

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## POLICE ANNOUNCE ARRESTS AT TOWN MEETING

By KAREN NANI and BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DeWITT

Police from the 45th Precinct and the City Island Civic Association held the second town hall meeting in twelve months at Trinity Church on Oct. 25, 2006. Captain Michael Alles reported on the sting operation and arrests at the Island Pub on Oct. 11, among other police activities on the Island.

Police announced a major blow against drug dealing on City Island with the arrests of 16 people at or near the Island Pub following a nine-month investigation. Captain James Alles of the 45th Precinct gave the crowd of about 100 residents the good news at a town hall meeting sponsored by the City Island Civic Association on Oct. 25, 2006, at Trinity Methodist Church Hall.

Captain Alles credited Lieutenant Michael Brenyo, who called the mayor's Special Enforcement Unit after an earlier City Island town hall meeting, for his part in initiating the successful operation. Lieutenant Brenyo and other officers from the 45th Precinct began working with the Bronx Narcotics Division after multiple complaints by Islanders about drug dealing at the Island Pub, which is located at 238 City Island Avenue, on the corner of Schofield Street.

According to Captain Alles, 16 subjects were arrested and charged with the sale of a controlled substance, "a serious A felony." "About half of the perps are from City Island and the others are from Yonkers, Westchester and other parts of the Bronx," he told the crowd. Those in custody accused of various charges ranging from possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell or for the criminal sale of a controlled substance include Cathleen McNamara, Joseph McManus, Brian Sullivan, William Rizzuto, Matthew McManus, George Gaudino, Peter Morris, Thomas Maher, William Whelan, Felix Hernandez, Michael Poli, Mark Wallace, Raymond Hopper and Steven Wiggs. Warrants are out for two other suspects, who have yet to be apprehended.

In addition, the mayor's office did a walk-through of the building and found unsafe conditions on stairways and in the single-room occupancy (SRO) apartments above the pub. "It appears that the Island Pub will be closed for good," Captain Alles added. "We told you we would take care of it and we did. The windows are now covered. The case takedown, led by Captain Nicholson from Narcotics, was very successful."

Lieutenant Brenyo reported in connection with the building that nothing criminal had been found taking place in Mo's Deli, which will remain open for business.

Although this was the big news of the evening, Captain Alles also gave a synopsis of City Island crimes for year-to-date 2006 (see below), which have declined in most categories.

Crime	2005 # of Incidents	2006 # of Incidents
Homicide.....	0.....	0.....
Robbery.....	2.....	1.....
Assault.....	6.....	4.....
Burglary.....	18.....	9.....
Grand Larceny.....	18.....	10.....
Grand Larceny Auto... 6.....	7.....	
Felony Arrests.....	18.....	32.....
Misdemeanor Crimes	23.....	29.....

He reminded the crowd that Halloween 2005 was one of the worst nights in City Island crime history. "There was a shooting and a bomb scare, and the parade was curtailed," he recalled. As a result, there will be a significant police presence on the Island for the 2006 parade, which has a shortened route this year, and the officers will remain after the parade is over.

Frank Fitts, president of the Civic Association, noted that the turnout at this meeting was not as high as expected, because the Post Office had failed to deliver the Civic newsletters, having changed bulk mailing procedures without informing the organization.

Following the police report, there was a question-and-answer session. Geri Seiter asked if the precinct was still committed to dealing with criminal mischief perpetrated by local youths. She reported that the 45th precinct had not responded to 911 calls about inebriated teens on Hawkins Street three weeks earlier, although two ambulances did show up. She noted later that a Fire Department ambulance could not locate an address on Hawkins Street and did not seem familiar with the Island's streets.

Russell Schaller mentioned that there was continued vandalism at the Nautical Museum on Fordham Street, and he and other residents were encouraged to report incidents of graffiti and other mischief to the precinct. If anyone was seen in the act of committing vandalism, the call should be made to 911. One resident asked whether it would be possible to enforce a curfew on young people, but the police noted that this was not a legal option.

Jay Howard, who has been involved with the Community Center's Teen Center for many years, asked for parent volunteers and for help in providing better activities for the Island's young people. Frank Fitts observed that if the Island organizations would work together, it was possible to provide a more effective center that would serve the needs of the community.

The police were asked whether the hit-and-run investigation of the incident that took place on City Island Avenue on Oct. 11 had resulted in any arrests. Captain Alles reported that the investigation was ongoing, awaiting the analysis of paint chips taken from the car of Lisa Shipp, who was involved in a fatal hit-and-run in Yonkers the following evening, and that other leads were being explored.

Residents noted that the presence of five rookie officers on City Island during the summer was successful, and Captain Alles said that the same program would take place next summer after Memorial Day. He also reported with regret that Lieutenant Brenyo was going to be leaving the 45th Precinct for the Narcotics Di-

vision.

Captain Alles also noted that motorcycles continued to be a problem on the Island and that the 45th precinct would try to stay on top of the situation. He assured the audience that there was a sector car on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, patrolling Orchard Beach and City Island.

It was acknowledged that other traffic issues, such as speeding, running red lights and double parking also continue to be problems on City Island. It was noted that the police have begun ticketing cars parking in no-parking zones set up by the contractor installing the new sewers and water mains.

## ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by KAREN NANI

Workers on the sewer and water main replacement project unearthed a 150-foot section of the old City Island trolley track dating back to 1914. The rail was four inches below the surface of City Island Avenue between Reynolds Street and Pell Place. Workers from Clemente Contracting excavated the rail and, in response to a request from Andy Macagnone of DDC, preserved a piece of it for the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum.

As the sewer-replacement project winds its way through City Island, the excavation process has revealed some interesting bits of history. A number of illegal sewer connections were discovered (and fixed) on Schofield Street during the past summer, for instance, and on Oct. 25, a 150-foot length of trolley rail dating back to 1914 was dug up on City Island Avenue between Reynolds Street and Pell Place.

When New York City provided the Island with public bus transportation in 1928, the trolley that had run from the bridge down to Belden Point since August 1914 was discontinued, and in 1931 the rails were taken up as part of a Works Progress Administration project before City Island Avenue was raised and resurfaced. That is, most of the rails were taken up.

The first public transportation on City Island was a stage coach owned and operated by Robert Vickery beginning in 1873. The coach ran from City Island to Mount Vernon, where it connected with the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad line. After a branch line was established between New Rochelle and the Harlem River, the coach took City Islanders (for five cents a trip) back and forth to Bartow Station (whose ruins can still be seen on the bridge trail).

In 1880 a horse-car was operated by Pat Burns (the last farmer on the Island) between Belden Point and the bridge, and in 1887 Judge Henry DeWitt Carey (a banker and the father of cowboy movie star Harry Carey) established a horse-car line that ran on a track from Bartow Station all the way to Belden Point. At 7:15 in the morning the car

left Belden Point, with stops at Horton and Fordham Streets and the City Island Bridge. It was derailed from time to time, but it had a pot-bellied stove to keep riders warm in the winter.

The horse-car service was considered outdated by the turn of the century, and several other ideas were offered, including a street railway that was proposed by the City Island Railroad Corporation in 1908 but never built. In 1910, a monorail line (partially financed by August Belmont, who had real estate interests on City Island) was built to run between the bridge and Bartow Station, while the horse-car continued to run between the bridge and Belden Point. The monorail was said to reach speeds of 40 miles per hour, but it derailed the first day and nothing seemed to go right after that, as it lacked heat in winter and ventilation in summer and was often out of service.

The monorail was finally discontinued by 1914 and replaced by a trolley car that ran between Belden Point and Bartow Station. It used the old horse-car tracks in spite of the fact that the tracks were not always on the same side of the street, and it is a remnant of these tracks that was dug up by the sewer workers, completing the job begun in 1931.

Andy Macagnone, community liaison for the sewer project, made sure that a piece of the track was cleaned up and donated to the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum.

(Thanks go to Alice Payne, whose book *City Island: Tales of the Clam Diggers* was the source of much information in this article.)

**BRIEFLY...**

**LOTTO CALENDARS:** The American Legion Auxiliary of the Leonard Hawkins Post 156 will be selling full year "lotto" calendars. Each calendar has a lucky number on it, and each day has an amount randomly assigned to it ranging from \$20 to \$175. If your number is chosen by the New York State evening lottery, you win the amount shown on the calendar for that day. There is no limit to how many times you can win in a year. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please send \$20 per calendar with your name, address and three lucky number choices to the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Post 156, 550 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464, or stop by the Legion and ask for one of the members of the auxiliary. This is a popular fund-raiser and numbers sell out quickly.

**P.S. 175 ELECTION DAY SALE** will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. There will be bagels and coffee, hot dogs and soda, assorted baked goods and more than 100 raffle prizes. The sale is run by the hard working volunteers from the P.T.A. of P.S. 175, so stop by after voting at the school located at 200 City Island Avenue and support this annual fund-raiser.

**TROOP LEADER NEEDED!** Would you like to make a difference in a child's life? The fourth-grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 1175 is looking for a responsible and reliable leader for this upcoming scouting season. If they cannot find anyone by the end of November, the troop will be disbanded! Please set aside time and volunteer. Contact Doreen at 718-885-9110 for further information.

**RECYCLE AND RAISE FUNDS:** P. S. 175 is recycling and would like your help. You can bring your empty laser, fax, copier and inkjet cartridges, as well as used cell phones, laptops, Palm Pilots, and iPods to the school at 200 City Island Avenue, and the P.T.A. will collect and send them to Cartridges for Kids. This will serve two purposes: first to help preserve the environment by keeping these harmful items out of landfills, and second, to raise funds for the school. For more information, contact Candy Mancuso at 646-879-6082.

**CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP'S "SYLVIA"** will be presented on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 3 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 City Island Avenue. Tickets may be reserved for this delightful play by calling 718-885-3066. Don't miss it!

**BLOOD DRIVE:** The Bronx Masons will hold a Blood Drive on Tuesday, Nov. 14, between 4 and 8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street and City Island Avenue. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security number are required at the time of donation. For more information, call Scott Meyer at 718-885-0374.

**CORRECTIONS**  
The location of the fight on Sept. 26, 2006, was 247 City Island Avenue, not 427 City Island Avenue, as reported in the Oct. issue. *The Current* regrets the error. Also, Bob Borchers was president of the City Island Chamber of Commerce, not the Civic Association, in 1971, as erroneously reported in Gerry Clancy's article in the same issue.

**Islander Accused of Hit and Run**

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A City Island resident, Lisa Shipp, 44, of Fordham Street, has been charged with second-degree vehicular manslaughter for having caused a fatal accident on Thursday, Oct. 12, at about 5:50 p.m. on the north-bound side of the Sprain Brook Parkway.

She was initially accused of driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of a fatal accident, but the charges were upgraded after it was learned that she had three times the legal limit of alcohol in her bloodstream.

According to police reports, Mrs. Shipp was arrested after hitting the rear end of a car driven by Legista Beckford, 33, of Ossining, the father of three boys, ages 10, 7 and 2. The impact caused Mr. Beckford to lose control of his vehicle and crash into the woods next to the parkway. A motorist who saw the accident followed Mrs. Shipp's 2005 Mustang into Greenburgh and called the police, who arrested her on the spot. She was released on bond and is due back in court on Nov. 20.

**HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT ON CITY ISLAND**

By BARBARA DOLENSEK


At about 9 p.m. on the rainy evening of Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2006, a car ran down a woman crossing City Island Avenue at Hawkins Street and quickly sped out of sight, leaving the woman lying in the street.

The victim, Virginia Wuest, 63, of Morris Park, was critically injured with many broken bones and is at press time still in the hospital as a result of the accident. She had attended a Kiwanis Club meeting at the Black Whale and was crossing the street to meet a friend at the northeast corner of Hawkins Street, in front of Exotiq International Arts, when she was struck by the car headed north.

Witnesses report that the impact flung Mrs. Wuest into the air and that she fell under a parked car. The car that had hit her, according to witnesses who spoke with the *Bronx Times Reporter*, was a small light-colored model that left the avenue to escape onto the side streets. This has led Islanders to believe that a local driver was responsible for the crime; resident Lisa Shipp is under investigation.


Mrs. Wuest's friends quickly papered City Island with flyers asking for information about the driver and offering a reward. Anyone with information may report it anonymously to the 45th Precinct at 718-822-5415 or by calling the Crime Stoppers hot line at 888-577-TIPS.

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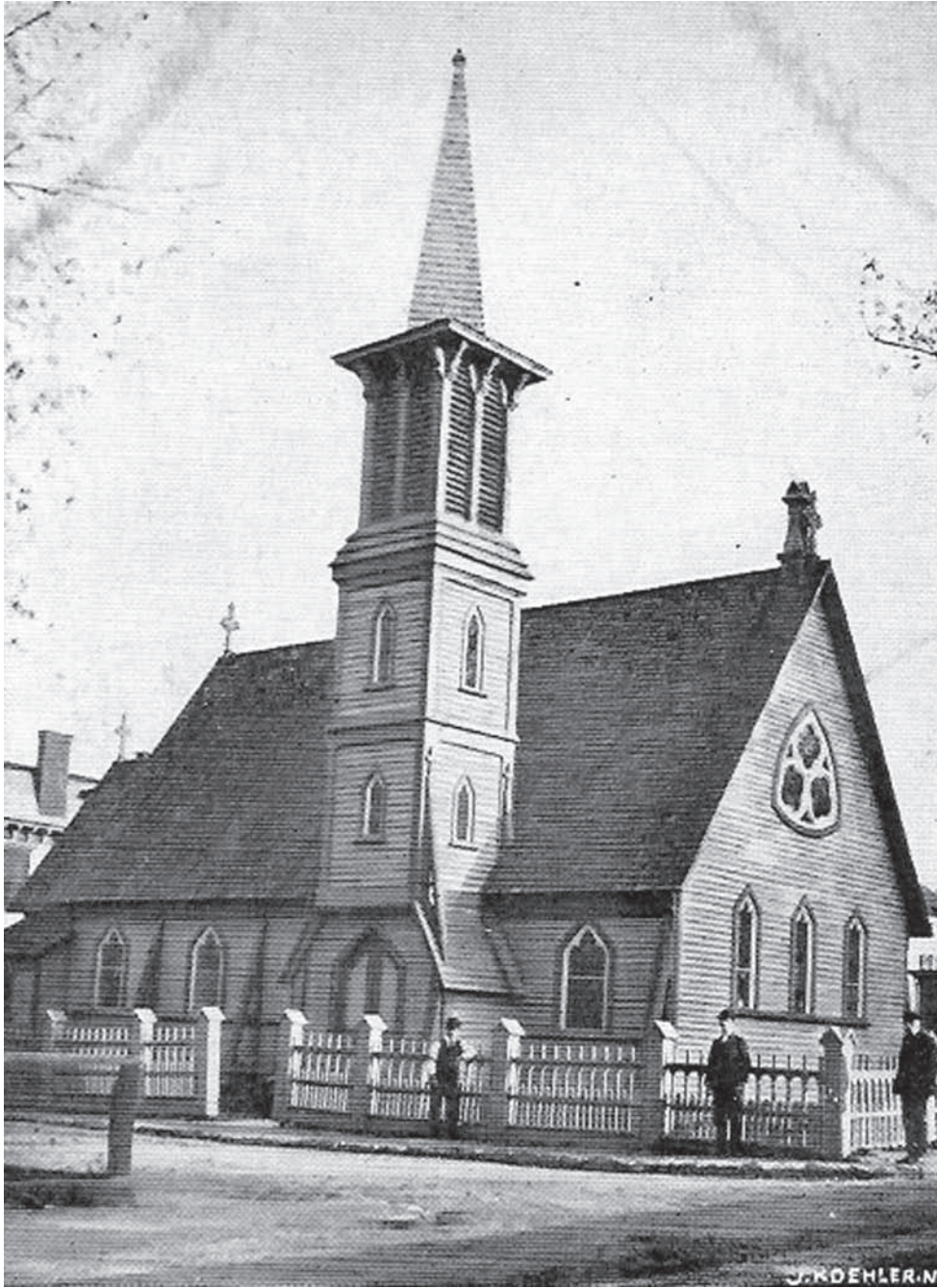
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# GRACE CHURCH NAMED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Grace Episcopal Church, on Pilot Street at City Island Avenue, a treasured historic building for Island residents, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of Sept. 13, 2006.

The Register, which is administered by the National Park Service, is the country's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and is part of a national program to support efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, en-

gineering and culture. There are more than 85,000 listings on the Register, but only two of them are on City Island—the P.S. 17 building at 190 Fordham Street and now Grace Church.

The church was first organized in 1849 by Nanette and Adele Bolton, the daughters of Robert Bolton, rector and founder of Christ Church in Pelham Manor, New York, of which City Island was a part until 1895, when it was made part of New York City. Their brother Cornelius Bolton conducted services for two years on City Island, which would not have a bridge until 1873, but when he was transferred to

Maryland, the two sisters took on the work of the church.

In 1862, the priest at Christ Church reported that "a church is in process of erection" on City Island and that \$1,353 had been contributed for the purpose by the young ladies of Pelham Priory. In 1863 Adele Bolton herself collected \$944 and City Islanders contributed \$600 for Grace Church, the total cost of which was \$3,000. The land, on the southeast corner of Pilot Street and City Island Avenue, was donated by George Washington Horton; in 1871 Stephen Decatur Horton donated the land on which the rectory now stands.

The church was largely the work of ship's carpenters from the David Carll Shipyard across Pilot Street (now the site of Consolidated Yacht Yard); they hand-cut the beams and rafters and made the hand-carved altar rail, as well as the original pews (the beams and pews were subsequently replaced). The Carpenter Gothic-style church has a steeply pitched roof, pointed arched windows and wooden buttresses. The steeple is located to the side and has a polygonal roof and a bracketed cornice; the entrance is located in the base of the steeple. The rectory, built at about the same time, is a frame structure in the Italian Villa style. The parish hall was added in 1923.

The church is decorated with a stained-glass window triptych made by William and John Bolton, who were the first figural stained-glass makers in America (their win-

dow at Christ Church in Pelham is also a masterpiece). Hanging in the sanctuary are two wooden square-rigged ships, one donated by the sailmaker George Ratsey and the other by shipbuilder Robert Jacob. They are said to symbolize birth and death, as they face in opposite directions, and to convey the thought that God is our pilot on our voyage through life.

The AIA Guide to New York City described the Grace Church property as "a pair of gems that befits an off-the-beaten-track seafaring community. The church is a paragon of Gothic Revival wood craftsmanship. The rectory is a modest wood frame structure which derives from the Italian Villa style."

Unfortunately, the church has suffered from misguided "improvements" made over the years, such as vinyl siding (which covers asbestos siding over the original batten), aluminum covers on gutters and buttresses, and so on. But with the National Register listing, the parish will have access to funding to help restore some of the original features of the building, which are visible in the old postcard image reproduced here.

The Reverend Patricia Alexander, vicar of Grace Church, told *The Current*: "This is an exciting development for both the current and future generations of parishioners at Grace Church, as we seek to be faithful stewards of the historic properties entrusted to us."

## Community Board Hearing Frustrates Residents

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

More than 50 Islanders attended a heated public meeting held by Community Board 10 in the City Island Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 12, to discuss two issues affecting City Island that had been brought to the attention of the Community Board.

Virginia Gallagher, chair of the Community Board, opened the meeting by asking for information about the identity of the hit-and-run driver who had seriously injured a woman on City Island Avenue the previous evening (see story page two)

Mrs. Gallagher then turned the meeting over to Kenneth Kearns, district manager of the Community Board, who proposed that discussions be held regarding a request by David Costatino, manager of the Sunoco Station at Ditmars Street, to make changes to the station, and a proposal made by the community for the imposition of alternate-side parking for the purpose of street cleaning for 30 minutes twice a week.

Geri Seiter objected to the fact that there had been insufficient notice for the meeting, which had not been announced in *The Island Current* or on notices placed around the Island. Most Island organizations did not get final confirmation of the meeting until Oct. 11. Mrs. Seiter proposed that the discussions be tabled until the entire community could be made aware of the issues.

Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, pointed out that the alternate-side parking issue had been a suggestion made by the Civic, the Chamber and the Garden Club, not simply the Civic, and that it would not in any case be

put into effect until after the completion of the water/sewer project and construction of the bridge, perhaps five or six years into the future. The proposal had been mentioned in *The Island Current*, but no objections had been raised, except for one made at the August Civic meeting. In the past the Garden Club had hired two men to clean the gutter area along the busiest stretch of City Island Avenue, but the organization can no longer sponsor this program. Mr. Fitts noted that there would be plenty of time for community discussion of the issue before it could be implemented.

As to the Sunoco station, the owner and his architect showed plans that indicated what he had in mind, which was to remove an old car-wash facility and to expand his convenience store into what had been bays for automobile work. He explained that he was not putting an extension on the building but was trying to make the station more attractive. There was discussion about the fact that he was open 24 hours a day, but he agreed to work with the community to prevent the sale of beer and cigarettes to underage teens, to reduce the level of lighting late in the evening and to keep noise to a minimum.

The meeting voted to approve Mr. Costatino's plans, a recommendation that would be passed along to the Community Board, which will in turn make a recommendation to the Board of Standards and Appeals, which would rule on the plans.

It was agreed that the alternate-side parking issue would be tabled for future discussion.

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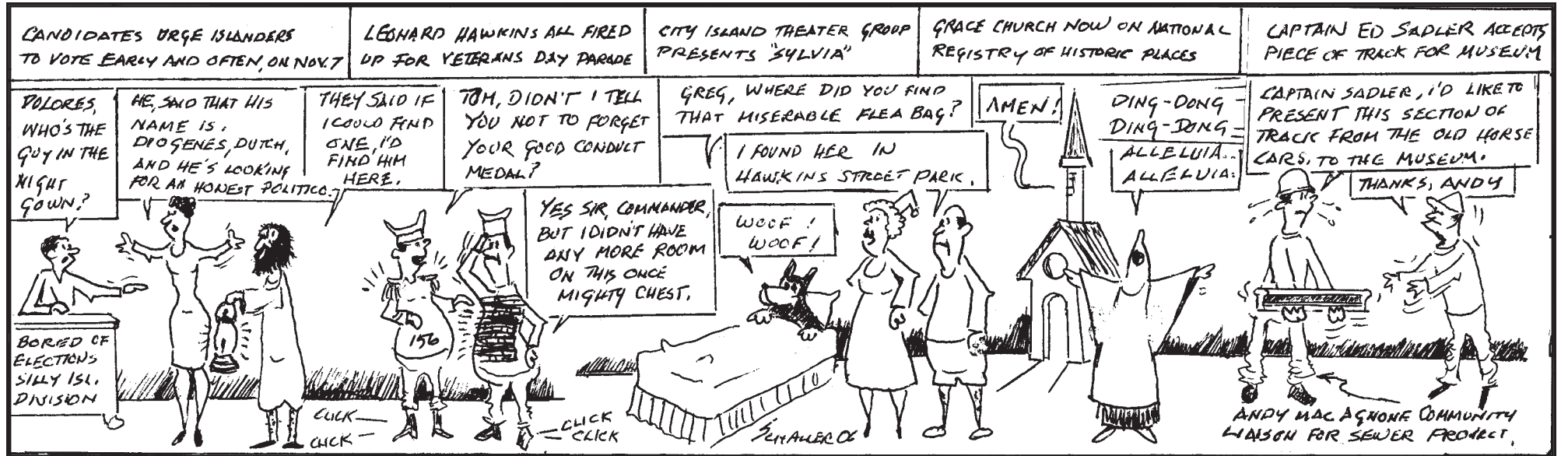
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**Thanks to the Current**

To the Editor:

Wouldn't it be awful if we didn't have an *Island Current*, and wouldn't it be awful if we didn't have such dedicated people to report the news and publish such a wonderful paper? Thanks to one and all for 35 years—to the kids who started it and to the veterans who continue it. God bless you for putting City Island on the map.

**Frank B. Ring Sr.**

**Remembering Gloria**

To the Editor:

My sister, Gloria Tarantino from the Lina Petite Salon, left this world for a better one on Sept. 19, 2006. She left us with these words: "I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one. I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways of happy times and laughing times and bright sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun. Oh happy memories that I leave when life is done."

This was truly Gloria—always thinking of everyone else. She was so thankful for the support, prayers, cards and flowers from friends, clients and coworkers during her illness.

Gloria, you will be missed. We love you. I thank everyone for their support.

**Lina DeGrazia**

**Addition to Crime Story**

To the Editor:

I would like this letter printed in regard to an article in the October 2006 issue of *The Island Current* regarding my son, Gregory Cea.

The article is biased since it left out an important fact. During the incident outside of Breaker's Bar in the early morning hours of Sept. 15, my son Gregory was the victim of a vicious stabbing. He was stabbed twice in the back with a knife and woke up in the street and was unable to feel his legs. He was taken by ambulance to Jacobi Hospital and admitted.

After numerous visits to specialists over the last three weeks, Gregory was told that his spinal chord was millimeters from being severed by the lower knife wound to his back. And yes the wounds to Gregory's back were inflicted with a knife; medical records do not lie.

I am appalled that *The Current*, in ne-

glecting to get all of the facts, has put my family in danger by listing my home address. Now the individuals who came to City Island on Sept. 15 armed with knives and tried to murder my son now know where we live.

In the future I hope that the paper gets all the facts before printing a victim's family's home address.

**Lorraine Cea**

**Editor's note:** *The Current* is very sorry indeed to learn about the injuries to Mr. Cea, but this information was not included in the police report that was made available to the newspaper.

**Halloween Thanks**

To the Editor:

City Island residents, including myself, would like to thank Skip and Louise Giacco (of Lickety Split) and Paul Klein (of Exotiq) for taking over the organizing of our annual Halloween Parade this year.

I will continue to help organize the parade, but the major work will be handled by Skip, Louise and Paul. I took over the parade 13 years ago after the sudden passing of our friend Christine (Jorgensen) Hansen, who had organized the parade for years.

I hope the new organizers will have as much fun as I did, and I am sure that Christine had 10 times more fun than I did, because she was a much bigger kid at heart than I am.

Costume prize-winners will be posted in windows of local businesses and published in the next issue of *The Island Current*, whose staff I would like to also thank for their support. Sponsors and prize donations will also be announced in *The Current*.

Happy holidays to all!

**Bob Carmody**

**Post Office Problems**

(A copy of the following letter was sent to *The Current*.)

Bob Emendola  
Area Manager, USPS  
558 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, NY

Dear Mr. Emendola:

There is a serious matter and problem at the City Island Post Office that needs to be brought to your attention.

For over 20 years, the City Island Civic Association has been sending out its monthly newsletters to its members, typically around 200 to 250 pieces, using bulk mailing at our post office. The employees have been cooperative, courteous and helpful, and the newsletters have always arrived in a timely manner, usually within two days, in plenty of time for our monthly meetings. All but about 10 of the mailings go to the zip code 10464.

Until recently...

On Thursday, Oct. 19, around 9 a.m., one of our Executive Board members delivered the newsletters to the Post Office, in the usual way, with the new form that our Treasurer had filled out. She was told the newsletters would go out, but that there were "new rules and regulations to be followed for bulk mailing."



Photo by KAREN NANI

**The Halloween parade route has been shortened this year, but will still pass by the Carman house on King Avenue with its gaggle of ghouls.**

This newsletter announces a special meeting that is being held on a different date than our usual last Tuesday of the month. In fact, it announces a special Town Meeting that the 45th Precinct requested to discuss recent police matters on the Island.

It is now Wednesday, Oct. 25, six full days after the letters were delivered to the Post Office. The meeting is this evening at 7:30 and the newsletters have still not been delivered to the members of the City Island Civic Association. We have been told that the newsletters are still "in the system" and that there are now new procedures for bulk mailing.

Why didn't the local Post Office manager inform the regular bulk mailing customers about the new procedures? Why are we now told that we should have put the newsletters in the mail two weeks before their due date? Why weren't we told last month about the new trays, labels, rubber bands, etc that are required so that we would know about them this month?

If the Town Hall meeting with the 45th Precinct is poorly attended tonight, we can thank the USPS and the City Island Post office.

**Francis J. Fitts, President,  
City Island Civic Association**

**St. Mary's Carnival**

During the weekend of Oct. 20-22, 2006, St. Mary Star of the Sea School held its second annual Fall Carnival. Once again the carnival was a great success. The weather was more cooperative than last year, although a bit brisk at times. We had rides, games and food. This year we even added a few more games in the gym, including the infamous St. Mary Star of the Sea goldfish toss.

We were honored to sponsor this event for a second year. It is truly wonderful to see people come together as a community. Most refreshing is to see families enjoying each other's company in a safe and fun environment. We can not thank you enough

for your continued support of St. Mary Star of the Sea.

There are so many people to thank for helping to make this year's carnival such a success, including parents, students, teachers and members of the community. We especially thank our volunteers for their time and dedication. They braved the cool temperatures for many hours. Also, thank you to State Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Benedetto for joining us this year and lending their support.

We would also like to thank our sponsors. The following local businesses and organizations contributed to the success of our carnival by sponsoring games, rides and food kiosks: All Pro Marine Contracting Co., Carmen's Service Station, City Island Real Estate, City Island Little League, Cop City Little League, F. Ruggiero & Sons Funeral Home, Island Café, Island Insurance Agency, Joseph DelGuidice, JP's Seafood Restaurant, K & S Superior Roofing, McCall's Bronxwood Funeral Home, Original Crab Shanty, Paladino Reality, Seafood City and Studio Perst.

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves at this year's carnival. Mark your calendars for our Casino Night, which is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2006. Also, don't forget Turkey Bingo in November and the Christmas Fair in December.

By the way how did you all like the newly painted bathrooms and hall in the basement? Thanks to Bob and Tina Ruggiero on a job well done.

**Larry Saulnier**

**Molly Schroeder, Ph.D.**  
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Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

During the weekend of Oct. 20 to 22, 2006, St. Mary, Star of the Sea held its second annual Fall Carnival. Once again, organizers declared the Carnival "a great success." The weather was a bit more cooperative than last year, although a little brisk at times, and children of all ages enjoyed the rides, games and food.

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## Current Review

# Play Review

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DEWITT

The cast of "Sylvia" takes a break between acts: (l. to r.) Robert Mulroy as Greg; Tee Cotter as Kate; Frank Siciliano as Tom, Phyllis and Leslie; and (on the sofa) Liz McIntyre as Sylvia. The play will be presented by the City Island Theater Group Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 5, at 3 p.m.

It is not uncommon for middle-aged couples whose kids have gone off to college to suffer through a crisis of one sort or another. Getting a dog is often a way of refeathering the empty nest, and becoming intensely involved in work, or increasingly bored by it, is another way of reacting. Greg and Kate, the married couple in A. R. Gurney's witty play "Sylvia," try all of the above, and this production of the City Island Theater Group does full justice to their pain, much to the delight of the audience.

Greg, played with incredible sympathy by Robert Mulroy, brings home to his New York City apartment a stray dog he has found in the park. The dog, whose name is Sylvia, worships Greg and utterly beguiles him with her considerable charms, but her effect on Kate is quite the opposite. Liz McIntyre brings delightful energy and credibility to the role of Sylvia, and Tee Cotter gives us an impressive and resolute Kate, a teacher who wants to bring Shakespeare into the junior high school curriculum now that she has raised her children and escaped the suburbs. What she does not want is a dog and a husband more devoted to his pet than to her.

Helping both husband and wife through this marital crisis is a trio of characters played with great cleverness

and versatility by Frank Siciliano, first as a fellow dog owner in the park, where Greg takes Sylvia to play with other dogs; then as Phyllis, a friend of Kate's who is equally appalled by the Sylvia situation; and finally as Leslie, a psychiatrist who tries to make sense of it all, to no avail.

Needless to say, it all turns out for the best, but there are plenty of laughs and sighs along the way, thanks to A. R. Gurney's ability to bring humor, wit and empathy to his social commentary, not to mention his obvious love for dogs and his clever way of weaving literary references into everyday language. (What dog do you know who can quote Homer and Tennessee Williams in the same scene?)

The actors were wonderfully directed by Eileen Marcus, whose husband, Steven, played the piano between scenes to great effect. The colorful stage set was designed by Dorothy Muccio, Lois Weingarten and Cheryl Brinker; and costumes were provided by Carol McCabe; and the whole thing was held together beautifully by stage manager Antonette Boitano. In the interest of full disclosure, it must be said that the lighting was handled by yours truly, but it can also be said that my enthusiasm didn't wane a bit even though I saw the play several times!

There will be performances during the weekend of Nov. 3-5, on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 p.m., in Grace Episcopal Church Hall, 104 Pilot Street. Don't miss it! Your dog will never forgive you if you do.

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Active behind the scenes at the U. S. Open golf tournament in June was former Islander **Dr. Theresa Pirraglia**, who is a chiropractor with offices at the Pelham Healing Center at the Sanborn Map Factory in Pelham. She is a certified practitioner of the active release technique, a state-of-the-art system that treats muscles, tendons, ligaments and nerves. During the Open she consulted with the medical staff at the Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, attending some of the most popular golf pros in the country, and she is available at various outings at the club where she does biomechanics before the golfers tee off so that their rounds may be as painless as possible.



Dr. Theresa Pirraglia (right) and Colin Burns, general manager of Winged Foot Golf Club, at the U.S. Open golf tournament in June 2006.



## CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Be a part of the 19th annual City Island Art Exhibition at the Focal Point Gallery. If you are an artist 18 years or older, start bringing your artwork now to Focal Point Gallery. Call 718-885-1403 or stop by the gallery at 321 City Island Ave. for further information. Space is limited, so artists are asked to come early.

The deadline to get work to the gallery is Nov. 26. There is a \$15 hanging fee per piece. The artist can choose the work, but the gallery will only accept work that is ready to hang and reasonable in size. If the work sells, the gallery will take 30 percent; work can also be marked not for sale. The gallery will not be responsible for shipping work back; all art has to be picked up by the artist at the end of the exhibition.

Last year as many as 90 artists filled the Focal Point with paintings, etchings, drawings, photography, stained glass, sculpture, pottery, weaving and more. This year the exhibition will mark the gallery's 32nd year on City Island, so get your art together and be part of this year's gala Christmas exhibition.

The exhibition will run from Dec. 1 to the 31st, with an opening reception for the artists on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

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## REAL ESTATE REVIEW

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
144 Reville Street	6/19/06	\$621,132	1 Family
101 Ditmars Street	6/30/06	\$445,000	2 Family
503 Minneford Ave.	7/7/06	\$450,000	1 Family
238 Bowne Street	7/11/06	\$630,000	Condo
693 King Avenue	7/26/06	\$254,000	1 Family
46 Earley Street	8/15/06	\$600,000	1 Family
50 Schofield Street	8/15/06	\$265,000	1 Family
469 Minneford Ave.	8/17/06	\$640,000	1 Family
722 King Avenue	9/8/06	\$999,000	1 Family

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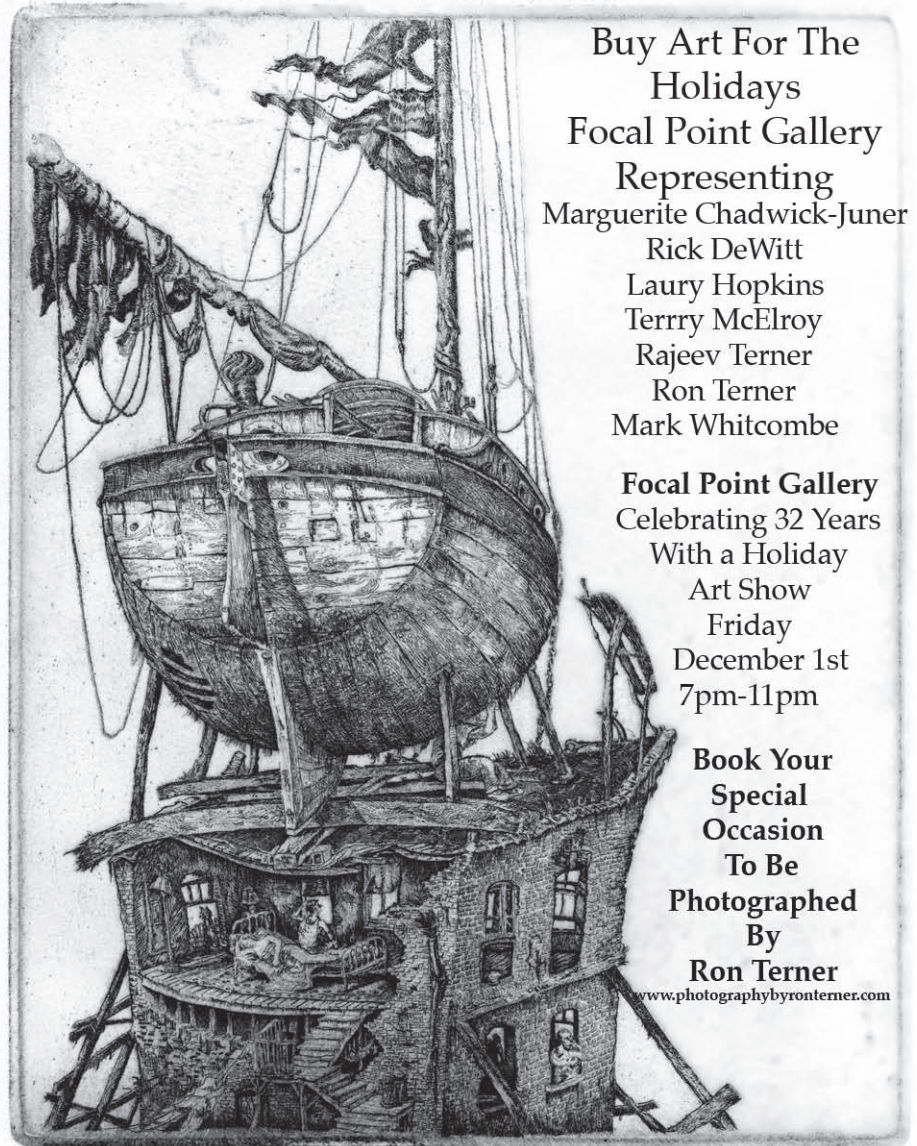
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The New Tenant

M. Whitcombe '04



Photos by EMILY SEXTON and MARY DANNEGGER

Animals of all species were brought forth for a blessing from clergy at both St. Mary Star of the Sea and Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2006, during the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi. Among them was Cha-Cha the dog (inset), who came prepared with his goggles in case any holy water was sprinkled about.

Current Review

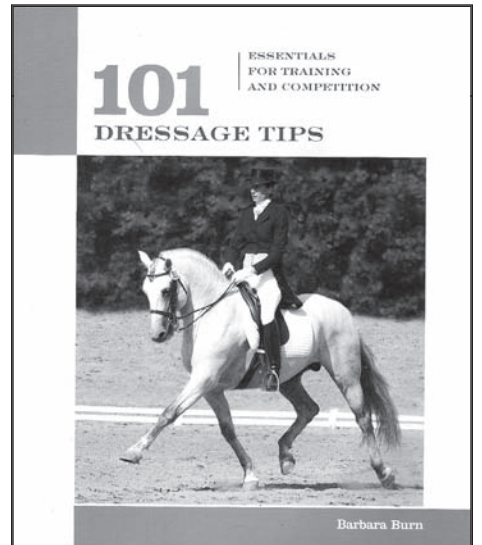
Horseback How To: A Book Review

By JILL KLOPFER LUDERMAN

Whether you are a green rider with aspirations for improving your horseback riding or a seasoned rider hoping to hone your technique and challenge your equestrian skills, you will find much to learn in the recently published book by *Current* writer Barbara Burn (Dolensek): *101 Dressage Tips: Essentials for Training and Competition* (Lyons Press; \$12.95).

Dressage (from the French word for training) is a discipline like jumping or reining, but it is also a fundamental approach to horse training that all riders can benefit from. The basic principle is that the rider uses his or her body to manipulate the movements of the horse but that the two work together to achieve balance and harmony.

This book is full of easy-to-read tips with accompanying photographs. It is a quick read that breaks down the many techniques of dressage into three main parts: Getting Started, Training and Showing. It is a wonderful book for beginners who are not entirely familiar with the discipline's terminology, but it is also useful for the expert instructor who is looking for ways to convey these principles to student riders. The



book's handy format makes it easy to carry to the barn and to review before you ride as your horse finishes his hay.

Regardless of your riding style, learning the basics of dressage will improve the way your ride and improve the way your horse moves. This is a "must own" book that should be found in every rider's bookshelf (or tack box).

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I am Jonathan Whitman and I am trying to locate anyone in possession of, or who knows the whereabouts of original Maurice Whitman artwork.

SKETCHES ,OILS? ANYTHING!

I am willing to pay to retrieve any of his work. He was my father who had a studio at 284 City Island Ave. on City Island around 1970 to about 1978. He has passed away and the family is desperately seeking to recover his artwork. If it's not for sale, the opportunity to photograph it would be greatly appreciated. He ran the ad to the right for his studio back then. Maybe it will jog a memory. If you can help us at all, please contact me at:

203-768 -7001.

Ask for Jonny. THANK YOU



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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

#### NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 7, **Election Day**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Ave., 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Bake sale and raffle sponsored by the P.T.A.

Tues., Nov. 14, **Blood Drive**, Trinity Methodist Church, Bay Street and City Island Avenue, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 16, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Hebrew Hospital Home at 801 Co-op City Blvd. in the Bronx.

Fri., Nov. 17, **Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**, Lido Restaurant. Call 718-885-9100 for reservations.

#### Happy Thanksgiving

Thurs. Nov. 23, **Thanksgiving Dinner**, sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 2 to 5 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 25, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: Cut-up turkey with rice.

Sat., Nov. 25, **Christmas Tree Lighting and Carols**, Hawkins Park, 7 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

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

#### DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 9, **Grace Church Christmas Crafts Festival**, Grace Episcopal Church, City Island Avenue and Pilot Street, 10 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 15, **Menorah Lighting**, Hawkins Park, 6 p.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

#### Garden Club

The next meeting of the Garden Club is Monday, Nov. 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street. We will have a workshop making pinecone angels to adorn the Christmas wreaths we make for the public buildings of City Island.

In October members and volunteers cleaned and planted spring bulbs at Hawkins Street Park. We hope to install the "Welcome to City Island" sign this fall.

**Gardening hint:** It's time for all Islanders, both residents and businesses, to clean their area of leaves and debris, so that we have a beautiful and clean Island.

Phyllis Goodman

#### Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island is an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic, Jewish congregation for all ages. We are located at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets. Our Sabbath services are on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all.

We follow the Rabbi Marcia Prager prayer book, primarily in English, with easy-to-read typeface and singable Hebrew.

Join us on Friday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. for the dedication of the Hy Cantor commemorative plaque honoring our late president. A brief but beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat service (with song and dance) will be led by Rabbi Shohama Wiener. Reb Dan Klipper leads a second Kabbalat Shabbat service this month at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17.

Rabbi Shohama will also lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday, Dec. 1. Her SHOHAM Class on spiritual healing, Kabbalah and meditation will be conducted on Monday, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Torah Study begins on Nov. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Our rabbinic intern, Aliza Erber, leads the group on Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

Our Sunday school for children ages 4 through 12 starts on Nov. 12. Call 718-885-3502 for more information.

Learn to read Hebrew with our NJOP Crash Course in Hebrew on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (starting on Nov. 8). The course and materials are free and will be led by Mort Ellis.

Tai Chi and yoga classes will continue on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. in November. Marc Kaplan's exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

Plan with us for Hannukah, which begins on Dec. 15. Our Judaica shop has many beautiful, hand-crafted objects and our Hanukkah Family Celebration will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Enjoy the benefits of membership, take the free trolley to Temple (on the first Friday of each month) and visit our Web site at [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

Bob Berent

#### Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m.; childcare is provided for young children beginning at 9:45 a.m. Evening prayer is read in the church every Monday at 7 p.m., and morning prayer is read on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information about Grace, please call Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site, [www.gracecityisland.org](http://www.gracecityisland.org).

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during November and early December:

- Calling all City Island children! Grace is planning a Children's Christmas Pageant to be held on Christmas Eve, and your children are invited to participate! For more information, including rehearsal times, please call Pageant Director Steve Marcus at 718-885-1544.

- Saturday, Nov. 4: Memorial service for Doris Smith, who died at home on Oct. 22. The entire City Island community is invited to come celebrate and give thanks for Doris's life.

- Sunday, Nov. 5: The Feast of All Saints and Children's Church School. If you would like to remember a loved one at the altar on All Saints' Sunday, please call the Parish Office by Friday, Nov. 3.

- Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.: Book Discussion Group. Newcomers are welcome to join our discussion of St. Augustine's "Confessions." Although written at the end of the fourth century, this classic spiritual autobiography is as relevant today as it was in Augustine's own time. We are reading the Penguin Classics edition, widely available; on Nov. 7 we will discuss Books II and III.

- Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.: Supersize This! Beginning tonight, a self-help weight-management support group will meet at Grace on Thursday evenings. National attention is focused on weight gain; let's focus on losing. Attend this self-help weight management support group to achieve that goal.

- Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 p.m.: Old-fashioned Hymn Sing. Gather around the organ with music director Steve Marcus as we praise God and enjoy good fellowship by singing our favorite hymns together. Invite your friends!

- Sunday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School.

- Wednesday, Nov. 22, 6 p.m.: Special Thanksgiving Service. Please join us on "Thanksgiving Eve" for a simple service of Holy Communion and thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

- Sunday, Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m.: Stroke Prevention Awareness. The City Island community is invited to this presentation by Patricia Bulley of Life Line Screening Radiology,



Photo by BOB BERENT

Members of Temple Beth-El of City Island rejoice in completing the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings. Shown here are Jaime Pat Cuesta and Barbara Chale dancing with the Torahs as Reb Dan Klipper and Barry Goldman look on during the Simchat Torah celebration of Friday, Oct. 13, 2006.

who will speak about the importance of stroke prevention and will provide information about scheduling a screening for yourself.

- Saturday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: The Third Annual Grace Church Christmas Crafts Festival.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

#### City Island Republicans

Our last meeting which was held on Oct. 11, 2006, was an interesting one. We were fortunate to have Bronx Supreme Court Justice candidate Christopher Quaranta, who spoke about his legal experience, along with how the New York State court system works. He explained that the Supreme Court in New York State is set up in 12 districts. All of Bronx County is in District 12 and only the Bronx is in that district.

Chris Quaranta also told us that until the early 1980s, the Bronx shared a Supreme Court district with Manhattan. The state legislature then decided that since the Bronx was not fairly represented on the bench, they decided to establish a separate judicial district for the Bronx. Quaranta is actively campaigning for one of the two vacant seats on the bench. The candidate for the other seat is James Quinn. The City Island Republicans encourage everyone to consider voting for both Mr. Quinn and, especially, Mr. Quaranta.

The upcoming campaign events were also discussed at the last meeting. Every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m., the Savino campaign bus leaves from Savino headquarters at 2113 Williamsbridge Road. Volunteers are desperately needed. If anyone is interested in helping Mr. Savino, they can call 718-792-5800.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 550 City Island Avenue. Finally, we encourage all City Islanders, regardless of party, to come out and vote on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7, to help bring back funding to City Island, along with a fresh change from the current Bronx career politicians, by voting for Joseph J. Savino for New York State Senate. He is on lines A, C or D. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Frederick W. Ramftl Jr.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

**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.

#### INDOOR PLAYGROUND HAS A NEW NAME

**Sally's Playground (formerly Vilma's Playground):** City Island's indoor playground for families with young children! This playground is especially designed for children 5 and under. An everyday low admission price of \$6 for each child. Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays 2:30 to 5 p.m. Call 718-885-0349 for more information.

#### 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](http://www.deirdreomara.com).

**Martial Arts:** Marrero's Martial Arts Academy teaches Tai Chi soft and hard, kickboxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Ages 4 through 7. Three days weekly: Mondays and Fridays, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. Ages 8 through 12, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. Teens: See adult schedule. Only \$125 per month! Call José at 646-671-7264.

**Sally's Playground:** Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays from 2:30 to 5 p.m. \$6 per child. Call 718-885-0349 for more information.

**Arts and Crafts with Lily:** for 1-year olds and Pre-K to 10-year-olds. Work with paints, clay, feathers, beads, markers, crayons and more. Scheduled times: Mondays 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 3:30 to 5 p.m. and/or Saturdays 1 to 3 p.m. Prices: \$10 per child/per hour, \$15 for two children/per hour,

\$24 for three children/per hour, \$8 per child/per hour for a six-week sign-up. Feel free to call Lily at 718-885-3299 to let her know what time is good for you and yours. Available for parties.

**First-Grade Brownies and Girl Scouts:** Mondays after school. If you are interested or if you have questions, call Brenda at 718-885-9040.

**Girl Scouts:** "Where girls grow strong." Troop #1075: A place for girls to come together and develop strong friendships to last a lifetime. Camping, Father-daughter dance, Girl Scout cookie sale, Hall of Science and sleepovers are just a few exciting things that will take place throughout the year.

**Youth Center:** Saturday evenings from 7:30 to 10 p.m. For more information, call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 or Deana Weyhrauch at 917-418-1377. We are looking for volunteers to staff the nights. If you are interested in helping out, PLEASE CALL!

#### ADULT PROGRAM

**Martial Arts:** Marrero's Martial Arts Academy teaches Tai Chi soft and hard, kickboxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Three days weekly: Mondays and Fridays, 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 1 p.m. Only \$125 per month! Call José at 646-671-7264.

**Belly Dancing with Miriam:** Tuesday mornings, Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons. Call Miriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

**TNT (Tuesday Night Tap):** Adult Jazz/Tap Classes. Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

**Aerobics with Mary:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9 to 10 a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

#### FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

**Vilma's Music Together:** Music and movement for children ages birth through five and adults that love them! Fridays 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Saturdays 10:15 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit [www.vilmasmusictogether.com](http://www.vilmasmusictogether.com) or e-mail [info@vilmasmusictogether.com](mailto:info@vilmasmusictogether.com).

**Knitting Club:** A club for women/children to learn and share their knitting skills. Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

**Chess Club:** Monday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. For ages 13 and up. No need to register; just show up!

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

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## Legion News

Tempus fugit. It seems like only yesterday that I sat down to do the October newsletter. November, like October, will be an active month at the Post.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7, and just three days later, on Friday, Nov. 10, we remember the birthday of the Marine Corps, which was established on Nov. 10, 1775. Our Post Commander, Vincent Hecker, a marine of repute, recognizes the occasion each year.

On the following day, Saturday, Nov. 11, we celebrate Veterans Day. World War I, a.k.a. the Great War, ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. Dubbed Armistice Day, it was a time to celebrate peace. World War I was regarded as the war to end all wars. Unfortunately, there was only a short respite before World War II. The troops will meet at the Post at 10:30 a.m. and proceed, forthwith, to the Pelham Bay Grove for a brief, but spirited, service to pay homage to all veterans. Be sure to wear your good conduct medals to all these functions.

Some other events to keep in mind for November include the Throggs Neck Parade, which will step off on Sunday, Nov. 5. The troops will muster at the Post. See the bulletin board for the time of departure.

The 10th annual Military Ball will be held on Friday, Nov. 10, at the Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway. The tab will be \$65. A cocktail hour, complete with hors d'oeuvres, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

For those not inclined to hobnob with the elite at the Villa Barone, we offer the Servicemen's Dinner and Dance, a function held at the Post every year and always regarded as a gourmet extravaganza. The fare will be chicken and pork prepared by Post chefs of renown. Remember the date, Saturday, Nov. 18.

Meetings for the month of November are as follows: regular meetings, Monday, Nov. 6 and 20, and an executive board meeting on Monday, Nov. 13. Although I could not attend the last meeting, I have been informed by Commander Carman that attendance was up, a good sign since it has been difficult to muster a quorum. We will be dedicating the flag repository at the Nov. 20 meeting. Mark Whitcombe, the well-known Island artist, was commissioned by Comrade Shipp to adorn the repository, and it is hoped that he will be present.

I left my car with the commander before I left for my WWII reunion on Oct. 13, as the car, a vintage vehicle, required major surgery. Repairs took several days, which precluded my taking advantage of seniors' discount day. (Incidentally, the car's performance is greatly improved.)

I was unable to attend the legislative breakfast held on Sunday, Oct. 8, but I am told that it was a great success, despite the fact that the annual Columbus Day parade was held the same day. The Post was rep-

resented at a table for 10. Among those putting on the feed bag were the following latter-day chow hounds: Tom McMahon, Bill Clancy, Ricky O'Keefe and Commander Dave Carman.

I am not aware of anyone on sick call, but don't forget our housebound. They enjoy a card, call or visit.

Comrade Treat reminds us that 2007 dues are due.

And for you WWII buffs: Heinrich Himmler, head of Germany's S.S., had a rather limited military background. He was a chicken farmer renowned for his prize pullets. Captured by the British at the end of the war, he cheated the hangman by devouring a cyanide capsule while being searched.

Chance books for the turkey raffle will soon be in the mail. It's your generosity toward this Post endeavor that allows us to send a monetary gift to our servicemen and servicewomen. Kindly let us know the names and addresses of those in service.

I have noticed a number of flags that adorn local homes are in need of replacement, including my own. They can be purchased at the Post for \$20.

Until next month, at ease.

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

## Trinity United Methodist Church

As the cold weather begins to descend, things are beginning to heat up here at Trinity. Our services are at 10 a.m., and our Sunday school still meets at the same time. All are welcome to join us.

George Cavalieri's Bible Study is ongoing until Nov. 19. This is a study of the Gospel of John, and it begins after our regular service. All are welcome to join at any time.

Trinity's annual Thanksgiving dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, from 2 to 5 p.m. If you are donating frozen turkeys, please deliver them to Reverend Sue no later than the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This will give them ample time to thaw for the dinner. If you are donating a turkey that is not frozen, they can be accepted as late as the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. For further information, call Anne Cox 718-885-2482 or Reverend Sue at 718-885-1218. As usual, thank you all for your help!

The annual Trustees Worship and Communion Breakfast will take place on Sunday, Nov. 26, at our regular service.

Budget Shop will be open on Tuesday, Nov. 7 and 21, as well as on Saturday, Nov. 18. I will once again implore anyone who has the time and the inclination to give of themselves. We really need help with the Budget Shop. If you are interested in helping, please call Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241 or Myra Martin at 718-885-1049.

Anne Sill

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# The Far Side of the Bridge

A Column about  
Bronx County  
By MICHAEL SHANLEY

## The Jewel in Our Crown

The Grand Boulevard and Concourse, how aptly named. To Bronxites (particularly those of us who grew up west of the Bronx River), it has always been more than just a street. It is a symbol of Bronx identity and experience. To live on it at one time was a declaration of importance.

This historic roadway is our official parade route and the site of our county government. It also holds the unique honor of having the largest assemblage of Art Deco and Art Moderne residential buildings in the world. For sure, it is one of the legendary boulevards of New York City and the undisputed showpiece of the Bronx.

In its heyday (the 1920s to the early 1960s), a Grand Concourse address was among one of the most desirable in the city. It attracted the borough's wealthiest residents, most of whom were Jewish. The luxurious buildings often had uniformed doormen and offered spacious apartments with large rooms and cross ventilation. Many lobbies featured elaborate decoration, including mosaic walls and painted murals, terrazzo floors, incised elevator doors and gleaming metal accents.

Modeled after the Champs Elysées (the celebrated boulevard in Paris), the Grand Concourse was conceived by the farsighted engineer Louis Risse to provide access from Manhattan to the large parks of the Bronx. Built between 1902 and 1909, the thoroughfare runs four and a half miles long and is 180 feet wide. Eleven traf-

fic lanes run between tree-shaded islands that were originally designed to separate bicycle, horse and pedestrian traffic. The original concourse stretched from Mosholu Parkway to 161st Street, but in 1927 it was extended south to 138th Street. The innovative design allows cross traffic at major intersections to pass below or above the boulevard, an innovation Risse borrowed from the design of Manhattan's Central Park.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the southeast Bronx began to deteriorate rapidly. Arson and crime were on the rise. Although the Concourse itself escaped the most serious problems of the era, scores of longtime residents began to leave the neighborhood out of fear. Many of the older Jewish residents retired to Florida, while younger families were lured by the dream of suburban life. The construction of Co-op City in 1968-70 drained the area of its remaining middle-class residents. Of the first 5,000 applications for Co-op City, approximately 3,000 came from the Grand Concourse vicinity. Concourse vacancies were filled with low-income families rehoused because of the wave of arson in the South Bronx and other slum-clearing efforts around the city. Slum clearing in Manhattan alone displaced more than 170,000 people. The city adopted policies of relocating welfare recipients to the area and paid huge fees to landlords.

Over the years, building façades and interiors on the Grand Concourse have lost some of the luster that made the giant thoroughfare the envy of the city. The incursion of commercial establishments, which are not permitted under the area's residential zoning, has also had a detrimental effect on



Photo by MICHAEL SHANLEY

**The Bronx County Building on the Grand Concourse. This enormous limestone structure was built in 1933 in the Art Moderne-Art Deco style, which reflects the architecture of many of the buildings along the Grand Concourse.**

the once elegant streetscape.

Today, accompanying the revitalization of the Bronx is a growing awareness that the Grand Concourse is an architectural treasure. In April of this year, work began on an \$18 million restoration of the lower Concourse in an effort to restore the look and feel of the once-fabled boulevard and to return the street to its glory days as a green, pedestrian-friendly roadway. The project will include new landscaping with trees and flowers, streetlights, bike lanes and cobblestone sidewalks. It will also redesign the Lou Gehrig Plaza at 161st Street and add a sitting area and a location for civic and cultural events. Eventually the restoration will make its way up to Mosholu Parkway, hopefully in time for the noble boulevard's centennial anniversary in 2009.

A walk up the Grand Concourse will bring you to so many wonderful Bronx landmarks. Here are a few of my favorites.

- **The Longwood Arts Center at Hostos Community College**, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street, is the contemporary art center of the Bronx Council on the Arts with the mission to support local artists and their work.

- **Bronx General Post Office**, The Grand Concourse at 149th Street. Built in 1935-37, this impressive gray brick edifice rises above a granite terrace that occupies a square block. Sculptures on the façade blend elegantly with the architecture. Make sure to check out the Ben Shahn murals in the lobby.

- **The Bronx Walk of Fame**. South of 161st Street, look for the lamp post plaques bearing names of famous sons and daughters of the Bronx. Some of the inductees include comedians Robert Klein and Red Buttons, General Colin Powell, entertainer Rita Moreno, boxer Jake LaMotta, author E. L. Doctorow and television host Regis Philbin, to name just a few.

- **Bronx County Building**, 851 Grand Concourse at 161st Street. This enormous limestone building was designed and built in 1933 by architects Joseph Freedlander and Max Hausle. Inside the first-floor rotunda is the Veterans' Memorial Hall, dedicated to the memory of the men of the Bronx who fought in the Spanish-American War and World War I.

- **The Concourse Plaza Hotel**, The Grand Concourse at 161st Street. Once the belle of the boulevard, this 11-story building was the center of Bronx political and social life from 1922 until the mid-1960s, attracting every major Democratic presidential candidate up to and including JFK. Eleanor Roosevelt was an annual guest at the Bronx Ladies Democratic Club luncheon. After changing hands many times, this local landmark now houses seniors under the auspices of the Mid-Bronx Senior Citizens Housing Council.

- **Joyce Kilmer Park**, The Grand Concourse at 161st Street, is dedicated to the memory of the American poet (Alfred) Joyce Kilmer, who was killed in action in France during World War I. His best-known work is the poem "Trees." The park is best

known for the Lorelei Fountain, which honors the great 19th-century German poet Heinrich Heine.

- **Yankee Stadium**, 161st Street and River Avenue, is without doubt the most famous sports arena in the world. Yankee Stadium opened April 18, 1923, with the Bronx Bombers playing the Boston Red Sox.

- **The Bronx Museum of the Arts**, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St, was founded in 1971. The Bronx Museum is a contemporary art institution that just completed an \$8.2 million expansion. The permanent collection is unique in its focus on 20th- and 21st-century artists of African, Asian and Latin American descent. Additionally, the Museum has a special interest in artists who have lived or worked in the Bronx, or whose work addresses concerns specific to the Bronx.

- **The Andrew Freedman Home**, The Grand Concourse at 166th Street. This 1924 building is considered by some to be the Grand Concourse's grandest building. Built in the Italian Renaissance style with a broad limestone palazzo set back behind a wide grassy lawn, this home was the philanthropic legacy of a man who made his fortune building the New York subways and who once owned the New York Giants. It was a retirement home aimed at people of culture and former wealth and was nicknamed the "home for poor millionaires." Today it is operated by the Mid-Bronx Senior Citizens Council.

- **Loews Paradise**, 2413 Grand Concourse at 188th Street. This storied 4,000-seat theater was once the borough's gem but was split into a multi-screen Cineplex in 1973 and closed in 1994. A new developer took over the property, and it is now beautifully restored, almost to its original grandeur.

- **Fordham Road** is the largest shopping strip in the Bronx and one of the largest retail districts in all of New York City. It runs east-west cutting across the Grand Concourse (often considered the borough's crossroads). Fordham Road is a great place for bargains and people watching.

- **Edgar Allen Poe Cottage**, The Grand Concourse and Kingsbridge Road. This was the final residence (1846-49) of the famed American poet. In this farmhouse, after losing his wife, Virginia, to tuberculosis, Poe wrote some of his best-known works, including "Annabel Lee," "Ulalume," "The Bells," and "Eureka."

- **St. Philip Neri Church**, The Grand Concourse at 201st Street. The church was built in 1898 and was dedicated to the Italian saint because of its origin as a mission church for immigrant Italian laborers. Destroyed by fire in 1997, St. Philip Neri has been beautifully restored at a cost of \$18 million.

Michael Shanley is a native lifelong Bronxite and resident of City Island. He is a licensed tour guide for New York City specializing in Bronx County. Comments are welcomed at BxShanley@optonline.net

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### St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The 2006–2007 academic year at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School has had an excellent start. The students and faculty alike have been very enthusiastic. We welcomed many new families to our school community, and many of our new students are City Island residents. We are so pleased to have them aboard. Our enrollment is up and our spirits are soaring. SMSS is alive and doing well.

With the help of several dedicated parents, the new Home-School Association is under way with many great plans in progress. Their main goal is to help the students learn while they are having fun. The first event they sponsored was a week-long Scholastic Book Fair, which was a great success. The students were so excited about this event that they have been reading voraciously.

We announce with great pleasure that the school will host a Brownie troop twice a month. The girls will meet in our newly renovated Pre-Kindergarten classroom. It is our pleasure to serve the community.

Over the weekend of Oct. 20–22, St. Mary's School sponsored a Fall Carnival. Despite a rainy Friday morning and afternoon, the sun came out for a lovely, if windy, Friday evening. Saturday and Sunday were great days and very successful. Our Home-School Association took the reins once again, and rides, games and great food were enjoyed by all.

Thanks to everyone, especially members of our own City Island community, who came out to support this wonderful resurrected tradition. SMSS would especially like to thank Tina and Bob Ruggiero and Kelly and Larry Saulnier for organizing the entire event. A great deal of effort was put into this weekend, and we deeply appreciate their efforts. In preparation for this event, these very industrious parents painted the entire basement of the school. Ceilings, walls and even floors were given a badly needed fresh coat of paint. Many children from our parish community use this area during the basketball season. It looks wonderful, and we hope to keep it this way.

On Oct. 30, students in grades Pre-K through 2 traveled to Green Meadows Farm in Queens, where the children had an up-close encounter with some adorable farm animals. They were able to pet and even feed the animals. The students also picked their own pumpkins to decorate. St. Mary's School has been visiting this farm for over 20 years, and every year it gets better and better. It is a tradition that our early childhood classes really look forward to.

Halloween was in the air at SMSS when the entire school took part in a door-decorating contest. After a morning of Halloween lessons, all the students paraded around the parish grounds in costumes singing and celebrating All Hallows' Eve, the eve of All Saint's Day. The cars on the street beeped their horns and cheered in support. After the parade, we returned to the school gym for a great party with singing, dancing, story telling and poetry reading. The students had the opportunity to read their own Halloween literary masterpieces to the entire school.

Our first Friday Mass will be celebrated on Nov. 3 at 9 a.m. All are invited to come. Our first-grade class will prepare the readings for our liturgy. It is amazing to see what these young students are able to do under the direction of their outstanding teacher, Sr. Joan Marie McKinney. The Catholic high school entrance exam,

known as TACHS will be given on Thursday, Nov. 9. School is closed on Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veteran's Day. Our annual Turkey Bingo will be held on Friday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. This is a wonderful night for the whole family and everyone is invited to come. On Nov. 21, the school will host our third Mission Awareness Day Fair, complete with crafts, food, games and attractions. We will even have a pony for riding. All proceeds will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, an organization that reaches out to the poor, even of our own parish.

We will sponsor our traditional food drive of non-perishable fare. Our students collect many boxes of food, which will be offered at our parish Thanksgiving Mass.

The year has only just begun but we have been very busy. Feel free to stop in any time if you have questions about our programs. Our registration is up over 210. Our new Pre-K is doing very well; the children are precious and the teachers are wonderful. We are so proud of this new class. Several people have already asked about registration for the 2007–2008 school year. Please consider stopping by if you are curious. With the help of a fine staff, we have a wonderful school from grades Pre-K through 8. Our students did quite well overall on the 2006 New York State tests. We are happy to have been given this chance to grow and flourish.

### Public School 175

Our school year is off to another wonderful start. On Sept. 15, the school was proud to host the unveiling of the City Island Community Tile Wall, a fund-raising event led by our dedicated and committed parents. The event was attended by many community members, including parents, teachers, students and artists who did some of the artwork on the tiles and representatives from Senator Klein and Bronx Borough President Carrión's office. Some of the eighth-graders acted as hosts and hostesses, and Nobuo Kitigawa, one of our parents, provided music for the evening.

The Extended Day Program, which began during the second week of school, provides academic support and enrichment activities, including Lego Robotics and test preparation for the specialized high school exam and the TACHS for eighth-grade students.

Once again, P.S. 175 has received a grant from the Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation for an after-school program. This year's program, which serves students in grades 5 through 8, includes golf, Tae Kwon Do, dance (including hip-hop, jazz and tap), a sports component that changes throughout the year, and art (including jewelry making, cartooning and graphic design). The art teacher, Ms. Hajjar, is also working with eighth-graders who are applying to LaGuardia High School to help them prepare their admission portfolios.

There will be several exciting events in the weeks to come. These include Family/Pajama Night for kindergarten through fifth grade, the Halloween Dance for students in Grades 6 to 8, the announcement of this year's fifth-grade play on Halloween, and the PTA's Election Day sale.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Nov. 7, Election Day (school is not in session); Nov. 13 is parent-teacher conferences (12:30 to 2:50 p.m. and 5:30 to 8 p.m.).

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### Sisters

Having been born on my brother's 10th birthday, with no siblings in between, I have always been fascinated by relationships between sisters, à la Hollywood. In 1933 Louisa May Alcott's classic novel **Little Women** was made into a film; and it was remade in 1949 and 1994. Also remade several times is the glorious Jane Austen novel **Pride and Prejudice** (the best being the 1940 and 2005 versions). Any of the films are worth a look, but I prefer the originals in both cases.

One of my favorite lesser-known Judy Garland films is **Summer Stock** (1950). Judy portrays Jane Falbury, a New England farmer, whose stage-struck sister Abigail (Gloria DeHaven) brings home a troop of young actors to "put on a show" in the barn, directed by her boyfriend, Joe Ross (Gene Kelly). Abigail is horribly snobbish and spoiled, however, and Joe finds himself increasingly attracted to Jane, because she is such a hard worker and a good sport. Also released in 1950 was Disney's **Cinderella**. This cartoon classic about Cinderella and her evil stepmother and stepsisters is one of Disney's best.

One of my favorite Woody Allen films is **Hannah and Her Sisters** (1986). It tells the story of Hannah (Mia Farrow), married to Elliott (Michael Caine), who lusts after her sister Lee (Barbara Hershey), who lives with the tormented artist Frederick (Max Von Sydow). It is also the story of Hannah's ex-husband, Mickey (Woody Allen), a hypochondriacal television executive overwhelmed with the fear of dying, and Hannah's other sister, Holly (Dianne Wiest), who desperately wants to find a man to love. This is an extremely well-written film with a lovely mix of both funny and poignant moments.

In **A League of Their Own** (1992), women are recruited to keep baseball fever alive while men are at war. It stars Geena Davis as Dottie Hinson and Lori Petty as her kid sister, Kit. They are discovered by the hilarious scout Ernie (John Lovitz) and wind up on a team coached by has-been baseball player Jimmy Dugan (Tom Hanks). The terrific cast is rounded out by teammates Mae Mordabito (Madonna) and Doris Murphy (Rosie O'Donnell). The women on this team indeed become like sisters and band together as Jimmy recites the unforgettable classic line, "There's no crying in baseball!" in this fine family flick.

**Sister Act** (1992) is about a different sort of sister. Whoopi Goldberg stars as Deloris Van Cartier, a lounge singer who is placed in a convent for protection after she witnesses a murder. To the dismay of the Mother Superior (Maggie Smith), Deloris in her job as choirmaster for the convent turns the songs sung by the choir

into modern music. The late character actor Mary Wickes is wonderful as the militant Sister Mary Lazarus, the former choirmaster; and Kathy Najimy steals every scene as the extremely cheerful Sister Mary Patrick.

The guilty pleasure in this group is **10 Things I Hate About You** (1999). When Bianca Stratford (Larisa Oleynik) wants to start dating, her overprotective single parent father, Walter (the very funny Larry Miller), won't let her go out unless her older sister, Kat (Julia Stiles), starts dating first. Kat is a feminist who doesn't date, but she finally gives into her sister's pleading. With the help of Cameron (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), Bianca's classmate and tutor, Kat falls for Patrick (Heath Ledger) in this sweet teen chick flick.

One of the most charming films of 2001 is **Legally Blonde**, which stars Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, a sorority queen who decides to follow her boyfriend, Warner (Matthew Davis), to Harvard Law School after he breaks up with her. The delight in this film is all the tiny details that border on the absurd but congeal into an amusing whole. When Elle becomes a legal intern, she is assigned to the case of Brooke Taylor Windham (Ali Carter), who is accused of murder and turns out to be Elle's sorority sister. How Elle uses her brains and knowledge of glamour and fashion is great fun and leaves the viewer smiling.

A wonderful coming-of-age movie is **Real Women Have Curves** (2002), which stars America Ferrera as Ana, a very bright 18-year old Mexican-American who has won a scholarship to Columbia University. Her family, however, wants her to work in her older sister's dress-making factory. Ana is a breath of fresh air, because she has confidence in herself despite the wicked tongue of her oppressive mother, Carmen (Lupe Ontiveros). There is a fabulous scene in which all of the factory women strip down to their underwear, because of the unbearable heat, and compare their bodies. This is an inspiration for people who are depressed by believing that thin is beautiful.

The best sister film of the lot is last year's **In Her Shoes** (2005). Rose (Toni Collette) is a dowdy lawyer who is plagued by the antics of her gorgeous sister, Maggie (Cameron Diaz). After the two have a huge fight, they each embark on a new life, and watching them blossom in their own ways is enchanting. Shirley MacLaine is terrific as the grandmother they never knew they had in this poignant and well-written film.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



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Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary P.M. time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).  
 HH = hours; MM = minutes. Tide chart by Tom Smith

**NOVEMBER 2006**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Wed	0112	0.6	0710	7.6	1353	0.5	1939	7.4	Wed 01
02 Thu	0215	0.2	0811	8.1	1455	-0.2	2044	7.6	Thu 02
03 Fri	0309	-0.2	0904	8.5	1550	-0.8	2139	7.8	Fri 03
04 Sat	0358	-0.4	0953	8.8	1642	-1.2	2230	7.9	Sat 04
05 Sun	0446	-0.6	1040	8.9	1732	-1.3	2319	7.8	Sun 05
06 Mon	0532	-0.5	1127	8.9	1822	-1.2			Mon 06
07 Tue	0008	7.6	0619	-0.3	1214	8.6	1912	-0.9	Tue 07
08 Wed	0059	7.4	0707	0.1	1304	8.3	2005	-0.5	Wed 08
09 Thu	0154	7.1	0759	0.6	1358	7.8	2100	0.1	Thu 09
10 Fri	0254	6.9	0859	1.0	1503	7.4	2158	0.6	Fri 10
11 Sat	0358	6.8	1008	1.3	1616	7.0	2257	0.9	Sat 11
12 Sun	0502	6.8	1117	1.5	1726	6.8	2355	1.1	Sun 12
13 Mon	0602	6.9	1220	1.5	1828	6.8			Mon 13
14 Tue	0049	1.2	0656	7.0	1317	1.3	1923	6.8	Tue 14
15 Wed	0139	1.2	0746	7.2	1408	1.1	2013	6.8	Wed 15
16 Thu	0224	1.1	0831	7.4	1454	0.8	2058	6.9	Thu 16
17 Fri	0303	1.1	0912	7.5	1536	0.5	2140	6.9	Fri 17
18 Sat	0337	1.0	0946	7.5	1614	0.3	2217	6.8	Sat 18
19 Sun	0401	0.9	1009	7.6	1646	0.2	2246	6.8	Sun 19
20 Mon	0420	0.8	1025	7.6	1713	0.1	2305	6.8	Mon 20
21 Tue	0448	0.8	1050	7.8	1739	0.1	2330	6.8	Tue 21
22 Wed	0524	0.7	1125	7.9	1810	0.0			Wed 22
23 Thu	0004	6.9	0605	0.7	1206	8.0	1849	0.1	Thu 23
24 Fri	0045	7.0	0650	0.8	1250	7.9	1933	0.2	Fri 24
25 Sat	0131	7.0	0740	0.9	1340	7.7	2022	0.3	Sat 25
26 Sun	0222	7.0	0836	1.0	1435	7.5	2117	0.5	Sun 26
27 Mon	0320	7.1	0939	1.0	1536	7.2	2218	0.5	Mon 27
28 Tue	0424	7.2	1056	0.9	1646	7.0	2329	0.5	Tue 28
29 Wed	0535	7.3	1227	0.6	1807	6.8			Wed 29
30 Thu	0044	0.4	0648	7.6	1341	0.1	1927	6.9	Thu 30

**DECEMBER 2006**

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Fri	0150	0.2	0751	8.0	1443	-0.5	2032	7.0	Fri 01
02 Sat	0248	-0.1	0848	8.2	1539	-0.9	2129	7.2	Sat 02
03 Sun	0342	-0.2	0940	8.4	1632	-1.2	2221	7.3	Sun 03
04 Mon	0433	-0.3	1030	8.5	1722	-1.2	2311	7.3	Mon 04
05 Tue	0522	-0.3	1118	8.4	1811	-1.1			Tue 05
06 Wed	0000	7.2	0609	-0.1	1205	8.2	1859	-0.8	Wed 06
07 Thu	0048	7.2	0656	0.2	1253	7.9	1946	-0.4	Thu 07



**Correction and Other Notes**

There were two items in last month's column with the then-and-now theme that need to be corrected. First, Ike's liquor store was not located where Jerry's is today, as was stated. It was where the A.E.R. real estate office is. The other error was that the gift shop called Windset used to be in the present liquor store's location. We apologize for any confusion that may have been caused by these errors.

Speaking of long-term memory, we were happy to see that the St. Mary's Carnival is up and running again, although for the life of us we can't remember the carnival before the one that was resurrected last year. No matter. The cause is still a good one, the location supreme, and, with more of the same, mostly cooperative weather they had for this year's fair, it seems safe to say that this is one Island tradition back on track.

The annual Halloween parade is another Island tradition on track. If you didn't make the parade this year, mark your calendar now for next year. The feeling of community is remarkably strong, as strong as it probably gets these days. So come out in the cold and be warmed by it all.

Some readers may have noticed the tiny, olive-green, sparrow-like birds that passed through in October. Those were the kinglets. There is the ruby-crowned and the golden-crowned species, both of which made an appearance in our backyard, as

usual. Fall is the time to add to your list of newly sighted birds because of the autumn migrations. The kinglets are old friend to us, but the gnatcatchers and the Canada warbler were brand new. Let us know what you know at [jdsstrat@msn.com](mailto:jdsstrat@msn.com). Our friend Birding Bob told us the story of how he and a couple of companions counted raptors in the thousands as they passed over the Orchard Beach parking lot one fall afternoon, heading south for the winter.

Speaking of raptors, we spent a recent evening at the Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining with a couple of buzzards (not technically considered a raptor, we know, but still...), a red-tailed hawk, a barred owl, a barn owl, two screech owls and a bald eagle named Gryphon, all of which had been permanently injured in some way and then rehabilitated. If the drive weren't as long as it was, we would have considered more seriously their invitation to join their raptor handling club. Anyone with more time and the inclination should look for the folks at Teatown on the web or you can call 914-762-2912 x10.

And, finally, look out for boats on beaches this November and December. Worn-out mooring lines and chains tend to give way in the months ahead. Call one of the yacht clubs if you notice something. If you don't get a response, call 311.

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# SOCIAL SECURITY

## If You Plan to Retire in January 2007

If you are planning an early 2007 retirement, now is the time to contact Social Security. Here's why. People are usually encouraged to notify Social Security about three months before the month in which they plan to retire. If you are planning to retire in 2007 and you want your monthly payments to start in January, you can do it now—in November—and complete the process before the start of the busy holiday season. Your monthly payments will then begin on time in 2007.

If you are Internet-savvy, Social Security makes the process even easier and more convenient through options available at the Web site [www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire). Here you can apply online for your retirement (or your spouse's) benefits from the comfort of your own home (or office). When you click on the "sign now" button at the end of the application, you are signing the application electronically and accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the information you submit to Social Security.

Of course, before Social Security can make a decision on your claim, you will still have to provide appropriate proofs, such as proof of age, earnings, marriage and sufficient medical evidence for disability claims. But the claims process will be streamlined and can provide better service to you by eliminating the need to sign and return the application form.

If you do not have access to the Internet and are ready to apply for retirement benefits, you can visit your local office or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). If you are not quite ready to retire but are thinking about doing so in the near future, you may want to visit Social Security's

Web site to use the convenient and informative retirement planner at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/). Here you can find out just how close you are to meeting your financial goals and then "bookmark" the Web site to file for retirement whenever you are ready.

### Attention: Parents

Most people think of Social Security as a part of their retirement plan, but Social Security is also a family protection plan with benefits for children, too. About 4 million children receive approximately \$1.9 billion each month, because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired or deceased. Those dollars help to provide the necessities of life for family members and help make it possible for those children to complete high school.

It is important, therefore, that parents are aware of who can get benefits based on their Social Security earnings record, and when.

The easiest way to check just what family benefits are available is to go to our "Parents' Place" page on the Internet at [www.socialsecurity.gov/kids/parent1.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/kids/parent1.htm). Also here you will find information on "Baby's First Social Security Number," "Who Can Get Benefits," "How Much Work You Need for Benefits for Your Children," "Benefits for Grandchildren," "Benefits for Disabled Children" and more.

For example, if you visit the Web page on "How Much Work You Need for Benefits for Your Children," you will find that "the amount of work you need to qualify for Social Security benefits depends on how old you are when you retire, become disabled, or die. The younger you are, the less work you need." Parents under the age of 24 need as little as one and a half years of work under Social Security for their children to receive Social Security benefits. The amount of work needed increases with age, but no one would need more than 10 years of work to be insured for all benefits.

If you visit the Web page on "Benefits for Grandchildren," you can learn that "More and more parents are finding themselves raising grandchildren. Social Security will pay benefits to dependent grandchildren if benefits are not payable on the work record of a parent." Generally speaking, the biological parents of the child must be deceased or disabled, or the grandchild must be legally adopted by the grandparent to receive benefits.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you can find out basic information about Social Security by calling Social Security toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Just ask for the publication entitled "Benefits For Children."

### Social Security's Pay Day

Many people's lives are hectic and are run by the calendar—even when they are retired. It can be surprisingly easy to forget exactly which day of the month you get your Social Security benefit payment. At one time, it was simpler, since all Social Security payments went out on the third of each month. But since 1997, new beneficia-

ries get their payments on different dates.

If you don't get your payment on the third of the month and if you're not familiar with the Social Security "payday" schedule, the following information will help you. Generally, the day that you receive your benefit depends on the birth date of the person on whose work record you receive benefits. For example, if you receive benefits as a retired or disabled worker, your benefit will be determined by your birth date. If you receive benefits as a spouse, your benefit payment date will be determined by his or her birth date.

If your birthday is on the 1st to 10th of the month, you will be paid on the second Wednesday; from the 11th to the 20th, on the third Wednesday and from the 21st to 31st on the fourth Wednesday. Take advantage of a really handy calendar showing Social Security payment dates at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/2006.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/2006.htm).

If you happen to retire abroad or receive both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income payments, you will receive your Social Security payments on the third of each month.


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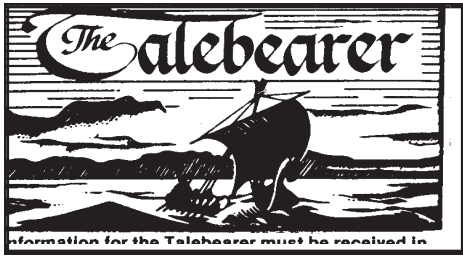
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Congratulations to Richard Ferris upon his acceptance into the U. S. Navy. Richie's position will be Master at Arms (MA). He will begin basic training on Feb. 12, 2007, and then leave for Texas to attend MA "A" school. Your mom, dad, family and friends are all very proud of you and wish you much success and Godspeed. Also, a very happy birthday on Nov. 4. We will miss you!

City Island Theatre Group's own Susan Rauh will be performing in the Bedford Community Theater production of "The Music Man." Performances are Nov. 10 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 11 and 18 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 12 and 19 at 3 p.m. For ticket information and directions, please call 914-244-0474, ext. 22.

Happy 19th birthday on Nov. 12 to Seaman Apprentice Bobby Swieciki, who is serving with the U. S. Coast Guard in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Belated happy birthday wishes to Ted Pryor on Oct. 11.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Hawkins Street's Melissa Pryor, who celebrates her big day on Dec. 4, and also to her sister Samantha Pryor, who has a Dec. 15 birthday.

Belated birthday wishes to little Bob Carmody, who turned 10 years old on Oct. 10, and also to his big sister, Kelly, who celebrated her sweet 16 with a party on Oct. 20 at the Seashore Restaurant. A Caribbean cruise with her Grandma Flowers and Aunt Terry will follow.

Best wishes and a fond farewell to the Carmody-Zapata family, who will be moving to their new home in New City. Come back and visit! Also, belated birthday wishes to Faith Zapata, who recently celebrated her fourth birthday. With love from the Cebek and Carmody families.

Sammi Erosa and Kelly Carmody of the Pelham Bay Belles Girl's Softball Team

send a big "thank you" to Sara Kim for her generous cash donation to their College Showcase Tournament.

Belated happy birthday greetings on Oct. 1 to Susan Roublick. We love you and wish we could be there with you. Always, Jennifer, Louis and Dylan.

Thinking of you, Grandma, on your special wedding day, Sept. 30. Love always, Jennifer, Louis and Dylan.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Andy Natiw and Melenie Melendez on their Oct. 21 wedding. The happy couple exchanged vows at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church with a reception following at the Lido.

Best wishes to Lickety Split's Louise and Skippy on the "debut" of their new ice cream cone, Olivia Nicole! With love from your City Island friends.

Happy birthday on Nov. 3 to Lily Kolb with hugs and kisses from Aunt Geri and Max.

Best of luck to freshman Frankie Cebek, who just joined the Siena College Saints as a pitcher. Can't wait to see you play! All our love, Uncle Bob, Aunt Diane, Kelly and little Bob.

Caren Stark, daughter of Beth and Herb Stark, formerly of Carroll Street, was married on Sept. 10, 2006, to Richard Boncora. The wedding was held at Round Hill House in Washingtonville, New York.

Congratulations to Alexandra Sowa, a senior at Ursuline High School, for receiving an award on Oct. 4 from the Westchester Coalition of Italian-American Organizations for excellence in Italian Studies. The Honorable Andrew J. Spano, County Executive of Westchester, presented the awards. Molto bene, Alexandra!

A happy and healthy Thanksgiving to all our readers, neighbors and friends from the staff of *The Island Current*.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The heavy gusting winds of up to 40mph during the storm on Oct. 28 saw three sailboats break loose in the pre-noon hours and collide with the bridge. Several sailboats and a power boat washed up on the police range beach just before the bridge during the morning as well.



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