

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

Periodicals
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.
USPS 114-590

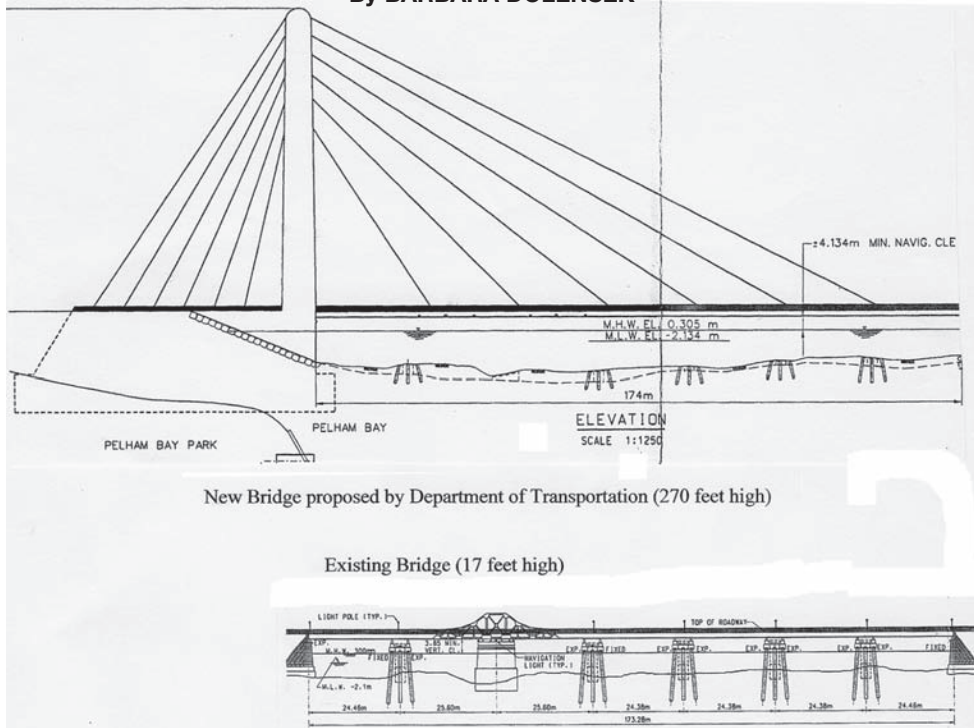
Volume 39 Number 7

September 2010

One Dollar

ISLAND RESIDENTS PROTEST NEW BRIDGE DESIGN

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



New Bridge proposed by Department of Transportation (270 feet high)

Existing Bridge (17 feet high)

If the above headline doesn't seem newsworthy, that is probably because it isn't. Island residents have been protesting the new bridge design since it was first presented by the city's Department of Transportation (DOT) in 2002. Although the original plans called for work to be started in November 2008, the city recently announced that work will begin on a temporary bridge in March 2011 and that a request for bids for the replacement bridge will be sent out in September next year. Now that the time seems to be getting closer for the demolition of the much-loved existing bridge, residents are gathering their forces yet again to try to get the city to change course.

A new Facebook page called "City Island Bridge: Keep It Quaint" gathered nearly 200 members within a week, and more than 600 signatures have been added to petitions protesting the new bridge. A letter-writing campaign alerting elected officials, especially Mayor Bloomberg, to the problems involved with the new bridge, has recently gotten under way (see *Box 6*, page 4). The purpose of all of these efforts is to alert residents of the city's plans and to alert city officials to the reasons Islanders object to the DOT plans.

In 2002, when New York City hoped to get the Olympics in 2012 and when Boston was about to unveil its new cable-stayed bridge over the Charles River, New York City's leaders apparently decided that City Island would be the perfect spot for a "state-of-the-art" bridge that would be unique in the city. Their stated reasoning was that such a bridge would not need supporting piers in the water, which require maintenance, and that such a bridge would be more cost effective over the long run. Modern cable-stayed bridges, which became especially popular in Europe during the second half of the 20th century, were supposed to last at least a century, just as City Island's existing bridge had done.

The residents of City Island said from the very beginning that they did not want the city to demolish its historic bridge, which was given a rating of "fair" by the DOT in 2009 and has since undergone considerable maintenance to both the piers

and the roadway, something that had not occurred for some years. However, most Islanders are now resigned to the fact that the bridge will have to be replaced at some point, although they do not see why the city considers this an emergency situation requiring immediate replacement.

The basis of the current protest is the design of the new bridge, whose single tower will rise at least 270 feet above the roadway, some 15 times that of the existing bridge, which measures 17 feet from the roadway. DOT has suggested that the bridge looks like a sailboat, but even in its yacht-building heyday, City Island never built a boat that tall. The fact that Special City Island District Zoning regulations, approved in 1977, call for no new structures to be built higher than 35 feet is evidence of the city's recognition of the Island's low-rise character.

The first bridge proposed to the community was, in fact, 450 feet high, and a handsomer design, according to some since it was modeled after designs by the renowned Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava. DOT conceded that it might be too high and decided in 2003 that the 270-foot (80-meter) bridge was what was going to be built, in spite of those protesting the design. Since then, representatives of the agency have refused to discuss any changes with the City Island community.

Since 2003, of course, much has changed, according to the bridge committee of the City Island Civic Association, which is working with the Garden Club and the Historical Society to mount the protest. New York City did not win its bid for the Olympics, and the technology of cable-stayed bridges did not keep pace with bridge-building generally. Several bridges of that type have been found unstable in high wind conditions, some have suffered corrosion from salt water; problems also arose with the Boston bridge two years after it was opened when ice fell off the cables during the winter onto the roadway, putting automobiles at risk.

The biggest changes, however, have come in the areas of cost and time. Originally, the new bridge was estimated to cost about \$21 million; now the estimate is more like \$120 million. There is no

estimate for the cost of maintaining such a bridge, but it is not likely to be a very economical proposition. As to time, new technology has made it possible for bridges to be constructed largely off-site and installed quickly. For example, the new bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, a longer span than City Island's, is a causeway type of bridge and was constructed in less than a year and came in under budget.

Because the temporary bridge proposed by Gandhi Engineering, which designed the cable-stayed bridge for DOT (their first of this type), is seven feet narrower than the present bridge, residents believe that should be used for as short a period of time as possible, given the traffic issues that confront City Island from May to September every year. If it is possible to construct a new bridge in less than two years, the protesters argue, then the city should definitely

reconsider its present plans.

The high cost will undoubtedly require the city to seek federal funding for the project. This will require the city to obtain permits from the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which has deemed the existing City Island bridge eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In 2003, efforts were made to have the Landmarks Commission designate the bridge a New York City landmark in 2003, like the Macombs Dam bridge, which has recently been rehabilitated, but the Commission would not do so, at the request of the Department of Transportation.

At this point, DOT has no plans to change the project, but as more residents learn about the scope of the new bridge, the sounds of protest may become loud enough that they have no choice but to listen.

REUNION 2010!



Photos by RICK DeWITT and RON TERNER

An historic reunion was held on Aug. 21, 2010, at Ambrosini Field. The gathering of more than 500 residents, family members and friends was organized by former Islander Lynn McCluskey, with the help of many volunteers, including Charlie DiMaggio and Bob Carmody. Clam diggers and mussel suckers of all ages attended, including two members from the P.S. 17 class of 1935, Bill Smith and Bob Branizza. Families reunited for the first time in years, and children participated in many activities, which helped make the event a huge success. Attendees also took time to help maintain the quality of life on the Island by signing petitions to protest the new bridge design and by contributing to organizations like the City Island Nautical Museum. Almost everyone agreed that the reunion should become a regular City Island event.

BRIEFLY...

TEMPLE BETH-EL CANNED FOOD DRIVE. The holiday canned-food drive will benefit the kosher and non-kosher community food pantry of the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway. Drop-off locations are Temple Beth-El of City Island, 480 City Island Avenue between Beach and Bowne Streets from 7 to 7:30 p.m. before Sabbath services on Fridays; or Kaleidoscope, 280 City Island Avenue at Hawkins Street, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. For more information, call Mike Eiron at 718-702-3709.

THE CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON will offer the America's Boating Course at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, beginning Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Topics include fundamentals of safe boating, navigation rules and piloting techniques. The course material cost is \$75. Instruction is free. Please call Jim Duffy at 718-863-3855. (Please do not call after 9 p.m.).

12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP, sponsored by the American Littoral Society and the Ocean Conservancy, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Your help is needed to remove and record the amounts and types of litter found by the City Island Bridge and adjacent Orchard Beach areas. For more information, call 718-885-1891.

GRACE CHURCH CELEBRATES 1ST ANNUAL "BLESS OUR SCHOOLS": Thanks to the sponsorship of the international "Moms in Touch" movement, the third Sunday of Sept. is now designated as a time for students and educators to come forward for prayers and blessings for the new school year. On Sunday, Sept. 19, the clergy and parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church will join churches worldwide to pray specifically and intentionally for students and schools. All members of the City Island community are invited and encouraged to participate in this powerful prayer witness on behalf of our children and young adults, as well as those who teach, coach and mentor them. Weather permitting, worship will take place outdoors at 10 a.m. in the Grace Church courtyard. Grace is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For more information, please call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080.


CUB SCOUT REGISTRATION: Pack 211's registration for the coming year will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Trinity Methodist Church hall at the corner of City Island Avenue and Bay Street. Boys in grades 1 through 5 are eligible, and the registration fee is \$60 for the year. For more information or if you cannot make the registration, please call Larry Saulnier at 646-305-5902 or e-mail cubscoutpack211@aol.com.

FIRST FRIDAY'S FREE BRONX SEASIDE TROLLEY rolls again on Friday, Sept. 3, with stops at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, Focal Point Gallery, Starving Artist Cafe and Gallery and the Kaleidoscope Gallery. The trolley departs hourly from Pelham Bay Station from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., featuring 50 or more vendors of jewelry, painting, photography, textiles, stained glass and more. Music will be provided by the Lickety Split Band. For more information, visit the Chamber website at www.cityislandchamber.org.

METROCARD VAN: AARP Chapter 318 announces that the MetroCard Mobile Van will be parked in front of Trinity United Methodist Church at City Island Avenue and Bay Street on Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Seniors and the disabled may apply for reduced-fare MetroCards for use on New York City subways and buses. Please bring a Medicare card and valid photo ID with you.

CITY ISLAND AVENUE CLEANUP, sponsored by the Civic Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Garden Club, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 18. Volunteers who care about the appearance of City Island are urged to join in the effort to make the avenue attractive again after a busy summer. Meet at Hawkins Park at 9 a.m., full of energy and dressed for work! The Department of Sanitation will provide rakes, gloves, brooms and garbage bags, and the Civic will provide refreshments for all volunteers. Call 718-885-0507 for more information.



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Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, 33 Earley Street, City Island, N.Y. 10464

Printed by Hi-Speed Printing Co., 560 South Third Ave., Mt. Vernon, NY 10550

The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$12.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0984 or 885-0760. Copyright 2010 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during July and August 2010. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

3 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
1 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
2 – BURGLARIES
1 – ATTEMPTED BURGLARY
1 – RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
1 – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
1 – UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT
1 – ASSAULT

Police report the following incidents for the period from July 1 to Aug. 24, 2010.

7/3 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male at 459 City Island Avenue at 9 p.m. The defendant was charged with criminal mischief after allegedly hitting the window of Seafood City with a baseball bat.

7/5 – On City Island Avenue at Fordham Street at 7 p.m., an off-Island male was arrested and charged with criminal mischief for intentionally breaking the windshield wiper on an MTA bus.

7/11 – Two apartments in the Laurels complex at 152 Tier Street were burglarized between 4 and 6 a.m. The unknown perpetrators stole various electronics, including televisions, laptop computers and DVD players (see story this page).

7/20 – On City Island Avenue and Hawkins Street, a vehicle was scratched in an incident of criminal mischief.

8/1 – A homeowner reported an attempted burglary on Ditmars Street. An unknown suspect attempted to break into the house through the window.

8/4 – On a boat off Centre Street, a female reported an assault after a fight with an acquaintance at 11 p.m.

8/5 – Unknown suspects broke into cars parked in the Laurels complex at 152 Tier Street and removed stereo systems (grand larceny).

8/5 – Police are investigating a charge of unlawful imprisonment when an off-Island female allegedly grabbed and robbed another off-Island female at 9 p.m.

8/6 – Two men were arrested on City Island Avenue and charged with reckless endangerment and criminal possession of a weapon (see story this page).

Police from the 45th Precinct ask Islanders to report any information they may have regarding a crime of sexual assault of an elderly female on July 19 on Benson Avenue in the Bronx. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$22,000 in cash for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the person(s) responsible for this serious crime. A male, Hispanic, aged 20 to 30 years old, 5 feet 6 inches tall and 145 pounds, is suspected. Call 1-800-577-TIPS and refer to Poster #BX-676. You don't have to give your name; you will be paid by code number.

LAURELS BURGLARIES LEAD TO WILD CHASE

By KAREN NANI

A series of break-ins at the Laurels condominium complex at 152 Tier Street led to a wild chase by both police and Islanders on Aug. 6, 2010. Two suspects were apprehended by police on City Island Avenue about 7:30 a.m. in an arrest that was widely publicized on local television stations and in local newspapers.

A convoluted chain of events led up to the burglary of two rental units and the vandalism of several cars in the Laurels' parking lot during the summer.

The Laurels complex was built by long-time Island restaurant owner Bob Borchers, in 1987-88. He eventually sold the whole complex to the New York Zoological Society (Bronx Zoo), which, for many years, rented the 24 units to staff and visitors. About two and half years ago, the zoo sold the complex to Haim Joseph, who developed the condominium complex at 190 Fordham Street (former site of P.S. 17), among other properties on City Island.

Mr. Joseph renovated the apartments and offered them up for sale or rental. Renters were offered the option to buy, with a portion of their monthly rent going toward the purchase price. Mr. Joseph initially gave the Laurels realty listings to AER Realty on City Island, which rented more than 10 units to current City Island residents, many of whom were happy with the quality of the renovation and the fact that they were given choices regarding the final selection of certain features, such as kitchen cabinets and carpeting. The prices ranged from \$1,400 per month for a one-bedroom unit up to \$2,200 per month for a two-bedroom, two-bath unit.

Mr. Joseph also gave the Laurels listing to an off-Island realtor, who rented or sold several units to off-Islanders. One of these tenants is alleged to have been involved in the series of break-ins that ensued, according to sources who spoke to *The Current*.

On July 11, 2010, one Laurels tenant awoke at 5 a.m. to find police in his apartment and most of his possessions stolen, including a television, laptop computer, DVD player and some cash. His neighbor had called the police after he heard dogs barking at some men who were trying to gain entry through the sliding glass doors on the balcony.

Two weeks after this first incident, three cars in the Laurels parking lot were broken into to steal sound systems and speakers, according to sources. The crime wave came to a head at about 5 a.m. on Aug. 6, when neighbors chased two men whom they observed

acting suspiciously and called 911, reporting that they had heard gun shots. The two men, later identified by police as Keino Taylor and Cory Van Dyke, both from the Bronx, fled the scene and ran north on City Island Avenue. Police shut down City Island at the bridge and brought squad cars and a police helicopter to search for the men.

Islander Liz Bryant Montalbano, who lives on a boat at the Island Boat Club, awoke to the sound of the helicopter overhead that morning and walked up the dock to investigate the commotion. She saw two men in the shipyard acting suspiciously, called 911 to report the suspicious behavior and then went up to City Island Avenue. When she got near Jack's Bait and Tackle shop, she saw the two men jump over the fence in an effort to flee from police. She and a number of other Islanders yelled to the police who were cruising the avenue that "these were the guys they were looking for."

Police quickly knocked the men down, handcuffed them and arrested them, along with a woman from the Laurels who was allegedly the "lookout" for the perpetrators. According to witnesses, she was the friend of a tenant at the Laurels and was "casing the place and looking for opportunities" for burglaries by keeping track of when other tenants were at work and which apartments were vacant.

Despite the dramatic chase and capture, the arrest of the alleged perpetrators "resulted in a declined prosecution due to insufficient evidence," according to the Bronx District Attorney's office. They were initially charged with reckless endangerment and criminal possession of a firearm, but no gun or shell casings were found at the scene, according to police from the 45th Precinct.

The incidents led to a number of repercussions surrounding the Laurels. The tenant whose unit was burglarized moved out. In addition, it has been rumored that some of the units were rented to government-subsidized low-income tenants. This rumor has been disputed by a number of sources, and *The Current* could not confirm it; calls to Laurels owner Haim Joseph were not returned. No further criminal incidents had occurred at the Laurels as of press time.

Lieutenant Ortiz of the 45th Precinct was quick to commend Islanders for alerting the police to the burglaries and to the behavior of the two men who were arrested. "It's important for Islanders to keep their eyes open and notify police of any crimes or suspicious behavior," he told *The Current*.



Photo by RICK DeWITT

On the morning of July 4th, City Island firefighters responded to a 911 call from a neighbor of 31 Earley Street. He observed waist-high flames on the second floor porch of the home owned by Joe Burck. After failing to waken Mr. Burck's son who was asleep inside, he trained hoses on the blaze with another neighbor until the first fire truck arrived. The fire was then extinguished by firefighters, and no injuries were reported.

Adolfo Carrión Back in Town

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Many people who leave City Island can't wait to get back, and our former Borough President Adolfo Carrión is no exception. Soon after the inauguration of President Obama, Mr. Carrión was appointed to join his staff in the White House as the first Director of Urban Affairs, and he and his family moved to Washington, D.C., where they remained for a little over a year. In May of this year, however, he decided to move back to New York, where he has taken the challenging job of Regional Administrator of the New York and New Jersey office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). And of course he moved back into the beautiful old Victorian house on City Island Avenue that he and his wife, Linda Baldwin, had recently renovated.

In Washington, Mr. Carrión told *The Current*, his job was to figure out how best to allocate federal resources in a coordinated way to the urban issues of housing, transportation, health care, education, business and so on. "It was like flying high up in a plane," he said, "but I prefer to be down on the front lines," dealing with these issues in a much more hands-on way.

And "hands-on" is certainly what his new responsibilities require. There are 10 HUD regions in the country, but the New York and New Jersey region is the largest, with six offices, a staff of 540 and a \$28 million budget. Although most people are aware that HUD provides assistance to

individuals facing foreclosure or in need of housing by offering mortgage assistance, rental subsidies and so on, the department also helps local city governments and communities within the cities purchase public properties, set up public works projects, improve quality of life and utilize block grants to help improve local schools, businesses and housing.

As a City Island resident, he hopes that his new position will be of help to this community in some way, and he is ready to roll up his sleeves and participate in projects like the City Island cleanup on Sept. 18 and the beach cleanup on Sept. 25 (see *Briefly* for both announcements). For the time being, his wife, Linda, will remain in Washington, where she works in the Department of Justice as Director of the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). She works with the different states (including Indian nations) offering technical assistance on their notification and tracking systems and implementing the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

In response to the rumors that invariably surround Mr. Carrión, *The Current* asked him whether he planned to run for Mayor of New York in 2013. He would not confirm that rumor, but he did point out that his return to City Island at least made him eligible to do so when the time comes.

City Island Rooster Finds New Home

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



State Senator Jeff Klein secured a safe long-term home for an abused rooster rescued from a South Bronx cockfight. The owner of the Hollywood Haircuts barber shop on City Island had been rehabilitating and caring for the rooster, Coco, since his rescue earlier this year. Shown above are Senator Klein, the rooster (Coco), and Alex Mullokandov of Hollywood Haircuts.

Early this summer, residents living near Ditmars Street and City Island Avenue found themselves awakened by an unusual alarm clock: a rooster crowing as if he were on a farm upstate. A call to 311 was made by a resident who noticed the rooster walking on the sidewalk in front of the new barber shop at 405 City Island Avenue, since it is illegal to keep a rooster in New York City, and as a result the rooster is now actually living on a farm upstate.

State Senator Jeff Klein was asked to look into the matter, and he learned from Alex Mullokandov of Hollywood Haircuts that he had rescued the rooster from a cockfight in the South Bronx. Because he loves animals, especially birds, Mr. Mullokandov had been rehabilitating and caring for the rooster, Coco, along with his pet canaries, which reside in a cage that often hangs outside the shop.

According to Mr. Mullokandov, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) had rescued five roosters from a cock fighting operation in the South Bronx earlier this year. He offered to take Coco, who was badly injured, on a temporary basis, since he was unable to keep him permanently in either his apartment or his shop. "I know a lot about birds from growing up in Russia, so I recovered him and he's now healthy and

looking beautiful. I want him to be on a farm."

Senator Klein's office began reaching out to area farms to find the rooster a home, and Riverdale resident Isabelle Weisinger immediately let him know about the Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary in Petersburg, New York. Ms. Weisinger became familiar with the sanctuary a few years ago when a bird in her neighborhood was in need of a new home.

"We have a very large sanctuary with birds from all over the world," said Pete Dubacher, owner of the Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary. "When the rooster arrives, we will make sure the he is compatible with other birds and we will gradually introduce him to them. We have had cockfighting roosters brought to us before, and they have done very well."

Senator Klein and his staff were happy with the outcome. "Cockfights are an abusive and horrendous practice that have no place in the Bronx or anywhere else in this city. I am extremely pleased that we were able to find a good home for this rooster where he can live safely while becoming reacquainted with other birds in a natural and healthy habitat."

To report animal cruelty, contact the New York City ASPCA at 212-876-7700.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

By FRED RAMFTL JR.

This year, the Conservative, Democratic, and Republican primary elections will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14. The polling place on City Island is Public School 175 at 200 City Island Avenue, and the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Aside from selecting candidates for the Nov. 2 election this year, the primary will afford voters a good chance to become familiar with the new voting machines.

Registered Republican voters will be asked to choose between Rick Lazio and Carl P. Paladino for Governor of New York, and Gregory J. Edwards and Thomas Ognibene for Lieutenant Governor. Republican candidates for the full six-year term of U. S. Senator are Gary Berntsen and Jay Townsend, and for the two-year unexpired term of U. S. Senator, Joseph J. DioGuardi, David Malpass and Bruce Blakeman.

Registered Democratic votes will choose between Kirsten Gillibrand and Gail Goode for the two-year unexpired term of U. S. Senator. (Already on the ballot for November on the Democratic line are Chuck Schumer for the full six-year term as U. S. Senator and Andrew Cuomo as Governor.) The primary slate for New York Attorney General includes Richard Brodsky, Eric Schneiderman, Sean Coffey, Eric R. Dinallo and Kathleen Rice.

In the 82nd Assembly District, Demo-

cratic voters will also be asked to select the candidate for Assemblyman between Michael Benedetto, Rafael Dominguez and Herbert Moreira-Brown. There will also be ballots for delegates representing the 82nd Assembly District at the state convention. The candidates for the Male State Committee are George Crouch and Egidio Sementelli, and Jennifer Rivera and Felicia Sementelli for Female State Committee.

Democratic voters will also be asked to vote for seven delegates each in two groups of delegates to the 82nd Assembly District Judicial Convention: Group A (Angela Rosario, Herbert Moreira-Brown, Clara Marrero, Brice Santiago, Dom Masters, Andrew Petralia, Felicia Sementelli; and Group B (James Vacca, James Payne, Marjorie Velazquez, Noreen Kilkenny, Paisley Harvey, Jeff Lynch, Marjorie Helms and Lewis Goldstein).

The Conservative Primary will be for Governor; the slate includes Rick Lazio and Ralph C. Lorigo.

For more information about the primary election, call the Bronx office of the League of Women Voters at 718-299-9017 or visit www.lwvny.org/election.html or the General Board of Elections: 212-VOTE-NYC (212-868-3692); website: <http://vote.nyc.ny.us>.

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Fair Winds or Foul *an editorial*

The summer of 2010 will not go down in history as one of City Island's finest. It began with a fatal accident that closed the bridge for four hours on Memorial Day weekend, leaving Islanders unable to return home and, worse, leaving Island visitors stuck on City Island Avenue with no police supervision. We always expect excessive traffic to start on the first warm weekend in the spring, and by the end of June this year the NYPD finally got their traffic control act together, but the increasing number of loud motorcycles and automobiles going from one end of the Island to the other at night only got worse. A utility pole was broken in half by a car drag racing up the Avenue in June, and noise complaints were registered throughout the summer against motorcycles and restaurants with large parking lots. Island visitors and residents alike threw garbage (and worse) all over our streets, bought and sold drugs, ran our red lights and raced in the fire lane, parked illegally and otherwise behaved like hooligans.

It is heartening that groups of Islanders got together to celebrate life on City Island, whether by attending a Civic Association meeting to protest these attacks on our quality of life or by gathering together for a reunion of friends and family at the beautifully renovated Ambrosini Little League Field. Hawkins Street Park was refurbished by the Department of Parks, with the encouragement of the Garden Club of City Island, which also installed and maintained attractive plantings all over the island. We were happy to learn that the city government decided not to remove our Ladder Company 53. We are grateful to Councilmember Jimmy Vacca for his leading role in this, but why should we feel grateful to the city for adequate fire protection to which we are entitled by law? And finally, after months of work, the Chamber of Commerce is finally about to install security cameras along the Avenue, with a grant from Senator Jeff Klein.

It is not surprising, however, that some of us who have lived here for many years are deeply concerned that the quality of life here is slipping. We have too many empty storefronts, too many buildings that are derelict and run down, too many illegal apartments and absentee landlords, too many businesses that specialize in attracting off-Islanders who drive too fast and drink too much. The sight of SUVs creating traffic congestion in front of P.S. 175 every day after school is enough to make us wonder why parents no longer allow their children to walk to and from school. We cannot count on city government to help us out of this situation. It is up to the residents and the businesses of City Island to work together to improve our own community.

For example, concerned residents can and should join the City Island Civic Association and attend its monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of every month (except December). The Civic will serve as a liaison with elected officials and government agencies and give advice on how to deal with certain problems, as well as a place to share grievances. Community Board 10 (718-892-1161) can also be of assistance with neighborhood issues. If you wish to express complaints (or praise) to the Police Department, attend a Community Council meeting of the 45th precinct on the first Thursday of every month. If you don't know where to complain, call 311 to report unsanitary conditions, illegal zoning use or excessive noise, and if the situation you are observing is an emergency, call 911. Make sure to note the complaint number and send the number to the Civic Association for follow-up (city.island.civic@mac.com). And don't assume that because you live on City Island, you can run a red light, speed down the fire lane or park illegally! Set a good example for your kids as well as for off-Islanders.

Keeping our community clean and safe is a lot like maintaining our own homes. We need to work constantly to keep up the quality of life we want and need. Gripping to each other doesn't solve anything, and making one phone call or attending one meeting is not enough. We must learn to work together to keep City Island the unique community that it is.



We welcome letters and opinions. Letters longer than 250 words will be edited, with every effort made to preserve their substance. We reserve the right not to print letters that are copies, libelous, inaccurate or in bad taste, or those that cannot be verified. Include your phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names will be withheld upon request.

Asking for Solutions

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

Mr. Joseph Bruno, Commissioner, NYC Office of Emergency Management
165 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Bruno:

Over the Memorial Day weekend there was a vehicular accident on the City Island bridge that connects City Island to the

mainland in the Bronx. As a result of the accident all pedestrian and vehicular traffic ceased for four hours, while the NYPD conducted its investigation.

Inasmuch as the bridge was closed, people wishing to leave the Island's restaurants and bars could not, and residents wishing to return home were unable to do so. In the ensuing four hours of the investigation, nothing moved either way on the bridge, the sole access to and from the Island. This created massive frustration on the part of the Islanders trying to reach their homes and those visitors trying to leave the Island, and this resulted in several acts of anti-social behavior.

City Island is the home of some of the finest seafood restaurants in the city and is prone to heavy traffic conditions. The board appreciates the great amount of effort involved in the investigation of an accident, especially one that involves a fatality. However, if an incident like this should occur again, and the likelihood is that it will, a better system must be devised to handle it.

Therefore, the Board is requesting a multi-agency meeting to discuss procedural

alternatives to those currently in place, so as to avoid the difficulties associated with an incident that closes the City Island bridge.

Would you be so kind as to communicate with your colleagues at the NYPD and FDNY on this matter and to keep the Board apprised of your actions.

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

**John Marano, Chair
Bronx Community Board #10**

Triple Thanks

To all of our family, friends and neighbors on City Island:

We want to thank each of you for your prayers, concern and support at a very difficult time, when Bob had two heart attacks and triple bypass surgery. It was all of your prayers that helped us through it all.

We truly appreciate everyone's concern. City Islanders are "one family."

God bless you all.

Mary Lou and Bob Lachman

Hail and Farewell

To City Island:

I take this opportunity to bid a very fond farewell to all City Islanders and this wonderful little community. I have been surrounded by friends and good wishes every moment of my 16 years working at the City Island Library. This little island and its people have made every day pleasant, every breeze fair. What a heartening experience it has been, being able to work in a place where one is just as at home on the street or in any of the local shops as at one's own desk. Unique in all the world and truly without peer. It's been more than fun, more than nice; it's been GREAT!

I hope to see you from time to time, for auld lang syne.

Dennis Owen Desiderio

City Island Bridge

A copy of the following letter was received by The Current.

Honorable Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Please note that City Island's existing bridge was in "fair" condition, according to 2009 NYC Bridge Inspection reports. Since then it has had extensive maintenance. Is the bridge still considered an emergency situation? I also draw your attention to other substantive issues surrounding City Island's bridge.

- The existing bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and should not be demolished because of its historic importance.

- The new cable-stayed bridge that NYC DOT has decided to put in its place is 270 feet above the roadway. That is more than 15 times higher than the current bridge, which measures 17 feet from the road at its highest point. No new structure on City Island can be built higher than 35 feet per Special City Island District Zoning Regulations adopted in 1977. Why should a new bridge be so much higher than that?

The new bridge violates zoning regulations and vastly degrades City Island's historical and uniquely nautical character.

- The new bridge was originally estimated at \$21 million; it is now estimated at \$120 million. Where is the budget integrity and accountability of taxpayer dollars?

- The new bridge has been designed by an engineering firm that has never built or maintained a cable-stayed bridge. Where is your integrity in taking such a risk?

- Due to instability caused by high winds, salt-water corrosion and the need for special equipment to maintain steel cables 270 feet in the air, maintenance issues will be substantially more serious and costs will be substantially higher than estimated.

In summary, please use your good offices to preserve the existing City Island Bridge.

**Sincerely,
Thomas McGuire**

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Champion Island Rower to Compete in the Czech Republic



Photo by CARYN MOORE

Alycia Daloia Moore at the U.S. Youth National Championships.

Alycia Daloia-Moore, the daughter of Judge John and Caryn Moore of Earley Street, was proud to represent the United States in the single-scul competition at the recent World Junior Rowing Championship in the Czech Republic.

She was named to the U.S. Rowing Junior Women's National Team, the culmination of an extraordinary spring rowing season for Alycia who competed as the single scull for the Ursuline School's newly established team. In the regular season she was undefeated, capturing first place at the Augusta International, Mercer Sprints and the Cooper Cup. She then won the New York State Championship and the Northeast Regional Championship. This was followed by second-place finishes at the Scholastic Nationals and the U.S. Rowing Nationals in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Among Alycia's other accomplishments were posting the fastest time for the Junior Women in the Head of the Charles

Regatta in the open singles event, winning 17 medals in competition and being named the 2010 Rower of the Year at the Ursuline School. Finally, on June, 25, 2010, at West Winsor, New Jersey, Alycia finished first in the Junior World Championship trials on Mercer Lake by sweeping the best two out of three finals. In the first final, she clocked the fastest time in 8:09.654. In the second final, she won by more than 30 seconds, finishing in 7:57.741.

This fall Alycia will begin her college career at Boston College, where she was awarded a partial scholarship for rowing.

She would like to thank her coach, Brian Brunelle, for teaching her to row and for believing in her, as well as her parents, whose support helped make her dreams come true.

In the words of the rowing great Jim Dietz, "Rowing is a sport for dreamers, as long as you put in the work, you can own the dream."

NINETY YEARS YOUNG

By JUDY RAUH



Photo by PETE THOMPSON

Family members came to Florida in June 2010 to help Vera Thompson celebrate her 90th birthday. Top row, (l. to r.): Louis, Terry, Mark, Maddie and Kathy Demas; Cameron Chase; Linda, Dan and John Wright; Teresa Wright; Jack Bunyan; and Beth and Matt Rota. Bottom row, (l. to r.): Alison Chase; Red Thompson; Vera Thompson; Dot Bunyan; and Judy and Mike Rauh. Sitting on Vera's lap is her great-great-granddaughter Lily Chase. Not pictured is Lily's mom, Jackie Chase.

It was a happy occasion when family and friends joined Vera Thompson at her Florida home in mid-June to celebrate her 90th birthday. Vera had lived on City Island for more than 40 years when she moved to Orlando in 1969. She has many fond memories of her life on City Island.

Vera was born on June 8, 1920, to Vera and Charles Buhl, who then lived in the Bronx. They moved to City Island when she was five, to Levy's bungalows on west Schofield Street. Like many City Islanders, the Buhls lived in a number of rental houses and apartments, moving as the family grew or the rent went up. She was the oldest of four girls: her sisters, Florence, Marian and Dorothy, followed. When she was 10, her father bought the house at 314 King Avenue with his World War I bonus. (They later sold this to their daughter Dorothy and her husband, John Bunyan.)

Vera remembers her childhood with a sense of freedom. She loved City Island because she could walk around as much as she wanted without getting lost. "All you had to do was find the Avenue," she recalls. When they lived on King Avenue, the family swam at Maxim's Beach at the foot of east Fordham Street. Until she learned to swim, her father would wrap a truck inner tube around her waist before sending her down to the beach.

Vera always loved to read and joined the City Island Library at the age of 6. She remembers the library on the Avenue next door to Klein's Department Store on the corner of Fordham Street. As her reading abilities grew, the two-book borrowing limit was too small for her, she said. So she would go to the library three times a week in order to get her fill.

One of her early playmates was Eleanor Waterhouse, who lived in the big house next to Public School 17 on Fordham Street. She seemed rich to Vera, because she had a full-size playhouse in her backyard. Vera graduated from nearby P.S. 17 in January 1933. It thrilled her that her two oldest children, John and Marilyn, had the same kindergarten teacher as she did, Mrs. Ruby Dill. Vera loved the cooking class because she loved to eat, even though she only weighed 112 pounds at graduation (and was 5 feet 10 inches tall)!

She met her future husband, Wilfred (Bill) Wright, at P.S. 17, but she didn't



Photo by MIKE RAUH

Vera Buhl Thompson

start dating him until she was 18 1/2. They eloped on July 15, 1939, and their first home together was across the street from the Buhls. They then moved to the rear cottage at 22 Centre Street. This house was rented 32 years later by her daughter Judy and her husband, Mike Rauh, and then by her granddaughter Beth Rauh and her fiancé, Matt Rota, in 2003.

Vera and Bill Wright moved around as their parents had done. A few homes later found them at the Bowne Street apartments. They spent 10 years there, raising four children in a one-bedroom rental: John, Marilyn, Judy and Teresa. It was a relief to move to a three-bedroom bungalow at 35 Carroll Street in 1954. They finally bought their first home in 1958 at 682 Minneford Avenue, followed by a larger house at 37 Schofield Street in 1962.

Despite all these moves, there was always a sense of community and the nearness of the water. Vera started taking her small children to the Bowne Street beach, and then the beaches at Carroll Street and Schofield Street became their playground. There were also beach parties and barbecues at the Hecker's house on Fordham Street.

When Vera and Bill moved to Florida after Bill's retirement in 1969, it was hard to say goodbye to City Island. But their daughters Teresa Wright and Marilyn Chase, and granddaughters Kathy and Alison Chase, moved with them, which kept them from feeling lonely. They really enjoyed the warmth of the Florida winters.

After Bill's death from cancer in 1977, Vera met Lloyd (Red) Thompson, and they were married in 1980. Through 30 years of marriage, they have traveled all over the world, including Mexico, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Panama Canal Zone. They also did many cross-country trips in their fifth-wheel camper. They have a lot of memories from their travels and the friends they made.

Although their age and health have slowed them down, Vera and Red still have a lot to share with their family. It was a joy for Vera to have her children, stepchildren, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephew, friends, and most of all, her only surviving sister, Dot Bunyan, join in her 90th birthday celebration. "I feel so loved," she said.

Theresa L. Piraglia, DC

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If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to The Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

Jo Heck and David Cook, 190 Fordham Street (#16) are hosting a concert by **Rod MacDonald** on Sun., Sept 5, beginning with a potluck supper at 6 p.m. before the 8 p.m. performance. Rod MacDonald is an award-winning songwriter, a gifted vocalist and an engaging entertainer who moves effortlessly between the many styles that have deeply influenced him. He accompanies himself with a solid guitar style and exciting harmonica licks. Rod has released nine solo CDs in the United States and Europe, including his latest, "After the War," and he regularly tours here and abroad. For the past five years, Rod has taught a performance series on the history of music at Florida Atlantic University. Entrance fee \$15; call 718-885-1494 for reservations.

The **Island Current Fleet** has added a new vessel, the *Island Current IV*, so they now have four great boats to choose from, all of them operating out of Jack's Bait and Tackle, 551 City Island Avenue. All of their boats sail daily for either daytime or nighttime fishing. The local porgy trips have been super, but private charters can also be set up for the western part of Long Island Sound, which offers amazing catches of bluefish, striped bass, porgies and fluke. The *Island Current III* leaves each morning at 8 a.m., and the evening trips depart at 6:30 p.m. for stripers and blues and return at about 12:30 a.m. As of Sept. 7, the porgy limit will increase to 40 fish per angler, and all the boats carry the permit that extends the porgy season to November. Tickets should be booked in advance either online (www.islandcurrent.com) or by calling their

ticketing company, Zerve, 212-209-3370. A variety of discounts are offered for groups, seniors, observers and children. Call Captain Chris at 917-417-7557 for more information.

Sisters Agatha and Margaret Biggart are proposing to open **Aggie's Roll**, a casual, moderately priced clam and fish shack next to P.S. 175. They plan to seat 15 to 20 people inside with outside dining on the dock and also a take-out service. The menu will be small but will offer City Island, once famous for its fresh and local seafood, items that that no other restaurant currently offers, with fresh and local being the key words. The proprietors are members of the Slow Food Movement and the National Clam Society, and they take their clams and lobsters very seriously. Striving to be true to City Island's interesting history from the Hippies' Place to the oystermen who ruled at the turn of the 19th century, Aggie's Roll will offer fresh seafood with a renewed perspective. They have purchased a mobile kitchen (lobster red, of course) for catering and special events. Stay tuned for more information as the project develops.

Starving Artist Cafe and Gallery (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) starts out September "Jazzin' Up the End of Summer" on Labor Day weekend. On Friday, Sept. 3, come for a fun-filled night with Big Al and friends. Saturdays in September include Sept. 4 at 8 p.m., when Elliott Glick will lead an all-star band for your listening pleasure; Sept. 11 at 8 p.m., a "blues party" with Bennett Harris, and Sept. 18 at 8 p.m. master guitarist John Guth. Sundays feature Stephen Marcus and Friends (Sept. 12, 3 p.m.), Slight Imperfection (debut performance, Sept. 19, 3 p.m.) and our "sweetheart," Theresa Sareo (Sept. 26, 3 p.m.). Of course, there's always the last-Friday-of-the-month "Take the Stage" open mic for musicians, songwriters, comics, actors, poets on Sept. 24 at 8 p.m. For more complete information on September's schedule, visit www.starvingartistonline.com.



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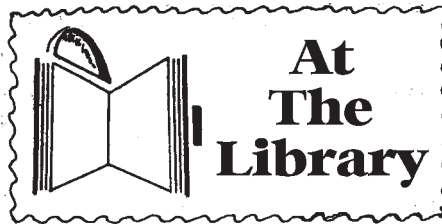
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As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
360 City Island Ave.	6/11/10	\$580,000	1 family
475 King Avenue	6/18/10	\$525,000	1 family
25 Centre Street	7/2/10	\$800,000	1 family
70 Buckley Street	7/13/10	\$465,500	1 family
10 Fordham Street	7/19/10	\$499,500	1 family
611 King Avenue	8/9/10	\$648,000	1 family
437 Minneford Ave.	8/16/10	\$253,000	1 family



Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1 to 6 p.m. Fridays 12 noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children's Programs

Lapsit Program: Wednesdays, Sept. 1 and 15, 10:30 a.m. Birth to 18 months. All welcome for story time and music.

Reading Out Loud: Thursdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 3:30 p.m.

Arts and Crafts: Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 3:30 p.m.

Toddler Program: Thursdays, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Young Adult Programs

Yu-Gi-Oh: Every Wednesday at 3:30

p.m.
Game On: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Adult Programs

Introduction to the Internet: Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

Resumé Writing Workshop: Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Please pre-register.

Please check our fliers for any additional programs for adults in September. We are located at 320 City Island Avenue at Bay Street. For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

Bartow-Pell Concert

On Friday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m. attend the final concert of the First Friday! summer series, the "Bronx Beat at Bartow-Pell" (sponsored by the Bronx Council on the Arts), which will feature traditional music of the many cultures that have populated the Bronx over the last four centuries. Juilliard graduates Maria Millar and Shawn Wyckoff of the Silver Roots ensemble will be joined by cellist Adrian Daurov to present "Echoing Voices: A Musical History of America" on flute, violin and cello as they focus on the music of immigrants from Europe, Russia, China and elsewhere through their stories of coming to America. Enjoy an evening of entertainment and enlightenment by listening to the music, viewing the new Bolton exhibition, touring the mansion and strolling in the garden. Tickets are \$8; members free. Seating is limited: first come, first served. Registration requested; call 718-885-1461 or info@bpbmm.org. Light refreshments will be offered.

The free Bronx Seaside Trolley will make a continuous loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to Bartow-Pell and on to City Island starting at 5:25 p.m.

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City Island Library Retirements

On the wall of the City Island Library is an inconspicuous plaque which reads:

The City Island Branch of the New York Public Library is recognized by The New York Times For the outstanding contributions of Branch Librarian Evelyn Gerges Winner of The New York Times Librarian Award December 2004



Evelyn Gerges



Dennis Desidario

Mrs. Gerges is one of the two librarians, along with Dennis Desidario, who will be leaving City Island this month because of a retirement offer being given by the City of New York to all experienced librarians. This is part of a budgetary policy being practiced by many NYC departments, including the Board of Education.

Born Evelyn Torres in Brooklyn, the family moved to the Bronx in 1963. Evelyn attended Theodore Roosevelt High School and received her BA from Lehman College. She became a student teacher because she loved working with children, but then found out that teachers do not clock out at 3 o'clock, so she decided to become a children's librarian. Mrs. Gerges received her MLS from Queens College and joined the New York Public Library system in June 1977.

After working at the Fordham, Baychester and Mosholu Branches, Mrs. Gerges finally ended up on City Island. She loved it here from the beginning and says, "City Island is the most wonderful place to be. It has wonderful parents and wonderful teachers who care enough to bring their kids to the library. I always said this is where I would be retiring from. I love this place because it's family oriented and I'm a family oriented person. I love the work, the staff and the community."

The library was just a storefront when Mrs. Gerges arrived. It was in the same

location, and the round window in the current library is where the front door was. When the library expanded, Mrs. Gerges developed a reference children's section and a children's reading room. Other programs developed by Mrs. Gerges are the lapsit program which welcomes babies from birth to 18 months, another for toddlers ages 18 to 36 months, and then a pre-school program from ages 3 to 5 years, which includes music and science appreciation.

She also started "Stories in the Shade" which met at Orchard Beach on Thursdays at 11, and she read to kids who were at day camp in Pelham Bay Park. On Tuesdays at 11 she read at Ambrosini Field. Teachers who met her at the beach brought classes from the South Bronx and Wakefield to our library and made a class trip out of it. The kids would have lunch in the Reading Garden, another of Mrs. Gerges' innovations. With the help of the Garden Club there is a garden in the back of the library and amid the flowers there are zucchini, tomatoes and a picnic table. Mrs. Gerges is bilingual, so the library now has a non-circulating children's Spanish book collection and offers bilingual computer classes.

What did she like about being a librarian? She says, "It was so rewarding." She sees kids now that she knew when they were babies, and she remembers them. She loves to hear the parents say, "It's because of you that my kids love books and reading."

A Current Review

"SNEW WHITE" WOWS THE ISLAND CROWD

By BRUCE A. WEIS



Photo by RICK DeWITT

On Saturday, July 10, 2010, the City Island Theater Group presented a parody of the story of Snow White on the lawn of Grace Episcopal Church. In "Snew White," playwright Charlie Lovett included variations on the characters present in Walt Disney's film, including Snew White (Amanda Livingston), the Evil Queen (Eileen Marcus) and her two ladies in waiting, Crabtree (Maritza Martin) and Evelyn (Connieann DelVecchio). All seven dwarves were present, with names appropriate to their characters: Twitchy (John Geideman), Sloppy (Danny Figueroa), Spiffy (Kimberly Montemurro), Sticky (Denis Zepeda), Snippy (Robbie Livingston), Nosey (Tara Maldonado) and Brad the Surfer Dwarf (Steven Bendler). There was even a Magic Mirror (Elizabeth Paladino). The hilarious outdoor show delighted children and adults alike.

There are many versions of the Snow White fairy tale, based on different European sources. The best-known is definitely the German rendition popularized by the ever-reliable Grimm brothers, whose version of the tale was the basis for Walt Disney's 1937 film "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." The Disney screenplay for this animated classic includes a magic mirror, seven adorable dwarfs and a poisoned apple, all of which are permanently cemented in the psyches of generations of American children.

On Saturday afternoon, July 10, the City Island Theatre Group presented a somewhat different version of the story on the lawn of Grace Episcopal Church. In "Snew White," playwright Charlie Lovett included all the familiar characters present in Walt Disney's film and added a number of back stories that the Grimm brothers inexplicably failed to include in their fable.

Amanda Livingston headlined in the title role of Snew White, the most beautiful maiden in the land, whose principal antagonists are an incredibly Evil Queen (Eileen Marcus) and her two ladies in waiting, Crabtree (Maritza Martin) and Evelyn (Connieann DelVecchio). All seven dwarfs were present, with names appropriate to their characters: Twitchy (John Geideman), Sloppy (Danny Figueroa), Spiffy (Kimberly Montemurro), Sticky (Denis Zepeda), Snippy (Robbie Livingston), Nosey (Tara Maldonado) and Brad the Surfer Dwarf (Steven Bendler).

Naturally, there was also a Magic Mirror (Elizabeth Paladino).

Augmenting the traditional Snow White cast was the character of Rose Red (Janette Martinez), who may have crept in from the lesser-known and unrelated German fairy tale "Rose Red and Snow White," which focused on a good bear and

a wicked dwarf along with the two young ladies. That tale never acquired the cachet of "Snow White and the Seven [good] Dwarfs."

More modern characters, including Dr. Sigmund Freud (Christopher Meindl), made appearances throughout the play. On-stage UPS deliveries were handled by Louis the UPS Delivery Gal (Stephanie Montemurro), and Gerry, the Insurance Salesman (Frank Siciliano), popped in occasionally, ever in search of a new client.

The "Snew White" parody places the kingdom of the Evil Queen in the province of Wychwood, whose Governor (Bob Livingston) and his two aides, Dean (Luigi Scarogni) and Deluca (Keith Rodriguez), added a layer of political intrigue to the story.

This presentation out-of-doors kept the production's staging requirements to a minimum; all that was needed was a strategically placed curtain and a few benches. Chris Manetakis directed the show with great skill. The costumes were organized by Carol McCabe and the props by Barbara Dolensek.

Although the play was presented for children, the adults in the audience of over 100, found plenty to laugh at, including the idea that Sigmund Freud was able to make great strides healing the Evil Queen's esteem issues and the realization that politics in Wychwood were almost as outlandish as politics in the real world.

Clearly, the City Island Theater Group's primary intention with this delightful production was to provide a free afternoon of entertainment for Island youngsters (of all ages), but this critic suspects that the group's real goal is to squeeze as many talented actors as possible onto a small stage where they can create comedic chaos. Clearly, the group achieved both goals admirably.

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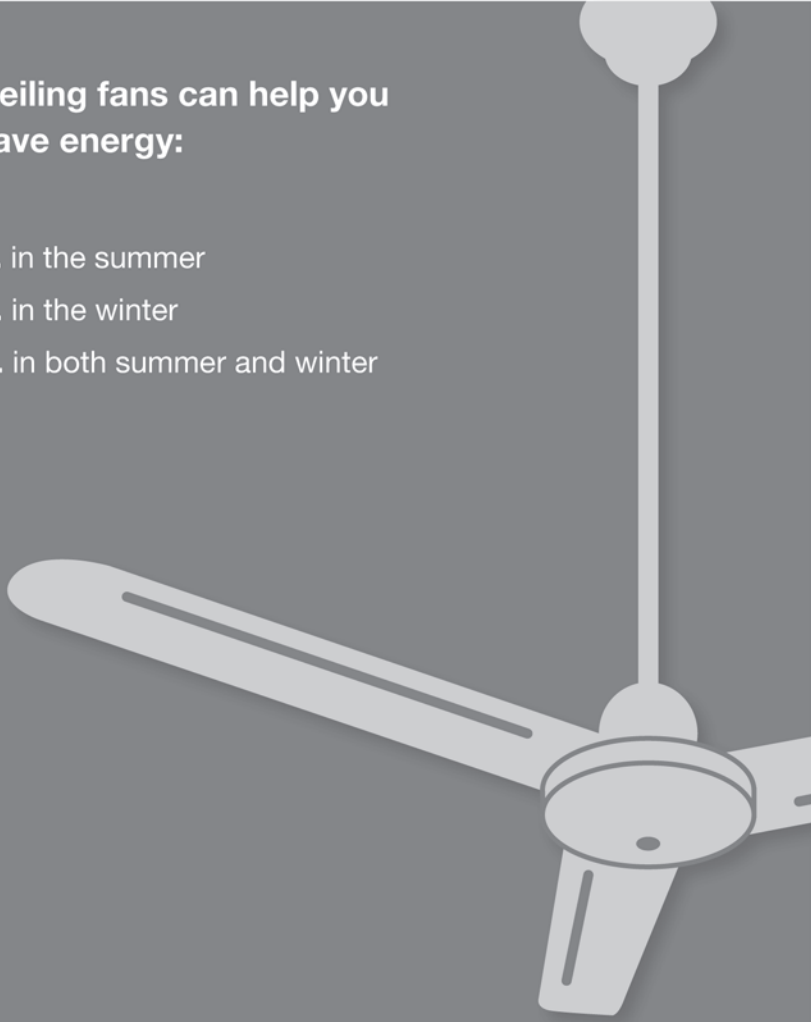
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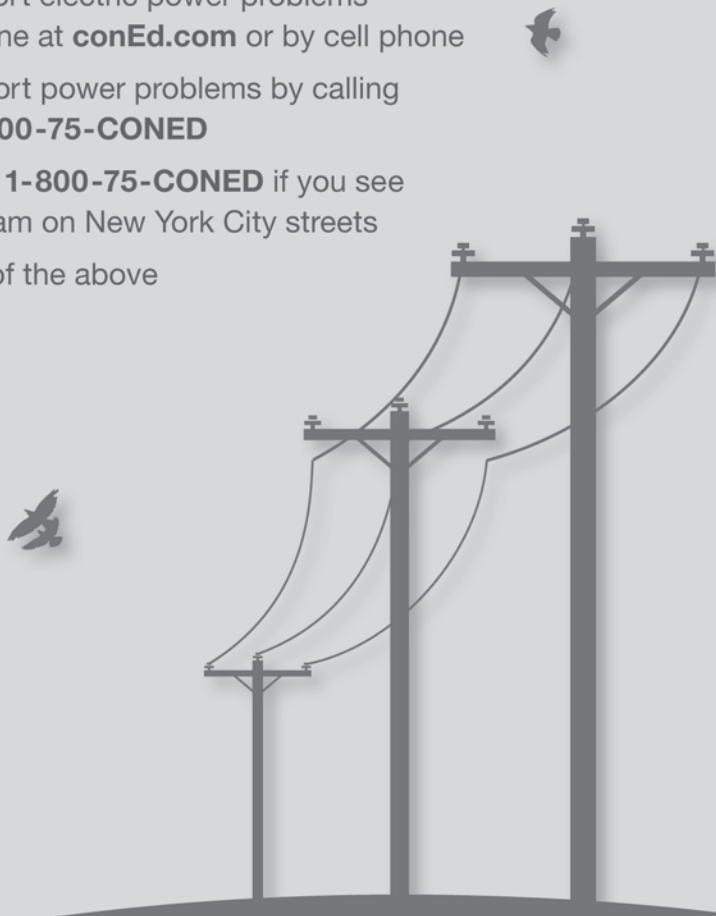
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ANSWER: D

A good rule of thumb for air conditioner use is to:

- A. open windows and turn off A/C when it's 70° or cooler outside
- B. run your A/C for one hour then close windows to trap the cool air
- C. run your A/C and leave windows closed until cold fall weather returns



ANSWER: A

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Photo courtesy of CHARLES EDELEN

Temple Beth-El's annual Summer Dance Party on Thursday, Aug. 5, at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club was attended by about 40 friends and members of the temple, including four members of the Westchester-City Island Sailing Meetup Group. Enjoying the music, dancing and food are (l. to r.): Alan Dattner and Rabbi Shohama Wiener, Bill Rainford and Elaine Belasco, Cheryl and Bob Berent, Kathy Lonergan (in background), and Freddy Lando and Violet Ellis.

Hutchinson River Restoration

Two years ago, in September 2008, the Hutchinson River Restoration Project (HRRP) came into being as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of the Hutchinson River. The organization, which is sponsoring a major cleanup of the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary on Sept. 26 this year, was formed by Island residents Toby Liederman and Eleanor Rae, because they were interested in learning more about our Pilgrim mother, Anne Marbury Hutchinson (1591-1643), who lived briefly in the Bronx until her untimely death at the hands of the Siwanoy tribe of American Indians.

Eventually, their interest in Anne Hutchinson led them to learn more about the river that was named for her, and a small group of individuals joined them in our quest. They found that the river was classified in its Westchester County location as belonging to New York State's most polluted category and that most people knew little or nothing about its poor condition. In fact, no one they spoke with realized that the river has its source in Scarsdale and that its mouth—according to the Army Corps of Engineers—is at the southern tip of City Island.

When SoundWatch, an environmental group on City Island, heard about HRRP's interest in the River, they told them they were in the process of dissolving and wanted to share some money with them. It was at that point that HRRP went through the process of becoming a tax-exempt organization.

As HRRP they have dedicated themselves to learning about the river and to educating the public about it. They have taken trips on land and by water along the river and shared what they learned by talking and distributing material at public events. They have completed two cleanups along the shores of the river of debris consisting of huge amounts of plastic and tires accessible only by water. Thanks to grants from both the Citizens Committee for New York City and the New York City Environmental Fund of the Hudson River Foundation, they are doing another cleanup, this one on Sept. 26 of this year.

If you are interested in joining HRRP for this cleanup at the Thomas Pell Wildlife Sanctuary, New York City's second largest salt marsh and home to many species of birds, fish and turtles, please let them know by e-mailing HutchinsonRRP@aol.com or calling 718-885-9653.

Scenes from the Summer of 2010



Photos by RICK DeWITT and LYLA MacDONALD

Despite traffic woes and stifling heat, many positive memories were created this summer. The annual Blessing of the Fleet took place under sunny skies on June 27, followed later that week by the spectacular "Bronx Salutes America" fireworks display sponsored by Senator Jeff Klein and Borough President Ruben Diaz. Children then gathered for a fun-filled Vacation Bible School during the second week of July at Trinity United Methodist Church, complete with veggie tales, pirates and prayers for our planet Earth.

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Organization News

News on this page concerning organizations, and events listed in, are submitted by representatives of those organizations. A limit of 150 words is requested for all news items submitted. In most cases news will be edited and every effort will be made to preserve the substance of longer items. News and calendar events must be received by no later than the 20th of each month except December and July. If the 20th falls on a holiday or Sunday, the deadline is the 19th. Mail submissions to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464. YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER MUST BE INCLUDED.

Current Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 11 and 12, **Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Tues., Sept. 14, **Primary Election** at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 16, **Community Board 10 Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., Providence Rest, 3304 Waterbury Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465

Sat., Sept. 18, **City Island Cleanup**, sponsored by the Civic Association, the Garden Club and the Chamber of Commerce; meet at 9 a.m. at Hawkins Park.

Tues., Sept. 21, **Cub Scout Pack 211 Registration**, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Trinity Methodist Church hall at the corner of City Island Avenue and Bay Street.

Sat., Sept. 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: sausage and peppers with potatoes.

Tues., Sept. 28, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

OCTOBER

Fri., Sat. and Sun., Oct. 1 to 3, **American Legion Pumpkin Sale**. Legion parking lot at City Island Avenue and Cross Street, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mon., Oct. 4, **Boating Course**, sponsored by the Power Squadron, City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, 7:30 p.m. (see *Briefly* this issue).

Grace Episcopal Church

You are warmly invited to join us for any of our regular weekly worship services, which are as follows: Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 10 a.m., with childcare available on the first Sunday of the month and the Laying on of Hands for Healing on the second Sunday; evening prayer is offered every Monday at 7 p.m., and morning prayer is offered every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, please contact Mother Patty Alexander, the Vicar of Grace Church, at 718-885-1080 or at RevPPA@aol.com.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during Sept. and early October:

Sunday, Sept. 5, 9:50 a.m.: "Lambs" Babysitting with Miss Natalie

Thursday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m.: "Zumba with Tiah." Fall session begins. For more information, see ad in this issue or visit www.abarnes-consulting.com.

Sunday, Sept. 12: "Homecoming Sunday." Join us for our regular 10 a.m. worship (with children's Church School), followed by an All-Parish Picnic in the courtyard at approximately 11:30 a.m. Bring your friends!

Thursday, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.: Memorial Service on Hart Island/Potter's Field. Participants should meet at the Fordham Street Community Center at 9 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.: "Mass on the Grass" and "Bless our Schools" Sunday. Weather permitting, we will gather in the Grace Courtyard for a special outdoor Eucharist; if it rains, we will worship inside. Regardless of the forecast, all students, teachers, and other school personnel are invited to Grace for a special time of prayer as a new academic year begins. Bring backpacks to be blessed, too!

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7 to 8:30 p.m.: Fall Bible Study begins with the Acts of the Apostles. Join us as we read and pray our way through this "history book" about the

early Church. Absolutely no preparation or previous Bible Study experience is necessary. Come and see!

Sunday, Oct. 3, 12 noon: The Blessing of the Animals. All pets (four-legged, winged, scaled and finned) are invited to come to the Grace courtyard for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. In the interest of peacekeeping, we do ask that attendees be leashed, caged, or otherwise restrained!

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m., and Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Prayer service is held every weekday at 9:15 a.m. We encourage you to bring your children to Sunday school to further their knowledge of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Sunday school will begin on Sept. 12. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service; come join us for worship and fellowship.

Be on the lookout for our annual Food Sale on Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Fall Group Bible Study will begin Sunday, Oct. 24, and run for five consecutive Sundays, ending Nov 21. Each session will begin at 11:30 a.m., with Bibles and refreshments provided, and will end at 12:30 p.m. No registration or fee is required.

The study begins with chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles, which was written by Luke, a Greek physician, companion of the Apostle Paul and author of the Gospel. Acts gives us the earliest record of the first Christians who were all Judeans and became known as the followers of "The Way" and takes us to the inclusion of Gentiles into the early church. George Cavalieri, Trinity's Lay Leader/ Speaker, will be moderator

The Budget Corner will reopen Sept. 14. Will someone out there please volunteer to lead Budget behind the scenes? Myra Martin will work right along with you to help and train you for this responsibility, which basically involves contacting the established crew for work dates and help with the gleaning and pricing. We need your help; call Myra at 718-885-1049.

Rick DeWitt

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

In early September, we bid good-bye to Fr. Alexander Iheonunekwu, who was with us for the months of July and August. He will return to his parish work as pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Nigeria. We wish him God speed.

St. Mary's School will officially open on Tuesday, Sept. 7, when the faculty will gather for the opening Conference Day. Students will report on Wednesday, Sept 8. We hope the year will be an enriching and challenging one for all.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will reopen officially on Thursday, Sept. 16. Come and check out all the fall selections.

On Saturday, Sept. 18, we will welcome our Archbishop Timothy Dolan to City Island and to St. Mary's. He will celebrate our annual outdoor Mass at 5:15 p.m. that evening in St. Mary's schoolyard. A light supper will follow the liturgy. This will be a very special occasion this year, so mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Sunday, Sept. 19, has been designated as Catechetical Sunday throughout the country. On that morning at the 10 o'clock Mass, we will commission our catechists for the work they will do in our religious education program throughout the year.

Our religious education program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 22, with grades 1 through 3 meeting from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and grades 4 through 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registrations should be sent to Sr. Bernadette as soon as possible. New students may obtain



Photo by BOB BERENT

Temple Beth-El of City Island has celebrated at least one summertime Sabbath under the stars each year since 2003. On Friday, Aug. 13, this year, the Shabbat By The Sea featured a dinner and Sabbath service by the water's edge. A dinner before the service was held at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, and afterward, most of the diners took a launch ride over to the waterfront property of Ken Binder and Steve Roth, where the special service was conducted by Rabbi Shohama Wiener and Cantor Elaine Faver (at the right).

forms from the rectory or in the vestibule of the church.

Our monthly holy hour will resume on Friday, Oct. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Sr. Bernadette, osu

Temple Beth El

Temple Beth-El, an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation for all ages at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets, wishes our friends and neighbors a most happy, healthy and peaceful New Year (5771). We conduct Sabbath services on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all and holiday attendance is free.

Our holiday season begins on Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 8 p.m. We will gather to join in prayer that this coming year bring goodness, healing and peace to all. As always, our beautiful High Holiday services are free and open to the public, but come early to get good seats!

High Holy Days Services

Rosh Hashanah Evening: Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 8 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Mornings: Thursday and Friday, Sept. 9 and 10, at 9:30 a.m.

Shofar Service and Tashlich (both great for kids): Thursday, Sept. 9, at 11:30 a.m.

Yom Kippur Eve and Kol Nidre: Friday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Day: Saturday, Sept. 18, at 9:30 a.m. Yizkor near 11 a.m. Closing services begin promptly at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Break the Fast, which is free for members, \$10 for non-members.

A Shabbat/Sukkot celebration will be led by Rabbi Shohama on Friday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m. (Help us build the Sukkah on Sunday, Sept. 19, about 10 a.m.)

A Shabbat/Simchat Torah celebration (also led by the Rabbi) will be held on Friday, Oct. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Do try to join us for these festive services. And, again, a happy New Year to all.

Bob Berent

AARP Chapter 318

AARP Chapter 318 meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting this year is Sept. 1. On Sept. 15, State Senator Jeff Klein will speak to the membership and answer questions, and on Oct. 6, Councilmember James Vacca will speak and take questions from the audience. New members are always welcome.

With the assistance of Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, the MetroCard Mobile Van will be parked in front of Trinity United Methodist Church at City Island Avenue and Bay Street on Wednesday, Sept. 29, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Coffee and cake will be served in the church hall. Everyone is welcome.

The Metro Card enables senior citizens 65 years and older to apply for a reduced-fare MetroCard; they will receive a temporary card on the spot. Bring proof of age, such as a Medicare card and valid photo identification. People with disabilities that qualify who pres-

ent a Medicare card and valid photo ID, such as a driver's license, may also apply for a reduced-fare MetroCard. For more information, call 718-885-3055.

Our Octoberfest trip to Platzl Brauhaus in Pomona, New York, is scheduled for Oct. 15. The price is \$75 per person and includes the bus trip and a full day of food, beer, apple cider and wonderful entertainment. Please make and pay for reservations by Sept. 15. For trip information, call 718-885-1479.

Mary Carman

City Island Republicans

The election season is in full swing. Candidates are traveling across the city and state.

I am happy to report that we have a Republican Primary on Sept. 14, 2010. Polls are open from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. Votes will be cast for the Republican nominations for the offices of governor, lieutenant governor and both United States Senate seats. We have not had a primary this large in years, and we do not often have such a chance to select our nominees. So please come out to vote. This will give you a chance to get used to the new voting equipment before November. The list of candidates is in this issue of *The Island Current*.

Although some say that primaries are not good, holding a primary allows us to decide who our nominees should be instead of letting local and state party bosses make those decisions. Furthermore, a primary allows us to groom candidates for future races and choose candidates who actually represent our party's views.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Post.

Fred Ramftl Jr.

PSS Healthy Senior Exercise Program

Please take advantage of the following classes for the Month of September: Zumba with Stephanie on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Center; Cardio Fitness with Mary on Tuesdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Sittercise with Norma on Tuesdays at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Orchard Beach Walk on Wednesdays (leave Pilot Street at 9:30 a.m.); Yoga Stretch with Michael on Thursdays at 9:30 at Grace Church Hall; Arthritis Exercise with Patty on Thursdays at 10:30 at Grace Church Hall; Indian Folk/Zumba with Adelaide on Fridays at 10 a.m. at Grace Church Hall.

Remember that you can attend all classes for \$20 per month, or all classes for \$6 per week. Or you can contribute to individual classes at \$2 for exercise and \$4 for dance. Call Tony at 347-834-6466 for transportation to programs and for a schedule of afternoon shopping trips to Shore Road, Shop Rite, Fairway, Target, Key Food, Bay Plaza, Stop & Shop, Empire City and more.

For further information call Patty at 718-885-1891. Programs are funded by Presbyterian Senior Services, the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Arthritis Foundation.

Pat Grondahl



For additional information about the Community Center, or if you are interested in conducting classes here please call 718-885-1145.

Open Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend. For up to date information visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.com.

NEW CLASSES

Fall Art Classes by Laury Hopkins:
Storytime Art for PreK ages 2½ and up. Must be accompanied by responsible adult. Monday or Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Story and Picture for Grades K-2. Mondays 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Animal World for Grades 3-4. Tuesdays 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Portfolio Prep for Grades 5-8. Thursdays 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. or 4:45 to 6 p.m. All classes limited to six students; no exceptions. Ten classes beginning in September; the schedule will be determined by school/holiday calendar. \$100 for ten classes. For more information or to sign up, call Laury at 718-885-3202.

Periwinkle Music Together: All children are musical! Come and share the joy of music with your child. Classes are for children, birth through age 5, and their parents or caregivers. Activities include songs, chants, fingerplay, instruments and free movement. Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. Fall session begins Sept. 25. Contact Sarah Meenan at sarah@periwinklemusictogether.com or 914-231-6282

COMING SOON

Mixed Martial Arts and Self Defense for Men, Women and Children: For class times, fees and information call Sifu Chris at 347-623-7276 or e-mail www.bronxjeetkunedo.com.

Parenting in the 21st Century: An eight-week course with John Scardina coming this fall. Learn to stop yelling, get what you want from your family life and create opportunities for your children to turn into responsible, loving and independent people. For more information, call John at 718-885-9305 and visit his website, www.ThinkLaughLearn.com.

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

Irish Dance: The Deirdre O'Mara School of Irish Dance teaches step dancing in a fun, competitive environment for all ages. A confidence-building and cultural experience for all who participate. Wednesdays after school. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450 or visit www.deirdreomara.com.

Mommy and Me Fitness: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m. A high-energy

aerobics class that allows you to bring your children along up to the age of 6. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

ADULT PROGRAM

Gentle Yoga-Qi Gong Class with Norma: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Get into shape, relax the body and mind and have some fun doing it! This class is a combination of low-impact Hatha Yoga and Qi-Gong (free form Tai Chi) and mild stretches. Although this class is geared to those who have not exercised in a while, all levels are welcome. Price per class is \$7. Please bring a yoga mat, yoga strap and yoga blocks. Most of these items are available at Barnes & Noble, Modell's, Target or K-Mart. Straps and blocks will be available for purchase on the day of the class. For more information, please call 718-730-3442. Namaste.

Fit for Life with Sarah: Hi-Lo impact aerobics, strength training/toning, kickboxing and more. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, call Sarah Persteins at 718-885-9122.

Zumba Gold: A fun-filled dance/exercise session with a salsa beat. Geared for ages 50 and up. Fee for the class is \$4.

Rhythmic Movement Exercise Class: A fun way to combine exercise with various styles of dance. Mondays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. \$15 per person. If you have questions, please call Judy Farnum, Group Fitness Instructor, at 914-548-4184 or e-mail judyfarnum@aol.com.

Belly Dancing: Shimmy by the Sea. Theresa Mahon (a.k.a. Salacia) teaches the oldest documented dance in the history of mankind—Egyptian belly dancing. It is a low-impact way to get in shape and tone your body while having lots of fun. Terry has been a professional belly dancer for 23 years and a teacher of the art for 15 years. Classes are held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. The fee for each one-hour class is \$15. Call 845-358-0260.

Aerobics with Mary: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Half-hour low impact at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. New class added: Saturday 9 a.m.

Tai-chi: Please join us at 9 a.m. on Saturdays for gentle Tai-chi and yoga sessions. Using bamboo props, balls, straps and partnering to increase flexibility and strength. For more information, please call Marc Kaplan at 718-885-2445.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (except December).

Amy Gottlieb

Garden Club of City Island

First, a sincere and huge thank you to all residents and businesses alike for your continuing support of the Garden Club's annual Beautification Fund drive for 2010. We are both pleased and proud that, thanks to you, we are able to continue our efforts in doing plantings and maintaining the public gardens and park areas of City Island. If you haven't yet contributed to the Fund this year, you still may do so by sending a check to Susan



Photo by RICK DeWITT

State Senator and Deputy Majority Leader Jeff Klein met with residents of the Pilot Cove Senior Center on Friday to discuss matters important to their community. At the center, the seniors wished Senator Klein a happy birthday and presented him with a cake and a balloon.

Strazzera at 108 Ditmars Street, City Island 10464.

This year, we are celebrating 50 years of Island beautification. Yes, the Garden Club of City Island is 50 years old! Jacqueline Kyle Kall, one of our founders, is still an active member of the group, and several of our members from back in the early 1960s celebrate with us each year at our annual luncheon. The Federated Garden Clubs of New York State accepted the GCCI into membership in May 1961 as the first garden club in Manhattan or the Bronx to join their ranks.

Our new officers for 2010-12 are Barbara Hoffman, president; Barbara Harrison, vice president; Susan Strazzera, treasurer; and, Paula Huffell secretary.

Our goal this anniversary year will be two-fold. First, we will honor our founders at the luncheon this year and, second, we will undertake a new project that will have a strong impact upon the Island's beautification. Toward that second goal, we have asked our Bronx Parks Commissioner, Hector Aponte, and the Pelham Bay Parks Administrator, Marianne Anderson, if we can join them on a beautification project that may be on their agendas for the Island. If you have any suggestions for new and exciting projects that fit our mandate and benefit the community of City Island, we would be delighted to hear them. Please e-mail any suggestions you may have to our vice president at bhkaye@gmail.com by Oct. 15.

As you know, we have undertaken projects large and small over the past several years. The renovation of Hawkins Park has been completed, and several members of the GCCI gave it a further sprucing up by tending the flowerbeds and adding a fresh coat of paint to the flag stand, railings and the seal and dolphin sculptures that stand in tribute to the maritime tradition of City Island. Additionally, we continue to maintain the plantings in front of the Nautical Historical Museum, the Legion Triangle, the Brotherhood Tree, and along the Catherine Scott Promenade at Bridge Park on the north end of the Island.

More than 20 planters have now been placed in strategic public locations around City Island, providing a colorful harvest of flowers and foliage to residents and visitors to the community – a project shared between the GCCI and the City Island Civic Association. We continue to join with other community groups who undertake periodic clean-up days to keep our Avenue clean and attractive.

Be sure to join us in helping to clean up City Island Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 18. We will be meeting at Hawkins Park at 9 a.m. to receive our assignments and collect our rakes, gloves and trash bags.

We will keep you posted in this column with news of celebratory activities and projects for this 50th anniversary year of the Garden Club of City Island.

Barbara Harrison

Sons of the American Legion Squadron # 156

Our blood drive was a success. Commander Walter Natiw reported that we managed to collect more than 50 pints of blood.

The clambake was also a hit. Everyone was wine and dined to their satisfaction and also had fun dancing to the music of Alive n' Kickin.

Post Vice Commander for Americanism Ed Shipp wants to remind everyone that all old flags should be dropped off at the Post and placed into the mailbox next to the flagpole. He will make sure that they are retired with dignity.

Our annual pumpkin sale will be held from Friday, Oct. 1, through Sunday, Oct. 3. The hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to closing on Sunday.

There is no date as of press time for the Octoberfest. Swing by the Post for further details.

We regret to report the loss of longtime member Bill Walsh. He will be missed at the Post.

There are a few members who are on sick call. *The Island Current's* Legion News reporter Russ Schaller is currently at Sound Shore Hospital, although he sounds good and his spirits remain high. Longtime member Buddy "Old Chap" Scollon is at Workmens Circle Rehabilitation Center, and Jack Sullivan remains at a facility in Croton-on-Hudson. Dicky Knapp is also at a facility off the Island. Please take some time to visit or call these members and remember them in your prayers.

Just a reminder: SAL dues are past due. We still have a few members who have not paid. The dues are \$30 and can be dropped off at the Post.

The next SAL meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 8 p.m.

The regular Post meetings for the month of September will be held on Monday, Sept. 6, and Monday, Sept. 20. Meetings start at 8 p.m. The September executive board meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 13, also at 8 p.m.

Fred Ramftl Jr.
Vice Commander, Membership

Cub Scout Pack 211

The pack would like to announce registration for the 2010-2011 scouting year. Young men in grades 1 through 5 are eligible. Registration fee is \$60 for the year. Registration will be held Tuesday, Sept. 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Trinity Methodist Church Hall, located on the corner of Bay Street and City Island Avenue.

We have many exciting trips and events planned for this year, including a sleepover on the battleship *Massachusetts*, two camping overnights and much more. If you have any questions or cannot make the registration, please call Larry Saulnier at 646-305-5902 or e-mail cubscoutpack211@aol.com.

Larry Saulnier

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Rising Stars: Amy Adams & Emily Blunt

The actresses Amy Adams and Emily Blunt appeared together in the 2008 black comedy **Sunshine Cleaning**. They played Rose and Norah Lorkowski, respectively, two sisters who start a business together, a service that specializes in cleaning up grisly murders. Norah is the unreliable weird sister; Rose is the more stable of the two, a single mother of troubled Oscar (Jason Spevack) whose father, Mac (Steve Zahn), married someone else. Alan Arkin is on hand as Rose and Norah's odd-ball father, Joe, who is always embarking on get-rich-quick schemes. Although this film won't be to everyone's taste, the excellent acting overcomes the contrivances.

Amy Adams first came to critical attention and received rave reviews and a supporting actress Oscar nomination for her performance as the very pregnant Ashley Johnson in **Junebug** (2005). In that role she is married to the sullen Johnny (Ben McKenzie), who is studying for his high-school equivalency diploma, and they live with his parents in a small town in North Carolina. Johnny's brother George (Alessandro Nivola) brings his sophisticated art dealer wife, Madeleine (Embeth Davidtz), to meet the family. Ashley idolizes Madeleine and shines with childlike innocence, revealing her intelligence when she says to her husband, "God loves you just the way you

are, but too much to let you stay that way." This is a sweet, textured film.

Continuing in innocent mode, Adams also shines in the family film **Enchanted** (2007) playing Giselle, a fairy princess whose animated self falls through a well and lands in the flesh in New York City. She is "rescued" by a Manhattan lawyer, Robert (Patrick Dempsey), who is a single father of Morgan (Rachel Covey). There is a bizarre, but amusing large-scale musical number in Central Park, along with a requisite prince (James Marsden) and an evil queen (Susan Sarandon).

Adams is irresistible as Delysia Lafosse in the comedy **Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day** (2008). Delysia is an American singer/actress who is trying to climb the social ladder in 1939 London. She lives in the Art Deco apartment of Nick (Mark Strong), the owner of the nightclub where she sings. She is in love with Michael (Lee Pace), her poor piano player, and is pursued by Phil (Tom Payne), whose father is producing a musical. Frances McDormand plays the title role of Miss Pettigrew, whom Delysia hires as her social secretary. The dowdy Miss Pettigrew is transformed by her tutelage and captures the eye of a dashing lingerie designer (Ciaran Hinds).

In a complete change of pace, Adams earned another Oscar nod for her performance as Sister James in the New York stage adaption of **Doubt** (2008). Phillip Seymour Hoffman appears as Father Brendan Flynn, who comes under suspicion by the watchful eye of Sister Aloysius Beauvier (Meryl Streep) when he befriends Donald Miller (Joseph Foster II), the only black student in the school. Viola Davis was also nominated for a short but memorable screen time as Donald's worried mother. This is an outstanding drama with exceptional acting.

Adams appeared in a second film with Meryl Streep, the delightful true story **Julie and Julia** (2009). Meryl stars as the famous cook Julia Child, who is mar-

ried to American diplomat Paul (Stanley Tucci). Adams plays the role of Julie Powell, who created a blog describing her experience preparing all of the recipes in Julia Child's famous book "Mastering the Art of French Cooking." She determines to cook one recipe a day for 365 days, to the enjoyment and consternation of her husband (Chris Messina). The juxtaposition of each woman's experience is very sweet indeed.

Emily Blunt first came to my attention when she appeared with Meryl Streep in the comedy **The Devil Wears Prada** (2007). (Don't let me forget to mention that Meryl was nominated for an Academy Award for all three performances described!) The film stars Anne Hathaway as Andy Sacks, a would-be journalist who dares to take a job as an assistant to the infamous and outrageously cruel fashion editor Miranda Priestly (Streep). Blunt, however, manages to steal every scene as Emily Chalton, the other assistant. The magazine's artistic director is played by the marvelous Stanley Tucci; Adrian Grenier appears as Andy's chef boyfriend Nate; and Simon Baker is the seductive magazine writer Christian Thompson.

In the feel-good ensemble flick **The Jane Austen Book Club** (2007), Blunt appears as Prudie, the uptight school-teacher wife of sports nut Dean (Marc Blucas). She is invited to join a book club that consists of a group of women and one man (Hugh Dancy) who discuss one of Jane

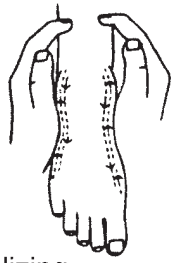
Austen's novels each month. The group was founded by free-spirited, caring Bernadette (Kathy Baker). The other members are widowed control freak Jocelyn (Maria Bellow); Sylvia (Amy Brenneman), who is married to philandering Daniel (Jimmy Smits); and their daughter, Allegra (Maggie Grace).

Blunt truly excels in the title role in **The Young Victoria** (2009), as the young queen who ascended the throne of England in 1837 at the age of 18. She is virtually imprisoned by her mother, the Duchess of Kent (Miranda Richardson), and her advisor Sir John Conroy (Mark Strong). To their dismay, Victoria becomes captivated by her German cousin Albert (Rupert Friend), a romance encouraged by their uncle, King Leopold of Belgium (Thomas Kretschmann). This blooming romance is charming to witness in this illuminating biopic.

I look forward to future performances by these most talented actresses. And until next time, happy viewing. . . .

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Photo courtesy BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM

A painting of Pelham Priory in 1856, home of the Bolton family being honored by a special exhibit at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum opening on Sept. 3, 2010. The watercolor was painted by William Rickarby Miller.

Bolton Exhibition at Bartow-Pell

The Bolton family of Pelham Priory, founders of Grace Episcopal Church on City Island as well as Christ Church in Pelham, is the subject of a major new exhibition that will open at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum on Shore Road on Sept. 3. The show, which will run until Nov. 21, includes many objects that belonged to the family, including furniture, paintings, journals and books.

Included in the exhibition is a baptismal font from the City Island Historical Society that was once in Grace Episcopal Church, which was founded by Adele Bolton. Her brothers, who were well-known stained-glass makers, created the altar window in the church.

Along with the exhibition, Bartow-Pell will present several programs relating to the Bolton family.

- Pelham town historian Blake Bell will talk on "The Boltons of Pelham Priory" on Thursday, Sept. 16, at 4:30 p.m.

- Willene B. Clark, author of "The Stained Glass Art of William Jay Bolton," will give a talk at Christ Church (1415 Pelhamdale Avenue) on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 4 p.m. A reception will follow at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum.

- Arthur Scinta will give a lecture on "The Reverend Robert Bolton: A Gothic Missionary" on Sunday, Oct. 17, at 4 p.m. at the museum.

For information and reservations, call 718-885-1461 or e-mail info@bpmmm.org.



Photo courtesy of TOURING KAYAK CLUB

The annual Boot Hill Cup Race was held on Saturday, Aug. 7 by the City Island Touring Kayak Club. The race is about four miles long, starting at the club on the east shore of Beach Street and going around Hart Island and four buoys. The temperature was in the high 80s with a calm wind. The winner was Neil Kushner with a time of 39.08 minutes. Participants in the race included 19 kayakers and one dog in 17 boats, and 40 people enjoyed the barbecue after the race. The men's winner was Neil Kushner; the women's winner was Ivy Strauss; the men's double race was won by Ken Grillo and Heinz Laue, and the women's double was won by Cinda Becker and Virginia Letourneau.

It's Back to School Time Again

By JOHN SCARDINA

It's that time of year: summer has wound down, and we need to prepare for school. Here are some helpful ideas that I hope will make that transition as smooth as possible:

- Do your best to adjust bedtimes and wake-up times. We all need a transition period when we change our sleep patterns. Work toward your school routine (for example, adjust going to bed and waking up 30 minutes a day) until you get back into your school schedule.

- Pay attention to the new developmental tasks your child will be facing this year and plan for "school" activities at home to support these tasks: more reading every day, more writing every day, some math practice every day, and so on. It takes all of us some time to adjust to new schedules and workloads, so practice at home can be most beneficial. (By the way, this works best if the entire family engages in these activities at the same time, perhaps an impossible goal, given our busy schedules, yet good modeling whenever you can do it.)

- Reinforce daily chores that develop responsibility. Classroom jobs and per-

sonal responsibility for completing one's work are realities of school life. By practicing a good work ethic at home, you will help your child grow and mature into a responsible school citizen.

- Create a gratitude list for the family that lists all of the benefits that come with being a part of your school community. Developing a healthy appreciation for the gift of education can help lessen the reluctance some of our children may feel when summer ends and school approaches.

- Practice family rituals that promote healthy communication and appreciation. Share news about your day during dinner ("One positive thing that happened today was. . . . One negative thing that happened today was. . . ."). Have one compliment for each family member each day (praise is contagious; just make sure it is accurate, specific and helpful!). Spend some quiet time for reflection at home as a family (a moment of silence before a meal, praying together, watching one of those great City Island sunsets). See how this time for sharing and contemplation enhances your family sense of togetherness.

- Make a game out of school mornings: have a checklist for getting ready (use pictures if your child can't read) with a special sticker for completion; use a point system for making time deadlines with eventual rewards; and offer special activities for finishing school preparation early (10 minutes of game time or reading aloud). The start of your child's day (and, in fact, your own day) is a vital step toward a good school experience. Spend some time thinking about preparations from the night before that would help (making the lunches; setting out the clothes; packing the book bag, etc.). Practice making the morning go smoothly: it will pay off for all of you!

- Set some goals for the coming school year. Have each family member design a goal and post these on the refrigerator. Goal-setting builds discipline and creates a vision of the person we want to become. We are all works in progress, to be sure. . . . There you go. Here comes September!

Island resident John Scardina is a certified school psychologist, child development expert and parent educator. Look for his upcoming parenting courses at the City Island Community Center and Bronx Community College. Also check out John's website at www.ThinkLaughLearn.com.

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MR. AMERICA'S PERSONAL TRAINING

By BUTCH NIEVES

Your Self-Guided Kitchen Raid

Your kitchen will make or break your weight-loss results. A kitchen stocked with the makings for healthy meals and snacks will keep you on track, even when late-night cravings strike. On the flip side, a kitchen filled with unhealthy munchies will derail your weight loss efforts every single time.

So what should your cupboards hold and what should be off limits? I have designed this self-guided kitchen raid to help you sort out the good from the bad. Go ahead, grab a garbage bag, print out the list below and then head to the kitchen.

The Refrigerator

Let's start with the fridge, the heart of your kitchen. If you find something in your fridge that is on the "Dump this" list, then you know what you have to do. Get that garbage bag ready.

Dump this: any beverage with high fructose corn syrup or sugar. Drinking calories is one of the quickest ways to gain weight, so quickly rid your fridge of any beverage that lists HFCS or sugar on the ingredient list.

Replace with: water. It is a well-known fact that most people are partially dehydrated, a condition that is harmful to your health and wreaks havoc on your weight-loss efforts. Keep plenty of cold water on hand for proper hydration.

Dump this: any rich dairy product. I know that cream cheese tastes amazing, but fat-filled dairy products are extremely high in calories and should not reside in your fridge. Eliminate high-fat cheese, milk and yogurt from your kitchen.

Replace with: fresh vegetables. The produce drawer in your fridge should be overflowing with colorful nutrient-rich veggies. In fact, your fridge should hold more veggies than the drawer can hold. Veggies are filled with fiber, vitamins and nutrients and are a vital part of a healthy well-rounded diet.

Dump this: fatty meats. It is important that you be selective about the meats that you eat. I can tell you that chicken is a great source of protein, but if you take that as a license to eat fried chicken every day, then the benefit of the protein will be lost in all the extra fat calories.

Replace with: lean meats. Skinless chicken breast, lean ground turkey, white fish; there are numerous choices when it comes to lean meats.

Dump this: fruit-flavored yogurt. I hate to break this to you, but that cute individually packaged yogurt is going to do more harm to your waistline than you think. More than 50 percent of the calories in fruit-flavored yogurt come from sugar. Check out the ingredient list and you likely find both high fructose corn syrup and sugar.

Replace with: plain, low-fat yogurt, Greek yogurt or low-fat cottage cheese. If you love yogurt, then get the low-fat plain version. You can even chop up some fresh fruit and stir it in. Another option is to have a scoop of low-fat cottage cheese with chopped fruit on top.

The Freezer

Next let's take a look into your freezer. Anyone who has walked the freezer aisles at the store knows how plentiful frozen temptations are. How does your freezer measure up?

Dump this: ice cream. We may as well get this one over with. Hiding a gallon or two (or even a pint) of your favorite ice cream "for

a rainy day" is not a good idea. Save yourself from that temptation and don't buy ice cream.

Replace with: frozen fruit. When your sweet tooth starts acting up, throw an assortment of frozen fruit into the blender and whip up a healthy fiber-filled smoothie.

Dump this: frozen pizza. This is another one of those items that is just too tempting to keep around. Why would you bother to make a healthy dinner when a frozen pizza is calling your name? Ban frozen pizza from your home and watch as your waist starts to shrink.

Replace with: turkey or veggie patties. For quick dinners, keep your freezer filled with lean turkey patties and vegetable patties. Serve on a bed of brown rice or on a whole grain bun.

Dump this: TV dinners. I doubt that you need me to go into too much detail on this one. The next time you are tempted to buy a pre-packaged frozen meal, please turn the package over and read the nutritional facts. You will be shocked by the staggering number of calories and less-than-healthy ingredients.

Replace with: home-made portioned meals. Spend some time on the weekends to cook up healthy meals, and then freeze them in portioned containers. Then throughout the week you simply need to reheat and enjoy.

Dump this: frozen breakfast food. French toast, waffles and pancakes are popular items in

the freezer aisle. Don't fall for the pretty photos and tasty-sounding names. These items are highly processed and contain loads of unnecessary sugar.

Replace with: sprouted whole-grain bread and muffins. It is just as easy to throw a slice of sprouted, whole grain bread into the toaster as it is a frozen waffle. Spread it with some natural peanut butter and pair it with a piece of fruit. Now that's a much healthier breakfast.

The Pantry

Last, but not least, we come to your pantry. This may be the most painful part of your kitchen raid, since most junk food ends up here. So take a moment to give yourself a pep talk before grabbing that garbage bag and opening your pantry.

Dump this: sugar-filled cereal. If sugar or high fructose corn syrup is listed as an ingredient on your cereal box, it's got to go. Sugar-filled cereal is basically another form of junk food, and will only add inches to your waist.

Replace with: whole-grain oatmeal. There is a huge difference between instant, sugar-filled oatmeal and whole-grain oatmeal.

Dump this: refined white bread, rice or pasta. These highly processed products promote weight gain and a plethora of other health problems. Do not buy "white" bread, rice or pasta, especially if you want to lose weight.

Replace with: whole-grain bread, rice or pasta. Whole grain is the best choice you can make. It is filled with healthy fiber, and is less likely to contain harmful, waist-expanding ingredients.

Dump this: chips and crackers. Although refined chips and crackers are fun to munch

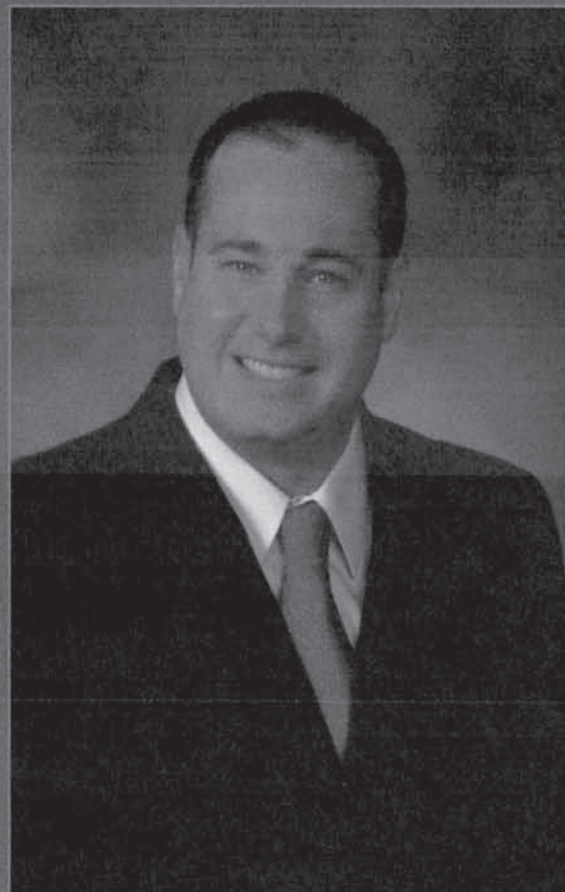
on, the extra calories will quickly add up. Do yourself a favor by not allowing these into your pantry.

Replace with: almonds. The key to making this snack a winner is to practice portion control. Place a handful of almonds into individual bags for pre-portioned snacks.

Dump this: packaged sweets. I don't really have to explain this one, do I? Cookies and cakes and candies shouldn't be a regular part of your diet, so keep them out of your house. It's one thing to enjoy a dessert once in a while, but it is quite another to routinely eat processed sweets at home.

Replace with: dried fruit. When you want to munch on something sweet, turn to a bag of dried fruit. Make sure that you purchase dried fruit that does not contain added sugars.

That completes your self-guided kitchen raid. I encourage you to raid your kitchen every couple of months as a way of keeping yourself on track. Talk with your family members about the healthy changes that you're making, and try to get everyone's support.



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HH = hours; MM = minutes
Tide chart by Tom Smith

SEPTEMBER 2010										
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY	
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET		
01	Wed	0429	6.87	1040	1.26	1649	7.70	2324	1.20	Wed 01
02	Thu	0528	6.75	1139	1.42	1749	7.61			Thu 02
03	Fri	0032	1.24	0634	6.79	1245	1.43	1856	7.63	Fri 03
04	Sat	0157	1.05	0749	7.03	1404	1.18	2009	7.79	Sat 04
05	Sun	0320	0.61	0904	7.48	1529	0.67	2122	8.09	Sun 05
06	Mon	0420	0.08	1006	8.01	1636	0.03	2226	8.40	Mon 06
07	Tue	0511	-0.40	1058	8.49	1733	-0.55	2322	8.61	Tue 07
08	Wed	0559	-0.75	1147	8.84	1826	-0.97			Wed 08
09	Thu	0013	8.66	0646	-0.90	1235	9.01	1917	-1.14	Thu 09
10	Fri	0103	8.53	0732	-0.84	1322	8.99	2009	-1.07	Fri 10
11	Sat	0154	8.24	0819	-0.57	1412	8.77	2104	-0.77	Sat 11
12	Sun	0249	7.84	0909	-0.14	1505	8.41	2202	-0.32	Sun 12
13	Mon	0350	7.40	1006	0.39	1608	7.99	2306	0.17	Mon 13
14	Tue	0500	7.04	1114	0.89	1724	7.62			Tue 14
15	Wed	0012	0.57	0611	6.86	1226	1.23	1838	7.44	Wed 15
16	Thu	0116	0.82	0717	6.90	1333	1.35	1944	7.44	Thu 16
17	Fri	0216	0.89	0817	7.09	1434	1.28	2043	7.55	Fri 17
18	Sat	0310	0.86	0911	7.35	1528	1.09	2135	7.69	Sat 18
19	Sun	0359	0.77	0959	7.60	1617	0.87	2222	7.80	Sun 19
20	Mon	0443	0.69	1042	7.79	1700	0.67	2305	7.83	Mon 20
21	Tue	0521	0.65	1122	7.89	1738	0.52	2342	7.78	Tue 21
22	Wed	0554	0.66	1155	7.90	1811	0.44			Wed 22
23	Thu	0014	7.65	0617	0.70	1217	7.86	1835	0.40	Thu 23
24	Fri	0034	7.51	0626	0.70	1225	7.88	1850	0.36	Fri 24
25	Sat	0045	7.43	0644	0.65	1246	7.98	1913	0.33	Sat 25
26	Sun	0111	7.40	0715	0.64	1317	8.09	1946	0.36	Sun 26
27	Mon	0145	7.35	0753	0.72	1356	8.13	2026	0.47	Mon 27
28	Tue	0226	7.27	0836	0.88	1439	8.08	2112	0.67	Tue 28
29	Wed	0313	7.15	0924	1.10	1528	7.93	2203	0.89	Wed 29
30	Thu	0406	7.03	1018	1.31	1623	7.73	2302	1.08	Thu 30
OCTOBER 2010										
01	Fri	0506	6.96	1120	1.44	1726	7.54			Fri 01
02	Sat	0011	1.13	0615	7.04	1233	1.37	1838	7.47	Sat 02
03	Sun	0141	0.94	0734	7.32	1408	1.00	1959	7.59	Sun 03
04	Mon	0259	0.53	0849	7.79	1528	0.36	2116	7.85	Mon 04
05	Tue	0357	0.05	0948	8.29	1629	-0.30	2218	8.12	Tue 05
06	Wed	0449	-0.37	1040	8.71	1722	-0.85	2311	8.29	Wed 06
07	Thu	0538	-0.64	1128	8.98	1814	-1.19			Thu 07



Photo by JOHN SHERIDAN

An iguana crossing the road

WHY DID THE IGUANA CROSS THE ROAD?

Imagine our surprise as we came driving around the Bartow Pell traffic circle and were forced to break for the rather large iguana crossing the road. Most likely it had outgrown its prior owner's handling abilities and so was abandoned in the nearby woods. A cowardly act, to be sure. Who knows how long it had to fend for itself? And in that environment? We have heard of cats and dogs being let go to fend for themselves there, which is bad enough, but this was so wrong it was embarrassing. Fortunately, this story has a happy ending. The frightened and far-from-home fellow's new owner was manifestly excited about the prospects of caring for his newly adopted pet. He told us he will be relocating to Texas, where his iguana will at least feel closer to his original home.

Another surprise this summer was the white-tailed kite that Pete photographed. This beautiful bird is almost never observed out of its natural environment out West. Pete would know this, as he has been observing raptors, photographing them and participating in counts for twenty plus years now.

We counted 26 swans one afternoon this summer. They were across the bay, in the inlet for Edgewater. Jane counted 14 swans in the water off Tier Street. While the number of swans this year seems higher than usual, the number of swan families seems lower. We have not counted a single



Photo by PETE GUSTAS

A white-tailed kite, rarely seen in this area

cygnet to date.

The poor mossbunker, or menhaden, were savaged once again this summer by ravenous schools of bluefish. Barbara claims that this year's feeding frenzies were especially ruthless. "It was amazing," she said about one particular incident. "Like watching fireworks in the water but no color." She may have a point there. Some schools were chased nearly out of the water altogether.

In the end, all of the violence of a feeding frenzy is simply the food chain in action. And where would any of us be without that? We were guests at the table of Dom and Carol this summer and sampled the most exquisite fish chowder. It was made, we were told, from the head of a striped bass that had been landed off Fordham Street the night before. Believe us when we tell you that it tasted a whole lot better than it sounds.

As always, we welcome your feedback and invite your input at jdsstrat@msn.com. We can also be contacted c/o of *The Island Current*, P.O. Box 6, Bronx, NY 10464.



Photo by JANE PROTZMAN

A bevy of swans in Eastchester Bay

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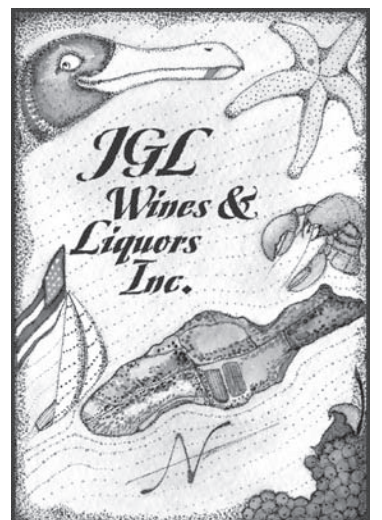
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AMBROSINI FIELD NAMED PARK OF THE MONTH

Each month New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation singles out one of its 1,700 parks as "Park of the Month," and on August 11, 2010, the Department announced that Ambrosini Field on City Island had been honored with the designation.

"The Ambrosini ballfields and playground are a gem in this City Island community," said Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "Visitors can play ball, slide down the nautical theme jungle gym and take in great views of the Long Island Sound."

Located on the waterfront next to P.S. 175, Ambrosini Field is home to the City Island Little League. The field was reconstructed in 2008 with \$1.8 million in DEP Croton Mitigation Funds to accommodate more playing space and spectators, and youngsters now enjoy new backstops, natural turf fields, bleacher seating and an irrigation system. Adjacent to the field is a colorful playground in the shape of a boat

with sails, evoking the island's maritime heritage. Play features include swings, a spray shower and an adult exercise unit. Throughout the field and playground are new drinking fountains, fencing, picnic tables, benches, plantings, and pavement.

The field honors Anthony Abraham Ambrosini (1926-1994), an inspirational coach and prominent member of the City Island community. Mr. Ambrosini grew up on Prospect Avenue in the Bronx neighborhood of Belmont and moved to City Island in 1956 with his wife and daughter. "Ambro," as he was known, coached the football, basketball and baseball teams of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, trained both the Apache Little League baseball team and the adult softball team, formed the City Island Giants football team, and coached basketball at Saint Mary, Star of the Sea Church. After retiring in 1992 from his printing job, he devoted himself to coaching on a full-time basis.

Planning for Long Term Care, and More

By CORMAC MCENERY

As an attorney specializing in elder law, I go online every morning to read the several daily elder law updates that I receive from various sources. Recently I read that Legal Zoom, "one of the most prominent sellers of do-it-yourself wills and other estate planning documents, is the target of a class action lawsuit in California charging that the company engages in deceptive business practices and is practicing law without a license."

I have written this article to make note of what I observe to be a growing trend. New clients often present me with documents that have been prepared by such online providers, or by actual lawyers who do not concentrate in this area of law. Inevitably, the documents that were prepared for individuals who are now either deceased or incompetent do not create the results that were intended.

Increasingly, I see powers-of-attorney that do not provide for such things as Medicaid planning if the principal is no longer

competent; health-care proxies, including living wills, that are improperly executed and ineffective; wills that leave assets to family members who are now on Medicaid or some other form of public assistance (thus simply paying that individual's debts); and trusts created to avoid probate that are either completely unfunded or only partially funded, or are not Medicaid-compliant.

We are all living in a much different world than we were a few years ago, a world that is increasingly driven by the long-term health care needs of ourselves and our heirs. It takes time, focus and an ever-growing level of expertise to make provisions for ourselves and our families. You may save thousands of dollars on the front end in your planning process but lose hundreds of thousands of dollars on the back end if a plan is not clearly thought out or properly executed.

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The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about Bronx County
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

Disaster off the Bronx Coast: The General Slocum Tragedy

Just off the coast of the Hunts Point peninsula in the southeast Bronx was the site of the worst maritime disaster in New York City history. On June 15, 1904, the *General Slocum*, a paddleboat excursion vessel, turned into a floating inferno. It had been chartered that day by the St. Marks German Lutheran Church located on East Sixth Street just east of Second Avenue on the lower east side of Manhattan. The group chartered the ship for \$350 for their annual Sunday school outing to Locust Grove, a popular picnic ground on Long Island's north shore. Most of the 1,358 passengers on the ship that day were women and children. The ship's captain was 68-year-old William H. Van Schaick, who commanded a crew of 23 that fateful day.

The *General Slocum* was named after the Civil War general and New York Congressman Henry Warner Slocum. She was launched in 1891 and was a familiar site at the turn of the last century. The enormous steamship was 250 feet long by 70 feet wide and was made entirely of wood except for her two stacks; her coal-fired boilers turned two side paddle

wheels. The three-decker side paddler could accommodate more than 2,000 passengers, but the vessel harbored some killer flaws.

The ship departed from the East Third Street pier at 9:40 a.m. and began moving north up the East River past Blackwell's (now Roosevelt) Island. As the ship passed 90th Street, most of the passengers—mainly children—were jammed together on the upper decks playing and enjoying the views of the city. Just as she reached the spot where the Triborough (Robert F. Kennedy) Bridge spans the river today, cries of "Fire!" broke out. Just below, in a storage room beneath the galley, a spark or a carelessly tossed match had ignited a barrel of straw. Because the room also stored oil lamps, barrels of oil and paint boxes, the fire quickly spread out of control. It was only a matter of seconds before the entire forward part of the boat was a mass of flames.

An inexperienced crew, untrained in fire safety or emergency response, was ill equipped to put out the fire or assist the passengers. A full seven minutes elapsed before the captain was even made aware of the situation, although a 12-year-old boy had supposedly reported the fire to him minutes earlier but was not believed.



The General Slocum

To make matters worse, the ship's fire hoses of rotted cloth burst under the force of the water. As the fire raced through the crowded vessel, a speedy evacuation was the only salvation. But the 10 life boats were tied fast to the ship and could not be dislodged. Some claimed they were actually wired to the ship and painted in place. Although the ship was equipped with more than 2,500 life jackets, they proved useless, as the canvas had rotted and the cork filler had crumbled. The life jackets had been manufactured in 1891 and had hung above the deck, unprotected from the elements, for 13 years. Meanwhile, the intense heat kept dozens of nearby vessels from getting sufficiently close to assist.

At this point the *General Slocum* was entering the treacherous, tide-swept and whirlpool-plagued narrows of Hell Gate, the passage of water located next to Astoria on the shoreline of Queens. Captain Van Schaick could have beached the ship on Astoria's shore or stopped the vessel completely to allow surrounding boats to help rescue the passengers. Instead, however, he ordered the ship northward, full steam ahead, in order to beach the ship on the Bronx's North Brother Island, which was a mile and a half away.

The headwinds and the ship's speed helped to fan the flames. The panic-stricken passengers trampled over one another in a desperate attempt to escape. Many mothers grabbed their children and jumped overboard only to be beaten by the still turning paddle wheels or drowned by the rotten life vests, which were filled with disintegrated cork. Desperate mothers placed lifejackets on their children and tossed them into the water, only to watch in horror as their children sank instead of floating.

By the time the ship reached North Brother Island, it was ablaze from bow to stern. Railings gave way, and the superstructure finally collapsed, hurling hundreds of screaming passengers deep into the ship's fiery hull.

Less than 15 minutes after the smoke was first seen, the *General Slocum* lay smoldering on North Brother Island with at least 1,021 people dead. On the island, where Riverside Hospital was located for the treatment of infectious diseases, doctors, nurses and patients jumped into the water and formed human chains in a desperate attempt to rescue survivors and recover dead bodies.

There were many other acts of heroism, which resulted in 321 lives being saved. A brave captain ran his tug alongside the *General Slocum* fully exposed to the fire and saved over a hundred lives. A measles patient from the island's hospital ran into the water despite her fever and saved a few children. A nurse who couldn't swim ran into the river to grab some

children, which she did again and again, until she was swept into deeper water, where she discovered that she could swim after all and continued saving lives.

This tragedy shocked the city of New York and indeed the entire country. Within minutes of the tragedy, reporters from the New York World and other major dailies were on the scene. The dispatches they sent back to their newsrooms sickened many a hardened editor. Rescue workers openly wept as the corpses piled up.

The funerals were held every hour in churches all over the Lower East Side and lasted more than a week. One procession from St. Mark's Church to the Lutheran Cemetery in Queens involved 156 hearses and stretched over a mile. These tragic scenes were punctuated by the fact that several men and women who lost their entire families in the fire proceeded to take their own lives. The tragedy decimated the tightly knit community of German immigrants known as Kleindeutschland (Little Germany) on the Lower East Side, where nearly all of the passengers lived, and it never recovered. The pall of sadness that hung over the community was so great that within a few years most of the German families had moved out, forming a new German immigrant community in the Upper East Side neighborhood of Yorkville.

In the weeks and months that followed the fire, an outraged public searched for answers and culprits. City officials vowed to conduct a thorough investigation, and within weeks Captain Van Schaick, executives of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Co., and the inspector who certified the *General Slocum* as safe only a month before the fire were indicted. However, only Captain Van Schaick was convicted. He was found guilty on one of three charges: criminal negligence for failing to maintain proper fire drills and fire extinguishers. The jury could not reach a verdict on the other two counts of manslaughter.

Captain Van Schaick was blinded by the blaze, convicted of negligence and sentenced to 10 years in Sing Sing Prison. He was pardoned by President William Howard Taft after serving just three and a half years. Ironically, Van Schaick had officially retired the year before the Slocum disaster and was given an award for safely transporting 35 million passengers. Van Schaick died in 1927 at the age of 90.

An investigation revealed that the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, owner of the *General Slocum*, had never replaced the original life belts and hoses and that the first mate had not trained the crew in emergency procedures. In the wake of the *General Slocum* disaster, maritime safety standards were considerably strengthened.

The tragedy was New York's worst in terms of loss of life until the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. An annual commemoration is held each year on the anniversary of the tragedy in the Lutheran Cemetery in Queens.



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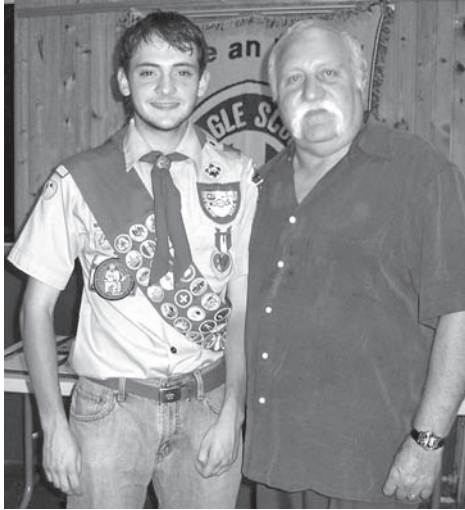
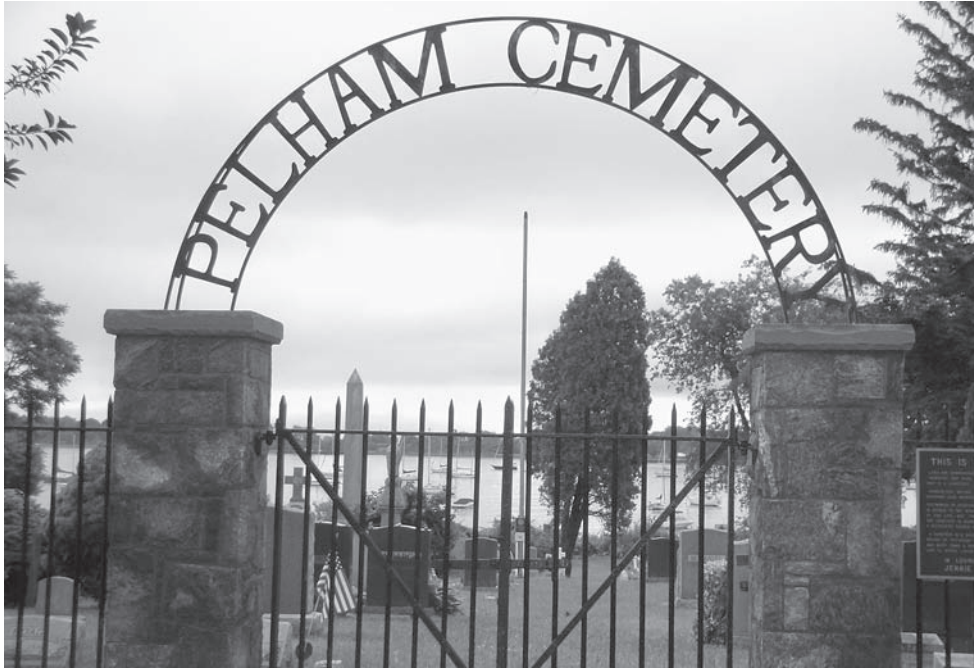


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Photos by PEGGY EBERHART
 Eagle Scout John Devlin was honored on Friday, June 4, at a dinner attended by friends, family and fellow scouts. John expressed special thanks to the Black Whale, Papa John's Deli, IGA Supermarket and Matt Eberhart, and the firefighters of Engine 92 who prepared the food. John also thanked Rev. Sue Chadwick and Trinity Methodist Church for the use of the church hall, as well as Father Michael Challinor and former Scoutmaster Ed Esposito, pictured here with John. Part of John's Eagle Scout project was repairing and painting the fence at Pelham Cemetery, as well as raising the funds to reconstruct the stone pillars seen here.

Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.

Maurie J. Paccione

Maurie J. Paccione, a longtime resident of City Island, died on July 29, 2010, at the age of 80. He was born on Oct. 27, 1929, the son of Margaret and Joseph Paccione. He lived in the Throggs Neck area until he met Jean Mitorotonda of City Island; they were married on Oct. 7, 1950, and lived on City Island for nearly 60 years.

He served his country proudly in the Merchant Marine and the Air Force. He was the owner and proprietor of Midtown Heating and Fuel Corporation. On City Island he played a major role in the formation of the City Island Little League. He also owned and operated the City Island Art Gallery, where he enjoyed talking about painting and artists with visitors.

Some of his favorite pastimes were fishing, bowling and performing his legendary card tricks. He also loved watching baseball and football, especially his favorite teams, the New York Yankees and the New York Giants. He once met George Steinbrenner, owner of the Yankees, who let Maurie try on his World Series ring.

Maurie is survived by his beloved wife and his children: Margaret Vrettos and her husband, Mike; Mauro Paccione and his

wife, Helen; Patrice Gambardella and her husband, Thomas, and Ralph Paccione. He also leaves seven grandchildren: Nicholas and George Vrettos; Elena and David Paccione; Matthew, Tyler and Justin Gambardella. He is also survived by his sister, Anna Paccione; his sisters-in-law Angela Carroll and Gay Paccione; and his brothers-in-law Joseph Vasti and Gerry Carroll.

Margaret Koller

After a four-year battle with leukemia, Margaret Koller passed away on June 17, 2010, at the age of 84. Margaret was affectionately known as Oma, which in German means "grandmother."

Margaret moved to City Island in 1963 and lived here with her husband, Frank, whom she married nearly 60 years ago. She enjoyed the company of her family, friends and neighbors, particularly if they enjoyed her cooking or challenged her to a game or two of Scrabble. In addition to cooking, Margaret loved crossword and jigsaw puzzles and attending various German social gatherings.

Margaret is survived by her husband; her children, Frank and his wife, Cheryl, of City Island; Steve and his wife, Vicky, of New Rochelle, and Ingrid Kanne and her husband, Mark, of Arizona; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Donations in Margaret Koller's name may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, City Island, NY 10464, or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at www.LLS.org.

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Saving Pelham Parkway Trees

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A number of City Islanders have joined with other residents of the Bronx in protesting the removal of 80 trees as part of the Pelham Parkway Reconstruction project, and in response to the public outcry, elected officials from the Bronx have written a joint letter to Mayor Michael Bloomberg to reassess the tree removal.

The project is a \$35 million capital project led by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) to improve the sewers and the roadway along Pelham Parkway, and DDC plans to remove up to 50 trees to make way for a guardrail. The Parks Department has designated an additional 30 to 40 trees as unhealthy and in need of removal.

On Aug. 23, Councilmember James Vacca, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Representative Joseph Crowley, State Senator Jeff Klein and Assembly Members Naomi Rivera and Michael Benedetto signed a joint letter to the Mayor on behalf of the Pelham Parkway community.

The joint letter asks the Mayor to appoint three representatives of the community to participate in the project and to consider redesigning the sewer reconstruction project on the service road in order to save dozens of healthy street trees. They ask the mayor to address the assertion made by former Parks Commissioner Henry Stern that an alternate guardrail design could save dozens of trees, and they ask the city to reevaluate the designation of certain trees as unhealthy or diseased.

The officials made it clear that safety was an important issue but that it was also important to preserve the natural beauty of Pelham Parkway by saving as many trees as possible, which would be possible with slight readjustments in the project design. Each official also stressed the importance of community participation in the process, as their offices have been flooded with telephone calls from concerned residents protesting the tree removal.



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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Ashley Kinford married Tim Grey on Aug. 7, 2010, at the City Island Yacht Club.

Happy 32nd wedding anniversary on Sept. 15 to Walter and Paula Huffell, who are also celebrating 32 years as happy residents of City Island.

Happy 100th birthday on Aug. 4 to George Seward of Seward & Kissel, from his secretary of 32 years, Paula Huffell.

Keep up the good work to Island resident John Scardina, who gave a workshop on July 17 at the American Mental Health Counselors Association Annual Conference in Boston entitled "READY-SET-GO: Developing Executive Functioning Skills for Children and Their Parents in the Home."

Happy birthday on Sept. 16 to Nicolette Lotrionte and good luck to her as she begins her law school career at Brooklyn Law School. Love, Mom and Dad.

Godspeed to former Buckley Street residents Joe and Miriam Nixon, who moved to the west coast of Florida in July. Their life on City Island was celebrated at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, July 18, where, among their many contributions, Joe had been Senior Warden and Miriam was a longtime member of the choir. The party continued at Starving Artist, where their role in founding the City Island Theater Group was recognized. City Island will miss the Nixons!

Happy 24th birthday wishes on Sept. 2 to Bay Street's Stephen Swieciki.

Congratulations to Casey Quinn, who graduated from the College of New Rochelle with a Masters of Science in

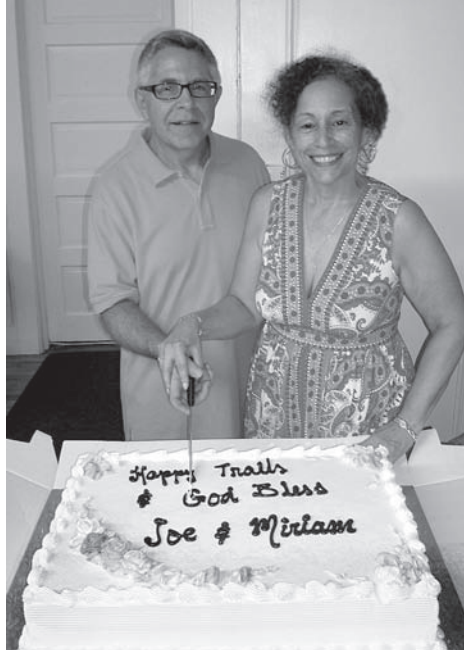


Photo by EYVONNE BAKER
Longtime Buckley Street residents Joe and Miriam Nixon moved to the west coast of Florida in July. Their life on City Island was celebrated at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, July 18, 2010.

Education.

Happy 17th birthday wishes go out to Marissa Ferris on Sept. 8. Where have the years gone? Our adorable little girl has grown into a beautiful young woman. We love you and wish you many more happy years ahead! Have the best year ever. Love, Mom, Joey, Richard, Dad, Linda and boys.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Marine Street's Ann and Chuck Butterworth, who will celebrate their 27th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11.

Happy birthday and happy anniversary to Kim and Willie Strnad on Sept. 24, with love from your family.

Happy birthday(s) to Bay Street residents Ben DiGregorio, Bob Swieciki and Jean Anderson, who all celebrate their big day on Sept. 12.

Happy 62nd wedding anniversary wishes on Sept. 5 to Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, with love and admiration from your family.

Happy September birthday to my favorite aunt, Dot Bunyan, with love from Judy.

Happy Sept. 4 birthday greetings to Diane Carmody, with love from Lil Bob, Kelly, Robert, Cricket and Tiki.

Congrats to Frankie Cebek on his new job and new car. We are so proud of you! Love, Uncle Bob, Aunt Diane, Kelly and Lil Bob.

Happy birthday greetings on Sept. 5 to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire.

Happy birthday on Sept. 28 to Minneford Avenue's Tina Ruggiero, with love from your friends and family.

Pelham Bay Belles Softball welcomes new "Belles": Islanders Annalise Vivolo and Victoria Strazera, who will be joining veteran player Veronica Weyhrauch this fall playing Doubleheaders every Sunday at 9



Islander Casey Quinn graduated on May 27, 2010, at Radio City Music Hall from the College of New Rochelle with a Masters of Science in Education. She is shown above (l. to r.) with her sister, Courtney, her parents, Kevin and Patty, and her brother, Nolan.

a.m. and 11 a.m. at the City Island Little League field starting Sept. 12. And a big get well shout out to Sam Weyhrauch from the Belles who "need and miss you."

Belated July Happy Birthday wishes to Beth Rota and her sister, Susie Rauh, from a very forgetful Mom. It was great to have Beth here from New Orleans for the Fourth of July week.

Happy September birthday to Mike Rauh, who is training for his 33rd New York City Marathon. Go, Mike!

Great big birthday wishes to Kayla Mooney on Sept. 4, with love from the Mooney/Kretzmers.

Happy birthday, David, on Sept. 19. Love, Grace, Paxton and Shisha.

Happy birthday on Sept. 26 to Kevin Lenz and to Jonathan Mullin on Sept. 27.

Welcome to Vincent DeGasperi as the newest member of the team at City Island's Chase branch bank. If you haven't met Vincent yet, please stop in and say hello.

City Island wedding bells were ringing when Ashley Kinford, daughter of Minneford Avenue residents Donna and Hal Kinford, married Tim Grey on Aug. 7, 2010 at the City Island Yacht Club. Congratulations to the happy couple and may the honeymoon last forever!

"Way to go!" to Minneford Avenue resident, Andrea Amoroso, who won the silver medal in Girls Javelin at the 2010 A.A.U. Junior Olympics held in Virginia Beach in August. Andrea beat 34 competitors from around the country to earn second place. She also competed in shot put, placing 17th out of 69, and in pentathlon where she came in 28th out of 38. Andrea carries on her family's tradition of medaling at this national event. Her older brother, Joseph, medaled the previous two years in the 3,000 meter Race Walk. Andrea will be training this fall for the Colgate Women's Games held at Madison Square Garden.



Andrea Amoroso

She will be competing in shot put and 100-meter hurdles. For further information about the Zodiacs Track Team which runs at Truman High School in the Bronx, check out their website at Zodiacstrack.org.

Arlene (Mert) Ricciardi celebrated the first birthday of her cat, Emily, on July 24. Thanks to all who attended, including Brian and Michelle Kenny of Centre Street, and gave gifts.

"Its a girl!" for former Islanders Danielle and Philip Ribaud. The happy couple welcomed their first baby, Alana Lydia Ribaud, on July 9, 2010 at Greenwich Hospital. Proud first-time grandparents and great-grandmother are Anthony and Stephanie Ribaud of City Island, Joe and Donna Torre and Anita Laterza of Cortlandt Manor, New York.

Maria Swieciki

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