

QUEENS TIMES

Published for the Borough of Queens

VOLUME 29, NO. 10

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

25 CENTS

DiNapoli: New York City's Budget Outlook Improves

City Will Need to Identify How to Fund Education and Social Services in Future

Better-than-projected revenues and planned cost savings benefited New York City's budget outlook for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, but funding for education and social services remain uncertain in the future, according to State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli's analysis of the city's latest financial plan.

"New York City's finances were boosted by better-than-projected revenues and planned savings, but out-year budget gaps are still large and tough choices remain ahead to fund essential education programs and social services," DiNapoli said. "The reality is that federal pandemic aid is ending and programs that help support affordability and working families will require additional funds. While additional revenue and savings have helped the city balance its books, it is navigating several fiscal challenges including an unprecedented influx of asylum seekers and needs the federal government to take steps to provide funding and address comprehensive immigration reform."

The city's Preliminary FY 2025 budget and January Financial Plan enabled the city to increase current year (FY 2024) spending to \$115.8 billion (adjusted for prepayments), close its \$7.1 billion FY 2025 budget gap, and reduce its out-year gaps.

(Continued on page 2)

Meng Calls Out Head Of U.S. Postal Service

For Refusing To Speak With Her About Building An Accessibility Ramp At The Jackson Heights Post Office In Queens



U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) called out the head of the U.S. Postal Service for refusing to speak with her about installing an accessibility ramp at the main entrance of the Jackson Heights

Post Office in Queens.

Building the ramp has long been a priority to Jackson Heights residents, and Meng has been

(Continued on page 2)

Rep Tom Suozzi Sworn Into 118th Congress



Rep. Tom Suozzi is pictured being sworn into the House by Speaker Mike Johnson who administered the oath of office to Suozzi on the House floor as Suozzi's wife Helene holds the Bible. See story on page 3.

Council Member Julie Won Celebrates 25th Annual St. Pat's For All Parade With Street Co-Naming Of St. Pat's For All Way



On Sunday, March 3, Council Member Julie Won, City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, the Irish Consul General Helena Nolan, and others celebrated the 25th Annual St. Pat's for All Parade with a street co-naming of Skillman Ave and 43rd Street as "St. Pat's for All Way." The location for the co-naming was chosen because the stage for the annual parade is erected at the intersection of 43rd St and Skillman Ave. See story on page 3.

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

Leader Jeffries Announces Committee Assignment For Congressman Tom Suozzi

Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries announced that the House Democratic Caucus has approved Congressman Tom Suozzi's appointment to the House Committee on Homeland Security.

"Today, I am honored to announce that Rep. Tom Suozzi will be appointed to the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Throughout his decades-long public service career, Tom has been a common-sense legislator, a bipartisan leader and a champion for the hardworking people of Long Island and Queens. I am confident that Tom's pragmatic and principled voice will be a tremendous asset to this important committee as we continue to address the challenges at the border

and fix our broken immigration system.

As we continue to confront MAGA Republican extremism and obstruction, we need common-sense voices like Tom Suozzi more than ever. I am thrilled to welcome Tom back into the House Democratic Caucus family and look forward to working with him as we tackle the critical work ahead."

Velázquez Applauds Biden Administration's Indefinite Extension Of Federal Financing Bank Risk-Sharing Program

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) released the following statement after the Biden administration announced the indefinite extension of the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) Risk-Sharing program as part of a series of new actions to support affordable housing:

"Since the creation of the FFB Risk-Sharing program under the Obama administration, the program has emerged as a proven tool to successfully expand affordable housing and empower local housing development agencies at zero risk to taxpayers. As our nation's housing crisis puts extreme pressure on working

families, we must empower existing initiatives that expand our affordable housing stock.

"That's why I have fought to protect this critical program for years. When President Trump discontinued the program, I rallied my colleagues to call for its preservation and introduced the first bill to expand and reimplement it.

"Since the program's resumption by the Biden administration, FFB Risk-Sharing has supported nearly \$2 billion in FHA-insured loans that have helped create or preserve more than 12,000 units of affordable housing. Last week, I co-led a letter with House and

Senate colleagues calling on the President to cement these benefits moving forward by permanently extending the program. I'm grateful that the Biden administration heeded our call to indefinitely extend the program as part of a broad set of actions to build more housing and lower housing costs.

"However, the federal government must do more as the housing crisis jeopardizes the right to safe and affordable housing in New York City and across the country. I will continue to fight in Congress to make the investments necessary to strengthen and expand affordable housing for all."

Council Member Julie Won Celebrates 25th Annual St. Pat's For All Parade With Street Co-Naming Of St. Pat's For All Way

(Continued from page 1)

The parade's founders started the event in 2000 as an inclusive alternative to other St. Patrick's Day parades, which previously banned openly LGBTQIA+ groups from marching. For the past 25 years, the event has drawn thousands of supporters to Sunnyside and Woodside. It continues to be the most inclusive and progressive celebration of Irish culture and solidarity in the country. At this year's parade, the organizers Kathleen Walsh D'Arcy and Archley Prudent received official New York City Council Proclamations from Speaker Adams, the Irish Caucus, and the LGBTQIA+ Caucus.

"Today, I was honored to co-name the corner of Skillman Ave and 43rd Street as 'St. Pat's for All Way.' This street name symbolizes more than just the intersection where the parade begins; it honors

and celebrates the LGBTQIA+ and Irish leaders, organizers, and activists who created an inclusive space for our neighbors and made history right here in Sunnyside," said Council Member Julie Won. "From the St. Pat's for All parade to Sunny Pride, my district will always proudly celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community. I am thrilled that we were able to commemorate the parade's 25th milestone year and solidify Queens' history with this co-naming."

"The annual St. Pat's for All parade is not just a celebration of Irish and LGBTQIA+ pride, but a model for promoting love over hate and unity over division," said Speaker Adrienne Adams. "I'm thrilled to see the beautiful spirit of this parade commemorated with the street co-naming of St. Pat's for All Way. This celebration is a reminder of our strong commitment to inclusivity and love that guides our actions to build

an inclusive and accepting city. I look forward to marching in the St. Pat's for All parade with all New Yorkers!"

"The St. Pat's For All parade welcomes all who wish to share in the spirit of the day," said Archley Prudent, Co-Chair of St. Pat's for All. "The parade has since evolved to become a community celebration. We hope over the next decade to continue celebrating diversity, inclusion, and acceptance for all!"

"St Pat's For All's values of inclusion represent the very best of what it means to be Irish in the World today. As Ireland's Consul General, I am so proud to join marchers this year on the 25th anniversary of the parade; to celebrate our community in all its diversity and to underline Ireland's commitment to promoting the rights of LGBTI+ persons around the World," said Helena Nolan, Consul General of Ireland.

subsequent years.

The January Financial Plan added \$255 million in FY 2024 to support uniform agency overtime, bringing the amount to \$1.67 billion, but DiNapoli's report projects overtime could total \$2 billion. Outlook Ahead

The city should continue to seek efficiencies to balance out year budget gaps, increase transparency around efforts to monitor revenues and manage costs, and

focus on balancing fiscal management with operational needs to ensure its recovery remains on track.

Report Review of the Financial Plan of the City of New York (2024) Related Reports and Analysis Review of the Financial Plan of the City of New York (2023) Update on New York City Staffing Trends Identifying Fiscal Cliffs in New York City's Financial Plan

(Continued from page 2)

Staffing and Overtime Challenges

Despite the short-term improvement to the city's fiscal outlook and efforts to minimize service impact, the city anticipates that some planned service reductions will still be necessary. These reductions are expected to save \$44 million in FY 2024, rising to \$293 million in FY 2025 with slightly smaller amounts in

DiNapoli: New York City's Budget Outlook Improves

Rep Tom Suozzi Sworn Into 118th Congress

(Continued from page 1)

Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-Nassau, Queens) was sworn into the United States House of Representatives' 118th Congress. Suozzi, who won the February 13 special election took his oath of office on the floor of the U.S. House, in front of a packed chamber and gallery filled with family members, campaign staff and supporters. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson administered the oath of office to Suozzi on a Bible published in New York in 1803, on loan from the Library of Congress.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Suozzi delivered an impassioned speech on the House floor, imploring his colleagues in Congress to wake up, stop playing games, and start doing the work that they were elected to do.

Suozzi Sworn Into 118th Congress and delivers rousing speech putting his colleagues in Congress on notice; and, the following is the transcript of Suozzi's floor speech is below:

Thank you Jerry and the NY delegation, and all of my friends and supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I never thought I'd be back here, but the Lord works in mysterious ways and God made a way out of no way.

I thank God for blessing me with this great responsibility, and I thank God for my best friend and partner for over 30 years, my wife Helene.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of my election victory I promised the people of Long Island and Queens I would deliver a simple message to this chamber:

"Wake up!"

The people are sick and tired of the finger-pointing and petty partisan politics. They want us to work together.

I know there are so many good people in this chamber ... on both sides of the aisle.

But people are worried about the cost of living. They are worried about the chaos at the border. They are worried about Israel and Ukraine.

They look to Congress, and what do they see?

The extremists are getting all of the attention!

We are letting ourselves be bullied by our base!

We aren't getting anything done!

We need less chaos and more commonsense!

The last few months, I've talked with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents and they all ask: "What about me? What are you doing for me?"

Enough with the theater and drama.

Enough with the hyperbole and the histrionics

Enough with the shutdowns and the put-downs.

The people aren't paying us to make things worse. The people pay us to be in the solutions business.

Mr. Speaker, you and I came to Congress in 2017, I remember when you founded the Honor and Civility Caucus. You said at the

time it was to "restore collegiality, ... and encourage productive dialogue."

Sign me up. Sign me up.

Mr. Speaker, I know you believe in collegiality and productive dialogue. We need more of that and less of the hot air fanning the flames of anger that we have seen from some in our country.

But, after my recent election, you said something I must gently take exception to. You said, "Tom Suozzi ran like a Republican." I'm sure you meant it as a compliment.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker: I am a true-blue, dyed in the wool, Democrat – but more important, like you, and the men and women in the chamber, I am a true-blue, dyed in the wool American.

Like any patriot of the greatest country on earth, I am willing to compromise to solve problems ... like the chaos at the border.

The bipartisan Senate bill doesn't have everything I want. I believe that Dreamers and TPS recipients should be granted a pathway to citizenship, and millions of others should have a path to legalization.

But I will support a bipartisan compromise.

To not do so would:

- 1) Keep the border open,
- 2) Endanger Israel, and
- 3) Empower Vladimir Putin!

I know compromise is hard in this town – but Mr. Speaker, bring a bipartisan compromise to the floor and I guarantee it will pass!

All of the issues we face are complicated, but we won't solve anything in an environment of fear and anger.

We can't fix them with a tweet, or a press conference, or even a speech.

I know many of you. You are inspired to do this work because of the command to "love thy neighbor." Let's actually do that. Let's do the hard work to get back in the solutions business.

Sadly, many of the people in our country believe Democrats and Republicans cannot work together. They have told me, "Tom, you must face the 'real world.'"

But the "real world" is not something we must simply face. The real world is something that we, as free men and women, must actively create!

I love this country. My father came here from Italy as a young boy, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in WWII, and went to Harvard Law School on the GI bill. It's hard to imagine today, but he faced rampant discrimination as an Italian immigrant and no one would hire him, so he started his own law firm, and at 28 ran for city court judge and became the youngest judge in the history of New York State. What a country!

My father lived a great American success story – like the many stories in this room.

I will do everything I can to honor my father's legacy.

More important, I'll do everything I can to honor our nation's legacy.

We all know what politics has

(Continued on page 4)

IT'S IN QUEENS

It's In Queens! (March 8 to March 14)

If you don't like the weather in March, wait a minute! The enigmatic, up-and-down month gets even more enigmatic with dueling comedians, tree huggers, dancing giraffes, corned beef, and an Oscars watch party.

- March 8, Danilo Pérez Trio, 8 pm. Grammy-winning pianist/composer Danilo Pérez blends his Panamanian roots, Latin American folk music, West African rhythms, and European impressionism. He performs with bassist John Patitucci and drummer Adam Cruz. Queens College's LeFrak Concert Hall, 153-49 Reeves Ave., Flushing.

- March 8, Three Nights of Dance, March 10. The monthly Take Root program presents Grant Jacoby & Dancers and the Althea Dance Company on March 8 and March 9 at 8 pm. Then, Digging in Group presents seven choreographies as part of the monthly Fertile Ground program on March 10 at 7 pm. Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Ste. 211, Long Island City.

- March 8, KaleidoFemina: Women in Bloom, 4 pm. The opening reception for an exhibition of collage work by Stacey Burgay and paintings by Rujuta Paradkar as curated by Raluca Anchidin. Expect small bites and lots of flowers. Show runs until May 31. Zaruma Gold Coffee LIC, 11-18 46th Rd.

- March 9, Can't Stop Laughing, 8 pm. A comedy marathon with America's Got Talent alumni Tom Cotter, New Jersey Bad Boy Mike Marino, and Amazon Prime comedian Chris Monty. Queensborough Performing Arts Center, 222-05 56th Ave., Bayside.

- March 9, Restoring the American Chestnut, 10 am. Learn about American chestnuts and conservation efforts. The American chestnut was once one of the most numerous trees in the forests of eastern North America. Now it is functionally extinct. Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy., Glen Oaks.

- March 9, Brahms Violin Concerto, 4 pm. Sarah Pratt (violin) and Barbara Podgurski (piano) perform. Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Rd.

- March 9, New Book Launch, noon. Forest Hills-based writer and storyteller Aida Zilelian unveils her new book All the Ways We Lied. Hunters Point Library, 47-40 Center Blvd.

- March 9, American Sign Language Tour, 2 pm. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing are invited to explore the museum with Joyce Hom, the ASL Programs Coordinator at The Jewish Museum. Queens Museum, NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- March 10, Giraffes Can't Dance, 1 pm + 4 pm. Based on a book by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees, this play follows clumsy Gerald the Giraffe. With a wise cricket's help, he finds his own song and dances to the beat



BHS Castle



MoMIFirstLook



QMSignLanguage

of his own drum. Expect puppets, African rhythm, and lots of dancing. The 4 pm show has ASL interpretation. Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- March 10, Oscars Watch Party, 7 pm. Film buffs, comedians, and fun seekers congregate to see which of their favorite films walk away with golden statues. The full broadcast and red carpet arrivals are shown in high definition on a giant nine-foot screen. Trivia and fun stuff during commercial breaks. QED Astoria, 27-16 23rd Ave.

- March 10, Free Tours of the Castle, 1 pm. Bayside Historical Society staffers and volunteers offer guided tours of The Castle and its exhibitions on the second Sunday of each month. Tours are approximately 45 minutes long. The Castle, 208 Totten Ave., Bayside.

- March 13, First Look, March 17. This 13th annual festival shares adventurous features and shorts (fiction and nonfiction), New York premieres, and works-in-progress. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- March 13, Jackson Heights Orchestra, 7: 30 pm. Claire Myers McCormick (soprano) and Alex Wen (interim artistic director) lead a concert that includes Copland, Ellington, Burleigh, and Dvorak. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33-50 82nd St., Jackson Heights.

- March 13, Queens Chamber St. Patrick's Luncheon, 11:30 am. Attendees eat corned beef and cabbage (with vegetarian options), listen to a live band, and network. Jack Schlossberg, the son of Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and grandson of President John F. Kennedy, is an honoree. Emmy-winning journalist Mary Murphy, a Queens native who worked at WPIX-TV, is the other. Antun's, 96-43 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village.

- March 13, Monthly Jazz Jam, 7 pm. On the second Wednesday of the month, musicians hone skills and jam with peers and the house band led by saxophonist Carol Sudhalter. Don't play? Don't worry. Listen. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- March 14, Thursday Night Jazz Presents: Miki Yamanaka, 8 pm. An evening of jazz with talented pianist Miki Yamanaka, who has called New York City home since 2012. Audiences delight in her playing and vibrant personality. Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, 153-10 Jamaica Ave.

- March 14, How Infrastructure Works, 6 pm. Engineer and materials scientist Deb Chachra talks about her new book on essential systems and utilities hidden inside walls, under streets, and all around town. In her presentation, she'll map out a path for transforming and rebuilding shared infrastructure to be functional, equitable, resilient, and sustainable. It's virtual via Queens Public Library.

Rep Tom Suozzi Sworn Into 118th Congress

(Continued from page 3)

become, let's think about what it could be.

While I may be the only one sworn in today, what if we all saw this as a fresh start?

What if we all took this chance to break bad habits?

What if today, we each remem-

bered why we ran for office in the first place.

Let's get back in the solutions business!

God bless the men and women of this chamber.

God bless the important work we do, and

God bless the United States of America.

Mayor's Office Of Immigrant Affairs Announces \$600k From The Rockefeller Foundation And Other Donors To The Immigrant Peer Navigator Program

The grant will fund a first of its kind asylum seeker relief project in the nation that will connect long term immigrant mentors with new arrivals and provide stipends to 500 immigrant New Yorkers

Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Commissioner Manuel Castro announced a \$600,000 grant from The Rockefeller Foundation and other donors to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City with funds earmarked for the 'Immigrant Peer Navigator Program', an asylum seeker relief project.

"Social networks and community connections are how we all make life happen and that is especially so for those newly arrived in the United States. This innovative model will help build support systems on which individuals and families can draw as they work to find their footing in the city," said Anne Williams-Isom, Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services. "Thank you to our philanthropic partners and to all those involved that have and will make this program possible."

"We are thrilled to launch the Immigrant Peer Navigator Program, an innovative approach to meet the needs of arriving asylum seekers and continue to foster connections within New York City's immigrant community," said Manuel Castro, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. "Our long-standing partnerships with community organizations have been critical to deliver essential services to immigrants across the city, and we're excited to tap into these networks to build community connections and support between longtime immigrants and newly arrived asylum seekers."

"Immigrant-serving, community-based organizations have shown extraordinary leadership and been invaluable lifelines throughout communities as the city has welcomed over 170,000 newly arrived migrants since spring 2022. The Immigrant Peer Navigator Program is a community-grown model that taps into the beauty and power of interpersonal connections," said Najma Ali Chermin, Interim Executive Director of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. "We thank The Rockefeller Foundation and Airbnb for their contributions to the Immigrant Navigator Program, a one-of-a-kind,

public-private partnership that recognizes the wisdom possessed by our immigrant communities and creates pathways of support for newly arrived migrants as they establish their lives in New York City."

The Immigrant Peer Navigator program is a first of its kind 6-session New York City orientation that will connect 250 long time immigrant New Yorkers to 250 recently arrived asylum seekers. Long time immigrant New Yorkers with similar immigration experiences will serve as mentors to newly arrived asylum seekers to give them tips on surviving and navigating life in New York City, including finding work, housing, and providing community connections.

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs began working with 9 immigrant serving community-based organizations to identify and select the participants of the programs based on preset requirements and match them with mentors. Each participant will receive a \$599 stipend and a MetroCard over the course of the program. The organizations selected represent a diverse group with an extensive reach to immigrant New Yorkers across the five boroughs. Each organization provides cultural and linguistic services to immigrant New Yorkers. The following organizations are participating in the program:

- African Communities Together
- African Services Committee
- Aid for Life
- Catholic Charities
- Fundavenyc
- La Colmena
- Mexican Coalition
- Mixteca
- New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)

The requirements for a mentor include being a community member, a member, current or former client of the organization. The mentor will also need to be an immigrant to New York City who understands the challenges newly arrived asylum seekers face, and who is willing to share personal experiences as an immigrant having to survive in New York City. Additionally, the mentor will need to communicate in the same language as the assigned asylum seeker. The requirement for the mentee is to be a recently arrived

(Continued on page 9)

Queens Times Weekly ...

HOROSCOPE

For the Week of ... 3/7/24 - 3/13/24

For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
(Mar. 21 - April 20)
Spending too much idle time talking to friends or co-workers could easily turn into a debate that could lead to termination. . Put more energy into physical work. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,4.

TAURUS
(Apr. 21 - May 21)
Your talent will be recognized. Opportunities to travel will develop through peers. The home environment will be unpredictable this week. Your lucky numbers are 3,2,9.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)
Love could develop at social events that are work relate. You hard work and dedication will payoff, so stick to your guns and do your job well. Your lucky numbers are 7,3,2.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)
You'll be prone to tears if your mate is harsh with you this week. You must not allow them to force you to rush. Your lucky numbers are 1,9,6.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)
Look into alternate part-time work to support your financial burdens. Don't count on getting any support from co-workers. Stop telling others about your problems. Your lucky numbers are 6,4,8.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
Don't lend or borrow money or belongings. You will gain valuable insight and knowledge through the experiences you have along the way. Your lucky numbers are 2,9,7.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this week. You can meet friends who will let you know how valuable you are. Your lucky numbers are 7,4,3.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Don't forget to let your mate know how much you care. Your lucky numbers are 5,8,1.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
Property investments, insurance, tax rebates, or inheritance should bring you financial gains. Attend to things that you should have done yesterday. Your lucky numbers are 5,3,2.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
You can make favorable changes to your looks. Feeling under the weather may be a result of over-indulgence. You may be tired of working for someone else. Your lucky numbers are 4,3,8.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. You may find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. Minor health problems may flare up. Your lucky numbers are 2,8,7.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
You may find your nights sleepless due to bad dreams. Try not to at tempt to do something unless you are fully intent on following through with the plans. Your lucky numbers are 6,8,5.

Did You Know?

- every single possible 3 character .com domain has been registered
- the word 'uncopyrightable' is the is the only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating any letter
- the word 'testify' derived from a time when men were required to swear on their testicles
- the word typewriter is the longest word that can be typed using only the top row of a keyboard
- that you can spell the word 'level' the same backwards
- Madonna and Michael Jackson were both born in 1958
- almonds are members of the peach family
- an egg contains every vitamin except vitamin C
- owls can't move their eyes from side to side
- you take over 23,000 breaths everyday
- gold never erodes
- scorpions glow under ultra violet light
- when water freezes it expands by 9%
- ants stretch when they wake up in the morning
- your foot and your forearm are the same length
- diamonds are the hardest natural substance
- 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321

Read Our Paper Online

www.queenstimes.com

Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles

"Sudoku"

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

"Crossword Puzzle"

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



SUDOKU

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

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				48					49			
50						51					52	53	54	55
56						57					58			
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

- ACROSS
1. Commode
6. Skin irritation
10. Smear
14. Hawaiian greeting
15. You (archaic)
16. River in Spain
17. Glacial ice formation
18. Ages
19. Twosome
20. It cleans teeth
22. Slave
23. Breakfast bread
24. Contemptuous look
25. Assist illegally
29. Spoke
31. Easy to make out
33. Back up
37. Harnessed together
38. Superficiality
39. Commanded
41. Sympathy
42. Poetic
44. River to the North Sea
45. Satan
48. Flow controller
50. Distinctive flair
51. She wore a glass slipper
56. Barbershop emblem
57. Jewish month
58. More aloof
59. Creative work
60. Overhaul
61. High point
62. T T T
63. Fiber source
64. Parental sisters
- DOWN
1. Times gone by
2. Margarine
3. Anagram of "Root"
4. Not this
5. Luxury boat
6. Repeat
7. Lunge
8. Bar mat
9. Quiet down
10. Reliance
11. Degrade
12. Liquid bodily waste
13. Drill
21. Large rock
24. One more than six
25. Countertenor
26. Ale or lager
27. Mild expletive
28. Being at the right time
30. Spin
32. Transparent green gemstone
34. Bobbin
35. Belgrade native
36. Coastal raptor
40. Partition
41. Very large pot
43. "Maple leaf" country
45. Storehouse
46. Run off to wed
47. Esteem
49. Genus of heath
51. Carbohydrate
52. Beige
53. Legal claim
54. For fear that
55. Cultural doings

Play Sudoku and crosswords online..

Visit www.queenstimes.com Click on Puzzles

TRY AND FIND

DOWN

HAUS

SUN

XSR

BIET

OVQ

GDR

PUW

CKQ

ONSE

NTENCE

EE

LEP

BFA

XVG

ZRIV

GGM

FDB

BO

FGJ

ITY

MQD

XVO

EEU

BXU

T

MGU

TYF

NTWE

PIC

HBA

BHAN

CAT

CHK

ISSE

GXR

GOS

ZGH

I

ARZ

DBR

INGS

SARO

UNDC

CANE

FCJ

SCC

XIK

OUB

FON

WOL

IB

XZR

HZM

FAB

THM

QRER

SOQ

O

XBB

OWW

RGB

LCU

VHLE

EHX

I

EVW

RSI

FAS

BIK

ZTNU

SSB

Z

LAX

TVS

LMG

UIMO

VLO

HXY

LGR

QPC

IDGW

BCDX

STR

JQJ

JWE

MIK

ZYN

QZZ

CQOO

ERY

W

UGV

GUY

YIN

RCML

IPOH

FYD

IUE

KGM

JQHN

KDRT

LTST

ZHA

CHF

MAK

ALON

GDR

LKSR

ZCE

XIA

LZJ

LWL

ZED

SDVD

ORD

V

OLT

FDU

OPMS

UULJ

HFT

FDNU

O

FZE

JLWG

CUO

FTH

EMILL

K

Across

A Fever

Against

Along

Away

Catch - Kiss

Down

For Cover

For The Roses

Into

Low On

Of The Mill

On Sentence

Ragged

Rings Around

Riot

Short

Through

To Seed

Wild

Council Member James F. Gennaro, Local Electeds Honor The-Late Michael Simanowitz at Co-Naming Ceremony

On Sunday, March 3, Council Member James F. Gennaro hosted a street co-naming ceremony honoring the life and legacy of former Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz. Gennaro was joined by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards; Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz; State Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky; State Sen. Leroy Comrie; Assembly Member Sam Berger; Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer Amato; and members of the Simanowitz family at the street co-naming ceremony in which the intersection of Main Street and 75th Avenue was co-named "Michael Simanowitz Way" after the long-time public servant.

Council Member Gennaro authored the City Council bill to co-name the street after he was approached by Assembly Member Sam Berger with the request. Berger also worked with Simanowitz family and community leaders to identify a street, garner the necessary support and presented it to Community Board 8. The motion to rename the street in Simanowitz's honor passed unanimously through both the community board and the New York City Council last year.

Simanowitz dedicated more than two decades of his life to public service, having served as Chief of Staff to former Assembly Member Nettie Mayersohn for 15 years before replacing his predecessor in 2011. Prior to his election, Simanowitz served as the commanding officer for the 107th Auxiliary Police Unit, earning the rank of Deputy Inspector. As an auxiliary officer, he helped in the rescue efforts following 9/11, as well as during the Northeast Blackout of 2003.

As an Assembly Member, Simanowitz accomplished so much. He sponsored and passed a law that required minors to have parental consent before getting a body piercing, and another that banned the use of unclaimed bodies as cadavers in medical or mortuary schools without the written consent of a spouse or next of kin, or unless the deceased had registered as a body donor.

"Despite trying to keep a relatively low profile, Michael Simanowitz was well known and beloved by the community," said Council Member James F.



Elected officials gathered to honor the late former Assemblymember Michael Simanowitz with a street co-naming. Photo courtesy of the Office of James Gennaro.

Gennaro. "I am proud to have introduced the legislation to co-name this intersection last year. It is my hope that anytime someone comes down Main Street and 75th Avenue, they are reminded of the great legacy he leaves behind. It is an honor to be here today, alongside the Simanowitz family and colleagues, to pay tribute to a local legend. I thank Assembly Member Sam Berger for coming with me to this request and making this his top priority since assuming office."

"He was never afraid to do the right thing, even if the right thing wasn't politically advantageous," said Assembly Member Sam Berger. "He left me with big shoes to fill, but a clear path forward. I thank all those involved, including the Simanowitz Family and Councilman Gennaro for helping making my day one priority a reality."

"Michael Simanowitz embodied what it meant to be a public servant. He was dedicated, determined and always searching for ways to improve the lives of the families he represented," said Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. "While his life was far too short, his legacy will live on for many years to come at the corner of Main Street and 75th Avenue in Kew Gardens Hills, and across The World's Borough. To the Simanowitz family, we continue to think of you and uplift you."

"Assembly Member Simanowitz was a tireless advocate for his community & for Queens as a whole, and it was a privilege to serve alongside him in my previous role as Borough President,"

said Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz. "It is a pleasure to be here as the borough's District Attorney to see this honor bestowed upon such an incredible person. Michael cared deeply for his community and for the great State of New York. Generations will now see his name at the intersection of 75th Avenue and Main Street – a fitting tribute to his legacy built on his decades of service."

"Michael Simanowitz was a dear friend and colleague," said U.S. Rep. Grace Meng. "He had a heart of gold and worked tirelessly for the communities he represented. He was taken from us way too soon and I continue to miss him greatly. But this street co-naming will help ensure that the contributions he made to our borough will always be remembered, and that future generations will know about the crucial work he did. From fighting for our constituents to laughing and sharing good times together, I will always cherish the memories I have of him. It was an honor to help unveil Michael Simanowitz Way and I thank Councilman Gennaro for all his efforts to make it happen."

"Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Michael Simanowitz leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended," said State Sen. Leroy Comrie.

The former Assembly Member passed away at the age of 46 in 2017 due to cancer, likely related to the 9/11 rescue efforts.

Assemblyman Colton Introduces Legislation to Help Safeguard Police Dogs



With the goal of helping to protect police dogs, Assemblyman William Colton (D—Gravesend, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach and Dyker Heights) has

introduced legislation that would establish a police canine vest fund to supply police K9s in New York State with soft body ballistic armor vests and other protective equipment.

According to the legislation (A01764), the foundation would also help both state and municipal police departments maintain, repair and replace the equipment.

"Police dogs are often exposed to great danger," said Assemblyman Colton. "They are often sent into active scenes, such as hostage situations or robberies, ahead of the police officers who respond, and are often at great

danger of being shot at and possibly dying in the line of duty. At the same time, many police departments have limited budgets and are unable to afford to equip the dogs with body armor, even though their loss is a devastating blow to the officers who work with them. Making sure they are protected is, quite simply, the right thing to do."

Beyond the ethical considerations, making sure that police dogs are protected also makes financial sense. Untrained police dogs are valued at between \$3,000 and \$35,000

(Continued on page 10)

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 11105
(718) 284-2929

55 Channel
Sacco & Filias LLP
42-40 Bell Boulevard, Suite 301
Rye Brook, NY 11571
(718) 426-7245

233 Broadway, Suite 450
New York, NY 10270
(212) VALLONE

Meng To Bring Queens Student To President Biden's State Of The Union Address Thursday Night

Congresswoman's constituent will be her guest to highlight the need to save the Affordable Connectivity Program, a key initiative ensuring internet access for thousands in the borough

Student and her family depend on the program for affordable broadband service

To bring more attention to the fight to save a key federal program that ensures internet access for many throughout Queens, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) announced today that a borough resident who relies on the initiative will be her guest for President Biden's State of the Union address on Thursday night.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which Meng helped to pass through Congress in 2021, is a crucial initiative that has provided thousands in Queens – and across New York City – with monthly discounts on their broadband service and savings on internet devices. The program is set to run out of money as early as this coming April, leaving thousands of local residents struggling to pay for the fast and reliable internet access they need.

Meng will bring constituent Briteny Xu to the President's speech. She is a medical student studying osteopathic medicine at New York Institute of Technology whose family depends on the ACP for critical broadband access. She requires the internet every day to attend online lectures and complete assignments. In addition, her grandparents who live with her also rely on the household's ACP-subsidized service to get online.

"In Congress, I have been proud to champion the increase of internet access for those in Queens and across New York and the nation, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic where we saw how vital internet service was for schools, people's jobs and in our neighborhoods and communities," said Congresswoman Meng. "The ACP has provided a critical lifeline for millions who need help affording reliable and high-speed



internet, and bringing Briteny as my guest will help underscore the urgent need to keep this program going. Her story highlights the importance of the ACP and making sure it does not expire due to a lack of funding. I'm excited to welcome her to Washington this week."

"Thank you, Congresswoman Meng, for your leadership in working to save the ACP and for having me as your guest at this year's the State of the Union address," said Briteny Xu. "My family and I have been enrolled in this program since 2022, relying on it for dependable Wi-Fi ever since. With our daily dependence on the internet, I believe that affordable access to the internet should be considered a necessity for all Americans."

Xu, 24, was born, raised and still resides in Queens. She graduated from Hunter College before enrolling at New York Institute of Technology. Her grandfather is 85 years old, and her grandmother is 80.

Enacted as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the ACP provides qualifying households with a monthly discount of up to

\$30 on internet bills, as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 on a tablet, laptop, or desktop computer (with a copay between \$10 and \$50). Since launching, over 22.5 million households have signed up to receive the monthly ACP discount. This includes more than 62,000 households in Meng's congressional district in Queens, saving approximately \$27.4 million a year. Those benefiting nationwide are millions of college students, veterans, seniors, and families with school-aged children.

The ACP is no longer accepting applications, and enrolled households have received wind-down notices on the imminent end of the program. However, an estimated 36,000 more in the Congresswoman's district would qualify for the program should it be extended.

To ensure Americans who need it can still receive ACP benefits, Meng has cosponsored the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act (H.R. 6929) that would provide \$7 billion to support the program. The bill

(Continued on page 10)

Pheffer Amato Works With REMA4US To Create Business Improvement District

New York State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato sat down with the Rockaway East Merchants Association (REMA4US) to discuss the ongoing proposal of creating an official Business Improvement District, or BID, in Far Rockaway. The goal is that through this BID, which would include portions of Mott Avenue, Beach 20th Street, Corona Avenue, Central Avenue and several other streets, a commercial corridor would unite to bring a new range of services to benefit over 200 local businesses, something Pheffer Amato absolutely supports. "BIDs help businesses, and we must always support local and small businesses. Having grown up in Far Rockaway, I know our small businesses are the heart and soul of the community. The creation of this BID will provide additional resources to deal with sanitation, maintenance services,



decorations, or other crucial business support. I am proud to work hand-in-hand with REMA4US

as we drive Far Rockaway small businesses forward," said Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato.

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!

SERVING

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 -



New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams And Council Member James F. Gennaro Bring Simon Wiesenthal Center's Hate Prevention Programming To Hillcrest High School

Speaker Adams funded the Center's 'Combat Hate' Program across the city and Hillcrest benefitted through partnership with Gennaro

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's 'Combat Digital Hate' program was brought to Hillcrest High School earlier this month by New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, in partnership with Council Member James F. Gennaro. The landmark initiative, funded by Speaker Adams to support various communities and schools across the city, was aimed at fostering education on the legacy of the Holocaust, combating anti-Semitism, and various types of bias and hate. The 'Combat Digital Hate' program at Hillcrest High School consisted of three sessions, which kicked-off on February 7th and concluded today, February 28th.

The New York City Council has proudly partnered with the Simon Wiesenthal Center over the past four years, allowing for over 60,000 NYC students to receive this critical training. The Center, a preeminent global Jewish human rights non-governmental organization (NGO), is dedicated to imparting the lessons of the Holocaust, confronting anti-Semitism, eradicating hate and bias, and defending human dignity. With a constituency exceeding 400,000 families globally, including over 150,000 in the New York metropolitan area alone, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has earned recognition from esteemed international organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, Organization of American States, the Latin American Parliament, and the Council of Europe.

The Combat Digital Hate program is a 45-55-minute program designed to introduce students (8th-12th grade) to the perils of hate, bigotry, and prejudice in

online social networking. The interactive program encourages students to discuss their social networking habits, what offensive material they have seen online (if any) and explains how all forms of hate have consequences. Students are offered suggestions to empower them to combat online hate and create more respectful and inclusive communities. Participants are introduced to mild examples of hateful material such as offensive jokes and photo-shopped images, which they discuss with their fellow students under the guidance of a trained facilitator.

"Helping young people recognize hate, including online, and respond in a responsible way is critical to rooting out hate in all its pernicious forms," said Speaker Adrienne Adams. "The Council has taken some of the most significant actions in the nation to fund educational programs that prepare our youth for combatting hate and anti-Semitism. Through our partnership with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, more than 60,000 students have benefitted from programming that empower young people to prevent and stop the spread of hate. By bringing this program to Hillcrest High School, we are ensuring that more students will have access to this vital workshop. I thank Council Member Gennaro and the Simon Wiesenthal Center for their ongoing partnership."

"Following the recent incident at Hillcrest High School, I felt it was imperative to combat anti-Semitism in our schools at its root. Education is a powerful tool in the fight against hatred and discrimination. And the Simon Wiesenthal Center is at the forefront of promoting tolerance and understanding," said Council Member James F. Gennaro. "Bringing their invaluable resources to Hillcrest High School will empower our students with knowledge, compas-

sion and a commitment to combatting prejudice in all its forms. I would like to thank Speaker Adams for her continued partnership, and for allocating the funds for this much-needed program at Hillcrest."

"I want to thank Speaker Adams, Councilmember Gennaro, and the City Council for facilitating this partnership between Hillcrest High School and the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance," said Dept. of Education Chancellor David C. Banks. "I look forward to seeing the impact of this collaboration as we at New York City Public Schools continue to advance a safer, more inclusive, more supportive school system for students and staff at Hillcrest and across the city."

"The Simon Wiesenthal Center highly commends Speaker Adams and Council Member Gennaro for their critical leadership when Hillcrest High School and the city at large needs them the most. The November episode demonstrates that in order to ensure a brighter future for our city, absent of hate and hate crimes we must act now," said Michael Cohen, Eastern Director, Simon Wiesenthal Center. "For years, the NY City Council has shown itself to be visionary in recognizing the devastating impact and influence of social media on our youth. Our children need the training to ensure that they are not susceptible to messages of anti-Semitism and hate while having the tools to do something about the offensive material they unfortunately come across all too regularly. These are foundational qualities of these workshops, and we are proud to once again partner with the Speaker and Councilmember Gennaro at Hillcrest High School in the wake of what occurred on November 27."

For more information about the Simon Wiesenthal Center, visit <https://www.wiesenthal.com/>.

New York City Council Votes To Pass New E-Bike Safety Rules In Continued Effort To Address The Dangers Of Lithium-Ion Batteries

Council also voted to pass legislation to simplify requirements for street vendors as first set of bills based on Street Vendor Advisory Board report recommendations

The New York City Council voted to pass legislation that would increase e-bike regulations in the interest of improved safety. Over the past few years, as e-bikes, e-scooters and powered mobility devices have become more prevalent, the City has experienced a rapid increase in lithium-ion battery related fires in both residential and commercial properties that not only destroy property but result in injuries and fatalities. This legislation is part of the Council's ongoing efforts to mitigate the dangers of lithium-ion batteries and improve fire safety

city-wide.

The Council also voted on bills to simplify mobile vendor requirements. These include the first phase of bills to implement recommendations of the Street Vendor Advisory Board, which was established by Local Law 18 of 2021 and consists of various stakeholders, including vendor advocates and brick-and-mortar business representatives.

"Deadly fires caused by lithium-ion batteries that power electric mobility devices are having an increasingly devastating toll on New Yorkers and communities across the city," said Speaker Adrienne Adams. "These preventable tragedies must be curbed to save lives, and the Council continues to take action to advance critical solutions. We're also proud to pass legislation to modify certain street vending requirements, as recommended by the Street

Vendor Advisory Board, to help us have a successful economy. I thank my Council colleagues for their support in passing today's legislation."

Improving E-Bike Safety Protocols

Introduction 19-A, sponsored by Council Member Gale Brewer, would require all businesses that sell e-bikes, e-scooters and other personal mobility devices powered by batteries, to post lithium-ion or other storage battery safety informational materials and guides. Such materials and guides would be required to be posted both in physical stores and on online retail platforms. A violation would be subject to civil penalties ranging from \$150 to \$350 per violation.

Introduction 21-A, sponsored by Council Member Gale Brewer,

(Continued on page 9)

Bishop Robert Brennan Celebrates Mass In Honor Of Black History Month

Bishop Robert Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn which includes Queens, led a Black History Month Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at Immaculate Conception Parish in the Jamaica section of Queens.

The theme of the Mass was "Spiritual Unity Through Cultural Diversity," but Father Robert Seay, OFM, Pastor Emeritus of Our Lady of Charity in Brooklyn and homilist for the Mass, talked about the difficulties faced by Black Catholics today.

"The frustration that has happened, to especially black people when you listen, is that we are not at the table, that we, the decisions are made, and we are being eaten up by maintenance rather than mission. That's what I hear. And I hear so many people saying I can't take it any longer. So, the faith is shattered by a lot right now, but we also can come and celebrate the good times and look towards the future that we will be included in the church," preached Father Seay.

"That's exactly what Pope Francis is asking with the Synod - that we listen deeply to one another. And so, it is important for me, as we do some of our planning, to hear the voices of all people, of all races and perspectives in everything we do in the Diocese. One of the lessons I have learned is that we may or may not be able to identify with others, but we need to listen and hear people's troubles and concerns. And that's what the Black History Month Mass was about. It's not just that we listen to one another when there's something wrong, but that we're listening to one another in

the course of our day to day lives," said Bishop Brennan.

During his tenure at the Weeksville, Brooklyn Church, Father Seay became known for his work to promote peace, and his leadership led to his membership on the Mayor's Pastoral Council. He has dedicated his life's work to educating the youth and improving race relations. Bishop Brennan says Father Seay's words are important to hear now more than ever.

"The celebration on Sunday was of Black History Month. We remember the history, but we also are writing the history of now. That was a big theme at the National Black Catholic Congress, that we're writing the history that people will look back on in the future. Coming here to Brooklyn, and Queens, I see great participation and I value the perspectives, the experiences, the hopes and the dreams of all of our people," continued Bishop Brennan.

This year, the Vicariate Office of Black Catholic Concerns added some new features to the annual Mass. Each black ethnic apostolate was asked to participate, and the national flag of each represented country was flown during the opening procession.

Bishop Brennan is the chairman-elect of the Committee on Cultural Diversity for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Sunday's Mass was organized by the Vicariate Office of Black Catholic Concerns for the Diocese of Brooklyn. The rousing music at the Mass was led by the Sr. Thea Bowman Choir under the direction of Darcel Whitten-Wilamowski.

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



DMV # 7103558 108 Auto Service Inc.

宏興車行

Official NYS Inspection Station
Complete Auto Repair & Tires
All Work Guarantee

- 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

Licensed

Insured

ROCCO
CONSTRUCTION GROUP

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

rvc@RoccoConGroup.com

www.RoccoConGroup.com

New York City Council Votes To Pass New E-Bike Safety Rules In Continued Effort To Address The Dangers Of Lithium-Ion Batteries

(Continued from page 8)

would enhance enforcement efforts around the sale and rental of uncertified powered mobility devices, such as e-bikes and e-scooters. It would give the Fire Department enforcement authority of these laws, increase penalties for illegal device sales, and give the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection and the Fire Department sealing authority for repeat violators.

“Prioritizing e-bike safety and mitigating lithium-ion battery fire risks are vital for public safety and the promotion of sustainable transportation solutions,” said Council Member Gale Brewer. “So far in 2024, we’ve seen over 30 e-bike related fires, intensifying the need for more public information about best practices for lithium-ion battery safety, which is why Intro 19-A is so important. The City also needs stronger enforcement capabilities to seal unsafe battery

shops, and that’s exactly what Intro 21-A provides.”

Streamlining Requirements for Mobile Vendors
Introduction 49-A, sponsored by Council Member Julie Menin, would allow mobile food vendors to display or store goods on top of their carts, and it would simplify the display requirements for general vendors. Additionally, this bill would repeal the City’s bookkeeping requirements for general vendors and mobile food vendors.

Introduction 50-A, sponsored by Council Member Julie Menin, would eliminate the requirement that individual employees of mobile food vending carts or trucks each have a New York State Certificate of Sales Tax Authority. This bill would also eliminate the requirement that mobile food vendors and general vendors obtain a tax clearance certificate upon renewal of a license or permit.

Introduction 51-A, sponsored by Council Member Julie Menin,

would prohibit general vendors and mobile food vendors from vending in bicycle lanes. A bicycle lane would be defined as a portion of the roadway that is marked off or separated for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles. This bill would clarify that vendors cannot operate or leave their items in bicycle lanes.

“As Chair of the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection, I am proud to have sponsored three pieces of legislation that were recommendations from the Street Vending Advisory Board’s 2022 report,” said Council Member Julie Menin. “This package of bills aims to streamline regulations for street vendors, remove unnecessary requirements for mobile food vendor employees, and ensure safer streets by prohibiting vending in bike lanes. These bills represent a step forward in supporting our vibrant street vending community and I am grateful to the Speaker for bringing these bills to a vote.”

Velázquez Introduces Resolution to Designate Community Arts Education Day

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) introduced a resolution to designate February 28th, 2024, as Community Arts Education Day.

The resolution aims to help increase awareness of how community arts education in different forms such as dance, music, theater, and literary arts stimulates learning, sparks activism, and supports the overall well-being of our communities.

“Exposure to community arts education cultivates cultural, personal, and social awareness,” said Congresswoman Velázquez. “People who lack an outlet for self-expression look to community arts education to help them understand and thrive in the world they live in. This resolution will help raise awareness of the importance of community arts education in increasing inclusivity and providing individuals with the skills they need to thrive in social, academic, and professional settings.”

This resolution is cosponsored by Reps. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO), Elanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL).

“The National Guild for Community Arts Education is extremely proud to work with Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez’ office in introducing such an important and necessary resolution. This resolution brings awareness to a discipline that enriches and benefits communities through a unique education model. Arts education is multifaceted and should be celebrated in the richness of its diversity. This legislation works to achieve such an endeavor and uplifts the communities that are positively impacted in the process,” says Quanice G. Floyd, Executive Director, National Guild for Community Arts Education.

“Drawing upon our 30 years of research and program data, Local Learning, a National Arts Service Organization for Folk Arts in Education, knows that commu-

nity arts education fosters lifelong learners who gain critical tools for sustaining cultural assets and strengthening community connections,” said Lisa Rathje Executive Director of Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education.

“We are thrilled to join in this important recognition of the vast benefits of community arts education for learners of all ages, civic and individual well-being, and creative expression.” Simon Woods, President and CEO, League of American Orchestras.

“We proudly endorse the Bill for National Community Arts Education Day, recognizing the invaluable contributions of arts education to our communities nationwide. The tireless efforts of Quanice Floyd have been instrumental in advocating for the importance of arts education in fostering creativity, diversity, and cultural understanding. This bill not only celebrates the transformative power of the arts but also underscores the need for equitable access to artistic expression for all. We urge all stakeholders to support this initiative and invest in the future of our communities through the arts” said Dr. Durell Cooper Founder, Cultural Innovation Group.

“The arts have always played a critical role in the development of the whole student, but these benefits are often forgotten in the rooms where policy is codified. This resolution, led by Rep. Velázquez, seeks to name the arts and its crucial role in education, and further uplifts the in- and out-of-school educators that do this work, the organizations that advocate and support our communities, and the need for continued resources and policies,” said Karla Estela Rivera Arts Administrators of Color Network.

“The arts are a critical foundation in a child’s education, and learning about the arts of all

cultures at a young age engenders empathy, tolerance, and openness. The arts enrich us as a society so early and ongoing participation is vital for our growth,” said Lisa Gold from the Asian American Arts Alliance.

“Music Changing Lives proudly stands with the National Guild and Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez in endorsing the resolution to designate February 28th as National Community Arts Education Day. Through the power of music and the arts, we unite communities, foster creativity, and ignite positive change. Let us celebrate the transformative impact of arts education in shaping our society and empowering future generations,” said Josiah Bruny Music Changing Lives.

“Arts Education in schools is foundational to the success of our children and society,” said Jennifer Coleman George Gund Foundation

“Creative Generation recognizes the unique place of community arts education in the landscape of American communities and its impact in the lives of young people. Congress celebrating the rich tapestry of community arts education organizations, which have long stood in support of creative youth development, community-building, and social change, should elevate this field of practice and enable additional support from its stakeholders across the country,” said Jeff M. Poulin Creative Generation.

“Arts Education curriculum changes students’ lives and community arts education enriches neighborhoods and prompts civic engagement in our most pressing contemporary social issues. The Theatre School at DePaul University is thrilled to endorse the resolution to establish a National Community Arts Education Day that will shine a spotlight on the

(Continued on page 10)

Mayor’s Office Of Immigrant Affairs Announces \$600k From The Rockefeller Foundation And Other Donors To The Immigrant Peer Navigator Program

(Continued from page 4)

asylum seeker who resides in New York City, including at a NYC based shelter. Each participant must participate in the program from start to finish to receive the stipend.

“Navigating a new place can be a challenge for anyone; for recently arrived asylum seekers in our bustling city it can be especially difficult as many must learn new systems, customs, and oftentimes a new language. Thanks to the Immigrant Peer Navigator Program, African Communities Together has been able to connect over two dozen newly arrived African asylum seekers with established community mentors who have made homes, families, and careers in New York City,” said Amaha Kassa, Executive Director of African Communities Together.

“We are grateful to be part of MOIA’s Immigrant Peer Navigator Program. We are dedicated to empowering newly arrived asylum seekers, pioneering innovative pathways toward integration. Through collaborative initiatives such as this, we are shaping a brighter, more inclusive future both for the City of New York and its diverse newcomers,” said Jesus Aguais, President of Aid for Life International.

“The wealth of expertise and diverse perspectives within our established immigrant community in NYC is a valuable asset for newcomers seeking guidance and support,” said Amanda Lugg, Executive Director of African Services Committee. “We are excited to acknowledge and bolster the welcoming spirit that immigrant New Yorkers extend to their newest community members, and we are dedicated to creating more connections and opportunities for service, which MOIA’s Immigrant Peer Navigator Program provides. Several of our longstanding members are eager to contribute, and we look forward to inviting them to participate as mentors.”

“Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York is proud to be part of this impactful new program, which will connect newly arrived immigrants with immigrant New Yorkers who have been able to find housing and make a living for themselves and their families. Through our Day Laborer Program and other facets of our Immigration-related work, we have seen first-hand how this has become a major challenge for those that are new to our city,” said Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. “Guidance and mentorship are among the most valuable sources of support for new arrivals. Now, thanks to Mayor Adams Administration, the Immigrant Peer Navigator Program will support the formation of these connections and help to welcome and integrate new arrivals into the fabric of our city.”

“The Immigrant Peer Naviga-

tor Program has been the most effective collaboration between CBOs and the city of New York that we have seen since the humanitarian crisis began in our asylum-seeker community,” said Miroslava Yepez, Program Director for FundaVeNY. “It is a program that aligns with our mission to accelerate the transition of immigrants, enabling them to quickly reach self-sufficiency and embark on the path to becoming prosperous residents of NYC. This program should be replicable and scalable to address the significant challenges our community and city are facing.”

“La Colmena’s mission is to empower the immigrant worker through education, culture, organizing and economic development. Through the Immigrant Peer Navigator Program, new arrivals will connect with members of La Colmena to help them navigate Staten Island and welcome them into the community” says Yesenia Mata, Executive Director of La Colmena. “There is so much that we can learn from each other to ensure that we can continue pushing for immigrant rights and building a welcoming Staten Island.”

“Implementing a mentorship program in NYC for newly arrived immigrants is crucial. Pairing newcomers with experienced mentors fosters belonging, expedites integration, and empowers immigrants to overcome hurdles. It’s wonderful to see how supportive the community in NYC is, where long-standing members have been actively helping newly arrived immigrants navigate their new lives. The collaboration not only assists newcomers in adapting to the city but also fosters beautiful friendships that extend beyond the program. Such initiatives contribute to building a more inclusive and interconnected community, showcasing the positive impact of collective support, and understanding,” said Lorena Kourousias, Executive Director of Mixteca.

“NYC has always been at the front of innovation and meeting head-on challenges that require putting humanity first. The Asylum-seeking community is another example of how NYC and MOIA, brings together local agencies to create a network of collaborators to humanely support vulnerable and scare children and families as they seek to become part of the fabric of NYC,” said Jairo Guzman, Founder and President of Mexican Coalition. “MOIA sought to encourage and support the human relationships every person needs to succeed in NYC, and we at the Mexican Coalition are proud to stand by MOIA and be part of the Immigrant Peer Navigator Program. 50 new and not-so new immigrants will be better because of such program.”

“NICE is thrilled to be part

(Continued on page 10)

Velázquez Introduces Resolution to Designate Community Arts Education Day

(Continued from page 9)

work of arts educators and the impact of organizations doing this vital civic work in communities all across the United States,” said Diane Claussen The Theatre School at DePaul University.

“As researchers working in youth arts, we are in full support of this resolution. The positive impact community arts organizations have on young people is clear. Any attention we can bring to these spaces and the important relationships between artist-mentors and young people is welcomed. We hope this resolution garners more support for community arts efforts, advances the field, and ultimately supports meeting young people where they are at while allowing the space, time and resources to advance

their expressive and creative endeavors,” said Julie Kendig RISE Research & Evaluation.

“Community Arts Education has consistently bolstered both our collective and individual capacities, nurturing creativity, civic engagement, and academic growth. It serves as a poignant reminder of our shared humanity and resilience, fostering safe and empowering environments that propel us toward progress,” said DeLashea Strawder Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit.

“Arts education is one of the most transformative things a child can experience, leading to better outcomes in all area of a students life,” said John Riedie Austin Creative Alliance.

This resolution is also endorsed by: Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF), The Na-

tional Network for Folk Arts in Education, National Art Education Association, Educational Theatre Association, National Association for Music Education, National Dance Education Organization, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Cultural Innovation Group, LLC, Arts Administrators of Color Network, Asian American Arts Alliance, Music Changing Lives, McNeil Creative Enterprises, University of Michigan, George Gund Foundation, Creative Generation, The Theatre School at DePaul University, Florida State University, RISE Research & Evaluation, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Austin Creative Alliance, San Diego Creative Youth Development Network, The Clare Rose Foundation Center for Creative Youth, and the League of American Orchestras.

Attorney General James Takes Action to Stop Discrimination Against Transgender Americans

AG James Joins Coalition of 18 Attorneys General Calling on Colorado Supreme Court to Side with Transgender Customer Suing Masterpiece Cakeshop for Discrimination

New York Attorney General Letitia James joined a multistate coalition of 18 attorneys general urging the Colorado Supreme Court to affirm a lower court’s ruling that a Colorado baker violated the state’s antidiscrimination law when he denied service to a transgender customer. Jack Phillips and his bakery, Masterpiece Cakeshop, which was previously the subject of a United States Supreme Court decision about its refusal to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, refused to provide a cake for a transgender customer upon learning the cake would be used to celebrate her transition. The coalition of attorneys general filed an amicus brief with the Colorado Supreme Court calling on the Court to uphold a lower court’s ruling in favor of the customer, Autumn Scardina, who sued Masterpiece Cakeshop for discrimination.

“Denying service to someone simply because of who they are is illegal discrimination, plain and simple,” said Attorney General James. “Allowing this kind of behavior would undermine our nation’s fundamental values of freedom and equality, and set a dangerous precedent. I am proud to stand with my fellow attorneys general against this blatant transphobic discrimination.”

The case originated in 2018 when Autumn Scardina called Masterpiece Cakeshop to order a plain pink cake with blue frosting. When Scardina revealed that the cake was meant to celebrate her transition in addition to her birthday, she was told that the bakery would not make the cake “because of the message.” Scardina sued Masterpiece Cakeshop in state court alleging violations of Colorado’s public accommodations law, which protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of race, sexual

orientation, religion, sex, and other protected characteristics. The court ruled in favor of Scardina, and the Colorado Court of Appeals affirmed the decision, noting that Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, objected to making the cake only after he learned of Scardina’s intended use for it, and that Phillips did not believe the cake itself expressed any inherent message. In October 2023, the Colorado Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

In the amicus brief filed with the Colorado Supreme Court, Attorney General James and the coalition of attorneys general argued that state public accommodation laws banning public businesses from denying services based on protected characteristics like race, religion, gender identity, and disability status are an important part of preventing discrimination. The brief noted that the United States Supreme Court has long recognized that these laws serve states’ interests in protecting their residents.

The coalition further emphasized that the kind of discrimination practiced by Masterpiece Cakeshop’s owner is particularly harmful, not only to the individuals to whom they deny service, but to the broader economy. A segregated market denies Americans — particularly those in marginalized communities — equal access to the goods and services they need, undermining the promise of a free and equal society. It also encourages stigmatization and isolation of the victims of discrimination, increasing risks to their physical and mental health. As the coalition noted, LGBTQ+ Americans are much more likely to be bullied, harassed, and attacked in hate crimes, and that discrimination has severe negative health impacts on LGBTQ+ people, including increased rates of mental health disorders and suicide attempts, especially for young people. Notably, civil rights laws that protect LGBTQ+ Americans have been shown to decrease these health risks. The

coalition’s brief concluded by cautioning that a ruling in favor of Masterpiece Cakeshop would expose transgender and other marginalized people to a broad array of discrimination from public businesses.

Attorney General James has been a national leader in the fight to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination. In May 2023, Attorney General James led a coalition of 12 attorneys general in support of robust anti-discrimination protections for transgender students at the federal level. In April 2023, Attorney General James led a coalition of 18 attorneys general to support a student challenging a West Virginia law banning transgender students from participating on sports teams consistent with their gender identity. In December 2022, Attorney General James led a coalition of 16 attorneys general to support equal access to gender-affirming care in West Virginia. In November 2022, Attorney General James led a coalition of 17 attorneys general to support transgender students seeking to participate in sex-segregated school sports consistent with their gender identity in Indiana. In 2021, Attorney General James successfully prevented a New York wedding photographer from discriminating against LGBTQ+ couples. Attorney General James has led coalitions of attorneys general to challenge policies prohibiting transgender students from using bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity in Indiana, Florida, and Virginia.

Joining Attorney General James in filing the brief are the attorneys general of Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai’i, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

This matter was handled by Deputy Solicitor General Jeffrey W. Lang under the supervision of Solicitor General Barbara D. Underwood.

Assemblywoman Rajkumar’s Statement On Governor Hochul’s Endorsement Of Shutting Down Illegal Cannabis Stores

I applaud Governor Hochul for announcing today that she firmly backs shutting down the more than 36,000 illegal cannabis shops proliferating across our state. I am especially heartened that she is open to granting municipalities the power to shutter them without needing an order from the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM). The Governor is right: “Let’s give cities and localities ways that they can padlock the doors and shut down these flagrant violators.” The only practical way to shut down the illegal stores is to expressly give localities the authority to do so on their own. The budget language should make it unmistakably clear that the municipalities themselves have the

authority to shut down the shops. Cities have the manpower to close down the shops and can get the job done. OCM, on the other hand, only has 14 inspectors for 36,000 illegal shops. If Cities have to wait for OCM, we will never be able to shutter these illegal dispensaries.

We can get rid of all illegal cannabis shops by the end of the year by passing the right law in the budget. I have authored the SMOKEOUT Act (A8428A), which provides the mechanism to give localities the authority needed. I am working now with the Governor and my colleagues in the legislature so that our budget allows us to end the plague of illegal cannabis shops once and for all.

Mayor’s Office Of Immigrant Affairs Announces \$600k From The Rockefeller Foundation And Other Donors To The Immigrant Peer Navigator Program

(Continued from page 9)

of the Immigrant Peer Navigator Program family. Everyday NICE promotes unity and connection between newly arrived immigrants from the past and the present. In our daily interactions, community gatherings and activities, we witness how our community members welcome newly arrived immigrants and show their solidarity, leadership, and kindness when they share useful and empowering information on their experience,

challenges, and opportunities as New Yorkers and guide them through the road,” said Nilbia Coyote, Executive Director of NICE. “Thanks to the Immigrant Peer Navigator Program we will weave more harmony inside our immigrant community and promote dialogues of solidarity. We thank MOIA for creating a project that recognizes the power of mentors/mentees and how the journeys of our traditional community can spur the integration of new immigrants as we build together a stronger community!”

Meng To Bring Queens Student To President Biden’s State Of The Union Address Thursday Night

(Continued from page 7)

is pending before the House Appropriations Committee, of which the Congresswoman serves as New York’s senior member. Meng last year also signed several letters urging congressional leaders and relevant congressional committees to extend anywhere from \$6 to \$7 billion for the ACP.

Meng’s push to extend the ACP comes after she has long fought for programs to access affordable, high-speed internet for students and communities. In 2021, she helped secure \$7.1 billion in the American Rescue Plan to create

the Emergency Connectivity Fund, which helped millions of students connect to the internet through Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, internet service and internet-enabled devices. This included money for internet access at schools and libraries throughout Queens and New York City.

President Biden is scheduled to deliver his annual State of the Union address at 9 p.m. on Thursday (March 7) before a joint session of Congress, where he will report of the state of the nation and talk about his priorities. It will take place in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Assemblyman Colton Introduces Legislation to Help Safeguard Police Dogs

(Continued from page 6)

apiece; trained ones can be worth \$70,000 or more. Training a dog can take four to six months.

According to an article on the Police Law Enforcement Solutions website, 25 K9 officers lost their lives in the line of duty in 2023, nearly half of them because of gunshot wounds

or stabbings; the article quotes a source as saying that their deaths might have been prevented had the dogs been wearing body armor. “These remarkable dogs are vital members of the police force,” the article says, adding, “Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, four-legged officers often lack vital protection when facing dangerous adversaries.”

LEGAL NOTICES

HIGHLY ELEVATED NY LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 11/15/23. Originally filed with the Secretary of State of Delaware on 11/14/23. 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, 78-17 84th Street, 2nd Floor, Glendale, NY 11385. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/1,8,15,22,29&3/7/2024

Notice of formation of Rao Gastroenterology PLLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 1/19/24. Office located in Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to: 10311 68th Drive Apt 3F, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activity or purpose. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

NICOLE MASSAGE THERAPY PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/24. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, c/o Nicole Sheppard, 16347 130 Avenue, Apartment 12C, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Massage Therapy. 2/8,15,22,29,3/7&14/2024

Notice of Formation of STUDIO COSMO, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/13/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2440 42nd Street, Apt 2R, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/1,8,15,22,29&3/7/2024

NOTICE

In accordance with Not-for-Profit Corporation Law § 1513-a, Mount Hebron Cemetery is commencing the process to declare abandoned and reacquire certain unused gravesites on the grounds of the CHASM SOPHER LODGE #5. The reacquisition process in no way affects gravesites for which there are recorded reservations and/or recorded deeds. If you are aware of any fiduciary or member of this society, please be in contact with Natalie Castelan at (718) 939-9405 so that we may attempt to update our records. 2/29,3/7&14/2024

Notice of formation of GRY BK LLC, a domestic LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 2/11/2024. Office location: Queens. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 15712 59th Ave, Flushing, NY 11355. 2/22,29,3/7,14,21&28/2024

LEGAL NOTICES

1421 120TH STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/29/24. 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, 6904 78th Street, Queens, NY 11379. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/1,8,15,22,29&3/7/2024

Notice of Formation of 10721 RE HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/24. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: REGISTERED AGENTS INC., 418 Broadway, STE R, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/8,15,22,29,3/7&14/2024

NOTICE OF SALE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST ALEX C. MCLAIN, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered November 7, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Courthouse steps of the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on March 15, 2024 at 9:00AM, premises known as 182-14 146th Road, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Queens, County of Queens, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 13356, LOT: 121. Approximate amount of judgment \$449,290.71 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 23-cv-1309. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the QUEENS County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Stephanie S. Goldstone, Esq., Referee Frenkel Lambert Weiss Weisman & Gordon, LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 01-097322-F00 79233. 2/15,22,29&3/7/2024

153RD PLACE LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/06/2023. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Peter Zuccarello, 148-29 Cross Island Parkway, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of 47 Diamond St 1C LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 1/30/24. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 110-50 69th Ave, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

Notice of Formation of BENGALI HARLEM PRODUCTIONS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/05/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 44-02 23rd Street, #208, Long Island City, NY 11101. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

Notice of Formation of TOP NOTCH BUILDING SERVICES NYC LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/13/2024. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 37-39 104th St, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

TAS CAPITAL LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/15/24. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Republic Registered Agent Services Inc., 54 State St., Ste. 804, Albany, NY 12207, which is also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

Notice of formation of Alone Together LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Sec. of State of NY SSNY on 10/31/23. Office located in Queens. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC at 61-10 Alderton St. Apt 6G Rego Park, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

Notice of Formation of CMT GROUP, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/19/24. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: 42-14 21st St., Long Island City, NY 11101. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 2/15,22,29,3/7,14&21/2024

LEGAL NOTICES

Pride Medical IPA LLC filed 1/15/24. Cty: Queens. SSNY design. for process & shall mail to: 171-09 Mayfield Rd., Jamaica, NY 11432. Purp: any lawful. 2/1,8,15,22,29&3/7/2024

INLAND PROPERTIES SE LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/14/2024. 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, PO Box 610511, Bayside, NY 11361. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 2/22,29,3/7,14,21&28/2024

10910 GARDEN LLC filed Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/08/2024. Office: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC to 10910 97TH ST, OZONE PARK, NY 11417. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 2/29,3/7,14,21,28,&4/4/2024

39-23 QUEENS REALTY, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/25/05. Latest date to dissolve: 12/31/2065. 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, c/o Alan M. Swiedler, P.C., 60 East Eighth Street, New York, NY 10003. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/29,3/7,14,21,28&4/4/2024

Notice of formation of LONGEVER CONSULTING LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on January 15, 2024. Office located in Queens. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC 4743 163rd street, Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: any lawful purpose. 2/1,8,15,22,29&3/7/2024

SPEAK HUMAN STUDIOS LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/15/2024. 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, 2120 Rene Ct, #2, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 2/22,29,3/7,14,21&28/2024

Notice of Formation of LARRAZ SERVICES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/22/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3731 73rd St Apt 6F, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/29,3/7,14,21,28&4/4/2024

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of DION MARTIN LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 234-12 130TH Ave, Rosedale, NY 11422. Purpose: any lawful activities. 3/7,14,21,28,4/4&11/2024

MAGESH ALAGIRIRAJ ENGINEERING CONSULTING PLLC, a Prof. LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/31/2024. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY design. as agent for process & shall mail to: 81-36 265th St., Floral Park, NY 10004. Purpose: Professional Engineering Services. 3/7,14,21,28,4/4&11/2024

Read Our Paper Online
www.queenstimes.com

Skyrocketing Mega Millions, Powerball & NY LOTTO Jackpots Generate \$63.9 Million For NY Schools & Lottery Retailers

The jackpots for three of New York's most popular draw games – Mega Millions, Powerball and NY LOTTO – are skyrocketing and have generated more than \$63.9 million for New York's public schools and small businesses across the state.

"Multiple massive jackpots mean more opportunities to win life-changing money while benefiting New York's public schools," said Gaming Commission Chairman Brian O'Dwyer. "Even if a New York player's numbers don't get called, every ticket purchase is a win for New York State's taxpayers and businesses."

As of February 29, 2024, the sales for the jackpots have generated a combined \$55 million for New York's public schools (Mega Millions: \$23.8 million; Powerball: \$17.8 million; NY LOTTO: \$13.4 million). The jackpot sales for the three games have also generated \$8.9 million in commissions for lottery retailers – many of which are small businesses (Mega Millions: \$4.1 million; Powerball: \$3 million; NY LOTTO: \$1.8 million).

The current Mega Millions jackpot of \$607 mil-

lion marks the first \$500+ million jackpot in 2024. The current jackpot roll began on December 12, 2023, and has rolled 24 times leading up to the next drawing to be held on Friday evening.

The current Powerball jackpot of \$443 million has rolled 26 times since the last winning ticket was drawn on January 1, 2024.

The current NY LOTTO jackpot stands at \$16.8 million and has rolled 52 times since the last winning ticket was drawn on September 2, 2023.

The New York Lottery continues to be North America's largest and most profitable Lottery, contributing \$3.7 billion in Lottery Aid to Education for FY 2022-2023 to help support education in New York State.

The New York Lottery is committed to providing players with a range of fun, entertaining games in a socially responsible manner. Those seeking help can visit NYProblemGamblingHelp.org or call New York State's confidential HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or text HOPENY (467369). Standard text rates may apply.

Visit Our Website: www.queenstimes.com

BUY AMERICAN
HIRE AMERICAN

Court Tour With High School Students



The Youth Empowerment team in the Queens District Attorneys office recently hosted a tour of the courthouse with students from Cardozo High School. Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Supreme Court Trial Division Pishoy Yacoub spoke about the importance of a functioning criminal justice system and our efforts to ensure safety while enhancing transparency and equity.

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato Paves Way For More Veterans To Access Benefits



New York State Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato applauded the passing A.4611, which she is the prime co-sponsor of, which would remove the requirement that a Veteran serve during wartime to be granted certain benefits. The bill seeks to extend benefits for tax exemptions, low-interest mortgage loans, tuition assistance, and burial costs. "We cannot leave any of our Veterans behind," said Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato. "The law is now clear that any and all Veterans are now eligible for State and municipal Veteran benefits, regardless of when they served. Veterans fought to defend our rights, I'm proud to fight for their rights in the Legislature," said Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato.

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato serves as one of the leading members of the New York State Assembly Veterans' Affairs Committee and last year succeeded in changing the law to ensure that all military time from Veterans could be used as credit for civil service exams, providing another crucial benefit for Veterans.

The state law, which partially dates back to 1948, only requires benefits be awarded to Veterans who served during a time of war. According to federal law, the last time the United States Congress officially declared war was during World War II. Since then Congress has passed resolutions authorizing the use of military force - yet there was never an update to either State or Federal law to reflect that change in procedure. Due to this, there has been massive inconsistencies as some Veterans from the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, along with the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars have been arbitrarily denied, while others have been approved. Upon the hopeful signing of A.4611 into law, there would be consistency with Veteran benefits.

IT TAKES A SPECIAL PERSON...

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

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR JAMES SANDERS JR.
IN CONJUNCTION WITH ROCSDALE VILLAGE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE INVITES
YOU TO OUR



4TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT

This MARCH in recognition of Women's History Month we will recognize women in **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024
2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Rochdale Village Grand Ballroom
169-65 137th Ave, Jamaica, NY 11434



Attention NYC Veterans and Their Families!



District Office
20-15 Francis Lewis Blvd
Whitestone, NY 11357
Phone: (718) 619-8611

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services will have a Care Coordinator on site at Council Member Paladino's office on:

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Our DVS Care Coordinator can assist you with:

- Benefits and Claims
- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- SNAP Food Benefits
- Employment
- Legal Assistance
- Mental Health Support
- Transportation
- Utility Bills
- Funerals/Burials

The Department of Veteran's Services
Phone: 212-416-5250
Website: nyc.gov/vets
Follow DVS on social media @nycveterans