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Point Of View

Know Your Rights NYC's 2012 Tax Lien Sale

This is an important message from NYC Comptroller John C. Liu and we at the Queens Times thought this is an issue that was extremely important to bring to our readers. Read the following very careful it could affect your future.

If you answer yes to any or all of the following questions:
DO YOU

1. Owe two or more years of property taxes
2. Have unpaid Water and Sewer Bills.
3. Received notices from the City that you are Delinquent on these charge.

Your home may be on the Tax Lien Sale List because as a property owner you did not pay your property taxes, and/or your water, sewer, and other property related charges, the City can file a legal claim for collection called a tax lien. The property's owner's debt includes unpaid taxes and charges, as well as the associated interest.

You can check the NYC Department of Finance's (DOF) website to find out if your property is on the list:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/property/property_bill_taxlien.shtml

If you are on the lien sale list, avoid having your lien sold

(Continued on page 2)

Bayside – Whitestone Lions Club Announces Tree Giveaway & 1st Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner



Pictured L to R: Bayside – Whitestone Lions Club 1st V.P. Donald Frain, Team Lung Love Coordinator Carrie Wesolowski, Queens Center for Progress Development Assistant Wendy Phaff, Relay For Life's Mary Conaty, and Bayside – Whitestone Lions Club President Paul Vallone. See story on page 2.

Jetblue Officially Opens The Airline's New Offices In The Historic Brewster Building On Queens Plaza North



Elected officials, including Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, joined jetBlue officials, Wednesday, April 4th, to officially open the airline's new offices in the historic Brewster Building on Queens Plaza North in Long Island City. In 2010, jetBlue decided to relocate its offices in Forest Hills and its 900 employees to Long Island City, and its former Darien, Connecticut office and its 70 employees. Among those on hand for Wednesday's opening were (L-R, starting second from left): City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, jetBlue CEO Dave Barger, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Marshall and State Senator Mike Gianaris.

Councilman Gennaro, Queens Chamber, Merchants Hail Passage of Law Allowing Cancellation of Unfair Parking Tickets



Making the Muni-Meter a Square Deal: Councilman Gennaro speaks about a new law he sponsored that allows the immediate cancellation of unfair parking tickets. He is joined by (l. to r.) Josephine Dimarco of Lulu's Bakery, Dr. William Murray Sr., who practices dentistry on Union Turnpike, Queens Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jack Friedman and staffer Eric Abrams, Wendy Marsh of Marsh Optical, and Union Turnpike Merchants Association President Robert Gargiulo.



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Bayside – Whitestone Lions Club Announces Tree Giveaway & 1st Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner

The Bayside – Whitestone Lions Club held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 4th at the law offices of Vallone & Vallone. President Paul Vallone announced the Club's upcoming free Tree Giveaway. In conjunction with Million Trees NYC and New York Restoration Project, the Bayside – Whitestone Lions Club is giving away 100 free trees to make our neighborhood greener. The Tree Giveaway will be on Saturday, April 28th, from 11am – 2pm at A&S Whitestone Nursery located at 23-02 Francis Lewis Boulevard. He also announced the Club's 1st Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner. Nine students from local high schools have been selected for this scholarship. The Scholarship Awards Dinner is on Thursday, May 17th from 6-9pm at Verdi's located at 149-58 Cross Island Parkway in Whitestone. All are welcome, and please call 718-428-7285 for details.

The night's speakers were Queens Center for Progress Development Assistant Wendy Phaff, who discussed her organization's mission to serve individuals with developmental disabilities; Mary Conaty, who discussed her participation in the upcoming Relay for Life and her team, Team Mac's Angels in the Outfield; and Team Lung Love's Carrie Wesolowski, who is participating in Lung Cancer Alliance's upcoming marathon in honor of her father. The Bayside – Whitestone Lions Club will not meet in May but invites everyone in the community to their upcoming events.

Israel Independence Day Service

AT THE REFORM TEMPLE OF FOREST HILLS

A Shabbat service to celebrate the 64th anniversary of Israel's independence, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, will take place at The Reform Temple of Forest Hills, 71-11 112th Street, on Friday, April 27th at 8:00pm. Participating in the celebration will be Shlomi Kofman, Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York. The Oneg (reception) following the service will feature Israeli food, music, and dancing. This event will be sponsored by the Temple's Israel Support and Awareness Committee.

Point Of View

(Continued from Page 1)

by doing one of the following before MAY 17th:

1. Pay the charges in full.
2. Arrange a payment agreement with the DOF or the Department of Environmental protection (DEP, which handles sewer and water charges).
3. Find out if you qualify for one of the following exemptions:
 - a. Senior Citizen Homeowner Exemption (SCHE)
 - b. Disabled Homeowner Exemption (DHE)
 - c. Real Property Tax Credit for Homeowners
 - d. Veterans Exemption

If you qualify and apply, your property will be removed from the Lien Sale List.

Go to the Eligibility Checklist:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dof/html/pdf/lien_sale/exemption_checklist.pdf

Fill out the application and return it to DOF as soon as possible. Active duty military personnel must complete an affidavit requesting relief from the sale. The website with application can be found at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dof/html/pdf/04pdf/military.pdf>

For more information, call the NYC Comptroller's Community Action Center: 212.699.3916

The Deadline to repay in full, enter into a payment agreement, or qualify for exemptions is MAY 17th, so act now.

It's A Garden Party Louis Armstrong House Museum Free Event - All Invited

Time to party at Louis's house! Louis Armstrong House Museum is throwing a Garden Party on May 5 & 6, 2012 and all are invited. The Garden Party is a free event, family friendly and will be held rain or shine. The weekend Garden Party will be jam-packed with hot fun and cool jazz. Event hours are Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 from 12 Noon - 6pm. In addition, the Garden Party will include a satellite event: a free film screening on Saturday, May 12th from 6 pm - 8 pm.

The Garden Party on May 5th - 6th at Louis Armstrong House Museum features ongoing historic house tours led by trained docents, which are free during event hours. Hear Louis's magical voice through rare recordings throughout the tour. It's an intimate visit as if you can sit down and have a cup of coffee with Satchmo himself. Learn about Louis and his meteoric ride as one of the greatest musicians of our time.

Outside in the garden LAHM

guests will enjoy live Jazz, sample red beans 'n rice (Louis's favorite recipe), swing dancing, raffles.

On Saturday, May 5th, the adventurous Mona's Hot Four with vocalist Tamar Korn will kick off LAHM's live Jazz segment. Mona's Hot Four will jam bringing their late-night scene from the East Village to Louis's Garden.

On Sunday May 6th, Queens College Hot 5, an ensemble made up of players from around the globe, will dazzle the crowd. Their passionate sound will set the mood with music spanning Louis's early blues, through the "hot" era, and on to his treatment of popular music.

Emily Asher's Garden Party will then take the stage to charm the crowd. Asher's tenacious trombone and sweet vocals lead this group in a diverse repertoire from Louis Armstrong's explosive All-Stars and Duke Ellington's sophisticated melodies to the funky and soulful music of New Orleans brass bands.



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Knowing Which Financial Records To Save, Toss

By Jason Alderman

If the memory of hours spent hunting for and organizing paperwork to file your taxes is still fresh, think about doing some financial spring cleaning so next year's tax preparation won't be such an ordeal.

Many people hold onto mounds of receipts and account statements because they're not sure when it's safe to toss them. (By toss, I mean shred – don't give identity thieves any ammunition.) Here's when you wouldn't want to lack proper documentation:

- If audited by the IRS you must be able to justify deductions, charitable contributions, income, etc.
- Track stock and fund transactions so when you sell you'll only be taxed on profits above the purchase amount; also to justify claiming a loss on your taxes.
- To claim tax credits/deductions for home improvements, such as energy-efficiency upgrades or for medical reasons.
- If you make nondeductible (after-tax) contributions to an IRA or 401(k), to prove you've already paid taxes on the amount.
- Your heirs will need your financial documents to settle your estate.

The IRS has several periods of limitations during which you can be asked to produce records proving income, deductions or credits you claimed:

- Normally, they have up to three

years after your tax return to request documentation.

- However, if you failed to report income that is more than 25 percent of the gross income on your return, they have six years.
- If you file a claim for losses from worthless securities, it's seven years.
- If you don't file a return or file a fraudulent return, there is no statute of limitations.

So, you should probably hold onto back-up documentation for seven years, to be safe. These records include:

- W-2 and 1099 income forms.
- Year-end bank and broKnow-ing Which Financial Records to Save, Toss
- kerage statements showing interest earned.
- Receipts, cancelled checks or other proof of payment for deducted expenses.
- Home purchase or closing statements, insurance records and receipts for improvements.
- Homeowners, car and medical insurance claim payouts.
- Investment statements (stocks, bonds, mutual funds retirement accounts, etc.)

IRS Form 552 contains detailed instructions on what to save and for how long (www.irs.gov).

Hold onto certain documents for even longer than IRS audit requirements. For example:

- Keep records for investments and major assets at least as long as you own them.

Save records and tax forms relating to retirement accounts, at least until you've drained their balances.

Toss monthly and quarterly loan statements after receiving year-end summaries, but always retain final payoff notices in case the loan erroneously goes into collection and you need proof.

Save all tax returns and attachments (Schedules, W-2 form, etc.) indefinitely. The same goes for hard-to-replace personal documents such as birth, marriage and death certificates, divorce, adoption and military discharge papers, will, power of attorney, etc.

You can always save actual documents and receipts. But if your goal is to reduce paper clutter, scan copies and save as PDF files. Back up electronic "soft copies" on an encrypted flash drive or external hard drive in case your computer crashes. And, if you're worried about fire, theft or other disasters, store additional copies in a safety deposit box or with a trusted friend.

Recordkeeping is no fun, but compared to tearing the house apart to prepare for an audit, it's a small price to pay.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To participate in a free, online Financial Literacy and Education Summit on April 23, 2012, go to www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summit2012.

Senator Shirley L. Huntley Announces Strong Medicaid Relief in 2012-2013 State Budget

Senator Shirley L. Huntley (D-Jamaica) announced that under the enacted 2012-2013 State Budget significant funding has been allocated for substantial relief in Medicaid spending for localities throughout New York. This allocated funding will go great lengths in aiding those who have been debilitated by the past crushing Medicaid costs.

"As the middle class continues to live paycheck to paycheck and struggles to provide for their families they should not have the burden of ever increasing taxes due to ballooning Medicaid costs," said Senator Huntley. "The Senate Democrats have heard what the middle class has been saying and we are working to help ensure long term prosperity for your families."

The Senate Democratic Con-

ference have been fighting for Medicaid reform. Under the new budget, New York will take over the growth of Medicaid cost and will implement a phased take-over of Medicaid administration expenses. In 2013-14, Medicaid growth will be reduced by two percent, and then reduced by an additional one percent annually over the subsequent two years.

In my district, property taxes have been increasing at dramatic rates for homeowners and those residing in condominiums and co-ops. In the borough of Queens there has been a greater percentage of houses and co-ops compared to the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. that feel the burden of having to pay rising property taxes. Medicaid reform will go a long way in keeping certain costs down for families,

especially in an economic climate where the cost of living has increased while salaries have stagnated.

With these reforms counties throughout New York State, and New York City, will no longer have to contribute towards the growth of Medicare expenses by 2015-16. With the State of New York taking over the three percent of the Medicaid growth factor it will save our counties and New York City \$1.2 billion over the next five years.

Senator Huntley continued, "Passing this relief is a victory for everyone in New York. The Senate Democratic Conference will continue to ensure government provides the services essential to New Yorkers without placing extra burdens on our state's taxpayers."

President's Co-op Council Endorses Avella's Bill Creating New Property Tax Class for Co-ops and Condos

Senator Tony Avella announced today that the President's Co-op & Condo Council voted to endorse his legislation (S.5118) to create a new property tax class (Class One A) for co-op and condo owners to address the huge tax assessment increases these homeowners recently received from the City of New York.

Avella stated, "I am extremely pleased that the President's Co-op & Condo Council is supporting this bill. Council Co-op and condo owners should have the same property tax breaks as one, two and three family homeowners.

Unfortunately, the tax code places these housing units in a much higher tax bracket and equates them with landlord operated rental buildings. As a result their property taxes are much higher. Reducing their property tax can be accomplished in several ways by either placing them in Class 1 (which is one, two and three family homes) or by creating a new class which only includes co-op and condos. I believe the latter is the best approach and one that could be passed by the legislature quickly."


Co-ops and condos have been

ravaged by drastic increases in Co-op Property Valuation and Tax Increases by the New York City Department of Finance (DOF) this year. Deepdale and Hollis Court in Bayside each experienced 50% increases while Alley Pond (47%) and Glen Oaks Village (20.5%) each experienced large increases as well. Each increase was in addition to the 50% increase the Co-ops absorbed the previous year.

Avella's bill would provide the same property tax caps that ex-

(Continued on page 11)

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Whirl With Merle

MINI TIME IN MINNEAPOLIS by Merle Exit

Time does fly as it was several months ago when I went to Minneapolis, which seemed to bring back memories of dining and theatre.

I was supposed to have dinner in St. Paul one evening but the venue slated was closed for a private party. Headed to Minneapolis and dined at JD Hoyt's at 310 Washington Avenue North. The restaurant looked lively and you can see the kitchen. Known for their grilled steaks. I started my meal with appetizer of Lobster Taco of two soft shell tacos filled with lobster meat, chopped spinach and pepper cheese. Only a bit spicy but soooo good. Steak it was! I ordered a New York Strip cooked just as I requested and with no salt. I could truly taste the flavor of the steak. Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream seemed to be a specialty of the area so I had to order a dish.

Off to the Lab Theatre to see "Rocky Horror Live". The theatre, located at 700 North 1st, is in the Warehouse District a few blocks from where I was staying. Great performance...excellent acting, except that I didn't care for the guy portraying Dr. Frank n Furter. The locals got a kick because he's a local personality.

Mill City Museum wasn't far from the hotel. Minneapolis tourism assisted by sending Bett Santrang. Built into the ruins of what was once the world's largest flour mill, Mill City Museum is located on the historic Mississippi Riverfront. "Here, visitors of all ages learn about the intertwined histories of the flour industry, the river, and the city of Minneapolis" and I did. The original A Mill, built in 1874, was leveled by a flour dust explosion that claimed 18 lives. That explosion and the resulting fire destroyed much of the riverfront business area, cutting Minneapolis' milling capacity in half. Rebuilding and Minneapolis Historic Society is why it is here.

As for the Riverfront...Minneapolis has more bridges across the Mississippi River than any other community, including suspension, stone arch, steel truss, and concrete-arch bridges. It's also the site of the first bridge across the Mississippi.

On January 23, 1855 a suspension bridge opened in Minneapolis from Nicollet Island to what is now the downtown side of the Mississippi at Hennepin Avenue. Combined with an 1853 bridge from Nicollet Island to the other



side of the river, this suspension bridge completed the very first permanent span anywhere along the Mississippi River. It's a great tour with loads to see and interestingly historic.

I spent much of an afternoon at the Mall of America, then back to Minneapolis for dinner at Republic in a particular locale called 7 corners. New restaurant, pub style. Uses local ingredients! Separate bar area seemed quite busy! I had the best ribs ever! Marinated in 5 spices and other goodies. Sweet sauce rather than spicy or salty. Entree was a Butternut Squash Ravioli. Brown butter cream, crispy sage, toasted pine nuts. Totally delicious. Oh yeah...they had Kwak beer! I love that beer! Got a hanger steak salad and Turkey and Apple sandwich to go! Hey, they even make their own ketchup! Good luck to you, Rick Gunztel!!

Just down the block is Theatre in the Round, where I saw the play, "The Reluctant Debutant". I was not disappointed with the acting...a step above Community Theatre.

An architecture of bright colors, a waterfalls and tall windows span the walls of Rosa Mexicano located at 609 Hennepin Avenue, in the Minneapolis' entertainment district, one of twelve in the United States where you can expect true Mexican fare that is far from Tex-Mex. I was looking forward to partaking.

Behind the waterfalls was a lounge that had a bar as well as tables and chairs. Abutting one side was another room which I understood used for the overflow of customers or private events. I was seated in the main dining room.

Although a Frozen Pomegranate Margarita is their signature drink, I opted to save my alcoholic intake for after dinner. The menu

gave a detailed description of the food along with a marking so that I would get the caliber of the heat. "Mild" is my choice!

Guacamole en Molcajete is prepared dinnerside. Since 1984 they have been serving freshly made guacamole with avocado, jalapeno, tomato, onion and cilantro. If there is an ingredient that you are not particularly fond of and want eliminated, do not hesitate to share this. Warm corn tortillas, tortilla chips, salsa pasilla de Oaxaca and salsa de tomatilla y habanero accompanies this appetizer.

Well, let's call it a pre-appetizer as I had another one. Tartar de Serviola. Pacific Yellowtail aka Hamachi Tartare composed of diced yellowtail, watermelon, cucumber and jicama served with a tomato habanero sauce and jalapeno ice.

Next course. Filete Con Hongos, a sliced up filet mignon covered with a wild mushroom, tequila cream sauce and sauteed red and green peppers. Black beans and yellow rice accompanied this savory delight.

It was quite difficult choosing a dessert and the one that won out was the Tres Leches de Zaramoras and Blackberry Three Milk Cake. The sour cream pound cake is soaked in three milks, lemon and lime, topped with an assortment of berries as well as an hibiscus glaze and toasted meringue.

Having chatted with Ryan, one of the managers, he had suggested the after drink. It was a shot of tequila with a chaser of Sangrita, made with a fresh tomato juice, worchestire suace and chaula. Totally tasty. www.rosamexicano.com

For further information on Minneapolis go to www.exploreminneapolis.com

Make Dinner Extra Romantic

(StatePoint) If you're planning a romantic dinner at home, you'll want it to have an extra special quality.

There are many great ways to set a romantic mood at your table. Special Foods

There's something very romantic about cooking and sharing the meal you created together. For ideas, use a cookbook or online recipe site to plan a special menu

with foods you both love, but don't eat often. Plan a meal with several separate courses.

Ordering-in can be romantic too. It's less fuss and mess and allows you to concentrate on each other. Just be sure to take the food out of its plastic and paper containers before serving!

Fine Wine

Nothing says "I love you" like sharing a great bottle of wine.

And whether you're a wine connoisseur, or a novice, you'll want the wine to taste great with the food. Pick a versatile bottle that pairs well with every course of your meal.

For an unforgettable evening, get inspired by the land of amore and all things fine, from Prada designs to Lamborghini cars.

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 (Mar. 21 - April 20)
 Keep the promises you've made or you can expect to be in the doghouse. Your mate could get on your nerves if he or she backs you into a corner. Your lucky numbers are 6,4,3.

TAURUS
 (Apr. 21 - May 21)
 Spend time fixing up your premises and making changes that will be appreciated. Help those incapable of taking care of their personal affairs. Your lucky numbers are 1,9,6.

GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)
 Be careful that you don't spend too much time with a person belonging to someone else. Do not borrow or lend money or belongings to friends. Your lucky numbers are 5,8,3.

CANCER
 (June 22 - July 22)
 Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you. There will be difficulties if you spend too much. Avoid overloading your plate. Your lucky numbers are 3,9,5.

LEO
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 Think before you act. Unforeseen circumstances will disrupt your daily routine. You will attract members of the opposite sex readily. Look into art objects. Your lucky numbers are 1,9,7.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
 You can come up with solutions to the problems responsible for inefficiencies at work. Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things. Your lucky numbers are 4,7,3.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
 Don't confuse issues when discussing the matters at hand. Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Don't spend money this week. Your lucky numbers are 7,3,9.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
 Look into family outings. Children may be scared to open up to you. You may have a problem at work with a female coworker. Your lucky numbers are 9,4,3.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
 You need more time to think about this new situation. You will find that unfinished projects at home will be most satisfying. Think about taking a new direction. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,1.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec 22 - Jan. 20)
 You will find that superiors may not see situations as you do. Try to find another time to present work or ideas this week. Get out and socialize. Your lucky numbers are 1,9,6.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
 Travel and communication will be lucrative for you. Hidden assets can be doubled if you play your cards correctly. Question details that you feel hesitant about. Watch your investments carefully. Your lucky numbers are 2,8,5.

PISCES
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
 Try not to overspend on luxury items. Don't let your emotions interfere with your professional integrity. Keep buying Lotto tickets. Your lucky numbers are 8,4,7.

Poets Corner

Dreams Of Queens
 by Frederick R. Bedell Jr.

My mind takes me back and forth all over Queens.
 Both past and present places and people even the sounds in my dreams of Queens.
 Let me start at the Queens Village library where the doors did open to my dreams and was able to fly through the world and see what's in store.
 That the schools of yesterday year, Grace Lutheran Day School of Queens Village-
 That did open doors to our little minds, teachers that cared for the children in need.
 Than there was Thomas Edison high school in Jamaica, that further open our minds to the times. You could learn a trade, but much more than that, teachers help you with your fears and believe in self. There were parks like Alley Pond Park on a Summers day,
 Much to see and learn, as you hiked through natures poetry. Remember the World's Fair in 64 much to see as we traveled to and fro and back and forth under the the Unisphere; where you learned of future of world as hoped for. Right here in Corona, Queens.
 The future is now, for much has changed, yet much is the same. We all live, love work and play as in the days before.
 Right here in Queens- it makes us feel like sometimes we are Kings and Queens right in here in our beloved Queens.
 When our dreams do come true which is because they had their roots in Queens.

110th Precinct Community Council April Meeting Information

The 110th Precinct Community Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 16 at the VFW Hall, 51-11 108th Street in Corona, Queens. The event begins at 7:00 p.m.

The guest speakers will be Deputy Inspector Phylis Byrne from the NYPD Auxiliary Police Section, and Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras. Deputy Inspector Ronald D. Leyson, Commanding Officer of the 110th Precinct, will also be on hand to discuss crime and quality of life issues, and police officers from the 110th Precinct will receive awards for their achievements.

Answer to Last Weeks "Sudoku"

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

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		4	2					7
		6			5	8	4	3
7							6	
3			5			7		
				9				
		8			2			4
	9							5
4	2	7	3			1		
8					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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Answer to Last Weeks "Try and Find It!"

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 G O D J W C N P K S T R I K E O U T U A

Council Member Mark Weprin Visits Program For Developmentally Disabled

Council Member Mark S. Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) visited YAI Network's center in Bayside, Queens; it provides programs specializing in treating people with developmental disabilities, such as autism, and aiding them in becoming independent, valued members of the community. YAI's Day Habilitation program teams up with parents, businesses, and community members to help clients gain independence through volunteerism.



Council Member Mark Weprin at YAI Network's center in Bayside, Queens.

"Programs like the YAI Network are invaluable for providing vital services to an underserved group, allowing them to become participating members of society," said Council Member Mark Weprin.

Started in 1957, the YAI Network is a not-for-profit organization serving more than 20,000

people in places ranging from New York to countries around the world. The YAI Network's

mission is to create hope and opportunity for people with learning disabilities.

Congressman Crowley Announces Resolution to Encourage Expansion of Visa Waiver Program and Boost Tourism



Congressman Joe Crowley

Rep. Joe Crowley (Queens, the Bronx) announced he will introduce a measure in the House of Representatives that would encourage the U.S. Government expand the Visa Waiver Program, an effort that will help boost tourism in Queens. Crowley was joined by Jack Friedman, executive director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce; Seth Bornstein, executive director of the Queens Economic Development Corporation; and Patricia Rojas from the U.S. Travel Association for the announcement.

Crowley's resolution calls on the U.S. Government to expand the Visa Waiver Program to include at

least three new countries: Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. The Visa Waiver Program enables visitors from 36 participating countries to travel to the U.S. for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Countries included in the program were the largest source of inbound travel in 2010, representing 65% of all tourists to the U.S. Expanding the program will encourage more international visitors to the U.S. and will help communities like Queens that are looking to increase tourism and create jobs.

(Continued on page 10)

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St. Mary's Kids Get Moving In A Special Zumba Class At St. Mary's Hospital For Children

St. Mary's Kids are dancing themselves into great shape with a brand new, monthly Zumba class at St. Mary's Bayside facility. Starting this past week, St. Mary's inpatient and after school programs will get together once a month to mingle and move together – all while working towards their rehabilitation goals.

“Our new Zumba class is a fantastic way for us to get the kids moving in a way that makes them excited to exercise and work towards reaching their rehab goals,” said Jessica Carney, Manager of Therapeutic Recreation. “Focusing on exercise is critical for our kids and they’ve found Zumba to be a fun way to get fit.”

Zumba is a Latin dance-inspired fitness program set to music with fast and slow rhythms. The exhilarating, dance fitness-party



is moving St. Mary's Kids and Young Adults towards their goals of living healthy and happy lives in a way that allows them to truly enjoy the process.

The children of St. Mary's are battling complex medical and life-limiting conditions due to serious illness, injury and complications of premature birth.

Councilman Gennaro Buys Leavened Goods from Orthodox Jewish Households for Passover

Playing a Part in a Cherished Tradition: Councilman James F. Gennaro meets with rabbis from the congregations in his district on Friday morning to buy “chametz” during the Passover celebration.

Part of preparing for Passover involves eliminating ownership of all leavened (or fermented) grain products. Much of this, like loaves of bread, are burned outside in group ceremonies. But to spare some of the community's more valuable leavened items such as restaurant inventories, Gennaro



(who is not Jewish) agrees by written contract to purchase it, and

then sells it back at the conclusion of the seven- or eight-day holiday.

Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer Receives Perfect Score On His Environmental Record



On April 5th, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer was given a perfect score on the New York League of Conservation Voters New York City Council Environ-

mental Scorecard.

The NYLCV's Scorecard examines all 51 New York City Council Members' voting and sponsorship records to determine their environmental record on a variety of pieces of sustainability legislation, from transportation to energy efficiency and food policy. The legislation used to grade the City Council was selected by a coalition of environmental, parks and advocacy groups, led by NYLCV.

“The residents of Sunnyside, Long Island City, Woodside, Astoria and Maspeth care a lot about the environment. I am very proud of our collective efforts to make Queens and New York City some of the most environmentally responsible places in the country,” said Council Member Van Bramer. “Helping keep our borough clean and green has always been a high priority for my office.

I thank the NYLCV for recognizing me and my colleagues' efforts to make our city greener.”

Council Member Van Bramer has co-sponsored legislation to keep the waterways of New York City clean and allocated a significant amount of capital funding to environmental remediation projects, like the Queensbridge seawall.

“As her perfect score shows, Council Member Van Bramer has certainly proven he is one of the most environmentally friendly members of the New York City Council,” said Marcia Bystry, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters. “I commend Council Member Van Bramer for fighting for a greener, healthier borough as well as for his efforts to ensure that environmental issues are continually given high priority within his legislative legacy.”

Cross Island YMCA Celebrates Healthy Kids Day®, The Y's Biggest Event Of The Year!

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WHEN: Saturday, April 28, 2010
10-4pm

WHERE: Cross Island YMCA
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718-479-0505

www.ymcanyc.org/crossisland
www.facebook.com/crossislandymca



The summer months can be a time of play and intellectual exploration for children. For some kids, however, exposure to enriching activities that stimulate and nurture body and mind cease as soon as the school year ends.

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A.G. Schneiderman's "Operation: Game Over" Purges Thousands Of Sex Offenders From Online Video Game Networks

First-Of-Its-Kind Online Video Game Sweep Protects The Safety And Security Of Children Statewide

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced that more than 3,500 accounts of New York registered sex offenders have been purged from online video game platforms as part of "Operation: Game Over," a groundbreaking initiative with participation from Microsoft, Apple, Blizzard Entertainment, Electronic Arts, Disney Interactive Media Group, Warner Brothers and Sony. The Attorney General's database sweep is a first-of-its-kind effort to protect children from predators on video game networks in New York State.

"We must ensure online video game systems do not become a digital playground for dangerous predators. That means doing everything possible to block sex offenders from using gaming networks as a vehicle to prey on underage victims," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "I applaud all the companies participating in this first-of-its-kind initiative for taking online safety seriously and purging their networks of sex offenders. Together we are making the online community safer for our children, not allowing it to become a 21st century crime scene."

Under New York State law, convicted sex offenders must register all of their e-mail addresses, screen names, and other Internet identifiers with the state, and that information is then made available to certain websites so they can purge potential predators from their online networks. After the Office of Attorney General approached gaming companies to remove registered sex offenders on their networks, the companies agreed to purge the accounts. Operation: Game Over is the first time the law has been applied to online video game systems.

According to the Pew Research Center, 97% of teens (12-17) play computer, web, portable, or console games and 27% of teens (12-17) play games online with people they don't know.

Almost all video game consoles with online capabilities allow users to access the Internet and send messages to other players under anonymous screen names. Many popular games are specifically designed so that players must interact and play with each other. Games can have thousands of people – both children and adults – playing online at one time. Parents often do not realize

that gaming consoles have these capabilities, or that parental controls exist for these systems. Password-protected "family settings" on many online gaming platforms allow parents to restrict Internet access, track content and monitor contacts.

As a result of Operation: Game Over, 3,580 accounts of New York state sex offenders have been purged – or their communication privileges suspended – from the gaming platforms owned by Microsoft, Apple, Blizzard Entertainment, Electronic Arts, Warner Bros. and Disney Interactive Media Group.

Operation: Game Over coincides with recent incidents of sexual predators using voice and text chat functions in online gaming services to lure underage victims across the country. Earlier this month, Richard Kretovic, a 19-year-old man from Monroe County, pled guilty to sexual abuse charges after meeting a 10-year-old boy on the popular online video game system Xbox LIVE. The man gained the boy's trust over a period of three months, and then invited the boy over to his house where the abuse occurred, according to police.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Aims To Raise Awareness During Donate Life Month

Top Ten Things You Should Know about Organ Donation

Every year, more than 100,000 Americans will need a life-saving organ transplant, yet in 2011 fewer than 22,000 transplants took place in the United States. In New York only 18 percent of New Yorkers who are eligible to donate are registered as organ donors, in stark contrast to the national average of 42 percent.

Even though there have been amazing advances in life saving organ transplant the transplant waiting lists continue to grow at a rapid rate—a new patient is added every 11 minutes.

April is National Donate Life Month and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is teaming up with the New York Organ Donor Network to educate New Yorkers about how simple it can be to save someone's life.

One organ donor can save up to eight lives and improve the lives of up to 50 people by donating tissues however, misconceptions often stop people from registering to become an organ donor. Here are the top ten facts that you may not know about organ and tissue donation:

FACT: Most major religions publicly endorse organ donation as the highest gesture of humanitarianism, including Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam and most branches of Judaism. If you are unsure or uncomfortable with your faith's position on donation, talk to a member of your clergy.

FACT: There are very few medical conditions that would automatically disqualify you from donating any organs and tissues so don't disqualify yourself. It may turn out

that while certain organs are not suitable for transplant, other organs and tissues are fine.

FACT: Family members are never held responsible for any costs related to donation.

FACT: Although it is important to join a donor registry and indicate that you are an organ donor on your driver's license, it is equally important to speak with your family, friends, and doctors about your decision, so that they are aware of your wishes.

FACT: Your medical history is more important than your age. Organs have been transplanted from donors in their 70s and 80s and even 92-year-olds have donated their livers in the United States.

FACT: Potential organ donors are usually admitted to the hospital after illness or an accident, and have usually experienced a brain aneurysm, stroke, or severe head trauma. The team of medical professionals caring for the patient does everything possible to save the patient's life, and have nothing to do with transplantation.

FACT: Although you must be 18 years of age to sign up on the New York State Donate Life Registry, parents or guardians can authorize this decision for their children who would like to register.

FACT: The organ transplant waiting list is blind to wealth and celebrity status. People receive organs based on the severity of the illness, time spent on the waiting list, and blood type.

FACT: Donating an organ will in no way delay funeral arrangements or change any funeral plans. Open casket viewing is possible after any type of donation.

FACT: It is possible to donate to someone who is not a relative and even to someone from another racial or ethnic group. However transplant success rates do increase when organs are matched between members of the same ethnic background. A lack of organ donation among ethnic populations can lead to longer wait times for individuals within that ethnic group.

It is also important to remember that it is also possible to donate certain organs or part of organs (such as a kidney, or part of your liver) while you are living. Living donors improve the lives of the recipients of their organs every day, and represent a very important group of organ donors. For more information about organ donation, please visit www.organdonor.gov. To learn more about living donation, please visit www.kidney.org/transplantation/livingdonors/index.cfm.

Organ Transplantation at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

The organ transplantation program at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital -- which includes NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia and The Rogosin Institute -- is the most active program of its kind in the nation, offering comprehensive and personalized care for the heart, liver, pancreas, kidney and

(Continued on page 11)

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Queens Sports

by Robert Elkin

On Your Mark and Go

With spring now upon us and baseball the main sport around the neighborhoods with the many Little Leagues, as for instance in Howard Beach to Corona and Long Island City to as far east as Bayside, and our New York Mets, at Citi Field in Flushing, there is also another major sport in this borough. This one is the sport of road racing all over the borough and another type of running-horse racing at Aqueduct Race Track, the site of the Casino.

More and more runners are crowding the streets in the mornings, during lunch breaks, and after work, as they keep in shape for competition—whether for a purpose or just for exercise. Some of the long distance runners are pointing for the Long Island Marathon, to take place during the spring, and the second leg of the New York Road Runners Club's half marathon series—the upcoming one in Brooklyn toward the end of May.

Here in Queens there are a number of short distance races or events such as one coming up next week.

This is the Alley Pond 5-Mile Challenge conducted by the Alley Pond Striders Running Club in Bayside with the start on Winchester Boulevard just north of Union Turnpike and the finish on the roadway within the Park.

One entrant into the race is Winthrop Jacobs, a member of the Renegad's Track Club. He will have many of his teammates in action as this club usually supports a race of this kind.

Jacobs is coming off a time of 34:34.7 for 29th place in a field of 389 finishers in the Run Nassau Cedar Creek Park 5-mile race during the fourth leg of a five race series in Nassau County. Last week's race was conducted in Wantagh, not far from the Long Island Marathon course.

The 56-year-old Jacobs got into the sport of running at the age of 25, well after his high school days at Jamaica High were over. He currently resides in Springfield Gardens, not far from the upcoming race.

"I was working at the time that I started running and needed exercise," he explained after the Cedar Creek race.

The Alley Pond upcoming race is an age group event with plenty of awards for the first three place fin-

ishers in various age brackets for both the males and females. Prior to the main event in the morning, the organizers usually stage a fun run for the kids, who are unable to test such a long course.

While Shaun McGrath, a former student at Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood, captured the Cedar Creek Park race rather easily in 27:27.6 and who will enter the Long Island Marathon as the defending champion, the top finishers from Queens in this race last week, included Ozone Park's Roberto Escobar, whose 33:23.7 earned him 20th place overall, Sunnyside's Robert McCrearnor, who ran a 38:20.4 for 63rd place, and Fresh Meadow's James Eng, who was clocked in 39:39.4 for 83rd place.

In any sport, an individual may ask a question 'How Do I Win.?' Connections from a horse most of the time or an individual may even ask the same question referring to any sport. So thoroughbred owner, Mike Repole, a native in Queens, where he was quite active, named a horse called How Do I Win. It just happened that his horse did not emerge victorious in a recent race.

This three year old started off first, dropped back to fourth, and then made a move to finish third in a field of eight horses in what might have been a prep for the Kentucky Derby. This horse was a triple crown nominee also comprised of the Preakness, and Belmont Stakes.

Trinniberg started out second and at the quarter mile mark took hold of first place where he stayed the rest of the way in the Bay Shore.

"There's a 15 percent chance for the Kentucky Derby," said winning owner Shivananda Parabhoo. "We're hoping that he can go long."

The plans are definitely for the Preakness and maybe the mile and a half Belmont Stakes. He's a powerful runner.

"I don't know yet if he's coming back for the Belmont. That's a long way off. The Kentucky Derby is maybe," added the owner.

However, Wood winner Gemologist will be competing in the Kentucky Derby and could even travel north for the Preakness and Belmont Stakes. If he remains healthy, most likely he'll be going for the Triple Crown.

Woodhaven Dials and Donates on "311 Day"

The Woodhaven Residents' Block Association logged 81 complaints and raised over \$500 on its first "311 Day."

The 311 Spring Cleaning and Fundraiser was held on Saturday, March 31. It was a coordinated effort by Woodhaven residents to improve their neighborhood by calling 311 and filing requests for City agencies to address local problems. Many individuals and businesses pledged donations for each 311 request logged.

The donations will benefit the Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The WRBA will present the Corps with the collected donations at our next Town Hall meeting on April 21, 1 p.m. at the Ambulance Corps's headquarters (78-15 Jamaica Ave.).

"We're always looking for new ways to help our members engage with and better the neighborhood," said WRBA President Edward K. Wendell. "Our first 311 Day was clearly a successful experiment. Not only will Woodhaven be much cleaner and safer, but the Ambulance Corps will come out ahead too."

The majority of the 311 calls were requests for graffiti cleanup on homes. Potholes and dangerous conditions were also popular reasons for logging complaints.

One of the findings from 311 Day is that practice makes perfect -- that the more 311 requests you make, the more quickly you can make them. By using specific wording, for example, a caller can log a graffiti complaint in less than four minutes.

The WRBA plans to follow up on each complaint and release periodic progress reports to evaluate how well the city responds to Woodhaven's needs. The first progress report will be issued at the beginning of June.

"If dozens of Woodhaven residents took just a few minutes every week to call something in to 311, we would get the attention we need for so many issues that should be addressed," said WRBA Secretary Arlene Annunziata. "If you see graffiti, or illegal signs, or a broken sidewalk, you can make a huge difference with very little time. Call 311 and then send the request number to the Block Association so they can follow up."

To share a 311 request number with the WRBA, e-mail info@woodhaven-nyc.org or call us at (718) 296-3735.

mile distance.

Mott added that To Honor and Serve may still be entered into next year's running of the same race to defend his title.

"What a good way to finish up the year," Mott went on. "It's probably the last stakes that he'll run for the year. The mile was a fast distance for him. He worked and ran very well. (this year)."

The plan is to race him as a four year old, according to the connections.

"This win has been great," Mott summed up.

Queens Theatre Presents The U.S. Premiere Of SPENT

Queens Theatre presents the U.S. premiere of SPENT, a Canadian import that skewers the global financial crisis. Tickets for the two-week premiere run are on sale now at the Queens Theatre Box Office (14 United Nations Ave South in Flushing Meadows Corona Park), online at queenstheatre.org or by phone at 718.760.0064.

Winner of Toronto's Dora Award for Best Performance, SPENT is a funny, fast paced and poetic commentary on the greed that caused the worldwide financial crisis. Two actors—Ravi Jain and Adam Paolozza—play 20 characters from around the world in this physical and comedic tour de force. Originally produced by Toronto's Theatre Smith-Gilmour, the show played a sold-out run at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2011 and has received superlative reviews: "Inspired Lunacy," said the Toronto Sun, while Canada's NOW Magazine called the show "a wonderful combination of incisive satire and sharp physical comedy."

SPENT will play the Studio

Theatre at Queens Theatre April 27-May 6. Performances are Friday at 7:30pm, Saturday at 2 & 8pm, Sunday at 3pm. Tickets are \$25 and are available:

- Online at www.queenstheatre.org.
- By phone at 718-760-0064
- In person at the Queens Theatre box office.

Phone & B.O. hours: Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 10am-3pm

Queens Theatre is located directly under the iconic towers of the New York State Pavilion in Flushing Meadows Corona Park and is easily accessible by car, bus or subway.

By Subway: Take the 7 train to Mets-Willets Point and hop on our free shuttle bus that stops on the south side of Roosevelt Avenue beginning one hour prior to curtain.

By Car: Take the Grand Central Parkway East to exit 9E (from Manhattan) or West to 9P (from Long Island) and follow the signs for theatre parking. Parking is free.

For more information, visit www.queenstheatre.org.

Residents & Merchants United Against Pedestrian Plaza

Seek Relief from Elected Officials & Commitment to Restore 37th Road and Bus Routes

The Jackson Heights Neighborhood Alliance (JHNA) announces their complete disappointment with Council Member Daniel Dromm over his singular insistence that a permanent pedestrian plaza located along 37th Road between 73rd and 74th Street be established.

On Thursday, April 5, the Department of Transportation (DOT), 6 months after the temporary plaza was launched on September 20, 2011, moved to make the plaza, which has destroyed the peaceful atmosphere of the immediate area and damaged the businesses of local merchants, permanent by installing flower pots and making other minor modifications. The broad opposition to the plaza apparently was no obstacle to the Council Member and the DOT in their desire to transform this ethnically diverse community which was bustling and safe into a hangout for petty thieves, drunken homeless and loitering gangs, thus choking off the economic vitality of the area, with businesses, jobs and revenue being lost each day the street was closed, as well as making the quality-of-life miserable for many.

"Our contention was that it

was a failure from the moment they determined to install the plaza. As of today, no formal public hearing has been called, no meeting with the opposition to the plaza scheduled, and now we see clearly that the proponents of the plaza have persistently ignored verifiable community arguments and concerns against the plaza before making it permanent, ultimately deciding to move ahead regardless. We seek an immediate reprieve and demand that the DOT remove the plaza, restore 37th Road to the state it was in before its installation, and that the Q47 and Q49 bus routes be removed from 75th St. and returned to 37th Rd."---JHNA

A Town Hall Meeting, sponsored by Council Member Daniel Dromm and Congressional Representative Joseph Crowley, to discuss issues including transportation has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 from 6:00 to 7:30pm at the Jewish Center located at 37-06 77th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. The JHNA will be there in full force to protest the multiple adverse outcomes of the Jackson Heights Neighborhood Transportation Study and to ask Congressman Crowley to launch a probe into the handling of this plaza and for his assistance in negotiating with Council Member Dromm and the DOT.

Repole's Horses Falter

by Robert Elkin

Calibrachoa and Caixa Electronica, both trained by Todd Pletcher and owned by the Repole Stable, whose owner Mike Repole is a native of this borough of Queens, finished the Cigar Mile third and fifth, respectively, because they faced some top notch competition in a field of six thoroughbreds.

Going into the Grade I event at Aqueduct, also the home of the newly built casino, Mike Repole felt confident with the connections of his horses. But they didn't come through as many of his followers thought they would.

To Honor And Serve surprised Haynesfield and the rest of the field in the 23rd annual fixture. Trained by Bill Mott in the main event of the 10 event card, To Honor and Serve was ridden by Jose Lezcano. In the last seven races, this horse really ran well. He ran at three different tracks.

William Mott trained Cigar then a four year old to a victory in the eighth running of the NYRA Mile.

"It was an honor to win a race named after a great horse," Mott said after To Honor and Serve's

Free Digital Mammograms and Clinical Breast Exams in Astoria

On Tuesday, April 17th, the American Italian Cancer Foundation and the Council Member Peter F. Vallone Jr. will co-host a free breast-cancer screening event in Astoria. Look for the mobile van outside of Council Member Vallone's office at 22-45 31st Street, where medical services will be provided by Multi-Diag-

nostic Service.

Eligible women must be 40-years-old and older, must have a New York mailing address and have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months.

Appointments are necessary. To sign up or for more information please call 1-877-628-9090, or 718-274-4500.

Warm Up Without Burning Out Tips for Exercising Safely During the Summer

The summer is a great season for getting in shape. Whether by playing a sport, doing an aerobic exercise routine, or just returning to that familiar running path -- this is the time for activity.

Dr. Holly Andersen, director of education and outreach at the Ronald O. Perelman Heart Institute at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, says, "Exercise is the fountain of youth, and summer is the perfect time to reconnect with your body."

However, exercise must be approached one step at a time, and not simply in short bursts or over weekends.

"Exercise is the key to a long and healthy life," says Dr. Maryjane Farr, heart failure and transplant cardiologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center. "Regular exercise decreases high blood pressure, lowers the bad cholesterol (LDL) and increases the protective cholesterol (HDL). Whether by playing a sport, doing an aerobic exercise routine or just getting out there and walking, any form of exercise substantially reduces the risk for cardiovascular disease."

Dr. Andersen and Dr. Farr offer the following tips to those looking to resume or begin a workout routine this summer:

* Talk to your doctor. Consult your physician before beginning or changing your exercise regimen. Your doctor may want to first perform an exercise test to prescribe a program that is safe for you.

* Take your workout indoors. When it is too hot or humid outside, exercise in a cool, air-conditioned space.

Extreme temperatures can alter your circulation, increasing the work of your heart and making breathing more difficult.

* Remember to stretch. Even in the summertime, our bodies need to warm up. As you are exercising, take time to work on breathing and posture -- improving these will greatly enhance your health.

* Drink plenty of fluids. Throughout your workout routine it is important to drink plenty of water, even before you feel thirsty. If you are prone to lightheadedness (from low blood pressure), an endurance athlete, or over age 75, you should replenish your "electrolytes" as well -- having a little salt can be important for you.

* Try to maintain an even body temperature. After your workout you should not take an extremely hot or cold shower or a sauna, as these can increase the workload on your heart.

* Workout during the cooler hours. If you truly enjoy exercising outdoors, take advantage of the coolest times of day -- the early morning and evening hours.

* Wear sunscreen. If you have a sunburn, it will decrease your body's ability to cool itself off. Always remember to apply sunscreen to your entire body every morning.

* Take it slow. Start your exercise regimen slowly and pace yourself throughout the workout, including plenty of time for breaks and to drink fluids.

* Have fun. Taking time to exercise is taking time for you. Enjoy it -- smile, breathe deeply and clear your mind. Exercising to music is mood and

energy enhancing, but if you are outside wearing headphones, PAY ATTENTION!

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, based in New York City, is the nation's largest not-for-profit, non-sectarian hospital, with 2,353 beds. The Hospital has nearly 2 million inpatient and outpatient visits in a year, including more than 220,000 visits to its emergency departments -- more than any other area hospital. NewYork-Presbyterian provides state-of-the-art inpatient, ambulatory and preventive care in all areas of medicine at five major centers: NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian/The Allen Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Westchester Division. One of the most comprehensive health care institutions in the world, the Hospital is committed to excellence in patient care, research, education and community service. NewYork-Presbyterian is the #1 hospital in the New York metropolitan area and is consistently ranked among the best academic medical institutions in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. The Hospital has academic affiliations with two of the nation's leading medical colleges: Weill Cornell Medical College and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. For more information, visit www.nyp.org.

Goldfeder Urges Passage Of Important Autism Legislation During Autism Awareness Month

Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Rockaway) is reminding residents of Southern Queens and Rockaway that April is Autism Awareness Month. The month-long observation aims to educate the public about autism and the many services available to help the 1.5 million American individuals and families dealing with this developmental disorder.

"There's a growing incidence of autism spectrum disorders across the state and across the country, and we need to ensure we're making the proper accommodations for those individuals," Assemblyman Goldfeder said. "This month draws needed public attention to a serious and often under-treated condition."

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that severely affects the way an individual can relate to others socially, potentially hampering an individual's ability to communicate and learn. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that the number of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder is 1 in 88 nationwide, making it one of the most common disorders affecting people today[1]. The New York State Interagency Task Force on Autism identified "five pressing needs" of the growing population of New Yorkers diagnosed



with autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). These needs include coordination of state services, early identification, lifelong service delivery, increased dissemination of information and coordination of research efforts.

Assemblyman Goldfeder has sponsored legislation that will expand and enhance treatment, training and research programs serving those persons diagnosed with ASDs (A.2954). This bill will develop a coordinated New York State policy and plan to address the current and future needs of people and families who are affected by ASDs, ensuring that people across the state who are diagnosed with or affected by this disorder are getting the help they need.

"A diagnosis of autism presents a real challenge for the families of those who suffer from this disorder," said Assemblyman Goldfeder. "It is important to provide support to the growing number of children and families affected by ASDs to ensure that they receive the care and support they desperately need and deserve."

During the month of Autism Awareness, Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (left) joined Andrew Bauman, Founder and CEO of the non-profit New York Families for Autistic Children (right) on a tour of the new NYFAC learning center on Cross Bay Blvd in Howard Beach. The facility is expected to be open and completed by June of this year.

Congressman Crowley Announces Resolution to Encourage Expansion of Visa Waiver Program and Boost Tourism

(Continued from page 6)

"We need to do all we can to make Queens a destination point, and not just a gateway to Manhattan. The history and diversity of Queens has so much to offer to offer to travelers, and increasing travel and tourism is one of the most effective tools we have in our pocket to spur job growth and foster economic activity on the local level. It's simple: the easier it is for international tourists to visit the U.S., the more likely they will. My resolution will help us accomplish just that, and expand on New York City's standing as the number one American tourist destination for international visitors by making Queens a part of tourists' itineraries," said Rep. Crowley. "I thank the Queens Chamber of Commerce and the Queens Economic Development Corporation for leading efforts to encourage more tourism in the borough. I'd also like to thank the U.S. Travel Association for working to boost the tourism industry both in New

York and across the nation."

In addition to Crowley's announcement, the group also discussed the importance of encouraging travel and tourism in Queens and the impact it will have on the local economy. Tourism generates \$46.5 billion in economic impact for New York City and supports over 300,000 jobs. However, the impact of tourism extends beyond Manhattan. In 2010, tourists spent \$6 billion in the outer-boroughs and 25 percent of international visitors ventured into the outer-boroughs.

"Efforts that can lead to increased tourism opportunities are most welcome. Congressman Crowley's measure will be a great help to maximize tourism and hospitality efforts in our nation's most diverse county. The Queens Chamber of Commerce thanks him for his efforts and the support he continues to show our communities small businesses," said Jack Friedman, executive director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

"As the most diverse

county in the country, Queens has a great deal to offer visitors. The QEDC/Queens Tourism Council is supportive of Congressman Crowley's efforts in showcasing our borough and encouraging more people to 'Discover Queens,'" said Seth Bornstein, executive director of the Queens Economic Development Corporation.

"Expanding the Visa Waiver Program to countries such as Brazil, Chile and Argentina will benefit our economy and create much-needed U.S. jobs," said Roger Dow, president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association. "With advocates on both sides of the aisle, improving traveler facilitation is a bipartisan issue, and the Visa Waiver Program is an excellent tool for increasing travel to the U.S."

Crowley's resolution follows a meeting between the Congressman and the Queens Chamber of Commerce that focused on advancing economic growth

(Continued on page 11)

Make Dinner Extra Romantic

(Continued from page 4)

Choose a very special sparkling wine from Italy. For example, Franciacorta is a top quality sparkling wine from Italy, made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Its vineyards are set amongst idyllic villages, castles and noble mansions, and the white sparkling wines are rich, creamy and filled with millions of seductive bubbles.

Franciacorta pairs with a wide range of foods, from appetizers to salads, seafood, pasta, poultry and meat. And because this Italian wine is made in the same way as Champagne,

it provides the same festive and romantic mood.

Be sure to serve sparkling wine chilled. So if you're going to linger over the bottle for a few hours, keep it on ice.

The Mood

If you eat dinner at home often, you'll need to do something to make this meal different. You can change the look and feel of your home by creating a romantic ambience. First, turn off the television. It's hard to get into the right mood with the cast of the Jersey Shore duking it out in the background. Instead, play music you both like that's not distracting to conversa-

tion. Just avoid songs about breakups and heartache!

Turn down the lights and set out candles or tea lights. Roses, or other fresh flowers, will add a nice touch to the room. And, of course, make sure the house is clean.

A Table For Two

If you can, set the table in a room in which you don't normally dine. If you own a special set of dishes and utensils that you rarely use, tonight is the night to bring them out. Tonight is also the night to use a table cloth or runner and cloth napkins.

With a little effort, dinner at home can be festive and romantic.

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LEGAL NOTICES

KEFALONIA TAXI LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/03/2012. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 11-06 Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 3/8,15,22,29,4/5&4/12/2012

HOUSEBAR PRODUCTIONS LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/03/2012. Office in Queens County. SSNY designed agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Ryan Maslyn, 25-18 36th Ave. Astoria, NY 11106 Purpose General 3/8,15,22,29,4/5&12/2012

Notice of Qualification of HALLMARK AVIATION SERVICES, L.P. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/29/12. Office location: Queens County. LP formed in California (CA) on 06/09/89. SSNY designated as agent of LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Name and addr. of each general partner are available from SSNY. CA addr. of LP: 5757 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 860, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Arts. of Org. filed with CA Secy. of State; Corp. Div., 1230 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 3/8,15,22,29,4/5&12/2012

THE LAW OFFICE OF FRANK T. DIPIAZZA, PLLC, a domestic PLLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/15/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the PLLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Frank Di Piazza, 66-31 Fresh Pond Rd., Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: Law. 3/15,22,29&4/5,12&19/2012

117 GUY R. BREWER REALTY, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. Of State of NY 09/12/2005. Off Loc: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to THE LLC, 145-14 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. 3/15,22,29,4/5,12&19/2012

New York City Sport Center LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/15/11. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Boon Huat NG, Kok Ming Hee, 31-22 College Point Blvd, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: General. 3/15,22,29,4/5,12 & 19/2012

LEGAL NOTICES

Charities R Us, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/7/11. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 576, Cedarhurst, NY 11516. Duration Date: 12/31/2197. Purpose: General. 3/29,4/5,12,19,26&5/3/2012

METRO SOMEKH LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/15/12 as METRO SOMEKH LLC. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 84-14 143rd St., Briarwood, NY 11435. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 3/8,15,22,29,4/5&4/12/2012

Notice of Formation of Lags Realty, LLC, Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 2/2/12. 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 Michael Lagudis, 44-20 Francis Lewis Blvd., Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: any lawful activities. 3/22,29,4/5,12,19&26/12

Notice of formation of Da Han Group, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/08/2012 Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC. SSNY shall mail process to 39-15 Main Street, Suite 301, Flushing NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activities. 4/5,12,19,26&5/4/2012

CHEZ RAISIN LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/22/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 95-11 68th Ave., Forest Hills, NY 11375. General Purposes. 4/5,12,19,26,5/3&10/2012

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial #1262088 for beer, wine and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in a restaurant-bar under the alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 125-22 Merrick Blvd., Springfield Gardens, NY 11434 for on-premises consumption; CLUB ILLUSIONS INC. 4/5&12/2012

HONG KONG REALTY, LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/27/2011. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 149-37 Elm Ave, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 4/5,12,19,26,5/3&10/2012

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: 132-09 LIBERTY LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/06/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 132-09 Liberty Avenue, Richmond Hill, New York 11419. Purpose: For any lawful purpose. 4/5,12,19,26,5/3&10/2012

HUNTERS POINT DIRECT, LLC, Arts of Org, filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/9/2012. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated as agent LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to Attn Michael L. Kolodner, 25-11 Hunters Point, Long Island City, NY, 11101. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity. 4/12,19,26,5/3,10&17/2012

Careeraspiration LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/22/11. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to C/O United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: General 4/5,12,19,26,5/3&10/2012.

J&M Global Development LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 03/23/2012, as J&M Global Development LLC. Office in Queens Co. SSNY designated Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 108-20 65th Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375 USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 4/12,19,26,5/3,10,&17/2012

SENRONG TRADING LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) March 06, 2012 as SENRONG TRADING LLC. Office in Queens Co. SSNY designated. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 61-20 232 STREET OAKLAND GARDENS, NEW YORK, 11364. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 4/12,19,26,5/3,10,&17/2012

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on 4/4/12, bearing Index Number NC-000164-12/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) JAYSON (Last) MIRZA. My present name is (First) TITU (Last) AHMED. My present address is 87-07 148th Street, Apt. #3L, Jamaica, NY 11435-3117. My place of birth is Bangladesh. My date of birth is December 28, 1983. 4/12/12

LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION File No. 2011-4054 SURROGATE'S COURT, QUEENS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: the heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of William Tymms a/k/a William E. Tymms a/k/a William Edmond Tymms, deceased, if living, and if any of them be deceased, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence; and to the Public Administrator of Queens County; Lee Ann Tymms Truitt; and John Everett Tymms II.

A petition having been duly filed by Rose Packard who is domiciled at 34 Windsor Road, Great Neck, New York 11021 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435, on May 24, 2012, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of William Tymms, aka William E. Tymms and William Edmond Tymms lately domiciled at 18-40 211th Street Apt. #4F, Bayside, New York 11360, United States admitting to probate a Will dated June 10, 1991 as the Will of William Tymms deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that:

[X] Letters Testamentary issue to Rose Packard
[X] Further relief sought (if any): Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.
Dated, Attested and Sealed, APR 03 2012

Seal
HON. Peter J. Kelly
Surrogate
MARGARET M. GRIBBON
Chief Clerk
Robert A. Berzak
Name of Attorney
Lester, Minsky & Berzak, P.C.
Firm
325 Merrick Avenue, East Meadow, New York 11554
Address
(516) 794-2327
Telephone
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.
4/12,19,26&5/3/2012

TWIST IT TOP IT FROZEN YOGURT LLC, a domestic LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/16/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 158-18 Crossbay Blvd., Howard Beach, NY 11414. General Purposes. 4/12,19,26,5/3,10&17/2012

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on 3/5/12, bearing Index Number NC-000105-12/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) LESLY (Last) JEAN-GUILLAUME. My present name is (First) JEAN (Middle) LESLY (Last) JEAN-GUILLAUME AKALESLY JEAN-GUILLAUME, AKA LESLY GUILLAUME, AKA JEAN JEAN-GUILLAUME. My present address is 99-86 211 ST., Queens Village, NY 11429. My place of birth is HAITI. My date of birth is May 08, 1961. 4/12/12

Notice is hereby given that a license, serial #1262315 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 34-10 31st Ave., Astoria, NY 11106 for on-premises consumption; Zenon Taverna Inc. 4/12&19/2012

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1261772, 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 59-35 174 Street, Fresh Meadows, NY, for on premises consumption. New Traditions Inc. 4/12&19/2012

NOTICE OF FORMATION, Rego Park Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/23/2012. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copies of any process served against the LLC to c/o: THE LLC, 88-42 62nd Drive, Rego Park, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 4/12,19,26,5/3,10&17/2012

NY State Approved Defensive Driving Course Available Online

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has APPROVED the New York Safety Program IPIRP course for all users. For further information please call 718-224-7385 or visit: queensnysp.com



Top Ten Things You Should Know about Organ Donation

(Continued from page 8) lung. With outcomes ranked among the nation's best, the Hospital is dedicated to improving quality of life for its patients. NewYork-Presbyterian's dedicated teams of surgeons and physicians are responsible for many significant advances made over the past several decades in transplant surgery and the maintenance of healthy organs. The Hospital has been on the forefront of developing and improving anti-rejection medications (immunosuppressants), minimally invasive surgery for living donors, genetic methods to detect transplant rejection, strategies to increase opportunities for donor matching, islet cell transplantation and the FDA-approved Left Ventricle Assist Device (LVAD) that functions as a bridge to transplantation for those who are waiting for a new heart.

Crowley Announces Resolution

(Continued from page 10) and job creation in Queens through a number of initiatives, including increasing travel and tourism in the borough. It also comes on the heels of the recent revival of the Queens Tourism Council, an effort by the QEDC to bring local businesses together to encourage tourism in Queens. In January, President Obama announced a national strategy to make the U.S. the world's top travel and tourism destination as part of a comprehensive effort to create jobs and spur economic growth.

President's Co-op Council Endorses Avella's Bill Creating New Property Tax Class for Co-ops and Condos

(Continued from page 3) ists for Class 1 properties, capping any single yearly tax increase at 6% and 20% over a five year period. The bill aims to address some of the tremendous property tax inequities that have been placed upon residential coop and condo properties - but not hurting traditional Class One properties in the process.

Rally Against Department Of Education Proposal To Close Eight High Schools



Queens Borough President Helen Marshall tells rally outside Borough Hall, recently, that Department of Education proposal to close eight high schools in Queens as part of a "turnaround" program involving 33 schools citywide - must not happen. Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan (second from right) and Marshall held rally in a unified effort to stop the closures. Among those on hand were: City Councilman Danny Dromm (L), Assemblyman Rory Lancman (behind Marshall) and Assemblywoman Grace Meng (R).

Council Member Mark Weprin Joins Meals On Wheels To Serve Seniors



Council Member Mark Weprin with Rachel Sherrow of Meals On Wheels, delivering a meal to a Hollis Hills senior resident.

Council Member Mark S. Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) joined Meals On Wheels to deliver Passover matzoh and meals to seniors in Hollis Hills, Queens. In the Eastern Queens district that Council Member Weprin represents, there is a significant senior population, and programs like Meals On Wheels aid those with limited

mobility who might face the threat of hunger.

"I thank Meals On Wheels for providing a service that seniors depend on," said Council Member Mark Weprin.

Meals On Wheels is a volunteer program with a mission to end senior hunger, providing over a million meals to seniors across the county daily.

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6 Month Check Up	\$90	\$11	\$49
Routine Cleaning	\$90	\$30	\$60
Root Canal (Anterior)	\$600	\$289	\$311
Crown (Porcelain)	\$995	\$505	\$490
Tooth Extraction	\$150	\$55	\$100
Complete Upper Denture	\$1495	\$575	\$920
Filling (Amalgam)	\$110	\$40	\$70
X-Ray (Full Mouth)	\$140	\$40	\$100

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