

# QUEENS TIMES

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25 CENTS

## 42nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Toy Giveaway Hosted by Council Member Francisco Moya and Community Leaders



Council Member Francisco Moya with students from P.S. 110, Saint Leo Catholic Academy, P.S. 14 NBC 4 2022 "Star Choir" and children from the neighborhood are waiting for Santa Claus to arrive in Pfc. William F. Moore Park located at the Intersection of Corona Ave. & 108th Street (between Joseph Lisa Memorial Place, 51 Ave. and 52 Ave.) in Corona Heights.

## Veterans Honored at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park



Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, and NYS Senator Joe Addabbo congratulates Flanders Field VFW Post #150 in Corona Heights Michaels Liquori honoree at the Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park. SEE STORY ON PAGE 2.



## 42nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Toy Giveaway Hosted by Council Member Francisco Moya and Community Leaders



Council Member Francisco Moya with Yessenia Calle who designed the tree and the decorations. See story on page 2.

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# Veterans Honored at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park

(Continued from page 1)

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz organized the annual observance ceremony to honor the men and women who sacrificed for the nation was held at Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Elmhurst Park. DA Katz said, "that the because of the way Veterans were treated after the Vietnam War fired up her to become an elected official and support veterans".

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato expressed her gratitude to all who served, and are currently serving in the Armed Forces. Assemblywoman Amato said. "As a member of the New York State Assembly Veterans Committee honors me to make sure our Veterans needs are served; this is the one committee that I asked to be on".

NYS Senator Joe Addabbo said, "Every day is Veterans Day. It's not just one day of the year on the calendar; it is every day of the year, and the way we should say thank you as elected officials are to do whatever we can on every level of government to take care of the issues that face our veterans each and every day," Addabbo went on to say. "When we take care of the housing issues, the mental health issues, the physical health issues, and employment; when we do that, we can reduce the high suicide rate among veterans and that is really what we need to do."

Congresswoman Grace Meng detailed the two bills she is currently working on: the Veterans Administration Regional Office Accountability Act and the VSO Support Act, legislation that would save veterans halls,

American Legions and VFW Posts that have been plagued by COVID-19 hardship. The years I've been in Congress, it's Queens Veterans and the VSOs that have fought so hard to get the PACT Act passed. The new law that expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances.

Councilwoman Joann Ariola said more outreach on mental health issues is imperative. I am looking forward to enhance our veterans budget and making sure that you have exactly what you need because you made sure that we had exactly what we needed, which was freedom.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar said, "We honor the bravery, courage and sacrifice of all those who served. There are no qualities I respect more."

# Rep. Grace Meng Urges Postal Service to do More to Combat Mail Theft in Queens

*Congresswoman sends follow-up letter calling for additional security of green relay boxes*

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) urged the United States Postal Service (USPS) to do more to combat the theft of mail from green relay boxes in Queens.

In July, Meng wrote to the district manager who oversees postal operations in Queens calling for the Postal Service to address the problem. Although some changes were recently made, the Congresswoman wants to see them expanded, and in a follow-up letter to District Manager Frank Calabrese, called for additional steps be taken. They include:

- Reducing the amount of time that mail is left in relay boxes to lower the chances of thieves stealing the envelopes inside;
- Installing more locks on relay boxes including all that are located in Meng's congressional district; and
- Notifying the public – specifically those impacted – when mail in relay boxes has been stolen.

"Unfortunately, mail theft has been a growing problem in my district over the past year," said

Congresswoman Meng. "Constituents need to know that their mail, property and information is safe, and that is why the security of these relay boxes is so important. I'm glad that improvements were made for Queens residents following the letter I sent earlier this year. However, these upgrades must be expanded to help stop this continued theft of mail. I look forward to working with USPS to help make sure that borough residents no longer worry about their mail's security."

Meng's letter also highlights that mail theft has drastic consequences for letter carriers who deliver our mail. Letter carriers are frequently targeted, sometimes violently, by mail thieves, and this wave of thefts from relay boxes threatens their physical safety as well as the crucial service they provide to the public.

"Combatting this crime not only protects the public's interests but protects the brave letter carriers who are on the frontline of this crisis, and I thank Congresswoman Meng for taking the lead on tackling this issue," said Tony Paolillo, President of the National Association of Letter

Carriers Flushing Branch 294 which represents postal workers throughout Queens. "For these men and women to have targets on their backs simply because of the mail they are trying to deliver is unacceptable. These letter carriers risked their lives in service to our communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, and they deserve to be protected. Every effort should be made to fully protect the letter carriers and the mail they deliver."

The dark green relay boxes are used to store mail and are located next to many of the blue collection boxes throughout the borough.

Meng's efforts to protect mail in relay boxes comes after the Postal Service retrofitted blue collection boxes in Queens with mail slots after she urged the agency to do so. The Congresswoman made the request in 2018 to combat the problem of 'mail fishing' in the borough which is when criminals place string connected to a sticky material into the collection boxes, and 'fish' out the envelopes. The narrower slots make it more difficult for thieves to steal the mail that is inside.

# 42nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Toy Giveaway Hosted by Council Member Francisco Moya and Community Leaders

(Continued from page 1)

Council Member Francisco Moya and Leaders of the Community Hosted the 42nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Toy Giveaway at William F. Moore Park in Corona Heights.

CM Francisco Moya and members of the community brought holiday cheer to children with a special toy distribution at the 42nd annual tree lighting ceremony at Pfc. William F. Moore

Park at the Intersection of Corona Ave. & 108th Street (between Joseph Lisa Memorial Place, 51 Ave. and 52 Ave.) in Corona Heights. In partnership with District Leader Ari Espinal, Councilman Moya distributed around 500 toys to children from the neighborhood. In addition, the event featured Santa Claus as well as live Christmas songs performed by students from P.S. 110, Saint Leo Catholic Academy & P.S. 14 NBC 4 2022 "Star Choir". Special thanks to

the Ecuadorian Civic Committee of New York for the tree and decorations designed by Yessenia Calle. We are also grateful for Cement & Concrete Workers District Council, Local 79, Pazer, Epstein, Jaffe & Fein, P.C, Carpenters CCA Metro, Zarembra and Brown PLLC, DV7, The New York Mets, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, Spectrum contribution. The tree lighting is part of ongoing efforts to continue to uplift the holiday spirit of the neighborhood.

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## Meng & Schumer Hail House Passage of Meng Measure to Spend Nearly \$120 Million to Address Flooding in Queens

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) applauded the House passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 7776) which includes Meng's legislation that seeks to address flooding in Queens.

Meng's measure, which is part of the Water Resources and Development Act reauthorization, would authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to spend nearly \$120 million to work with the City of New York in upgrading environmental infrastructure in the borough. These include projects to help improve water and wastewater infrastructure, storm water management and combined sewer overflows.

"As we have recently seen, storms and heavy rain have caused serious flooding and sewer overflows throughout Queens, resulting in damage to homes and other property," said Congresswoman Meng. "That is why fighting for federal resources to help combat the problem has been a top priority of mine. Queens felt the brunt of Hurricane Ida last year and had to deal with more flooding caused by storms this year. Constituents shouldn't have to worry if their homes, cars and

streets will flood every time rain is forecasted, and the House's passage of my legislation gets us one step closer to remedying the problem."

"Hurricane Ida devastated communities across New York, and Queens in particular suffered immense damage to its roads, businesses and homes, and lives were tragically lost," said Senator Schumer. "I visited Queens after the storm with Representative Meng and we worked together to deliver this valuable federal support to improve flood protection and upgrade our water and sewer systems."

"As climate change advances and we combat one of our greatest threats, New Yorkers are facing dangerous flooding and extreme rainfall events with more and more frequency," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "Representative Meng has fought tirelessly on behalf of Queens, and the passage of this legislation brings us one step closer to ensuring the Queens communities hit hardest by flooding have the resources to protect their homes, their streets, and their neighborhoods."

"I could not be more grateful for the leadership of Representative Grace Meng and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to bring us one step closer to securing \$120 million in critically important

infrastructure improvements for Queens," said Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. "Queens has experienced far more than its fair share of devastating extreme weather in recent years, from Superstorm Sandy to Hurricane Ida and beyond, overwhelming our inadequate infrastructure. But this vital pot of federal funding is nothing short of a game changer for The World's Borough as we continue to combat climate change with all our might."

The NDAA is the annual defense spending legislation, and the measure now heads to the Senate.

The Water Resources Development Act gives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authority to carry out water development projects and studies, among other things. Allowing the Army Corps of Engineers to spend the money is the first step in the process. If signed into law, Congress would still need to provide funding for the Corps to carry out the environmental infrastructure projects in Queens.

Congresswoman Meng is New York's senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, which provides funding for federal agencies and programs including the Army Corps.

This is the second time that the House approved Meng's legislation. It previously passed in June.

## Meng And Carter Celebrate Inclusion of End Wildlife Trafficking Act in NDAA

U.S. Reps. Grace Meng (D-NY) and Buddy Carter (R-GA) applauded the inclusion of their bipartisan legislation to combat international wildlife trafficking and to strengthen interagency efforts to tackle the issue in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which passed the House of Representatives today. U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Rob Portman (R-OH) led the companion bill in the Senate.

Wildlife poaching and trafficking remains a serious transnational crime that threatens the conservation of vulnerable wildlife, security, and economic opportunity. It has also been linked to other organized criminal activities, including trafficking in narcotics, weapons, and people. The Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvements Act (H.R. 5996) would reauthorize legislation that was signed into law in 2016 and expand the responsibilities of the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking.

"I am thrilled that our END Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization Act has passed the House as part of the annual defense funding bill," said Rep. Meng, Vice Chair

of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations. "The trafficking of wildlife is a cruel and dangerous practice that has the potential to cause catastrophic economic damage and can lead to the spread of disease. This interagency solution will help combat the issue on a global scale, and I am proud to help champion this effort."

"From drug deals to human trafficking, the internet is a new front to fight some of the worst crimes we know," said Rep. Carter. "By reauthorizing the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, we will be better positioned to stop these bad actors and combat wildlife trafficking not just in the US, but globally. I'm proud to cosponsor this bill and take a firm step towards ending this heinous crime for good."

"The Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking has done outstanding work, but the threats posed by wildlife poaching and trafficking are constantly evolving," said Senator Coons. "Reauthorizing the END Wildlife Trafficking Act will empower the task force with improved tools to help combat this crime. I am proud to see this bipartisan bill move forward with inclusion in

the NDAA."

"I am pleased that this critical legislation to help combat wildlife trafficking is included in the FY 2023 NDAA," said Senator Portman. "Wildlife trafficking is not only a matter of conservation but also one of national security and international stability, as billions in profits from the illegal wildlife trade are used to finance other illicit and terrorist activity. My legislation with Senator Coons to reauthorize and strengthen the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking will enhance the tools the U.S. government has to help combat wildlife trafficking around the globe."

Since it was enacted in 2016, the END Wildlife Trafficking Act has aided in the arrest of members of wildlife trafficking networks and supported interagency efforts to tackle the issue globally through country-specific and regional initiatives. The END Wildlife Trafficking Act reauthorizes the duties of the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking and related reports on major wildlife trafficking countries and expands the role of technology in anti-trafficking efforts.

## DiNapoli: Young People in New York City Still Face Double-Digit Unemployment

Report Finds Young Men Have Greatest Challenge in Finding Work, With 24% Unemployed

More than two years after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, young people in New York City continue to face double-digit unemployment, with young men experiencing the greatest chal-

lenges in finding work, according to a report released today by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. Unemployment among 16- to 24-year-olds stands at nearly 18% in the city, as compared to about 9% in the rest of New York state and 8% nationally. In comparison, overall unemployment is currently

5.6% in New York City, and 3.4% in the nation.

"The city must take steps to strengthen career opportunities for young job seekers or the city's economic recovery will be stifled even further," DiNapoli said.

(Continued on page 4)

## Attorney General James Protects Queens Tenants from Illegal Lockouts

*BlueSky Management Threatened to Change Tenants' Locks After Buying Adjoining Buildings in Ridgewood, Queens*

New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced action to stop Queens property manager BlueSky Management NY LLC (BlueSky) from threatening to lock tenants out of their homes in violation of New York's housing laws. In June 2022, BlueSky purchased two adjoining buildings in Ridgewood, Queens, one of which was definitively rent stabilized, and immediately sent lease termination notices to tenants. They followed the notices with letters, emails, and text messages illegally threatening to lock the remaining tenants out of their apartments. As a result of the settlement announced today, all tenants who received these threats will receive \$1,000 in restitution, and additional apartments will be returned to rent stabilization.

"My office stood up to BlueSky when tenants did not know where to turn, and we will continue to fight against bad faith attacks on affordable housing in New York City and across the state," said Attorney General James. "BlueSky's greedy and aggressive behavior left tenants frightened, confused, and unsure of their rights under the law. As New York City continues to battle this housing crisis, we must spare no effort in protecting tenants and defending affordable housing."

"In Ridgewood, companies such as BlueSky are purchasing more and more rent-stabilized buildings with the purpose of deregulating units and charging high market rents. BlueSky thought they could break the law in these Onderdonk Avenue buildings, but tenants acted quickly with the help of their local tenants' union and the swift action of the Office of the Attorney General," said Gina Lee, coordinator, Ridgewood Tenants Union. "We applaud the quick action taken by Attorney General James. When this matter was brought to the attention of her office, she ensured the rights of tenants were not violated by BlueSky. We know we can count on the Attorney General to protect the stock of rent stabilized units in a neighborhood like ours, where working class tenants are rapidly being priced out due to gentrification."

In June 2022, BlueSky purchased 402 and 404 Onderdonk Avenue, two adjoining buildings in Queens. Shortly afterward, BlueSky sent termination notices to tenants, informing them that their tenancies were not covered by Rent Stabilization Laws. BlueSky represented that because 404 Onderdonk had undergone renovations to combine two units in 2012, the entire building was no longer rent stabilized, which was false. In early October 2022, the remaining tenants received letters, emails, and text messages threatening to lock them out of their apartments if they did not respond to management.

Ridgewood Tenants Union shared the communications with

the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and OAG immediately notified BlueSky that threatening to change tenants' locks constitutes unlawful eviction and demanded they rescind the threats. BlueSky complied.

As part of the settlement, BlueSky will send an official letter to each tenant informing them that BlueSky is rescinding the termination notice, formally apologize to each tenant in writing, and pay \$1,000 to all tenants who were threatened with an illegal lockout. By December 31, 2022, BlueSky will also provide rent stabilized leases reflecting the proper regulated rent to tenants of 404 Onderdonk Avenue whose rent did not reach the high rent decontrol threshold. Within three months, BlueSky will hold a mandatory training for all employees that will cover illegal lockouts and unlawful evictions. The training will be led by a nonprofit organization.

This agreement is the latest in Attorney General James' efforts to protect tenants. Earlier this month, she stopped real estate company Compass from denying housing to low-income New Yorkers. Last month, the Attorney General and the Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force announced a settlement with Greg Fournier and his real estate company, Greenbrook Holdings, for harassing tenants and engaging in unlawful practices in managing its buildings in Brooklyn. In September 2022, Attorney General James secured \$4 million from landlords after uncovering an illegal kickback scheme to deregulate apartments, cracked down on tenant blacklisting, secured more than \$400,000 for tenants harassed by Ink Property Group, along with up to \$1.75 million for affordable housing and joined New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) Commissioner RuthAnne Vinsauskas in preserving an affordable housing cooperative development in Rockland County. In July 2022, she recovered nearly \$300,000 of illegally withheld security deposits for Brooklyn tenants. In June 2022, Attorney General James delivered \$50,000 to Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA), a tenant organizing project, from law firm Kucker, Marino, Winiarsky & Bittens LLP after they unlawfully provided improper and damaging legal advice to New York tenants and shut down a landlord for exposing children to lead paint hazards in Syracuse. In April 2022, she sued Brooklyn-based eviction lawyers for engaging in deceptive rent collection practices and initiating frivolous lawsuits against New York tenants.

"There is no right more fundamental than the right to have a home to call our own. That means there can be no relenting from our leaders when it comes to ensuring all our families have a roof over their heads," said Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. "On behalf of the entire Ridgewood community and all of Queens, I am deeply grateful to

(Continued on page 4)

## New York City Council Unanimously Passes Bill to Provide Financial Assistance to Homeowners For Purchase And Installation of Backwater Valves

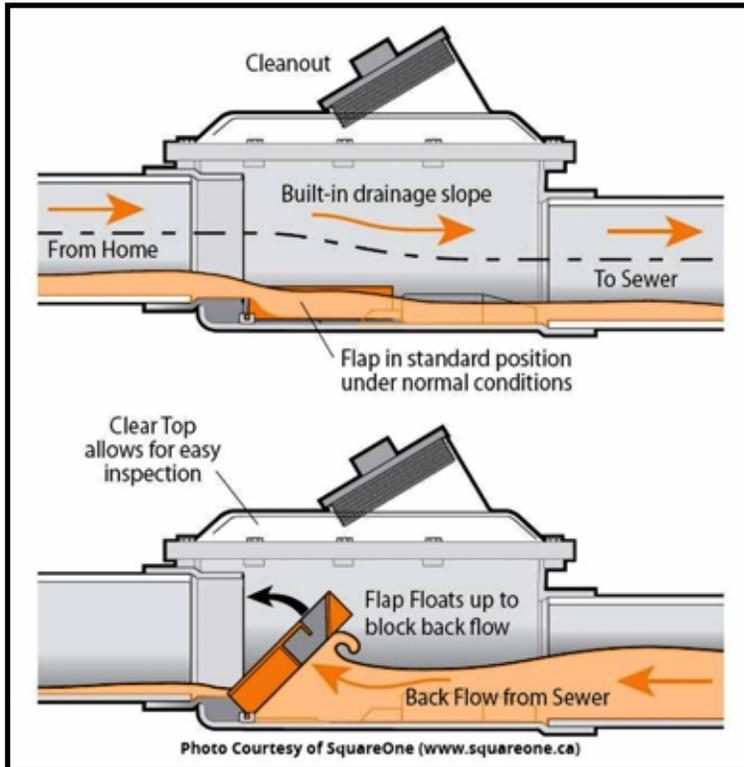
*The Bill Requires DEP to Complete a Study that Evaluates Where Backwater Valves Should Be Installed to Mitigate Flooding Damage from Extreme Weather Events*

New York City Hall, New York) – Earlier today, the New York City Council made history and unanimously voted to pass Intro 0076-2022 – a bill that would provide financial assistance to qualified homeowners for the purchase and installation of backwater valves. Council Member James F. Gennaro is the bill's first sponsor, and Council Member Justin Brannan authored the bill. A total of 18 Council Members sponsored the legislation ahead of today's Stated meeting.

The bill requires the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with other agencies as designated by the Mayor, to complete a study that evaluates where backwater valves should be installed to mitigate flooding damage due to extreme weather events. Data from this study would ultimately determine which homeowners would qualify for the financial assistance program. The study must be completed by December 1, 2024, and the financial assistance program (subject to appropriation) must be set up no later than April 1, 2025.

This bill would also require DEP to prioritize neighborhoods regularly affected by backflow events and conduct outreach and education to property owners about the benefits of backwater valves.

"This is welcome news for my constituents – many of whom repeatedly experience property damage as a result of backflow during heavy rainfall. Backwater valves are a crucial tool to mitigate damage from wastewater backing up into homes," said Council Member James F. Gennaro, Chair of the New York



City Council's Committee on Environmental Protection. "I'd like to thank Council Member Brannan for his advocacy and for authoring this bill. I'd also like to thank my City Council colleagues for unanimously voting in favor of this legislation, which will provide much-needed relief to homeowners across New York City."

"Government is at its best when it reaches towards big, bold action while, at the same time, sweating the small stuff that makes a difference in the lives of hardworking New Yorkers," said Council Member Justin Brannan. "The idea of making these flooding-protective valves more accessible and affordable for homeowners came as much out of the hyperlocal concerns of my neighbors as it did out of my former citywide role as Waterfronts & Resiliency Chair. I can't wait for this program to get up and running and to start making a difference in our neighborhoods."

In addition to mitigating damage in homes, backflow prevention devices prevent contaminated water or chemicals from flowing back into the public drinking water supply system. Certain types of properties are legally mandated to install and operate backflow prevention devices.

For very small buildings (1 story) installation should cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. For small buildings (2 story) installation should cost between \$3,750 and \$5,500. For small to mid-size buildings (car washes, laundromats, small manufacturers) installation should cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000. For mid-size buildings (office complexes, large manufacturers or department stores) installation should cost between \$7,500 and \$13,000. For large buildings (High rises, hospitals) installation should cost between \$14,000 and \$34,000.

For more information regarding backwater valves, visit DEP's webpage at this link.

## DiNapoli: Young People in New York City Still Face Double-Digit Unemployment

(Continued from page 3)

"The recovery is much slower for young workers in New York City when compared to the rest of the state and the country and has had a particularly profound impact on young people of color and young men."

DiNapoli's report found unemployment rates among young people in the city are recovering at a much slower pace due to the city being the initial epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment in 2020 for 16- to 24-year-olds in the city reached 22%, while in the rest of New York state it was 16.5%, and 15.9% across the United States. The pandemic not only caused staggering job losses in 2020, but devastated industries that employ more young people like restaurants, retail, and recreation, causing more young people to leave the workforce.

There also exist greater disparities among young people of color in the city and across the nation.

Currently, the unemployment rates for young Black (18.5%), Hispanic (23.3%) and Asian (23.3%) workers in the city are higher than their white (16.2%) counterparts. However, across the United States, youth unemployment rates have nearly recovered to pre-pandemic levels, including across most racial and ethnic groups.

DiNapoli's report further found that nearly 24% of young men in the city remain unemployed. This is significantly higher than across other groups, the rest of the state and the country. Young men in the city remain the only age and gender group to continue experiencing a high unemployment rate, even two years since the height of the pandemic.

The report suggested that the unemployment rate among young men is higher in the city than in the nation because a greater share worked in the leisure and hospitality sector, which is one of the city's hardest hit industries. It has yet to fully recover 15% of its

pre-pandemic job losses, and there may not be enough openings in the sector to meet current demands.

To help bolster job opportunities for all young people in New York, DiNapoli's report recommends the city:

- Continue to prioritize youth employment programs that pair active job seekers with local employers, such as the CUNY Inclusive Economy Initiative;
  - Identify and report on its efforts to provide at-risk youth or youth from low-income households with stable jobs and career paths;
  - With the Future of Workers Task Force, offer recommendations next year that support full-time, good-paying jobs.
- Report  
New York City's Uneven Recovery: Youth Labor Force Struggling Related Report  
Restaurant Sector Dashboard  
Retail Sector Dashboard  
Tourism Sector Dashboard  
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation Dashboard

## Attorney General James Protects Queens Tenants from Illegal Lockouts

(Continued from page 3)

Attorney General James for her swift action, to the Ridgewood Tenants Union for their advocacy and to all who played a role in rightfully keeping these families in their homes."

"Protecting tenants from unscrupulous landlords must be a priority, and I am glad the Attorney General took this action to deter illegal lockouts," said State Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris. "I applaud the work of local advocates including the Ridgewood Tenants Union who are fighting for residents every day."

"In the wake of widespread housing instability and skyrocketing rents, it is egregious that property management corporations continue to perpetuate the housing crisis by attempting to push out the tenants of their recently purchased buildings," said State Senator Julia Salazar. "We thank Attorney General James for her work in protecting Ridgewood

residents from unlawful evictions and illegally raised rents. Tenants deserve security and stability in their own homes without fear of being locked out by management companies that prioritize profit over people."

"When tenants know their rights and join forces to hold predatory landlords accountable for their illegal actions, everyone wins," said New York City Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez. "I appreciate these efforts from Attorney General James and her staff for prioritizing tenant protection, and hope that other landlords see that they will be held to the same standards as everyone else in our justice system."

This matter was handled by Housing Protection Unit Chief Brent Meltzer. The Housing Protection Unit is a part of the Division for Social Justice, which is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General Meghan Faux. The Division for Social Justice is overseen by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

## QBP Richards Sponsors Scholarship Competition in Recognition of Black History Month

For the third year in a row, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. is inviting talented Queens high school seniors interested in pursuing higher education to apply for African American Heritage Scholarships, to be awarded by the Borough President's African American Heritage Committee during Black History Month early next year.

"College should be accessible to all, not just the few with the means to afford it," said Borough President RICHARDS. "It's an honor to bring the African American Heritage Scholarship program back for another year, as we help break down the financial barriers that can make attending college difficult, or even impossible. Several of our borough's brightest high school seniors will receive valuable scholarships as part of the program, which will help enable them to put their own stamps on African American history."

All of the scholarship winners will receive monetary awards they can use to cover expenses related

to their post-secondary studies. Nine students won scholarships during last year's edition of this competition, with each student receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. Only Queens residents are eligible for the scholarships.

Any high school senior seeking to apply for an African American Heritage Scholarship must submit a completed application form and an official high school transcript by 5 p.m. EST on Monday, January 9, 2023. Those who win the scholarships will be notified by Friday, February 3, 2023 and will be recognized during Borough President Richards' Black History Month Celebration on Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

Students interested in applying for a scholarship can do so by completing the application form at [www.queensbp.org/AAHC-ScholarshipApp](http://www.queensbp.org/AAHC-ScholarshipApp) and by sending their transcripts by email to Director of Economic Development Shurn Anderson at [sanderson@queensbp.org](mailto:sanderson@queensbp.org) or by fax to 718-286-3134.

## Ahead of Governor Kathy Hochul's Executive Budget Announcement, Riders Amplify "New" New York Panel Call for More Frequent Off-Peak Public Transit Service

*Riders Alliance Executive Director Betsy Plum said:*

"Transit riders could not agree more that making New York work for everyone means Governor Hochul must solve the MTA's fiscal crisis and fund dramatically more frequent service in her January budget. Making off-peak bus and subway service much more frequent will transform millions of New Yorkers' lives in a few short months like few other

policies can."

"The 'New' New York Panel grasps what riders have known for years: better transit demands that our state leaders make more of our infrastructure and run more frequent service. After last month's historic election victory was delivered to her by transit riders, New Yorkers are looking to our governor to cut the waits and deliver dramatically more frequent off-peak service in her budget next month."

*Queens Times Weekly ...*  
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**ARIES**  
 (Mar. 21 - April 20)  
 Don't make large purchases or investments. Spend some quality time with your family. Offers of joint ventures are likely. Your lucky numbers are 3,9,1.

**TAURUS**  
 (Apr. 21 - May 21)  
 Try to curb your eating habits. Go with the flow and don't be concerned about your own job. You must strive to get important projects completed. Your lucky numbers are 2,7,1.

**GEMINI**  
 (May 22 - June 21)  
 You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Your lucky numbers are 4,9,1.

**CANCER**  
 (June 22 - July 22)  
 Someone you least expect could be trying to make you look bad. Don't let others know about your private affairs. Your lucky numbers are 8,4,1.

**LEO**  
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)  
 Stop those bad habits. Take a trip or just spend some quality time with your mate. Investments are a positive for you. Your lucky numbers are 8,5,3.

**VIRGO**  
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)  
 Pleasure trips will be relaxing for you. Plan to do things with your faithful pet or with youngsters who have interesting hobbies. Your lucky numbers are 9,1,8.

**LIBRA**  
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)  
 Do not be concerned with coworkers who insist on spreading rumors. Refuse to listen. Friends and relatives can give you good advice. Your lucky numbers are 1,8,2.

**SCORPIO**  
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)  
 Try setting up a reasonable budget and follow it. Look into ways of making extra money. Travel will alleviate stress. Your lucky numbers are 5,2,1.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)  
 You will be popular with acquaintances. Any intimate relationships with colleagues will lead to gossip that could easily affect your position. Your lucky numbers are 6,3,1.

**CAPRICORN**  
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)  
 Travel opportunities are in the future for you and must be taken advantage of. Someone may be trying to pull the wool over your eyes. Your lucky numbers are 2,7,1.

**AQUARIUS**  
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)  
 Short trips will prove to be more gainful than you imagined. Opportunities for romance are present. Your lucky numbers are 7,3,2.

**PISCES**  
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)  
 You are best to put in extra time at work. Your need to get away will be very restful. Problems with colleagues are likely. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,2.

**Did You Know?**

- The moon is 27% the size of the Earth
- The center of the Sun is approximately 15 million C (27 million F)
- Sun light can penetrate clean ocean water up to a depth of 73m (240 feet)
- Cheetahs can accelerate from 0 to 70 km/h (43mp/h) in 3 seconds
- An astronaut can be up to 2 inches taller returning from space (the cartilage disks in the spine expand in the absence of gravity)
- The oldest cockroach fossils are over 280 million years old
- There are over 97,000 km (60,000 miles) of blood vessels in the average person
- The study of insects is called entomology
- The African Rock Python can survive 2 years without eating
- The average American will consume over 465 trees worth of paper over their lifetime
- Over 550 hot dogs are eaten every second in the United States
- Instant mashed potatoes (dehydrated potato flakes) were invented in Canadian in 1962
- In American supermarkets peanut butter is one of the most frequently purchased items
- The most commonly used word in English conversation is 'I'

**SUDOKU**

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

**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						50			
51	52	53							54			55			
56						57	58					59	60	61	62
63						64					65				
66						67					68				
69						70					71				

**Answer to Last Weeks Puzzles**

**"Sudoku"**

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

**"Crossword Puzzle"**

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

**"Try And Find"**

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



**TRY AND FIND**

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

- |                   |                   |                      |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| American apple    | friendly frontier | knapsack legend      | religious seedling |
| barefoot campfire | fruit generous    | Massachusetts Ohio   | settlers soil      |
| Chapman cheerful  | grow hero         | orchard outdoors     | trails tree        |
| dedicated farmer  | Indiana John      | Pennsylvania pioneer | walk westward      |
| forest            | journey           | planted              | wilderness         |

- ACROSS**
- Not fresh
  - Epic fail
  - Baby cow
  - Card game
  - Teller of untruths
  - Egg-shaped
  - Pertaining to Arius
  - Dugout shelter
  - Zero
  - Affection
  - Pleasant
  - Fortune teller
  - Luge racer
  - Shade trees
  - Chapter in history
  - Sharp high-pitched cry
  - Raise a stink
  - Loathsome
  - Inventory
  - Pensioner
  - Immune response trigger
  - Glide over ice
  - Kind of palm
  - Margarine
  - Make lace
  - Sleeping platform
  - Bird home
  - Comparison
  - Illustrated
  - 1 1 1 1
  - Supporting
  - Strip of wood
  - Domestic
  - Audio communication device
  - Nitpicky to a fault
  - Nights before
  - Inscribed pillar
  - Depend upon
  - Lairs
  - SSS

- DOWN**
- Expectorated
  - Ripped
  - Similar
  - Its symbol is Pb
  - Sea eagles
  - Aimless behaviors
  - Generous
  - Paddles
  - Excessively prim and proper
  - Tantrum
  - Evade
  - Spear
  - Fugitive
  - Female ruff
  - Itemize
  - Makes a mistake
  - Onion relative
  - Of higher order
  - In an excitable manner
  - Avidness
  - Look at flirtatiously
  - C C C
  - A nautical unit for speed
  - Genuine
  - Connecting points
  - Midsection
  - Tried
  - Pertaining to the sun
  - Fatuous
  - Nickel or steel
  - Not better
  - Asphalt
  - Rodents
  - Mid-month days
  - Egyptian river
  - Departs



# Mayor Adams, NYC Department of Social Services, AT&T and Digitunity Donate More Than 2,500 Laptops to Nonprofits Across Five Boroughs

What's the news? As part of its nationwide, \$2 billion commitment to help bridge the digital divide, AT&T is working with New York City Mayor Eric Adams, the New York City Department of Social Services, and nonprofits Digitunity, Human-I-T and Electronic Access Foundation (EAF) to provide 2,500 laptops to non-profits serving families experiencing homelessness across New York City.

The refurbished donated laptops are being given to families across the five boroughs — with a focus on those who are experiencing homelessness — to support participation in online learning and digital life. This cross-sector collaboration is part of AT&T's pledge that began in 2022 to help provide 4,000 refurbished computers to underrepresented students in New York City by 2024.

EAF and Human-I-T are computer refurbishing organizations that work with Digitunity to provide underrepresented students across the nation with technology while protecting the planet by diverting devices and other e-waste from landfills. The donation also includes digital literacy resources and technical support services.

In addition, AT&T is collaborating with the Public Library Association (PLA) and two national digital equity nonprofit organizations, Digitunity and Connected Nation, to provide free educational resources to help families of students participate in digital engagement and learning. This includes The Achievery, a new, free digital learning plat-



form created by AT&T to make digital learning more engaging, entertaining, and inspiring for K-12 students.

Why is this important? It's estimated that more than 945,000 K-12 students in New York City lack access to reliable internet service, computers or the skills needed to benefit from the online world, an issue known as the digital divide.

This New York City focus of a national AT&T initiative was announced by Mayor Adams, DSS Commissioner Gary Jenkins, and representatives from AT&T, Digitunity, Human-I-T and EAF at an event in the Bronx where laptops were distributed to children residing in a DSS family shelter. The 2,500 laptops are being donated across various DSS shelters serving families with children experiencing homelessness. DSS operates these shelters in partnership with not-for-profit social

service providers, offering comprehensive social services and supports to families experiencing homelessness while prioritizing academic stability for children in the shelter system.

As digital learning becomes increasingly prevalent, students who lack computer or reliable internet access are at a significant learning disadvantage. Every student in the New York City, regardless of income, deserves the resources and supports they need to reach their full academic potential, which is why New York City and AT&T are committed to supporting student access to the digital devices and online resources that strengthen participation in online learning.

"Access to reliable internet and computers are no longer a luxury, but a necessity," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "These

(Continued on page 10)

# NYC Parks Breaks Ground on Maple Playground Reconstruction Project



NYC Parks Acting Queens Borough Commissioner Jackie Langsam joined Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and Council Member Sandra Ung, and members of the community to officially break ground on the \$6.6 million Maple Playground reconstruction project.

"NYC Parks is excited to break ground on renovations that will transform Maple Playground in Downtown Flushing," said Acting Commissioner Langsam. "The new design will ensure that there are different types of play space for the diverse park users, from the proposed play equipment to ping pong tables. We are grateful to Council Member Ung and Borough President Richards for their support of this project, and we look forward to inviting everyone back to play in the new playground once complete."

"Our playgrounds and parks are the backbones of our neighborhoods, but many of our communities lack the modern, high-quality open spaces that families who need them deserve. With this \$6.6 million reconstruction of Maple Playground, Flushing families will have one of those state-of-the-art spaces to call their own," said Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. "Improving and expanding open space in Queens is a top priority for me, along with my colleagues

like Councilmember Ung and the Parks Department, and I look forward to many more groundbreaking with all our partners in the years to come."

"Maple Playground is an incredibly popular gathering spot," said Council Member Sandra Ung. "On any given day, it is bustling with seniors playing mahjong, families relaxing with their children, and residents just looking for a little open space in this densely packed neighborhood in the heart of Flushing. I look forward to the day when it reopens and residents can enjoy this renovated open space and all of its new amenities."

This project will enlarge and relocate the children's play area to the shaded east side of the park, which will include new play equipment and swings for children ages 2-5 and 5-12, a water play area, and seating. The existing drainage system will be fully reconstructed to eliminate ponding issues that currently plague the playground area. The southern portion of the park will include reconstruction of the basketball court with new color seal coat and installation of three new ping pong tables.

The \$6.6 million Maple Playground Reconstruction Project was funded with \$3.5 million from City Council, and \$3.1 million from the Office of the Queens Borough President.

## Wishing everybody a healthy and safe holiday season. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy New Year.



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## CM Won, Local Leaders, and Parents Celebrate \$7.1 Million in Capital Funding For Lawrence Virgilio Playground

Council Member Julie Won joined Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, NYC Parks Queens Acting Borough Commissioner Jackie Langsam, and local parents and children to celebrate the \$7,100,000 capital funding investment for improvements to Lawrence Virgilio Playground. This funding announcement was the culmination of years of community advocacy for necessary repairs to play equipment, sprinklers, sidewalks, security lighting, handball courts, and more.

Council Member Won listened to her community and advocated for these improvements to the playground. Through her advocacy, she secured \$4.6 million from the City Council, \$1 million from her own discretionary capital funds, and \$1.5 from the Borough President's office. The \$7.1 million will cover the following repairs and improvements:

- Reconstruction of the children's play area with new play equipment, swings, safety surface, fencing, and spray shower area
- Reconstruction of sidewalks, asphalt paths, and natural areas near the children's play area
- Reconstruction of four handball courts
- New security lighting for children's play area, paths, and seating areas
- Reconstruction of two adult fitness areas

The last upgrades at Lawrence Virgilio Playground happened in 2007, and included the addition of an open-air stage, a renovated ADA-accessible comfort station, mini-pool, exercise track, pathways, fencing, basketball courts, and new exercise equipment.

"For years, parents and chil-



dren have advocated for new fences, functioning sprinklers, new play equipment and handball courts, anti-slip play mats, and other renovations at Lawrence Virgilio Playground. Since taking office, I advocated for these much-needed repairs and was able to get \$7.1 million committed with the partnership of the City Council Speaker and Queens Borough President," said Council Member Julie Won. "Thank you to all of the parents for their advocacy to ensure that this playground gets these much-needed improvements. Our children's safety and access to green space will continue to be a top priority in our district."

"Neighborhood parks and playgrounds are vital community spaces that are critical for our health and well-being," said Speaker Adrienne Adams. "Every New Yorker deserves access to accessible open spaces where they live, and the Council has prioritized investments to support this goal. I am proud to join Council Member Won in allocat-

ing more than \$5.5 million in the city budget for repairs at Lawrence Virgilio Playground. Improving this neighborhood playground will positively impact local residents for generations to come."

"Our playgrounds and parks are the lifelines of our community, but far too many neighborhoods lack the high-quality open spaces the families who call them home deserve. But with this \$7.1 million investment into Lawrence Virgilio Playground, the children of Woodside will have a state-of-the-art playground to call their own," said Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. "We're on a mission to not only improve, but expand upon the open space available to our families boroughwide, and this project is a critical step toward reaching that goal."

"We're thankful to Council Member Won, Speaker Adams, and Borough President Richards for this allocation for Lawrence Virgilio Playground," said Acting Borough Commissioner Langsam.

(Continued on page 9)

## Holiday Card Making Event Brightens Season For Young People in Southeast Queens

NYS Senator Leroy Comrie, the NYC Administration for Children's Services, Greater Nexus, Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, Women in Correction NY, Beyond the Blue, and SEQ U.P. Front joined together to present "Cookies and Cards with Team Comrie," a holiday card making event for young people on Saturday, December 10th.

Geared toward bringing the spirit of the season to children in care, the event presented an opportunity for more than 50 children and young people to make holiday cards and share holiday cheer with cookies, hot cocoa, cupcakes, and other holiday treats. Agencies with participating families, children, parents, and guardians included SCO Family Services, Harlem Dowling - Jamaica Site, Jamaica FEC (Forestdale Inc.), and Sheltering Arms.

In addition to cookies and card making, children and young people participating received a special holiday gift thanks to the generosity of event partners. A variety of gifts were given out including: watches, speakers, headphones, blankets, journals, coloring books, basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, skateboards, dolls, stuffed animals, nail polish, lip gloss, self-care kits, and more.



**Pictured from L-R : Olanike Alabi (Director of Community Engagement, ACS), Felicia Galy (President, SEQ UP Front), Sharon Nelson (President, Women in Correction NY), Senator Leroy Comrie, Patricia Robinson (Chief Administrative Officer, Greater Jamaica Development Corporations), Jess Dannhauser (Commissioner, ACS), Ina Mendez (Deputy Commissioner of Family Permanency Services, ACS), Heidi Schieck (Director of Young Adult Services, SCO Family of Services), Johnson Sherine (Program Director, Harlem Dowling Westside Center Queens Outreach Family Support Program). Photo credit: Office of NYS Senator Leroy Comrie / Branded by Rae Productions)**

NYS Senator Leroy Comrie said, "I always welcome the opportunity to join with mission-driven organizations to present uplifting events in our community - these events are all the more important during the holiday season. Thanks to ACS, our community-based organization partners, and the agencies who helped make 'Cookies and Cards with Team

Comrie' possible. I count the smiles on children's faces as a success in sharing the spirit of the season in our community."

ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser said, "ACS is grateful to be partnering with New York State Senator Comrie, and other community members, for

(Continued on page 9)

## Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32



Recently, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz had the opportunity to attend a Holiday Party hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 in Maspeth.

QDA Katz said "Our veterans deserve to be honored year round and may this holiday season bring our veterans joy, warmth and time spent with loved ones.

## Student Achievements in Ozone Park



The Youth Empowerment Unit of the Queens District Attorneys Office recently took the time to visit M.S. 137 America's School of Heroes in Ozone Park, along with local elected officials and

community leaders. QDA Katz said "It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our students while learning about their many scholastic achievements."

  
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# IT'S IN QUEENS

## It's In Queens! ! (Dec. 16 to Dec. 22)

Dance the night away in a bonnet and horsehair crinoline. Go on an adventure with spirited Muppets. Sip hot chocolate while listening to a classic play. Uncover the poetry in nature. The upcoming week is filled with some dramatic activities in Queens.

- Dec. 16, Heart of Darkness, 3:30 pm. Participate in a conversation about Isamu Noguchi's 1974 sculpture "Heart of Darkness" (1974), which is on permanent exhibition on the first floor. The Noguchi Museum, 09-01 33rd Rd., Long Island City.

- Dec. 17, The Governor's Victorian Holiday Ball, 4:30 pm. Celebrate the holiday season with historic cocktail making, Victorian dancing, collages, salt dough ornament crafts, generous hors d'oeuvres, and period music. Formal dress code is suggested, while Victorian Period attire is encouraged. King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Ave.

- Dec. 17, The Gift of the Magi, 1 pm. Renowned actor and raconteur Kevin R. Free, who grew up in Queens, recreates O Henry's 1905 Christmas story "The Gift of the Magi" in a three-acre pasture. Free hot chocolate. Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Pkwy., Glen Oaks.

- Dec. 17, Nancy Sit Live, 9 pm. A show by Nancy Sit, the first actress to be awarded the HKSAR Medal of Honour in Hong Kong, who is also a singing superstar in the Asian world. Resorts World New York City, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., South Jamaica.

- Dec. 17, The Muppet Christmas Carol: 30th Anniversary Screening, Dec. 24. Watch this 1992 version of the Charles Dickens classic with Muppet characters. Gonzo is Charles Dickens, Kermit is Bob Cratchit, and Fozzie Bear is Fozziewig. A human actor, Michael Caine, plays Ebenezer Scrooge. Showtimes are Dec. 17 at 1 pm (with Jim Henson Legacy President Craig Shemin in attendance) and Dec. 24 at 12:30 pm. Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave., Astoria's Kaufman Arts District.

- Dec. 17, Quintet of the Americas, 3 pm. This Jackson Heights-based group -- Kim O'Hare Bonacorsa (flute), Matt Sullivan (oboe and English horn), David Valbuena (clarinet and bass clarinet), Barbara Oldham (horn), and Alexander Davis (bassoon) -- mixes Mozart with wind music, tango, and a Kwanzaa tune. Queens Public Library Branch, 35-51 81st St., Jackson Heights.

- Dec. 17, Nature in Poetry Hike, 11 am. Join Urban Rangers for a walk around Meadow Lake as participants reflect on poetry inspired by the outdoors. Meet at Meadow Lake Boat Rental Parking Lot, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Dec. 17, Storytime with Tim Miller, noon. An arts-filled day with author/illustrator Tim Miller who will read his newest book, "Izzy Paints at the Queens Mu-



LPCA Nutcracker



RWNY-Nancy-Sit



Queens Farm Magi

seum." Program includes book reading, illustration demo, and art-making stations. Queens Museum, NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

- Dec. 17, Holiday History Books Sale, all day. A 10 percent discount on all Queens history books in the Gift Shop. Queens Historical Society, Kingsland Homestead, 143-35 37th Ave., Flushing.

- Dec. 17, UpSouth Under Queens' Grounds, 2 pm. Former Queens Poet Laureate David Mills reads his poetry inspired by two enslaved women, Martha Peterson and Millie Tunnell. Both are buried in Queens cemeteries. Queens Historical Society, Kingsland Homestead, 143-35 37th Ave., Flushing.

- Dec. 18, Oratorio Society of Queens Holiday Concert, 4 pm. Maestro David Close leads a chorus, orchestra, and soloists through selections from Handel's "Messiah" and traditional Christmas and Chanukah favorites. St. Kevin's Church, 42-21 194th St., Flushing.

- Dec. 18, The Nutcracker & Visit to Santaland, 3:30 pm. The Joffrey Ballet School offers a blend of dance and music while relating the holiday adventure that follows a little girl through a fantasy world of dolls, toy soldiers, mice, snowflakes, princes, and fairies. Then, it's Santa time. LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, 31-10 Thomson Ave., Long Island City.

- Dec. 18, Mini-Global Mashup: Garifuna Meets Flamenco, 1 pm. Lucy Blanco, who founded the

Afro-Garifuna Jazz Ensemble in New York City, plays with bassist Hilliard Greene. Flamenco duo Lisa and Josué perform. Then, they jam together. Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd.

- Dec. 18, Quintet of the Americas, 3 pm. This Jackson Heights-based group -- Kim O'Hare Bonacorsa (flute), Matt Sullivan (oboe and English horn), David Valbuena (clarinet and bass clarinet), Barbara Oldham (horn), and Alexander Davis (bassoon) -- mixes Mozart with wind music, tango, and a Kwanzaa tune. The Center at Maple Grove Cemetery, 127-15 Kew Gardens Rd.

- Dec. 18, Astoria Holiday Market, noon. Art, jewelry, toys, chocolates, body care, handbags, clothing, stationery, scarves, hats, and pottery. Plus, the host venue offers the Grandmas Kitchen menu, which includes homemade soups, platters, and apple strudel. Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden, 29-19 24th Ave., Astoria.

- Dec. 18, Winter Solstice Forest Bathing Walk, 11:30 am. Certified guide Linda Lombardo leads a meditative forest bathing walk as per the Japanese Shinrin-Yoku tradition. The goal is to inspire connections to nature for a range of health benefits. Alley Pond Environmental Center, 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens.

- Dec. 18, Community Market Party, noon. Live and deejay music, furniture, new and vintage art, clothing, drinks, and food surprises. M Wells, 43-15 Crescent St., Long Island City.

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## New York City Council Passes Ranked Choice Voting Ballot Simplification Bill!

*Leg will build on RCV successes and make ballot more friendly for non-english speakers*

New York City Council Members voted and passed Councilwoman and Government Operations Chair Sandra Ung's legislation that will build on the successes of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and simplify the RCV ballot. New York City voters use RCV – a voting method which allows voters to rank their top five candidates – for municipal primary elections including City Council, Mayor, and Borough President. All City Council members are up for re-election next June.

The Councilwoman's bill will improve the layout of ranked choice ballots by ensuring:

- Ballot instructions have been simplified to be easier to understand, and they appear in black font on a white background
- Contests on the same ballot page are separated from one another using a bold black line
- Non-English text can be easily compared to the corresponding English text
- Each language on the ballot is clearly separated and visually distinct

Common Cause NY, a key founder of Rank the Vote NYC, praised Councilwoman Ung's bill.

"Common Cause/NY is thrilled that the City Council swiftly voted and passed Councilwoman Ung's bill which will build on the successes of Ranked Choice Voting and make the ballot even more voter friendly. Ranked choice voting affords voters more choice and more voice and puts power back in the hands of the people, delivering consensus majority winners every time. We encourage the City Council to pass this bill as soon as possible so voters continue to have a smooth experience at the polls in June 2023!" said Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause/NY and Board Chair of Rank the Vote NYC.

"New Yorkers pulled off the

largest Ranked Choice Voting election in the history of the U.S. when they went to the polls in last year's June primary," said Council Member Sandra Ung. "This new law will simplify the ballot and make it easier to understand, encouraging all voters, especially those with limited English proficiency, to take advantage of the opportunity to rank their preferred candidates and strengthen the democratic process. I want to thank my colleagues in the City Council for passing this legislation, and look forward to these common sense ballot changes being implemented in time for the June 2023 primaries."

"Council Member Sandra Ung's legislation focuses on addressing exactly what our community discusses in myriad languages, and that is access. We are grateful that this bill has passed as it affirms to our immigrant communities that this City Council is committed to the franchise of every New Yorker," Asian American Federation Executive Director Jo-Ann Yoo said. "Ranked-choice voting can be a great opportunity for our community members, but only as long as it's implemented with them in mind. This is a step in the right direction and we encourage our Mayor to sign this bill."

"Asian Pacific Americans Voting and Organizing to Increase Civic Engagement (APA VOICE) led extensive multilingual voter education and outreach for New York's first ranked choice voting election in 2021. We welcome the passage of the Ranked Choice Voting Ballot Simplification Bill, which will redesign the ballot for ranked choice voting and make it simpler for voters to cast their ballot next June," said Sandra Choi, Director of Civic Participation at the MinKwon Center for Community Action.

"An overwhelming number of New Yorkers support and enjoy ranked choice voting (RCV) - that's because we all know that it is critical to expand democratic participation. I am thrilled to

support Councilwoman Ung's legislation that will make RCV even better for every voter in New York City. I happily vote yes!" said Council Member Shekar Krishnan.

Exit polling conducted by Edison Research during early voting and on Election Day last year confirmed New York City voters love RCV:

- New Yorkers embraced Ranked Choice Voting at the ballot box.
- 83% of voters ranked at least two candidates on their ballots in the mayoral primary. The majority of those who opted not to rank did so because they only had one preferred candidate.
- 72% of voters ranked three or more candidates.
- 42% of voters maximized their newfound power and ranked five candidates.
- New Yorkers found Ranked Choice Voting easy to use.
- 95% of voters found their ballot simple to complete.
- 78% of New Yorkers said they understood Ranked Choice Voting extremely or very well.
- New Yorkers want Ranked Choice Voting in future elections.
- 77% of New Yorkers want Ranked Choice Voting in future local elections.
- There was little variability between ethnic groups' understanding of ranked choice voting:
- 77% of Black voters said they understood ranked choice voting
- 80% of Hispanic voters said they understood ranked choice voting
- 77% of Asian voters said they understood ranked choice voting
- 81% of white voters said they understood ranked choice voting
- New Yorkers across ethnic groups found their ballots simple to complete:
- 93% of Black voters found their ballot simple to complete.
- 95% of Hispanic voters found their ballot simple to complete.
- 97% of Asian voters found their ballot simple to complete
- 95% of white voters found their ballot simple to complete.

that he walks free on bail and untracked. We stand with the Jewish community in condemning the judge's decision that has allowed this dangerous and capable individual to freely walk our streets. He continues to be a threat to the public and needs to be behind bars."

## Holiday Card Making Event Brightens Season For Young People . . .

(Continued from page 7)

the Cookies and Cards event. The event will bring dozens of children and teens together, along with some of their foster families, for a day full of festivities ranging from holiday card making, to gift giving, to delicious food, and more. This is a wonderful way to help spread joy and cheer in the community during the holiday season!"

Jacqueline Denson, Director of Family Enrichment Center, Forestdale, Inc., said, "Cookies and Cards remind us of the power and importance of community and the joy that kindness brings. FEC (Forestdale Inc.) was honored to be a part of this significant event that undoubtedly brought hope and joy to our community."

About Senator Comrie: - New York State Senator Leroy Comrie grew up in the community he now represents, the 14th Senate District in Queens. He attended P.S. 116, I.S. 8, Jamaica High School, and went on to the Uni-

versity of Bridgeport. He is a lifelong member of Saint Alban the Martyr Episcopal Church, a father of two adult children, and husband celebrating his thirty-second wedding anniversary this year. Having served as president of the local Community School Board, he went on to represent the community for twelve years in the New York City Council. Elected to the State Senate in 2014, Senator Comrie believes that government must be responsive to the needs of all people. In addition to drafting and sponsoring legislation, his office serves as a conduit to connect residents with resources, interface with State government, and meet community needs. Whether those needs are ensuring quality education, healthcare, services for seniors, youth, or small business, or needs in terms of advancing policy for public safety, sustainable economic development, or other, vital community concerns — Senator Comrie is a passionate advocate for Southeast Queens and for all New Yorkers.

## CM Won, Local Leaders, and Parents Celebrate \$7.1 Million in Capital Funding for Lawrence Virgilio Playground

(Continued from page 7)

"We look forward to kicking off the design process with our community input meeting, which will ensure that this new playground will serve as a focal point for play, exploration, and fun for decades to come."

"When Councilmember Won was running for election, my

daughter and I invited her on a playdate to see the issues at Lawrence Virgilio Playground. I am delighted to see that so much of what we talked about—the lack of gates, the broken spray shower, the slippery mats, the incorrectly placed fencing around the swings—finally will be addressed," said parent and resident Nicole Haroutunian.

## Yet Another Court Rejects Republican Attempts to Disenfranchise Voters, Assemblymember Pheffer Amato Leads by 1 With 94 Ballots to Cure

The Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, 2nd Judicial Department today unanimously agreed with the lower court that 94 absentee ballots are curable and started a process to allow these voters to have their voices heard. Despite legal attempts from Republicans to disenfranchise these valid voters, whom the Board of Elections already determined were eligible to vote, the court upheld the lower court.

"We are grateful to the courts for once again agreeing that these are votes from valid voters," said Matthew Rey, campaign spokesperson. "These voices will now be heard, and the fact that their votes can now be cured and counted is an important step forward."

"Two courts came to the same conclusion—New York will continue to be a champion for democracy," said Rey. "No amount of extreme rhetoric will stop us from ensuring that every valid vote is counted, and we're once again thankful to the courts for continuing to follow the law and ruling that these ballots can be cured and counted."

Assemblymember Pheffer Amato currently leads by 1 vote after a manual recount concluded last week. There are 94 curable absentee ballots; 4 to 6 affidavit ballots that are pending opening by the Board; and an additional 13 votes that have been rejected by the Board and are being challenged in court. Assemblymember Pheffer Amato continues the fight to have every vote counted.

## Council Member Gennaro & Assembly Member Rosenthal Condemn Manhattan Judge Decision Allowing Would-be Synagogue Terrorist Free on Bail

"A Manhattan Supreme Court judge has denied two requests from Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg to keep would-be terrorist Matthew Mahrer in jail, where he belongs. Threats against the Jewish community must not be taken lightly, let alone individuals putting plans

into action and going as far as stockpiling weapons and equipment to execute an attack on New York City synagogues. To add insult to injury, this judge also denied a request asking that Mahrer wear an ankle monitor. It is an absolute dereliction of duty and terrible lapse in judgement

that he walks free on bail and untracked. We stand with the Jewish community in condemning the judge's decision that has allowed this dangerous and capable individual to freely walk our streets. He continues to be a threat to the public and needs to be behind bars."

## Riders Alliance Testimony to The New York City Council on Subway Safety

In testimony submitted to a New York City Council oversight hearing on public safety in the subway system, Riders Alliance Policy & Communications Director Danny Pearlstein said:

"The biggest threat to subway safety is that cuts will drive riders from the system and leave

people still riding increasingly vulnerable. With the operating budget in dire straits, Governor Hochul must invest in service every six minutes or better all day, every day, to attract more riders and foster safety in numbers. "For their part, City leaders should invest in transit

by expanding Fair Fares for riders up to 200% of the federal poverty line. Mayor Adams must also follow the Streets Plan law to speed up the nation's slowest buses and cut the hundreds of millions of dollars in losses that the MTA absorbs each year due to delays in bus service."



## Gillibrand Calls on President Biden to Develop Unified National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism

*Bipartisan, Bicameral Push Joined by More than 100 House and Senate Colleagues*

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and 125 of her congressional colleagues are calling on President Biden to develop a whole-of-government approach to monitor and combat antisemitism. This bipartisan, bicameral push follows the release of the Anti-Defamation League's 2021 audit on antisemitic incidents in the United States, which found that antisemitism in the U.S. is at an all-time high with 2,717 reported incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism. According to the same report, in 2021, New York had the highest number of reported antisemitic incidents in the United States, with incidents increasing by 24% from 2020 to 2021. The letter notes that closer interagency cooperation is needed to execute a unified national strategy, identify gaps in efforts, and share best practices, data, and intelligence.

"As members of the House and Senate Bipartisan Task Forces for Combating Antisemitism, we write to urge you to ensure

leaders working within your Administration are working together to execute a unified national strategy to monitor and combat antisemitism," wrote the lawmakers. "With Jewish communities worldwide facing increasing discrimination, as well as threats and acts violence, we believe a whole-of-government approach is needed to effectively address the scourge of antisemitism."

"We welcome the measures the Administration has taken thus far to address antisemitism. However, combating a growing threat of this magnitude, particularly here at home, requires a strategic, whole-of-government approach," continued the senators. "Because many individual agencies play a critical role in combating antisemitism, closer coordination is needed to share best practices, data, and intelligence; identify gaps in efforts; streamline overlapping activities and roles; and execute a unified national strategy."

The Jewish community remains the top target of faith-based hate crimes in the U.S. for the 24th consecutive year, and Senator Gillibrand will continue to prioritize the safety of

religious communities throughout New York State. In June, Senator Gillibrand and a strong coalition of bipartisan colleagues requested \$1.5 million to improve the safety and security of at-risk Jewish communities, ensure foreign public officials condemn antisemitic discourse, strengthen foreign judicial systems in their prosecution of antisemitic incidents, and promote Holocaust education. In January, Senator Gillibrand requested that the Senate Appropriations Committee adequately fund the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which supports nonprofit organizations most at risk of attack through the acquisition and installation of physical target hardening measures, related preparedness and prevention planning, training, and exercises, and contracted security personnel.

This letter is led by Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and joined by Senator James Lankford (R-OK) and Representatives Kathy Manning (D-NC) and Chris Smith (R-NJ), co-chairs of the Senate and House Bipartisan Task Forces for Combating Antisemitism.

## Mayor Adams, NYC Department of Social Services, AT&T and Digitunity Donate More Than 2,500 Laptops to Nonprofits Across Five Boroughs

(Continued from page 6)

tools are vital to succeeding in school and work, and staying connected as a society. Bridging the digital divide is at the heart of building a more equitable city and I thank AT&T and Digitunity for their collaboration and generous donation of laptops to New York City's most vulnerable families."

"AT&T is honored to be joined by Mayor Adams and DSS to work with these important nonprofits that serve some of the city's most vulnerable families across the five boroughs to help close the digital equity gap in New York City. Many students in New York lack the devices needed for online learning — and we are dedicated to fixing that inequity," said Judy Cavalieri, Vice President and General Manager, AT&T New York. "Access to computers is vital in helping to bridge the digital divide and we are glad we can provide these resources to those that need them most."

"In our increasingly digital world, access to a computer with a stable internet connection is a prerequisite for academic success. Still, far too many of our most vulnerable families and students lack this access and struggle to participate in crucial digital learning opportunities," said Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary P. Jenkins. "We are committed to overcoming this digital divide and ensuring that all students

have access to the devices and resources that are critical to academic success. As such, we are thrilled to collaborate with AT&T, Digitunity, Human-I-T, and EAF as they provide laptops and digital resources to some of the city's most vulnerable families."

The more than 4,000 computers being donated in New York City are part of a 10-city project led by AT&T and Digitunity to provide more than 24,000 refurbished computers, digital literacy resources and technology support over the next two years to families across the nation. These efforts are the latest development within the AT&T Connected Learning initiative.

Created as part of AT&T's companywide, \$2 billion commitment, AT&T's contributions to this initiative help address the digital divide through investments in digital literacy tools, education resources, broadband technology, low-cost internet service, computers, and more to help today's learners succeed wherever they are.

"Everyone who needs a computer should have one. It's the thing that allows people to participate fully in the modern economy," said Scot Henley, Executive Director of Digitunity. "For students today, having a connected computer and the skills to use it is as critical to their success as having books, paper, and pencils. We're proud to support this effort to connect students in New York City."

Many students across the U.S. are affected by the digital divide and struggle to participate with online learning opportunities because of unreliable internet access, lack of computers, or poor digital literacy skills. This project will help under-resourced students engage in today's digital learning environment. Digital literacy is the new universal language, not only in the workplace, but in school. In fact, 7 out of 10 teachers assign online homework assignments as part of their school curriculum. Having a large screen device is necessary and critical to academic success and future opportunities for students.

"At Human-I-T, we believe access to technology is a right, not a privilege. We're excited to collaborate with AT&T, Digitunity, and the Mayor's office to provide access to technology to New York residents on the wrong side of the digital divide and empower them to achieve their fullest potential," said James Jack, Co-Founder and Chief Innovation Officer of Human-I-T.

"We're thrilled with the opportunity to collaborate with Digitunity and AT&T in this coordinated effort to support New York residents. It has been wonderful to create new partnerships with non-profit organizations in the city. We look forward to our ongoing relationships with them," said Greg Campbell, Director of Operations, Electronic Access Foundation.

## Senators Gillibrand & Portman Introduce Bill to Expunge Criminal Records of Trafficking Victims

U.S. Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Robert Portman (R-OH) introduced the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, a bill that would support victims and survivors of human trafficking and help them rebuild their lives.

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person for labor or commercial sex, or the exploitation of a minor for commercial sex. Survivors of human trafficking are unfortunately commonly charged with crimes like conspiracy, prostitution, and drug trafficking that they are forced to commit as a direct result of being trafficked.

These charges hurt a survivor's ability to start a new life and find jobs and housing, leaving them vulnerable to further exploitation. Under the Trafficking Survivors Relief Act, survivors of human trafficking would have non-violent criminal convictions that resulted from having been a trafficking victim vacated and expunged.

"All too often, victims of human trafficking are forced by their captors to commit crimes. These victims cannot refuse and then face criminal charges," said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. "Congress has a responsibility to end this injustice. The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act would clear the non-violent criminal convictions of trafficking survivors and help them rebuild their lives with a fresh start."

"During my time in the Senate I have met with many brave trafficking survivors in Ohio who have told me about how they were forced into commercial sex and then charged with a crime," said Senator Robert Portman. "We must understand the coercive nature of trafficking and find a way to offer relief to a victims as they recover from the unimaginable trauma of being trafficked and sexually abused. This legislation is aimed at helping survivors get a fresh start as they build a life and overcome obstacles after being in the criminal justice system."

The Trafficking Survi-

vors Relief Act would also:

1. Allow for an individual's status as a victim of trafficking to be a mitigating factor for courts to consider when imposing a prison sentence for violent crimes.
2. Require U.S. Attorneys to submit a report one year after enactment the number of motions filed under the law.
3. Require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a report 3 years after the date of enactment of the law to assess how many human trafficking survivors have filed petitions and how many have been granted vacatur and/or expungement.
4. Ensure that grant funding provided by the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office on Violence Against Women can be used for legal representation for post-conviction relief activities.

The Trafficking Survivors Relief Act is endorsed by FAIR Girls, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST), Freedom Network USA, and the National Survivor Network.

## Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Hosts A Community And Ethnic Media Roundtable on Asylum Seeker Satellite Sites

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Commissioner Manuel Castro hosted an in-person Community and Ethnic Media Roundtable at the central Asylum Seeker Navigation Center to discuss the newly announced satellite sites. Commissioner Castro was joined by Chief Policy Advisor, Lorena Lucero, and La Colmena's Executive Director, Yesenia Mata.

The following community based organizations have been selected as Asylum Seeker Resource Navigation satellite sites. These organizations will continue to support newly arrived

asylum seekers with in-person support — in Spanish and in other languages — including a variety of supplemental services, legal orientation, comprehensive case management, and immigrant rights workshops.

- Aid for Aids International
- African Communities Together (ACT)
- Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York
- Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services Brooklyn & Queens
- Coalicion Mexicana
- La Colmena
- Make the Road NY

- Mercy Center
- Mixteca Organization
- New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)

Since September, over 8,000 asylum seekers have been served at the central Navigation Center, located at the American Red Cross of Greater New York headquarters. This site will continue to operate on weekdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and provide individuals and families with in-person support.

For more information and the location of the satellite sites, visit [nyc.gov/asylum-seekers](http://nyc.gov/asylum-seekers).



**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of NENOT'S NYC LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/03/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 6336 Fitchett Street, Rego Park, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/17,24,12/1,8,15&22/2022

Notice of Formation of RGM TRANSPORT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/19/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 5860 78th Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023

Notice of Formation of ELITE EHS CONSULTANTS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/12/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2520 42nd St. #1C, Astoria, NY, 11103 Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

Notice of Formation of ATREVIDO LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/22/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 4509 104 Street, Corona, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/10,17,24,12/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of 9108 ROOSEVELT LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/02/22. Office location: Queens County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o MCO, 111-15 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, NY 11375. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the addr. of its princ. office. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 11/17,24,12/1,8,15&22/2022

2340 27 STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/28/22. 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, 2340 27th Street, Queens, NY 11105. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Notice of Formation of TREMAINE SECURITY SERVICES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/01/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 167-20 144th Drive, Jamaica, NY 11434. Purpose: any lawful activities. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of NF Psychology, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Rodin Legal, P.C., 215 E 58th St, Ste 4C, NY, NY 10022. Purpose: practice the profession of Psychology. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023

SJ Richmond LLC filed w/ SSNY on 11/4/22. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 126-15 89th Ave., Richmond Hill, NY 11418. Purpose: any lawful. 11/17,24,12/1,8,15&22/2022

8230 Parsons LLC filed w/ SSNY on 10/11/22. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 30-55 37th St., Astoria, NY 11103. Purpose: any lawful. 11/10,17,24,12/1,8&15/2022

Notice of Formation of AZUGA POWER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/11/22. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 50-22 40th St, #2G, Sunnyside, NY 11104. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

518 Services LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/20/2022. Cty: Queens. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 33-15 211 St., Bayside, NY 11361. General Purpose. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

Notice of Qualification of CV Executive Services, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/30/22. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/06/21. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1482 E. Valley Rd., Ste. 300, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. Address to be maintained in DE: 838 Walker Rd., Ste. 21-2, Dover, DE 19904. Arts of Org. filed with the Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/1,8,15,22,29/2022&1/5/2023

168-07 Northern Blvd LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with Secy. Of State of N.Y. (SSNY) on 11/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 168-07 Northern Blvd, Flushing NY 11358, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful activity. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023

**LEGAL NOTICES**

AARG CAPITAL LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/8/2022. Office: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 141-0371st Ave, Flushing, NY 11367. Purpose: any lawful act. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Mejor Amiga Appliances, LLC filed w/ SSNY on 11/18/22. Office: Queens Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 163-07 Depot Rd., Flushing, NY 11358. Purpose: any lawful. 11/24,12/1,8,15,22&29/2022

Notice of Formation of SPECIMEN DESIGNS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1867 Bleecker St., Apt 2F, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/8,15,22,29/2022,1/5&12/2023

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARIANO IRAGGI, a/k/a MARTIN IRAGGI, Deceased. Case No. ST-2021-PB-00032 NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Ancillary Administration has been filed on behalf of the Estate of Mariano Iraggi, a/k/a Martin Iraggi, deceased, and all persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, verified by affidavit, and all persons indebted to the Estate to make payment promptly to the Petitioners: Nancy Abatemarco, Ramona Cottone and Geralyn Cefalu, or their undersigned counsel. Law Offices of Richard H. Dollison, P.C. Dated: December 2, 2022 By: /s/ Richard H. Dollison Richard H. Dollison V.I. Bar #: 502 5143 Palm Passage, Ste. B28/29 P.O. Box 6135 St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00804-6135 (340) 774-7044 (340) 774-7045 fax rhd@rdollisonlaw.com 12/8,15,22&29/2022

1876 PALMETTO STREET LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/01/22. 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, 1876 Palmetto Street, Apartment 1R, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023

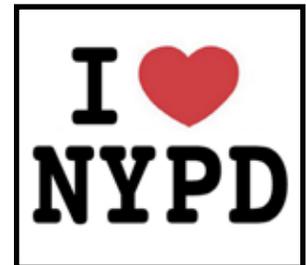


**LEGAL NOTICES**

Notice of Formation of TRESIA'S LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/05/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 204 Astoria Blvd, Apt 6E, Astoria, NY 11102. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023

Notice of Formation of DIAMOND LUXE HOMES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/03/2022. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14729 235th St., Rosedale, NY 11422. Purpose: any lawful activities. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023

APEKS GROUP LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/12/2022. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Denis Khari, 41-20 39th Street, Long Island City, NY 11104. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. 12/15,22,29/2022,1/5,12&19/2023



**Waterless, Eco-Friendly Skating Rink Opens in Queens**

The borough has a new place where residents can go round and round while having an "ice" day.

The New York Hall of Science will operate SciSkate, an indoor, climate-controlled rink, from Saturday, Dec. 10, until Sunday, March 5, 2023.

SciSkate's surface actually consists of a non-ice, eco-friendly polymer-based "Glice" by a company with the same name.

The Hall of Science provides skates — in fact, visitors can't bring their own — that are included in the \$10 activity fee. Add the museum admission price, which is \$16 for adults and \$13 for children. (Members get a 20 percent discount.)

Tickets went on sale on Dec. 7 at noon.

Founded in 2012, Glice builds and maintains more

than 100 skating rinks in more than 80 countries. The Swiss company uses a zero-water process called "sintering," which crushes polyethylene plastic pellets under high pressure and controlled heat. Glice rinks are designed to allow blades to lightly scratch open the surface, releasing lubrication emollients.

SciSkate will operate during regular museum hours, which are Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. There will be special times when schools are on break, including Dec. 26-31, Jan. 16 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), and Feb. 20-24.

Other new exhibits at the Hall of Science, whose entrance is 47-01 111th St. in Corona, include Powering the City, Small Discoveries, and art by sculptural painter Kyung Youl Yoon.



**DISTRICT 19 VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER**

MEET TANYA THOMAS, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES BENEFITS COORDINATOR

**LAUNCH DATE DECEMBER 21ST 10AM-4PM**

20-15 FRANCIS LEWIS BLVD WHITESTONE, NY 1135 (718) 619-8611 DISTRICT19@COUNCIL.NYC.GOV

THE RESOURCE CENTER WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM AFTER THE 21ST.

May the lights of Chanukah bring you health and happiness this holiday season.



**Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.**  
New York State Senator  
District 15

District Offices:	
159-53 102nd Street	66-85 73rd Place
Howard Beach, N.Y. 11414	Middle Village, N.Y. 11379
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## Holiday Fire Safety

Sponsored by:  
Council Member Linda Lee  
NYC Fire Department (FDNY)  
M.S. 172



**Tuesday, December 20th**  
**6 PM - 7 PM**  
**M.S. 172**  
**81-14 257th Street**  
**Glen Oaks, NY 11004**

It's the holiday season, so let's make sure that our homes and loved ones are protected from the dangers of fires.

Stop by for presentations to learn:

- Useful Tips for Fire Prevention
- What to do in Case of a Fire
- General Fire Safety
- and Much More!



**Stop by to register to receive a free smoke alarm installation for your home!**



New York City Council  
Office of Council Member  
Linda Lee

