

QUEENS TIMES

Published for the Borough of Queens

VOLUME 27, NO. 7

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

25 CENTS

Queens Times
wishes all a
Happy
PRESIDENTS
Day

Assemblyman Braunstein Donates Hundreds of Gifts to Queens Veterans Through "Valentines for Vets" Drive



Assemblyman Edward Braunstein and Deirdre Samuel, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at the NYS Veterans Home at St. Albans, pictured with a portion of the donated items. See story on page 2.

Recently, Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein (D-Bay-side) delivered hundreds of items generously donated through his office's "Valentines for Vets" gift drive to hospitalized and disabled veterans at the St. Albans VA Community Living Center and the New York State Veterans' Home at St. Albans. The gifts included Valentine's Day cards, new clothing, candy,

playing cards, puzzles and activity books. Requested red t-shirts will be given to veterans who are attending a special Valentine's Day celebration.

"The 'Valentines for Vets' gift drive is an important tradition that gives the Northeast Queens community the opportunity to thank our local veterans for the

(Continued on page 2)

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato Partners With Local Organizations to Remove 800 lbs. of Garbage Through Jamaica Bay Cleanup



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (D-South Queens) hosted a Jamaica Bay-based cleanup over the weekend. See story on page 2.

Mama's of Corona Super Bowl LVI Touchdown Hero



Mama's Super Bowl Team Coach Irene and Mama's Team are holding one of their winning Touchdown Heroes for Super Bowl enjoyment. This six foot Mama's Touchdown Hero which Mama's Team is holding puts the game winning smile on the faces of Foot Ball Fans as they enjoy Mama's Touchdown Hero.



One Edition for ALL of Queens!
Visit our website at www.queens-times.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 of 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 -

Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato Partners With Local Organizations to Remove 800 lbs. of Garbage Through Jamaica Bay Cleanup

(Continued from page 1)

The cold weather couldn't keep the 60 dedicated volunteers away from removing over 800 lbs. of litter, trash and debris from the Bay. The cleanup was in partnership with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Park Conservancy, NYC Plover Project and the National Park Service.

"I am so appreciative of these volunteers who are committed to making our wetlands and beaches safe and clean. While these cleanups are vital, we must step up our game to teach people you cannot use the Bay as a dumping ground, or just leave behind your belong-

ings," Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato said. During the morning cleanup volunteers discovered car seats, a full case of beer, a tent and so many other items that do not belong on the shoreline. "Our beaches, bays and wetlands are a treasure, and should be treated as such," the Assemblywoman said.

Volunteers learned about endangered birds, like the piping plover, and ways to protect their nesting habitat. "Rockaway is surrounded by water and our natural areas provide some of the region's most important habitat for wildlife, especially nesting shorebirds. Partnering with our

elected officials, like Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato to host volunteer cleanups is critical to ensuring these spaces are kept free of debris but also an opportunity to educate the public about these important places," said Alex Zablocki, Executive Director of the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Park Conservancy.

Throughout the year Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato will continue to host multiple cleanups. Anyone interested in getting involved, or learning more, can reach out to the Office of Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato at amatos@nyassembly.gov.

Assemblyman Braunstein Donates Hundreds of Gifts to Queens Veterans Through "Valentines for Vets" Drive

(Continued from page 1)

sacrifices they made to defend our country," said Assemblyman Braunstein. "I want to thank the Northeast Queens families, schools and organizations who donated clothing, candies, hand-

made cards and more to show their appreciation to our vets in the spirit of Valentine's Day."

The New York State Veterans' Home at St. Albans provides residential, nursing and rehabilitative care to elderly and chronically-ill veterans and eligible family

members. The St. Albans VA Community Living Center offers a range of health, support and facility services for veterans in New York City.

A total of 18 local schools participated in this year's gift drive.

Speaker Adrienne Adams And Council Members Call on Mayor Adams to Baseline Fair Fares Funding at Original Level in Preliminary Budget

New York City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams, Council Finance Committee Chair Justin Brannan, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, General Welfare Committee Chair Diana Ayala, Majority Leader Keith Powers, and other Council Members called on Mayor Eric Adams to baseline funding for the Fair Fares initiative at its previous full level in his Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget. This would institutionalize funding in the city budget, so inclusion of the vital program that makes the public transit system accessible and affordable to low-income New Yorkers no longer is the subject of negotiation. Fair Fares, which provides half-price MetroCards to New Yorkers with incomes up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level, was originally funded at \$106 million in Fiscal Year 2020, but had been reduced to \$53 million in the most recent budget. The Council also urged greater outreach efforts to connect eligible New Yorkers to Fair Fares, kicking off an effort to secure the funding and raise public awareness of the program.

"Fair Fares, a signature achievement of the previous City Council, remains a priority of mine and this Council," said Speaker Adrienne E. Adams. "It is imperative that public transportation be accessible, affordable, and equitable for all New Yorkers, and baselining Fair Fares in the budget can help ensure low-income residents are prioritized in our city's transit system as we seek to reinvigorate our ridership. We urge Mayor Adams to recognize this need to institutionalize Fair Fares funding at its original level in his upcoming preliminary budget, while supporting a robust outreach effort

to enroll more New Yorkers in the program that we can all partner in accomplishing."

"Fair Fares NYC has changed lives for many low-income New Yorkers, which is why under the leadership of Speaker Adams, the Council is committed to supporting and ensuring the continuation of the program," said Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, Chair of the Committee on General Welfare. "For many it has lifted a weight off their shoulders and it's one less thing they have to worry about as they struggle to make ends meet. We urge the administration to partner with us and baseline the program to the previous level of full funding and ensure Fair Fares NYC is made permanent in the city budget."

Majority Leader Keith Powers stated: "Public transportation is the backbone of our city, but too many New Yorkers can't afford a MetroCard. I'm proud to be a longtime supporter of Fair Fares, and support Speaker Adams in calling on the Mayor to provide baseline funding for the program. I commend Speaker Adams for her attention to this important issue, and urge the Mayor to take action."

Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said: "Ensuring our most vulnerable residents have access to affordable, reliable, safe, and clean transportation is essential. As the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, baselining and increasing awareness of the Fair Fares program ensures all New Yorkers can utilize our transit system, especially as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. I applaud Speaker Adrienne E. Adams for her leadership and ad-

vocacy to ensure low-income New Yorkers have equitable access to New York's vast transportation system, without increased financial burden."

"New York City can't just recover. We must come back stronger than ever. But our resurgence relies on our workforce, many still contending with aftershocks of the economic earthquake wrought by COVID," said Council Member Justin Brannan, Chair of the Committee on Finance. "We need to get back to work, and for most of us, the first step is getting on a bus or a train. We need to make sure New Yorkers can afford their rides. Baseline funding for Fair Fares is a crucial part of the formula for our comeback. No one should have to choose between a meal and a MetroCard."

Council Member Gale Brewer said: "I join Speaker Adams and my colleagues in calling for the Mayor to make the 'Fair Fares' program permanent and to baseline the previous level of full funding for the program. By reducing the cost of travel on mass transit, New Yorkers who fall under the poverty level and are struggling can access jobs and other necessary appointments on a daily basis with less stress about their household budget. I thank the Community Service Society and Riders' Alliance for advocating for this program and now it must be funded to reach its potential of 800,000 riders."

"Making New York a fairer and just city means a city that is accessible to all," said Council Member Rafael Salamanca. "Outside of housing, access to public transportation is a critical connection to every component of our day-to-day lives. Restoring Fair Fares to

(Continued on page 3)

DMV# 7103558 **108 Auto Service Inc.**
宏興車行
Official NYS Inspection Station
Complete Auto Repair & Tires
All Work Guarantee
ASE CERTIFIED

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

DEE 宏
Tel.: (718) 393-3139
Fax: (718) 271-0902
55-26 108 Street, Corona, NY. 11368

**Subscribe to the
Queens Times**

Your Local Newspaper-One Edition for All Of Queens

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

Please Enter my Subscription For One Year

Name

Address

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

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

**QUEENS
TIMES**
Published for the Borough of Queens

Published every week by C.T. Publishing Corp.
Executive Office: 108-59 49th Avenue, Corona Heights, NY 11368
Operations: 11-20 154th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357
Phone (718) 592-2196 • FAX (718) 357-3682
Web Site: www.queens-times.com
email: editor@queens-times.com

James C. LisaPublisher/Editor
Lew Scala Associate Publisher/Webmaster
Lou DuroInternational Correspondent
Nicole Rescigno.....Office Manager
Joseph V. DorsaPhoto Journalist

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

Saving The Postal Service, Maloney And Union Leaders Applaud House Passage of The Bipartisan Postal Reform Act

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, (NY-12) stood with union leaders to applaud the passage of her bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act, which overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week 342-92. The bill will address the Postal Service's financial condition which has been deteriorating over the past decade due to a number of factors. The provisions included in the Postal Service Reform Act are critical to helping the Postal Service remain financially viable and ensuring it provides the high quality of service Americans expect and deserve. These provisions include Medicare integration, repealing a requirement for the Postal Service to pre-fund retiree health benefits, increased transparency of delivery service, reporting on Postal Service operations and finances, a requirement that the Postal Service deliver mail at least six days per week, and other matters.

"This week – we took a huge step towards solving some very serious problems that have been hanging over the Postal Service for years now by passing the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act. This bill not only saves the Postal Service over 50 billion dollars, but it will also help local newspapers and magazines survive the transition to the digital age, secures 6-day a week delivery service for us all, protects the health and

retirement benefits of postal workers – and it does all this while actually saving the federal government \$1.5 billion dollars. The bill will also provide Congress and the American people with a whole new level of transparency and accountability. It would establish an online, public-facing database that shows weekly service performance information down to the zip code. The bill also allows the Postal Service to contract with state, local, and tribal governments to offer non-postal services that will create new streams of much needed revenue and badly needed services. I urge the Senate to pass this CRITICAL bill that will help save the Postal Service – a cornerstone of our democracy," said Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12).

"Americans have always depended on USPS, and over the past two years, the pandemic made clear the necessity of a viable and sustainable Postal Service. My brothers and sisters delivered stimulus and child tax credit checks; election ballots; necessary medication; correspondence between family and friends; and now, COVID tests. Chairwoman Maloney's tireless work on the bipartisan Postal Reform Act shows her commitment to improving USPS as well as her support of its dedicated workforce. NPMHU Local 300

is incredibly grateful for Chairwoman Maloney's support," said NPMHU Local 300 Vice President Yvette Johnson. "We have been waiting 16 years for H.R. 3076 to be passed so the USPS can survive and thrive into the future. Thank you Chairwoman Maloney for your leadership for bringing it to pass," said Chuck Zlatkin, Legislative Director, NY Metro APWU.

"On behalf of NAPS, the organization that represents our nation's postal supervisors, managers and postmasters, I want to thank Congresswoman Maloney for, not only her perseverance, focus and commitment in crafting and passing H.R. 3076, the Postal Reform Act of 2022, but also her 3 decades in congress as an unwavering leader to ensure that our national postal system is financially stable, operationally sound, and universally accessible," said Jimmy Warden, Secretary-Treasurer, the National Association of Postal Supervisors.

"When Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney says she is going to do something she does it. Just look at the subway on 2nd avenue or her 9/11 bill. So when she says she's going to do something, it gets done. We want to thank you for that and thank you for what you have done for the postal service," New York Letter Carriers Association Branch 36.

Senate Majority Advances Legislation to Improve Teacher Diversity in NY Schools

The Senate Democratic Majority passed legislation to improve the diversity of New York's teachers and encourage better representation across all demographics. This legislation will establish the Grow Your Own Initiative to attract underrepresented teachers into school districts; create a task force to study the impacts of these discrepancies and recommend solutions; develop recruitment programs to find and retain minority and bilingual educators, and establish statewide conventions for underrepresented educators to gather, network, and problem solve together.

"Many of us have an educator to thank for where we are in life, and many of us saw the possibilities on our horizons thanks to an educator who looked like us," Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said. "Having representation from an early age not only serves as important role modeling but also greatly improves classroom connectivity and learning outcomes. Balancing the diversity of our teachers is a crucial step in furthering New York's educational reforms and helps ensure that our school systems are truly built for everyone. I thank the bill sponsors and committee chairs for their commitment to this issue and advancing this critical legislation."

Chair of the Senate Committee on NYC Education and Bill Sponsor, Senator John Liu said, "Our students' educators should reflect the diversity of our student body, and Grow Your Own programs offer a proven approach to both recruiting good teachers and promoting an environment that cultivates better ideas, better outcomes, and brighter futures for all. If we are to truly ensure our schools are representative of the school population, we should always look to provide diverse, culturally responsive, community-based educators of color in order to best advance achievement for all students."

Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Senator Shelley B. Mayer, said, "Our students benefit when their teachers bring unique perspectives to the classroom and are representative of the entire New York State community. I am proud to join my colleagues in passing this legislation to strengthen our schools by expanding diversity amongst our educators."

Bill Sponsor Senator Jabari Brisport said, "From Kindergarten through my senior year of high school, I had a total of just one Black male teacher. When I became a public school teacher myself, I learned that only 2% of teachers nationwide are Black men, but true racial equity in our schools can only happen with a diverse pool of educators. Having a teacher who looks like them can have a big impact on educational outcomes for Black and Brown students, and they each deserve that opportunity. We must proactively develop strategies to open the door for more people of color to become teachers and to be supported once they do. I'm grateful to my predecessor, Sen.

Montgomery, who originated the Task Force on Educator Diversity bill that passed the New York State Senate today."

Bill Sponsor Senator Robert Jackson said, "New York has a teacher diversity problem. Teachers from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups can feel isolated, making it challenging to do their job well. The percentage of educators of color has been stubbornly stagnant even as a growing body of research shows a diverse teacher workforce positively affects the entire student body. This disparity puts a burden on those teachers not only to support students of color who look to them as leaders and role models, but it also can leave them feeling unsupported among colleagues." Senator Jackson added, "Passing legislation to improve teacher diversity in New York schools like my bill S1984, directs resources to provide better education to the diverse children of New York State. I'm proud to be part of a senate majority committed to this issue, taking action to advance such a vital package of legislation."

Bill Sponsor Kevin Parker said, "As diverse as our state is, the fact that our teaching staff does not adequately reflect the linguistic diversity of our students is a major shortfall. We know that language barriers are one the greatest hindrances to a student's success, and can make young learners feel ostracized within their own communities. My bill to establish the The Bilingual Teachers of Tomorrow Program would directly address this discrepancy, and ensure that New York schools are equipped to connect with students of all backgrounds. This legislation will allow students to better connect with their teachers and retain information as it relates to their studies"

Bill Sponsor Senator Roxanne J. Persaud said, "Nearly a quarter of a million public school teachers enter classrooms across New York State to make a difference in a young person's life by preparing them for post-secondary education or vocational programs. Education is a powerful equalizer; however, only twenty percent of New York's teachers come from Communities of Color and other underrepresented demographics. S. 342 will help attract and retain more educators who reflect the communities and share experiences like their students."

The legislation passed by the Senate Democratic Majority includes:

- Grow Your Own Initiative: This legislation, Senate Bill S.1100A, sponsored by Senator John Liu, develops grow your own initiatives at school districts, boards of cooperative educational services and higher education institutions to attract underrepresented candidates into the teaching profession.
- Task Force on Educator Diversity: This legislation, Senate Bill S.255A, sponsored by Senator Jabari Brisport, establishes a task force on educator diversity in New York state to conduct a study on the state of diversity

Speaker Adrienne Adams And Council Members Call on Mayor Adams to Baseline Fair Fares Funding at Original Level in Preliminary Budget

(Continued from page 2)

its full funding means not asking New Yorkers to choose between buying food for their family and paying for a MetroCard."

Council Member Crystal Hudson stated: "Fair Fares is New York's ticket to a more just and equitable transportation system. It is a step toward ensuring our public transit network is accessible and open to all, regardless of income, and it is a step toward eventually making public transit free for all. I am proud to stand with Speaker Adams in calling for Fair Fares to be baselined in the upcoming preliminary budget."

Council Member Alexa Avilés said: "At a time when many New Yorkers are struggling to make ends meet and our city is trying to get riders back into our transit system, we must employ the right tools. That's why I encourage the Mayor to restore and baseline Fair Fares at its pre-pandemic funding levels. I'm committed to doing the work to make sure residents know about and enroll in the program, and I believe we should fully fund Fair Fares so that all 750,000 currently eligible New Yorkers can take advantage of half-priced MetroCards."

Council Member Tiffany Cabán stated: "I applaud the Speaker for calling for this vital investment in the Fair Fares program. New Yorkers have a right to our public transit system, and we should treat our neighbors who are short on cash as human beings with dignity, rather than criminalizing

them. Poverty-reducing measures like Fair Fares are exactly the path toward making our city safer, healthier, and more just."

Council Member Amanda Farias, a Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus who represents a neighborhood that has one of the highest number of residents with incomes that qualify them for the program, said: "The ability to move throughout this City freely should not be a luxury, but a right. This is why I support baselining funding for Fair Fares, one of our City's most expansive and inclusive programs. Not only does it take into account the intersectionality of transit equity, but also puts a focus on serving the needs of low-income New Yorkers and outer borough communities like mine, who rely on public transit the most. Cost must never be a barrier to accessibility, and it is our jobs as representatives to make sure we provide this essential service - for everyone. Thank you to Speaker Adrienne Adams for your leadership, my colleagues for their continued support, and to Mayor Eric Adams for his continued and tireless work for the City of New York."

Council Member Rita Joseph stated: "Fair Fares is an absolutely vital resource for working-class New Yorkers, and its funding must be baselined in the upcoming preliminary budget. Failing to do so will irreparably harm the low-income communities that have been hit hardest by COVID. Mayor Adams, I urge you to fully fund Fair Fares in this upcoming

preliminary budget."

Council Member Linda Lee said: "The continuation of Fair Fares will prevent the most needy New Yorkers in District 23 from being phased out of their last remaining transit option. My district is one of the only areas without access to rail, subway, or ferry service, and if you can't afford a car your only remaining alternative is the bus. I encourage the Mayor to fully fund this program and increase transit equity in Eastern Queens so that every New Yorker can afford to get around our city."

Council Member Mercedes Narcisse stated: "The Fair Fares program has been a vital resource for lower-income New Yorkers. As the economy continues to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that we protect and fully fund this now essential program. That is why I am joining with Speaker Adrienne Adams to urge Mayor Adams to baseline funding for Fair Fares which has been tested and proven to bring transportation equity to over 250,000 New Yorkers in need."

Council Member Lincoln Restler said: "With costs rising across the board for working New Yorkers from housing to utility bills to inflation, it is more important than ever that the City of New York guarantees reduced priced MetroCards for low-income residents. Fair Fares makes our subway and bus system more progressive and just and I

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 9)

NYTWA Wins 5.3% Raise For All NYC For-Hire Drivers

In response to the win, Chair of the Senate Labor Committee Jessica Ramos (D, WF - SD13) issued the following statement:

"Today's victory for our city's Uber, Lyft, and Via drivers comes hot on the tail of another serious victory won by the New York Taxi Workers Alliance. It demonstrates precisely why workers need a union. This pay rate adjustment to match inflation is

mandated by the Taxi and Limousine Commission's own rules but hasn't been implemented since 2020, and without a dogged and organized force paying attention and demanding follow-through, who knows when workers would have seen the wages they are entitled to.

This raise in the context of the hard-won City-backed guarantee is what we are talking about

when we say we want to build a recovery that works for us all. As inflation goes up, so should wages. I'm extending my gratitude and congratulations to the TLC and NYTWA for all they do for these essential workers, and will continue to do my part in Albany to pass legislation that allows for all workers to feel the benefits of having the labor movement behind them."

Attorney General James Recovers Over \$400,000 For Consumers Unfairly Charged For Expedited COVID-19 Tests

ClearMD Health and Sameday Health Issue Refunds to Thousands of New Yorkers for Late COVID-19 Results After OAG Sent Warning Letters

New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced that her office recovered more than \$400,000 for New Yorkers who paid for expedited COVID-19 tests, but received their results later than the promised timeframe. After the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) issued warning letters to ClearMD Health and Sameday Health to stop misrepresenting turnaround times for results, the testing labs refunded consumers who were unfairly charged. The companies also corrected their advertising and instructed employees to provide accurate information concerning turnaround times.

"Thousands of New Yorkers

have gotten their money back after being misled by COVID-19 testing labs and received their results later than they were told," said Attorney General James. "It's simple, testing sites and labs must follow the law and accurately advertise when consumers can expect their results, otherwise they can expect to hear from my office. New Yorkers can trust that I will always stand up for their rights. My office will continue to take action against COVID-19 testing sites and labs that are misleading New Yorkers."

ClearMD Health refunded 1,198 consumers more than \$182,000 and Sameday Health refunded 3,110 consumers more than \$230,000.

The OAG first launched its investigation into COVID-19 testing sites in December 2021, following numerous reports from New Yorkers who were not re-

ceiving COVID-19 test results as promised during the busy holiday season. The OAG has issued eight warning letters to labs and testing companies.

Attorney General James asks any consumer who believes a lab or other testing facility is making misleading statements about its turnaround time for COVID-19 test results to file a complaint online with the OAG's Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau or call the office at 1-800-771-7755.

These matters were handled by Deputy Bureau Chief of the Consumer Frauds & Protection Bureau Laura J. Levine, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Jane M. Azia. The Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau is part of the Division of Economic Justice, which is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General Chris D'Angelo and is overseen by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

NYC & Company's NYC Off-Broadway Week is Now Live, Offering 2-For-1 Tickets

NYC Off-Broadway Week Returns for its 13th Year, in Partnership with Preferred Payment Partner Mastercard® and The Off-Broadway League

17 Productions Offering 2-for-1 Tickets through February 27

NYC & Company, New York City's official destination marketing organization and convention and visitors bureau, in partnership with Mastercard, today announced that NYC Off-Broadway Week is now live, offering 2-for-1 tickets to 17 Off-Broadway productions through February 27. Tickets can be purchased at nycgo.com/offbroadwayweek.

"We are pleased to kick-off NYC Off-Broadway Week today, as our Valentine's Day gift to the greatest city in the world. Each year, NYC Off-Broadway Week has given New Yorkers and visitors the opportunity to experience the intimacy and artistry of these incredible productions, and celebrate the theater communities found throughout the city," said Fred Dixon, President and CEO of NYC & Company.

The Off-Broadway League continues to require vaccinations for audience members, as well as performers, backstage crew, and theater staff, for all performances. Masks will continue to be required for audiences inside the theater, except while actively eating or drinking in designated locations.

"We are proud to continue our partnership with NYC & Company on NYC Off-Broadway Week to introduce New Yorkers and our global community to Off-Broadway. The biannual program brings in new audiences to experience a variety of unique shows onstage in an intimate setting," said Casey York, President of The Off-Broadway League.

NYC Off-Broadway Week 2022 participating shows include:

1. Barococo
2. Beauty and the Beast
3. Blue Man Group
4. English
5. Jersey Boys

6. La Dama Boba (The Lady Simpleton)
7. Monday Night Magic
8. The Office! A Musical Parody
9. On Sugarland
10. Out of Time
11. Perfect Crime
12. The Play That Goes Wrong
13. Prayer for the French Republic
14. Sandblasted
15. Space Dogs
16. STOMP
17. Tambo & Bones

Visit nycgo.com/offbroadwayweek to find useful tools such as filters to sort productions by including: Show type (musical, play, performance); Genre (comedy, drama, kid-friendly, magic); Audience (family-friendly, adults-only); Neighborhood; and Borough.

NYC Off-Broadway Week is produced by NYC & Company in partnership with The Off-Broadway League and preferred payment partner Mastercard. Discover exclusive content on Instagram and Twitter @nycgo, and with the hashtag #NYCOFF-BroadwayWeek.

About NYC & Company - NYC & Company is the official destination marketing organization and convention and visitors bureau for the City of New York, dedicated to maximizing travel and tourism opportunities throughout the five boroughs, building economic prosperity and spreading the positive image of New York City worldwide. For all there is to do and see in New York City, visit nycgo.com.

About The Off-Broadway League - The Off-Broadway League was founded in 1959 to foster theatrical productions produced in Off-Broadway theatres (productions in Manhattan in venues with 100-499 seats), to assist in the voluntary exchange of information among its members, and to serve as a collective voice of its membership in pursuit of these goals. In the recent years the League has grown to represent an average of 150 individual members and theatres and 100 non-for-profit and commercial shows per season.

Speaker Adrienne Adams And Council Members Call on Mayor Adams to Baseline Fair Fares Funding at Original Level in Preliminary Budget

(Continued from page 3)

am proud to enthusiastically support the call to baseline funding for it. I thank Speaker Adams for her leadership on this important issue for New York City."

"The New York City subway is supposed to be our great equalizer, connecting New Yorkers with family, friends, and opportunity — but for so many New Yorkers, transit costs can amount to as much as 10 percent of their budget, putting an often insurmountable financial burden on families," said Council Member Carlina Rivera. "In our pursuit of a just recovery, we must ensure those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic are guaranteed equitable access to transit. I join Speaker Adams in urging the Mayor to fully fund Fair Fares in the preliminary budget, so we can build on our past success in easing the financial burden of this most essential public good."

Council Member Pierina Sánchez stated: "Ease of mobility through our great City allows New Yorkers to reach schools, jobs, essential medical care and programs to support their growth. Yet in our high-cost city, fares are still unaffordable to many.

I look forward to working with the new mayoral administration to baseline the previous level of funding for the Fair Fares program in the Preliminary Budget, and to make it a permanent part of the city budget each year. As Council Members, we can support the Mayor with local outreach, knocking on doors, canvassing the streets to ensure every New Yorker who qualifies knows about the program."

Council Member Althea Stevens said, "Employing Fair Fares as a starting point, we can gradually alleviate poverty challenges across the five boroughs. Fair Fares is another step forward in our efforts to establish sustainability in our city, as it would allow everyone to utilize our mass transit systems at its full capacity."

Council Member Julie Won stated: "Transit affordability and transit accessibility are one and the same. The Mayor must commit to baselining the Fair Fares program to guarantee a pathway for all New Yorkers to travel around the city. We must see this as a first step towards making public transit truly equitable and build on this work during this council session."

Council Member Marjorie Velázquez said: "I commend Speaker Adams for prioritizing Fair Fares. It's essential we promote these programs that can benefit so many New Yorkers and ensure a more affordable public transportation system. As a member of the Transportation Committee and the Chair of the Consumer & Worker Protection Committee, I hope to see this investment in the Preliminary Budget and to build a more equitable transit system for all."

Fair Fares is a New York City program established to help low-income New Yorkers cover public transportation costs by providing 50 percent-discounted rides. The program was first funded in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, thanks to the advocacy of the previous City Council and organizations like the Community Service Society and Riders Alliance, in partnership with former Mayor de Blasio. The city's most recently reported figures indicate 262,128 New Yorkers have enrolled in the program. Based on 2019 Census data, approximately 700,000 New Yorkers are in the qualifying age range and income level that would make them eligible for the program.



Read Our Paper Online
Visit our website: www.queens-times.com



CONCORD PEST CONTROL, LLC.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LICENSED & INSURED
516-334-1794

FOR ALL YOUR PEST PROBLEMS:
COCKROACHES
RODENTS
ANTS
WASPS
TERMITES



DEAL DIRECTLY WITH OWNER/OPERATOR
TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL BUTCH AT 516-334-1794

Queens Times Weekly ...
HOROSCOPE
 For the Week of ... 2/17/22 - 2/23/22



For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
 (Mar. 21 - April 20)
 If you've been under stress and worrying about older members of the family, it's time to come to terms with the situation. Your lucky numbers are 4,2,1.

TAURUS
 (Apr. 21 - May 21)
 Time is money Take action in order to reach your highest potential. You would be wise to consider attending Informal gatherings. Your lucky numbers are 3,8,9.

GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)
 Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation. Your lucky numbers are 7,9,2.

CANCER
 (June 22 - July 22)
 Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. Take care of any pressing health problems. Your lucky numbers are 3,8,9.

LEO
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 Try not to push your ideas on others. You may overspend if you travel this week; however, the trip will be one to remember. Your lucky numbers are 6,9,1.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
 Do not travel unless absolutely necessary. Romance is likely if you attend social events. This is a great day to spend with family and or friends. Your lucky numbers are 2,1,9.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
 Your energetic personality will make you the center of attention at social gatherings. Get involved in groups that can offer intellectual stimulation. lucky numbers are 8,3,1.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
 Don't reveal private information. Try to avoid unpleasant situations; try to mend them. Your time will do a lot more for your relationship. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,1.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
 Romance will develop through work activities. Moneymaking opportunities will surface. You need to keep the peace and you have to bend in order to do so. Your lucky numbers are 1,8,9.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
 Business trips might prove unproductive. Make sure that you have all the pertinent information before any reprisals or making any moves. Your lucky numbers are 6,8,1.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
 You may be more emotional this week. You will feel better about yourself if you can control your addictions. lucky numbers are 7,1,3.

PISCES
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)
 This will not be the day to start new business ventures or make drastic changes in your career. Your lucky numbers are 3,2,1.

Did You Know?

- Crocodiles are colour blind
- A chameleons tongue is twice the length of its body
- Dogs sweat through the pads on their feet
- Hippopotamuses are born under water
- Bananas grow pointing upwards.
- Whales can't swim backwards
- Camels are born without humps
- Only female mosquitoes bite
- The average porcupine has 30,000 spikes
- Tarantula spiders can survive 2 and a half years without food
- Crocodiles are responsible for over a 1,000 deaths each year by the Banks of the Nile river
- There are more insects in the world than all other animals combined
- Giraffes can't swim
- Crocodiles swallow rocks to help them dive deeper
- An elephant's trunk can hold over 5 litres of water
- Bull's can run faster uphill than down
- A shark's teeth are literally as hard as steel
- **A moth has no stomach**
- **Grasshoppers have white blood**
- **It takes 50 minutes to soft boil and two hours to hard boil an ostrich egg**
- A car travelling at 80kph (50mph) uses half its fuel to overcome wind

Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles

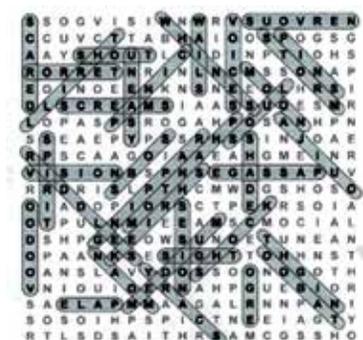
"Sudoku"

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

"Crossword Puzzle"

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

"Try And Find"



TRY AND FIND

CITIESE

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

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Alexandria | Colombo | Lusaka | Rome |
| Amsterdam | Detroit | Madras | Rotterdam |
| Baltimore | Hanoi | Madrid | St Louis |
| Beijing | Hong Kong | New York | Seoul |
| Boston | Honolulu | Paris | Suez |
| Cairo | Kingston | Philadelphia | Sydney |
| Calcutta | Lima | Pittsburgh | Tokyo |
| Chicago | Los Angeles | Quebec | Toronto |

SUDOKU

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

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		65		
66						67					68		
69											71		

ACROSS

- Laugh
- Two times two
- Part of an ear
- Black, in poetry
- Enter data
- Impoverished
- Graphic symbol
- Protrusion
- Catch
- Put one's foot down
- Endorser
- Top of a house
- Electrical pioneer
- A surveying instrument
- So very much
- Malcontent
- Pigpens
- French for "Friend"
- Liberated
- Feline
- Utilize again
- Vitamin B1 deficiency
- Egg dish
- Permit
- Unexpired
- Kind of moss
- Given names
- Drops
- Food thickener
- Covered with linoleum squares
- Henhouse
- Bristle
- Go in
- Emanation
- Part of a foot
- Malodorous
- Sounds of disapproval

DOWN

- Not his
- Adjoin
- Money paid for a service
- Windflower
- Lie
- Burden
- Lit to a higher degree
- Tough
- Nouveau-riche
- Not stereo
- Wild hog
- Unrestrained revelry
- Anxious
- Ritz
- "Oh my!"
- Feudal estate
- Russian emperor
- Juliet's lover
- Black gunk
- Lacking moral discipline
- 10 in a decade
- Cotillion girl
- Anagram of "Ties"
- Snake-like fish
- Trickle
- Some
- Distinctive flair
- Anagram of "Dice"
- Raccoon-like carnivore
- Gladden
- Scheduling
- Triangular formation
- To vex
- Curved molding
- Be worthy of
- Appear
- Pig meat
- Resorts
- Not wet

Assemblyman Kim, Colleagues & Community Leaders Condemn Continued Wave of Anti-Asian Attacks

Assemblymember Ron Kim, Congressmember Grace Meng, Senator John Liu, Councilmember Linda Lee, and Councilmember Sandra Ung were joined by the Korean American Association of Greater NY, the Korean American Association of Queens, the Asian American Federation in denouncing the latest attack on an Asian resident in New York, a United Nations diplomat from South Korea.

The victim, a 53-year old man, was punched unprovoked by a random attacker Wednesday night while walking with a friend. No words were exchanged before the attack, and the victim, who suffered a broken nose, even showed his South Korean diplomatic ID before the suspect fled.

The elected officials condemned the continuing wave of assaults against the Asian American community, which first surged in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The representatives, most of whom are of Asian descent, expressed frustration with the lack of progress in ending the violence against their communities. Assemblymember Kim spoke on the need for Asian New Yorkers to stay united in defending themselves and each other from violent attacks.



Assemblymember Ron Kim said: "Enough is enough. Stop attacking Asians. Throughout this pandemic, Asian American activists and organizers stood side by side with black and brown communities fighting for racial and economic justice. We believe in a shared common cause. But every day, attack after attack, my community's hope for a better future is slipping away. We want to turn the other cheek, to end the cycle of violence — is an eye for an eye really the only option? How much more trauma, how many more wounds, can we possibly endure?"

NY State Senator John C. Liu

said, "This assault on a Korean diplomat is only the latest example of violence thrust against us, and our community remains outraged at these relentless and hateful attacks. Asians here in New York City, across our country, and now around the world are on high alert; we're angry, and we're ready to stand up, speak out and fight back."

Councilmember Linda Lee said: "I wish I could say I was surprised at yet another instance of unprovoked violence, this time against a South Korean Diplomat in the

(Continued on page 9)

Council Member Julie Won Announces Satellite Office Hours Around The District



Council Member Julie Won partners with local organizations to ensure constituents have access to services and support amidst the COVID crisis and end of the Eviction Moratorium

The office has been available

virtually via phone (718-383-9566) and email (District26@council.nyc.gov) since January 3rd, and can be reached Monday through Friday 10am-6pm. In order to reach more constituents and to provide easier access, we will be hosting monthly satellite office hours to come to every neighborhood in the district. We are working with our community partners to grow our satellite office hours, so we will be announcing more locations as we move throughout the district. We have had 2 previous satellite office hours at Sunnyside Community Services Center. Our office can assist with the following:

Tenant Rights and Eviction Prevention: If you're having issues

with your housing situation or are at risk of eviction we can connect you with resources to protect you and provide information on your rights.

COVID Testing and PPE: We can point you in the right direction for city run COVID vaccination and testing sites.

Immigration: The city has many resources for immigration assistance and resources for immigrants trying to get settled.

Questions about City Services or Issues with City Agencies: We can help you navigate city agencies and services, as well as other levels of government. We'll connect you with the right contacts for your issue.

Assemblyman Braunstein, NYPD and NYC Parks Announce Crackdown on Loud Car Meetups at Bay Terrace Park



Assemblyman Edward Braunstein (D-Bayside), the 109th Precinct and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation are announcing that, in an effort

to thwart noisy and disruptive "car meetups" taking place after park hours, a gate and lock have been installed at the entrance of the Little Bay Park parking lot.

Located next to the entrance of Fort Totten, the Little Bay Park parking lot has become a late-night and early-morning gathering place for car enthusiasts. Many of these vehicles are extremely noisy due to modified muffler and exhaust systems, and the lot's proximity to the Cross Island Parkway service road lends drivers to drag race on the thoroughfare and on local streets.

After conversations between Assemblyman Braunstein, the 109th Precinct and Queens Parks Department officials late last year, all parties determined that installing a gate and lock at this location would be an effective long term solution. Now, the parking lot

gates are being locked by 109th Precinct Patrol Officers every day after 10 p.m., park closing, and are opened by NYC Parks Department personnel every morning. In addition, the 109th Precinct continues to engage in patrols and enforcement efforts in the immediate area.

"The new locking system at the Little Bay Park lot will deter drivers from gathering and creating a late-night disruption at the park and on surrounding streets. Coupled with continued interagency cooperation, this collaboration will hopefully put a stop to this quality of life concern for the long term," said Assemblyman Edward Braunstein. "I thank Commanding Officer O'Connell and the 109th Precinct for their steadfast attention to this issue,

(Continued on page 11)

The NYPD 110th PCT Community Council Monthly Meeting



At the NYPD 110th Pct Community Council Monthly Meeting Mike Liquori the 110 Pct CC Sgt at Arms was present for Award presentation of the Outstanding Service In Crime Preventing.

Pictured above (l to r) is 110th Pct CC Sgt at Arms Mike Liquori, Police Officer Droge, Sergeant Kosek, Police Officer Galgano, Police Officer Estrella and Lieutenant Koumniotes.

Senator James Sanders Jr. Statement Death of 10-Year-Old Davina Afokoba



Senator James Sanders Jr. said: "Our community has experienced terrible tragedy - the death of a child - a beautiful young girl, full of promise with a bright future ahead of her. As a father myself, I

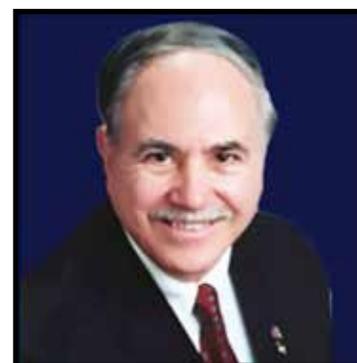
can tell you that I could not imagine anything more devastating than losing a child.

Last week, Davina Afokoba, 10, was killed by a speeding SUV while she was on her way home from school. Now her family has to deal with the aftermath of horrific incident. The driver allegedly had no license, only a learner's permit.

We need to do all we can to prevent reckless driving and fatal collisions. Davina Afokoba should be with us today, celebrating life with her family and friends, but instead they are planning her funeral. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this very difficult time."

Davina's mother has set up a GoFundMe page to help with funeral costs and other expenses.

Assemblyman William Colton Calls For Additional Education Money to be Directed Toward The Individual Needs Of All Students



Assemblyman William Colton (D - Gravesend, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, and Dyker Heights) says that a \$2.1billion increase in public education funds proposed by Governor Hochul must be directed toward the individual needs of all students.

"The additional funds must be used to develop and implement a unique remedial program for all their underperforming children so they can meet the standards. Also, for the

children who are performing well above the standard, the monies must be used to expand Gifted and Talented programs in every school district in order to challenge these students' highest academic achievements. For special education children these monies must be directed for the resources needed to meet the (IEP) individual education plans for each child," Colton stated.

"These goals can be accomplished by reduced class size, by providing necessary resources to teachers to meet the individual needs of all their students or by additional funds for community schools in advancing their holistic approach to meeting the needs of their students and their families," Colton continued.

"If the BOE receives these additional proposed funds, I believe that we can improve the quality of education for all of our students," Colton added.

Council Member Julie Won And Council Land Use Chair Salamanca Tour District 26 to Partner to Ensure Responsible Development

CM Julie Won and Chair CM Salamanca commit to a more equitable development landscape in District 26

District 26- Council Member and Contracts Chair CM Julie Won and Council Land Use Committee Chair CM Rafael Salamanca Jr. toured two sites in the district targeted for large scale development, Anable Basin in Long Island City, the site of the proposed Amazon headquarters, and Innovation Queens, a proposed 5 block mega development in Astoria bounded by Northern Boulevard to the east, 35th Ave to the north, 37th street to the west, and 36th ave to the south. CM Won recognizes that major development comes with steep costs and impacts, she is committed to development that reflects the needs of the district and provides more equitable housing that is deeply affordable.

CM Won invited Chair CM Salamanca to the district after discussion on partnering to ensure that residents in our district are included in land use decisions in the new term. CM Salamanca has been a champion of affordable housing and developing true community equity, bringing thousands of affordable units to his district since 2016 and fighting to ensure that developments hire and engage local communities in their projects. As Chair of the Land Use Committee, CM Salamanca



CM Won and Salamanca tour the Innovation Queens proposed development site

presides over the committee that hears all rezoning matters that go through the Universal Land Use Review Process (ULURP) in NYC.

District 26 is the second most developed council district in New York City after District 33, which is right across Newtown Creek and includes Greenpoint and Williamsburg. In the wave of developments, the average rent in LIC for a 1 Bedroom apartment had a 32% increase from the previous year. Rents dipped during the pandemic, but have since rebounded handily. These rapidly rising rents as a result of large scale luxury developments have priced out many

long term residents and working class immigrant families creating areas that are inaccessible to many New Yorkers.

“I am working toward a future that does not price out my neighbors and replace them, but works with them to create equitable housing opportunities and high quality public spaces for everyone. We need to ensure that future development in District 26 involves everyone in our community and is inclusive of long term working class residents” said COUNCIL MEMBER JULIE WON “I’m grateful that CM Salamanca took

(Continued on page 9)

Statement From COVID-19 Recovery & Resiliency Chair Francisco Moya Regarding Mask Mandate



from COVID-19. As we learned with the Omicron surge, we need to continue to exercise caution, use the tools we have in place and be ready to adjust as needed. We, as a city, will continue to monitor the trends and new variants to ensure New Yorkers and businesses can pivot accordingly in this ever-evolving pandemic.”

Statewide indoor business mask requirement lifted as of Thursday, February 10, however:

- COVID-19 vaccination proof requirements are still in effect in New York City for indoor dining, indoor fitness and indoor entertainment.
- Masks are still required in hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, transportation, and other related entities.
- Businesses do have the option to require masks from patrons.
- Requirements related to masks in schools remain in effect and will be reevaluated by the State with public health data in early March, after the winter break.

With Governor Kathy Hochul lifting the mask mandate, Council Member Francisco Moya, chair of the Subcommittee on COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency, issued the following statement.

“As cases, positivity rate and hospitalizations continue to significantly trend downward and with New Yorkers continuing to do their part, easing the mask mandate is a positive step as we move forward in our recovery

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

MTA Announces Launch of Secure Bike Storage Pilot at Grand Central Terminal

Metro-North Railroad Teams Up with NYC-Based Startup Oonee to Provide Secure Bike Storage at Major Transit Hub

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced that secure bike storage is available at Grand Central Terminal thanks to a pilot program being made possible by a partnership between MTA Metro-North Railroad and Oonee, a Brooklyn-based startup that creates pop-up secure bike parking facilities. The pilot program, which was formally announced in October, is expected to last one year and includes a mini-pod with six parking spaces.

The pod was installed at Grand Central’s former taxiway space at 43rd Street and Vanderbilt Avenue. The space provides direct access to the terminal’s west balcony and main concourse and is protected from rain and snow by a large overhang. The launch continues the MTA’s commuter railroads ongoing efforts to become more bike friendly. Last August, Metro-North and the Long Island Rail Road announced that bike permits would no longer be required onboard trains as of Sept. 7, 2021.

“This is the time to think seriously about using micro-mobility to expand the reach of the MTA network,” said MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber. “One way to bring riders back to the system is



to make customers’ overall trips easier. Cycling exploded during the pandemic, and this pilot is a step towards improving bike access.”

“Metro-North is thrilled to build on its ongoing efforts to provide sustainable transportation options for riders,” said Metro-North Railroad President Catherine Rinaldi. “I’d like to thank the Metro-North Stations Department for working so hard to make this pilot happen, and Board Member Norman Brown who first brought Shabazz and the great work that he has been doing to my attention.”

“The launch of this secure bike parking pilot represents a major milestone in for the New York City region,” said Shabazz Stuart, Founder & CEO of Oonee. “Cycling integration has the potential

to drastically improve the range of transit facilities while also enhancing the passenger experience. We’re hopeful that this is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our region.”

“Access to secure bike parking is a key way to encourage more biking in New York City, and we are thrilled to see the MTA working with Oonee to launch the secure bike parking pilot today,” said Danny Harris, Transportation Alternatives Executive Director. “As our report last year found, bike parking in New York City has not kept up with the bike boom, and secure facilities like Oonee will help us catch up to peer cities around the world that have prioritized this infrastructure. We

(Continued on page 9)

Find us on **facebook**

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 11115 (718) 284-2929	80 Canal Sacco & Filizis LLP 42-40 Bell Boulevard, Suite 301 Bayside, NY 11361 (718) 428-7285	233 Broadway, Suite 638 New York, NY 10029 (212) VALLONE
--	---	--

IT'S IN QUEENS

(Feb. 17 to Feb. 23)

Valentine's Day has passed, but romance is still in the Queens air. Shakespeare, poetry, traditional Irish music, animation, Black history, and the Golden Girls set the tone.

- Feb. 17, *The Winter's Tale*, Feb. 27. Rude Grooms presents this classic Shakespeare tragicomedy about jealousy. A suspicion that his wife is having an affair with the King of Bohemia drives King of Sicilia to tyranny, remorse, lost children, and miraculous reunions. Shows are always at 8 pm, Feb. 17-20, and • Feb. 24-27. Culture Lab LIC, 05-25 46th Ave., Long Island City.

- Feb. 17, Virtual STEAM series: Illuminating Histories, June 16. Lewis Latimer House Museum and artist Tasha Dougé offer five interactive STEAM activities on historical Black figures. This first one is about Arturo Alfonso Schomburg and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem.

- Feb. 19, *Sounds of the West: A Night of Traditional Music*, 7 pm. Irish music with some of the best performers from around the west of the Emerald Isle, including Tara Breen, Dessie Kelliher, John Kelly, Blackie O'Connell, Siobhan Peoples, and Murty Ryan. New York Irish Center, 10-40 Jackson Ave., Long Island City.

- Feb. 19, *Intuition: From the Minds of Women*, 8 pm. Alicia Olatuja gives voice to 60 years of female singers including Sade, Tracy Chapman, Kate Bush, Linda Creed, Angela Bofill, and Brenda Russell. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Feb. 19, *Wellbeing Jamboree for Families*, noon. A day of self-care and community wellness with free activities and snacks for the whole family in heated outdoor tents. The fun includes art-making, dance, mapping, and healing. Lewis Latimer House Museum, 34-41 137th St., Flushing.

- Feb. 19, *Compost Giveback*, 10:30 am. Free compost made from residential food scraps collected locally and processed on site. Limit of five bags per registrant. Queens Botanical Garden Parking Lot, 42-80 Crommelin St., Flushing.

- Feb. 19, *World of Animation: Belle*, Feb. 25. This 2021 fairy tale by Oscar-nominated director Mamoru Hosoda follows a tormented high-school student who becomes a towering pink-haired singer in a massive virtual world. In Japanese with English subtitles or dubbing. Screenings are 1 pm on Feb. 19, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 3 pm on Feb. 25. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Feb. 20, *That Golden Girls Show!*, 3 pm + 7 pm. This puppet show parodies classic moments from the long-running television show "Golden Girls." Celebrate Betty White's life and career with Sophia's get-rich-



FTH Alicia Olatuja



QT Puppets

quick schemes, Rose's tales from St. Olaf, Blanche's insatiable hunts for men, and Dorothy's daily struggle to make sense of life. Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 20, *The Black King of Vaudeville*, 7 pm. Tony-nominated Broadway actor Larry Marshall celebrates the life and music of Bert Williams (1874-1922), who battled overt racism to become a pre-eminent Vaudeville performer and one of the most popular comedians of his time. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Feb. 20, *Lunar New Year Celebration*, 1 pm. The New York Chinese Cultural Center welcomes the Year of the Tiger with dances, calligraphy, lantern-making, and other activities. Queens Museum, NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 20, *Public Talk: Word-play*, noon + 4 pm. Join educator Naima Dobbs in the galleries to use writing as a tool for engaging with Noguchi's sculptures. Two sessions. The Noguchi Museum, 09-01 33rd Rd., Long Island City.

- Feb. 22, *The Writing of Audre Lorde*, March 15. Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning zooms a multi-session program devoted to reading and discussing thought-provoking literature. Stephanie D. Delia, an immigration attor-

ney with deep roots in Southeast Queens, leads conversations based on Audre Lorde's writing. Classes are on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.

- Feb. 22, *Fantasy Terrarium Workshop*, 1 pm. This family-friendly program teaches the water cycle, terrarium care, and creating a miniature indoor garden. Voelker Orth Museum, 149-19 38th Ave., Flushing.

- Feb. 23, *Junior Makers Staycation: Foraging, Fibers + Food*, Feb. 25. Youngsters churn fresh butter, create collages and sculptures with natural materials, learn how sheep wool is spun into yarn, and get a chance to play with their food. The program features outdoor activities including a tractor-drawn hayride and the chance to meet and greet the alpacas, sheep, goats, pigs, hens and steer. Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy., Glen Oaks.

- Feb. 23, *Riddim Section: Steven Kroon*, 8 pm. The monthly music series Riddim Section presents Steven Kroon and his high-energy Latin Jazz Sextet. Kroon has worked with Aretha Franklin, Lady Gaga, and Luther Van Dross. Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, 161-04 Jamaica Ave.

- Feb. 23, *Bringing Gotham's Black History into the Public Eye*, 7 pm. The Greater Astoria Historical Society streams this lecture on NYC's Black history.

A & F Auto Repairs, Inc.

General Auto Repairs
(Foreign and Domestic)
Accessories
• Tires • Batteries
• Electronic Tune-ups
• Inspection Station
• Towing

ARIS & FRANK

43-05 111th Street • Corona Heights, NY
Greek, Spanish and Italian Spoken
(718) 592-7470 (718) 699-2499

18-81 Steinway Street - Astoria, NY 11105
Tel: 718-278-8435 • Fax: 718-956-0804

RIENZI™

RIENZI & SONS, INC.

The TRUE FLAVORS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

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

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

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

Licensed Insured

ROCCO

CONSTRUCTION GROUP

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

rvr@RoccoConGroup.com www.RoccoConGroup.com

Assemblyman Kim, Colleagues & Community Leaders Condemn Continued Wave of Anti-Asian Attacks

(Continued from page 6)

middle of Midtown Manhattan, but these attacks are becoming an everyday occurrence. New York is the world's city, and we cannot allow attacks on our guests to become commonplace. I thank our allies for never wavering in their support of us, and standing with us in solidarity time and time again. We must turn the corner on this epidemic of violence so that our community can begin to heal, and so that we can stop having these press conferences on a weekly basis."

Charles Yoon, President of the Korean American Association of Greater New York, said: "On behalf of the Korean American community, the Korean American Association of Greater New York (KAAGNY) strongly condemns the senseless brutal beating of a South Korean diplomat near Koreatown in New York City."

Jo-Ann Yoo, Executive Director of the Asian American Federation, said: "It's been 2 years since the

attacks against our community started and the violence shows no signs of stopping. For the last 2 years, our community has seen a 361% increase in anti-Asian hate attacks, according to the NYPD. For the past 2 years, the Asian American Federation has sounded the alarm and begged our City to work with us to find solutions. The response has been slow or met with silence. We need support and funding to create safe zones, to teach our community ways to keep safe. We need funding to create a public education campaign to fight the plague of violence that is growing like a cancer on our city. What is happening in our community is NOT a blip in history that will go away by ignoring it. We ask the City to step up to save our communities from this never-ending violence. "

Jehae Fischer, Executive Director at the Korean American Family Service Center, said: "As we are an organization that has been serving Asian immigrant communities for the last 33 years,

these ongoing senseless acts of hate hit too close to home. KAFSC stands alongside our allies in the ongoing fight for racial justice and equality. While we speak out against continued and unwarranted attacks on members of our community, our hope is to draw upon our community's shared experiences, expertise, and energy to support one another in the continuation of our — not just today, this week or this year, but every day going forward, together. We all must stand in solidarity to seek justice and collectively be united to end racism and discrimination in our communities."

John Park, Community Leader, said: "This random attack against a Korean man on 5th Avenue is only the latest act of brutal violence against our community. Korean, Asian, and all immigrant New Yorkers deserve to feel safe in their city. We must stop prioritizing the well-being and freedom of violent individuals over the physical safety of innocent New Yorkers."

Rep. Maloney Joins Queensbridge Residents' Association Leadership and Gun Safety Reform Advocates to Discuss Legislative Plan to Combat Gun Violence

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12) joined Queensbridge Residents' Association Leadership and gun safety reform advocates at Queensbridge Houses to discuss her legislative plan to combat gun violence, including the introduction of her Preventing Pretrial Gun Purchases Act.

The Preventing Pretrial Gun Purchases Act would amend federal gun laws to help ensure that the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) denies gun sales to any person subject to a pretrial release order from a court that prohibits the person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving guns.

The Act follows a legislative package of five gun safety reform bills that Rep. Maloney introduced last year, which includes The Gun Trafficking and Crime Prevention Act, The Gun Show Loophole Closing Act, The NICS Review Act, The Firearm Risk Protection Act, and The Handgun Trigger Safety Act. On January 28, she joined Senator Gillibrand to re-introduce the Hadiya Pendleton and Nyasia Pryear-Yard Gun Trafficking and Crime Prevention Act, which makes firearms trafficking a federal offense and imposes stronger penalties for "straw purchasers" who buy guns for convicted felons and others who are prohibited from buying guns on their own.

"If guns made us safer, we would be the safest country in the world, but in 2021, the second-highest year on record for gun sales, New York, and cities across the United States broke all-time homicide records. This year we've already seen over 4,300 gun violence deaths. We have the power to make our communities safe and we have the power to do it NOW," said Rep. Maloney. "Last year, I introduced a legislative package of gun safety reform bills to ad-

dress this growing crisis. Today, I am introducing new gun safety legislation, the Preventing Pretrial Gun Purchases Act, that honors the victims of gun violence with action by keeping guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them in the first place. My bill would close this loophole, and work hand-in-hand with my other gun safety bills by stopping the purchases of guns by people who have been legally ordered not to have them, strengthening the background check system, and providing more resources to states to fight trafficking rings that fuel the deadly cycle of gun violence."

"We have to find solutions. These guns are not in our community because we go out to the store and buy them. The Government has to help and all collective representatives have to stop these guns from coming into our community. We need to trade guns for real opportunity like training and counseling programs in jails so when people are reentering into society, they can be productive for their communities- confronting things in real time, creating more training for people in communities so they know how to de-escalate violence, programs in school, better food in our communities so families can learn to eat healthier, and expanded hours for community centers so older youth use them, summer jobs that turn into real jobs, NYCHA becoming more involved with community leaders. We have to become one unified voice to heal our community and our city," said Stephanie Chauncey, Queensbridge Residents' Association leadership.

"Too often, gaps in federal law enable people to obtain firearms even when they shouldn't have them. The Preventing Pretrial Gun Purchases Act will close a vital loophole that enables people to pass a NICS background check

even when they are prohibited from possessing guns by a pretrial release court order. We thank Congresswoman Maloney for her work to ensure that guns are kept out of dangerous people's hands," said Adzi Vokhiwa, Federal Affairs Director at Giffords.

"I will be in NY to join Representative Maloney and others who spend every day working to reduce gun violence in all of our communities. Trust me, I understand gun violence. This coming Monday February 14th will be 4 years since my daughter Jaime was murdered in the Parkland school shooting. The facts are that until we all agree that we must take action that makes it more difficult for those who intend harm to gain access to guns and ammunition that they so easily acquire now, and until we all agree that we need to invest in our communities, we will not be safe. Reducing gun violence is NOT a 2A conversation. Any conversation about saving life is a public health issue and reducing gun violence is a public health emergency," said Fred Guttenberg, gun safety advocate.

"On behalf of Brady New York, I am grateful to Congresswoman Maloney for her steadfast support of gun violence prevention. Her package of bills will help address rising crime and gun violence rates in New York and nationwide by targeting gun traffickers and closing loopholes that allow firearms to fall into the hands of prohibited purchasers. These are common-sense solutions that will save lives," said Patrick Gadson, member of Brady New York's Regional Leadership Council.

"Gun violence is a public health crisis in our nation. Nearly 45,000 Americans were killed by guns in 2021, the highest number of gun

(Continued on page 10)

Council Member Julie Won And Council Land Use Chair Salamanca Tour District 26 to Partner to Ensure Responsible Development

(Continued from page 7)

the time to walk the streets of our neighborhoods. He witnessed first hand the needs of our district and the richness of each corner that makes Astoria and Anabel Basin what it is today. We look forward to a strong partnership that will create equity and dignified, affordable housing in our communities."

"Having approved over 7,000 units of 100% affordable housing in my district, I firmly believe in responsible, pro-community

driven development," stated Council Member Rafael Salamanca, 17th Council District, The Bronx." "As Chair of the Committee on Land Use, I value my role in helping my colleagues negotiate projects in their districts that truly speaks to the needs of their communities. To understand the needs of a community is to experience the local vibrancy and culture firsthand. I thank Council Member Won for inviting me to her district, and look forward to working with her in the immediate future."

MTA Announces Launch of Secure Bike Storage Pilot at Grand Central Terminal

(Continued from page 7)

expect that this pilot will be hugely popular and hope it expands to many more transit hubs and neighborhoods across the five boroughs and the MTA region."

The pilot features the debut of the six-space secure bike parking pod known as Oonee's Mini. Use of the pod will require a reservation through membership with Oonee, which will allow users to unlock a private space inside the pod using a keycard or smartphone. Reservations will be offered on a first come, first serve basis. Oonee memberships are free to the public and anyone can register on Oonee's website.

The storage pod installation and maintenance were handled by Oonee. Through their customer support, Oonee Care, Oonee will handle the upkeep of the storage pod and respond to any customer service needs. The pod will have a free air pump with both Presta and Schrader valves, hydraulic sliding doors for easy access to pod, automated closing doors, and insurance coverage for both bike and scooter owners.

For current information on taking your bike on MTA subways, buses and commuter rail, visit new.mta.info/guide/bikes.

About Oonee

Oonee began when founder Shabazz Stuart realized that secure parking for bicycles was critical for convenient and reliable mobility in cities. Despite this obvious need, and the growing number of cyclists on the street, there was no solution available for smart, attractive, secure bike parking structures.

After more than a year of meeting with urban planners, cyclists, transportation advocates, public space managers, and real estate developers, it became clear that any impactful solution would require a completely new, fresh approach. Stuart and co-founder J. Manuel Mansylla realized the need for a kind of nimble streetscape infrastructure that could provide parking options for bikes and scooters, but also would be capable of enhancing the surrounding public space environment.

Each customizable Oonee pod features bike parking on the inside and public space amenities on the exterior. For sponsors and institutions, the easy-to-install pods offer an unlimited array of branding opportunities. For cyclists, Oonee offers affordable, secure bike parking, and finally, a solution that works.

Senate Majority Advances Legislation to Improve Teacher Diversity in NY Schools

(Continued from page 3)

among educators in New York, and devise strategies to promote better diversity going forward.

- The Underrepresented Teachers of Tomorrow Program: This legislation, Senate Bill S.342, sponsored by Senator Roxanne Persaud, establishes the underrepresented teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program, which would provide awards designed to attract and retain educators from underrepresented demographics.

- The Bilingual Teachers of Tomorrow Program: This legislation,

Senate Bill S.5433, sponsored by Senator Kevin Parker, establishes the bilingual teachers of tomorrow teacher recruitment and retention program to attract and retain bilingual, certified teachers in areas of greatest need.

Diversity and Empowerment Convention: This legislation, Senate Bill S.1984, sponsored by Senator Robert Jackson, will direct the commissioner to convene statewide and regional conventions to bring together underrepresented educators annually to discuss experiences and best practices, as well as allow for networking, mentorship opportunities, and support.



March 1 Deadline to Upgrade to the Enhanced STAR Property Tax Exemption

For seniors turning 65 this year, the deadline to apply in most localities is March 1

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance today reminded seniors that, for most localities, the deadline to apply for greater property tax savings through the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption is March 1.

To be eligible for the 2022 Enhanced STAR property tax exemption, seniors must:

- currently receive the Basic STAR property tax exemption;
- have one owner of the property who will be at least 65 years of age by December 31, 2022; and
- have had 2020 income equal to or below \$92,000.

“We want every eligible

senior to receive the increased property tax benefit,” said Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller. “To help ensure that seniors don’t miss out on this valuable benefit, we recently sent letters to 27,000 seniors who may be eligible for additional savings.”

Eligible seniors should apply to their assessor’s office by the application due date, which is March 1 in most towns and some cities, but there are exceptions. Seniors should verify their exact due date with their local assessor.

To apply, seniors must provide the following to the assessor:

- Form RP-425-E, Application for Enhanced STAR Exemption
- Form RP-425-IVP, Supplement to Form RP-425-E
- Proof of income: 2020

New York State or federal income tax forms. (If the senior wasn’t required to file an income tax return, the assessor can guide them on how to provide proof of income.)

In 2021, 577,000 seniors received a total of more than \$800 million in savings from the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption.

Seniors who receive the STAR credit instead of the STAR exemption don’t need to apply or take any other action. The Tax Department will automatically upgrade them to Enhanced STAR if they qualify.

For more information

- STAR Resource Center
- Seniors with questions about the STAR exemption can contact the Tax Department’s STAR Hotline from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays: 518-457-2036.

Protect Yourself From a Bad Tax Preparer: Review The Recently Enhanced Consumer Bill of Rights

Tax preparers must now display taxpayers’ rights and meet other standards to ensure ethical service to customers

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance today announced that the Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers has been bolstered to better protect the public from dishonest tax preparers who prey on unsuspecting New Yorkers.

“While most tax return preparers are honest professionals, some take advantage of their position of trust and access to sensitive information to scam customers out of their hard-earned money,” said Acting Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Amanda Hiller. “Before hiring a tax preparer, I urge taxpayers to take steps to protect themselves, such as by making sure their preparer follows ethical practices and recently enhanced rules of conduct.”

Tax return preparers must:

- post their New York State Tax Preparer Registration Certificate and price list;
- tell you up front whether they will represent you if your return is audited later;
- ask you about your income, expenses, family, and

any other information or documents needed to accurately complete your return;

- allow you to review your completed return – including your bank account information – and ask questions before you sign it;
- give you a written statement of any interest and fees you will be charged if you choose a refund anticipation loan (refund advance) or a refund anticipation check (refund transfer) instead of having your refund deposited directly into your bank account;
- sign your tax return and enter the preparer tax identification number (PTIN) and New York tax preparer identification number (NYTPRN), if applicable;
- e-File your tax return;
- give you a year-round address and phone number you can use if you have questions or concerns about your return; and
- provide you with a copy of your filed return.

If your tax preparer does not follow these requirements, you may file a complaint with the Office of Professional Responsibility at www.tax.ny.gov (search: tax preparer complaint).

Tax return preparers must also:

- post Publication 135.1, Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers; and
- provide you with a free copy of this pamphlet Publication 135, Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers, or the New York City Consumer Bill of Rights, prior to any discussions.

Tax Department investigators will be conducting compliance checks throughout the personal income tax filing season, which is currently underway, to ensure tax preparers are following these requirements. Tax preparers who fail to do so will be subject to fines and the potential suspension of their tax preparer registration.

Verify your tax return preparer’s credentials

Certain tax return preparers must register annually with the Tax Department and post copies of their current Registration Certificate.

To confirm your tax return preparer’s credentials, see Verify your tax return preparer or facilitator.

File a complaint - If your tax preparer does not comply with the requirements in the Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers, you can file a complaint online with the department’s Office of Professional Responsibility.

Tax Warrants Now Searchable on The NYS Tax Department Website

New online tool provides easy access to tax warrants and the tax debt owed

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance today announced the availability of a new search tool on its website to ease access to information about open tax warrants.

By making this already public information more easily accessible, news media, researchers, and others who may be interested now have more efficient access to the latest balances owed by tax debtors.

“We are continually striving to enhance the way in which we interact with

taxpayers, the news media, and all New Yorkers,” said Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller. “This new search tool, which can be used by anyone at any time to access public information, is another step in our effort to improve the taxpayer experience.”

The New York State Tax Warrants search tool is available 24/7 and doesn’t require a log-in or account to access. It’s updated regularly to provide current warrant balances, which was previously unavailable online and could only be obtained through an official request to the Tax Department Public Information Office.

This new search feature provides access to data on open tax warrants only. When a tax debt is paid in full, the warrant is satisfied and no longer accessible using the search tool. For information on a satisfied warrant, visit the New York State Department of State’s Tax Warrant Notice System. The Tax Department files a tax warrant with the appropriate county clerk and the NYS Department of State when a taxpayer with fixed and final tax debt fails to resolve it.

For more information visit <https://www.tax.ny.gov/enforcement/collections/tax-warrants.htm>

Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, Assembly Colleagues, And Transit And Environmental Advocates Urge Governor Hochul to Flip Gas Tax to Increase MTA Funding, Freeze Fares, And Improve Service

As a New York state budget hearing on transit was underway, Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, along with New York City-based colleagues Assemblymembers Burgos, Epstein, Gallagher, and Septimo, and New York City’s leading progressive transit and environmental organizations, called on Governor Hochul to increase MTA funding and freeze public transit fares in the Executive Budget.

During the Budget Hearing on Transportation, Assemblymember González-Rojas called on the Governor to add upwards of \$500 million annually to the MTA coffers by flipping the gas tax so that the MTA could receive two-thirds of the revenue, and roads and highways could receive the other third. The Assemblymembers stated that this could fund more expedient subway and bus service and implement a fare freeze for up to five years. When she questioned MTA Chair Janno Lieber about the MTA’s stance on this proposal he did not voice opposition. Riders Alliance, Transportation

Alternatives, StreetsPAC, Straphangers Campaign, New York League of Conservation Voters, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, Friends of the BQX, New York Communities for Change, NYC-DSA Ecosocialists, and Sunrise NYC voiced their support for the aforementioned changes to the budget in their own letter to the Governor this morning, and the Assemblymember echoes their urgent call.

With an influx of federal infrastructure funding, New York State has an opportunity to become a leader in equitable public transportation policy that centers environmental justice. For too many residents of the 34th Assembly District, and residents of lower-income neighborhoods in Queens and the Bronx, the city’s buses and subways are still inaccessible. González-Rojas is pleased to work alongside her Queens and Bronx colleagues, Assemblymembers Burgos, Epstein, Gallagher, and Septimo, and advocacy groups to request these necessary changes to the Executive Budget and hope to work with the Governor to get it done,” said Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas.

Quote:

“With an influx of federal infrastructure funding, New York State has an opportunity to become a leader in equitable public transportation policy that centers environmental justice. For too many residents of the 34th Assembly District, and residents of lower-income neighborhoods across the city, the subways and buses are still inaccessible. By reconfiguring the gas tax revenue, the MTA could have sufficient funding to freeze fare hikes at a time when New Yorkers are cash strapped and improve service so that Black and Brown New Yorkers can get to work more expediently. This investment is crucial to the city’s recovery. I’m pleased to work alongside my colleagues, Assemblymembers Burgos, Epstein, Gallagher, and Septimo, and advocacy groups to request these necessary changes to the Executive Budget and hope to work with the Governor to get it done,” said Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas.

“There is no true recovery for New Yorkers after these

(Continued on page 11)

Rep. Maloney Joins Queensbridge Residents’ Association Leadership and Gun Safety Reform Advocates to Discuss Legislative Plan to Combat Gun Violence

(Continued from page 9)

deaths in decades.”, said Po Murray, chairwoman of Newtown Action Alliance. “Congress can and must do more to close the dangerous loopholes in the nation’s background check system to prevent crimes and protect Americans in all our communities. We urge Congress to immediately pass Congresswoman Maloney’s bill to prevent offenders who were ordered by a court not to purchase or handle guns from acquiring guns,” said Po Murray, Chairwoman, Newtown Action Alliance & Newtown Action Alliance Foundation.

“Background checks are an essential tool for keeping firearms out of the hands of those who seek to harm themselves or others,” said Mark Barden, co-founder

and CEO of the Sandy Hook Promise Action Fund and father of Daniel, who was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. “However, loopholes in the current system make it possible for prohibited persons, including those barred from possessing firearms by a lawful court order, to gain access. This bill will strengthen our background check system by closing that loophole, bringing us one step closer to ensuring that no more families have to experience the horrific loss of a loved one to gun violence.”

“For too long, New York has been under siege from a constant influx of illegal guns trafficked into our city along the Iron Pipeline. The stresses of a two year pandemic have only increased the toll on our communities. True part-

nerships between community organizations and civic leadership are vital to protecting our neighborhoods and families from the onslaught,” said Jay Walker, Gays Against Guns.

Background

The Preventing Pretrial Gun Purchases Act:

- Amends federal gun laws to deny gun sales to any person subject to a pretrial release order from a court that prohibits the person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving guns;
- Prohibits any person from knowingly selling or disposing of a gun to these individuals; and
- Authorizes \$25 million dollars in additional funding each fiscal year to be made available to states to pay for timely and accurate reporting of pretrial orders involving firearms restrictions to NICS

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of REHUB LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/06/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7535 31st Avenue, Ste 202, East Elmhurst, NY 11370. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/13,20,27,2/3,10&17/2022

Notice of Formation of IY TING REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/19/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 41-50 Little Neck Pky, Little Neck, NY 11363. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/13,20,27,2/3,10&17/2022

Notice of Formation of STELLAR DISTRIBUTION LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/13/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 4307 Murray St, 1st Fl, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

Notice of formation of C & T REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed w. Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/4/2007. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C & T REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT, LLC., 39-14 103rd Street, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

Notice of Formation of VENTI LOGISTICS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/20/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Ryan Ct, Pooler, GA 31322. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24 &3/3/2022

WELO MANAGEMENT 86, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/24/2022. 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, 4 Incline Place, Aberdeen, NJ 07747. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

Notice of Formation of NYC CARE ADC0923 LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/06/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 120-30 196th Street, Saint Albans, NY 11412. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24 &3/3/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of 21 SOUNDBEACH DRIVE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/11/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 233-39 39th Avenue, Douglaston, NY 11363. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

1022 WYCKOFF AVENUE REALTY LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/14/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Gary Schoer, Esq., 6800 Jericho Turnpike Suite 108W, Syosset, NY 11791. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

BRM DESIGNS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/06/22. 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, 146-01 17th Avenue, Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

48-15 92ND STREET LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/13/22. Office in Queens Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 61 Pawnee Dr., Commack, NY 11725. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 48-15 92nd St., Elmhurst, NY 11373. 1/27,2/3,10,17,24&3/3/2022

59-49 54TH STREET, MASPETH LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/28/21. 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, 10 Melody Lane, Middletown, NJ 07748. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/20,27,2/3,10,17&24/2022

Notice of Formation of DJ TRST PRODUCTIONS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/24/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13909 84th Drive, Apt. 211, Briarwood, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/3,10,17,24,3/3&10/2022

Notice of Formation of KHAN GROUP USA LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 146-09 111th Avenue, 1st Floor, Jamaica, NY 11455. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/3,10,17,24 ,3/3&10/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

NIKKI MINDA MINDY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/02/21. 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, 13923 34th Ave, Apt 103, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/3,10,17,24 ,3/3&10/2022

Notice of Formation of 7 SEVEN LOVE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/12/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 39-15 Main Street, Suite 502, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

Notice of Formation of BLUEGRASS EQUITIES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/06/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 138-53 Jewel Ave., Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/13,20,27,2/3,10&17/2022

SOUTH MISSION STREET PARTNERS LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/27/2021. Office: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Ochs & Goldberg, LLP, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, Ste 747, NY, NY 10020. Purpose: any lawful act. 2/3,10,17,24,3/3&10/2022

Notice of Formation of REHAB RALLY, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/26/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 74-19 Calamus Cir, 1Fl, Elmhurst, NY 11373. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

Notice of Formation of HIGH DEFINITION HEALTH LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/12/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 80-15 Grenfell Street, F3, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

Chung Kim Development LLC filed w/ SSNY on 6/11/21. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 38-15 149th St., #3V, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022



LEGAL NOTICES

Prevail Physical Therapy, LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 12/3/2021. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Nick Hondros, 2818 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, NY 11105. General Purpose. 2/10,17,24,3/3,10&17/2022

Notice of Formation of BCPC LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/08/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 248-25 Northern Blvd, Ste 1J, Box 333, Little Neck, NY 11362. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, Assembly Colleagues, And Transit And Environmental . . .

(Continued from page 10)

difficult years—let alone a real plan to meet our urgent climate goals—without a safe, reliable and equitable MTA. I am so proud to join my Assembly colleagues in calling for \$500 million in annual support to freeze fares and ensure buses and subways arrive at every stop, every six minutes, everywhere in the city. This is how we're going to get our city back up and running," said Assemblymember Emily Gallagher

"Millions of riders need

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of JPKREATIONS & EVENT RENTALS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/03/2021. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 171-15 144th Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

KC DECOR LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/14/22. 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, 35-54 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of EXCLUSIVE PIECES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/06/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 253-15 148th Drive, Rosedale, NY 11422. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

ALJD 119 REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/18/22. 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, 22-17 119th St, College Point, NY 11356. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/17,24,3/3,10,17&24/2022

Governor Hochul to run more buses and trains and freeze the fare in this year's budget," said Riders Alliance Lead Organizer Mayra Aldás-Deckert. "Stopping the fare hike for at least five years and delivering service every six minutes will make the city more equitable, fight climate change, and bring back riders to transit. Not only can New York afford to do this, we can't afford not to make this investment in our future."

"Meeting the needs of today's workforce means providing frequent and efficient

transit service all day, seven days a week, especially in the outer boroughs and suburbs," said Renae Reynolds, Executive Director of Tri-State Transportation Campaign. "Riders should be able to show up at a stop and be confident that the next train or bus is coming soon, without needing to consult a schedule. Providing this level of service is essential for multimodal integration, allowing for convenient and seamless transfers, which maximizes the ability to replace car trips with mass transit trips."

Assemblyman Braunstein, NYPD and NYC Parks Announce Crackdown on Loud Car Meetups at Bay Terrace Park

(Continued from page 6)

as well as the NYC Parks Department for their role in acquiring the necessary infrastructure."

"Since the introduction of locking up Little Bay Park parking lot, the 109th Precinct has received fewer complaints through 311, in meetings, emails, phone calls, and in person," said Deputy

Inspector John O'Connell, Commanding Officer of the 109th Precinct. "The 109th Precinct also has requested some wooden barriers to be dropped off at the parking lot to help thwart further entry during night-time hours. We also asked our Neighborhood Coordination Officers and Sector Patrol Officers to do routine directed patrols in the park."

"The safety of Queens communities is always our top priority," said NYC Parks Queens Borough Commissioner Michael Dockett. "Working together with Assemblyman Braunstein and our partners in the 109th Precinct, we are proud to have found a long term solution to ensure that this space continues to be a benefit to the community, and not a detriment."



Human Trafficking Prevention



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz recently sat down with Mary Murphy of PIX11 News to discuss the efforts of this Office to combat human trafficking in our Borough. Although this illegal and degrading industry is a serious issue on a global scale, it is also unfortunately happening right here in our backyards.

If you or anyone you know may be a victim of trafficking or commercial exploitation, or if you need information, or would like to be connected to social, legal, or immigration services, we want to help. For more information, call 718.286.6548 or email HumanTrafficking@queensda.org.

United Against Hate



The Queens Jewish Community Council provides invaluable services for those in need throughout our Borough, regardless of religion, race or creed.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz was grateful for the opportunity to come together with legislators and community leaders this week for the QJCC annual legislative breakfast. During the program, we re-affirmed our commitment to stand united against acts of hate and anti-Semitism.

God Bless America

Italian American Journal

GIA

To read GIA online in English and Italian
Visit www.giamondo.com
718-592-2196

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



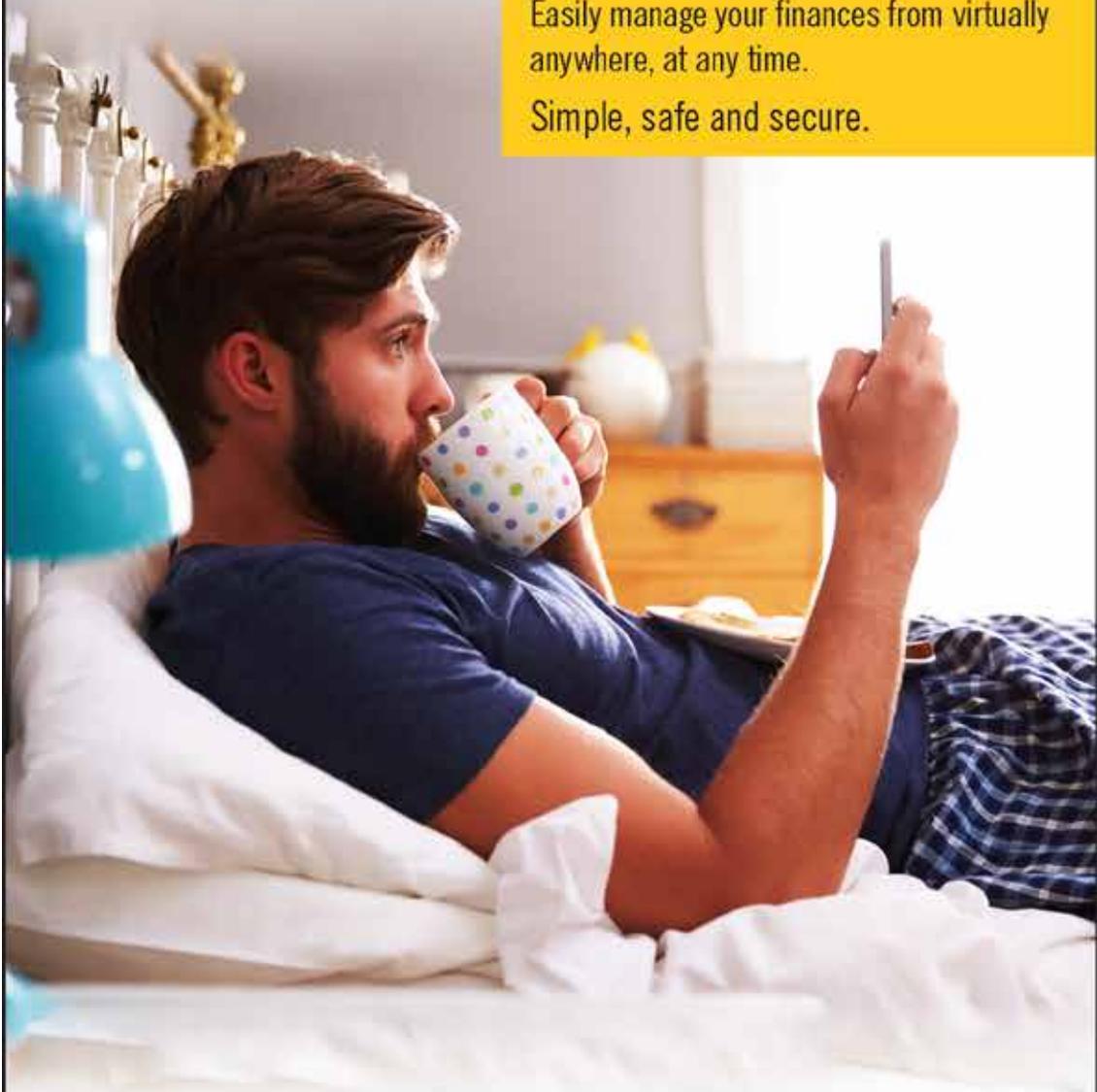
BANK FROM THE CONVENIENCE OF YOUR HOME



NYCB Mobile, Online Banking & Bank by Phone

Easily manage your finances from virtually anywhere, at any time.

Simple, safe and secure.



myNYCB.com • (877) 786-6560



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



© 2022 New York Community Bank

THANK YOU
Health Care Workers
EVERYWHERE