

QUEENS TIMES

Published for the Borough of Queens

VOLUME 28, NO. 8

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

25 CENTS

Local Sales Tax Collections Grew by Over 9% in January Compared to Last Year

Local sales tax collections in New York state increased by 9.2% in January compared to the same month in 2022, according to an analysis released by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. Overall, local collections totaled \$1.89 billion, up \$159 million compared to the same time last year.

“As we head into a new year, local sales tax growth remains quite strong,” DiNapoli said. “Consumer spending and a strong labor market have buoyed sales tax growth even as prices remain elevated. Local governments should budget cautiously as this growth may level off sooner than they expect.”

New York City’s collections totaled \$844 million, an increase of 8.8%, or \$68 million, over January of 2022. Every county experienced some year-over-year growth in January collections, with Delaware County seeing the largest increase at 26%, followed by Schenectady and Cayuga counties at 24.1% and 20.6%, respectively. Onondaga County had the lowest growth at 0.6%.

Monthly sales tax distributions made to counties and tax-imposing cities are based on estimates by the state Department of Taxation and Finance. In the third month of each calendar year quarter, these distributions are adjusted upward or downward, so that the quarter as a whole reflects reported sales by vendors. The next quarterly numbers (for January to March) will be available in April. DiNapoli’s most recent annual report covered the October-December quarter and calendar year 2022.

The Topping-Out Ceremony at DeNiro’s Wildfire Studios in Astoria



The construction workers are with, wearing white safety helmets, (l to r) Queens Borough President Donovan Richards; Adam Gordon, Managing Partner of Wildfire Studios-Meadow Partners; NYC Mayor Eric Adams; and Anne Del Castillo, Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment. The “Christmas Tree” that is pictured behind them is affixed to the last girder that was raised at the ceremony. The tree symbolizes the fact that there was no fatality at the site during construction. Photo by Walter Karling

Ronald McDonald House Charities Gets Special Gift From Flushing Girl Scout Troop



Pictured is Girl Scout Troop 4212 at the New Hyde Park Ronald McDonald House Great Room, Photo by RMHC NY Metro. See story on page 2.

Congresswoman Grace Meng Recognized For \$2.2 Million in Federal Funding



Funding will support internships and expanded curriculum at the Business School, as well as critical renovations to Kupferberg Center for the Arts’ Colden Auditorium, the borough’s largest year-round performing arts venue See story on page 2.

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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.

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Congresswoman Grace Meng Recognized For \$2.2 Million in Federal Funding

(Continued from page 1)

Queens College President Frank H. Wu hosted Congresswoman Grace Meng, New York's senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, at a Wednesday, February 15, noon event in the Faculty and Staff Lounge of the Student Union Building, recognizing her efforts on behalf of the college through which more than \$2 million in federal funds were allocated to benefit its School of Business and Colden Auditorium of the Kupferberg Center for the Arts (KCA).

"We are enormously pleased to celebrate this generous support, secured thanks to the outstanding efforts of Congresswoman Grace Meng," said Wu. "Through her incredible hard work and dedication, Colden Auditorium—which benefits both Queens College and the larger community we serve—will be made more accessible, affordable, and modern. The funds allocated to Queens College's Small Business Development Initiative will strengthen partnerships between our recently established School of Business and local small businesses—as we keep in mind that it was Congresswoman Meng who obtained the original support to establish the college's Small Business Development Center."

Meng secured \$1,465,856 for a Small Business Development Initiative in which the Business School will partner with the college's Small Business Develop-

ment Center (SBDC). Goals of the collaboration include strengthening partnerships between the recently established Business School and local companies by providing internship opportunities with those companies, expanding the college's curriculum as part of the small business management certificate program, and encouraging employees of local small businesses to enhance their career growth by pursuing a Queens College degree.

The \$750,000 that Meng secured for Colden Auditorium will enable KCA to remain competitive in a post-COVID world—where in-person hybrid programs are now the norm—by funding high-quality audiovisual production and live streaming capability. The funding will also make possible the upgrade, replacement, and installation of new technical production systems so that they are compatible with theatrical industry standards, ensuring technical and safety compliance. These improvements will further the mission of the "Colden for Queens" program, designed to meet the needs of a larger and more diverse demographic, as well as Queens-based firms that promote popular performers from overseas.

"After securing nearly \$2 million last year for Queens College's WETLAB, I'm proud to once again deliver another big check to the school, this one for more than \$2.2 million for

building partnerships with local small businesses and renovating Colden Auditorium," said Meng. "Queens College is an outstanding institution. It does an exceptional job serving our borough and preparing students for their futures. These crucial funds will help local small businesses grow while providing students with opportunities for hands-on experience in the business world. This money will also ensure that Colden Auditorium has the tools it needs to better serve Queens residents. As New York's senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, I'm thrilled to fight for Queens College, and I look forward to these projects benefiting the college and borough residents for years to come."

Other speakers were Kate Pechenkina, dean of the Schools of Social Science and Business; Jon Yanofsky, director, Kupferberg Center for the Arts; Rebecca Oppenheimer, student, Queens College School of Business; and Tulani Browne, alumna who graduated in 2018 with a BA in Drama, Theatre, and Dance and currently works at Colden Auditorium while pursuing an MFA in acting at CUNY's Brooklyn College.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Wu and Meng unveiled an oversized check from Meng representing the full funding amount. Wu, Meng, Yanofsky, Pechenkina, Oppenheimer, and Browne were photographed with the check.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Gets Special Gift From Flushing Girl Scout Troop

(Continued from page 1)

Girl Scout Troop 4212, based in Flushing, NY, recently assembled more than 150 comfort bags with inspirational messages for families with sick children to be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) NY Metro Family Room at Stony Brook Children's Hospital, which provides a respite room for families with sick or injured children.

The bags were dropped off at the Ronald McDonald House in

New Hyde Park.

"This was an incredibly selfless gesture of kindness and love, coming right on the heels of Valentine's Day," said Matt Campo, CEO of RMHC NYM. "We're so grateful for this genuine expression of love from these Girls Scouts."

The Family Room is a 900 sq. ft. room equipped with a kitchen area, laundry facility and shower, all to keep families close to their ill children in the hospital. Volunteers serve beverages and snacks

for when families need a little lift or are hungry after a long day. Moms and dads who can't bear to leave the child's bedside can use laundry and shower facilities, open 24 hours a day.

The room is staffed by volunteers from Nassau and Suffolk County. The room was the first at Stony Brook Hospital, originally opened in 2013, and rejoins a sister Family Room opened in 2022 in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the main hospital building.

Meng, Malliotakis And Goldman Seek Visa For Mother of The Victim Killed By U-Haul Truck in Brooklyn

YiJie Ye was fatally struck in the rampage; visa will allow his mother to travel to NYC to attend his funeral

U.S. Reps. Grace Meng (D-Queens), Nicole Malliotakis (R-Brooklyn/Staten Island) and Dan Goldman (D-Brooklyn/Manhattan) announced today that they are seeking to help secure a visa for the mother of YiJie Ye, the victim who was struck and killed by a U-Haul truck that plowed through the streets of Brooklyn last week.

The three Congressmembers will be working with the United States Embassy in Guangzhou, China to help obtain the visa for

ShuiYing Jiang so that she can travel to New York from China to help plan and attend her son's funeral, and be with Ye's three children (her grandchildren) at this difficult time. A date for the funeral has not yet been set.

The 44-year-old Ye was a single father who left China for New York approximately two decades ago. His mother continued to reside in China when he came to the U.S.

"My heart aches for YiJie Ye's loved ones and the horrific and heinous manner in which he was killed," said Meng. "His family is devastated, and we will be here for them to help facilitate this visa

and assist them further in any way we can. We hope all New Yorkers will keep them, and everybody impacted by this terrible incident, in their thoughts and prayers."

"YiJie Ye's death last week was a horrific tragedy and Representatives Meng, Malliotakis and I will do whatever it takes to ensure his mother can come to her son's funeral," said Goldman. "As a father, my heart goes out to ShuiYing Jiang and all the loved ones of the other New Yorkers who were victims of this attack."

The mother's visa application is for a non-immigrant visa to travel to the U.S. from her home in Fuzhou, China.

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Published every week by C.T. Publishing Corp.
Executive Office: 102-54 Nicolls Avenue, Corona Heights, NY 11368
Operations: 11-20 154th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357
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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

NY City Council Votes to Pass Council Member Linda Lee's Resolution to Require New York City to Establish Diwali as Official School Holiday

New York City Council voted to pass Council Member Linda Lee's Resolution 164 to call upon the New York City Department of Education to establish Diwali as an official holiday for New York City public school students.

"In recognition of the 1.1 million Asian American Pacific Islanders who call New York City home, it is my honor and privilege to pass Resolution 164 to require New York City Schools to recognize Diwali as a holiday," said Council Member Linda Lee, Vice Co-Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus. "We cannot fully appreciate the great diversity of culture and beauty of our City when one-fifth of our public school students are ultimately forced to make a painful choice between attending school and celebrating their traditions at home with family. It is my hope that this resolution will allow children to partake in their celebrations in ways that previous generations of South Asian and Indo-Caribbean New Yorkers could not. I am thankful to Speaker Adams, Education Chair Rita Joseph, and my colleagues for supporting New York City's vibrant AAPI community."

"I thank the entire New York City Council for supporting our historic bill creating the Diwali school holiday in New York City. After over 20 years of advocacy, the time has come to recognize over 200,000 New Yorkers of the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist faiths. Thank you to Speaker Adrienne Adams for her leadership and Councilwoman Linda Lee for passing this resolution. The support of the City Council will add to the overwhelming momentum

from New Yorkers of every background to pass A628 this year. Our Councilmembers have sent the message today that we see and celebrate New York City's South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities, and we will afford them the accommodations we give to everyone in our diverse City," said Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar.

Diwali, commonly known as the Festival of Lights, is an immensely significant five-day festival across South Asia that signifies the triumph of light over darkness, and good over evil. There is a diversity of the many practices of Diwali amongst the South Asian community. Hindus in certain regions of India celebrate Diwali as the New Year, while Sikh Diwali coincides with Bandi Chhor Divas, the revered sixth Guru who was released from captivity. For Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha or liberation, and Buddhists celebrate Diwali to commemorate the day King Ashok converted to Buddhism. New York City has previously acknowledged the significance of Diwali by suspending alternate-side parking rules on Lakshmi Puja, the third day of the holiday.

Resolution 0164 calls on the New York City Department of Education (DOE) to establish Diwali as an official holiday for public school students, a holiday celebrated by approximately one-fifth of the total school population. According to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey, there were about 227,374 New York City residents who identify themselves as Asian Indian, of which many are adherents of

Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, or Buddhism. Currently, Chancellor's Regulation A-630, puts forth guidelines regarding the provision of reasonable accommodations for religious observance and practices for public school students. These accommodations include excused absences for religious observance outside of school grounds, as well as in-school provisions such as time for praying or sitting separately in the cafeteria during periods in which a student may fast. Despite these regulations and the large population of students celebrating, Diwali has still not been recognized as a school holiday, leaving parents and advocates across the city concerned that students who celebrate are left at a disadvantage to their peers when choosing between honoring the holiday and attending class.

This resolution complements the legislation on the state level that will repeal Anniversary Day, and allow Diwali to be dedicated as a school holiday. These bills were introduced by Senator Joseph Addabbo and Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, the first South Asian-American woman ever elected to state office in New York.

Over the past 3 years, the AAPI community witnessed a rise in harassment and violence, with a 361 percent increase noted from early 2020 to December 2021 in New York City alone. This reality has permeated a sense of fear throughout the entire AAPI community. The acknowledgment of Diwali as a school holiday will serve as a way to celebrate and educate others about the great diversity of faith and culture in New York City.

Statewide Crackdown Nets Multiple Arrests & Jail Time for Bad Tax Preparers

State tax investigators conducted undercover operations and analyzed refund audits to uncover illegal filings

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance has announced the results of a recent statewide crackdown on bad tax preparers.

Three preparers were charged with filing fraudulent returns. A fourth preparer was sentenced to jail time for preparing returns on behalf of others without registering with the Tax Department. Another preparer pleaded guilty to failing to file his own tax returns and pay the proper amount owed to New York State.

"Our investigators and fraud-prevention teams aggressively pursue unethical tax preparers who take advantage of their clients or otherwise flout the law for personal gain," said Acting Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Amanda Hiller. "We will continue to work with all levels of law enforcement to bring these preparers to justice."

Erie County CPA admits to crime relating to his failure to file his own tax returns for three consecutive years

James Hughes, 60, of Williamsville, NY, a CPA, on February 7, 2023, was convicted of attempted failure to file his own personal tax returns for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018. He was arrested for not filing those returns. Hughes made full restitution to New York State.

Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn said, "Falsifying or failing to submit your personal income tax returns is a crime. Not only will you be prosecuted, but you will be required to pay restitution. Thank you to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for working alongside my office on this investigation."

Tax preparer violates probation, sentenced to eight months in jail
Raul Martinez, owner of Apollo Tax located at 170 Dyckman St., New York, NY, was recently sentenced to eight months in jail for violating his probation related to previous tax crimes.

In November 2021, Martinez was convicted of multiple felonies including criminal tax fraud, grand larceny, and filing fictitious returns. As part of his plea agreement, he was barred from preparing returns for anyone other than himself, which he ultimately violated on numerous occasions in subsequent years.

Three downstate preparers arrested, accused of filing bogus returns

On January 26, 2023, Sergey Yassiyevich, age 65, was arrested at his tax preparation business located at 421 Brighton Beach Ave., Brooklyn. Yassiyevich, acting as a ghost tax return preparer, is alleged to have prepared multiple tax returns that contained false information during an undercover operation that occurred in May of 2022.

A ghost tax return preparer is someone who does not sign tax returns they prepare as required. Ghost preparers often claim false dependents or claim fake or inflated deductions to boost the size of a refund. Some ghost preparers may even direct those refunds into their own bank account, and not the taxpayer's.

Yassiyevich is charged with offering a false instrument for filing as well as criminal tax fraud, both felonies.

Another downstate tax preparer, Jesus Abinader, 41, was arrested on February 7, 2023. He's charged with grand larceny, scheme to defraud, and offering a false instrument for filing.

Tax Department investigators have accused Abinader of filing fraudulent tax returns for clients with inflated expenses out of his tax preparation business, AB Multiservices and Income Tax, located at 182 Sherman Ave., New York, NY.

Another preparer, Joseph Clay, 49, of Suffern, NY was arrested on January 30, 2023. He's accused of filing returns with bogus Individual Retirement Account (IRA) deductions at Prime Tax & Professional Services, LLC, located at 73 Market St., Ste. 376, Yonkers, NY.

During an undercover operation in April of 2022, Clay allegedly prepared tax returns for tax years 2019 and 2021 with fictitious deductions. He's charged with two counts of offering a false instrument for filing and two counts of criminal tax fraud.

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.

Also see the department's Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers webpage.

File a complaint
If you feel your tax preparer is not meeting their obligations, you can file a complaint online with the Tax Department's Office of Professional Responsibility.

Attorney General James And Multistate Coalition Support CVS And Walgreens For Offering Medication Abortion

23 Attorneys General Assure CVS and Walgreens that Offering Medication Abortion in their Pharmacies is Legal

New York Attorney General Letitia James and a coalition of 23 attorneys general sent a letter to CVS and Walgreens supporting their decision to offer mifepristone and misoprostol, often referred to as medication abortion, in their pharmacies after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted their certification. After CVS and Walgreens announced their decision to offer mifepristone and misoprostol at their pharmacies, a group of anti-abortion states wrote a letter to the companies warning of legal repercussions if the pharmacies attempt to dispense the medications by mail. Mifepristone and misoprostol were approved by the FDA more than 20 years ago and are widely used for abortion care and to treat other health issues, such as miscarriages and gastric ulcers. In today's letter, the attorneys general emphasize that making these essential medications available at pharmacies and by mail is safe and legal.

"Increasing access to safe and affordable reproductive healthcare is critically important to the health and wellbeing of millions of people across the country," said Attorney General James. "The evidence is clear: medication abortion is safe and effective, and decades of clinical research back that up. Pharmacies that offer this life-saving medication have the full support of my office. We will continue to defend reproductive rights and protect efforts to expand access to reproductive care."

In today's letter, 23 attorneys general assured CVS and Walgreens that the companies' decision to dispense mifepristone and misoprostol is on solid legal footing and supported by over 100 years of legal precedent.

Specifically, the letter highlights:

- Mifepristone and misoprostol are safe, effective, and reliable medications. The anti-abortion states' claim that "abortion pills are far riskier than surgical abortion" has been proven utterly false over and over again in numerous scientific studies.
- Restricting access to medication abortion jeopardizes pa-

tients' health, safety, and wellbeing, often forcing them to delay their care or seek abortions through unsafe means. By contrast, ensuring access to medication abortion as early as possible lowers the risk of complications.

- Having the option to use medication abortion empowers people to make the personal and confidential choice of which method of abortion is better for them based on factors including cost, accessibility, medical history, age, and a desire to avoid surgery. Many pregnant people choose medical over surgical abortion because it can offer a more private and flexible option.

- Increased access to reproductive care is especially important for communities underserved by the healthcare system, including people of color, low-income people, people with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and people living in rural areas, who face the greatest barriers to getting the care they need in a timely and safe manner.

Attorney General James has been a national leader in protecting access to reproductive

(Continued on page 10)

Department of Labor Announces Lawful Absence Protections Now in Effect

The New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL) reminds New Yorkers that a new law is in effect that reiterates New York State's commitment to protecting workers who take legally protected absences from work. The law, signed in November by Governor Kathy Hochul, clarifies that it is illegal for employers to threaten, penalize, discriminate, or retaliate against employees for

using absences protected under federal, state, or local law, including time off covered by New York State Paid Family Leave and New York State Paid Sick Leave.

Under the new law, employers are specifically prohibited from assigning or deducting points under an absence control policy for using legally protected absences,

(Continued on page 11)

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

For seniors turning 65 any time this year, the deadline to apply in most localities is March 1. The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance has 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 to upgrade to the 2023 Enhanced STAR property tax exemption, seniors must:

1. currently receive the Basic STAR property tax exemption;
2. have one owner of the property who will be at least 65 years of age by December 31, 2023; and
3. have had 2021 income equal to or below \$93,200.

“The Enhanced STAR ex-

emption provides significant property tax relief to more than a half million seniors,” said Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller. “It is important for seniors who become eligible this year to apply by the deadline to receive 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:

1. Form RP-425-E, Application for Enhanced STAR Exemption
2. Form RP-425-IVP, Supplement to Form RP-425-E
3. Proof of income: 2021 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 2022, 568,000 seniors received a total of nearly \$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

1. STAR Resource Center
2. 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.

NYC Council Votes to Expedite Phasing Out Fuel Oil Grade No. 4 in Boilers Across The City

Resulting in Cleaner Air, Especially in Environmental Justice Communities

Council also expanded domestic violence victim protections for economic abuse, co-named street for former Council Member Al Vann with 128 other street co-namings

The New York City Council ushered through legislation that would accelerate the phasing out of oil grade No. 4 in boilers. This legislation will create cleaner air and reduce negative health outcomes by expediting the phasing out of the most harmful type of heating oil still used in city buildings. The clean air and health benefits will be especially felt in environmental justice communities, where more than half of all buildings and schools currently use the hazardous oil.

The Council also passed several pieces of legislation to expand domestic violence victim protections to include economic abuse victims; co-name 129 city streets, including one for former Council Member Al Vann; and extend a moratorium on violations issued to business owners who have non-compliant signs that depict their businesses and extend an assistance program to correct signage issues.

“As our city takes steps to protect our environment, we must ensure that Environmental Justice communities benefit,” said Speaker Adrienne Adams. “The Council’s legislation to fast-track the phasing out of harmful fuel no. 4 oil represents a significant and meaningful step that will save lives and protect the health of residents in communities of color. As a Council, we will continue to enact smart, green policies that support all New Yorkers, particularly those who have historically borne the brunt of environmental hazards.”

Committee on Environmental Protection - Introduction 470-A, sponsored by Council Member James Gennaro, would accelerate the timeline for prohibiting the use of oil grade no. 4 in boilers across the city. No. 4 fuel oil is the most polluting fuel oil still

being used in the city and would be banned for use in city owned buildings after July 1, 2025, and for all other boilers after July 1, 2027. This will result in cleaner air that will prevent an estimated 16 premature deaths and save approximately \$130 million in city-wide health spending per year.

“Fuel No. 4 is the most polluting type of heating oil still being used in New York City. Annually, No. 4 heating oil adds about 120,000 pounds of lung-damaging fine particulate matter into the air. It also contains 100 times more sulfur than fuel No. 2, and sulfur oxides are among the most dangerous pollutants regulated by the Federal Clean Air Act. Removing these harmful emissions will prevent deaths, lifelong respiratory illnesses, and emergency room visits for asthma attacks every year,” said Council Member James Gennaro. “Fuel No. 4 also contributes a whopping 9,200 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. That is the equivalent of an additional 2,000 cars on the roads, spewing toxins into the air. I urge all my colleagues in Council to support this legislation, which will improve air quality for future generations to come.”

Committee on Civil and Human Rights - Introduction 148-A, co-sponsored by Council Member Justin Brannan, would amend the definition of “victim of domestic violence” in the New York City Human Rights Law to recognize economic abuse as a form of domestic violence. It would extend the existing protections against discrimination for victims of domestic violence to people who have experienced economic abuse. This would include behavior that controls, obstructs, or interferes with a person’s ability to use or maintain economic resources that they are entitled to or to acquire economic resources, including by coercion, deception, fraud or manipulation.

“New Yorkers should take pride in our history of standing up for survivors of domestic violence. Survivors often need support to get out of these abusive and sometimes violent situations and sustainably reclaim their lives,” said Council Member Jus-

tin Brannan. “I’m proud to help expand the existing protections to survivors of economic and financial abuse. Economic abuse has always been a quiet and insidious form of domestic violence, even if government has historically missed the memo. This type of abuse occurs in almost every abusive relationship and is the number one reason victims stay in or return to abusive relationships. Now our laws, protections, and programs can catch up to what’s actually going on in so many of these situations.”

Committee on Parks and Recreation - Introduction 897 is an omnibus bill co-naming 129 city streets, thoroughfares and public places, in honor of extraordinary individuals and communities based on the requests of Council Members whose districts include the location. The full list is available here.

Committee on Housing and Buildings - Introduction 886, sponsored by Majority Leader Keith Powers, would extend a moratorium on violations issued to owners who have non-compliant signs that depict their businesses and extend a Department of Buildings assistance program to correct signage issues.

“As the son of a small business owner, I know how hard they work to keep their doors open. This legislation is a simple but important step the city can take to protect small businesses from unexpected fines at a time when they need it the most,” said Majority Leader Keith Powers.

Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations - Resolution 474, co-sponsored by Council Members Amanda Fariás and Shahana Hanif, recognizes February 21 as Mother Language Day in the City of New York to honor the importance of the Bengali/Bangla language to Bangladeshis everywhere and to promote the acceptance of linguistic and cultural diversity in our communities.

“I am very proud to have been able to pass Resolution 474, for New York City to formally rec-

Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Releases Immigrant Resource Road Map in Over 50 Languages

Commissioner Manuel Castro of the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) released a newly designed immigrant resource roadmap in 52 languages. The roadmap includes a list of city resources and protected rights for all New Yorkers regardless of their immigration status.

“Every language is filled with a rich culture,” said Commissioner Castro. “New York City would not be the incredible city it is without the 400+ languages spoken in our five boroughs. As we observe International Mother Language Day, our office celebrates the city’s diversity by ensuring communities can access information and connect with their city in their own language.”

On February 21, 1952, students in Bangladesh began the Language Movement for the right to speak, learn, and govern in their

native language. Since then, International Mother Language Day (IMLD) became a national holiday that is observed to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. A mother language is the first language that someone speaks.

Language access is essential to the health, safety, recovery, and resiliency of our communities. Every New Yorker has a right to speak and engage with New York City in their language, protected by Local Law 30.

On this International Mother Language Day, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs affirms celebrates the linguistic diversity of New York City – where more than 400 languages are spoken. New Yorkers can access the immigrant resource roadmap by visiting www.nyc.gov/immigrantresources.

Queens Together Launches Eats in Queens Restaurant Month in March

More than 150 eateries signed on to support this unique Donate & Dine Program, benefiting food relief and restaurants throughout the World’s Borough of Queens

Queens Together is proud to announce that more than 150 restaurants—from Astoria to the Rockaways and points in between—have signed on to the first ever Eats in Queens Restaurant Month, which will take place throughout March and offer people from the borough and beyond a chance to experience the diversely delicious restaurants of Queens with discounts from participating eateries while raising funds for food relief throughout borough.

The lineup encompasses the diversity of the World’s Borough, from the fiery Caribbean Chinese fare of The Nest in Richmond Hill to pub grub from the historic Neir’s Tavern in Woodhaven to rising stars like Isaan Thai powerhouse Zaab Zaab in Elmhurst, West African eatery Nneji in Astoria, and Mexican tamale shop Evelia’s in Corona. A full list of the participants may be found here. Thus far the New York Mets, The NYC Hospitality Alliance, Equinor, Ponce Bank, and Hydro Quebec have signed on as sponsors.

“We saw an opportunity to promote the vibrant Queens culinary scene, raise funds for vital food relief and reward donors”,

said Jonathan Forgash, executive director of Queens Together. “We can all do good, eat good and feel good during this first of its kind Queens donate and dine program in March.”

People can enroll here by donating \$25 or more to enjoy unlimited use of the Eats in Queens discount starting March 1st.

About Queens Together - Queens Together, a department of the Queens Economic Development Corp., was established by Jonathan Forgash in March 2020 when Covid-19 shut down the restaurant, and is a 501C3 organization with a mission to improve the health and vitality of the diverse multicultural restaurants and food businesses unique to Queens, New York. It partners with community organizations to support business and alleviate food insecurity in the borough. The organization is the only non-profit created to connect

Queens restaurants and food businesses with resources, advocacy, promotion, and community. Together they are creating one voice to represent, empower and support their business community.

This March marks three years since Queens Together was created to empower restaurants and support our communities. During it has helped hundreds of restaurants and fed over 300,000 people impacted by the this time, pandemic.

Statement From Speaker Adams on DC37’s Tentative Agreement



“I extend my congratulations to DC37 and its over 100,000 members on reaching a new tentative agreement with the City. Our municipal workforce is the foundation of what keeps our city running and helps us persevere through the difficulties of living during a global pandemic. This City must always stand by its workers in order for us to succeed in the face of any challenges.”

(Continued on page 9)

Queens Times Weekly ...
HOROSCOPE 
 For the Week of ... 2/23/23 - 3/1/23

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. Your 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?

- Jamaica has 120 rivers
- a cats urine glows under a blacklight
- white cats with blue eyes are usually deaf
- cats have a peripheral vision of 285 degrees
- small dogs usually live longer than larger breeds
- domestic cats dislike citrus scents
- cats can jump up to 7 times their tail length
- China manufacturers 70% of the worlds toys
- The Great Wall of China is approximately 6,430 Km long (3,995 miles)
- paper originated from China
- the wheelbarrow is invented in China
- tree hugging is forbidden in china
- the film 'Mary Poppins' was filmed entirely indoors
- all of the clocks in the movie 'Pulp Fiction' are fixed to 4:20
- instant coffee was invented in 1901
- the human body of a 70 kg person contains 0.2mg of gold
- rice is the staple food for 50% of the worlds population
- Pearls melt in vinegar
- a hard boiled eggs spin (uncooked or soft boiled don't)
- there is no butter in buttermilk

I ♥ QUEENS
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"

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

"Try And Find"

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

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		
14						15					16					
17						18					19					
20						21					22					
						23					24					
25	26	27	28			29				30						
31						32				33			34	35	36	
37										38						
39								40		41						
						42				43			44			
45	46	47						48				49				
50								51					52	53	54	55
56								57				58				
59								60				61				
62								63				64				

ACROSS

- Discomfit
- Anagram of "Stag"
- Act presumptuously
- Farm
- A bushy hairdo
- Greek goddess of discord
- Portion
- Fleece
- Pub serving
- Slanders
- Being
- Outward
- Contemptuous look
- Light source
- Changed
- In a genial manner
- Back up
- Ancient Persian governor
- Superficiality
- Bombarded
- Sympathy
- Criminal
- River to the North Sea
- Mothers
- Chisel
- "Smallest" particle
- Full of twists and turns
- The central part
- Adriatic resort
- Leg bone
- Any minute
- Completed
- Rewrites
- Departed
- Lady's escort
- Adjust again

DOWN

- Celestial bear
- Buddies
- Short cut
- Behold, in old Rome
- Not here
- In an implied manner
- Financially solvent
- Emery wheel
- Soaks (up)
- Reliance
- Come up
- Washer cycle
- Aromatic compound
- Surgeon's tool
- Days in a week
- Young woman
- Asian nurse
- Small amount
- British legislature
- Spin
- Orbs
- Bobbin
- Belgrade native
- Sea eagle
- Mislead
- Garage alternative
- Yard of a house
- Colorful parrot
- Make amends
- Dolt
- Go inside
- Trudge
- Ocean motion
- Nile bird
- Anagram of "Tine"
- Where the sun rises

TRY AND FIND

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 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 H
 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 |



Project: Champlain Hudson Power Express Clean Energy, Clean Clothes

Last week, Council Member Tiffany Caban joined Queens Borough President Donovan Richards to celebrate the launch of a brand new program that combines ecological sustainability, racial and economic equity, and support for a local small business all in one.

Thanks to local CBO Zone 126's partnership with local small business 14th Laundry and sponsorship from clean energy project Champlain Hudson Power Express, thirty families in Astoria and Long Island City won't have to worry about their kids' laundry expenses for the next year!

For some families, not having clean clothes persistently leads to students missing school. With all the stressors that come along with economic precarity, kids from low-income communities already have too much on their plate, without having to worry about laundry as well.

The fact that this laundry services, free to the families who will benefit from it, will be oper-



ated by a local laundry, powered by renewable energy, makes this a beautiful model of the sorts of programs we should be investing in much more comprehensively, in the interest of equity, public safety, and the healthiest New York City we can possibly build.

Happy Birthday Domenica



After celebrating Sunday's Italian Mass at St Leo RC Church, 104-05 49th Avenue, Corona, NY 11368 a few of the parishioners joined Rev. Pablo Ruani at Our Backyard Café Bakery at Mama's where Leo baked a Birthday cake for Domenica. Domenica is pictured with the cake surrounded by parishioners (l to r) Alba, Darlena, Irene, Pasquale, Tommy, Birthday Girl Domenica, Ft. Pablo, Jim, Clorinda and Carmella.

Stop & Shop to Hold One-Day Career Fair at All New York City Stores

On-the-Spot Interviews Available for All Store Roles, Shifts, and Departments

CM Paladino Visits Bayside High School to Discuss BioDome Greenhouse Project

Recently, CM Paladino invited to visit Bayside High School to discuss their BioDome Greenhouse project. The greenhouse would be a free-standing, glass-encased, environmental center which will support the school's Environmental Engineering & Technology Program providing hands-on experience for students and green design components reinforcing engineering and sustainability applications.

The Center will additionally benefit communities outside of Bayside High School by providing student internships, professional development opportunities for the community and educational personnel, and hands-on learning activities for over fifty local community organizations that use Bayside High School's facilities. I'm grateful to be a part of this project and I'm looking forward to its completion.

CM Paladino said "I am proud to have funded 300k through my office and 1.2 million in collaboration with Speaker Adams for the BioDome Greenhouse project. This capital project is now fully funded and the design looks fabulous.



Steve Cohen Releases Community Feedback From First Series of Listening Sessions

98% of Participants Want To Build Something Great vs Keeping 50 Acres of Asphalt

Steve Cohen and his team released the findings from the first series of listening sessions that brought together over 1000+ members of the community on how best to re-imagine the 50 acres of asphalt around Citi Field. Through these collaborative listening sessions, Cohen and his team have collected thousands of points of feedback and have started to piece together the community's hopes and concerns when it comes to improving this area.



(Continued on page 10)

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NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens Receives Donation From International Lion's Club

NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens has received a generous donation of a Welch Allyn RetinaVue 700 retinal camera which will benefit the hospital's diabetic patients. The retinal camera will enable a retinopathy specialist to conduct a five-minute screening, with the results analyzed and the patient referred to an ophthalmologist. These patients will also receive a report including specific images of the eye, as well as a recommended plan of action.

In southeast Queens neighborhoods regularly served by Queens Hospital --- including Jamaica, Hollis, South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill --- diabetes and its accompanying conditions are a frequent occurrence. But 95 percent of vision loss due to diabetic retinopathy can be prevented through early detection,



which the new retinal camera will accomplish.

The International Lion's Club is a nonprofit humanitarian organization that gives valuable time and resources toward improving communities throughout the world. They boast some 50,000

clubs worldwide, with chapters in more than 200 countries. The chapter based in Richmond Hill-Ozone Park has established a partnership with Queens Hospital to tackle the ongoing challenges posed by diabetes, specifically with respect to vision loss.

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic Welcomes St. John's University Students to Albany

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D, WF-Fresh Meadows) welcomed St. John's University students to Albany and introduced them on the floor of the Assembly Chamber during Student Aid Alliance Advocacy Day. Rozic met with undergraduate students who came to Albany to advocate for various educational funding programs and further investments in Student Education Opportunity Programs. St. John's University is a new addition to the 25th Assembly District which Rozic now represents.



Pictured is Assemblywoman Rozic with Brian Browne, the Associate Vice President of University Communications & Public Affairs at St. John's University, and undergraduate students.

Resorts World Employees Come Together to Help Community Members With Winter Coat Drive

"During these cold and grey winter months, our employees answered the call to step in and help brighten the day for families and individuals in need," said Michelle Stoddart, Vice President of Community Development, Resorts World New York City. "We are grateful to them for making it possible to assist those who might be struggling."

The coats collected from RWNYC will be distributed to shelters in Southeast Queens, while the coats donated by RWC employees will go to the Hudson Valley's most vulnerable populations.

"When companies such as Resorts World Catskills want to make a difference in Dutchess and Orange counties, we're more than happy to step in and help them achieve those goals," said Rebecca Lull, Director of Community Impact, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. "By working together, we can make an impact in these community members' lives and ensure they don't go without."

"We're thankful to Resorts World and their employees for their generosity," said Julian Dawson, Chief Professional Officer, United Way of Sullivan County.



Matthew Anatalio, Community Development Manager, RWNYC; Lisa Trotman, Founder, Sisterhood of Destiny; Stephanie Yeh, Community Development Specialist, RWNYC; Courtney Heyward, Community Development Specialist, RWNYC

(Continued on page 9)



I AM PAC Resolution Gains Momentum in New York

Italian-American Political Action Committee Wants UN's August 9th as Indigenous People's Day - Columbus Day Remains It's Own Day in October
By Truby Chiaviello



Touted the largest political action committee for Italian Americans is I AM PAC.

Based in Whitestone, New York, Italian-American Political Action Committee had considerable impact in last year's congressional elections. Not just supporting candidates, however, I AM PAC now leverages its resources to retain Columbus Day as the exclusive holiday celebrated in New York and elsewhere on the second Monday in October.

I AM PAC is a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, as led by Judge Basil M. Russo. The political action committee president, James Lisa, vice president, Robert Fonti and board member, Joseph Scelsa, Ph.D., were present at a recent meeting convened by the Columbus Heritage Coalition in Manhattan. They updated members about their proposed resolution for the state of New York to adopt August 9th, as declared by the United Nations, as Indigenous People's Day. By doing so, Columbus Day will have no interference as a celebration of the heritage and customs of

Italian Americans.

"The Italian American PAC (I AM PAC) has taken declaring the United Nation's August 9, Indigenous People's Day not only to the NYS level but to the Federal level," claimed the organization's leaders. "I AM PAC has been and is still meeting with members of the Italian American Caucus in Washington and with the NYS Italian American Caucus in Albany. I AM PAC is gaining great support and is very optimistic in achieving our goal having both Federal and State recognize and join the United Nations in declaring August 9, Indigenous People's Day."

Leaders of other ethnic groups have been contacted by I AM PAC for purposes of gaining allies to ensure October is for Columbus Day and August is for Indigenous People's Day.

Complimenti I AM PAC! Continua cosi!

Editor's Note: Updates on efforts by I AM PAC are available on the organization's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IAMPACNY/>

Pandemic Practices Working Group Calls For Expanded Access



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz was honored to be appointed to the Commission

to Reimagine the Future of New York's Courts' Pandemic Working

(Continued on page 10)

IT'S IN QUEENS

It's In Queens! (Feb. 17 to Feb. 23)

Black History Month-inspired concerts, films, and dances are part of this final week of February. Other options include blind dates, zines, owls, and vintage police officers.

- Feb. 24, Soul Men: The Music of Marvin Gaye, Otis Redding, and More, 8 pm. Vocalist Billy Cliff leads the audience through a fun and funky mix of cinema and soul music. Expect songs from Isaac Hayes' composition for "Shaft," Curtis Mayfield's soundtrack for "Super Fly," and Marvin Gaye's score for "Trouble Man." Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.
- Feb. 24, From Italy With Love, 8 pm. International vocalist Elena Camerin provides romantic songs to this Bayside Historical Society event. The Castle, 208 Totten Ave., Fort Totten, Bayside.

- Feb. 24, Blind Date: Who's Behind the Curtain?, 7 pm. A blind date game show mixed with a party animated by Spin Diva Fiona Walsh. New York Irish Center, 10-40 Jackson Ave., Long Island City.
- Feb. 24, The Cliffs, 8 pm. This versatile, eight-piece cover band mixes high energy and down-to-earth fun. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Feb. 25, Queens Zine Fest, noon. Comic book artists, makers of art ephemera (stickers, buttons, cards, etc), and writers of graphic novels and children's books do their thing at three locations: Everyone Comics, 41-26 27th St., Long Island City; Astoria Bookshop, 31-29 31st St., Astoria; and Sunnyside Arts, 45-18 Skillman Ave., Sunnyside.

- Feb. 25, Flushing Freedom Mile Walking Tour, 11 am. Parks Department Ranger Sgt. Matt O'Keeffe takes the group to 13 historical sites, including Bowne House, Lewis Latimer House Museum, and Flushing High School, while explaining their connection to the Underground Railroad and/or freedom in general. Start at the Daniel Carter Beard Mall at the intersection of Northern Boulevard and Linden Place.

- Feb. 25, Black History Month Film Festival, Feb. 26. The Afrikan Poetry Theatre's annual film festival celebrates the achievements of local Black directors, writers, and producers. It includes two short film programs, a feature presentation, and panel discussions. Events are Feb. 25 at 3 pm and Feb. 26 at 2 pm. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Feb. 25, Exhibitions Tour, 3:30 pm. A knowledgeable guide leads a free tour of the current exhibitions Xaviera Simmons: Crisis Makes a Book Club and Charisse Pearlina Weston: of [a] tomorrow: lighter than air, stronger than whiskey, cheaper than dust. Queens Museum, NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 25, Winter Bird Walk: Owl Prowl, 11 am. An experienced birder and naturalist leads a stroll



through Alley Pond Park in search of owls. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Feb. 25, Sedalia to Harlem: A Celebration of Black History, 7:30 pm. Maestro David Close, who co-founded Musica Reginae, guides the audience through African-American music, art, and culture with Jazz, Opera, and Spiritual gems. The Church-in-the-Gardens, 50 Ascan Ave., Forest Hills.

- Feb. 25, Kofago Dance Ensemble, 7 pm. Celebrate Black History Month with West African dance. Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Ave.

- Feb. 25, Family Fun Fair, noon. The Bayside Historical Society hosts a nostalgic day of family-themed music, crafts, and games (that don't require a computer). The Castle, 208 Totten Ave., Fort Totten, Bayside.

- Feb. 25, Jazz and Mardi Gras, 4 pm. A concert dedicated to locally buried Jazz greats Tony "Spargo" Sbarbaro and Clarence Profit with a reception in the gallery where "A Whimsical Stroll Through the Architecture of New Orleans" is on view. Maple Grove Cemetery, enter the gate at Kew Gardens Road and 129th Street.

- Feb. 25, The Cole Collective, 3 pm. This Queens-based tap dance group performs and informs. Queens Library Laurelton, 134-26 225th St.

- Feb. 26, Beauty of Ballet, 1 pm + 3 pm. The School of American Ballet offers excerpts from famous works such as "The Sleeping Beauty," "Swan Lake," and "The Nutcracker." Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Feb. 26, The NYPD In Queens, 2:30 pm. Queens native Robert L. Bryan, a retired NYPD Captain, discusses his writing and research on Queens police history prior to the borough's consolidation into New York City in 1898. Queens Historical Society, Kingsland Homestead, 143-35 37th Ave., Flushing.

- Feb. 26, Mini-Global Mashup: Argentina Meets France, 1 pm. Argentine bassist and composer Pablo Aslan is a leading figure in traditional and contemporary Tango. Julien Labro is a foremost accordion and bandoneón player in the Classical and Jazz genres. Eléonore Weill has enjoyed a versatile career performing early, classical and contemporary music, Klezmer and Yiddish song, Romanian folk music, Occitan folk music, and various other genres on wooden flutes, piano, and vocals. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35

Northern Blvd.

- Feb. 26, Forest Hills Chamber Music Series, 2 pm. This series highlights Jewish composers by pairing their works with 18th and 19th century masterworks of the same instrumentation. This concert features cello, two violins, and viola for pieces by Haydn, Schulhoff, and Dvorak. The Reform Temple of Forest Hills, 71-11 112th St.

- Feb. 26, Twilight Concert, 4:30 pm. Con Brio Ensemble members perform Mozart, Debussy, and Dvorak. The Church-in-the-Gardens, 50 Ascan Ave., Forest Hills.

- Feb. 26, Winter Tree ID Hike, 11 am. Urban Park Rangers lead an exploration of Flushing Meadows Corona Park's trees, plants, and wildlife. Meet at Mauro Playground, 73-02 Park Dr. E.

- Feb. 26, Restorative Yoga and Meditation Morning, 10 am. Sam from Yogadventures facilitates gentle vinyasa and meditation. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Feb. 27, By The Grace of the Game: The Holocaust, A Basketball Legacy, and an Unprecedented American Dream, 7 pm. Dan Grunfeld discusses his book on his family's escape from anti-Semitism in Europe to the United States where members achieved basketball success, fame, and wealth. Part of the Commonpoint Queens Cultural Arts Speaker Series, the talk is via Zoom.

- Feb. 28, Naming Gotham: Villains, Rogues, and Heroes Behind New York's Place Names, 7 pm. Rebecca Bratspies talks about her book on the villains, rogues, and heroes whose names are part of NYC geography during this online event organized by the Greater Astoria Historical Society.

- Feb. 28, Evening of Fine Food, 6:30 pm. Restaurants from around the borough – including Bourbon Street, Marbella, and Austin's Ale House – offer samples of their specialties, while Jim Altamore croons Frank Sinatra tunes during this fundraiser for Queens Centers for Progress. Terrace on the Park, 52-11 111st St., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- March 2, Pre-Purim Concert Celebration, 8:30 pm. Chazak presents the New York Boys Choir, Yoni Z, and Dovid Pearlman. These Jewish performers dazzle with their vocals, choreography, and personalities under the direction of producer, composer, and songwriter Yitzy Bald. Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations Ave. S., Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

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Advocates Rally With Legislators; Descend on Capitol to Demand Full Funding For The MTA

A broad alliance of elected representatives, community organizations, advocates, and MTA riders rallied at the Capitol in support of including funding for the “Fix the MTA” package in the state budget. Advocates, straphangers and elected representatives alike are calling on the one-house budgets to include funding to not only resolve the MTA’s fiscal crisis, but ensure improved service, without imposing fare hikes on working-class New Yorkers already stretched thin by the skyrocketing cost of living.

The “Formula Three” spending bill within the “Fix the MTA” package would fully fund the MTA and reject a fare hike to \$3, fund greater frequency for 6-minute service, and make buses free. The package also includes programmatic measures: to increase the agency’s accountability through better reporting; establish prudent and accurate budget measures; and boost efficiency.

Governor Hochul’s executive budget does not provide the funding necessary to avoid a fare hike to \$3, and provides no funding for the service that MTA riders deserve.

Over 50 advocates and MTA riders joined Assembly Member Zohran K. Mamdani, NYS Senate Deputy Leader Gianaris, Senator Jessica Ramos, Senator Andrew Gounardes, Senator John Liu, Senator Jabari Brisport, Senator Natalia Fernandez, Senator Kristen Gonzalez, Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman, Assembly Member Juan Ardila, Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas, Assembly Member Amanda Septimo, Assembly Member Robert Carroll, Assembly Member Tony Simone, Assembly Member Michael Solages, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest, Assembly Member Chantel Jackson, Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes, Assembly Member Emily Gallagher, Assembly Member Sarahana Shrestha, Betsy Plum, Executive Director, Riders Alliance, Alfred Lynch Jr., a member of Riders Alliance and Lisa Daglian, Executive Director, Permanent Citizens Advisory to the MTA.

“This is the budget where we move beyond the bare minimum when it comes to the MTA. Dozens of my colleagues and I see this year as the one where we freeze the fair, fund frequency, and make buses free. Whether we speak to them on subway platforms or at bus stops, our constituents are clear that now is the time to break the Albany cycle of disinvestment and disinterest, and instead take critical steps towards creating a transit system that is affordable, reliable, and universally accessible,” said Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani.

“The MTA is on an express track towards fiscal calamity and it is imperative we intervene to save and improve the nation’s most important transit system,” said Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris. “Freezing fares, improving service and providing free bus service would be game-

changers that would set the tone for the rest of the country and put the MTA on solid footing for a better future.”

“Ridership on the 7 train, which runs the length of my district, remained relatively steady throughout the pandemic because of the essential workers who kept commuting and kept our city running. We should recognize their contributions with reliable service, not fare hikes. New Yorkers are already feeling the squeeze of rising prices. We can either muster the political will to fix the MTA, or we can take half measures at the expense of working families who rely on our public transit infrastructure,” said State Senator Jessica Ramos.

“Fixing the MTA is not just about repairing tracks and trains, it’s about restoring faith in the backbone of our city’s infrastructure and the millions of New Yorkers who rely on it every day. Access to reliable and affordable public transportation is not a luxury, it’s a necessity - and providing free bus service from suburban communities to the city is a crucial step towards ensuring equitable opportunities and a thriving local economy for all,” said Assembly Member Michael Solages.

“I’m proud to stand in support of the #FixtheMTA bill package. I am speaking up alongside other legislators, advocacy groups, and working people who rely on the MTA to demand real investments in our public services. Now, more than ever, we must revitalize our public transportation to build a future of sustainability and equality. In NY, the rich have abandoned our public transportation, but that doesn’t mean the burden of fare increases should rest on working-class communities like mine. We must increase the availability and affordability of the MTA and make our public services truly public,” said Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes.

“Governor Hochul owes millions of New York bus and subway riders a targeted investment in six minute or better service all day, every day,” said Riders Alliance Executive Director Betsy Plum. “More frequent public transit service will attract more riders, improve safety, enhance equity and is essential to both mitigating and adapting to climate change. In a state with a multibillion dollar surplus and money available to support industries from horse racing to Hollywood filmmaking, there’s no question that New York can afford the public transit service we need and deserve. With transit virtually defining our competitive edge, more frequent service is a policy change we can’t afford not to make.”

“Transit is the backbone of our region—an essential service—and it deserves to be funded as such,” said Lisa Daglian, Executive Director of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC). “An investment in better transit is an investment in a stronger city, state, and region. Riders need our state legislators and Governor to pass key aspects of the Fix the MTA

package—including funding the MTA, increasing and improving MTA transparency, and give a greater voice to rider representatives on the MTA Board—which together will help build the transit system riders deserve. We can’t afford to face exorbitant fare hikes or service cuts—the millions of riders who depend on transit every day need our state leaders to fix the MTA. We thank Assemblymember Mamdani and the Assembly and Senate co-sponsors for proposing legislation that would transform our transit system and the lives of riders.”

“New York currently has a surplus of over 8 billion dollars. There’s no reason why we can’t adequately fund the MTA and meet the Chair’s \$350 million ask to stave off another fare hike. I’m proud to have recently introduced a new bill as part of the “Fix the MTA” legislative package that would also help support the MTA’s overall fiscal health. The bill would allow certain tax revenue to go directly to the MTA without legislative appropriation. If enacted, the MTA would have more immediate access to much-needed funds, improve its credit, and prevent potential budget cuts in the future. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill this session and work together to help improve public transit without passing the buck to struggling New Yorkers,” said Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz said: “Mass transit is the lifeblood of New York, and our state budget should reflect the significant impact that it has on the wellbeing of all New Yorkers. The economic success of Bronxites and all working class New Yorkers is reliant on access to efficient, safe, and affordable buses and subways. Furthermore, beyond mere investments in mass transit, we must ensure that our transit authorities are spending this money with the best interest of riders in mind. Adding rider representation to the MTA Board would ensure that this valuable perspective is included in key decisions, and I’m proud to support the Fix the MTA package to enact systemic reform as well as paradigm-shifting investments in mass transit service for New Yorkers.”

“Transit is an irreplaceable public good that provides us access to our homes, our jobs, and the city around us. For the millions of working class New Yorkers who rely on our public transit, proposed fare hikes and long wait times are unacceptable,” said State Senator Julia Salazar. “I join my colleagues in urging the Governor to align the State’s investments with the needs of New Yorkers—and pass an executive budget that includes funding for the entire Fix the MTA package.”

State Senator John Liu said, “Hiking fares to cover for lagging ridership without addressing critical flaws like excessive wait times is counterintuitive for a mass transit system that is supposed to be accessible to all New Yorkers. This legislative package looks to

(Continued on page 10)

Resorts World Employees Come Together to Help Community Members With Winter Coat Drive (Continued from page 7)

“Their support is what helps us to care for the community and provide them with resources that can make a big difference.”

“When there is a need within our communities, we are grateful for dedicated businesses such as Resorts World New York City,” said Lisa Trotman, Founder, Sis-

terhood of Destiny. “We thank them for donating over 100 winter coats for families in need.”

If you would like to donate, visit United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region or United Way of Sullivan County. To give to Sisterhood of Destiny, visit their website.

NYC Council Votes to Expedite Phasing Out Fuel Oil Grade No. 4 in Boilers Across The City

(Continued from page 4)

ognize February 21st as Mother Language Day,” said Council Member Amanda Farias. “Honoring the Bangla language is of great importance to our Bengali and Bangladeshi communities in the Bronx and across New York City. Bangla is the native language of many of my neighbors in Parkchester, and as an Afro-Latina celebrating one’s language, culture, and history deeply resonates with me. It is something we all must continue to do to pass down mother languages to younger generations, and to fight the continued impact of colonialism on our communities.”

“As the first Bangladeshi City Council Member, I am thrilled to see today’s resolution commemorating Matri Bhasha Dibosh, Mother Language Day, pass. This is a victory for all Bangladeshi Americans, from Kensington to Los Angeles,” said Council Member Shahana Hanif. “This resolution is a bold statement from our City that we stand with the Bangladeshi community in our never-ending struggle for language justice. My community is strong and I am proud to represent them in the New York City Council to fight for our shared values.”

Resolution 486, sponsored by Council Member Althea Stevens, recognizes the accomplishments of and issues faced by Black women by designating February 15 annually as Black Girl Magic Day in the City of New York.

“The essence of Black Girl Magic shall be celebrated each and everyday, as black women surpass barriers and continuously exemplify excellence in all facets of life,” said Council Member Althea Stevens. “It is an honor to establish February 15th, annually as Black Girl Magic Day in the City of New York in recognition of the accomplishments and issues faced by Black Women. “This day will stand in symbolism as we uplift current & future generations of Black Girl Magic. Our stories, our journey, and our stride to success will no longer be silenced or overlooked. From this day on, Black Girl Magic will shine light to all women of color.”

Resolution 488, co-sponsored by Council Member Nantasha Williams and Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, recognizes the contributions of Delta Sigma Theta to public service by designating March 3 annually as Delta Day in the City of New

York.

“I’m thrilled to introduce Resolution No 488 alongside my Soror Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers with support from fellow Council Members Riley, Farias, and Krishnan,” said Council Member Nantasha Williams. “We are calling on the Council of the City of New York to recognize the contributions of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to public service by designating March 3, annually Delta Day in the City of New York. As a Delta this bill is very close to my heart. For the last 110 years our illustrious organization has made many contributions to the well-being of this city, state, and nation. This recognition is long over due!”

“I am proud to join my colleague and sorority sister. Councilwoman Williams to co-prime sponsor a resolution establishing Delta Day,” said Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers. “New York City is home to the first Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and I remain in awe by the amazing work our members do every day in their communities across this great City.”

Committee on Education - Resolution 164, sponsored by Council Member Linda Lee, calls on the Department of Education to establish Diwali as an official holiday for New York City public school students.

“In recognition of the 1.1 million Asian American Pacific Islanders who call New York City home, it is my honor and privilege to introduce Resolution 164 to require New York City Schools to recognize Diwali as a holiday,” said Council Member Linda Lee. “We cannot fully appreciate the great diversity of culture and beauty of our City when one-fifth of our public school students are ultimately forced to make a painful choice between attending school and celebrating their traditions at home with family. It is my hope that this resolution will allow children to partake in their celebrations in ways that previous generations of South Asian New Yorkers could not. I am thankful to Speaker Adams, Education Chair Rita Joseph, and my colleagues for supporting New York City’s vibrant AAPI community.”

Finance

The Council also passed the following: A transparency resolution approving new designations and changes of certain organizations receiving funding in the Expense Budget.

Advocates Rally With Legislators; Descend on Capitol to Demand Full Funding For The MTA

(Continued from page 9)

make a fiscally sound, accountable and efficient system that will fully fund the MTA, create reliability, and make buses free for all, as has already been achieved in major metropolitan areas like Washington D.C. Many thanks to Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani and our colleagues from both houses who recognize the urgency and necessity of this effort to improve transit and increase ridership.”

State Senator Kristen Gonzalez said, “New Yorkers shouldn’t settle for a transit system with

unaffordable fares and unreliable service. This package would take a transformative approach to America’s largest transit system, treating the mta like the public good that it is. Rejecting a fare hike, phasing in free buses, and implementing 6-minute service throughout the day would tangibly improve the lives of working-class New Yorkers. If the Governor is serious about her commitment to the MTA, she will make the investments necessary to guarantee reliable, affordable service for all New Yorkers.”

“The MTA’s impending fiscal cliff presents us with a fundamen-

tal choice. We could balance their budget on the backs of working class New Yorkers who rely on the buses and subways, while doing little to improve service and reliability. Or we could seize the moment to make transformative investments and create a system that’s beloved by every New Yorker, with dependable 6-minute service, frozen fares on the subway and free rides on the bus. It’s up to us in this year’s state budget,” said Assembly Member Emily Gallagher.

Learn more about the legislation and the campaign at fixthemta.org

Con Edison Customers Made 2022 Another Record Year For Solar Energy

Company’s Update Shows Region Also Made Great Strides In Energy Storage, Electric Vehicles and Clean Heat

Con Edison customers in 2022 made Greater New York a cleaner, healthier place to live and work by placing a record number of solar arrays on the roofs of their homes and businesses.

Those 9,600 solar projects have the capacity to produce 89 megawatts of clean electricity, enough to power the part of Lower Manhattan that includes the New York Stock Exchange, other important financial institutions, and high-rise business and residential buildings.

Con Edison customers in New York City and Westchester County have now completed 52,600 projects that have the capacity to produce more than 487 megawatts, or 487 million watts. (One megawatt is equal to 1 million watts.)

The solar numbers are impressive because until about 15 years ago, solar panels on a New York City or Westchester County roof were a rarity.

The information is available in Con Edison’s Clean Energy Update, which is a running account of the region’s progress toward a clean energy future. The company updates the information each quarter.

“Our customers recognize the unique opportunity New Yorkers have to lead in reducing carbon emissions, stymieing climate change and ensuring that the planet remains sustainable for future generations,” said Gregory Elcock, Con Edison’s vice president of Energy Efficiency and Distributed Resource Integration. “Our Clean Energy Update is a valuable resource for customers, policy makers and others who want to track our progress in lowering emissions and helping New York City and State meet their

environmental goals.”

The solar panels customers installed in 2022 are the equivalent of taking nearly 18,000 cars off the road in terms of greenhouse gas emissions avoided.

Con Edison wants to build on its success in helping customers complete solar projects by owning large-scale solar generation projects in the state. The company would like state approval for ownership of these projects because Con Edison can operate them more efficiently than private developers, meaning customers would save money.

Con Edison and its customers made gains in the adoption of other clean energy technologies in 2022, according to the update:

- The company’s PowerReady program incented 2,396 electric vehicle charging plugs. Those included 2,304 Level 2 plugs and 92 direct current fast chargers. Con Edison offers its PowerReady incentives in order to speed the region’s transition to electric vehicles.
- Con Edison’s Clean Heat program helped building owners install more than 11,500 air-source heat pump and 130 geothermal systems. These technologies provide electric heating during the winter and cooling during the summer without burning natural gas, oil or other fossil fuels.
- Customers installed 171 battery systems. Those systems can hold 6.3 megawatts of power. Customers with batteries charge them during times when demand is not at its highest and power is less expensive. Battery storage also pairs well with renewables.

Con Edison encourages its customers to consider whether solar energy is right for them and tries to make the interconnection process as easy and quick as possible.

Queens customers led the region in solar installations in 2022. Customers there completed 3,524

projects that have the capacity to produce 22.45 megawatts.

Westchester County was the leader in the amount of capacity installed. Customers there completed 1,461 projects with the capacity to produce 29.22 megawatts.

2022 Solar Additions in NYC and Westchester County		
Projects	Capacity (MW)	
Bronx	1,041	6.92
Brooklyn	2,016	12.21
Manhattan	57	1.55
Queens	3,524	22.45
Staten Island	1,525	16.96
Westchester County	1,461	29.22
Total	9,624	89.31

With the 2022 additions, Queens had the most installations at the end of the year, 17,378. Those panels have a capacity of 124.89 megawatts. Westchester County led in total capacity with 131.92 megawatts.

Total Solar Installations and Capacity in NYC and Westchester County		
Projects	Capacity (MW)	
Bronx	4,392	45.13
Brooklyn	9,499	73.63
Manhattan	382	9.57
Queens	17,378	124.89
Staten Island	11,056	102.18
Westchester County	9,909	131.92
Total	52,616	487.32

By generating their own electricity and using less fossil fuel-generated power, customers prevent greenhouse gas emissions.

Increasing the use of solar energy – and the other technologies covered in the Clean Energy Update – is consistent with Con Edison’s Clean Energy Commitment.

The company is seeking to build a grid that can deliver 100 percent clean energy by 2040. Con Edison is also moving away from natural gas. But the company continues to invest in its gas system to keep it safe while the transition away from fossil fuels continues.

Steve Cohen Releases Community Feedback From First Series of Listening Sessions

(Continued from page 6)

“Having spent hours with the community at these sessions, one thing is abundantly clear: everyone believes we can do better than 50 acres of parking lots,” said Steve Cohen. “We’re encouraged by what we have been hearing and will continue to host these sessions over the coming weeks to further inform our ultimate vision for the area.”

Across the first six sessions, participants often used words such as “empty,” “gloomy,” “underutilized,” and “desolate” when describing how they feel about the existing 50 acres of asphalt surrounding Citi Field. When prompted to express what they want to see in the future, there was a clear desire for an improved area that would feel “vibrant,” “welcoming,” “green,” and like a “destination.”

This was overwhelmingly evident when participants were presented with a clear choice for the space:

98% of participants want “to build something great” and only 2% of participants chose to “keep the 50 acres of asphalt.”

Building something great was defined by both the core values Cohen initially laid out for the project in addition to ideas that were raised in different listening sessions:

- Public Green Space
- Thousands of good paying jobs
- Queens Food Hall featuring local restaurants and vendors
- Improved public transit and parking infrastructure
- Space for community groups and local artists
- Community athletic fields
- New connections to waterfront and community
- Hotel with live music venue, gaming, and conference space

Overall there was broad support for each of the core values of the project and consensus that each would improve the area around Citi Field. Yet, community interest was greatest around these three key areas:

Creating good-paying local Jobs Throughout the community sessions, participants were asked what are the most important qualities that should be emphasized

when new jobs are created.

- A living wage and local hiring were nearly tied as the top two priorities
- This was closely followed by supporting locally owned businesses, with a specific emphasis on hiring minorities and women.
- Overall these three attributes were a priority for more than half of total participants across the visioning sessions.

Supporting Year-Round Entertainment Year-round entertainment is core to any vision for the area and will ultimately support the ability to deliver on good-paying local job opportunities.

Session participants showed interests in having live music performances, community events and restaurant and bar options.

Many specific ideas that were suggested included hosting the Flushing Meadows Soap Box Derby and a Louis Armstrong Jazz Festival.

The desire for restaurants and bar options, including a food hall with local vendors was echoed when participants were asked what would get them to come earlier or stay later at a ballgame.

Expanding and Improving Green Space

Parks and public space are essential for any community. Throughout the sessions, the community expressed a strong desire to create significant dedicated green space and parkland.

Open space was the highest-ranked feature when asked what would improve your day at the ballpark.

Interest in designated areas for recreational activities was frequently mentioned.

The report summarizes input heard from 1,000 + community members and fans across six sessions, conducted in 4 languages and with ideas and feedback submitted through more than 5,000+ dots placed and 800+ sticky notes.

These community listening sessions were first announced in December and have ranged from large-scale Citi Field sessions to smaller neighborhood-focused sessions. They have sought input through interactive boards, small group roundtable discussions and direct feedback.

Pandemic Practices Working Group Calls For Expanded Access

(Continued from page 7)

Group (PPWG) and to serve with judges and court administrators across the State. When courthouses closed during the pandemic, a shift to virtual proceedings, electronic filings and other technologies made it possible to keep the

justice system working. PPWG, after extensive research and state-wide information sessions, now recommends the continued use of virtual court proceedings and electronic filing options to improve access to the justice system and keep us prepared for future crises or emergencies.

Attorney General James And Multistate Coalition Support CVS And Walgreens For Offering Medication Abortion

(Continued from page 3)

healthcare. Last week, Attorney General James led a multistate coalition to defend and protect access to medication abortion in a court challenge that seeks to revoke FDA’s approval of mifepristone. Following the Supreme

Court’s decision to end Roe v. Wade, Attorney General James launched a pro bono legal hotline to provide legal support to patients and healthcare providers nationwide.

This letter to CVS and Walgreens was sent by the attorneys general of Arizona, California,

Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.



LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of MEHAR REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/2022. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 104-40 QUEENS BLVD APT 22 B, FOREST HILLS, NY, UNITED STATES, 11375. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HSU & ASSOCIATES LLP Certificate of Registration filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on January 30 2023. Office location: QUEENS County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLP served upon him/her is: 135-50 Roosevelt Avenue, Suite 201, Flushing, NY 11354 / Zack Hsu. The principal business address of the LLP is 135-50 Roosevelt Avenue, Suite 201, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

Notice of Formation of BREADBOX PICTURES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/13/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 57 Larkin Street, Staten Island, NY 10302. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

Square Street Capital Management, LLC Auth. filed w/ SSNY 11/17/22. Off. in Queens Co. Cert. of Form filed w/ SSDE 7/28/21. SSNY desig. as agt. of LLC whom process may be served & shall mail process to Zaiqing Zhu, 56-27 2nd St, Apt. 2803, Long Island City, NY 11101. The reg. agt. is Zaiqing Zhu at same address. Add. maintained in DE: 3500 S. Dupont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901. Name & add. of auth. officer in DE where Cert of Form filed: DE Sec. of State, Div. of Corp, 401 Federal St, Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Any lawful purpose. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

Notice of Formation of ROYALTY TRUCKERS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/12/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 448 Beach 65th Street, Avene, NY 11692. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023



LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of ERIC ONLINE, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13543 95th Street, Ozone Park, NY 11417. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice of Formation of KORALI 194 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 11/2/22. Office location: Queens County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail process to 72-08 243rd St, Douglaston, NY 11362. Purpose: any lawful activity. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

Notice of Formation of EUROPEAN ACCENTS STUDIOS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/28/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 31-19 37th Street, Apt 5B, Long Island City, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice of Formation of SSGM LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/10/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 84-12 265th Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

REDEFINE MEALS ROCK ASTORIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/23/23. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2850 Pond Road, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NAME: HONEYBEE GROUP FAMILY DAYCARE, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/20/2022. Office Location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o The Limited Liability Company, 440 BEACH 54th ST APT 2C, ARVERNE, NY, UNITED STATES, 11692. Principal business address: 440 Beach 54th St, ARVERNE, NY 11692. Purpose: Any lawful acts. 2/2,9,16,23,3/2&9/2023

LEGAL NOTICES

File No.: 2021-3432/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: NYC Human Resources Administration, Attorney General of the State of New York

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

A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Dominic Villoni, Esq.

Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Diane Bell, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of Rego Park Health Care, 112-26 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY 11368, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING:

Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Diane Bell, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 30th day of March, 2023 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$5,127.44 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A.

Notice of formation of SONG MEDICAL PLLC Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 5/5/2022. Office location: QUEENS. SSNY design. agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 3808 UNION ST UNIT 2A, FLUSHING, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of Samson Milwaukee LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/25/23. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Samson Management, 1180-5 Queens Blvd, Ste 1710, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

LEGAL NOTICES

§1106(3); and why the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$655,176.22 should not be partially paid to the extent of the net distributable estate Dated, Attested and Sealed 25th day of January, 2022 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County Janet Edwards Tucker Chief Clerk

GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200

Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR FOR YOU, AND YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REQUEST A COPY OF THE FULL ACCOUNT FROM THE PETITIONER OR PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY Accounting Citation Clare Warnock Gerard J. Sweeney, Esq. 1981 Marcus Avenue, Ste 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 PH: 718 459 9000 Direct Dial: 516 888 9433 FAX: 718 459 3163 2/2,9,16&23/2023

JLEMM 50th St, LLC filed w/ SSNY on 2/1/23. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 2565 34th St, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of NY IT SERVICE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/17/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 8150 102nd Road, Ozone Park, NY 11416. Purpose: any lawful activities. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023

Notice of formation of SONG MEDICAL PLLC Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 5/5/2022. Office location: QUEENS. SSNY design. agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 3808 UNION ST UNIT 2A, FLUSHING, NY 11354. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

Notice of Formation of Samson Milwaukee LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/25/23. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Samson Management, 1180-5 Queens Blvd, Ste 1710, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of PVNX, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/08/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 45-14 30th Avenue, Suite 1R, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/9,16,23,3/2,9&16/2023

TWINS 2588 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/23. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 35-08 30th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/16,23,3/2,9,16&23/2023

AMERICAN BANGLADESHI COMMUNITY HUB LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/09/23. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Abul H Bhuiyan, 15626 95th Street, Howard Beach, NY 11414. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 2/16,23,3/2,9,16&23/2023

Prime Podiatry PLLC Filed 7/29/22 Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to 5718 Woodside Ave #2101, Woodside, NY 11377 Purpose: Podiatry. 1/26,2/2,9,16,23&3/2/2023

QB138 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/11/23. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 140-25 Queens Boulevard, Briarwood, NY 11435. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 1/19,26,2/2,9,16&23/2023



Department of Labor Announces Lawful Absence Protections Now in Effect

(Continued from page 3)

including those related to sickness, disability, pregnancy, and caregiving obligations. Other examples of legally protected absences include domestic violence leave, jury duty leave, voting leave, and blood donor leave. Employers who violate this law face penalties up to \$10,000 for initial violations and up to \$20,000 for subsequent violations. Impacted employees may

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of DESIGNERRX SOLUTIONS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/24/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 17718 Wexford Ter. Apt 202, Jamaica, NY 11432. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/23,3/2,9,16,23&30/2023

Notice of Formation of JD AVERY DEVELOPMENT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/19/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1568 Union Turnpike, #3701, New Hyde Park, NY 11040. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/23,3/2,9,16,23&30/2023

DB4116 LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 9/17/2018. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 213-38 40th Ave., Bayside, NY 11361. General Purpose. 2/23,3/2,9,16,23&30/2023

Notice of Formation S Family Dream, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/7/23. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Luis Salazar, 7-28 124th St., College Point, NY 11356. Purpose: any lawful activity. 2/16,23,3/2,9,16,&23/2023

Notice of Formation of CATEGORY 1 MUSIC, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/18/2023. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: P.O. Box 8532, New York, NY 10150. Purpose: any lawful activities. 2/23,3/2,9,16,23&30/2023

also be eligible to receive backpay and other damages. The Department also reminds New Yorkers that it is illegal for employers to retaliate against an employee for asserting their rights under the labor law. Retaliation can occur in many forms, including dismissal from employment, reduction of hours, alteration of work schedule, pay reduction, disciplinary action, assignment to difficult duties, and more.

Rozic Speaks With John Bowne High School Agriculture Students in Albany



Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D, WF-Fresh Meadows) met with John Bowne High School students who participate in the New York chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA). Students from John Bowne High School in Queens came to the State Capitol and had the chance to learn about the legislative process, the issues facing the agriculture

industry, and share their stories as future leaders in agriculture. The John Bowne Agricultural Program hosts its own 3.8 acre farm and has been recognized nationally as an outstanding urban agricultural education offering since it was first established in 1917. February 18-25 is National FFA Week in New York.

QJCC Legislative Breakfast



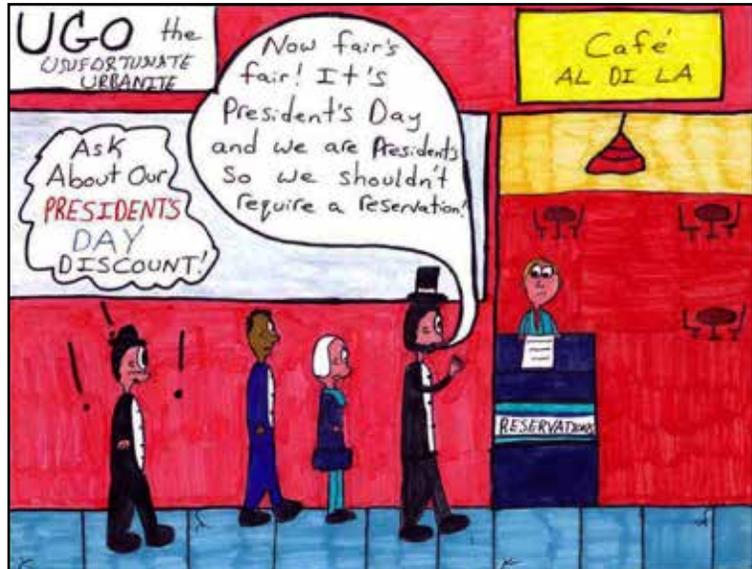
Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz recently addressed the Queens Jewish Community Council Legislative Breakfast at Young Israel of Jamaica Estates. Several elected officials, including New York State Attorney General Letitia James and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, provided community updates.

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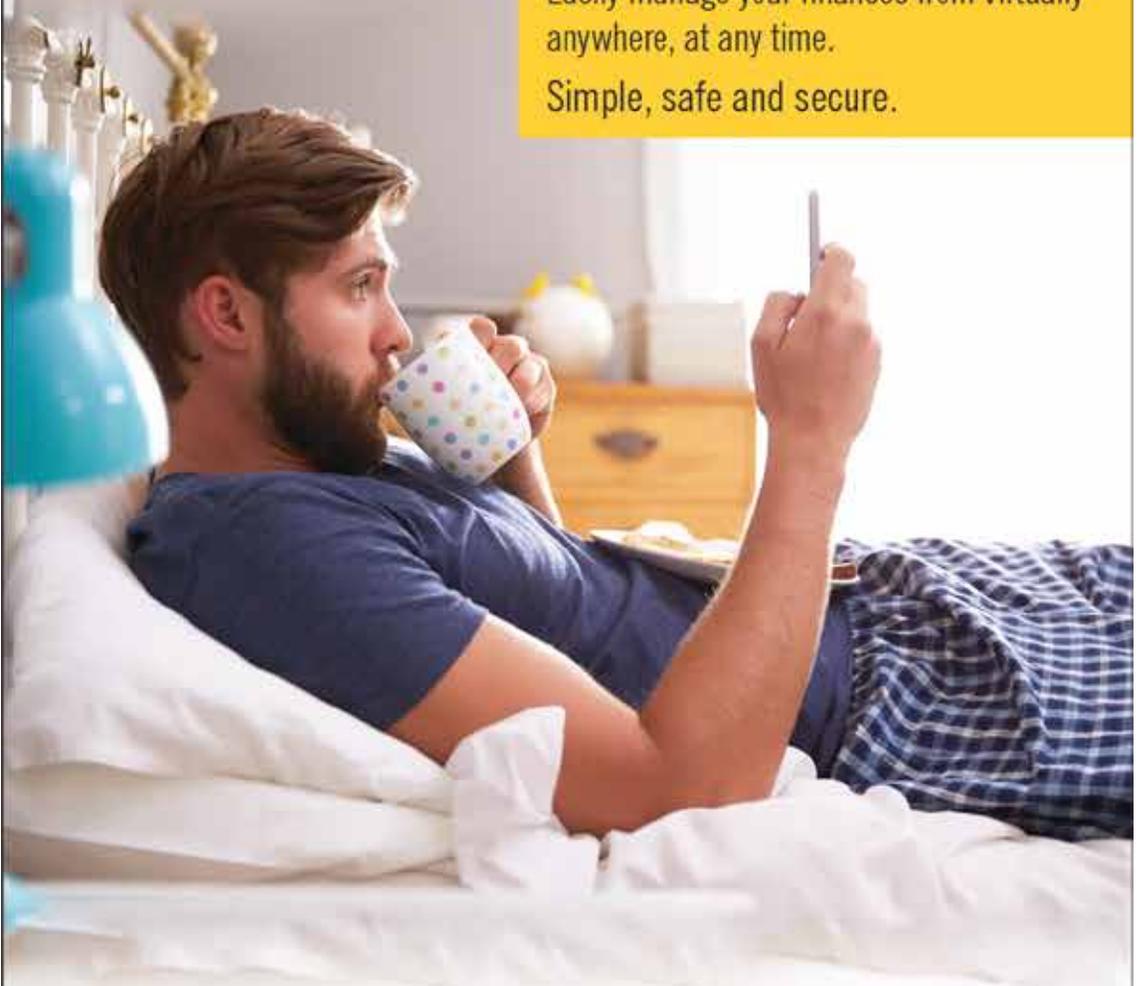
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