

QUEENS TIMES

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25 CENTS



TV/Radio Host

Support Our Troops Wear Blue Every Friday

Point Of View Valentine's History

Every February we celebrate Valentine's Day by giving flowers, candy and cards to those we love. We do this in honor of Saint Valentine. You may be wondering, "Who is St. Valentine"? Time to brush up on your Valentine's history!



Legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. There was an Emperor at that time by the name of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death.

Another legend has it that Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to

(Continued on page 2)

DA Richard A. Brown Gives Public Safety Briefing To Elected Officials At Annual Legislative Breakfast



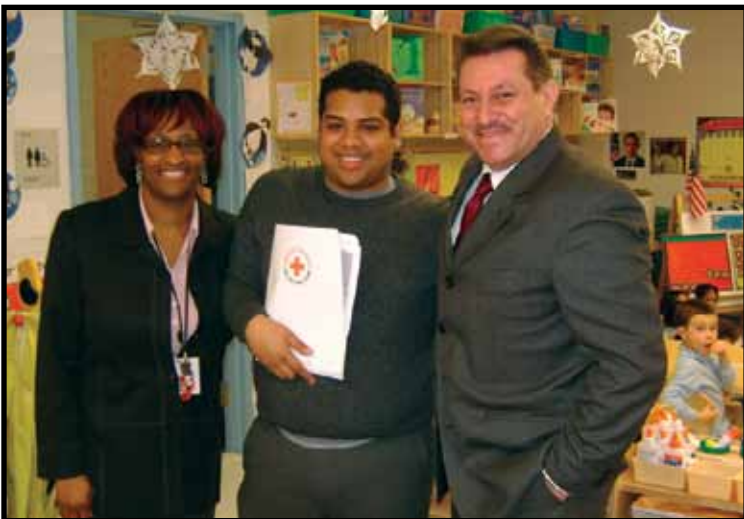
QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST. Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown (at podium) is joined by City, State and Federal elected officials at his twentieth annual legislative breakfast. The public safety briefing highlighted key accomplishments and major initiatives of the past year, and a discussion of future expectations. Those attending included (from left to right), Assemblywoman Grace Meng, Councilman Daniel Dromm, Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley, Anne Marie Anzalone (chief of staff to Congressman Joseph Crowley), Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Councilman James Van Bramer, Donovan Richards, (chief of staff to City Councilman James Sanders, Jr.), Assemblyman Francisco Moya, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Assemblywoman Barbara Clark, Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz, Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras and Assemblyman Edward Braunstein. (02.03.2012) See story on page 2.

Borough Hall Public Hearing On Mayor's Preliminary Expense And Capital Budgets



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall (pen in hand) and members of the Borough Board listen to testimony, Monday, February 6th at Borough Hall during daylong public hearing on Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Preliminary Expense and Capital budgets. Among those on hand to hear requests for funding were (L-R): City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, Marshall's Chief of Staff Alexandra Rosa, Marshall, City Councilman Leroy Comrie, City Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras, Councilman Peter Vallone, Councilman Danny Dromm, Community Board 10 Chair Betty Braton and Community Board 7 Chair Gene Kelly.

Addabbo Visits Richmond Hill School For Local Red Cross Safety Program



Pictured above (L-R): PS273 Principal Brenda Ward, American Red Cross - Greater NY Representative Christian Jimenez, NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D-Queens), visited students and staff at PS 273 in Richmond Hill in late January for a special program conduct-

ed by the American Red Cross (ARC) of Greater NY. The ARC's representative, Christian Jimenez, presented the Scrubby Bear Program



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Point Of View (Continued from page 1)

death he sent the first 'valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', words still used on cards today. Perhaps we'll never know the true identity and story behind the man named St. Valentine, but this much is for sure...February has been

the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating clear back to the Middle Ages. In fact, Valentines ranks second only to Christmas in number of greeting cards sent. Another valentine gentleman you may be wondering about is Cupid (Latin cupido, "desire"). In Ro-

man mythology Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love. His counterpart in Greek mythology is Eros, god of love. Cupid is often said to be a mischievous boy who goes around wounding both gods and humans with his arrows, causing them to fall in love.

DA Richard A. Brown Gives Public Safety Briefing To Elected Officials At Annual Legislative Breakfast

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today briefed City, State and Federal elected officials from Queens at the District Attorney's twentieth annual legislative breakfast held at his Kew Gardens offices. The public safety briefing highlighted key accomplishments and major initiatives of the past year, and a discussion of future expectations.

The District Attorney began on a personal note by sharing how 2011, an election year, marked a major milestone: He was elected to a sixth term as District Attorney and became, undeniably, the longest serving District Attorney in the history of Queens County.

District Attorney Brown went on to explain how the office has dramatically changed since he was first appointed district attorney by the first Governor Cuomo. "When we took over this office on June 1, 1991, we were still very much in the dark ages. Our assistants in most cases saw the case file for the first time when they were about to pick a jury. They rarely showed up at crime scenes. They had no computers - nor had they heard of Blackberries, emails or voicemails. We had no training component. Our assistants literally prosecuted their cases by the seat of their pants. All of that has changed," he said.

"We now have some 300 ADAs - 57% of whom are women. We have an NYPD Detective Squad, a seven member State Police Unit and some fifty detectives of our own. With our secretaries, paralegals and other support staff, we today number over 600 employees who together are representative of the extraordinary diversity of our county," the District Attorney said.

"We are an office that is completely computerized and linked together by a modern voicemail and Blackberry system - and by our 24 hour, 7 day a week NYPD manned Command Center that keeps us apprised of everything that is happening in our county at all hours of the day and night - and dispatches our assistants to crime scenes or makes them available to answer questions or to assist in case processing," he added.

The District Attorney noted that the office works closely with its federal, state and local law enforcement partners - sharing information and jointly investigating criminal activity. "In view of the fact that our county is home to two of our nation's busiest

airports, we maintain an Airport Investigations Unit which investigates and prosecutes criminal activity at JFK and LaGuardia. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, we added a Counter Terrorism Unit which, among other things, shares on a daily basis vital information with our law enforcement colleagues and lends support in coordinating our efforts. In addition, we have a permanent seat on the Joint Terrorist Task Force and assist in gathering intelligence by conducting debriefings of arrestees from countries that sponsor terrorism.

The District Attorney added, "We give particular attention to investigating and prosecuting specific precursor crimes to terrorism, including identity theft, money laundering, counterfeit trademarking and the forgery or illegal procurement of identification documents. As a result, we have been able to provide valuable information to both the NYPD's Intelligence Division and to the Joint Terrorist Task Force and to work with them on significant classified investigations."

The District Attorney also told the elected officials that the office has an extensive "riding" program which puts ADAs at all sorts of crime scenes at all hours of the day and night to work alongside of police officers. In addition, members of the office are in the police precincts and the hospitals and in the homes of victims at all hours of the day and night.

As part of his briefing, the District Attorney pointed out that the Central Booking Interview Program - which takes videotaped statements from individuals awaiting arraignment on felony charges - has proven to be a great success. The program began in July 2007 and has done some 9,200 interviews to date. It, among other things, helps us to make certain that those whom we accuse are being properly charged.

The District Attorney added, that, last year the office drafted close to 1,000 search warrants and ADAs attended and supervised some 357 lineups in police precincts across the county. He noted that it is the only office that has an assistant at every lineup. Furthermore, it continues to be a national leader in the number of wiretaps that it conducts - and, significantly, in almost twenty-one years - with one exception which is now under appeal - none of its wires has been controverted.

The District Attorney said that

last year there were some 73,500 arrests handled by his office - up over 73% since 1993. The cases are handled expeditiously, with the best arrest to arraignment time in the City and the highest percentage of cases arraigned within 24 hours. Furthermore, the office has the lowest felony complaint dismissal rate and the lowest indictment dismissal rate in the City. It has the highest felony conviction rate in the City.

Over the past year, the District Attorney said, his Investigations Division has conducted many significant long term investigations into criminal enterprises throughout the County - criminal enterprises that prey upon the local neighborhoods. They have brought major cases dismantling violent gun and drug gangs and rescuing young women from underage prostitution and sex trafficking rings. And they have successfully taken down white collar enterprises involved in identity theft, credit card fraud, mortgage fraud, auto theft and insurance fraud and illegal gambling.

The Appeals Bureau, the District Attorney said, has successfully defended the office's convictions on direct appeal and from collateral attack in state and federal court and works closely with the ADAs as they litigate important new legal issues.

The District Attorney also noted that his Special Prosecutions Division runs a host of crime prevention, school based and community outreach programs - and attends precinct council and community board meetings and reports back to him so that he personally knows what is going on across the county. The division also provides speakers for schools, community groups and town hall meetings, and it coordinates the activities of many advisory councils.

The District Attorney also told the elected officials about the wide array of alternative sentencing programs that are available for qualified defendants, including felony and misdemeanor Drug Treatment Courts, DWI Treatment Court, Mental Health Court and a court which responds to the needs of returning veterans. A Supreme Court Youth Part and a Youth Diversion Program that specifically target young people who get themselves into trouble and which provides alternatives to incarceration in appropriate felony cases and which supplements the Second Chance Program for first time misdemeanor offenders.

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Take 'America Saves Week' To Heart BY JASON ALDERMAN

After four years of coping with a stagnant economy, probably the last thing you want to hear is how important it is to sock away money for a rainy day – you already know that. But hear me out, just in case.

Those who struggle with long-term unemployment or under-employment often simply don't have spare cash available to save. Others, worn out by years of being frugal, just want to buy things again.

Even as we wait for economic recovery it's still good to remember – or perhaps learn for the first time – why saving is so vital:

- You could lose your job or see your wages cut. Most financial experts recommend having at least six to nine months' income saved for emergencies, but even \$500 could help bail you out of a sticky situation.
- Medical care, retirement and college tuition far outpace inflation. In fact, the average college graduate now carries \$25,000 in outstanding loans – debt that can't be discharged through bankruptcy and has no statute of limitations.
- If you're approaching or in retirement, your net worth has probably been hammered by plummeting home and retirement account values in recent years.
- If nothing else, you can teach your children good financial

habits that will serve them well during hard times.

So where can you learn sound savings habits? One great resource is America Saves (www.americasaves.org), a national campaign sponsored by more than 1,000 non-profit, government and corporate organizations. Their goal is to encourage people from all income levels to save money and build personal wealth using their free financial tools, savings services, advice and other resources, including:

- A Personal Wealth Estimator that helps you calculate your current net worth and estimate your future net worth.
- Monthly Savings Messages from national financial experts on topics such as money management, investment basics, building wealth through home ownership, saving during tax time and getting out of debt.
- Tips for saving money on everything from groceries to utilities to insurance premiums.
- Links to numerous websites offering financial education materials.

Last year, more than 2,000 organizations, including non-profits, employers, government agencies, educational institutions and unions participated in the fifth annual America Saves Week, reaching millions of Americans – everything from

local banks offering low-fee savings accounts and higher-rate CDs to new savers, to free tax preparation assistance and credit counseling, to worldwide Military Saves drives to encourage savings by military families.

This year's America Saves Week, "Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically," is slated for February 19-26, 2012.

Here are some great ways to start saving that first \$500:

- Direct deposit part or all of your federal tax refund into a savings account or savings bond.
- Avoid overdraft and late fees by regularly monitoring your bank and credit card accounts.
- Brown-bag it to work more often. If you saved \$5 a week, you'd be half-way there.
- Kick bad habits. Smoking a pack of cigarettes a day might cost \$2,000-plus a year.
- If you have low-deductible homeowners, renters or auto insurance, consider raising the deductible to \$500 or \$1,000. Many save 15 to 30 percent or more on their premiums.

Saving can be a tough habit to start, but once you're hooked, you'll never go back.

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

Legendary Tony Bennett Auctions New Painting Of Louis Armstrong For Charity

In 1970, the great vocalist Tony Bennett created a beautiful oil portrait of one of his musical heroes, Louis Armstrong. He presented it to Louis personally, and Louis replied, "Man, you out-Rembrandted Rembrandt!" Today, Bennett's portrait still hangs in the den of Louis Armstrong's house, which is a historic house museum visited by people from all over the world. While on tour, visitors to the Louis Armstrong House Museum hear an audio recording of Louis speaking about the painting and about his friend "Benedetto" (Tony Bennett's birth name).

Now, forty-two years later, Tony Bennett has painted a new portrait of Louis Armstrong.

Tony has graciously donated the new painting to the Louis Armstrong House Museum, to be auctioned off on Charitybuzz.com, the leading destination for online charity auctions, to raise funds for the Museum. The oil painting depicts Armstrong performing on his gold-plated Selmer trumpet. In the lower

right corner is Bennett's signature, "Benedetto."

The Charitybuzz.com auction of the new portrait will be open for bidding online at http://www.charitybuzz.com/catalog_items/292704 from February 1st until February 29th, 2012. Both Tony Bennett's original painting of Louis and his new painting will be on exhibit together during the month of February, 2012 at the Louis Armstrong House Museum until the close of the auction, giving museum visitors the rare opportunity to see both paintings together before the auctioned painting ends up with a private collector.

"Tony Bennett has given the Museum an incredible gift," noted Michael Cogswell, Director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum. "These two paintings together will be a real treat for our visitors in addition to the financial support the auction of the painting will provide," he added.

Proceeds from the auction will underwrite historic house

tours, concerts, and community programs at the Louis Armstrong House Museum, a National Historic Landmark and a New York City landmark in Corona, Queens, New York City. It is open six days per week, 52 weeks per year, and is visited by more than 12,000

people annually. All of its furnishings are original and have been preserved, giving visitors the feeling that Louis and Lucille just stepped out for a minute.

The Louis Armstrong House Museum, which is administered by Queens College, also holds seven collections of photographs, sound recordings, letters, manuscripts, instruments and artifacts, making it the largest publicly held archival collection in the world devoted to a jazz musician. The Louis Armstrong House Museum is a 501(c)(3) cultural organization.

The Louis Armstrong House Museum is located at 34-56 107th Avenue in Corona, Queens and online at www.LouisArmstrongHouse.org

Rep. Crowley Denounces Republican Cuts to Public Transit

Officials, Union Representatives and Commuter Advocates Call Foul on Proposal to Cut Funds for NYC's Public Transportation Systems

Reps. Joe Crowley (NY-7), Charles Rangel (NY-15), Jerrold Nadler (NY-8), and Carolyn Maloney (NY-14), along with Metropolitan Transit Authority Chairman Joseph Lhota, Transport Workers Union President John Samuelsen, Central Labor Council of New

York City President Vincent Alvarez, and commuter advocates, spoke out against House Republicans' effort to cut federal support for public transit.

The House Republican federal transportation bill will strip away the dedicated funding stream for the Mass Transit Account, which allows states, municipalities and local transit agencies to plan and fund capital projects with the certainty needed to make job-creating infrastructure in-

vestments. In New York City, the Mass Transit Account funds key investments the City's subways, buses, commuter rails, and other forms of public transit. Slashing this funding stream will result in a loss of \$1.7 billion for New York State and will adversely affect City and suburban commuters who rely on public transportation every day.

"With these cuts MTA will

(Continued on page 8)

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Whirl With Merle

APPLEBEES BITES YOU by Merle Exit

I went to Queens Theatre (formerly Queens Theatre in the Park) last night to see Cocktails With Larry Miller. The show was quite funny and Larry is quite talented.

Afterwards my friends and I went to Applebees. It wasn't that we necessarily wanted to eat there, but one of a few restaurants located in a new shopping mall in downtown Flushing that is celebrating the Lunar New Year...year of the dragon.

I will begin with the specially priced meals of either "2 for \$20" or "2 for \$26". You get an appetizer to share and two entrees. Sounds like a bargain? The difference on the price has to do with the entrees, which are NOT the same portion as if you ordered the same entree separately. I ordered a regular entree of rib ends that came with a baked potato and cole slaw at a price of \$12.99. My friend, who went in with the other person, got a smaller portion of ribs and no cole slaw. My portion size was enough for me to bring home leftovers for another meal as I only needed to eat half.

Drinks. Now here is where they get you. Both the alcoholic and soft drinks have a full page listing on the first page of the menu. You'll get the description and caloric content, but NOT the price. What's with this? It's not as if the waiter will let you know beforehand unless you ask. I requested to have General Manager Jewel N. come over and explain. She told me that due to the cost of alcohol fluctuating they can't keep changing the menus. What a hunk of bull!! Wait, it gets better. I asked if the soft drinks with no price fluctuate. She told me that they are all \$2.99. So why can't they list that? Soda, iced tea, etc. A flavored iced tea is ordered. There is an extra 80 cent charge on the check for the flavor. Did the waiter reveal this information when the drink was ordered? Hey Raylin L didn't even know the price of the tea. When asked he said, "I'll find out" and never did.

A separate menu is given that contains drinks and desserts. Same as listed on the first page and still

no price. Desserts do have a price. So, is there some ruling that says that restaurants must list the price for food but not for beverages?

So what did the corporate office say? "They don't list the prices of the beverages because they vary by location". How hard is it for a server to memorize that one price on soft drinks and the extra amount for a flavor?

We're not looking at fine dining here and I would describe the food as being no more than "okay". Think of a family coming in and the first thing that the waiter asks is "what would you like to drink?" You go around the table for requests without thinking about or even knowing the price and have already spent \$3 per kid without even realizing. One solution is to ask for a soft drink with no ice and then ask for a glass of ice. I'll bet that soft drink will be enough for two kids. Request a glass of water and a bunch of lemon slices. Make your own lemonade at no cost. At least it's freshly made. Hey, they have a bar. Request the sugar that they use to sweeten their drinks.

Oh, yeah. I don't think they will push this. There's ten per cent discount for those over 60. Ask for it!

PRODUCTS! The thing about getting new products is that I don't have to feel guilty about throwing out the old stuff...except perhaps cleaning products. Mr. Clean rubber gloves and wipes. There are actually a couple of pairs that you would find on the hands of Desperate Housewives with pretty cuffs. I suppose that if you happen to be dressed up and having a sort of formal dinner party, you don't want to clash with your outfit by wearing a pair of generic rubbers.

I liked the wipes. Much better than a paper towel for cleaning and absorbent enough for spills. You can put them in the washing machine and reuse. Haven't done that as yet. I did dust with one. Great for that!

Just when I thought that Hearthware, the makers of the NuWave Oven, did their line to include the Pro and the Mini another product

has emerged. It's called the Precision Induction Cooktop. The unit, which can be placed on your counter top, contains hidden coils that heat the pot or pan that you are cooking in, but the unit itself is cool to the touch no matter how high you program the heat.

It can replace the stove top of your range. When I'm cooking on my stove top, things seem to take a longer time than I expect. I found out that the reason is that the flames never seem to center on the bottom of the pan or pot on a higher temperature, as the flames go outward. I don't know about you but I don't want to have to spend any time deciding which of the four burners to use.

Not all cookware will work on the PIC. The bottom, at least, has to contain metal that a magnet can stick to. I have pots (cheap) made of stainless steel but a magnet won't stick. I have a few "green" pans, two that are magnetic and one that isn't. Hearthware sells cookware if you want to add to your order. So, at this point I don't have a pot to cook with but do have a pot to pish in. Incidentally, I've already tossed out cookware with Teflon.

The PIC is light weight and you can cook on your dinner table. Great for a dinner party, making fondue or a family dinner having your offspring do some of the cooking while you watch. You, of course, have to keep in mind that the cookware itself will get hot.

Ceramic knives are the thing these days. You never have to sharpen them. zx Kitchen produces them in black, each of which comes with a rubber "cover" to store. I received the starter set with a paring knife and 6 inch chef knife. Cuts wonderfully. So out went the old knives (I have others that are not ceramic, some serrated). I realized that I don't need a set of steak knives for company. A set of the what I call serrate butter knives, works well and if I serve up food that requires more than that, I'll simply cut it up before serving. Check it out on www.zxkitchen.com

RESORTS WORLD CASINO, AQUEDUCT, FEBRUARY

Earn sweet treats and Free Play—the first 1,000 Genting Rewards members to redeem a voucher at any Genting Rewards Kiosk beginning at 8am on Tuesday, February 14 will receive a

free box of chocolates. Genting Rewards members that earn 25 points between 8am and 10:30pm can redeem a \$14 Free Play voucher at a Genting Rewards Kiosk, 7pm through 11pm. Seniors over

55, Tuesdays in February pay \$5 for all you can eat buffet. Sample Dim Sum at Genting Palace for \$9.99 all you can eat (limited menu) weekdays lunch. Free rewards card.

Congressman Crowley Participates in Lunar New Year Parade

Rep. Crowley joins Queens elected officials and community members in participating in the annual Lunar New Year Parade.

Pictured from left to right: State Senator José Peralta, State Senator Toby Stavisky, Rep. Joe Crowley, Assemblymember Grace Meng, Councilman Peter Koo. Photo by Dominick Totino Photography



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For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
 (Mar. 21- April 20)
 Go on business trips if at all possible. Don't let your emotions interfere with moneymaking deals. Your intellectual charm will entice new love interests. Your lucky numbers are: 3,5,8

TAURUS
 (Apr. 21- May 21)
 Travel will be on your mind; however, be careful and proceed with caution as minor accidents will cause delays. Your lucky numbers are: 3,6,9

GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)
 You need to take a break with the ones you love. Be careful not to sign your time or your cash away. Your lucky numbers are: 4,8,5

CANCER
 (June 22 - July 22)
 If you travel, be careful with luggage; it may be rerouted. Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. Your lucky numbers are: 4,8,6

LEO
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 Real estate investments will be profitable. You should sign up for creative courses. Concentrate on your work. Your lucky numbers are: 4,3,1

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
 Don't allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. You will have a problem with your boss if you haven't done your job. Your lucky numbers are: 7,9,3

LIBRA
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
 Sudden trips may take you by surprise; try to include your mate, mixing business with pleasure. Don't do something silly just to get back at your mate. Your lucky numbers are: 3,7,8

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
 The talk you have may be eye-opening with regard to your present situation. Visit friends or relatives that you have not seen in awhile. Your lucky numbers are: 3,6,9

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
 Your ability to ferret out secret information will lead you to an inside scoop on an amazing financial deal. Your lucky numbers are: 3,4,9

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
 Spend time with friends and relatives. Travel for pleasure. Try to include the one you love in your plans this week. Your lucky numbers are: 3,5,9

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
 It's time to consider putting money into long-term investments. Emotional partnerships may develop through projects you initiate. Your lucky numbers are: 3,7,8

PISCES
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
 You may find that female colleagues will be more help than you anticipated. Your charm will attract members of the opposite sex. Your lucky numbers are: 3,7,6

Senators Peralta and Smith Call For Extending State Foreclosure Prevention Program

Citing the alarmingly large number of families across the state facing foreclosure, State Senators Jose Peralta and Malcolm Smith are urging Governor Andrew Cuomo to fund a program that provides homeowners with counseling, legal assistance and help negotiating with banks. Launched in 2008, funding for the \$25 million Foreclosure Prevention Services Program expires next month. "It is estimated that the number of New Yorkers statewide at risk of losing their homes to foreclosure is greater than the combined populations of Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester," the senators write. "Queens has consistently been at or near the top of the list of counties in the state hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis. And in Queens, some of the communities we represent, including Jackson Heights, Far Rockaway, East Elmhurst, St. Albans and Corona, have been hit particularly hard by the crisis."

The housing counseling and legal assistance funded through the Foreclosure Prevention Services Program is provided by organizations such as Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City and Queens Legal Services, among others. It is estimated that the program has prevented approximately 14,000 foreclosures and helped 80,000 homeowners.

"Given this track record, the modest cost of the program and the many families facing the prospect of losing their homes," the senators write, "we respectfully urge you to commit to the continuation and funding of the program."



The Road To Knowledge Begins With The Turn Of The Page



Answer to Last Weeks "Sudoku"

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

Happy 102nd Anniversary to the Boy Scouts of America



Pack #22- Queens, Elmhurst, N. Y. @ Rego Park 1st Ward The Mormon Church To help in this celebration, each Pack will take one Sunday of February to worship in full uniforms of the "best" Scouts in Queens!

SUDOKU

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Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer Unveils The New Entrance Kiosk At Moma PS 1

On February 6th, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer joined representatives from MoMA PS1 and City officials to celebrate the opening of the new entrance kiosk at MoMA PS1 in Long Island City.

The ribbon cutting ceremony unveiled the new kiosk which will serve as the main entrance off Jackson Avenue, creating a more inviting, transparent entry point to MoMA PS1.

"This new entrance will be enjoyed by the thousands of visitors MoMA PS1 receives each year from around the City and the world," said Council Member Van Bramer. "I'm happy to have helped ensure that this project was seen through to its fruition."

As Chair of the Cultural Affairs Committee, Council Member Van Bramer supported the project to develop the new entrance at MoMA PS1, allocating a significant portion of funding toward helping make the creation of the



In the photo: Council Member Van Bramer is joined with Klaus Biesenbach, Director of MoMA PS1, Agnes Gund, Chairman of the Board, MoMA PS1, Patricia E. Harris, First Deputy Mayor of New York City, and Terri Osbourne, Director of Culture and Tourism for the Queens Borough President

new kiosk possible. \$2.33 million of which \$866,000 was allocated came from the City of New York by the City Council.

Senator Stavisky and Assembly Member Meng Join Flushing Hospital Nurses to Rally for a Fair Contract; Laud New Tentative Agreement

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (center) and Assembly Member Grace Meng (right) joined arm in arm with several Flushing Hospital nurses as well as representatives from the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) to voice their support for a fair contract. Two days later, on February 4th, 2012, NYSNA announced a tentative agreement between the nurses and management and cancelled a scheduled strike by the 420 RNs that had been set to commence Tuesday morning.

Senator Stavisky stated, "I am very glad a tentative agreement has been reached and the scheduled strike averted. Nurses have a tough enough job. They should not have to worry about their day-to-day health and pension benefits. Now they can go back to work and have some peace of mind, which is a win not only for the nurses and management, but also the entire



community that relies on the care and health services of Flushing Hospital every day."

"Nurses are an integral part of the community, they serve for the well-being of all," added

Assembly Member Meng. "I'm glad that the strike was prevented and a temporary agreement was reached. We are all winners with this outcome, especially the patients of Flushing Hospital."

AM Phil Goldfeder Tours St. John's Episcopal Hospital

Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder joins CEO, Nelson E. Toebbe, COO, John P. Rinset and Administrative Director, Patricia Gillespie at St. John's Episcopal Hospital for a tour of the facility in Far Rockaway. On the tour, Assemblyman Goldfeder met with dozens of the hospitals skilled staff and saw firsthand the state-of-the-art medical equipment used to ensure quality patient care. Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder joins CEO, Nelson E. Toebbe, COO, John P. Rinset and Administrative Director, Patricia Gillespie at St. John's Episcopal Hospital for a tour of the facility in Far Rockaway. On the tour, Assemblyman Goldfeder met with dozens of the hospitals skilled staff and saw firsthand the state-of-the-art medical equipment used to ensure quality patient care.



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Audrey Gottlieb Photography Exhibit "Vignettes From the Queens Project" Debuts at Queens Botanical Garden

Beginning February 7th and running through May 19th, the photography of Audrey Gottlieb will be on exhibit in the Visitor & Administration Building Gallery of the Queens Botanical Garden.

Vignettes from the Queens Project depicts the rich diversity of people and culture in the Queens community. "I am drawn to an endless variety of people," says Gottlieb, "faces full of expression, happy, unhappy, engaged, at play, at work, at war."

A documentary photographer and educator, Gottlieb studied at the School of Visual Arts and ICP in New York City and currently teaches and lectures on a freelance basis. Her best-known images show multicultural America today and have been exhibited at the Smithsonian, the Jewish Museum and Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

Gottlieb will discuss Vignettes from the Queens Project at an artist talk on May 19, 2012, in the Visitor & Administration Build-



ing Gallery. For more information call (718) 886-3800, ext. 330 or email dhector@queensbotanical.org

Queens Botanical Garden is an urban oasis where people, plants and cultures are celebrated through inspiring gardens, innovative educational programs and demonstrations of environmental stewardship. Located at 43-50 Main Street in Flushing, Queens

Botanical Garden is easily accessible by car, train, or bus. For travel directions and more information visit www.queensbotanical.org or call (718) 886-3800. Queens Botanical Garden is located on property owned by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Addabbo Bill To Prevent Unwarranted Harassment By Government Agencies Clears Senate



NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D-Queens) today announced that his legislation (S.1242) to

protect New York residents from unfounded harassment by government agencies has been approved by the full New York State Senate.

"Sometimes, disagreements among community residents can rise to a level where one person falsely accuses another of wrongdoing and reports the alleged misdeeds to a government agency, simply to cause their neighbor grief," said Addabbo, noting that constituent complaints about such behavior led to the introduction of the bill. "This kind of harassment not only seriously hurts the person who is wrongfully accused, but

leads to a waste of government resources and precious time that various agency inspectors could devote to actual violations of law."

Under existing law, a person can be found guilty of aggravated harassment in the second degree when they harass, annoy, threaten or otherwise alarm another individual through the use of verbal abuse, insults, intimidation, humiliation or physical assault. Under Addabbo's legislation, the law would be expanded to cover instances where a person uses

(Continued on page 9))

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New York State Celebrates Giants' Super Bowl Victory With Championship License Plate

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced a New York Giants Super Bowl XLVI victory license plate to honor the championship team.

The plate, available for both passenger and commercial vehicles registered in New York, features the NFL Giants' Big Blue NY logo with the words "Super Bowl XLVI Champions" as well as the official Super Bowl XLVI logo. An image of the custom license plate is available at: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/assets/GiantsSBXLVIb.jpg>

"I join all New York Giant fans in congratulating the team and staff, especially native-New Yorker coach Tom Coughlin, on this great Super Bowl victory," Governor Cuomo said. "We are all very proud of the dedication, hard work and grace under pressure that enabled the Giants to bring the Vince Lombardi Trophy back to New York."

"This has been an amazing run for the Giants," Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Barbara J. Fiala said. "Giants fans have always worn their hearts on their sleeve. So we are very



Super Bowl XLVI Plate Commemorates Victory

pleased to offer this commemorative Super Bowl XLVI Champions custom license plate so that they can show their 'Big Blue' loyalty and championship pride on their vehicles."

The New York Giants Super Bowl XLVI Champions custom license plate can be ordered in any DMV office, online at www.dmv.ny.gov or by calling the Custom Plates Office at (518) 402-4838, Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

The pricing for the New York Giants Super Bowl XLVI Champions plate is the same as the

currently issued Giants plate. The initial cost for a standard issue plate is \$60, with an annual renewal fee of \$31.25. The plate can be personalized with two to six characters for an initial fee of \$91.25, with an annual renewal fee is \$62.50. All custom and personalized plate fees are in addition to the regular registration renewal fee.

Those who already have a Giants custom or Super Bowl XVII plate can upgrade, but only by calling the Custom Plates Office. The cost to upgrade is \$28.75 for a standard plate and \$78.75 for a personalized plate.

Rep. Crowley Denounces Republican Cuts to Public Transit

(Continued from page 3)

have a harder time planning and funding capital projects, contractors and construction workers will have a harder time getting MTA contracts, transit workers will have fewer employment opportunities, and commuters in and around the city, including my constituents in the Bronx and Queens, will see longer delays, slower trains, and decaying stations," said Rep. Crowley. "We need investments that will help put people back to work, boost our economy, and create a better future for all New Yorkers - not massacre our mass transit system. Slashing public transportation strikes at the heart of middle class New York workers' quality of life and it is not an answer to any of our problems."

"Last week the House Ways & Means Committee took drastic action by voting to remove 30 years of dedicated federal funding for public transportation, essentially threatening to end the MTA's long-standing partnership with the federal government. These critical federal transit funds have been in place since 1983, when President Ronald Reagan signed the Surface Transportation Assistance Act into law. The proposal would substitute a reliable funding source with an undetermined-and wholly unreliable-commitment. And it would rob the MTA of investments we count on every year to fund our vital Capital Program. Make no mistake: As the largest mass transit agency in the country, this bill would hit the MTA hard," said MTA Chairman & Chief Execu-

tive Officer Joseph J. Lhota.

"We are extremely disappointed that this legislation would gut the Mass Transit Account by diverting nearly half of the federal investment in public transit that comes from fuel tax revenue. Such a move would have a significant impact on the ability of the city and the MTA to fund capital projects, as well as jeopardize much-needed mass-transit services and threaten jobs in this critical sector," said Vincent Alvarez, President of NYC Central Labor Council.

"The House bill turns its back on decades of better transit in New York and all around America," said Gene Russianoff, staff attorney for New York Public Interest Research Group Straphangers Campaign, a transit riders group.

"The bill passed by the House Ways and Means Committee illustrates once again how dysfunctional Congress has become. By removing the gas tax as the method of funding mass transit, House leadership is threatening the future of a program, in place since the Reagan administration that is actually working well. The lifeblood of New York City is our buses, subways and commuter rails. Eight million people take mass transit every day in New York which helps to cut traffic, reduce pollution, spur our economy and improve public health. The bill passed today ignores the needs of cities across the country by relegating transit to an "alternative" transportation with an uncertain funding stream. Our country is being left behind as the world races ahead with 21st century infrastructure

investments, this bill would take us even further from our competitors," said New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

"The U.S. House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee abolished the guaranteed trust fund revenue for transit and gave it to the highway program," said Janette Sadik-Khan, New York City Transportation Commissioner and National Association of City Transportation Officials President. "This is an unprecedented departure from bipartisan support for a unified surface transportation program. Funding for bus and rail projects would be catch-as-catch-can, jeopardizing thousands of jobs and undermining progress in modernizing our transportation system."

In 1983, President Regan signed into law the Surface Transportation Assistance Act, which created a dedicated funding source for public transportation through the federal gas tax. This dedicated source of revenue allowed states, municipalities and local transit agencies to plan and fund capital projects with the certainty needed to make these infrastructure investments as efficient and cost-effective for taxpayers as possible. As congestion rose in urban areas, and rural areas saw their share of car-less, low-income families rise, the need to fund this account has grown. The Republican proposal to redirect federal gasoline tax revenues away from public transportation will worsen this funding shortage and subject transit funding to the annual appropriations process, creating uncertainty for critical job-creating infrastructure projects

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Queens Sports

by Robert Elkin

Johnnies Forget About Syracuse

The college basketball regular season schedule is in its last month on all fronts as it will soon be tournament time, when post season action decide an automatic bid into the NCAA tourney.

And for the Johnnies from St. John's University they have a game against Big East Conference rival Seton Hall on Tuesday, followed by opponents UCLA, and then four straight league games. Of course, they first must get their act together and not play the way they did against highly ranked Syracuse, one of the top teams in the nation, and who could go to the Final Four of the Division I NCAA tourney.

Among the positive aspects of the team are the play of Moe Harkless, who remains as a bright spot and a Big East Conference Rookie-of-the-Year at the end of the season. He is the second top scorer and rebounder among the freshmen in the league.

The 6-8 swing man recently earned the league's Rookie-of-the-Week honors, and is averaging around 15 points and eight rebounds a game through 23 overall contests. He is, indeed, one of the top freshmen in the nation, and it includes the conference.

Both his coaches and rival coaches have nothing but praise for him. But all the newcomers to the Red Storm must jell at the same time to pull out a win.

"Harkless is very mobile," noted Syracuse University Head Coach Jim Boeheim, who tied Dean Smith's record for career victories. "He's got a nice touch and puts the ball on the floor. He's a (very) good player."

However, on the other hand or on the negative side, the way the Red Storm performed against a 'hot' Syracuse team in a sold out Madison Square Garden, this aspect of the game overshadowed the localite's contribution and his chance of advancing high on the next level.

At the same time, Boeheim was impressed with the many young players that the Red Storm have on their roster. It's not only Harkless. Five freshman could start any given game at any given time.

"I've been impress with Harrison (D'Angelo) all year," Boeheim added, after the Orangemen turned back the Red Storm. "He's always ready and prepared to shoot. (They) the Red Storm players as a team are very good."

"Syracuse gave us fits," Red Storm assistant coach Mike Dunlap said. "Those guys are very smart and well coached. They know exactly what to do. We'll be depending a fair amount of time on the defensive side of the ball.

And we're depending on our guys showing up for every game to get their numbers."

When the players don't put up their numbers that they are capable of doing then it makes them harder to win.

"You're riding the emotions of very young guys," continued the assistant coach.

"As they go through this long term it'll be an incredible experience for them. "We'll see Syracuse again down the road (maybe even in the Big East tournament). In the long term they helped us by showing us our weaknesses."

"They were really good," added Harkless, a product of Forest Hills High School. "(In the second half) we didn't give up."

Entering the Syracuse game, the Red Storm won two out three games with victories over West Virginia and DePaul sandwiched by a setback at the hands of Duke to increase their record of 10-13, including 4-7 in the league ending last Sunday. "We're ding a good job and getting better even though we had a tough game (against Syracuse)," Harkless went on. "I think we'll still get better in every game."

During half time of the Syracuse-St. John's game at Madison Square Garden, the Red Storm's varsity soccer team was honored.

"It's always great to be recognized in the Garden, for there are so many St. John's fans," noted Red Storm soccer coach Dave Masur.

"The 'kids' really appreciate the program."

Some 25 booters came to be greeted at the Garden when they were called upon. Even many basketball alumni were on hand. With some 20 soccer players returning to the roster this fall, plus the newcomers, the soccer team should continue on their winning ways.

Although the intercollegiate soccer squad doesn't hold any games during the winter and spring, according to NCAA regulations, the student athletes keep in trim for the season.

"We train every day as best as we can," continued the coach. "We work with the guys five, six days a week. We have to work hard and stay focused."

The Big East Conference is a very competitive league and we take nothing for granted. We (the Big East Conference) had three teams in the final eight. We'll be very tough and ready to go (next season.)"

As for the basketball season, the team is doing fantastic and has been doing an unbelievable job under great leadership, according to Masur. "They're building."

Former Us Open Champion Holds Court For New York's Future Champs

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CityParks Tennis presented by Chase, provides free tennis lessons to thousands of kids ages 5 to 16 each year in more than 36 parks throughout the five boroughs. The indoor program is designed to make tennis less cost-prohibitive and freely available on a year-round basis to children who want to improve their skills.

CityParks Tennis lessons for kids are offered at all skill levels. Opportunities include free beginner lessons, tournaments, leagues, excellence programs and special events. For more information visit CityParksFoundation.org.

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2012

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: USTA BJK National Tennis Center/Flushing Meadows Park, Queens

On-site contact: Mike Silverman/City Parks Foundation/(917) 806-0024

Founded in 1989, City Parks Foundation (CPF) is the only independent, nonprofit organization to offer park programs throughout the five boroughs of New York City. CPF works in over 750 parks citywide, presenting a broad range of free arts, sports, and education programs, and empowering citizens to support their parks on a local level. CPF's programs and community building initiatives reach more than 600,000 people each year, contributing to the revitalization of neighborhoods throughout New York City. For more details, please visit www.CityParksFoundation.org.

Tech News

App Development Creating Booming U.S. Job Market

A study found that since 2005, nearly half a million U.S. jobs were created just for the development of mobile applications. Between Apple, Google and Facebook, app development has become one of the fastest growing industries. California holds 25% of all app-related jobs in the United States. Read the full article at SlashGear.com

Google Announces Chrome Mobile Browser

Google announced that its web browser Chrome is now available for mobile devices running Android 4.0. The mobile browser has advanced features like tabbed browsing and can sync open pages between your computer and mobile device. If you have Android 4.0, you can download the beta now. Read the full article at arstechnica.com

Councilman Gennaro Decries Arrest of Oscar-Nominated Filmmaker Josh Fox at Public Hearing on Fracking

Council Member James F. Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) condemned the arrest of documentary filmmaker Josh Fox at a public House subcommittee hearing on fracking Feb. 1. The arrest was ordered by Rep. Andy Harris (R-Md.), chairman of the subcommittee. Fracking is the practice of pumping pressurized chemicals deep into the earth to fracture rock and free petroleum and natural gas trapped within.

"House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment chairman Andy Harris earns the Jim Gennaro 'Fahrenheit 451' award," Councilman Gennaro said. "Not only for trying to suppress the media by having Oscar-nominated filmmaker Josh Fox arrested for bringing a camera crew to his

public hearing last week--but also for his clearly biased stance on the federal Environmental Protection Agency's report showing a possible link between groundwater contamination and fracking in Pavillion, Wyoming."

"His criticism of the report as politics trumping science is laughable, considering he titled his own hearing 'Fractured Science - Examining EPA's Approach to Ground Water Research: The Pavillion Analysis,'" Gennaro continued. "Science is an unbiased examination of the facts, and when this subcommittee uses such language to herald its oversight of a nonpolitical federal agency, one wonders if certain members weren't using the studies as kindling instead of required reading."

Ultrasound Makes for Speedy, Accurate Arthritis Care

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia Rheumatologists Pioneer Approach Called Fast Arthritis Sonographic Evaluation and Treatment, or FAST

Ultrasound is transforming the way arthritis is diagnosed and treated, making evaluation and treatment quicker and more accurate. The new approach is dubbed fast arthritis sonographic evaluation and treatment, or FAST, by rheumatologists at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center who are leading its development.

Traditionally, doctors evaluated joint inflammation manually using their fingers or with a needle to take a sample of joint fluid. With an ultrasound machine, they immediately have a clear picture of the affected joints and tendons - and while they are in motion. The result is less need for needle biopsies, X-rays and other testing. In addition, research has shown that ultrasound improves the accuracy of procedures to reduce joint inflammation and the pain it causes. It also gives patients visual evidence of the progress they are making, helping them stay compliant with their treatment plan.

Early diagnosis of arthritis is important because it can prevent joint damage and disability, says Dr. Dimitrios Pappas, a rheuma-

tologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. "Even minor joint symptoms that continue over a week should be evaluated. As the name suggests, our FAST ultrasound clinics are designed to get patients evaluated and on the road to recovery quickly and without unnecessary testing and treatments."

What Is Arthritis and How Is It Treated?

Arthritis comprises more than 100 different rheumatic diseases and conditions, the most common of which is osteoarthritis. Other frequently occurring forms of arthritis include rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, fibromyalgia and gout. Common symptoms include pain, aching, stiffness and swelling in or around the joints. Some forms of arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, can affect multiple organs and cause widespread symptoms. Patients can manage their arthritis through a physician-supervised program that may include medication, physical activity and weight loss. Other treatments include joint aspiration to relieve pressure, steroid injections and surgical procedures.

For more information, patients may call (866) NYP-NEWS.

Addabbo Bill To Prevent Unwarranted Harassment by Government Agencies

(Continued from page 7)

a government agency to harass someone else, including the unlawful disclosure of confidential information. Government agency personnel who act on their own to harass residents would also be reined in under this legislation.

"If a person knows for a fact that another person is violating the law, there's no reason why that illegal behavior shouldn't be reported to the proper authorities and dealt with in the right way," said Addabbo. "But pinning false illegal behavior on another person just to cause that individual frustration, anger, and time wasted in fighting baseless charges is simply intoler-

able, and my bill, hopefully, will make people think twice before they point false fingers at others."

In addition to wasted government time and resources, the Senator noted that unwarranted harassment can lead to reduced employee productivity and morale, higher turnover and absenteeism rates, and increases in medical and workers' compensation claims. "In this economy, it's important to realize that harassment isn't just painful to the person being targeted, but carries with it a significant price," he said. "I am pleased that the Senate approved this important bill, and hope that the State Assembly will follow suit."



New York State's Economic Recovery May Be Losing Steam: Wall Street Job Losses Are Mounting

While New York State has regained 46 percent of the jobs it lost during the recession, in recent months the state has seen a decline in jobs while the nation has been adding them, according to a new report on economic trends released today by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

"New York's recovery appears to be losing momentum, which raises concerns about the pace of the economic recovery in 2012," DiNapoli said. "The ranks of the long-term unemployed have grown markedly and those that have found jobs are being paid less. New York's economy has improved over the past two years, but not all New Yorkers have benefitted equally."

As of December 2011, New York had regained 154,300 of the 333,400 jobs that were lost in the recession. New York ranked 16th among the 50 states in jobs regained, performing well-above the national average of 34 percent. Job growth in New York, however, was weak in the second half of 2011, with the state losing 11,200 private sector jobs since July. In addition, the average salaries of the jobs created in the past two years is more than 40 percent lower than the average salaries of the jobs lost during the recession.

The securities industry, a key economic engine for New York City and the state, lost \$3 billion in the third quarter of 2011 and most large firms reported weak earnings for the fourth quarter. Job losses in the securities sector continue to grow as the industry

downsized in response to reduced profitability with 4,300 jobs lost since April 2011. Cash bonuses are also expected to be much lower than last year. Past studies by DiNapoli have found that the securities industry has a strong multiplier effect on the broader economy.

There have been some positive developments in recent months. The January 2012 Empire State Manufacturing Survey indicates that manufacturing activity is at its highest level in the past nine months. In the final months of 2011, consumer confidence improved sharply and initial unemployment claims have fallen over the past year. State sales tax collections rose by 4.5 percent in 2011, driven by tourism.

While the state has regained nearly half of the jobs lost during the recession, job gains have been uneven around the state. New York City has done well, regaining 52 percent of the jobs lost during the recession, but the city's suburbs have not fared well. The suburban counties in the Lower Hudson Valley have regained only 14 percent of the jobs lost, while Long Island lost an additional 2,500 jobs since December 2009.

Rochester regained 98 percent of the jobs lost, but Kodak filing for bankruptcy protection could result in thousands of lost jobs. Most other upstate metropolitan areas experienced weak job growth, while three upstate cities, Albany (1,700), Ithaca (1,000) and Binghamton (700), continue to experience job losses.

The report also found that:

- Over the past two years,

the government sector has shed 29,300 jobs (1.9 percent) in response to fiscal pressures brought on by the recession, as well as the loss of federal stimulus aid.

- New York's Gross State Product is forecast to weaken in 2012, growing by only 1.7 percent, which is even less than the national forecast of 2 percent as consumer and business spending weaken and government spending contracts.

- The state's unemployment rate remained at 8 percent in December 2011. There has been little change in the state's unemployment rate over the past year since it declined to 8.2 percent in December 2010.

- The number of long-term unemployed people has increased significantly over the past two years. More than 350,000 state residents were without a job for at least 27 weeks in December 2011. While this is 23,000 less than one year earlier, it was 230,000 more than in December 2008. The long-term unemployed now comprise 40 percent of the unemployed, more than twice the rate than in December 2008.

- Unemployment rates in New York City, Glens Falls, Binghamton and Utica-Rome exceeded the state-wide rate in December 2011.

- The residential real estate market in most upstate communities improved in 2011, but weakened in New York City's suburbs. Residential and commercial markets strengthened in Manhattan in 2011.

For a copy of the report visit: http://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/economic/nys_econ_trends15-2012.pdf

DiNapoli Warns of Lottery Scam Using Fake Checks

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli today warned of a lottery scam involving mail containing fraudulent checks that appear to have been issued by New York State.

"An offer of easy money is usually too good to be true and that is the case here," DiNapoli said. "If you receive one of these fraudulent checks, please report it to my office immediately."

DiNapoli's office has referred the matter to federal law enforcement.

Here is how the scam works: the scammers send potential victims a letter telling them that they are a winner of a lottery or sweepstakes drawing. The person receiving the check is directed to pay an amount to the scammer in order to secure his or her "full win-

nings." Before the depositing bank has learned that the check is fake, the victim has already transferred the funds. Any money wired to the scammers cannot be retrieved. The recent letters are from scam artists representing themselves as "Guaranty Trust Inc." with a New York City mailing address, and "Golden Gateway Financial, Division of Unclaimed Funds," with a Las Vegas and London address.

Included with the letters are counterfeit New York State checks bearing the forged signature of the Comptroller. More than a dozen checks from "Guaranty Trust Inc." have been recovered by the Comptroller's office with amounts of either \$3,980.05 or \$4,885.20. The checks are supposed to cover the taxes that would be owed on the

potential victim's alleged winnings. The victim is directed to call a claims agent before acting on the letter.

In the letter from "Golden Gateway Financial, Division of Unclaimed Funds" the recipient is informed he or she is a winner in the "American Lottery Sweepstakes Millions" drawing. The company claims they were contacted by the "Multi State Lottery Association" to find winners that have not yet claimed their prizes.

Anyone who has received such a letter should contact the Comptroller's toll-free fraud hotline at 1-888-672-4555; file a complaint online at investigations@osc.state.ny.us; or mail a complaint to: Office of the State Comptroller Investigations Unit, 110 State Street, 14th floor, Albany, NY 12236.



Verizon, Redbox Partner for Netflix Competitor

Verizon is partnering with Redbox to offer a subscription-based video rental service. While Verizon will deliver the digital content, the offering will be a stand-alone service available to anyone with a broadband connection. It's expected to launch in the second half of this year. Read the full article at Wired.com



Record Number of Super Bowl Tweets Not Actually About Game

The Super Bowl set a record for Tweets per second, but the game itself wasn't what people were talking about. 75% of Super Bowl conversation on Twitter focused on the commercials and the half-time show. By contrast, 2% of tweets were about the Giant's victory. Read the full article at ReadWriteWeb.com

Woodhaven Mobilizes Against Traffic Changes

The people of Woodhaven were loud and clear: They overwhelmingly oppose the changes to the direction of traffic on two streets in their neighborhood.

Over 100 residents showed up for a standing-room-only public meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 1, to voice objection to the changes to 89th Avenue and 84th Street, respectively. The meeting, which had been requested by the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association (WRBA), showed that the neighborhood was not properly consulted in the planning of the changes until now, and added to the uncertainty of who was responsible for trying to push the changes through.

Maura McCarthy, the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Queens Borough Commissioner, delivered a presentation on the street re-directions. She stated at the outset that the changes were not motivated by safety considerations.

"Neither of these two locations are accident-prone locations," McCarthy said. "So this can be voted up or down by the community. DOT is not going to implement this over the objections of the community."

And the community certainly had objections. One after another, residents described the extensive detours they'd need to make to get to and from their homes, the potential safety hazards from diverting school bus and other traffic down different streets, the problems posed to ambulance crews attempting to respond to emergencies, and so on. There was strong consensus in the room that the alterations would make their lives more difficult and lead to less safe conditions in the neighborhood.

When it came to traffic on their streets, the residents who live on and around those streets clearly knew best -- even pointing out errors on the maps relied on by DOT -- and they were disappointed that they had heard about the changes

only after they were about to be voted on by Community Board 9.

"Obviously what is happening tonight is the result of a lack of communication," WRBA Director Steve Forte told McCarthy. "When a request comes into your office, how do I as a community member know about it so that I can voice an objection?"

Intense questioning by Woodhaven residents revealed a total breakdown of decision-makers' communication with the neighborhood, as well as a disquieting lack of candor about who was behind the changes.

McCarthy explained the process the DOT supposedly followed for proposing the changes: "We get suggestions from one person, ten people, a hundred people. We investigate it. We go back to the Community Board. And the Community Board canvasses the community and takes a vote. So that is the process we've gone for."

But WRBA Director Alexander Blenkinsopp asked who in the audience had been canvassed by Community Board 9, and nobody raised a hand.

"In that case, Commissioner, it seems like perhaps the canvassing needs to be redone and the proposal should be retracted by DOT," Blenkinsopp said to applause from the audience.

And when Blenkinsopp asked McCarthy who had requested the change on 94th Street, she replied, "I received this request from an elected official who is no longer in office," eliciting loud grumbling from the audience. McCarthy declined to name the person, though she later added that the proposal "has been supported by other elected officials also." Yet again, McCarthy declined to name those elected officials. Community Board 9, however, later told the WRBA that Boston Market, located on 83rd Street and Atlantic Avenue, had been

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial number 1260835 for beer, wine and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in HEAVEN ENTERTAINMENT INC. under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 28-26 Steinway St., New York, NY 11103, County of Queens, for on premises consumption HEAVEN ENTERTAINMENT INC. 2/9 &16/2012



responsible for the request.

Council Member Elizabeth Crowley has publicly written to the DOT asking them "to drop the proposal" on 89th Avenue, inside her district. The WRBA is not yet aware of any public statements made by Council Member Eric Ulrich about the street changes. Ulrich represents the 84th Street area.

For all the displeasure and frustration the street change proposals caused Woodhaven, the incident might have the positive result of spurring better communication with residents in the future.

When asked by the WRBA how much public objection there must be before the Department of Transportation decides not to advance a proposal to Community Board 9 for a vote, McCarthy said, "That's a very good question, and certainly, this evening has pointed out the outreach -- or lack thereof -- on my agency's part. We typically do not, for short stretches of street, reach out to a large community. We rely on the [Community] Boards to do that outreach, and maybe we will rethink that process going forward."

Mary Ann Carey, District Manager of Community Board 9, stated that she has received "about 60 letters in opposition" to the changes. But the Community Board was scheduled to vote on the changes the evening of Valentine's Day in Kew Gardens -- a time and place very inconvenient for Woodhaven residents to show up and voice their concerns.

Assemblyman Mike Miller received applause when he proposed postponing the vote until the Community Board could meet in Woodhaven. He has since formally requested a postponement, which the WRBA strongly supports.

"I believe the Community Board certainly has heard you this evening," McCarthy said at the end of the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICES

Supplemental Citation
File No. 2011-4528
Surrogate's Court, Queens
County
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK,
By the Grace of God Free and
Independent

TO: Linda D O'Donnell-Tallman
if living and if dead to her heirs at
law, next of kin and distributees
whose names and places
of residence are unknown,
and if she died subsequent
to the decedent herein, to
her executors, administrators,
legatees, devisees, assignees
and successors in interest
whose names and places of
residence are unknown and
cannot, after diligent inquiry,
be ascertained.

A petition having been duly
filed by Dolores E. Caggiano
and Evelyn Cannizzaro who is/
are domiciled at 103-34 42nd
Avenue, Apt. 2B, Corona, New
York 11368 and 2 Hill and Tree
Ct., Melville, New York 11747
YOU ARE HEREBY CITED
TO SHOW CAUSE before the
Surrogate's Court, Queens
County, at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd,
Jamaica, New York, on March
8, 2012, at 9:30 o'clock in the
forenoon of that day, why a
decree should not be made in
the estate of Vivian Keehn, aka
Vivian F. Keehn lately domiciled
at 104-41 48th Avenue, Corona,
New York 11368, United States
admitting to probate a Will dated
July 24, 1996 (and Codicil(s), if
any, dated a copy of which is
attached, as the Will of Vivian
Keehn deceased, relating
toreal and personal property,
and directing that:

[x] Letters Testamentary issue
to Dolores E. Caggiano and
Evelyn Cannizzaro

[] Letters of Trusteeship issue to
[] Letters of Administration
c.t.a. issue to

[] Further relief sought (if
any):

Dated, Attested and Sealed,
JAN 13, 2012

Seal

HON. PETER J. KELLY

Surrogate

Margaret M. Gribbon

Chief Clerk

Elvira Sarkisyan, Esq.

Attorney

Busell & Stier, PLLC

Firm

(516) 829-9595

Telephone

98 Cutter Mill Rd, Suite 395N,

Great Neck, New York 11746

NOTE: This citation is served
upon you as required by law.
You are not required to appear.
If you fail to appear it will be
assumed you do not object to
the relief requested. You have a
right to have an attorney appear
for you.

1/26,2/2,2/9&2/16/12

Notice is hereby given that
a license, serial number
1260827 for beer, wine and
liquor has been applied for by
the undersigned to sell beer,
wine and liquor at retail in a bar
under the Alcoholic Beverage
Control Law at 139-37 Jamaica
Ave., Jamaica, NY 11435 for
on-premises consumption;
Sonrisa Bar Corp.
2/2&9/2012

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK-
COUNTY OF QUEENS
INDEX# 11772/2011 FILED:
5/13/2011

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. DUETSCHKE
BANK NATIONAL TRUST
COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE
OF THE INDYMAC INDEX
MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST
2005-AR5, MORTGAGE PASS-
THROUGH CERTIFICATES,
SERIES 2005-AR5 UNDER
THE POOLING AND
SERVICING AGREEMENT
DATES MARCH 1, 2005,

Plaintiff, against MAURICIO
ZAPATA, CARMEN M.
RODRIGUEZ, if she be
living and if she be dead,
the respective heirs at law,
next of kin, distributees,
executors, administrators,
trustees, devisees, legatees,
assignees, lienors, creditors
and successors in interest
and generally all persons
having or claiming under, by
or through said defendant who
may be deceased, by purchase,
inheritance, lien or otherwise,
any right, title or interest in or
to the real property described
in the complaint herein,
MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC
REGISTRATION SYSTEMS,
INC., AS NOMINEE FOR
QUICKEN LOANS, INC.
UNITED STATES INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE,
HERITAGE ASSET
MANAGEMENT, EQUITABLE
ASCENT FINANCIAL, LLC,
WORKERS COMPENSATION
BOARD OF NEW YORK STATE,
CAPITAL ONE BANK, NYS
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
AND FINANCE, CRIMINAL
COURT OF THE CITY OF
NEW YORK, NYC PARKING
VIOLATIONS BUREAU, NYC
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
BOARD, NYC TRANSIT
ADJUDICATION BUREAU
and "JOHN DOE" and "JANE
DOE", the last two names being
fictitious, said parties intended
being tenants or occupants,
if any, having or claiming an
interest in, or lien upon the
premises described in the
complaint, NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
AND FINANCE, THE UNTIED
STATES OF AMERICA,
defendants. TO THE ABOVE
NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU
ARE HEREBY SUMMONED
and required to serve upon
plaintiff's attorneys an answer
to the Complaint in this action
within twenty (20) days after
the service of the summons,
exclusive of the day of service,
or within (30) days after 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 hereof.
In case of failure to answer,
judgment will be taken against
you by default for the relief
demanded in the Complaint.
NOTICE OF NATURE OF

LEGAL NOTICES

ACTION AND RELIEF
SOUGHT: THE OBJECT
of the above captioned action is to
foreclose a Mortgage, recorded
in the Office of the Clerk of the
County of Queens on 10/1/2004
in CRFN: 2004000615862
covering premises known as
89-15 86th St., Woodhaven,
NY 11421. The relief sought
in the within action is a final
judgment directing the sale of
the premises described above
to satisfy the debt secured by
the Mortgage described above.
To the above named
defendants: the foregoing
summons is served upon you
by publication pursuant to an
order of the Hon. David Elliot,
a Justice of the Supreme Court
of the State of New York, filed
5/13/2011 and filed along with
the supporting papers in the
Queens County Clerk's Office.
This is an action to foreclose 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: 8968
Lot: 50 said premises known as
89-15 86th St., Woodhaven,
NY 11421. YOU ARE HEREBY
PUT ON NOTICE THAT
WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO
COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY
INFORMATION OBTAINED
WILL BE USED FOR THAT
PURPOSE. THERE IS DUE
AND OWING TO PLAINTIFF
THE SUM OF \$267,862.72
WITH INTEREST THEREON
AT 2.652% PER ANNUM FROM
7/1/2010, WHICH DOES NOT
INCLUDE INTEREST, LATE
CHARGES, ATTORNEYS
FEES, ESCROW ADVANCES,
ETC. UNLESS YOU DISPUTE
THE VALIDITY OF 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 DEFFERENT
FROM THE CURRENT
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/DISCLOSE
IS FOR COMPLIANCE
AND INFORMATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY. HELP
FOR HOMEOWNERS IN
FORECLOSURE New York
State Law 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,

LEGAL NOTICES

you may lose your home.
Please read the summons
and complaint carefully. You
should immediately contact
an attorney or your local legal
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 office,
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
the process. To locate an entity
near you, you may call the toll-free
helpline maintained by the New
York State Banking Department
at 1-877 Bank-NYS or visit
the Department's website
at 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 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 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 a copy of
the answer on the attorney for
the mortgage company who
filed this foreclosure proceeding
against you and filing the
answer with the court, a default
judgment may be entered and
you can lose your home. Speak
to an attorney or go to the court
where your case is pending
for further information on how
to answer the summons and
protect your property. Sending
a payment to your mortgage
company will not stop this
foreclosure action. YOU MUST
RESPOND BY SERVING A
COPY OF THE ANSWER
ON THE ATTORNEY FOR
THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE
COMPANY) AND FILING THE
ANSWER WITH THE COURT.
The Law Offices Of Jordan S.
Katz, P.C., Attorneys for the
Plaintiff, 395 N. Service Rd.,
Suite 401, Melville, NY 11747
(631)454-8059 Our file #: JSK
15102.
1/19,26,2/2&9/2012

File No.: 2010-3060
CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK
BY THE GRACE OF GOD,
FREE AND INDEPENDENT
To: Jennifer Weithers, Estate of
Anita Vernon, Barbara Marsillo,
Estate of Irving Frankel, Norma
Rhode, Linda Spadafora,
Attorney General of the State

LEGAL NOTICES

of New York
The unknown distributees,
legatees, devisees, heirs at
law and assignees of ELLEN
MOSS, deceased, or their
estates, if any there be, whose
names, places of residence
and post office addresses are
unknown to the petitioner and
cannot with due diligence be
ascertained.

Being the persons interested
as creditors, legatees,
distributees or otherwise in
the Estate of ELLEN MOSS,
deceased, who at the time of
death was a resident of 30-16
50 Street, Woodside, NY 11377,
in the County of Queens, State
of New York.

SEND GREETING:

Upon the petition of LOIS
M. ROSENBLATT, Public
Administrator of Queens
County, who maintains
her office at 88-11 Sutphin
Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens
County, New York 11435, as
Temporary Administrator of
the Estate of ELLEN MOSS,
deceased, you and each of you
are hereby cited to show cause
before the Surrogate at the
Surrogate's Court of the County
of Queens, to be held at the
Queens General Courthouse,
6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin
Boulevard, Jamaica, City and
State of New York, on the 8th
day of March, 2012 at 9:30
o'clock in the forenoon, why
the Account of Proceedings
of the Public Administrator of
Queens County, as Temporary
Administrator of the Estate
of said deceased, a copy of
which is attached, should not
be judicially settled, and why
the Surrogate should not fix
and allow a reasonable amount
of compensation to GERARD
J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal
services rendered to petitioner
herein in the amount of
\$22,426.59 and that the Court
fix the fair and reasonable
additional fee for any services
to be rendered by GERARD J.
SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in
connection with proceedings
on kinship, claims etc., prior
to entry of a final Decree on
this accounting in the amount
of 6% of assets or income
collected after the date of the
within accounting; and why the
Surrogate should not fix and
allow an amount equal to one
percent on said Schedules of
the total assets on Schedules A,
A1, and A2 plus any additional
monies received subsequent
to the date of this account,
as the fair and reasonable
amount payable to the Office
of the Public Administrator for
the expenses of said office
pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(4);
and why the Purported Last
Will and Testament dated
April 15, 2009 should not be
denied probate; and why the
net distributable estate should
not be paid pursuant to E.P.T.L
4.1-1; and why each of you
claiming to be a distributee
of the decedent should not
establish proof of your kinship;
and why the balance of said
funds should not be paid to said
alleged distributees upon proof
of kinship, or deposited with
the Commissioner of Finance

of the City of New York should
said alleged distributees default
herein, or fail to establish proof
of kinship,
Dated, Attested and Sealed
10th day of January, 2012
HON. PETER J. KELLY
Surrogate, Queens County
MARGARET GRIBBON
Clerk of the Surrogate's Court
GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ.
(718) 459-9000
95-25 Queens Boulevard
11th Floor
Rego Park, New York 11374
This citation is served upon you
as required by law. You are not
obliged to appear in person.
If you fail to appear it will be
assumed that you do not object
to the relief requested unless
you file formal legal, verified
objections. You have a right to
have an attorney-at-law appear
for you.
Accounting Citation
1/26,2/2,2/9&2/16/12

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an
Order entered by the Civil
Court, Queens County on
1/17/12, bearing Index Number
NC-001273-11/QU, a copy of
which may be examined at
the office of the Clerk, located
at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard,
Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me
(us) the right to: Assume the
name of (First) HOPE (Middle)
KORKOI (Last) ARYEETEEY.
My present name is (First)
ETHEL (Middle) HOPE NAA
KORKOI (Last) ARYEETEEY
AKA HOPE K. ARYEETEEY.
My present address is 108-
14 225TH STREET, Queens
Village, NY 11429-2834. My
place of birth is BROOKLYN,
NY. My date of birth is February
08, 1977.
2/9/12

Notice is hereby given that an
Order entered by the Civil Court,
Queens County on 1/9/12,
bearing Index Number NC-
001216-11/QU, a copy of which
may be examined at the office
of the Clerk, located at 89-17
Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica,
NY 11435, grants me (us) the
right to: Assume the name of
(First) JANINE (Middle) CELIA
(Last) DAVIS. My present name
is (First) JANINE (Middle) CELIA
(Last) KRAHNER. My present
address is 177-12 145th Avenue,
Jamaica, NY 11434. My place of
birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of
birth is November 02, 1991.
2/9/12

Notice is hereby given that an
Order entered by the Civil Court,
Queens County on 12/12/11,
bearing Index Number NC-
001164-11/QU, a copy of which
may be examined at the office
of the Clerk, located at 89-17
Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica,
NY 11435, grants me (us) the
right to: Assume the name of
(First) MARY (Middle) TERESA
(Last) CONLON. My present
name is (First) MARY (Middle)
TERESA (Last) STARKINS
AKA MARY STARKINS. My
present address is 78-14
AUSTIN ST 2D, Forest Hills,
NY 11375. My place of birth is
IRELAND. My date of birth is
October 09, 1935.
2/9/12

Sen. Stavisky Presents Flushing-Area Synagogue with Check for Improvements



Senator Toby Ann Stavisky presented the Israel Center of Conservative Judaism with a check for \$50,000 to make their restrooms accessible to the disabled (1 to r: Mel Kaufman, State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin, and Synagogue President Marilyn Kaufman). The improvements will allow people with handicapping conditions to attend community events at the Center, which includes a school for children with special needs.

"This synagogue is an important institution in the Flushing community and everyone should be able to make use of its facilities," Stavisky said. "I am proud to have requested the funds, which were allocated in the 2009 budget, for these long-overdue improvements."

The Israel Center of Conservative Judaism is located at 167-11 73rd Avenue, Flushing, New York, 11366. These improvements will bring the Center in line with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. "Our community has an obligation to be open and accessible to all," Stavisky concluded, "and with these capital improvements, we will be one step closer to achieving that goal."

Happy 102nd Anniversary to the Boy Scouts of America



Pack #368-Queens, @ St. Paul the Apostle R.C. Church, Corona, NY To help in this celebration, each Pack will take one Sunday of February to worship in full uniformsome of the "best" Scouts in Queens!

Visit Our WebSite: www.queenstimes.com



Christ the King High School Celebrates Giants Win with "Jersey Day"

Students and Faculty at Christ the King Regional High School celebrated the NY Giants Super Bowl win with a school-wide "Jersey Day" celebration.



Pictured Top Row from Left to Right: Michelle Vassallo, Anthony Sala, Jaelyn Dolphin, Anthony LoCascio, Frank Smith, Francesca Nenadich, Kijana Roberts, Charles Baldi, Matthew Adragna, Justen Molina, Pictured Bottom Row from Left to Right: Luke Mayorga, Richard Wahmann, Frank Provenzano,

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/queenstimes

My NYCB is

NYCB Queens County Savings Bank
A Division of New York Community Bank • Member FDIC

718-448-7272
www.myNYCB.com

New York Community Bancorp Named America's Best Performing Thrift*

*Top-performing large thrift in the U.S. for the 12 months ended March 31, 2011 among thrifts with \$2.0 billion or more in assets; as reported by SNL Financial.

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