9/1014

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Qualification of 32-52 33RD STREET, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/13/13. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/11/13. Princ. office of LLC: c/o A & E Real Estate Holdings, LLC, 1065 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10018. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Douglas F. Eisenberg at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation Service Co., 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 12/19,26/2013,1/2,9,16&23/2014

Notice of Qualification of 37-06 81ST STREET, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/13/13. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/11/13. Princ. office of LLC: c/o A & E Real Estate Holdings, LLC, 1065 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10018. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Douglas F. Eisenberg at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation Service Co., 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 12/19,26/2013,1/2,9,16&23/2014

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial #1275011 for beer, wine and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in a restaurant under the alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 35-13 Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106 for on-premises consumption; Pye Boat Noodle Inc. 12/26 /13 & 1/2/14

GOSM LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/10/2013. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to c/o Melvin Kreines & Assoc., P.C., 1979 Marcus Ave., Ste. 210, Lake Success, NY 11042, which is also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/26/2013,1/2,9,16,23&30/2014

Notice is hereby given that a license, on first floor serial #1275181 and on second floor serial #1275182 for beer, wine and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in a restaurant on first floor and distributed on second floor under the alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 149-15 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11435 for on-premises consumption beer, wine and liquor; La Frontera Nightlife Entertainment Corp. 12/26/2013&1/2/2014

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of Iskandar Art LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/25/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it must be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him is: Owen Houhoullis, 14-42 30th Road, #2, Astoria NY 11102. Purpose of LLC: to engage in any lawful act or activity. 12/5,12,19,26/2013,1/2&9/2014

IV LEAGUE UNIVERSAL LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/16/2013. Office located in Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to 216-21 135 Avenue, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 12/5,12,19,26/2013,1/2&9/2014

Notice of Qualification of GECMC 2007-C1 Ditmars Lodging, LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/3/13. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in DE on 7/8/09. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, regd. agent upon whom process may be served. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 12/5,12,19,26/2013,1/2&9/2014

EAST JAVA ENTERPRISE LLC, Articles of Organization filed NY Sec. of State of (SSNY) 11/12/2013. Office in Queens County. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to c/o EAST JAVA ENTERPRISE LLC, 83-02 CORNISH AVE, STE #2B, ELMHURST, NY 11373. Purpose: General. 11/28,12/5,12,19,26/2013&1/2/2014

Empire Tech Construction, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/24/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 32-25 101 St, East Elmhurst, NY 11369. Purpose: General. 11/28,12/5,12,19,26/2013&1/2/2014

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CLINTON 69 REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/26/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to the LLC at 55-26 69th Street, Maspeth, NY 11378. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 12/12,19,26/2013,1/2,9&16/2014

Notice of Formation of LOOK AT THE WALL PRODUCTIONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/08/2013. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: James Medina, 47-06 46th St., Apt D3, Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/12,19,26/2013,1/2,9&16/2014

Notice of Formation of DAVID SCHNALL, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/22/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 12/12,19,26/2013,1/2,9&16/2014

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF QUEENS - In the Matter of the Application of FIRST CONGREGATION OF FLUSHING, INC. For Approval of Plan of Dissolution and Distribution of Assets Pursuant to Section 18 of the Religious Corporation Law. - Index No. 21501/2013. Pursuant to an Order of Hon. Robert I. McDonald, dated on the 3rd day of December, 2013, it is ORDERED that said Religious Corporation, FIRST CONGREGATION OF FLUSHING, INC. will cease to act in its corporate capacity, will cease to maintain and operate its religious services and to Order and Decree the Dissolution of said Religious Incorporation, and it is further ORDERED, that the Trustees of FIRST CONGREGATION OF FLUSHING, INC. are directed to deliver to VINEYARD CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF FLUSHING, a deed conveying to said Religious Corporation the real estate and premises belonging to the FIRST CONGREGATION OF FLUSHING, INC., known as 33-01 Union Street, Flushing, NY, and it is further ORDERED, that the Trustees are directed to deliver to CENTRAL CHARITY INSTITUTE, all of the proceeds, funds, assets and personal property belonging to FIRST CONGREGATION OF FLUSHING, INC., ENTERED: Hon. Robert I. McDonald, J.S.C. 12/12,19,26/2013&1/2/2014

LEGAL NOTICES

EA GLOBAL CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/01/2013. Office located in Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to c/o United States Corporation Agents, In, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 12/5,12,19,26/2013,1/2&9/2014

Notice of formation of Just Sherpas LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/8/2013. Office located in Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to 8620 Park Ln S Apt 5C Woodhaven, NY 11421. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 12/5,12,19,26/2013,1/2&9/2014

Notice of Formation of Long Island Dream Garden, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/27/13. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Guang Jun Gao, Esq., 36-44 Main St., 3 Fl., Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/12,19,26/2013,1/2,9&16/2014

FORMATION OF Calvert, Wade & George LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/10/2009. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 175-21 88th Ave-1T, Jamaica NY 11432 for any lawful purpose. 12/19,26/2013,1/2,9,16&23/2014

MANPOINT ASSOCIATES, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 11/20/13. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to c/o Cornicello, Tendler & Baumel-Cornicello, LLP, 2 Wall St., 20th Fl., NY, NY 10005. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/12,19,26/2013,1/2,9&16/2014

Notice of Qualification of 37-40 81ST STREET, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/13/13. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/11/13. Princ. office of LLC: c/o A & E Real Estate Holdings, LLC, 1065 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10018. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Douglas F. Eisenberg at the princ. office of the LLC. DE addr. of LLC: Corporation Service Co., 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 12/19,26/2013,1/2,9,16&23/2014

Assemblyman Goldfeder Honors Victim of Sandy Hook Massacre at Breezy Point Playground Dedication



On Sunday, Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Breezy Point) joined dozens of local residents and the family of Mary Sherlach, a victim of the Sandy Hook School tragedy, to dedicate a playground in her memory in Breezy Point. In effort to continue recovery for the Sandy-ravaged community, The Sandy Ground Project, founded by the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, is constructing 26 playgrounds in Sandy communities throughout New York, New Jersey and Connecticut in honor of the 26 Sandy Hook victims. The project was created to help end senseless gun violence while restoring Sandy communities across the east coast.

QBP Marshall Donate Toys to Father Billini Association



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall and members of her staff are shown holding some of the toys they donated to a toy drive organized by the Association of Father Billini, a youth organization based in Corona. Joining them for the photo was the Association's executive director, Leibniz Scottborgh (l. in black shirt and tie). The Association is collecting toys for needy children aged 11 and under. The gifts will be distributed to children during the Association's annual celebration of Three Kings Day on January 5, 2014. Anyone interested in donating toys can drop them off on weekdays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Our Lady of Sorrows school auditorium/rectory at 35-34 105th Street in Corona.

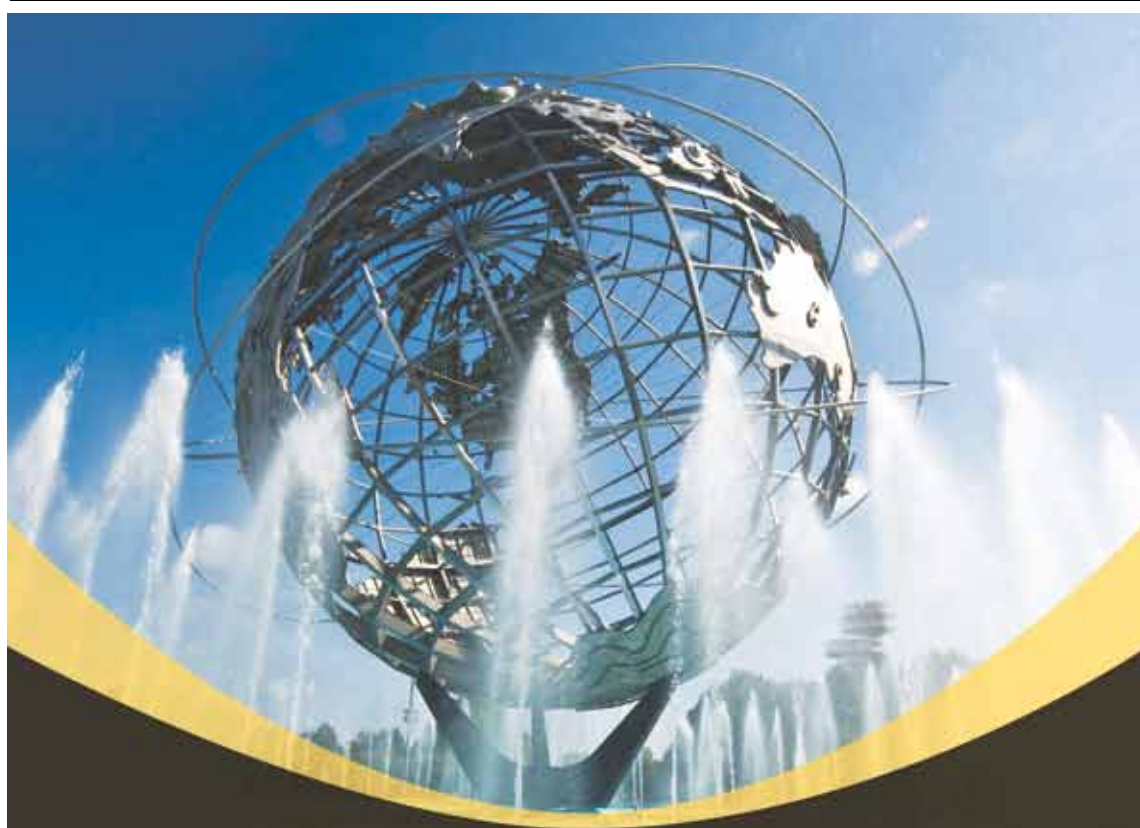
Building Revamp Project on Rise in Jackson Heights

The 82nd Street Partnership celebrated the restoration of 82-01 Roosevelt Ave. on Dec. 17. The Jackson Heights-based Business Improvement District helped rehab the historic building with a \$50,000 Neighborhood Challenge award from the NYC Department of Small Business Services. The Partnership used the grant to offer property owners and merchants free design assistance and a matching construction grant as part of a larger effort to enhance local quality of life, preserve retail diversity, and improve business conditions by restoring building facades and enhancing the district's sense of place. By year's end, the Partnership will have restored seven ground floor storefronts and three upper floor facades at three different prop-



erties on 82nd Street between 37th and Roosevelt avenues. In photo, SBS Commissioner Robert Walsh, Partnership Executive Director Seth Taylor and Community Board 3 District Manager

Giovanna Reid stand with representatives from Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office, Jackson Heights Beautification Group members and local storeowners, such as John Rapp.



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