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25 CENTS



9/11 Memorial Ceremony at Maspeth Memorial Park



At the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, at Maspeth Memorial Park at 69th Street and Grand Avenue, is the memorial where American Flags and a Commemorative Wreath was placed by Squad 288/Hazmat 1 and family members and friends placed American Flags at the memorial as each departed person's name was read. Photo by Walter Karling. See story on page 7.

Sen. Liu Hails Gov. Hochul Signing of Bill to Finally Reduce Class Sizes in NYC Public Schools



NYS Senator John Liu, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on NYC Education and sponsor of S9460, applauds Governor Kathy Hochul's signing of the bill to reduce class sizes over a five-year period in New York City public schools. Class sizes in all New York City public schools would be capped at 20 stu-

dents in kindergarten through third grade; 23 students in fourth through eighth grade; and 25 students in high school. The five-year phase-in requires 20% of NYC classes to comply with the limitations by school year 2023-2024, with addi-

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State And City Legislators & Advocates Rally For Student MetroCard Reforms



The 74th Assembly District Youth Council, Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Senator John Liu, Council Member Rita Joseph unveiled a bill developed with New York City middle and high school students that would extend the hours student MetroCards work and eliminate harsh penalties for the use of cards on non-school days. See story on page 2.

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Sen. Liu Hails Gov. Hochul Signing of Bill to Finally Reduce Class Sizes in NYC Public Schools

(Continued from page 1)

tional 20% each year until 100% of NYC classes are in compliance by school year 2027-2028.

This legislation addresses the continued failure of the NYC Department of Education to reduce class sizes that are significantly larger than the rest of the state and nation. State courts have long ruled that NYC kids had been denied the sound basic education guaranteed by the State Constitution in large

part because of excessive class sizes. The State Budget beginning in April 2023 provides NYC with an additional \$1.6 billion in annual school funding that must be used to provide the constitutionally-required sound basic education, which necessarily includes reducing class sizes down to thresholds set by the NYC Department of Education themselves.

Senator Liu said "New York City school kids have been denied a sound basic education for too long. This legislation forces the

Department of Education to at long last develop a 5-year plan to bring class sizes down to levels originally established by the DOE itself instead of merely paying lip service to the problem. Moreover, the City is receiving \$1.6 billion more state funding annually toward this purpose, and must stop with nonsensical rhetoric claiming 'unfunded mandate' and just get stuff done! Thanks to Governor Hochul, NYC school kids will now get what they are entitled to."

State And City Legislators & Advocates Rally For Student MetroCard Reforms

(Continued from page 1)

State and City legislators joined a cadre of youth activists to unveil a package of bills aimed at making it easier for students to get to and from school and extracurricular activities. Assemblymember Harvey Epstein (D, WF - Manhattan) and Senator John Liu (D - Queens) drafted legislation to expand the hours student MetroCards are valid from 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m (A8244/S7491). Additional legislation (A8245/S7492) would prohibit fines for students who use their MetroCards to travel to activities that take place when school is not in session, such as a holiday or a snow day. The bills gained the support of Chair of the City Council Committee on Education Rita Joseph, and advocacy organizations Make the Road NY, Rider's Alliance, Transportation Alternatives, and NYPIRG.

The legislation addresses problems with the existing student MetroCard policy identified by the 74th Assembly District Youth Council, a group of young New Yorkers convened by Assemblymember Epstein. Building on the Council's advocacy in 2019 to replace half-fare MetroCards with full-fare MetroCards for every eligible student, they fielded a survey of their peers and used the data collected to target changes to hours and enforcement of penalties against students.

Under the status quo, the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) requests additional cards from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for use by students traveling outside the hours typical student MetroCards work. It falls to individual schools to make students aware that they can obtain such a card. However, based on student accounts and MTA data, those cards are disbursed less frequently

than the standard 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. student MetroCard, leaving many students stranded.

"I want to thank the Youth Council for their work on this important issue. Without their advocacy, we might still be dealing with the inadequacies of half-fare MetroCards. I look forward to partnering with Senator Liu, Councilmember Joseph, students, and advocates to advance our bills and ensure we get transportation justice for students," said Assemblymember Harvey Epstein.

NY State Senator John C. Liu, Chair of the Senate Committee on NYC Education, said, "Many NYC students know there's no such thing as a typical school day. Regular school hours and extracurricular activities often occur at irregular and inopportune times, making scheduling transportation very challenging. Expanding student Metrocard hours and eliminating these penalties will remove a significant barrier to success for our city's student body, especially for those who commute from the farthest reaches of the city."

"I have been fighting for transportation equity as an activist for decades, and even though our city has made so much progress on this issue, it's clear that we still have so much more work to do. Allowing students to use their MetroCards on days when school is not in session is common-sense. Giving students better access to free fares when they live far away from school is sound policy. The bills we are proposing are straightforward measures that will improve the lives of young New Yorkers in tangible ways, and I thank Assembly Member Epstein for his leadership advocating for our city's young people," said Council Member Rita Joseph.

"Safe and seamless public transit access is essential for kids growing up in New York

City," said Riders Alliance Senior Organizer Danna Dennis. "For too long, undue restrictions on student MetroCards have limited young people's ability to access what opportunities the city offers and have led to unnecessary and risky encounters with law enforcement. Thanks to Assemblymember Epstein and student leaders on the Lower East Side for elevating this issue and crafting a solution that is equitable and empowering."

"In New York City, access to mass transit is a great equalizer of opportunity, defining where you live, work, play, and go to school," said Megan Ahearn, with the NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign. "Accessible, affordable, and safe transportation is a right. Students should not face unnecessary barriers like limited hours and days or risk punitive fees or losing their cards."

"Instead of restricting students' ability to move efficiently around New York City and limiting their opportunities to engage with their community after school hours, we should be expanding it," said D'Shandi Coombs, Schools Organizer for Transportation Alternatives. "We're proud to join with Assembly Member Harvey Epstein's District 74 Youth Council to call on our state lawmakers to extend the hours of the MTA's student MetroCard program and remove usage restrictions so young people aren't fined or at risk of criminalization."

"The regulations placed on Student Metrocards are crimping the potential of opportunities that our students will no longer have access to. In a system that continues to lose funds for our children. What examples are we giving our future? It's time we Support the Coalition for Student Transit Justice & 74th Assembly District Youth," said Lilah Mejia, President of Community Education Council 1.

Statement From Speaker Adrienne Adams on the Council's Legislation to Ban Solitary Confinement

Speaker Adrienne Adams announced support for legislation to ban solitary confinement and the scheduling of a hearing on the bill for next week. The Speaker released the following statement:

"The Department of Correction's stated mission is to create a safe and supportive environment while providing individuals in its care with a path to successfully re-enter their communities. Solitary confinement

does not line up with this objective and New York City must be smarter by relying on evidence-based practices to keep New Yorkers and our neighborhoods safe. The research is clear: solitary confinement is a counterproductive and harmful practice that causes immense damage to the health of those subjected to it. It disproportionately leads to suicide and worsens the mental health of those subject to it. This

can exacerbate the safety challenges within the jail system and outside of it when individuals are released. The Council will hold a hearing on legislation to ban solitary confinement, advancing a comprehensive and sensible legislative process to gather input from all stakeholders. New York City is better than solitary confinement, and the Council intends to pass a law to restrict this practice."

Consumer Alert: New York State Division Of Consumer Protection Offers Grandparents Tips To Avoid The Ever-Evolving Grandparent Scam

Grandparent Scam Hallmarks: Involvement of a Family Member, Immediate Need for Money, and a Request for Secrecy.

In recognition of Grandparents Day, the New York State Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) calls attention to scams targeting grandparents. This date is dedicated to honor grandparents and to appreciate their unique roles in our lives. To celebrate this special day, DCP wants to empower grandparents to outsmart scammers who prey on family bonds. With the common grandparent scam, criminals impersonate someone trying to help a loved one so they can trick them into sending money.

"The grandparent scam has been around for years, but criminals are getting bolder by even showing up at an individual's home. It's one of the top scams targeting older consumers," said Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez. "Criminals orchestrating this fraud use clever schemes and add new twists to this old trick. They systematically target older consumers and exploit the special relationship grandparents have with their grandchildren. Many of these schemes go unreported, so it's important to raise awareness to help prevent these scams."

New York State Police Superintendent Kevin P. Bruen said, "We urge all New Yorkers to take caution if they receive a call or text from someone claiming to be a loved one in urgent need of help and asking for money. Even if a scenario seems valid, do not provide any financial or personal information without confirmation. The State Police takes scams of any type seriously and those that take advantage of the elderly or vulnerable will be held accountable."

New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Acting Director Greg Olsen said, "So-called grandparent scams have increased substantially during the pandemic, exploiting trusted family relationships to target

older adults. In fact, financial exploitation ranks highest as the most common form of elder abuse. Be vigilant and know the signs of a potential scam. If someone calls you claiming that a child or grandchild is in trouble, don't act purely on second-hand information. Confirm any incidents directly with a loved one and contact the police or other trusted authorities to verify."

Multiple grandparent scam scenarios have been reported and the number of reported incidents continues to increase. In 2021, the Federal Trade Commission received over 12,700 complaints from people ages 60 and older about scammers claiming to be family members or friends in trouble to trick people in providing money. These reports added up to \$23.8 million in total losses.

Common Elements of a Grandparents Scam:

1. Impersonation of Family - Scammers exploit grandparents' love by pretending to be a grandchild or relative in need of emergency cash. This scam starts with a call or text from a fraudster posing as a panicked grandchild or family member who is in trouble and requires immediate financial assistance. In some scam scenarios, the scammer impersonates an arresting police officer, a lawyer, or a doctor, who is calling on behalf of the relative in trouble.

2. Urgent and Immediate Need for Money - To create a sense of urgency, the caller may claim to be hospitalized, in jail or stuck in a foreign country. In all cases, the scammers ask that money be sent immediately. Scammers often try to pressure victims into transferring money through a mobile payment app, by wiring money, or by purchasing gift cards or money orders. A new variation of this con has surfaced recently where the scammer pressures victims to put money in an envelope to be picked up at their house by a courier. Several incidents of courier pickups have been reported throughout New York State over the past year.

3. Insistence on Secrecy - The caller insists that parents or other family members not be informed. The scammer may claim there is no time to speak to others or that the grandchild will be embarrassed if other family members know about the situation. The scam artists know that once you contact another family member, you will likely discover the scam.

How To Avoid the Ever-Evolving Grandparent Scam:

- Resist the urge to act immediately no matter how dramatic the story
- Don't engage with the caller or reply to the text. Contact the grandchild or family member directly to confirm the story.
- Don't give your address, personal information, or cash to anyone who contacts you. Scammers will likely ask you to send them a gift card, wire money, or offer to pick up cash at your home. They prefer these methods because they are difficult to trace.
- Check your social media privacy settings since most social media is public by default, and be careful of what information you put online. Social media is an easy place for scammers to find personal information they can use to prey on the fears of grandparents.
- To learn more about scams targeting older consumers, please see these tips to learn more about how to protect against fraud targeting seniors.

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection provides resources and education materials to consumers on product safety, as well as voluntary mediation services between consumers and businesses. The Consumer Assistance Helpline 1-800-697-1220 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding State Holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at www.dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection.

For more consumer protection tips, follow the Division on social media at Twitter: @NYSConsumer and Facebook: www.facebook.com/nysconsumer

Queens Theatre's Training Program For Actors With Disabilities Returns in October 2022

Applications are now open. Due September 23rd

Applications are being accepted now through September 23rd for the fifth round of Queens Theatre's Theatre For All (TFA) Professional Actor Training Program. The free, two-week program will run virtually this season, from Monday, October 17th through Friday, October 28th and is open to Deaf or Disabled performers, aged 18 and over. Through intensive workshops over the two weeks, students will build skills, as well as their networks.

Workshops will be taught by disabled and non-disabled industry professionals, including: Tony Award Winner Tonya Pinkins ("Women of the Movement", "Madam Secretary", "Red Pill", "Caroline or Change", Jelly's Last Jam); Brigid Brady (Broadway: "The Phantom of the Opera" "Gossip Girl"); The Second City alumnae Pat Shay ("FBI", "The Blacklist", "Girls 5 Eva") and Mary Theresa Archbold ("Inventing Anna", "Girls 5 Eva", "Bull", "Law & Order: SVU"); leading disability advocate and performer Christine Bruno ("Public Servant", "Best Summer Ever", "Law

& Order", The Actors Studio); and Roundabout Director Group member Evan T Cummings (Director, Lincoln Center: An Evening of Short Plays). Additional instructors will be announced soon. The intensive will focus on auditioning, acting, improvisation, musical theatre, voice, and movement. The program will have three tracks, designed for actors of varying levels of experience: Entry Level, Early Career, and Working Actor.

The program will culminate with a live-streamed industry showcase performance for the Early Career and Working Actor-level programs.

"By hosting the intensive virtually we can reach a much broader community of artists. Often artists with disabilities who don't reside in a major city such as Los Angeles or New York City struggle to find accessible training. In TFA, we provide all forms of accommodation support allowing all artists to get what they need - an accessible room to focus on their craft," said TFA Program Manager Mary Theresa Archbold.

For more information about the program and to apply click: <https://www.queens theatre.org/tfa-2022>

Attorney General James Recovers \$50 Million From Cigarette Companies

Canadian Cigarette Manufacturer and Western New York Distributor Evaded State Taxes on Millions of Cigarettes Sold in New York

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced a \$50 million agreement with two companies that allegedly sold cigarettes without paying the required state excise taxes. Today's agreement resolves allegations that Grand River Enterprises Six Nations, Ltd. (Grand River) based in Canada, and its wholesaler, Native Wholesale Supply Company, Inc. (Native Wholesale), located in Western New York, violated state and federal laws by shipping, selling, and distributing cigarettes in New York without paying state taxes. The two companies brought millions of cartons of unstamped cigarettes into New York from Canada. In addition to paying \$50 million, the agreement also permanently prevents the companies from selling unstamped cigarettes in New York.

"Hardworking New Yorkers pay taxes and so should multi-million-dollar companies," said Attorney General James. "Regulating and taxing cigarettes is a critical tool to protect public health from the deadly dangers of tobacco. Today's agreement enforces New York's laws and will stop the overflow of unstamped cigarettes into New York. I will continue to enforce the law against companies and individuals who flout New York state laws and put our residents in jeopardy."

New York imposes state taxes on cigarettes to curtail the usage of tobacco products that are known to have serious and sometimes deadly health effects and signifi-

cant related economic costs. State excise taxes on tobacco products have been proven to prevent smoking imitation among adolescents and young adults, reduce cigarette consumption, and increase the number of smokers who quit. When state excise taxes are evaded, cigarette prices become artificially low, making them more attractive and accessible to young people. Moreover, the sale of contraband cigarettes also reduces valuable tax revenue used to pay for essential state services and public infrastructure.

Grand River manufactures the cigarette brands Seneca, Couture, and Opal. Grand River's primary distributor and wholesaler of cigarettes in New York is Native Wholesale. The two companies are alleged to have operated as a joint venture to manufacture, transport, and sell cigarettes and other tobacco products in New York.

As alleged in the complaint, Native Wholesale purchased cigarettes and tobacco products from Grand River, imported them into New York, and distributed the cigarettes to retailers in the state. Native Wholesale was not licensed by New York to distribute or sell cigarettes. Grand River knew that the cigarettes it sold to Native Wholesale would be sold into New York without going through a New York state licensed stamping agent for pre-payment of state taxes and would be neither stamped nor taxed as required by New York law.

These unstamped cigarettes then ended up on shelves in New York retailers throughout the state. On multiple occasions, investigators from the Office of the Attor-

Public Officials, New York LGBT Network And Community Leaders Speak Out Against Homophobic Discrimination

New Initiative Announced At Jackson Heights Press Conference To Fight Against Rise Of Hate Crimes Against Queens Lgbt Community

On Monday, September 12, 2022, New York City Council Member Shekar Krishnan (Dist. 25-Jackson Heights, Elmhurst), former-City Council Finance Chair and Queens Pride founder Danny Dromm, New York LGBT Network President Dr. David Kilmnick and fellow LGBT community leaders joined at a press conference to speak out against homophobic and discriminatory incidents against the Queens LGBT community. A new program called, Queens Hate Crime Victim Advocacy Initiative, was introduced by New York LGBT

Network president & founder Dr. David Kilmnick which aims to stem hate crimes and anti-LGBT discrimination in the Borough.

As of June, it has been reported that hate crimes against the LGBT Community increased 46%. Community volunteers and participants in public programming on the Open Streets have been repeatedly subjected to vulgar homophobic slurs by members of the Jackson Heights Coops Alliance. Despite its designation as the birthplace of the Queens Pride Parade and a longtime "safe haven" for LGBTQ New Yorkers, Jackson Heights continues to see a steady rise in hate crimes against LGBTQ community members.

"Our LGBTQ Community Center nearby has received an average of three reported anti-LGBTQ

hate crime reports per week," said David Kilmnick, President & founder of the New York LGBT Network. "The harassment that Jim has endured on the Open Streets unfortunately represents a broader trend in Queens. That's why we are launching a new Queens Hate Crime Victim Advocacy Initiative to support all victims of such hate across the borough. We are also calling out the Jackson Heights Coops Alliance to condemn this behavior that is not acceptable anywhere, especially not in the birthplace of the LGBTQ movement in Queens."

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr said, "I stand with Jackson Heights residents against homophobia and all

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Meng, Johnson And Lee Push to Recognize Sept. 9th as National African Immigrant And Refugee HIV/Aids And Hepatitis Awareness (Nairhha) Day

Hepatitis Caucus Co-Chairs Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) and Congressman Hank Johnson (D-GA), along with HIV/AIDS Caucus Chair Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), sent a letter with nine House colleagues to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requesting support for the designation of September 9th as "National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day."

The correspondence seeks to raise awareness for HIV and viral hepatitis testing, diagnosis, care,

and treatment for immigrants of African descent, who suffer HIV infection rates six times higher than the national average, and face the highest average chronic hepatitis B rates in the country with approximately 10 percent of people in these communities living with hepatitis B.

"Federal recognition of NAIRHHA Day will bring increased awareness and attention to the health issues of HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis in African immigrant and refugee populations in the U.S.," the letter states. "NAIRHHA Day will help to eliminate the pervasive stigma

surrounding HIV and hepatitis in these communities by encouraging screenings, treatment, and hepatitis B vaccination. No existing HIV/AIDS awareness day addresses the distinct factors influencing the high rates of HIV and viral hepatitis among African immigrants and refugees."

Co-signers include Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA), David Cicilline (D-RI), Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Mondaire Jones (D-NY), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Nikema Williams (D-GA).

Statement from Speaker Adrienne Adams, Council Member Carlina Rivera, Public Housing Committee Chair Alexa Avilés & Oversight and Investigations Committee Chair Gale Brewer on Water Contamination and Testing at NYCHA's Jacob Riis Houses

"New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents deserve better. The conflicting reports of water contamination at

Riis Houses raise more questions that need to be answered, leaving the residents understandably concerned and outraged. The Council

intends to conduct oversight to ensure transparency and clarity regarding water quality and safety for all residents of NYCHA."

Attorney General James Applauds Requirement for Credit Card Companies to Categorize Gun Sales

New York Attorney General Letitia James today applauded the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for requiring credit card companies to create a merchant category code (MCC) on gun and ammunition purchases. Attorney General James released this statement in response:

"Today's decision requiring credit cards to categorize gun sales is a big victory that will help us

better address gun violence and avoid tragedies. Labeling gun and ammunition sales is a responsible, common-sense way to help protect Americans and I thank Amalgamated Bank for their bold leadership on this critical issue. I urge credit card companies to take the next step and flag suspicious transactions on gun and ammunition sales, like they do for fraud and money laundering. By working

together and using the tools at our disposal, including this new categorization, we will help protect our communities and save lives."

Today's decision follows a letter sent last week by Attorney General James and California Attorney General Bonta calling on credit card companies to take this common-sense step to help address gun violence and prevent tragedies.

Speaker Adrienne Adams Submits Comments on Congestion Pricing Environmental Assessment

In response to the congestion pricing Environmental Assessment (EA) released on August 10, 2022, Council Speaker Adrienne Adams submitted public comments to the Environmental Justice Stakeholders Working Group of the Central Business District Tolling Program. She expresses her concerns about persistent transit inequities for many communities of color in the outer-boroughs, and the environmental impacts on low-income communities of color.

In the letter, Speaker Adams

points out that the study does not mention any efforts to lessen the burden of the CBD Tolling Program costs for low-income drivers, particularly those that may not have ready access to the E-Z Pass and who typically are not eligible for any discounts under the present cashless tolling program. She is also concerned about increases in parking demand within neighborhoods that are underserved by public transportation, and to park-and-ride surrounding LIRR stations in Queens.

Speaker Adams expresses concern that the CBD Tolling Program is also likely to significantly impact the taxi and for-hire vehicle industry at a time when drivers already face economic challenges with recovering to pre-pandemic levels of business. She calls on the government agencies involved to undertake proactive mitigation measures to improve air quality in the Bronx and Staten Island, where the CBD Tolling Program would result in increased commercial truck traffic.

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Community Partners And Rep. Grace Meng Take Part in Round Table Discusson on Caregiver Skills Training

The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (CBWCHC) was pleased to host a roundtable discussion with U.S. Representative Grace Meng, President and CEO at Autism Speaks Keith Wargo, CARES, Chinese-American Planning Council, and Center for All Abilities to highlight the importance of providing caregiver skills training for families of children with developmental disabilities in underserved communities.

"Each and every day, caregivers give endlessly of their own

time and energy to help our loved ones live more complete lives," said Congresswoman Meng. "It is essential for them to have the training and resources they need to ensure that children with autism or other developmental disabilities receive crucial support for healthy development. I thank Autism Speaks and the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center for organizing this important discussion, and for their incredible work with caregivers of children with autism in Queens, which inspired me to introduce the Autism

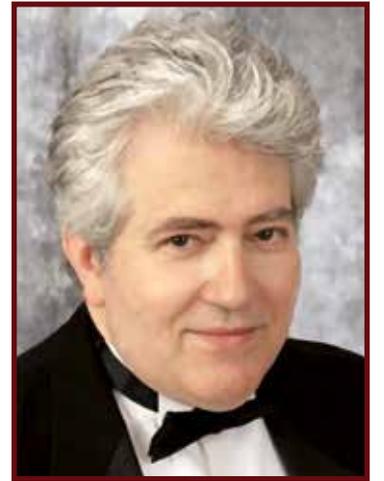
Family Caregivers Act. This bill is urgently needed to address the disparity in access to services for these families. By increasing access to caregiver skills training, we can improve the lives of both children with autism and their caregivers."

The Health Center and 3 community partners piloted the Caregiver Skills Training (CST) program in the NYC Chinese immigrant community. The CST program was developed by the

(Continued on page 10)

Celebrating 50 years With Maestro David Close

Oratorio Society of Queens Artistic Director and Conductor Announces Retirement



The 2022/2023 season will be David Close's final year at the helm of the Oratorio Society of Queens. After over 50 years as Artistic Director and Conductor, Maestro Close and OSQ will celebrate his exceptional career with performances of portions of Handel's Messiah and other holiday favorites on December 18, 2022; and a rousing spring concert featuring the music of Haydn, Bernstein and more on May 21, 2023.

Says Maestro Close: "Having welcomed OSQ's 95th anniversary with a return from the pandemic, it is the right time for our organization to plan for transition to new leadership, and for me to look to the next chapter of my life with my wife LeeAnn in health and vigor. I am announcing this transition a full year in advance to provide for a thoughtful and professional process to find a great artistic leader for OSQ. The season ahead will be very special and will be one to savor and celebrate making great music together."

About David Close: A graduate of the Queens College Music program, Maestro Close was assistant conductor to internationally known conductor and composer Hugo Weisgall. Maestro Close was also conductor and vocal coach for the Opera Workshop at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

Maestro Close studied conducting with Laszlo Halasz (founder and first Music Director of the NYC Opera) and was the assistant conductor for The Concert Choir and Orchestra of Long Island that produced many operas and choral works in the metropolitan and Long Island areas. Maestro Close assisted Laszlo Halasz in the preparation of Hovhaness' oratorio, "The Way of Jesus," in

a world-premiere performance at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

He has conducted performances for the Singers' Theater of Westchester, the Manhattan Opera, and the New York Lyric Opera and guest-conducted Summer Sings for the New York Choral Society and the Masterwork Chorus of New Jersey. Close is also the founder and first Executive and Artistic Director of Musica Reginae Productions. At the request of former Borough President Claire Shulman, Maestro Close conducted the Oratorio Society of Queens and the Queens Symphony in a Millennial Concert at the Unisphere. Maestro Close was music director and conductor of the United Choral Society and the Great Neck Choral Society for many years. About Oratorio Society of Queens: OSQ is a community chorus with members from diverse backgrounds and differing levels of singing ability whose mission is to engage, educate and uplift the Queens community by presenting musical programs that span the repertoire from great choral masterpieces to popular all-time favorites.

Attorney General James Recovers \$50 Million From Cigarette Companies

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ney General (OAG) were able to purchase these unstamped cigarettes from retailers in the state.

As a result of today's agreement, New York will be paid \$50 million. In addition, the companies must:

- Create and maintain records of all of the Grand River cigarettes that enter New York and make those records available to OAG upon request;
- Obtain statements from out-of-state customers indicating that they do not intend to reimport any unstamped cigarettes back into New York;
- Cooperate with OAG when OAG is conducting an investigation into sales of unstamped Grand River cigarettes, or the sale of any unstamped cigarettes made by defendants;
- Utilize authorized common carriers to transport unstamped cigarettes while they are transiting through New York; and,
- Restrict sales of unstamped cigarettes to licensed cigarette stamping agents, federally bonded

facilities, and other specified entities.

Attorney General James would like to thank the New York state Department of Taxation and Finance and the Ontario Ministry of Finance for their assistance and cooperation with this matter.

This matter was handled by Assistant Attorneys General Brant Campbell, Carol Hunt, and Deputy Bureau Chief Leslieann Cachola under the supervision of Health Care Bureau Chief Sudarsana Srinivasan along with Deputy Assistant Attorney General-in-Charge Christopher Boyd under the supervision of Assistant Attorney General-in-Charge of the Buffalo Regional Office Michael Russo. The Health Care Bureau is a part of the Division for Social Justice which is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General Meghan Faux, and the Buffalo Regional Office is a part of the Division of Regional Affairs which is led by Deputy Attorney General Jill Faber, all under the oversight of First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

Queens Times Weekly ...
HOROSCOPE
 For the Week of ... 9/15/22 - 9/21/22

For Entertainment Purposes Only

ARIES
 (March 21 - April 20)
 Travel plans will be exciting and profitable. Those who have been too demanding should be put in their place or out to pasture. Your lucky numbers are 5,3,1.

TAURUS
 (April 21 - May 21)
 Think before you make stock investments. Unforeseen circumstances will change your ideas. Try getting out and networking yourself. Your lucky numbers are 4,9,1.

GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)
 You may meet someone special if you attend fundraising functions. Travel will be beneficial to your career. Continue your hard work. Your lucky numbers are 1,8,9.

CANCER
 (June 22 - July 22)
 Don't loan money to friends. You can make extra money by moonlighting. You should look into a healthier diet. Your lucky numbers are 7,2,1.

LEO
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 Try inviting friends to your planned get together. Mingle with individuals who are established in business. Get involved in political groups. Your lucky numbers are 3,6,4.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)
 Don't bother complaining, no one listens. You will manage to overcome work loads this week. Don't ignore your partner's problems. Your lucky numbers are 3,1,8.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
 Don't let anyone interfere with your work, stay concentrated. It might be time to take a big step and do a personal makeover. Your lucky numbers are 5,8,3.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
 You can work out solutions to the problems of inefficiencies at work. Money problems will be difficult to deal with. Your lucky numbers are 6,9,5.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
 Catch up on correspondence. You need to clear up some important personal documents before the end of the year. Check your investments. Your lucky numbers are 4,3,9.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
 Try and get plenty of rest and relaxation. Don't stay up late on work nights. Keep your feelings to yourself. You may find a favorable business venture while traveling. Your lucky numbers are 5,3,2.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
 Be careful about disclosing personal information. You can get ahead if you present your ideas to superiors. Your lucky numbers are 8,3,2.

PISCES
 (Feb 20. - March 20)
 Don't get involved in joint ventures with people you don't know. Concentrate on what you're doing or you may make mistakes on your job. Your lucky numbers are 9,1,2.

Did You Know?

- Before beginning his movie career Keanu Reeves managed a pasta shop in Toronto Canada
- Chevy Chase's real first name is Cornelius
- The only thing that can destroy a diamond is intense heat
- A 15th anniversary is called a quidecennial
- A nanosecond is one billionth of a second
- A whip makes a cracking sound because its tip moves faster than the speed of sound
- Men change their minds 2 to 3 times more than women (women tend to take longer to make a decision but once they do they are more likely to stick to it)
- All pilots on international flights identify themselves in English regardless of their country of origin
- Brontology is the study of thunder
- Diamonds mined in Brazil are much harder than those found in Africa
- Dry ice transforms directly from being a solid to a gas
- Employees of the Vatican pay no income tax
- The first city to mint its own gold coins was Florence, Italy in 1252
- Petrol has no specific freezing point (it can freeze at any temperature between -82 and -115C (-180 and -240F)
- Sound travels 10 times faster through granite than air

Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles

"Sudoku"

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

"Crossword Puzzle"

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

"Try And Find"

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

SUDOKU

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
23								24	25					
26	27	28	29		30			31						
32					33			34		35	36	37	38	
39					40			41	42					
43							44	45			46			
47					48			49			50			
51	52	53					54			55				
56						57	58				59	60	61	62
63						64				65				
66						67				68				
69						70				71				

- ACROSS**
- Sag
 - A lyric poet
 - Algonquian Indian
 - Chain of hills
 - Double-reed woodwind
 - 365 days
 - Fruit of the oak tree
 - Spoiled child
 - Scorch
 - Well-worn
 - Slave
 - Deposited
 - Escorting
 - Expert
 - North northeast
 - 2000 pounds
 - Weightlifters pump this
 - Yield
 - Glacial ice formation
 - Pamphlet
 - Complete control
 - Hawaiian veranda
 - Exhausts
 - Mid-month days
 - Frozen water
 - Camp bed
 - Jacket
 - Intense dislike
 - Flock members
 - Gulf port
 - Showing curiosity
 - Rud prong
 - Rude person
 - Daughter of a sibling
 - British tax
 - Individual
 - Elbowroom
 - Colors
 - Managed with difficulty
 - SSS

- DOWN**
- "Darn!"
 - Wealthy
 - Scent
 - Brute
 - Prison-related
 - Cotton laces
 - Worn down
 - Big laugh
 - Hate
 - Relating to computers
 - Employ again
 - Deservedly receives
 - Sea eagles
 - Terpsichore
 - Throw
 - Fish's breathing apparatus
 - Component used as fertilizer
 - Horse color
 - Iniquity
 - Given authority
 - Overhaul
 - District
 - Vesicle
 - Vermin
 - Daisylike bloom
 - Polish remover
 - Safe to eat
 - Emerge from the egg
 - Farewell
 - On edge
 - Feeling
 - Cozy corner
 - Small mouthfuls
 - Earl Grey and orange pekoe
 - Behold, in old Rome
 - DDD

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TRY AND FIND

CLASSIC TOYS

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

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Barbie | G. I. Joe | Marbles | Tinker Toys |
| Big Wheel | Hula-Hoop | Nerf | Tonka Truck |
| Easy Bake Oven | Jacks | Play Doh | Tops |
| Etch A Sketch | Lego | Silly Putty | Trains |
| Frisbee | Lincoln Logs | Slinky | Yo-Yo |



Central Queens Academy Celebrates Opening of New School Building in Elmhurst

Milestone Helps Kicks Off School's 10th Anniversary Year

Central Queens Academy Charter School (CQA) celebrated the official opening of their brand new construction school building at a ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, and Louise Emanuel representing New York State Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry were present to mark the occasion.

The new building opening kicks off another notable milestone for CQA - its 10th Anniversary year. CQA first opened in 2012 and was founded to improve academic and life outcomes for recent immigrant populations and English Language Learners. The school serves District 24 and primarily the neighborhoods of Elmhurst, Woodside, and Corona - communities which are in need of free, high-quality, public school seats. At full-scale, CQA's new 83,000 square foot facility, located at 88-14 Justice Avenue at the corner of 55th Avenue, will offer 900 tuition-free public school seats for elementary and middle school students.

CQA has had significant academic success over the years and has grown to be one of the highest performing middle schools in all of New York State. The first students who came to CQA in its founding year ten years ago are now in college - a significant achievement for the school and the families. Speaking to CQA



students, Borough President Richards said, "All of you deserve to learn in a state-of-the-art facility such as this. What they delivered here - 900 seats by 2024, with fully outfitted science labs, music and art rooms, a dance studio and more, is something we want to see for the entire Borough. I'm proud to see that this school is leading the way."

Assemblywoman Rajkumar presented the school with a citation from the State of New York to recognize the opening of the building and CQA's track record of academic success. Kathryn Connell-Espinosa, Interim Executive Director of the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, which is CQA's charter authorizer, recognized teachers, families and students for their hard work, which has culminated in this success.

CQA plans to begin accepting applications for the next school year starting this November. More information can be found at centralqueensacademy.org/apply.

About CQA: Founded in 2012, Central Queens Academy Charter School is a State University of New York Charter School Institute authorized, high-performing, tuition-free, public charter school. CQA's mission is to prepare students for success in education, the workforce and the community through a school that integrates literacy, standards-based academics and culturally responsive supportive services. For more information on CQA, please visit: www.centralqueensacademy.org. More information on the new building may be found at www.centralqueensacademy.org/newbuilding.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar Presents Historic \$90,000 Check to Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol

Assemblywoman Opens Up A New Funding Stream For The Emerging Group, Continuing Her Track Record Of Bringing Unprecedented Levels Of Funding To District

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar (D-AD 38) proudly presented \$90,000 in state funding she secured for the Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol (COPCP). This is the first official funding stream for COPCP, an emerging organization founded in 2020 as a service organization for the community at the height of the pandemic.

The Assemblywoman's presentation of the \$90,000 check continues her track record of bringing unprecedented new levels of funding to her district. In opening up a new funding stream for COPCP, the Assemblywoman will help the organization grow exponentially, including expanding its popular weekly food pantry and its operations to protect quality of life in South Queens.

The Assemblywoman presented the check in a grand press conference right before COPCP's weekly Ozone Park Pantry food distribution. Hundreds of South Queen residents at the pantry cheered as the enormous check was handed to the leadership of COPCP. Assemblywoman Rajkumar also presented proclamations honoring three members of the organization's leadership: President Iqbal



Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar at press conference presenting \$90,000 check to COPCP.

Ali, Executive Director Mohamad Khan, and Secretary Patricia Raghunandan, while the organization's many volunteers surrounded them with congratulations.

Assemblywoman Rajkumar's support for the organization is the latest chapter in her work of bringing unprecedented levels of civic engagement to the district. When she ran for State Assembly, she increased turnout in the district by 3 times what it had ever been and operated her own COVID-19 relief initiative in 5 languages at the height of the pandemic. Now, she is supporting emerging civic organizations like COPCP that bring new energy and services to the district.

A coalition of people who put their

hearts into the safety and wellness of their neighbors, COPCP works at a fast pace to respond to community needs, engaging in any and all activities to benefit its blocks, including operating a safety patrol, running a food pantry, promoting civic participation, conducting school supply and PPE giveaways, removing graffiti, and cleaning streets. COPCP responds to concerns 24 hours a day, whether to shovel snow or guard a house of worship after a hate crime. The organization benefits from its members' diversity in background, religion, gender, and age. The funding from the Assemblywoman will allow

(Continued on page 9)

Assemblywoman Nily Rozic Commemorates the 21st Anniversary of 9/11 at Queens College



Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D, WF-Fresh Meadows) joined the Queens College community at their 9/11 Memorial Service. The ceremony honored 40 college alumni, faculty and other com-

munity members who lost their lives that day.

Rozic commemorated those who lost their lives on 9/11 and those who have died of 9/11 related illnesses.

Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens Distributes Over 1,000 Backpacks at Annual Back to School Festival



Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens hosted a Back to School Festival on Saturday, September 10 sponsored by Hydro Quebec, Champlain Hudson Power Express, Mega Contracting, Heroes Basketball, JetBlue, Queens Together, and Chip City. Over 800 backpacks and numerous school supplies generously donated by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., Senator Jessica Ramos, Councilmember Tiffany Caban, Apartment 3R, Staples store #841, Disney, Queens Center Mall, New York

Cares and the Mets, were given away to students.

Over 1,000 participants came through the event enjoying the inflatable slide, bounce house, face painting, tie dye station and more. BioBus conducted science experiments with kids throughout the day.

Chip City gave away 300 free cookies at the event. Other local vendors present were Ample Hills Creamery and Astoria Bookshop. Among the organizations were NYS of Health, FDNY, MetroPlus Health and Girls Scouts of America.

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Queens Councilwoman Joann Ariola Calls For Increased Security at All Schools

NYC Councilwoman Joann Ariola accompanied her grandchildren Antonio and Angelo on their first day of the new school year that opens for them at PS/MS 146 in Howard Beach just a week after she called on Schools Chancellor David Banks to lock the entrances to all educational facilities this year.

CM Ariola wrote a letter to Chancellor Banks about a meeting she held with her constituents as well as NYPD officials, and educators shortly after the mass school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, proposing the use of a camera-style doorbell that would alert school safety agents of visitors. This would allow them to buzz in or communicate with any visitors to school grounds.

In addition, CM Ariola said, “That her proposed system would benefit anyone who might be at risk outside the school building and seeking safety by allowing safety agents to properly assess threats and allow those in need to enter the building. And that all school personnel should be trained on how to use the system should the need arise for someone other than a safety officer to be put in charge at the door.”

“Our children are our most precious gifts,” Ariola said. “We must take every measure we can to ensure their safety while they are in our schools. I am urging the Chancellor to do the right thing for



Councilwoman Joann Ariola takes her grandsons to their first day of school in Howard Beach Tuesday morning. (Courtesy of Ariola’s office)

students and staff.”

Chancellor Banks said, “Locking the front doors at public schools is one of the safety measures that are being considered by the Department of Education. Implementation of the locked front door safety measure is still being studied, but in the meantime, the DOE is hiring additional School Safety Agents, working on enhanced safety training for principals, assistant principals, and building response team leaders in the case of an emergency, increased real-time communication as well as conducting a comprehensive city-wide safety assessment.”

Chancellor Banks went on to say “We have been alarmed by the

number of weapons brought into our schools, more than we’ve seen in the past. We see it as a direct correlation to what the students are feeling outside of our schools. We have been exploring for months now various options that will allow us to even actually lock the front doors. We are absolutely looking at the issue around the front doors themselves. When a parent kisses their child goodbye in the morning, they trust that their child will be both emotionally and physically safe at school. This administration is prioritizing the reimagining of our commitment to supporting the whole child from the day they enter our schools to the day they graduate”.

The New Hamilton Beach Civic Association Hosted The 90 Years Old Annual “Baby Parade”

The New Hamilton Beach Civic Association has hosted an annual “Baby Parade” for many years. Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato said, “This is always one of my favorite events during Labor Day Weekend. Seeing the creative costumes and wagons is so much fun and a wonderful way to come together as a community. And of course, there is a dunk tank – and I might just be volunteering for it next year.”

Senator Joe Addabbo said, “I commend the New Hamilton Beach Civic Association for hosting the Annual “Baby Parade”.

The end of summer was marked with displays of creativity and fun in Hamilton Beach at the annual Baby Parade hosted by the New Hamilton Beach Civic Association. Families paraded their kids in decked-out costumes, wagons and more.

The West Hamilton Beach Volunteer Fire Department hosted the BBQ afterward and Chief Nick Spinelli made a splash, top, in a dunk tank.



Marching in the New Hamilton Beach Civic Association Annual “Baby Parade” with New Hamilton Beach Civic Association President Roger Gendron is NYS Senator Joe Addabbo and Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato.

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato, won 1st Place for Most Original and Best Overall with their “Who Let the Dogs Out” wagon.

First place for Most Humorous

was the McGuigan family’s “Beach Bum” baby.

The civic traces the tradition back nearly 90 years and says it is its way of thanking the community for its support.

Statement From Speaker Adrienne Adams on The 21st Anniversary of The September 11th Terror Attacks



“September 11th is a day that forever changed our city

and this nation, and it carries so much pain. As a native New Yorker, I share in the feeling that it will remain a day we never forget. We will always remember the thousands of people we lost here in New York City, other parts of the country, and due to illness from toxic exposure at Ground Zero. The long-term health of

thousands have been impacted, and so many families continue to struggle with the aftermath. We must continue to surround them with love and support. The heroic and compassionate spirit of New Yorkers in the face of such immense tragedy is what defines us. When we stand together, we are always stronger to overcome.”

9/11 Memorial Ceremony at Maspeth Memorial Park

(Continued from page 1)



Reverend Monsignor Joseph Calise, Pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church opened 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at Maspeth Memorial Park at 69th Street and Grand Avenue with a prayer as (l to r) Poet Vincent Tomeo; Thomas Rudzewick, President & CEO of Maspeth Federal Savings; Master of Ceremonies Kenneth Rudzewick; Kathleen Nealon who sang the National Anthem; NYC Councilman Robert Holden; NYS Assemblyman Brian Bramwell; and NYS Senator Michael Gianaris looks on; in attendance not pictured was NYS Senator Addabbo. Photo by Walter Karling

The Community of Maspeth honored, at the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony held in the Maspeth Memorial Park at 69th Street and Grand Avenue, with gratitude, and affection, for all who lived or worked here and who gave their lives, or whose lives were taken, in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

The American Flag was flown at half-mast at the ceremony that began with an opening prayer given by Reverend Monsignor Joseph Calise, Pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. After the Pledge of Allegiance Kathleen Nealon

and the St. Stan’s Players sang the National Anthem. The wreath was placed at the memorial by Squad 288/Hazmat 1 which had the single largest loss of firefighters of any FDNY firehouse. A bell was rung at the mention of each departed person’s name as family members and friends placed American Flags at the memorial. White doves were released as Bugler John Christ played “Taps”. After Taps Liz and Bill Huisman sang “In My Life” by John Lennon. The St. Stan’s Players concluded the ceremony with the singing of “God Bless America”. Photos and story by Walter Karling.

Queens County Farm Celebrates 325th Anniversary With New Maze



Queens County Farm Museum’s Amazing Maize Maze revealed. See story on page 11.



IT'S IN QUEENS

(Sept. 2 to Sept. 8)

The U.S. Open Grand Slam tennis tournament broke attendance records over the past two weeks in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. This week, Queens continues the groove with James Caan, Charlie Brown, Little Amal, Billie Joel, the Boomer Brothers, a corn labyrinth, Korean art, and spotted lantern flies.

• Sept. 16, The Caan Film Festival, Oct. 9. Watch movies celebrating the life, career, and legacy of actor James Caan, who grew up in Sunnyside. They include "El Dorado" (1966), "The Godfather" (1972), "The Gambler" (1974), and "Misery" (1990). Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

• Sept. 16, The Amazing Maize Maze, Oct. 29. Try to navigate New York City's only corn maze. The adventure begins with a Stalk Talk about finding clues, solving puzzles, and making the way to Victory Bridge. Advance online tickets are required. Times vary. Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy., Glen Oaks.

• Sept. 16, The Honey Dewdrops, 8 pm. For over a decade, this singer-songwriter duo has traveled around the country performing their experimental take on folk music, which combines traditional folk elements with a modern, acoustic style. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

• Sept. 16, Opening Reception for Ouroboros, 6 pm. Stephanie S. Lee exhibits paintings and graphic works inspired by a Korean genre that depicts Confucian virtues in the form of letters. They show her journey to finding happiness and hope while going through repetitive life as a mother, wife, and middle-aged female artist. Show runs until Oct. 2. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

• Sept. 16, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, Sept. 18. Royal Star Theatre presents this musical which looks at life through Peanuts character Charlie Brown's eyes. Shows are Sept. 16 at 8 pm, Sept. 17 at 3 pm and 8 pm, and Sept. 18 at 3 pm. The Mary Louis Academy, 176-21 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica Estates.

• Sept. 17, Welcome Autumn Concert, 4 pm. The Boomer Brothers play family-friendly folk music in the great outdoors. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

• Sept. 17, ÂME (Live & DJ), 10 pm. Innervations duo Âme (Kristian Beyer and Frank Wiedemann) make a rare joint performance. The duo is one of the most definitive voices in the modern dance landscape. Knockdown Center, 52-19 Flushing Ave., Maspeth.

• Sept. 17, Calpulli Mexican

Dance Company, noon. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and Mexican Independence Day (Sept. 16) with a performance by Calpulli Mexican Dance, marigold planting, and bilingual tours. Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing.

• Sept. 17, Hispanic Heritage Concert, 4 pm. Music and dance in honor of Flamenco guitarist Robert Reyes along with a meet-and-greet with exhibiting artist Kethy Goetemann. Maple Grove Cemetery, enter via the gate at 129th Street and Kew Gardens Road, Kew Gardens.

• Sept. 17, Playing with Cable Ties, 3 pm. Sui Park is currently displaying "Gift Box." As part of the show, the artist demonstrates ways to make sculptures using cable ties. Participants explore the same material used in the exhibition, create their own artwork, and take the finished piece home. The Garage Art Gallery, 26-01 Corporal Kennedy St., Bayside.

• Sept. 17, Women of Woodside, 4:30 pm. Folk performer Rashmi sings about local heroines who call Queens their home. She portrays an aspect of each heroine's journey to the borough and celebrates their cultural, vocational, and life experiences. Moore-Jackson Community Garden, vicinity of 31st Avenue and 54th Street, Woodside.

• Sept. 17, Celebrating Furry Friends, 1 pm. King Manor was a farm with dozens of animals only two centuries ago. Learn about the animals and make cow paper puppets. King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave.

• Sept. 17, Art at Rainey Park, 10:30 am. Families with children ages 4-10 are invited to join Noguchi educators and guest artist Oscar Oiwa for drop-in art activities. All participants receive a pass to visit Noguchi for free. Rainey Park, vicinity of Vernon Boulevard, 33rd Road, and 34th Avenue, Long Island City.

• Sept. 18, Jazz Piano Meets Venezuela, 1 pm. The Mini-Global Mashup continues with American jazz artist Amina Claudine Myers and Venezuelan bandola llanera artist María Fernanda González. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

• Sept. 18, Movin' Out Band, 5 pm. The Queensborough Performing Arts Center presents this Billy Joel tribute band outdoors (Raindate: Sept. 24). Fort Totten Park, Totten Avenue and 15th Road, Bayside.

• Sept. 18, Adichie and the Jungle International Band, 3 pm. Nigerian performer Adichie and his band play world dance music as part of Bayside Historical Society's Passport Concert Series. The Castle, 208 Totten Ave., Bayside.

• Sept. 18, Ñukanchik People: En Diáspora Pueblos Transnacionales, 10 am. A collective presentation by 14 young artists of Latin American origin that includes graphic, audiovisual,

installation, sound, and scenic works. Queens Museum, NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

• Sept. 20, Artist Process Groups, Jan. 31. Green Space Founder and Executive Director Valerie Green leads these activities that address everything from PTSD to anger, body image, depression, shame, self esteem, and addiction. Sessions include movement, expressive work, and group dynamics to promote physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual growth. They run on alternating Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm until Jan. 31, 2022. Green Space, 37-24 24th St., Long Island City.

• Sept. 20, Beekeeping Workshop, 7 pm. Master Beekeeper Walter Blohm discusses the benefits of beekeeping and how bee enthusiasts can get started. Delicious local honey will be on sale. Bayside Historical Society, The Castle, 208 Totten Ave., Bayside.

• Sept. 21, Little Amal, 11 am. Little Amal is a 12-foot-tall puppet representing a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl. Since July 2021 she has travelled almost 6,000 miles across 85 cities and 12 countries to bring attention to children fleeing war, violence, and persecution. She visits Corona's Garden of Hope, Queens Museum, and Jackson Heights on Sept. 21.

• Sept. 22, Jumana Manna, April 17, 2023. Palestinian artist Jumana Manna's first major museum exhibition in the United States brings together nearly 20 works, including two recent films, along with a series of new and existing sculptures. Across the works, the land and its rhythms are explored as the basis for ways of life that have undergone duress while also resisting, evading, and transforming hegemonic power structures. MoMA PS1, 22-25 Jackson Ave., Long Island City.

• Sept. 22, Mirror Meditation, 6 pm. Tara Well discusses her book on mindful practices to develop self-compassion and increase self-assurance and personal presence as part of Queens Public Library's Literary Thursdays program. It's virtual. John by phone via 1-408-418-9388 with access code 2334 285 6255.

• Sept. 22, Henrike Naumann: Re-Education, Feb. 27, 2023. This Berlin-based artist's first-ever United States exhibition features dozens of furniture and domestic objects that press the question: What is the relationship between design and ideology? SculptureCenter, 44-19 Purves St., Long Island City.

• Sept. 22, Spotted Lantern Flies and More, 6:30 pm. Local naturalist Angela Carcione teaches how to protect nature from spotted lantern flies and other invasive species during this virtual event facilitated by the Alley Pond Environmental Center.

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Con Edison Offering Assistance as Energy Market Prices Surge

Company Reminds Customers of Payment Options, Level Billing, Energy Saving Tips, Energy Efficiency Programs

Con Edison is urging customers to take actions now that can help them manage costs this winter as market prices for electricity and natural gas are expected to be substantially higher.

Though summer is still winding down, Con Edison, recognizing the hardship high bills can impose, is letting customers know what they can expect for energy costs in the winter of 2022-'23 and steps they can take to soften the impact.

The company offers energy-saving tips and a number of payment assistance options, including leveled billing, which smooths a customer's costs out throughout the year. The company encourages customers to check out its energy efficiency incentives for upgrades customers make to their homes.

Local electric and gas companies and customers across the Northeast are facing similar circumstances. The increases in customer bills are mainly due to increases in the market cost of natural gas, which is volatile and also influences electric market costs.

The company currently projects that its average residential natural gas heating customer using an average of 165 therms per month will pay \$460 a month from November 2022 to March 2023, 32 percent more than the average bill of \$348 a year earlier.

Supply costs will account for \$90 of that \$112 increase, while delivery charges will account for \$22, under the company's projections.

Con Edison buys natural gas and electricity on the wholesale markets and uses a variety of strategies to stabilize pricing for customers. The company does not set supply costs and does not make a profit on the supply.

Higher natural gas prices also affect the cost of electricity, since power generation plants in the Greater New York City region run mainly on natural gas.

A New York City residential customer using 300 kilowatt hours

a month this winter will pay about \$116, a 22-percent increase over last winter's \$95, based on current projections.

A Westchester County customer using 600 kilowatt hours a month will have an average bill of \$203, a 27-percent increase over last winter's \$160, based on the company's latest estimates.

For a small commercial customer using 583 kilowatt hours per month, bills are projected to rise \$44, or 23 percent, from \$194 last winter to \$238.

A larger commercial customer using 10,800 kilowatt hours per month with a peak demand of 31 kilowatts will see an increase of \$706, or 28 percent, from \$2,524 to \$3,230.

The best strategy for Con Edison's 3.5 million customers is to carefully manage their usage. Customers can save money on energy by using these tips:

- Set thermostats at the lowest comfortable temperature. Each degree lower decreases heating costs.
- Make sure heating vents are not blocked by furniture, carpeting or anything else that could obstruct the flow of heat.
- Have a qualified contractor clean and inspect heating systems.
- Insulate hot-water pipes and warm-air ducts that pass through unheated areas. Clean or replace filters for the hot-air furnace and heat-pump.
- Swap out window shades seasonally. Light-colored window coverings reflect the sun's energy, while darker ones absorb it and release heat.
- Replace conventional light bulbs with LED bulbs, which are up to 10 times more efficient, and are widely available and affordable.

The company offers help for customers who are struggling with their bills. Con Edison can assist customers with payment plans, so that they can pay off balances over time, rather than all at once.

Con Edison is also implementing the New York State Electric and Gas Bill Relief Program, which the company helped design and propose.

Under that program, residential

customers who receive qualifying government assistance will receive a bill credit on their past-due balance for service through May 1, 2022.

For customers who are enrolled in Con Edison's Energy Affordability program or received Emergency Rental Assistance Program or Home Energy Assistance Program-Regular Arrears Supplement benefits, bill credits will be processed automatically. In addition, service will not be suspended for non-payment while credits are being processed.

Customers who receive benefits from certain government programs may qualify for discounts on their monthly energy bills. Con Edison offers information on these and other forms of assistance it has available for customers.

The company's campaign to keep customers informed about winter bills will include press outreach, e-mails, bill inserts, social media postings, conversations with elected officials and other communications.

Con Edison also notes that energy costs are changing quickly with significant shifts on a daily basis. The company will continue to refine its winter pricing forecast.

Natural gas supplies are expected to remain tight this winter, and any disruption from interstate gas transmission providers could further constrain supplies. Con Edison remains vigilant in its monitoring of operational conditions.

Con Edison is a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc. [NYSE: ED], one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies, with approximately \$14 billion in annual revenues and \$65 billion in assets. The utility delivers electricity, natural gas and steam, and serves 3.5 million customers in New York City and Westchester County. Through Consolidated Edison Inc.'s subsidiary, Con Edison Clean Energy Businesses, the company is the second-largest solar developer in the United States. For financial, operations and customer service information, visit conEd.com. For energy efficiency information, visit coned.com/energyefficiency.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar Presents Historic \$90,000 Check to Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol

(Continued from page 6)

COPCP to exponentially expand its already extensive work.

Assemblywoman Rajkumar said: "Every day, I serve my community with a heart full of grace, and today I am proud to bring new energy and new services to South Queens. By securing this enormous new funding stream for COPCP, I am empowering an emerging organization that has all the right ingredients to help our community. COPCP inspires young people to participate in community service, responds rapidly to crises in the neighborhood, and brings people of all diverse backgrounds together. Like me, COPCP is relentless in its service to the community. I am honored to secure COPCP its historic, first-ever government funding."

COPCP President Iqbal Ali said: "This is a historic moment for the community work in Ozone Park. When I saw the check, I literally had goosebumps. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to receive funding like this. This check is only the latest wonderful work from our Assemblywoman,

Jenifer Rajkumar. I have seen her since she took office: whenever there is something wrong in any of our diverse neighborhoods, she is there. Today, she made sure that our community got the help we deserve, and I am forever grateful for the work and commitment that she's brought to us. Thank you for supporting COPCP."

COPCP Executive Director Mohammad Khan said: "We founded COPCP only a few months before Assemblywoman Rajkumar was elected. Her energy and inspiration was vital to our growth as we hit the ground running during the pandemic, and she is always by our side when we are helping our neighbors. With the funding the Assemblywoman has secured, we will be able to do more than I ever would have imagined two years ago."

COPCP Secretary Patricia Raghunandan said: "Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar is my favorite person. Every single day she's out there fighting for COPCP and all of us. For her to do this for our Food Pantry, it tells us a lot about how much she cares. We all love and appreciate her."

Public Officials, New York LGBT Network And Community Leaders Speak Out Against Homophobic Discrimination

(Continued from page 3)

forms of hate. The 34th Avenue Open Street is a real jewel in the Borough of Queens. It is home to so much incredible community programming. I am proud to have been an early and strong supporter of this dynamic space. That will not change. I will continue to work with Council Member Krishnan and all of our community partners to ensure that it remains a safe place for all who wish to use it."

"Misinformation disseminated by this group has caused unnecessary strife in the community and directed hate towards our volunteers," said Jim Burke, Co-founder of the 34th Avenue Open Streets Coalition. "Purported members of this group have used homophobic, xenophobic, and racist slurs against our volunteers and program participants, sometimes in the presence of children and community members."

"Hate has no place in Jackson Heights, the birthplace of Queens Pride. I am appalled at the homophobic harassment that 34th Avenue volunteers like Jim

Burke and many other have had to experience by members of the so-called Jackson Heights Coops Alliance," said Shekar Krishnan, New York City Council Member for the 25th District. "I stand with them, the LGBT Network and longtime LGBTQIA activist and former Council Member Danny Dromm in condemning such bigotry. No matter how their members may feel about 34th Avenue, there is no excuse to engage in hate. Jackson Heights Coops Alliance must condemn its members' actions now."

"Jackson Heights is the home of Queens Pride, but we have also seen terrible violence against LGBT individuals in our community," said Danny Dromm, Co-founder of Queens Pride and former New York City Council Member. "Julio Rivera was murdered by three white supremacists in 1990. Edgar Garzon was murdered by a white supremacist in 2001. We must call out and condemn homophobia wherever and whenever we see it. The Jackson Heights Coops Alliance is now on notice."

TAKE 5 Top-Prize Winner Sold in RIDGEWOOD

The New York Lottery has announced one top-prize winning ticket was sold for the September 12 TAKE 5 EVENING drawing. The ticket, worth \$17,715.00, was purchased at DEVELOP GAS CORP, located at 6520 COOPER AVE in RIDGEWOOD.

TAKE 5 players with midday and evening draws on the same ticket must check their numbers

at nylottery.ny.gov to determine if they have the winning numbers for the corresponding midday or evening drawing.

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

Energy Prices Are Rising Across the U.S.

Here's a Guide on How Customers Can Manage Their Winter Bills

- Spread payments out evenly across the year. A Level Payment Plan allows you to avoid large month-to-month changes in energy costs.
- Consider a payment agreement. A payment agreement can help you pay down an outstanding balance in manageable, monthly installments.
- Check your benefits. Find information about governmental assistance programs, such as Medicaid or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Customers enrolled in assistance programs may be eligible for discounts on their energy bills through our Energy Affordability Program.

- Go energy efficient. Upgrade your lights, thermostats, and other appliances through our Marketplace rebates and savings, exclusive to our customers.
- Manage your use. Register for My Account and log in via conEd.com or our mobile app for an in-depth look at your hourly energy use.

- Get customized tips. Our Home Energy Analysis tool can give you personalized tips and suggestions to help you improve efficiency and control costs this summer—and all year long.

Choose your energy supplier. Con Edison does not generate energy. We provide customers their energy at the same wholesale rate that we pay for it and don't make a profit on supply costs. Customers can research and choose another supplier and get tips for evaluating choices.

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Velázquez Calls on NYCHA Federal Monitor to Approve New Vendor to Prevent Faulty Water Testing at Riis Houses

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) sent a letter to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chair Gregory Russ after potentially dangerous levels of the chemical arsenic were found in the water systems at Riis Houses on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. In the letter, Velázquez presses NYCHA to cancel its relationship with the company and testing lab that was failing to test for arsenic in the water at Riis Houses, and

asks for NYCHA's Federal Monitor, Bart Schwartz to approve a new vendor to ensure all federal, state, and local testing laws are met.

"Over the past week, the residents of Riis Houses have lived with the burden and fear of not being able to trust that the water in their homes is safe for consuming, cooking, or bathing," said Velázquez. "This is an unacceptable and dangerous situation that with proper testing and diligence, should

have been avoided in the first place. Right now, the least NYCHA can do is to assure all residents that they are taking every possible step to run comprehensive tests on the water systems on a regular basis. Over the past week, my office has been in close contact with both residents of Riis Houses and NYCHA and I will continue to work to hold NYCHA accountable and prevent this from ever happening again."

Gillibrand, Maloney, Nadler Push to Close Funding Gap For World Trade Center Health Program Ahead of Shortfall

Members: "As the nation approaches the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, this funding is needed to ensure that the slogan that we will 'Never Forget 9/11' is not an empty promise."

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12), Jerry Nadler (D-NY-10), and Grace Meng (D-NY-6) are pushing to close the funding gap for the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) in any future legislative package being considered this year. The WTCHP is facing an impending budget shortfall in FY2025 that could total over \$3 billion over the next ten years. Soon, the program will not have enough money to care for responders and survivors who are still suffering from the toxic exposures of 9/11 and for those who may come forward in the future with newly developed related cancers or conditions.

Sen. Gillibrand, Rep. Maloney, Rep. Nadler, and Rep. Meng, leaders of the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act, are urging their colleagues to include language from their bill to prevent the WTCHP's potential funding cliff that will impact the medical care of over 118,000 responders and survivors who are receiving help for their 9/11 cancers and other conditions. If shortfall is not remedied, the program will be under a statutory obligation to limit spending and will need to start turning away those that develop conditions, starting October 1, 2024, with additional cuts in services to follow.

"As the nation approaches the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we must come together to ensure that 'Never Forget 9/11' is not an empty promise," said Senator Gillibrand. "My bill, the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correc-

tion Act, would provide the resources needed to ensure the WTCHP can continue now and into the future. Without this funding, more than 118,000 responders and survivors currently enrolled in the program could see their access to treatment affected, and those seeking treatment in the future may not be able to receive it at all. We know the victims of September 11th are not just the men and women killed on that terrible day – thousands of American lives continue to be claimed by illnesses linked to the attacks. We must act now to help 9/11 responders and survivors get the care that they need and deserve."

"It has been 21 years since the attacks on 9/11, and yet thousands of survivors and responders are still living with cancer, respiratory disease, and mental health concerns," said Rep. Maloney. "And unfortunately, medical monitoring and treatment for the more than 118,000 responders and survivors are currently at risk due to an upcoming funding shortfall that the World Trade Center Health Program is facing. That is why I have led my colleagues in calling on Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi to include funding to address this shortfall in any upcoming legislative packages. We must protect these heroes before it's too late."

The funds requested for WTCHP by Sen. Gillibrand, Rep. Nadler, Rep. Maloney, and Rep. Meng would be allocated to ensure adequate funding is provided for the survivors of 9/11 who have faced lifelong injuries as a result of that tragic day. The WTCHP originally passed in 2011 with bipartisan support with a five-year authorization, and was created to provide medical treatment and monitoring for the thousands of 9/11 responders and survivors suffering from the effects of the toxins at Ground Zero

as a result of the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The program covers the lifespans of all exposed, including responders and survivors of the attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the Shanksville crash site, children who were in schools in downtown Manhattan on 9/11 and during clean-up, and those who have since experienced, or are expected to experience, adverse health effects that are linked to the attacks in the coming years. However, since Congress last reauthorized the program in 2015, rising medical inflation and increasing costs associated with providing care have created an anticipated funding shortfall that is expected to start in FY2025.

Sen. Gillibrand has been a forefront advocate for 9/11 first responders and led the effort to pass the bipartisan Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act in 2019, which fully funded and extended the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. In 2010 she authored and passed the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act that both created the WTCHP and reopened the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF). In October of 2018, following the announcement that the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) was set to run out of funding before its expiration date in 2020, Senator Gillibrand, joined by Senators Gardner and Schumer and Representatives Maloney, Nadler, and King introduced a bipartisan bill to permanently reauthorize and fund the VCF for 9/11 heroes and their families.

Most recently, Sen. Gillibrand helped pass the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our

(Continued on page 11)

Senator James Sanders Jr. Welcomes Students Back to School for the 2022-2023 School Year

It is hard to believe but it is that time of the year again - the beginning of a new school year. Welcome Back to the 2022-2023 academic school year! While the coronavirus pandemic seems to have subsided for the time being, I am here to help you, your children, and your school have a safe and productive learning experience, and that means not only providing free protective equipment when possible, but also listening to your needs and concerns and responding in a comprehensive and timely fashion.

I encourage all of those who can, to get a COVID-19 vaccination, and continue to wear masks, practice social distancing and good hand hygiene.

Children receive the best education when the entire community works as a team. The pandemic may have knocked us down because we have never had to deal with such a situ-

ation before, but we are still a team and we will get through it together.

Remember it is a parents enthusiasm, support and involvement that inspires children to do their best; and an educator's task to meet their educational goals, whether that learning takes place in a traditional classroom or virtually from home. It is the responsibility of your elected officials to make certain that schools have the necessary resources needed so that all children can meet their maximum potential and achieve academic success.

There's a lot of uncertainty ahead but there is a lot of excitement ahead too, including new teachers to meet, new books to read, new friends to meet and new skills to master. Something that remains the same though is how fast time goes by. One year your child's in 1st grade and seemingly in the blink of an eye they're in middle school, or in their

senior year of high school and even so, graduating from college.

I look forward to hearing about all of the exciting times you and your child or children will have this school year, and perhaps I'll have an opportunity to join you. I encourage you to fully embrace the moment and urge you to take some time to become familiar with your child's school and the many adults who will care for your child during the school year.

Create a homework-friendly home environment that will allow your children to excel and spend quality time listening to your child. We will rise above the challenges the pandemic has put before us.

In closing, thank you for your commitment to your child's education and I look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

Sincerely,
James Sanders Jr.
Senator, 10th District

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Community Partners And Rep. Grace Meng Take Part in Round Table Discussion on Caregiver Skills Training

(Continued from page 4)

World Health Organization and Autism Speaks to help caregivers increase their children's social communication through play and home routine, address challenging behaviors, and promote caregiver self-care.

"Our collaboration with valued community partners has helped build community capacity to bring a bilingual, evidence-based intervention to a highly vulnerable and underserved population," says Dr. Angela Chan, CBWCHC developmental pediatrician and director of the CST program. "We are proud to work with partners who have been advocating and providing critical services and supports to the community for many years."

"With research reinforcing the effectiveness of caregiver-mediated interventions in helping autistic children reach their full potential, it is essential to deliver clear and accessible guidance to caregivers," said Pamela Dixon, Director of Clinical Services and Inclusion at Autism Speaks. "We are excited to report that the CST program has already been piloted in more than 30 countries worldwide, and with community partners across the U.S., like the Charles B. Wang Center, to address a lack of specialized care in some commu-

nities and equip caregivers with crucial tools, at no cost to families."

"We applaud Congresswoman Meng's efforts to expand the evidence-based CST Program nationwide. After all, by enhancing the skills and changing the perspective of parents struggling to support their child with autism, you have a unique opportunity to affect the entire trajectory of that child's future," said Cares Executive Director Dr. Leah Lax. "There is no more valuable outcome or greater return on investment."

In recognition of the positive impact the CST has on children and caregivers, Representative Meng introduced the bi-partisan Autism Family Caregivers Act of 2022. Co-sponsored by Representative Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), the bill would provide funding for 25 CST pilot programs in the U.S. so more caregivers can be empowered with skills to help their child meet their fullest potential.

The Charles B. Wang Community Health Center was one of the first sites in the country to pilot the Caregiver Skills Training (CST) program to caregivers of children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

"We are grateful to Rep. Meng for her leadership in Congress in introduc-

ing the Autism Family Caregivers Act, and to the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center for driving positive change in diverse communities," said Keith Wargo, President and CEO at Autism Speaks. "As our organization has been a longtime champion for empowering caregivers, we celebrate the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center's success in delivering the program and recognize that implementing equally impactful programs has the power to make a lifetime of difference for many more children with developmental disabilities."

"Results from the pilot study of New York City-based Chinese-speaking caregivers show that those who completed the program significantly increased their confidence and sense of empowerment in supporting their children with delays, and also reported improvements in their child's behavior," said Kaushal Challa, CEO of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. "We commend Rep. Meng's appreciation of the challenges families face and her commitment to improve the lives of children and their caregivers. The Autism Family Caregivers Act will allow organizations to bring timely critical services to families in communities across the nation."

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of AKAN 3 ART LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/03/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 152-11 89th Avenue, #235, Jamaica, NY 11432. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of BUTTERFLY SENIOR DAY CARE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/15/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3716 73rd Street, Suite 401, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/25,9/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Notice of Formation of LILIES OF EDEN, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/19/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 97-28 57th Avenue, Apt.4c, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of SIMSI INTERNATIONAL LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 11811 Sutphin Blvd, 98166, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

154 RIVERSIDE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/22. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 26-07 166th Street, Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 9/1,8,15,22,29&10/6/2022

Notice of Formation of LE BEST SITTER LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/04/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PO Box 45-43, 44th Street, Sunnyside, NY 11104. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/8,15 22,29,10/6&13/2022

Notice of Formation of J&S HOME MAKEOVERS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/27/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 61-48 71st Street, Basement, Middle Village, NY 11379. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/8,15 22,29,10/6&13/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

Vito G. Clarizio DMD, PLLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/21/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 149-21 14th Ave., Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: Dentistry. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

VINELAND JS LLC. Filed 6/14/2022. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 6135 DRY HARBOR RD, MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379. Purpose: General. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15,&22/2022

CTSQ 3311 LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 8/11/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 3636 Main St., #CS, Flushing, NY 11354. General Purpose. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15,&22/2022

Notice of Formation of ROSAS STUDIOS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/22/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 47-15 47th Street, Queens, NY 11377. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15&22/2022

6517 Ave Management LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 1/31/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 3636 Main St., #CS, Flushing, NY 11354. General Purpose. 8/18,25,9/1,8,15&22/2022

BRRM LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/10/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Ross Mignoli, 81-38 263rd Street, Glen Oaks, NY 11004. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 8/25,9/1,8,15,22&29/2022

CASA 34 STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/19/22. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14-38 31st Drive, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 9/1,8,15,22,29&10/6/2022

Notice of Formation of WAGMI ENTERPRISES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/09/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14728 90th Avenue, Apt 2F, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/1,8,15 22,29&10/6/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of RESUMING FORWARD LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/25/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1050 Neilson Street, 2A, Far Rockaway, NY 11691. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/1,8,15 22,29&10/6/2022

Notice of Formation of OPTIMIZED NUTRITION, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/31/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7514 60 Lane, #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful activities. 8/11,18,25,9/1,8&15/2022

Notice of formation of THE MUNCHZ SPOT LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/17/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 35-07 Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106. Purpose: any lawful act. 8/25,9/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Notice of Formation of SOULFIT ATHLETICS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 13904 Glassboro Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11435. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/8,15 22,29,10/6&13/2022

15020 REALTY LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/07/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Anthony Carollo, 11-05 154th St., Whitestone, NY 11357. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 9/15,22,29,10/6,13&20/2022

Queens FM Development L.P. Cert filed w/ SSNY on 9/1/22. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 61-27 186th St., Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. Name & addr of G.P.(s) filed w/ SSNY. Term: until 3/17/2122. Purpose: any lawful. 9/15,22,29,10/6,13&20/2022

Notice of Formation of ELMCO CLEANING SERVICES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/23/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 98-25 65TH Road, Apt 5B, Rego Park, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/15, 22,29,10/6,13&20/2022

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of TDL BASKETBALL LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 17915 145th Drive, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: any lawful activities. 9/15,22, 29.10/6,13&20/2022



Meng, Hevesi And Schulman Issue Statement on Flooding in Queens

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens), Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi (D-Queens) and Councilwoman Lynn Schulman (D-Queens) issued the following statement following the flooding that occurred in Queens today.

“Once again, Queens is forced to endure flooding as a result of heavy rainfall, just nearly two weeks after the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ida devastating our borough.

Many constituents who were working toward rebuilding their lives now face additional setbacks, and many who were not impacted by Ida must

now deal with the damage caused to their properties.

As we deal with the impacts of climate change, the threat of future floods will continue, which is why we need immediate action.

We are doing everything we can to make sure that Queens gets the proper funding to help mitigate flooding. This includes getting the city and state to use money from the federal infrastructure bill that was signed into law late last year. It is crucial that a portion of the funding allocated for New York be used to address this problem here in our borough.

Our offices have been in

constant contact with city and state agencies, and we will continue to demand that these resources be used for things such as upgrading outdated sewers and catch basins so that our communities can be adequately protected from future storms.

Queens residents cannot continue rebuilding from one disaster to the next, only to wonder how much rain may fall. An immediate investment of infrastructure funding for needed upgrades will help save lives, and spare millions of people the economic burdens they face. This is the right thing to do, and it must be done.”

Queens County Farm Celebrates 325th Anniversary With New Maze

(Continued from page 7)

Many people got a sneak peek of the Queens County Farm Museum’s Amazing Maize Maze during the 39th Annual Queens County Fair last week. Friday will be the official opening. The museum is located at 75-30 Little Neck Pkwy.

According to the farm museum the three-acre corn labyrinth is styled after artist Georgia O’Keefe’s iconic “Ram’s Head, Blue Morning Glory” painting.

This new maze, located between Floral Park and Glen Oaks, comes as the museum

celebrates its 325th anniversary as the largest undisturbed continuous farm in the city that people can visit.

To prepare guests who want to go through the maze a Stalk Talk will be given to them about the challenge of finding clues and puzzles that will lead to a Victory Bridge where a view of the full vista will be after meandering through the labyrinth.

October 29 is the last day for the maze. Advance tickets for the maze are for sale: \$12 for adults, \$8 for children 4 to 11-years-old. Free for toddlers under 3.

MAZE HOURS: Fridays, 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 10; 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MAZE BY MOONLIGHT DAYS: Saturday, Oct. 15 and 22; Thursday, Oct. 20 and 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. or 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.. The museum Maze by Moonlight timeslots are the same price at night.

To learn more about the maze or the museum and its other attractions call (718) 347-3276 or email the organization at info@queensfarm.org.

Gillibrand, Maloney, Nadler Push to Close Funding Gap For World Trade Center Health . . .

(Continued from page 10)

Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022, with the cen-

terpiece of the legislation being the senator’s bipartisan Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins

Act, which establishes a presumptive service connection for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxins.

Queens Assistant DA Fall Class of 2022



Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz is welcoming the newest class of Assistant District Attorneys.

During the new few weeks, they will go through the Incoming Orientation Program - a five week training course consist-

ing of lectures, workshops, and hands-on experience to better introduce them to this Office and our mission.

QDA Katz is looking forward to working with each of them in support of the fair administration of justice in Queens County.

P.S. 41 & P.S. 193 Tie For First Place



NYC Council Member Vickie Paladino congratulates P.S. 41 and P.S. 193 for tying for FIRST PLACE in New York Edge's 2022 Elementary School Summer Banner Contest! From Spider-Man to the 7 Train, the banner truly rep-

resents the diversity and creativity of Queens, New York. CM Paladino also presented a Certificate of Distinction to Principal Ferrara of P.S. 41 for proudly representing District 19 in the great City of New York.

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