

QUEENS TIMES

Published for the Borough of Queens

VOLUME 29, NO. 17

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

25 CENTS

Democrats' Investments in Their Multiracial Coalition Are Already Paying Off

By Reps. Grace Meng, Gregory Meeks and Linda Sanchez

In January the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), the campaign arm of House Democrats, announced a historic eight-figure investment to reach the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Black and Latino communities ahead of the 2024 elections. This monumental investment will help to ensure Democrats can restore responsible leadership and take the House back from the grips of Republican chaos.

We know voters of color are critical for Democrats' path to taking back the House — and we are taking nothing for granted. Voters of color — like all Americans — are concerned about the rising cost of gas, housing and groceries, being able to afford their medications or go to the doctor if they get sick, and making sure their kids are safe from gun violence in school. Just as in prior years, we are going all in this election to make the case to these communities that Democrats not only understand these issues but are also the party that will concretely address them.

(Continued on page 2)

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato Gets Rid of Insulin Co-pays for New Yorkers!



New York State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato voted for a revolutionary change in the law for those with diabetes. See story on page 4.

Hochul Declares Victory With \$237B New York Spending Plan

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a \$237 billion budget agreement with state lawmakers on Monday with a message: The doubters were wrong.

The governor waded this year into politically nettlesome issues like housing, public safety and support for the thousands of migrants who have arrived in the state over the last two years.

In the end, Hochul largely got what she wanted from the state Legislature despite calls for greater support for low-income renters and skepticism from her fellow Democrats over increasing penalties for people who steal from retail stores and assault workers.

All are issues that have been hot-button concerns for voters in New York and could loom large in the coming elections this year. The policy victories could also provide a boost for Hochul, who has recorded lukewarm job approval and favorability ratings with voters during much of her tenure.

"I heard way too often for my tastes: That's always how it's been done. That's never worked for me, it never will," Hochul said at a Capitol news conference announcing the tentative agreement. "We had some very tough conversations for how we can change the entrenched status quo."



Gov. Kathy Hochul has a pending \$237 billion budget deal she says will expand housing and boost efforts to combat crime. | Don Pollard/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul.

The spending plan adds about \$4 billion in additional spending from Hochul's initial proposal in January and does not include hikes to the state's personal income tax.

Democrats and labor unions were also able to win changes to a less-generous pension tier first created 14 years ago that is expected to cost taxpayers an additional \$400 million annually, according to an analysis by the independent watchdog Citizens Budget Commission.

(Continued on page 3)

Queens Chamber Of Commerce's Small Business Legal Desk To Hold Office Hours At Congresswoman Meng's Office



Congresswoman Meng last August unveiling the \$1 million she secured to launch the Queens Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Legal Desk. See story on page 2.

One Edition for ALL of Queens!
Visit our website at www.queentimes.com

Our Backyard Café at Manna's

18-10 104th Street - Corona, NY



Cakes for all Occasions

Specializing in Napoleon Cakes

Full Line of Italian Pastries and Cookies

Bakery Tel: 718-565-9104

Deli Tel: 718-898-6069

A & F Auto Repairs, Inc.

General Auto Repairs
(Foreign and Domestic)

Accessories

• Tires • Batteries

• Electronic Tune-ups

• Inspection Station

• Towing

ARIS & FRANK

43-05 111th Street • Corona Heights, NY

Greek, Spanish and Italian Spoken

(718) 592-7470 (718) 699-2499

Read Our Paper Online Visit our website: www.queens-times.com or scan QR code



Subscribe to the

Queens Times

Your Local Newspaper-One Edition for All Of Queens

Just \$36.50 per year... and have the paper delivered to your door by US Mail

Please Enter my Subscription For One Year

Name

Address

City.....Zip.....

Please make check payable to: Queens Times and mail to:
11-20 154th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357



Published every week by CT Publishing Corp.

Executive Office: 102-54 Nicolls Avenue, Corona Heights, NY 11368

Operations: 11-20 154th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357

Phone (718) 592-2196 • FAX (718) 357-3682

Web Site: www.queens-times.com

email: editor@queens-times.com

James C. LisaPublisher/Editor

Lew ScalaAssociate Publisher/Webmaster

Lou DuroInternational Correspondent

Nicole Rescigno.....Office Manager

Joseph V. DorsaPhoto Journalist

Joseph NatallePhotojournalist

The Queens Times, USPS # P127 AIC060 is published weekly by CT Publishing Corp. for an annual subscription charge of \$28.50, mail subscription request to Queens Times, 11-20 154th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357, Periodicals Postage at Flushing, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Queens Times at 11-20 154th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357

Democrats' Investments in Their Multiracial Coalition Are Already Paying Off

(Continued from page 1)

While in the majority, House Democrats worked to address key economic concerns that are consistently top of mind for voters of color.

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, we capped the price of insulin for Medicare recipients at \$35. Data has shown how much this positively impacts communities of color, as Black, Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native adults have higher rates of diabetes in the United States than white Americans.

And that's not all. The Inflation Reduction Act also lowered monthly health insurance premiums leading to lower costs and improved insurance rates for Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Black and Latino communities.

Working families across this country want to know that their elected leaders in Washington will deliver on key, top-of-mind issues like lowering costs, expanding health care, protecting democracy and enshrining their essential freedoms. Yet with Republicans at the helm, this has been one of the least productive sessions of Congress in modern history.

What we've seen over the past year is undeniable: A complete disregard from Republicans for addressing the concerns of the majority of voters of color and working families. Instead, Republican control of the House of Representatives has brought us

nothing but chaos and dysfunction.

Democrats stand against this tide of dysfunction, and we are committed to ensuring that voters of color understand this goes far beyond Republicans' lip service. Our historic investment in reaching these voters through persuasion and mobilization is a multifaceted, dynamic program. These efforts will cover the earliest investment by the DCCC in voter protection and education, leading to the hiring of pivotal staff who will work to understand nuances within key districts across the congressional map to develop customized strategies to combat the aggressive and discriminatory voter suppression tactics that target communities of color.

These efforts to meaningfully engage Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Black and Latino voters include hiring local organizers to lead community outreach and increase on-the-ground presence in key races, focusing on voter registration, community events and building relationships with grassroots groups. This comes in addition to robust qualitative and quantitative research to inform our paid media persuasion and mobilization program that will meet voters of color where they are in digital, radio, mail and TV.

House Democrats know that our broad multiracial coalition is our strength.

Just a few weeks ago in the special election in New York's

3rd Congressional District, where Congressman-elect Tom Suozzi (D) beat out a right-wing Republican, Democrats made a concerted effort to organize and mobilize the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Latino community as an essential part of Suozzi's path to victory. This was critical in a district where nearly 1 out of every 5 voters is Asian American and was a sign of the outreach we plan to replicate in other districts across our battlefield.

Alongside investments from the Suozzi campaign, ASPIRE PAC — the "political arm of Asian American and Pacific Islander members of Congress" chaired by one of us — invested heavily in Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander outreach and engagement during the special election. This includes co-hosting multiple in-language media roundtables, leveraging the ASPIRE relational organizing network for targeted phone banking and placing in-language digital banner ads in key outlets.

The ASPIRE chair and its members also campaigned alongside Suozzi in the district, including Caucus Vice Chair Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.).

It is not an understatement to say that this election will be a defining moment for our democracy. It will be a clear choice between Democrats, who fight to deliver working families what

(Continued on page 3)

Queens Chamber Of Commerce's Small Business Legal Desk To Hold Office Hours At Congresswoman Meng's Office

(Continued from page 1)

Program funded by Meng connects local small businesses to legal, financial and human resources experts and does so in multiple languages; Office hours to include services in English, Mandarin, Korean, Spanish and Russian

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) announced today that on Friday, May 3, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Queens Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Legal Desk will hold office hours in her Northeast Queens office located at 40-13 159th Street in Flushing.

The Small Business Legal Desk is a crucial initiative that Meng helped to create last year. In August, she unveiled the \$1 million she secured to launch the program which connects Queens small businesses to consultants with expertise in human resources, finance, accounting and legal issues such as contracts and leases. The services are free of charge, and it links the borough's diverse small business community to assistance in multiple languages.

During the office hours, local entrepreneurs and small business owners can take advantage of all that the Legal Desk has to offer

and receive advice and support from Chamber staffers and expert service providers. Services will be available in several languages including English, Mandarin, Korean, Spanish and Russian.

"I am thrilled to have secured this \$1 million to create a much-needed Small Business Legal Desk and I'm glad to see that it is now up and running and helping small businesses in our communities," said Congresswoman Meng. "It will be a critical tool for entrepreneurs in our borough and I'm excited to welcome the Legal Desk team to my office next month. I encourage local businesses to take advantage of the valuable services that the Legal Desk provides, and I thank the Queens Chamber of Commerce for its continued partnership in helping small businesses thrive. We must remember that when our borough's small businesses succeed, Queens succeeds!"

"Queens has a vibrant, diverse small business community that creates jobs and opportunity, and contributes so much to the unique character of our neighborhoods," said Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. "We are thankful to our Congresswoman Grace Meng for the opportunity to connect small businesses in her district

to vital services that will allow them to grow and better serve their customers and community. We look forward to meeting with business owners at her district office on May 3."

Through the Small Business Legal Desk, participating businesses are connected to multilingual, pro-bono professional support through one-on-one consultations. The program also hosts webinars on a monthly basis and refers businesses to other resources available through the Queens Chamber.

Businesses interested in attending the office hours at Meng's office must RSVP at sking@queenschamber.org.

Meng, joined by Grech and other leaders, commemorated the launch of the Legal Desk last August in front of Queens College's Small Business Development Center, which the Congresswoman also helped to establish in 2019.

The Queens Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest business association in Queens, representing more than 1,400 businesses and more than 150,000 Queens-based employees. Its mission is to foster connections, educate for success, develop/implement programs and advocate for members' interests.

Meng Encourages Local High School Students To Enter Congressional Art Contest

Winning student to have artwork displayed in U.S. Capitol

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) today encouraged local high school students to enter her annual congressional district art contest, a competition where teens compete to have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol.

Meng's contest, which consists of entries from students in her congressional district in Queens, is part of "An Artistic Discovery," the national art contest held each year by the House of Representatives showcasing the artwork of all congressional district art contest winners from across the nation.

The winning artwork from Meng's competition — along with the winning pieces from art contests in Congressional districts throughout the United States — will be displayed for one year in the halls of the U.S. Capitol for all to see, including visitors to Capitol Hill, House Members, Senators

and maybe even the President. In addition, all of the winners will be invited to a special reception on Capitol Hill that highlights the work of these young artists.

The winner of Meng's competition, as well as second and third place runners-up, will be announced this spring during a reception in Queens that the Congresswoman will host for students and their families, art teachers, principals and school administrators.

"Every year, I get so excited for my annual art contest," said Meng. "I love seeing the wonderful artwork entered by students and having the winning piece in the national spotlight when it's displayed in the U.S. Capitol. I can't wait to see this year's submissions and to congratulate all our great young artists. I wish the best of luck to everybody entering the competition."

The judges will consist of outside individuals. Entries must

be two-dimensional and no larger than 26 inches high, 26 inches wide and 4 inches deep. Accepted mediums include paintings, drawings, collages, prints, mixed media, computer-generated art and photographs. They must not violate U.S. copyright laws.

Submissions should be dropped off at Meng's Northeast Queens office at 40-13 159th Street in Flushing. The deadline to submit entries is Monday, May 6. Those with questions can contact Meng's office at 718-358-MENG. The contest is open to all high school students residing or attending school in New York's Sixth Congressional District.

The Artistic Discovery contest was launched in 1982 for Members of Congress to showcase the artistic work of high school students from around the nation. Since it began, hundreds of thousands of high school students from throughout the United States have participated in the competition.

Senator Liu Announces Agreement To Extend Mayoral Control Includes Commitment To Reduce Class Sizes, Maintain School Funding

NYS Senator John Liu, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on NYC Education, stated the following about today's agreement to extend mayoral control of NYC public schools by two years with accountability measures for reducing class sizes, maintaining school funding and adding more voices to the Panel for Education Policy.

State Senator John Liu stated, "For the next two years, New Yorkers can expect mayoral accountability to include a funded and actionable plan to reduce class sizes. This two year extension grants the mayor the accountability he's been asking for, and we are pleased to note our agreement includes a significant commitment to expanding the NYC capital plan by \$2 billion in order to provide our school kids a sound, basic

education and reduce class sizes.

"To avoid more unnecessary school budget reductions as we've seen in recent years, this extension also enshrines the principle of maintenance of effort, which states that the city must use state funding to supplement, not supplant its own education funding. Of note, this year's budget builds on last year's historic fully funded Foundation Aid investment, increasing school funding by an additional \$934 million, the highest in state history.

"Finally, to add more voices to the Panel for Education Policy, this agreement adds an independent chair, increasing the number of members from 23 to 24. The Senate, Assembly and Board of Regents will submit three nominations for the chair from which the

mayor may choose.

"Principles of good governance dictate that control of NYC schools not be based on the actions of any one particular mayor, which is why we will revisit the issue of mayoral control in another two years. Moving forward, we will continue dissecting the recent State Education Department report on mayoral control and engage with all stakeholders on how to best achieve long-term success for NYC public schools.

"Thank you to my colleagues in the legislature, the Adams administration, the Governor, and all the students, parents, educators, and advocates who have weighed in on the state of our school governance system, and offered insights as to how to ensure it works for the best interests of our school kids."

Legislators Announce Language Defining Squatter In State Housing Law Included In FY25 State Budget

State Senator John Liu, Assembly Member Ron Kim and Queens legislators today announced that the final FY2025 state budget includes language that defines squatter in state housing law. The language was derived from legislation introduced by Senator Liu and Assembly Member Ron Kim, S8996/A9772, following recent reports of squatters who take over private property.

The definition updates New York State real property law to read that "a tenant shall not include a squatter," and further define squatter as "a person who enters or intrudes upon real property without the permission of the person entitled to possession, and continues to occupy the property without title, right or permission of the owner or owner's agent or a person entitled to possession."

Including this definition in real property law will help distinguish legal renters from

those who unlawfully intrude or take over property. It establishes that squatters are not tenants and therefore not subject to tenant rights or protections after 30 days.

State Senator John Liu stated, "It was important that we acted with urgency to send a strong message to squatters who take over private homes that they are not welcome in our community. Scam artists who intrude on others' homes should not have rights as tenants in state housing law, and this inclusion in the budget codifies that in simple, straightforward language. Defining squatter is an important step forward, and we will continue examining even stronger measures to protect homeowners without inadvertently putting renters at risk."

State Assembly Member Ron Kim stated, "Our state needed stronger protections for law abiding property owners who are being victimized by squatters. Our new law defines these terms more precisely. Any occupant who

unlawfully resides in a property owner's home will be more easily removed. I want to thank colleagues in the legislature for moving expeditiously on this new law."

State Assembly Member Ed Braunstein stated, "New York State homeowners have been put on edge by the recent reports of people returning to their properties and finding squatters, only to discover that the squatters cannot be removed without a lengthy and costly eviction proceeding. Trespassing individuals in these situations are abusing a law meant to protect lawful tenants and they absolutely should not be afforded the same rights and protections. I was proud to co-sponsor this bill, which sought to close this loophole and protect New York homeowners from these unlawful opportunists. I am pleased that this clarifying language was included in this year's state budget."

State Assembly Member Nily

(Continued on page 4)

Democrats' Investments in Their Multiracial Coalition Are Already Paying Off

(Continued from page 2)

they need to thrive and live safely, and Republicans who vote to rip away women's reproductive freedom, cut services for veterans, defund law enforcement and gut manufacturing jobs.

Our efforts in New York's special election show us that through our historic outreach to communities of color, we can restore normalcy to the People's House

and make history by electing Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) as the first Black Speaker of the House of Representatives so we can get back to work delivering for all Americans.

Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) is chair of ASPIRE PAC. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.) is chair of the Congressional Black Caucus PAC. Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.) is chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus BOLD PAC.

Hochul Declares Victory With \$237B New York Spending Plan

(Continued from page 1)

And despite Hochul's declaration that she had the "parameters of a conceptual agreement" with lawmakers on the budget, there was still work to be done.

Democratic lawmakers were still discussing the final details of the budget, including a contentious last-minute push to extend Mayor Eric Adams' control of public schools.

The last-minute inclusion of the issue could prolong final passage of the budget, which is now more than two weeks past its April 1 due date.

"It's an important and complicated issue," state Sen. Mike Gianaris said. "The members correctly want to know what's being proposed." New York will boost funding by \$500 million to provide housing, health care, legal and job placement services for migrants, bringing total spending to \$2.4 billion.

The money is less than the \$6 billion being sought by Adams, whose city has seen 184,000 migrants arrive over the last two years.

Still, Adams embraced the tentative budget plan as "a win for New Yorkers" — pointing to the additional migrant aid, the housing package and the potential of mayoral control being extended for up to two years as part of the spending plan.

"We've been clear that we need additional support from our partners in Albany to fully realize those goals and today we celebrate as most of our key asks were granted by our state partners," Adams said in a statement.

The final details for the state's costly Medicaid program, too, were yet to be fully ironed out.

And Hochul did not get everything laid out earlier this year. A proposal to regulate social media firms by blocking children from being exposed to algorithmic-based feeds was rejected.

Nevertheless, the broad strokes deals announced by Hochul on Monday was not an easy one to achieve.

It took Hochul two years to get a housing package in place — a concern she said was part of a broader "affordability crisis" that has led to a spike in out-migration from the state.

A prior housing package fell apart following acrimonious negotiations between the governor and Legislature last year.

At the time, Hochul had sought

measures that would have allowed the state to override local zoning in order to expand housing. Suburban lawmakers in pivotal counties around New York City, including those on Long Island, objected to the proposal.

This year, Hochul resolved to include "more carrots" — namely hundreds of millions of dollars for local governments that affirmatively opt in for more housing construction.

Hochul secured a housing package that includes \$650 million for local governments to construct more homes and new tax incentives for developers to build in New York City. The agreement came over the objections of left-leaning tenant advocates as well as some Democratic lawmakers who wanted stronger protections for renters.

"We could have settled for a watered-down plan and a hollow victory," she said. "But I refused to accept anything that didn't meaningfully address the housing supply."

Still, Republicans and some Democrats were not enamored with the details of the pending housing agreement.

New York GOP Chair Ed Cox said the tenant regulations "will only make the situation worse" for housing choices. Democratic state Sen. Julia Salazar added the housing plan is "really a missed opportunity to provide very basic protections against no-fault evictions and unreasonably high rent increases for tenants even in New York City."

Hochul was also willing to buck her party to win an agreement for stronger public safety measures as public polling has shown persistent voter anxiety over crime, and the issue has loomed large in recent elections.

New York is set to add more than 20 additional criminal charges that can be considered hate crimes.

And the state is poised to crack down on retail theft: Hochul successfully pushed for increasing criminal charges for people who assault retail workers by classifying it as a felony. An additional agreement will allow prosecutors to combine the value of stolen goods across multiple retailers and increase charges — a process known as aggregation.

The budget will include \$40 million for law enforcement agencies to crackdown on retail theft as well as enable the hiring of 100 state troopers.

IT'S IN QUEENS

It's In Queens! (April 26 to May 2)

They say that April showers bring May flowers. In Queens this year, late April swing dancing, Irish music, apple blossoms, Pinocchio puppets, Burlesque fun, and Doo Wop lead to an exhibition on the wild, fascinating relocation of a historic house in early May.

- April 26, *Sitting on a Fallen Tree*, April 28. Guatemala's Teatro Akabal presents this play about human rights, social justice, and immigration with the backdrop of the 36-year war in Guatemala. The 8 pm shows are on April 26 and 27; the 4 pm show is on April 29. In Spanish and Maya Kaqchikel with English supertitles. Thalia Spanish Theatre, 41-17 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside.

- April 26, *Swing Dancing at The Castle*, 7 pm. Bayside Historical Society celebrates 60 years with dancing and live music on the newly renovated floors of the Castle's ballroom. A Swing Dance lesson with instructor Paul Capo kicks off the fun. The Castle, 208 Totten Ave., Fort Totten.

- April 26, *Blarney Star Concert Series*, 7 pm. Lúnasa piper Cillian Vallely and award-winning fiddler David Doocey celebrate the release of their new album with music. New York Irish Center, 10-40 Jackson Ave., Long Island City.

- April 26, 10 Minute Film Festival 2024, April 27. Two days of independent short films from NYC-based artists, Q&As, and networking. Both nights at 7 pm. Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-01 Jamaica Ave.

- April 27, *Apple Blossom Children's Carnival*, April 28. Welcome Spring with a Merry Go Round in the orchard and other rides, midway games, animals, food, and hayrides. From 11 am to 6 pm on both days. Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy., Glen Oaks.

- April 27, *Tout à Trac's Pinocchio*, 1 pm + 4 pm. The rebellious and careless Pinocchio discovers the meaning of growing up through a thousand trials. To become a real boy, he has to face the terrible Puppet Master, suffer Mr. Fox's malice, escape from Toyland, and save his father from the belly of a giant fish. Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- April 27, *Forest Therapy Walk*, noon. Certified forest therapy guide Linda Lombardo leads a 90-minute wander through the trails, stopping at a pond and other points of interest and offering invitations to connect with nature. The walk ends with tea. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 229-10 Northern Blvd., Douglaston.

- April 27, *Music From The Sole*, 8 pm. An evening of percussive dance to celebrate CUNY Dance Initiative's 10th anniversary with



QT Pinocchio Photo Credit-Jérémie-Battaglia

Music From The Sole, a tap dance and live music company, and the Flamenco duo Sonia Olla & Ismael Fernández. Queens College, LeFrak Concert Hall, 153-49 Reeves Ave., Flushing.

- April 27, *Climate Arts Festival*, 11 am. Celebrate the earth with family-friendly activities, food, games, and music. Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing.

- April 27, *Celebrate & Learn: Cinco de Mayo*, noon. Sebastian, a local artist and recent immigrant from Mexico, leads a piñata-making workshop and talks about Cinco de Mayo's historic significance. King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave.

- April 27, *Cinderella*, May 5. St. Mary's Drama Guild presents this adaptation of Rodgers + Hammerstein's classic musical. It follows a hilarious and romantic libretto by Tony-nominated Douglas Carter Beane and includes "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes Ago." Times vary. St. Mary's Auditorium, 70-20 47th Ave., Woodside.

- April 27, *Noir Nights: Villains*, 9 pm. Attendees are encouraged to wear their most villainous attire and partake in an immersive burlesque experience. Culture Club LIC, 5-25 46th Ave., Long Island City.

- April 27, *Navigating Grief Holistically*, 4 pm. Sweta Vikram, author of *The Loss that Binds Us*, leads a workshop and presentation on coping with grief and loss, followed by a reception and book sales. Maple Grove Cemetery Celebration Hall, 127-15 Kew Gardens Rd.

- April 28, *The Doo Wop Project*, 3 pm. Featuring stars of Broadway's *Jersey Boys* and *Motown*, this high-energy show takes audiences on a journey from the Crests to Smokey Robinson to the Temptations. Queensborough

Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside.

- April 28, *Remember the 1964 New York World's Fair*, 3 pm. Author and presenter Trav S.D. follows up his 2019 program about the 1939 World's Fair with a three-part exploration of the 1964 Fair. The event features a colorful visual history, followed by recollections from those who attended and worked there. Audience members can share their own memories. Queens Theatre Cabaret, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- April 28, *Open Street*, 2 pm to 4 pm. Korea Art Forum spearheads an outdoor celebration with dance from diverse origins, including Jendaya Dash, Thomas Gallagher, Priscilla Marrero, Sari Nordman, Vong Pak, and various community groups. The 62nd Street Cul-de-Sac between Woodside Avenue and the LIRR Station, Woodside.

- April 28, *International Cultural Festival*, noon. Cultures collide in a spectacular display of music, dance, and art from around the globe. Steinway Street between 31st Avenue and Broadway, Astoria.

- April 30, *Poetry Jam*, 6:30 pm. Greater Astoria Historical Society board member DeeAnne Gorman leads an online Open Mic for poets.

- May 2, *Moving Kingsland*, 6:30 pm. The Queens Historical Society presents a gallery exhibit about the 1968 relocation of its headquarters, Kingsland Homestead. To avoid demolition, the landmark was physically moved down Northern Boulevard from 155th Street to its current location two miles away. The exhibit features newspaper articles, documents, a radio report, and never-before-seen color prints developed from original Kodachrome slides. Kingsland Homestead, 143-35 37th Ave., Flushing.

Legislators Announce Language Defining Squatter In State Housing Law Included In FY25 State Budget

(Continued from page 3)

Rozic stated, "Today signifies an important step forward as we include language defining 'squatters' in the state budget. This measure will help safeguard property rights and ensure the well-being of our communities. Thank you to my colleagues for their collective efforts to address squatting issues across New York."

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky stated, "I want to thank my colleagues in the legislature for supporting this bill, which I cosponsored. A problem was brought to our attention, and we got positive results."

State Senator Leroy Comrie stated, "The state legislature took a hard stance against squatters who twist existing loopholes through acts that would, by any other circumstance, constitute theft. This change to the law is desperately needed, amongst our Queens residents, especially our seniors and homeowners, who have been living in fear and confusion as to how the law could pos-

sibly allow for such abuses. I am proud to stand with my colleagues to resolve this matter and hope for this bill's swift passage."

State Senator Roxanne J Persaud stated, "Squatters have jeopardized the livelihood of homeowners far too long. By passing this legislation in the budget, the rights and protections of legal renters will be clearly defined and those who take advantage will be legally held accountable. This law seeks to protect the hard earned assets of property owners and allows them to further secure their economic stability."

State Assembly Member Grace Lee stated, "In this year's budget, we are making it clear that if you are illegally occupying someone's property, you are a squatter, not a tenant. Squatters do not have the same rights and protections as lawful tenants and by clarifying this distinction, we can better protect small landlords in our communities. I was proud to be a prime co-sponsor for this bill and to fight with my colleagues to get it passed in this year's budget."

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato Gets Rid of Insulin Co-pays for New Yorkers!

(Continued from page 1)

New York State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato voted for a revolutionary change in the law for those with diabetes, or anyone who needs insulin, by banning cost sharing, or co-pays, for insulin prescriptions. Through Pheffer Amato's vote, individuals would have no out-of-pocket cost for insulin. Recent reports indicate that the average person with Type 1 Diabetes incurred annual insulin costs of \$5,705, with some paying less, and some paying more. It is widely known that when patients can't afford insulin, they resort to rationing the little medication they can afford. In fact, one study found one in four people with Type 1 Diabetes admitted to not taking their insulin as prescribed due to the cost. This shocking and deadly statistic led Assembly-

woman Pheffer Amato to work on legislation to make insulin affordable for all New Yorkers.

In New York, an estimated 10% of the population, or over 500,000 individuals require insulin every day. Through this new law which was included in the 2024 State budget, Pheffer Amato helped ensure that individuals would not need to make a choice between their healthcare and personal finances. "This is a tremendous step forward for our State as we are removing a barrier between people and their health. If you need this life-saving medication, you can get it without a fear of out-of-pocket expenses. By voting yes and working on this type of legislation, I'm doing everything I can to make sure New Yorkers receive the best medical care and quality of life," said Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato.

Pheffer Amato Declares April 21-27 As 'Crime Victim Rights' Week

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato voted yes and passed a State-wide resolution to declare the Week of April 21st through April 27th as "Crime Victim Rights' Week." State resolutions are an extremely coveted and honored legislative declaration that preserve specific day(s) in State history. In this case, the resolution officially solidifies New York's recognition of crime victims and its firm commitment to helping them.

The Assemblywoman has been an outspoken legislator towards helping victims of crimes. In addition to the resolution, Pheffer Amato's bill, A.2724, would dramatically change the notification process for crime victims. If passed, the bill would ensure that all victims are automatically notified of the result of a criminal trial, informed of any upcoming

parole hearings of their assailants, would obligate district attorneys to inform crime victims of their right to file a victim impact statement and guarantee them the ability to testify at those hearings. Currently, most crime victims are unaware of decisions, pending parole hearings, or any right they have related to testifying.

"While we have programs in New York that assist victims, I believe we need to do more. We can never forget the victims," said Pheffer Amato. The Assemblywoman continued, "I believe they have a voice, and their experience needs to be amplified in all aspects of our criminal justice system. Every victim deserves the opportunity to express how a crime has impacted their life - and I'm working to make that change in our State," said Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato.

Queens Times Weekly ...

HOROSCOPE

For the Week of ... 4/25/24 - 5/1/24

For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
(Mar. 21 - April 20)
Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Don't argue with family. Your lucky numbers are 1,7,5.

TAURUS
(Apr. 21 - May 21)
Your knowledge and good sense will help more than you think. Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding. You are best to avoid joint ventures. Your lucky numbers are 3,9,2.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)
Look into physical activities that will help get rid of some of that tension you may be feeling. Accept the inevitable. Travel opportunities look positive. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,2.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)
Your partner could also use some time alone with you. Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions. Your lucky numbers are 3,2,1.

LEO
(July 23-Aug 22)
Keep to yourself in order to finish your projects. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Property investments should payoff. Your lucky numbers are 4,9,3.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
Acknowledge your lover's needs. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. Passion will be your only answer. Check your investments this week. Your lucky numbers are 8,3,9.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your business. Much can be accomplished if you compromise. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Your lucky numbers are 3,8,5.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You need to do something energetic and different. Use your innovative mind to surprise youngsters. You can make amends by doing something special. Your lucky numbers are 8,7,3.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. You will be ready to jump on anyone who gets in the way of your progress this week. Your lucky numbers are 7,4,3.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
Take action on your investment ideas. A need to be in love may fool you. Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require. Your lucky numbers are 9,5,4.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You will inspire confidence in others. Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy doesn't make for a favorable time. Pay extra attention to younger ones. Your lucky numbers are 5,3,9.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Don't confide in anyone for the time being. Your lucky numbers are 2,8,1.

Did You Know?

- crocodiles are colour blind
- a chameleons tongue is twice the length of its body
- dogs sweat through the pads on their feet
- hippopotamuses are born under water
- bananas grow pointing upwards.
- whales can't swim backwards
- camels are born without humps
- only female mosquitoes bite
- the average porcupine has 30,000 spikes
- tarantula spiders can survive 2 and a half years without food
- crocodiles are responsible for over a 1,000 deaths each year by the Banks of the Nile river
- there are more insects in the world than all other animals combined
- giraffes can't swim
- crocodiles swallow rocks to help them dive deeper
- an elephant's trunk can hold over 5 litres of water
- bull's can run faster uphill than down
- a shark's teeth are literally as hard as steel
- a moth has no stomach
- grasshoppers have white blood
- it takes 50 minutes to soft boil and two hours to hard boil an ostrich egg

QUEENS TIMES

Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles

"Sudoku"

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

"Crossword Puzzle"

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | M | A | R | T | C | R | E | W | A | L | P | S |
| L | A | N | A | I | H | U | S | H | F | E | E | L |
| A | L | O | N | G | A | N | T | I | O | G | R | E |
| G | I | N | G | E | R | S | N | A | P | R | A | I |
| R | E | A | D | R | E | S | E | T | B | E | L | L |
| R | E | A | D | F | I | R | E | M | A | N | | |
| I | M | P | E | T | U | S | | S | E | N | A | T |
| M | I | S | F | I | T | | | A | D | M | I | R |
| S | T | E | A | M | E | D | | E | S | S | E | N |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | M | E | A | R | | S | H | R | E | D | | |
| T | A | C | T | | S | P | O | N | S | O | R | I |
| I | N | T | O | | N | O | S | E | | L | O | C |
| L | I | A | R | | U | S | E | S | | E | L | O |
| L | A | D | | B | E | N | T | | S | E | N | S |

"Try And Find"

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | U | O | E | M | J | O | E | E | J | A | V | M | F | O | A | O | S | L |
| C | E | S | O | N | R | O | G | Z | X | A | R | T | O | G | F | I | G | W |
| P | A | O | N | R | O | G | Z | X | A | R | T | O | G | F | I | G | W | |
| T | A | O | G | S | L | I | F | P | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A |
| B | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z |
| Z | P | C | O | N | P | K | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O |
| C | Z | P | C | O | N | P | K | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A |
| O | H | E | L | R | B | I | P | U | E | G | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P |
| L | A | T | F | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P |
| G | A | W | I | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P |
| D | P | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X |
| T | A | O | G | S | L | I | F | P | O | X | Z | P | A | O | X | Z | P | A |
| O | V | L | I | T | N | F | S | P | J | O | N | W | I | D | T | | | |
| S | S | L | I | F | A | I | I | F | P | S | J | O | N | W | I | D | T | |
| W | D | I | E | X | C | G | E | T | O | E | D | A | I | Z | N | K | | |
| H | U | T | C | J | U | H | R | R | E | P | I | C | A | I | O | P | C | |
| Y | I | T | H | E | D | O | S | O | B | B | V | J | E | R | O | N | G | |
| I | Z | E | N | E | L | R | B | I | P | U | E | G | X | Z | P | A | O | X |
| C | V | E | R | O | N | G | N | O | B | Y | O | X | E | B | O | D | N | G |

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | | 15 | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | 18 | | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | 21 | | | | | 22 | | | |
| | | | | | 23 | | | | | 24 | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | 29 | | | | 30 | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | 32 | | | | 33 | | | | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 37 | | | | | | | | 38 | | | | | | |
| 39 | | | | | | 40 | | 41 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 42 | | | 43 | | | | 44 | | |
| 45 | 46 | 47 | | | | | | | | 49 | | | | |
| 50 | | | | | | 51 | | | | | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 |
| 56 | | | | | | 57 | | | | | 58 | | | |
| 59 | | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | | | |
| 62 | | | | | | 63 | | | | | 64 | | | |

- ACROSS
1. Noodles

6. Dugout shelter

10. Taps

14. Detest

15. Marsh plant

16. Distinctive flair

17. Swings around

18. Assess

19. Fern clusters

20. Tennis elbow

22. Sound a horn

23. Not at any time

24. Sieves

25. French Sudan, today

29. Universal

31. Beasts

33. Problem

37. Paper fastener

38. Superficiality

39. Brave deeds

41. Comment at length

42. Toothed tool

44. Terminates

45. Sail supports

48. Direct (to)

50. Arm bone

51. A union of interests

56. Amount leant

57. Hard work

58. Radium discoverer

59. Fashionable

60. Chills and fever

61. Deadly virus

62. Story

63. Jewels

64. Leases
- DOWN
1. Bygone

2. Capable

3. Blackball

4. Pigeon-

5. Malicious burning

6. Shows up

7. Trounced

8. Retreated from working

9. Mid-month days

10. Plague

11. Distant

12. Fortuneteller's card

13. Foul moods

21. Negligence

24. The business of selling goods

25. Pulp

26. Anagram of "Neat"

27. Teller of untruths

28. Emphasis

30. Engrossed

32. Assumed name

34. Average

35. Repair

36. Cultural doings

40. Skinflint

41. Sullies

43. Lighter than air gas

45. Swindle

46. Hawaiian greeting

47. Symbol of slowness

49. Formula 1 driver

51. Male deer

52. Bumpkin

53. Metal used in steel

54. Pitching to one side

55. Affirmative votes

Play Sudoku and crosswords online..

Visit www.queenstimes.com Click on Puzzles

TRY AND FIND

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | H | A | O | L | F | T | R | D | H | C | E | D | O | O | O | D | N | Y | C |
| N | P | L | S | A | S | D | I | I | U | B | E | E | P | B | E | E | P | M | I |
| K | K | T | L | O | T | M | D | Z | M | Z | K | W | H | E | E | E | I | X | C |
| N | A | I | M | S | W | H | A | C | K | G | P | E | G | O | O | V | R | N | R |
| Z | F | C | R | A | T | T | A | T | T | A | T | O | F | E | H | R | G | E | E |
| C | I | K | I | P | X | P | X | O | A | H | C | H | O | O | B | O | T | E | A |
| M | K | T | D | D | G | K | N | H | T | S | T | V | L | X | O | O | T | V | K |
| B | W | O | N | Y | T | U | D | H | V | C | P | G | W | M | E | M | G | A | A |
| O | L | C | N | P | M | O | Z | G | A | A | F | K | U | Z | G | E | D | V | P |
| Y | C | K | I | W | N | C | F | P | H | H | C | P | R | R | S | M | O | K | P |
| O | G | R | M | L | N | W | D | A | P | I | A | O | G | B | G | K | W | T | Y |
| I | U | O | T | S | K | E | S | I | L | R | K | H | O | M | U | L | G | V | O |
| Y | O | C | I | N | D | B | G | C | N | U | C | S | A | L | R | X | E | B | G |
| B | Z | S | H | A | G | W | H | H | Z | G | A | V | S | B | V | T | Z | N | H |
| Z | M | O | O | P | J | L | A | H | E | M | D | X | Y | D | R | P | I | F | E |
| O | Y | R | O | B | G | A | I | O | O | X | M | O | Z | C | O | O | B | V | S |
| Z | L | F | U | P | A | V | M | Z | O | O | A | O | N | L | B | Z | U | O | G |
| J | K | B | N | W | S | X | L | U | A | T | P | Z | P | G | D | J | R | F | A |
| D | M | C | D | T | K | K | Y | O | D | H | B | J | V | F | N | H | P | B | P |
| Z | J | F | X | Y | Z | I | N | X | R | M | N | B | E | C | D | A | N | M | M |

Ahchoo

Beep Beep

Boing

Boom

Burp

Click

Creak

Ding-Dong

Gurgle

Ha Ha Ha

Oops

Ouch

Plop

Rat-Tat-Tat

Snap

Tick Tock

Vroom

Waaah

Whack

Wheee

Rep Grace Meng Brings Greece's New Ambassador To The United States And To Queens



Meng and Nassika with members of the local Greek American community during the luncheon.

Ambassador Ekaterini Nassika travels from Washington, D.C. to visit with borough's Greek American community; event included luncheon and tour of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens), a member of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, brought the Greek Ambassador to the United States to her congressional district in Queens, New York.

Meng and Ambassador Ekaterini Nassika held a luncheon yesterday with the borough's Greek American community at a local Greek restaurant where they talked about the importance of the U.S.-Greek relationship and their efforts to further strengthen it.

Prior to the luncheon, Meng and Nassika toured St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing, which the Congresswoman has been to several times in the past. They also visited its day school and preschool and met with Church and school officials.

Ambassador Nassika, who traveled to Queens from the Embassy of Greece in Washington, D.C., is a career diplomat. She was appointed as Greece's Ambassador to the U.S. in November 2023 after serving as the Ambassador of Greece to the Russian Federation. She began her diplomatic career in 1985. Her full bio can be viewed here.

Meng invited Ambassador Nassika to visit Queens last month after the two had an introductory meeting at the Congresswoman's office on Capitol Hill. Also joining the luncheon and tour was Dinos Konstantinou, the Consul General of Greece in New York.

"It was an honor to host Ambassador Nassika here in Queens and I thank her for visiting our borough," said Congresswoman Meng. "I am so proud to represent thousands of constituents who are of Greek descent and to support and help grow the crucial ties that exist between the United States and Greece, and between the American and Greek people. Greece is at the forefront of tackling many shared challenges from strengthening democracy and tackling climate change to helping to support our allies Israel and Ukraine and bring stability to the Eastern Mediterranean. I am excited to continue working with Ambassador Nassika and I'm thrilled that I was able to introduce her to the vibrant and thriving Greek American community in my district. She is welcome in



Meng and Nassika visiting the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church's day school and preschool



Meng and Nassika touring St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church.

Queens anytime."

"It was great to come to Flushing, Queens and meet with the local Greek American community, a strong and vibrant link between Greece and the United States of America," said Ambassador Nassika. "I was also very glad to see Congresswoman Grace Meng, an active member of the Congress-

sional Hellenic Caucus. We both highlighted the importance of further strengthening the ties between Greece and the U.S. and work closely together in this direction. The contribution of members of the Congress in promoting bilateral cooperation between the U.S. and close partners and allies, like Greece, is always of significance."

Italian American Journal



GIA



To read GIA online in English and Italian
Visit www.giamondo.com

Servicing The Tri-State Area and Long Island, Florida and Italy

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS INSURANCE SPECIALIST

Auto/Vehicle Insurance

Any Driver Or Car Welcome
Instant ID Cards & Coverage
Low Down Payments • Motorcycle Coverage
Marine, Jet Ski's & ATV Insurance



Home Insurance

Home, Condo Or Renters Policies
Waterfront & High Value Homes
Prior Claims Or Credit Issues Acceptable
Flood Insurance



Personal Insurance

Health, Life & Disability Programs



Business Insurance

Contractor, Retail & Restaurant Programs
General Liability, Workers' Compensation, Excess Liability & Umbrella Coverage



ORRINO INSURANCE GROUP
AGENCY INC.

360 ROUTE 109 • WEST BABYLON

631-669-6800

www.orrinoinsurance.com

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTE! WE CAN HELP!



Vallone & Vallone
Attorneys at Law



Over
80 Years
Of Legal Excellence

A FAMILY
TRADITION OF
LEGAL AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE
SINCE 1932

Estates & Elder Law Planning - Wills & Trusts
Family Home and Asset Protection
Full Real Estate Representation
Personal Injury - Civil & Criminal Litigation

WWW.VALLONELAW.COM

Three Convenient Locations

22-45 31st Street
Astoria, NY 11185
(718) 284-2929

31 Canal
Sacco & Filles LLP
42-48 Bell Boulevard, Suite 301
Bayville, NY 11701
(718) 426-7265

233 Broadway, Suite 631
New York, NY 10279
(212) VALLONE

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar Declares Victory In War Against Illegal Smoke Shops, Passes "Smokeout Act" In State Budget

Assemblywoman's "Smokeout Act" United New Yorkers To Close All 36,000 Illegal Smoke Shops

After weeks of negotiations, the SMOKEOUT Act passed in the State budget. The law will be effective immediately, and will allow localities across New York to quickly close the approximately 36,000 illegal smoke shops that have ballooned across our State.

Assemblywoman Rajkumar stated upon her budget victory, "On the first day of the legislative session, I pledged to all New Yorkers that I was going to close down all 36,000 illegal smoke shops ballooning across our state with my SMOKEOUT Act. It's time to smoke 'em out and shut them down. Today is a historic victory for public safety, common sense, and the health of our children. The people have spoken, and Albany has listened."

These past few months, Assemblywoman Rajkumar launched "Operation: SMOKEOUT" that brought New Yorkers together across all 5 boroughs and backgrounds with the common cause of shutting down these illegal shops. From Queens, to Harlem, to the Bronx, to Times Square, to City Hall, to Albany, New Yorkers rallied with Rajkumar to see SMOKEOUT Act to the finish line.

The SMOKEOUT Act received a slew of endorsements by the Editorial Boards of the New York Post, New York Daily News, Buffalo News, and Queens Chronicle. The SMOKEOUT Act was also endorsed by major figures and organizations including New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Sheriff Anthony Miranda, Times Square Alliance, the Partnership for New York City, the East Midtown



Partnership, the Cannabis Association of New York, the New York Cannabis Retail Association, the Bodega and Small Business Association, Silent Voices United Inc., and law enforcement across the State.

The next few weeks, Assemblywoman Rajkumar will be raiding illegal smoke shops across New York City with Sheriff Anthony Miranda, padlocking and shutting them down for good.

Mayor Eric Adams, who endorsed the SMOKEOUT Act, has projected that upon the bill's passage in the budget, he can close all of the City's 3,000 illegal smoke shops in 30 days.

The SMOKEOUT Act calls for local control and for the power to shut down shops to be put in the hands of the cities and municipalities. New York City and all lo-

(Continued on page 9)

Congressman Tom Suozzi Meets With Mayors



Recently, newly-elected Congressman Tom Suozzi met with more than 30 Mayors from across New York's 3rd Congressional District to give them an update on the latest news from our nation's capital and to listen to their concerns and issues.

Suozzi praised the work of the mayors and their trustees and said that "Congress should take a lesson from your bipartisan work, your commitment to your residents and your abilities to get things done that matter most to the people of your villages."

Suozzi, a former mayor of Glen Cove, knows the workings of local village government. He served as mayor for four terms and values the doctrine of Home Rule, understands the importance of zoning

and land-use planning, and the scope and reach of village codes.

Mayors from NY-03 that attended the meeting with Congressman Suozzi included: Mayor Pedram Bral, Great Neck; Deputy Mayor Peter Cavallaro, Westbury; Mayor Marina Chimerine, Old Westbury; Mayor Elliot Conway, Upper Brookville; Deputy Mayor Bob DeNatale, Bayville, Mayor Daniel DeVita, Laurel Hollow; Mayor Barbara Donno, Plandome Manor; Mayor Paul Ehrbar, Wiliston Park; Mayor Peter Forman, Sands Point; Mayor Kenneth Goodman, Matinecock; Mayor Charles Goulding, Oyster Bay Cove; Mayor Nora Haagenson, Baxter Estates; Deputy Mayor Carol Harrington, Lattingtown; Mayor James Ligouri, Mutton-

town; Mayor Susan Lopatkin, Kensington; Mayor Marvin Nattiss, North Hills; Mayor Pam Panzenbeck, Glen Cove; Mayor Bonnie Parente, East Willison; Mayor Paul Pereira, Mineola; Mayor Paul Leone Peters, Roslyn Estates; Mayor John Popelski, Manorhaven; Mayor Sandy Quentzel, Roslyn Harbor; Deputy Mayor John Colgate, Mill Neck; Mayor Kenneth Riscica, Plandome Heights; Mayor Randall Rosenbaum, Flower Hill; Mayor Bernie Ryba, Old Brookville; Mayor Lawrence Schmidlapp, Centre Island; Mayor Daniel Serota, Brookville, Mayor "Kris" Kouros Torkan, Kings Point; Mayor William Warner, Great Neck Estates, and Mayor Robert Weitzner, Port Washington North.

CONCORD PEST CONTROL, LLC.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LICENSED & INSURED

FOR ALL YOUR PEST PROBLEMS;
COCKROACHES
BEDBUGS
RODENTS
ANTS
WASPS
TERMITES

CALL FOR QUALITY ELIMINATION: 516-334-1794

Choose **Citibus** for EXPERIENCE,
Reliability & Safety!

S E R V I N G

YOUR COMMUNITY

Bus service to:
Bronx High School of Science
High School of American Studies

Check our website for service contracts
www.citibusbny.com
(718) 767-0353
CitibusCorp.
151-19 Sixth Road
Whitestone, NY 11357
(718) 767-0353
www.citibusbny.com

Park Side Restaurant Queens' Finest Italian Restaurant



About Park Side Restaurant - An Italian Landmark in the heart of Corona, Queens, Park Side Restaurant is truly a destination that is worth the trip. After one visit, you will be sure to be back again and again for one the city's Best Italian restaurants. Bring your appetite and enjoy authentic and always delicious dishes using the freshest ingredients and attention to detail served by our professional staff. Park Side is also happy to host your next function with our private dining area and flexible banquet packages.

107-01 Corona Ave. Corona Heights, NY
(718) 271-9274 • (718) 271-9871
- Reservations Suggested -

Licensed

Insured

ROCCO
CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Kitchens-Bathrooms-Roofs-Custom Tile Installations
Tel: 718-314-7474

rwr@RoccoConGroup.com www.RoccoConGroup.com

Read Our Paper Online
Visit Our Website
QueensTimes.com

NYC Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers Introduces Legislation to Strengthen And Expand Wage Transparency Requirement

New York City Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, alongside co-prime sponsor Majority Leader Amanda Farias, introduced Int. No. 808, legislation that would both strengthen and expand the city's existing wage transparency requirements. The bill would require employers to disclose information about non-wage compensation, like bonuses and benefits, as part of job postings, and would specify how employers determine the range of pay they would offer for a position. This legislation builds on the Council's yearslong effort to curb longstanding wage disparities based on wage and gender.

"Race and gender shouldn't impact a New Yorker's ability to make a living," said NYC Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers. "But despite decades of advocacy and progress, race- and gender-based wage gaps persist. Pay inequity harms vulnerable communities and hampers economic growth in our neighborhoods. Wage transparency laws can help eliminate pay gaps, and I am proud to introduce legislation today that strengthens and builds upon the City's existing framework. This Council will continue to fight to remedy historic injustices and ensure a more equitable future in New York City."

"I am proud to be introducing Introduction 808 to strengthen pay parity in New York City alongside Majority Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers," said NYC Majority Leader Amanda Farias. "This legislation will expand transparency from the salary range on a job posting to also include other worker incentives like bonuses, benefits, and more. Additionally, the legislation will require that current employees are alerted of such compensation information. Our introduction expands on the

work of Local Law 32 from 2022, the Salary Range Disclosure Law, and focuses on shrinking the gender pay gap by increasing access to sustainable careers."

Women in New York City earn about 90 cents for every \$1 earned by men, and for women of color, the disparity is even starker. Hispanic women earn 54 cents for every \$1 earned by white men, while Black women earn just 57 cents for every \$1 by white men.

"We commend NYC Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers and Council Member Amanda Farias for proposing amendments to address flaws in the NYC Pay Transparency Law," said Beverly Neufeld, President, PowHer New York. "Now some companies are posting overly broad ranges, current employees are in the dark about their pay status, and salary range alone is being posted, not full compensation packages. The proposed changes which expand transparency and increase compliance will advance NYC's goal of leveling the 'paying field' to achieve economic well-being for women and families."

"In 2022, the New York City Council led the way in enacting essential pay transparency protections that brought us one step closer to achieving pay equity for women and people of color," said Seher Khawaja, Director of Economic Justice & Deputy Legal Director, Legal Momentum. "Thanks to the leadership of Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, we are taking the next step. Building upon lessons learned, this bill will close problematic loopholes in our law and enhance transparency, further empowering workers to advocate for fair pay while motivating employers to pay more equitably."

"New York has made great strides in recent years to strength-

en and expand pay transparency," said David R. Jones, President and CEO of the Community Service Society of New York. "But despite strong pay equity laws, gender and racial wage gaps persist. Today, with legislation introduced by City Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, New York takes a crucial step forward in closing gaps in the current transparency laws and putting our city on a path toward eliminating pay inequities holding back the economic potential of women and people of color. We applaud Council Member Brooks-Powers, Council Member Farias, Speaker Adams and the City Council for its leadership on this issue."

"This bill is crucial in assuring meaningful salary transparency, which in turn furthers broad goals of equal pay for all workers," said Miriam Clark, NELA/NY Legislative Chair.

"We have seen employers abide by the exact wording of the law but not the intent of the law, posting salary ranges that were shockingly disparate to the point of not being realistic," said CWA Local 1180 President Gloria Middleton. "The law that was intended to help women does not go far enough to make a real difference. By strengthening the pay transparency law we have on the books will go a long way to making sure that there is a level playing field for more women. This will clarify what it means to list a true and accurate pay range in job postings."

This legislation extends Majority Whip Brooks-Powers' years of wage advocacy, including as part the Fight for \$15, a global campaign to raise the minimum wage. The bill's sponsors will next work with advocates and members of the City Council to move this legislation forward.

Assemblywoman Passes Sought After Recruitment and Retention Benefit For NYPD



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato successfully negotiated benefits for the members of the NYPD after intense conversations in the 2024 State budget. The Assemblywoman serves as Chairwoman of the NYS Committee on Governmental Employees which oversees all legislative action related to pensions, retirement systems, and the State civil service. After the vote, the Assemblywoman received hundreds of emails and calls from members of the police explicitly saying "Thank you Stacey!"

Pheffer Amato worked hand-in-hand with the NYC Police Benevolent Association (PBA), the union that represents NYC police officers, to craft language that would increase the salary of police officers who have served for 25 - 30 years in order to combat the ongoing issue of retention and recruitment within the NYPD. This resulted in that NYPD Officers who serve 25 years will receive the pension of a third grade detective, and NYPD Officers who serve 30 years shall receive the pension of a sergeant. According to salary data, it is believed that these benefits could translate to a potential pension payment enhancement of \$10,000 per year, or more, respectively.

"Every day our police officers put their lives on the line to protect our communities. They are out there to keep us all safe, which is why I think it is important that they be compensated for their dedication and hard work. By ensuring my bill, A.5202, was

in the State budget, our State is making it clear that we not only recognize their hard work, but finally show our true appreciation for our police," said Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato.

PBA President Patrick Hendry said, "We have lost far too many of our most talented, experienced police officers to retirement or other policing jobs with better benefits. This important retention incentive will help keep our best cops on the job and in the New York City communities they know best. We are very grateful to Assemblymember Pheffer Amato for introducing this legislation and fighting hard to get it included in the budget. This legislation isn't just good for police officers - it's good for the safety of all New Yorkers."

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato has also received praise for being the fiercest supporter of the NYPD and actually getting legislation accomplished to benefit police officers. Throughout the 23rd Assembly District, there are over 281 NYPD police officers, along with their families, who could benefit from this pension enhancement sponsored by the Assemblywoman. Pheffer Amato is known for actually doing something to help the police, not just talking about supporting them. This stems not only from this year's benefit, but also last year when she negotiated that Tier 3 NYPD Officers would finally obtain the ability to borrow from their pension - something that they had been explicitly denied.

Korean Community Services' 51st Annual Gala



Council Member Vickie Paladino had a wonderful time at Korean Community Services' 51st Annual Gala recently. The Councilwoman said "It was great to celebrate the accomplish-

ments of KCS over the past year as we look towards a brighter future.

CM Paladino also said "I'm proud to represent KCS in the New York City Council and

work with them to service my constituents and more. Thank you for a beautiful evening; I look forward to seeing how you top yourselves at the 52nd Annual Gala".



PS 29's Performance of Hairspray



Council Member Vickie Paladino attended the performance of Hairspray at PS 29 recently. The students put on an amazing performance with beautiful costumes and impressive

choreography. The Councilwoman said "I'm so glad I was able to see the performance and congratulate the students on their hard work. I look forward to visiting PS 29 again soon."

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar Declares Victory In War Against Illegal Smoke Shops, Passes “Smokeout Act” In State Budget

(Continued from page 7)

calities will now have the power to shut down illegal cannabis shops on their own, without waiting for the State Office of Cannabis Management. In New York City, the Office of the Sheriff will now be able to deputize the NYPD and all agencies to help padlock the shops. This means New York City can use its full manpower to get the job done.

Additional details of the provisions in the budget include the following:

Localities can padlock a shop immediately provided that the shop is an egregious actor, defined as falling into any one of four categories: 1. Selling cannabis to children 2. Operating next to a school 3. Selling unregulated cannabis 4. Having the presence of illegal firearms.

Illegal shops that do not fall into one of the above categories can be closed upon a second inspection. Any previous inspection conducted before the passage of this law counts for the purposes of padlocking.

Violating a padlock order is now a Class A misdemeanor.

In the interests of fairness, there are due process provisions that give violators a chance to cure and be heard. Violators can file an appeal within 7 days. They are entitled to a hearing on the appeal within 3 days of filing. A decision on the appeal must be rendered 4 days after the hearing. Failure to appeal leads to a default judgment against the violator.

Municipalities outside New York City will have the power to create their own cannabis enforcement schemes by passing new local laws.

Assemblyman George Alvarez said, “I was proud to co-sponsor Assemblywoman Rajkumar’s SMOKEOUT Act, one of the most important bills of this session. Because of the Assemblywoman’s work, we will be able to immediately shutter the illegal cannabis shops endangering communities in my district and across the State. These shops are popping up in Black and Brown communities, the same communities cannabis legalization was supposed to empower, where they are selling to our children and attracting armed robberies. Now we have the full force of the NYPD to shut them down for good, a victory for our children and all New Yorkers.”

Assemblyman Anil Beehan of the Republican Caucus stated, “I am elated to see the ‘SMOKEOUT Act’ included in the State budget. After addressing the illegal dispensary bus situation in my hometown of East Fishkill, I knew I needed to partner with Assemblywoman Rajkumar on this bipartisan policy to empower local municipalities to safeguard their communities from illegal dispensaries. As I said earlier in this endeavor, unlicensed vendors are no different than drug dealers peddling unvetted products that we have seen laced with fentanyl and other dangerous additives. I extend my gratitude and con-

gratulations to Assemblywoman Rajkumar for her exemplary leadership and collaboration on this crucial initiative.”

Assemblywoman Rebecca A. Seawright said, “We applaud the SMOKEOUT Act’s passage in this year’s budget. Not a day goes by without us hearing about the illegal operations of smoke shops in our neighborhood. Thanks to this legislation, cities can independently close illegal smoke shops that compromise the legal market.”

Assemblyman Juan Ardila said, “Almost every day since I entered office, my constituents have demanded that we do something to stop the scourge of illegal pot shops that have been plaguing neighborhoods like Sunnyside, Ridgewood, Maspeth, Woodside and beyond. That is why I signed on as the first co-sponsor to my Queens neighbor Assemblymember Rajkumar’s SMOKEOUT Act, which with its inclusion in the state budget, will finally give municipalities the teeth they need to bring us closer to permanently shutting down stores that pose a public health danger to consumers and children everywhere.”

Assemblywoman Monica Wallace said, “Unlicensed cannabis shops are a public health hazard in our state. These illicit stores sell unregulated, unsafe, and untested cannabis, threatening the health and wellbeing of anyone who purchases it. They are operating illegally, and it’s time we gave our local law enforcement officers the power to shut them down.”

Senator Rob Rolison said, “I am a proud co-sponsor of the SMOKEOUT Act because illegal retail cannabis sellers are targeting our children and flooding Hudson Valley communities with illegal and unregulated marijuana products, the vast majority of which originate outside New York State. As a member of the Senate’s Cannabis Subcommittee, I have met with concerned stakeholders and their message to Albany has been unanimous: hold illegal storefront sellers accountable, now. Thanks to the passage of today’s SMOKEOUT Act, we have done exactly that and delivered for our Hudson Valley farmers and startups who have been calling for a safe, predictable, and regulated cannabis market.”

Edgardo R. Marrero of the New York State Department of Health said, “For months, we have rallied and stood strong, raising our voices, sending a clear and resounding message: NOT IN OUR COMMUNITIES!! NOT IN NEW YORK!! Albany heard us and we are grateful to Governor Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and most especially New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, the principle architect of the SMOKEOUT Act for giving New York City and municipalities across the State the resources and authority necessary to shut down these illegal cannabis shops that have been a scourge on our communities and have put

the lives, the health and wellness of all New Yorkers, our economy, and our most precious commodity—our children—at risk. We will not allow the siege to continue! New Yorkers will soon be able to breathe a sigh of relief as we move to do what we said we’d do and SHUT THEM DOWN!!!”

Tom Harris, President of the Times Square Alliance said, “Nothing kills the buzz of a new business opening like finding out it is selling cannabis illegally and there is little that can be done. We applaud Assemblymember Rajkumar and Governor Hochul for empowering local governments to close down these illegal weed shops so the legal establishments can flourish and grow.”

Francisco Marte of the Bodega and Small Business Association said, “We, the Bodega and Small Business Association, thank Assemblywoman Rajkumar for passing the SMOKEOUT Act. This bill will provide the tools that the Mayor and law enforcement need to shut down the illegal smoke shops selling drugs without any regulations, including to minors. Today is a victory for the health and safety of all our communities. Most of our members are immigrants who came to New York for the American Dream, and because of the Assemblywoman’s fine work we will not have to worry about smoke shops attracting armed robberies or hooking our children on drugs.”

David Schwartz of Gotham Government Relations said, “Thank you to our Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar for delivering a big win for all New Yorkers by passing the SMOKEOUT Act. The legitimate retailers and distributors have been decimated in New York City at the hands of thousands of illegal smoke shops, which are criminal enterprises that sell illegal cannabis, illegal untaxed cigarettes and illegal vapor products. The City and State are losing billions of dollars every year. These illegal shops are a scourge on society and now we must follow through and fulfill the mandate of the SMOKEOUT Act and shut down these illegal stores immediately.”

Community leaders in Harlem thanked Assemblywoman Rajkumar.

Tiffany Fulton of Silent Voices United Inc. and renowned Harlem community leader said, “With the unwavering leadership of Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, the SMOKEOUT Act becomes a beacon of hope, safeguarding our children and community from illegal, unlicensed shops. Victory is ours, and we carry it forward, guided by faith and determination.”

Darrell “Brother Gifted” Fulton of Medianus Inc. said, “Words cannot express the gratitude I have for Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar. Thank you.” Tameka Silva, Owner and Executive Director of Heaven’s Tiny Tots Daycare in Harlem, where an illegal smoke shop was opening next

Con Edison Researchers Earn Coveted Awards For Findings To Advance Clean Heat And Help Stymie Climate Change

They Are Among 10 Company Winners Whose Work Enhances Safety, Reliability and Aids the Clean Energy Transition

Three Con Edison employees have won prestigious awards from the energy industry’s top research organization for a study into options for heating buildings with electricity and moving them off of fossil fuels.

The research fits perfectly with Con Edison’s Clean Energy Commitment to help achieve New York State’s climate and renewable energy goals. Heating buildings with electricity, as opposed to fuels like oil, natural gas or propane, is essential to creating a low-carbon future equitably and efficiently with every New Yorker sharing in the benefits.

The members of the team that worked on the clean heat project are among 10 Con Edison employees who won Technology Transfer Awards from the Electric Power Research Institute, or EPRI.

The group that studied building electrification included: Shuchita Prakash, a director in the company’s Strategic Planning group; Sarah Murphy, an analyst in Strategic Planning; and Terrell Skipper, strategy manager in Customer Clean Energy Programs.

“Our great workers apply their expertise and curiosity every day to come up with new strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure a safe, sustainable region and planet for generations to come,” said Matthew Ketschke, the president of Con Edison. “We are proud to see their contributions earn recognition from EPRI, the pre-eminent organization when it comes to energy research.”

The study, “Assessment of Building Electrification Technologies for New York State,” published in May 2023, examined the effectiveness of the technologies landlords and owners can use to heat their buildings with electricity. The study looked at each technology’s effectiveness when it comes to reducing emissions, the economics of the technologies and their impact on the state’s electricity needs.

Con Edison offers customers incentives for switching to geothermal and air-source heat pumps for their space heating.

Geothermal heat pumps rely on the constant underground temperatures to heat and cool a building. The systems transfer heat inside during cold winter months and then remove heat

during summer.

Air-source heat pumps move heat from inside a building to the outside like an air conditioner. In winter, they pull heat from outside and bring it into a building.

The other Con Edison Technology Transfer Award winners are:

- Jade Wong, project manager in Research and Development. She was part of a team whose research will help ensure that utilities get the greatest benefit from transmission lines without affecting reliability or safety and while complying with new federal regulations.

Transmission lines carry power long distances and feed it into utilities’ local distribution systems like Con Edison’s in New York City and Westchester County.

- Brenda Hill, project specialist in Research and Development; Prakash Kothari, a department manager in Environment and Sustainability; and Steve Labudzinski, also a project specialist in Research and Development.

They were part of a team that developed and tested a battery-operated tool utility workers can use to remove manhole covers. EPRI said the tool could “have a dramatic impact in reducing ergonomic risk” for workers who remove covers, which can weigh up to 300 pounds.

- Richard Alcalde, technical specialist in Corporate Security; Serena Lee, project manager in Research and Development; and Piotr Lisowski, senior specialist in Corporate Security.

The team developed and tested technology that collects in-depth forensic data about certain utility equipment that the utility can use after a cyberattack to determine whether the equipment was compromised.

Con Edison’s showing in this year’s awards continues the company’s long-standing success in earning recognition from EPRI. The company and its employees regularly win multiple Technology Transfer Awards.

Con Edison is a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc. [NYSE: ED], one of the nation’s largest investor-owned energy companies, with approximately \$15 billion in annual revenues and \$66 billion in assets. The utility delivers electricity, natural gas and steam, and serves 3.6 million customers in New York City and Westchester County. For financial, operations and customer service information, visit conEd.com. For energy efficiency information, visit coned.com/energyefficiency. Also, visit us on Twitter and Facebook.

108 Auto Service Inc.

宏興車行

Official NYS Inspection Station

Complete Auto Repair & Tires

All Work Guarantee

ASE CERTIFIED

- NYS Approved Auto Technician
- ASE Certified Technician
- Licensed Auto Body Estimator
- ASA Member

DEE 宏

Tel.: (718) 393-3139

Fax: (718) 271-0902

55-26 108 Street, Corona, NY. 11368

(Continued on page 10)

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar Declares Victory In War Against Illegal Smoke Shops, Passes “Smokeout Act” In State Budget

(Continued from page 9)

door, said, “With profound gratitude to Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar and the Assembly, our hearts swell with appreciation for your tireless efforts, culminating in the victorious passage of the SMOKEOUT Act. By shutting down smoke shops from encroaching on our neighborhoods, you’ve not only protected our children but also preserved the sanctity of our communities. Your dedication shines as a beacon of hope, ensuring a brighter, healthier future for all.”

Smoke shops have become a magnet for crime in New York City: filled with valuable contraband and loose cash, they are a tantalizing target for armed robberies. Such robberies skyrocketed from 137 in

2021 to 593 in 2022, or almost 1 robbery for every 2 smoke shops. In 2023 alone, there were five fatal shootings in smoke shops, including one in Assemblywoman Rajkumar’s district.

Often these unlicensed smoke shops also sell other contraband including untaxed cigarettes and psychedelics. Some offer edibles appealing to children, packaged to resemble sugar cereals and other popular children’s snacks. Shops are opening across the street from schools.

Cannabis products from illegal shops even present a danger to the users. A random sampling of illegal smoke shop cannabis products found that 40% contained dangerous contaminants such as E. coli, salmonella, lead, and pesticides. None met the safety

standards of New York’s legal cannabis.

Besides breeding crime and endangering neighborhoods, illegal smoke shops unfairly compete with the legal cannabis dispensaries authorized by the Cannabis Law of 2021. These legal operators underwent a lengthy licensure process and sell rigorously tested and regulated cannabis. Legal shops cannot meet the prices of illegal shops’ unregulated cannabis, and there are only 108 legal dispensaries across the State. This undermines the legalized cannabis program’s intent to provide economic empowerment to people who were impacted in the past by Draconian drug laws, and to reinvest in communities that were historically targeted for enforcement.

Boilermakers Recruit Apprentices

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) for Boilermakers Northeastern Area, Local Union #5, Zone #5 will conduct a recruitment from May 21, 2024 through May 20, 2025 for five Boilermaker (Construction) apprentices, the New York State Department of Labor announced today. Please note, the five openings listed for Boilermaker apprentices represent the total number for three recruitment regions – the New York City, Long Island, and Hudson Valley regions of the state.

Applications can be obtained and completed online anytime during the recruitment period at www.boilermakersapprenticeship.com. All applications must be received no later than May 20, 2025.

The Committee requires that applicants:

- Must be at least 18 years old. Proof of age will be required after selection or at the time of enrollment in apprenticeship.
- Must have a high school

diploma or a high school equivalency diploma (such as TASC or GED). Proof will be required after selection or at the time of enrollment in apprenticeship.

- Must attest in writing that they are physically able to perform the work of a Boilermaker (Construction), which may include:
 - Working an 8-hour day while continually on feet.
 - Lifting and carrying weights in excess of 95 pounds for extended periods.
 - Working in extended periods of extreme weather conditions and temperatures.
 - Working in restricted or confined spaces.
 - Working at heights of 20 feet or more on scaffolds or platforms.
 - Working in ditches or trenches up to 20 feet deep.
 - Working in nuclear facilities.
 - Working in hazardous conditions.
 - Must have reliable transportation to and from remote worksites and required classes at the ap-

proved school.

- Must pass a drug and alcohol test, at the expense of the sponsor, within 48 hours of signing the apprenticeship agreement.

For further information, applicants should contact JATC for Boilermakers Northeastern Area, Local Union #5, Zone #5 at (516) 326-2500. Additional job search assistance can be obtained at your local New York State Department of Labor Career Center (see: dol.ny.gov/career-centers).

Apprentice programs registered with the Department of Labor must meet standards established by the Commissioner. Under state law, sponsors of programs cannot discriminate against applicants because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, or marital status. Women and minorities are encouraged to submit applications for apprenticeship programs. Sponsors of programs are required to adopt affirmative action plans for the recruitment of women and minorities.

Assemblyman Colton Applauds Retail Theft Deterrent Measures Passed as Part of FY2025 Budget

A package of measures to combat the scourge of retail theft is among the public safety initiatives passed in conjunction with the Fiscal Year 2025 budget with the strong support of Assemblyman William Colton (D—Gravesend, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach and Dyker Heights).

“I am delighted that Governor Hochul, the Assembly and the State Senate have agreed on these important actions to crack down on retail theft in New York City and across the state,” said Assemblyman Colton.

The multi-pronged approach to retail theft includes elevating the penalty for assaulting a retail worker from a misdemeanor to a felony, permitting prosecutors to combine the value of goods stolen from several stores by the same

individual or individuals in order to raise the penalty for such theft, and going after third-party sellers of stolen merchandise by creating a new category of crime, fostering the sale of stolen goods, which will be a Class A misdemeanor.

In addition, the state budget includes \$40.2 million that will be used to create dedicated Retail Theft Teams within the state police, local district attorney’s offices and local law enforcement which will focus on the issue. The budget also includes a total \$5 million tax credit for small businesses that invest in retail theft prevention measures, with businesses that meet the spending threshold eligible for a \$3,000 state tax credit.

“This focus on retail theft – which has been an

increasing problem over the past several years – will aid our small businesses which are so hard-hit by criminals who steal from them, often in order to resell their ill-gotten gains online,” Assemblyman Colton said.

Other public safety measures passed in conjunction with the FY 2025 budget include a crackdown on illegal cannabis shops, an expansion of the definition of hate crimes and an increased penalty to deter assaults on transit workers.

“These important measures will help improve safety throughout the city and state through a combination of enforcement and deterrence, at a time when residents are demanding increased security on public transportation and on city streets,” Assemblyman Colton said.

Flushing Chinese Business Association



The Flushing Chinese Business Association works every day to serve local business owners and keep the economy

in our borough thriving.

FCBA held a press conference recently to announce plans for two celebratory

events in honor of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. QDA Melinda Katz said “I look forward to the festivities!”

Queens College Offers Free Immigration Law Services



Queens College has launched a campus branch of CUNY Citizenship Now!, Offering free legal assistance to enable immigrants to represent themselves. A ribbon-

cutting event in the Student Union lobby—where the new office is located, marked the official opening, introduced staff, and provided an overview of services, which include

assistance with naturalization, family-based petitions, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and temporary protected status, to name a few.

Ensuring Victims of the Maspeth Fire Receive Relief

The Flushing Chinese Business Association works every day to serve local business owners and keep the economy in our borough thriving.

FCBA held a press conference recently to announce plans for two celebratory events in honor of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. QDA Melinda Katz said “I look forward to the festivities!”



LEGAL NOTICES

VIRTUOSO MANAGEMENT, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/26/24. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 6559 79th Street, Middle Village, NY 11379. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 4/4,11,18,25,5/2&9/2024

Notice of Formation of 9901 35th Avenue LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 3/18/24. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 31-42 101st St, East Elmhurst, NY 11369. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/4,11,18,25,5/2&9/2024

Notice of Formation of AMOURJOIE LEGACIES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 08/22/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 101-66 130th St, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/4,11,18,25,5/2&9/2024

Notice of Formation of L & M 88 REALTY LLC Cert. of LLC filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on Feb. 20, 2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to 150-43 6th Avenue, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/11,18,25,5/2,9&16/2024

Notice of Formation of FLOCK FOOTSTEPS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 03/30/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 16330 26th Ave, Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/4,11,18,25,5/2&9/2024

Young June Properties LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/18/2023. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 3925 61st St, #770794, Woodside, NY 11377. General Purpose. 3/21,28,4/4,11,18&25/2024

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1367402 for On-Premises Liquor has been applied for by El Vaquerito Corp to sell On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer, and Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 54-11 Northern Blvd Store D, Woodside, NY 11377 for on-premises consumption. 4/18&25/2024

LEGAL NOTICES

PROBATE CITATION
File No. 2023-562
SURROGATE'S COURT-
QUEENS COUNTY
CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK,
By the Grace of God Free and Independent
TO: Public Administrator of Queens County, Office of the New York State Attorney General, Helene Rosenblatt, Melvin Fred Rosenblatt, Nancy Savert Haber, Barry David Sarvet, Arnold Kleinman, Ellen Rosen, Jeffrey Cohen, Gary Cohen, Lorraine A. Lee and Michael J. Rudolph, as Trustees of Shirley Meyer Revocable Trust, Aleksander Niedzwiedz, Abigail Rowbottom, United Jewish Appeal Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, Inc., and to all heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Shirley Meyer, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to their heir at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknowns and cannot be ascertained after due diligence

A petition having been duly filed by Lorraine A. Lee, who is domiciled at 207 Saratoga Avenue, Apt 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11233 and Michael J. Rudolph, who is domiciled at 435 Beach 130th Street, Belle Harbor, NY 11696.

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, New York, on June 18th, 2024, at 9:30 AM of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Shirley Meyer lately domiciled at 6505 Yellowstone Blvd., Apt 3A, Forest Hills, New York 11375, United States admitting to probate a Will dated February 20, 2017 (and Codicil(s), if any, dated _____), a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Shirley Meyer deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that:

[X] Letters Testamentary issue to:

[] Letters of Trusteeship issue to: Lorraine A. Lee and Michael J. Rudolph

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

[] Further relief requested (if any):

NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE RELIEF REQUESTED, YOU, OR AN ATTORNEY ON YOUR BEHALF, MUST CONTACT THE COURT PRIOR TO THIS DATE IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED NOTICE. IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT AS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE IT WILL BE FOUND YOU CONSENT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED.

Dated, Attested and Sealed, April 8th, 2024

(Seal)
HON. PETER J. KELLY
Surrogate Peter J. Kelly

LEGAL NOTICES

JANET EDWARDS TUCKER
Chief Clerk
Nelson A. Vinokur
Print Name of Attorney
Law Office of Nelson A. Vinokur
Firm Name
(516) 897-0719
Telephone
1900 Hempstead Turnpike;
Suite 306, East Meadow, New York 11554
Address
Nelson@vinokurlaw.com
Email (optional)
4/18,25,5/2&9/2024

JACKSON HEIGHTS WS LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/18/2024. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 79-19B Northern Boulevard, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Reg Agent: Suhail Sitaf, 3 Windsor Drive, Old Westbury, NY 11568. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 3/28,4/4,11,18,25&5/2/2024

REDEFINE MEALS FOREST HILLS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/28/24. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2850 Pond Road, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 4/4,11,18,25,5/2&9/2024

Behaus LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/08/2024. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 2922 Northern BLVD apt 3810, NY, LIC, 11101. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 4/11,18,25,5/2,9&16/2024

39-05 48 AVE. LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/23. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 11 Hamilton Square, Glen Head, NY 11545. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 4/11,18,25,5/2,9&16/2024

SZNS Group LLC filed 4/5/24. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. for process & shall mail to: 2228 125th St., College Point, NY 11356. Purp: any lawful. 4/11,18,25,5/2,9&16/2024

20-35 STEINWAY REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/09/24. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 20-35 Steinway Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 4/18,25,5/2,9,16&23/2024



LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of CAT SOLUTIONS CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 04/09/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 5122 Skillman Avenue 2F, Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/18,25,5/2,9,16&23/2024

Notice of Formation of AMITA LUNA PERINATAL LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 02/26/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 120-19 192nd St, St Albans, NY 11412. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/25,5/2,9,16,23&30/2024

800 PARKVIEW LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 3/8/24. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 26910 Grand Central Pkwy Apt 18C Floral Park NY 11005. Purpose: Any lawful Activity. 4/25,5/2,9,16,23&30/2024

Notice of Qualification of 107 QB DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/04/24. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 03/03/22. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 21515 Northern Blvd., Suite 301, Bayside, NY 11361. Address to be maintained in DE: 17032 Minos Conaway Rd., Lewes, DE 19958. Arts of Org. filed with the Secy. of State, 401 Federal St. #4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. 4/25,5/2,9,16,23&30/2024

Notice of Qualification of 4 Chickens, LLC. App. For Auth. filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/10/24. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 7/20/16. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Pryor Cashman LLP, 7 Times Square, NY, NY 10036, Attn: Nicholas T. Ratsep, Esq. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Arts of Org filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/25,5/2,9,16,23&30/204



LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of formation of Joan M. Chi, MD, PLLC. Arts of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/5/2024. Office located in Queens County. SSNY designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 142-04 Bayside Ave Suite 3U, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 4/25,5/2,9,16,23&30/2024

Read Our Paper Online
www.queens-times.com

Leader Jeffries Statement On College Campus Unrest In NYC And Throughout America

Democratic Leader Ha-keem Jeffries released the following statement:

The antisemitic rhetoric and intimidation deployed by some students and outside protestors on college campuses in New York City and beyond is completely unacceptable and deeply disturbing. Every American has the constitutional right to free speech and peaceful assembly in the public square. However, intentionally targeting Jews or any community on the basis of race, religion or ethnicity, acts of harassment and the

Notice of Formation of NEW BEGINNING REALITY LIFESTYLE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 04/04/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 11531 204th Street, St. Albans, NY 11412. Purpose: any lawful activity. 4/25,5/2,9,16,23&30/2024

use of physical violence will never be tolerated. No Jewish student or faculty member should fear for their safety on campus or anywhere else in our nation.

The effort to crush anti-semitism and hatred in any form is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It's an American issue that should bind us all together. We will continue to do everything possible to protect the Jewish community during this very fraught moment, fight the cancer of antisemitism and redouble our efforts to bring communities together.

TAKE 5 Top-Prize Ticket Sold in ASTORIA

The New York Lottery has announced one top-prize winning ticket was sold for the Apr 22 TAKE 5 EVENING drawing. The ticket was sold at:

• METROCARE PHARMACY INC located at 21-12 36TH AVE in ASTORIA, which sold one prize-winning ticket worth \$33,378.00

TAKE 5 numbers are drawn from a field of one through 39. The drawing is televised twice daily at 2:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. A Lottery draw game prize of any amount may be claimed up to one year from the date of the drawing.

About the New York Lottery - The New York Lottery continues to be North America's largest and most profitable Lottery, contributing \$3.7 billion in fiscal year 2022-2023 to help support education in New York State.

New Yorkers struggling with a gambling addiction, or who know someone who is, can find help at NYProblemGamblingHelp.org, by calling New York's toll-free confidential HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369), or texting HOPE-NY (467369). Standard text rates may apply.

IT TAKES A SPECIAL PERSON...

...TO RISK SO MUCH FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE SO LITTLE

Visit Our Website: www.queens-times.com

Suozzi Presented Edward J. Malloy Memorial Leadership Award by NYS Building and Construction Trades Council

Recognized for his enduring leadership and dedication to the labor movement

Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-Long Island, Queens) was awarded the Edward J. Malloy Memorial Leadership Award by the New York State Building and Construction Trades Council. The award, which was established in 2013 to commemorate Edward J. Malloy's legacy as a leader in the labor movement, was presented to Suozzi, "in recognition of your Courageous Leadership and Dedication to the Labor Movement."

"When it comes to Tom Suozzi, my relationship with him is not a 'Johnny-come-lately' one. Tom and I share almost three decades of working together starting when he was a Mayor, then County Executive, and now as a Member of Congress, said Gary LaBarbera. "I'm just really proud of Tom Suozzi. I really value our friendship. I value our relationship. And, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award."

Gary LaBarbera, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York and the New York State Building and Construction Trades Council, presented the Edward J. Malloy Memorial Leadership Award to Suozzi.

"We face major issues in our country. From the border to climate and energy, to housing and cost of living. Everything we do must be looked at through the lens of how this affects the wages, benefits, cost of living, and quality of life of working men and women. We need to get back to the basics of talking about the American Dream, where hard work is rewarded with wages sufficient to guarantee a home, health insurance, children's education, and retirement security," said Suozzi. "I am so grateful to the Building Trades for this recognition and their steadfast support."

"Special thank you to my very good friend, Gary LaBarbera, for his support and wise counsel over the course of my thirty plus years in public service. I wouldn't be where I am today without Gary," said Suozzi.

Suozi was presented the award at the annual NYS Building & Construction Trades Council Legislative Breakfast in Washington, DC. The event was held in conjunction with North American Building Trades Union's Annual Legislative Conference with more than 300 building trades delegates from across New York State in attendance.

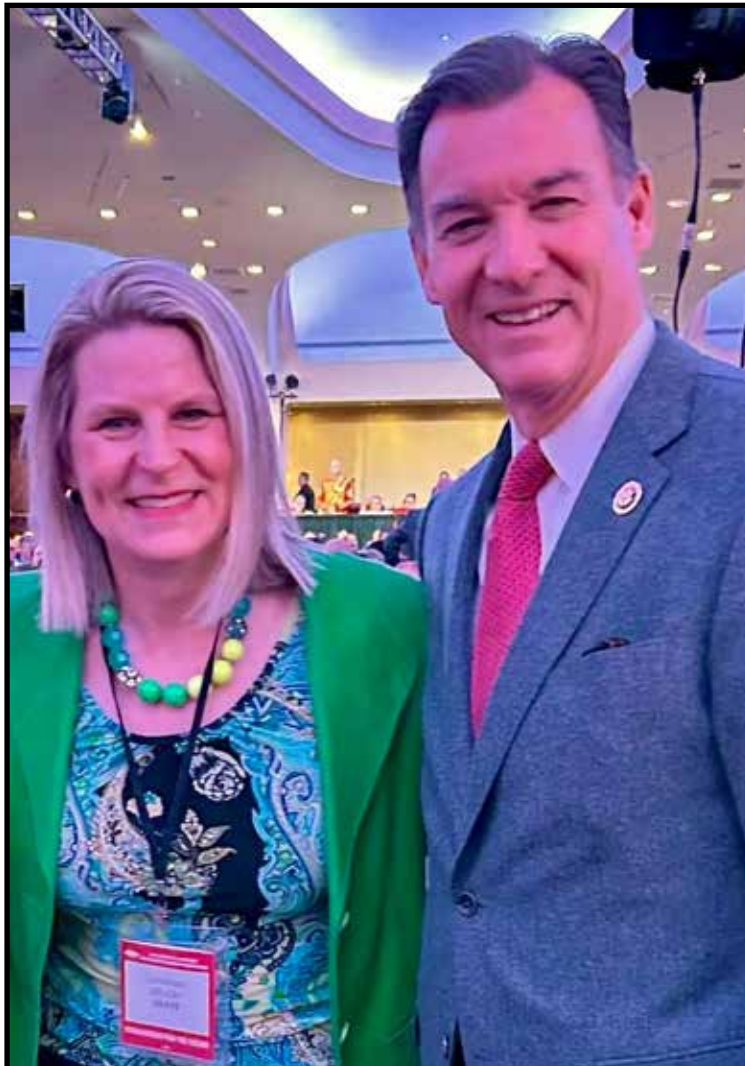
Established in 1958, the NYS Building & Construction Trades Council represents over 200,000 unionized construction workers in New York State.



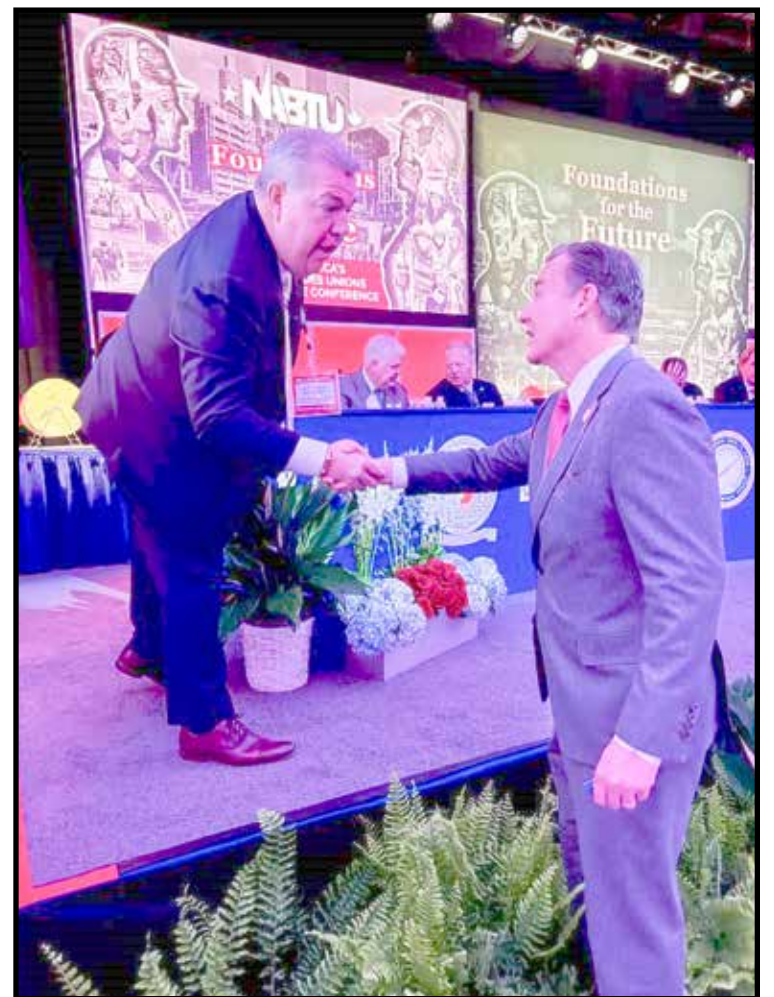
Congressman Tom Suozzi with Gary LaBarbera, President, Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York and the New York State Building and Construction Trades Council



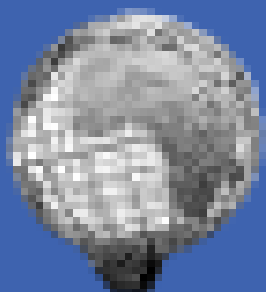
Congressman Suozzi and Anne Malloy-Trenkle, New York State Director, Helms to Hardhats



Congressman Suozzi and Liz Shuler, President, AFL-CIO



Congressman Suozzi and James Callahan, President, International Union of Operating Engineers



Read Our Paper Online Visit Our Website

www.QueensTimes.com

