

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

Second Class Permit
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.
USPS 114-590

Volume 35 Number 7

September 2006

One Dollar

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS CAUSE MAYHEM ON C.I.

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by JIM LIVINGSTON and FRANK THOMPSON

On Aug. 16, an accident occurred on City Island Road when a Boar's Head truck landed on an automobile driven by Islander Paul Hergen, who died as a result of his injuries. All traffic was stopped for two hours on and off the Island.

It is not unusual for City Island residents to complain about the heavy traffic in the summertime, but this year the problem hasn't been the number of cars but the number of traffic accidents, two of which were serious, one of them resulting in the tragic death of an Islander.

Motorcycle Creates Fire and Firestorm

The trouble started on July 29 at 11:15 p.m. with a motorcycle accident on City Island Avenue that quickly escalated into a media situation, owing to a videotape made by an onlooker. It was broadcast the following evening by ABC News, along with a report of alleged police brutality.

According to the police report, the operator of the motorcycle, Charles Pritchett, 38, tried to drive between parked vehicles and the automobile of Colvin Murray, who was trying to parallel park on the west side of City Island Avenue, in front of Papa John's Deli. Mr. Murray told police that the motorcycle hit the right side of his car, caus-

ing the operator to lose control and crash into the parked vehicles. Both parked cars and the motorcycle caught fire, and onlookers reported that the flames reached two stories high before it was quickly extinguished by the Fire Department. Mr. Murray further reported to police that the operator of the motorcycle tried to leave the scene by getting onto the back of another motorcycle.

The police responded quickly to the scene and found the motorcycle operator with a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, although he refused to take a test to determine his blood alcohol level. Then, according to the police, when he was told to put his hands behind his back, he swung at one police officer and continued to punch and elbow other officers, three of whom had to go to Jacobi Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries.

As the incident was occurring, an onlooker with a cell phone managed to videotape both the fire and Mr. Pritchett being

Continued on page 13



Photo by RICK DEWITT

The property at 174 Rochelle Street has been purchased by the Association for the Advancement of the Blind and Retarded (AABR) for development into a group home. AABR plans to restore the house to accommodate eight full time residents, some of whom will be from City Island.

GROUP HOME PLANNED FOR ROCHELLE STREET

By KAREN NANI

A second group home to be built on City Island by the Association for the Advancement of the Blind and Retarded (AABR) has been given the go-ahead by Community Board 10 following a meeting held on City Island on July 19, 2006. The new home will be operated at 174 Rochelle Street after an extensive renovation of the house that now stands on the property.

The meeting to present the proposal to Islanders was organized by Virginia Gallagher and Kenneth Kearns of Community Board 10 at the City Island Community Center. About 50 people attended the meeting, most of whom were Island residents.

Christopher Welden, executive director of AABR, presented an overview of the organization and of the plans to renovate the existing structure on Rochelle Street, a two-story wood frame house on a 100-by-114 foot lot. He told the audience that the restoration would keep the characteristics and integrity of the original Victorian-style house, which was built in 1925 and purchased by AABR in December 2004.

Kathryn Flood from AABR explained that the goal is to accommodate eight residents full time, five females and three males, some of whom are City Island residents with disabilities. The residents, ages 18 to 38, are to have round-the-clock supervision. During the day, they would be transported to programs or sheltered workshops off the Island and then return to the home in the evening. Ruth Edoho from AABR also attended the meeting to answer questions about staffing and the care of the residents, including such issues as medication.

Audience response to the proposal was generally positive, according to Islander Fred Ramftl, who attended the meeting. The enthusiasm results from the excellent example set by the group home on Pilot Street, which AABR restored in 2002. Residents expressed the wish to see the house at 174 Rochelle Street restored in a similar fashion. They were pleased with the prospect that Island residents would be included among those living at the home.

Audience members had questions about parking, zoning requirements, street access

and other effects the home might have on Rochelle Street residents. According to Mr. Kearns, district manager of Board 10, no special zoning is required for the new home. AABR plans to add a second story to the existing structure, enlarge the back of the house and reconstruct the wrap-around porch as part of the renovation.

Although parking is a concern on Rochelle Street, one of the narrower streets on City Island, there are no special plans for parking other than the current driveway, according to Debbie VanCura of AABR. They do not anticipate a problem, because only one or two cars are likely to be on the premises for any extended period of time and most staff members use public transportation to get to City Island.

AABR, which operates under the supervision of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The organization currently operates 21 group homes in four boroughs in New York City, including the group home on Pilot Street.

"They have been good corporate neighbors," Mr. Kearns told *The Current*. As a result of the positive response from the community and the past experience with AABR on City Island, the board issued a letter on July 25, 2006, stating: "Community Board 10 has no objections to plans to construct a group home at 174 Rochelle Street." The letter, as required by law, was sent to Catherine Broderick, associate commissioner of the state office overseeing AABR.

Mr. Kearns explained that the law allows a community to object to a group home of this type only on the basis of "over-saturation." Obviously, the existence of two homes on City Island does not qualify as over-saturation, he explained. Nevertheless, the board expressed the hope that AABR will continue to be a good neighbor to Islanders.

Once the approval process is complete, it will take about one year to 18 months to complete the renovation and move the residents in, according to Ms. VanCura.

BRIEFLY...

COMMUNITY CENTER FALL REGISTRATION FAIR: Sunday Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participate in a demo class and register for all your favorite activities in one location! Demonstrations and free classes throughout the day. Come visit the Mini Haunted House open from 1 to 4 p.m. Coffee and bake sale all day! Schedule of demos should be posted around the Island a week before our event. Call 718-885-1145 to request a schedule of demos, or just stop by.

SATURDAY NIGHT YOUTH CENTER RE-OPENING On Saturday, Sept. 23, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Parents are invited to come with their teens, to enjoy coffee and cake and to register their child (if they haven't already) to participate in the 2006/2007 program. Anyone with an interest in volunteering to keep the City Island youth in a fun, safe and productive atmosphere on Saturday nights is welcome to come and check out the greatest space we have to offer the City Island youth. Call Deana at 917-418-1377 for more information.

WELCOME TO VILMA'S PLAYGROUND! City Island's indoor playground for families with young children is especially designed for children 5 and under. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee with your friends while the kids play in a spacious, safe environment that is loaded with developmentally appropriate games and toys. No long-term commitments, just an everyday low admission price of \$6 for the first child and \$3.50 for each sibling (the first adult is free, additional adults are \$3.50.) Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. Tuesday and Thursday, also open 3 to 5:30 p.m. Call 718-882-0223 for more information.


COMMUNITY WALL UNVEILING AT P.S. 175: On Friday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m., the PTA fund-raising committee will host a reception for the unveiling of the Community Wall, which is made up of 300 tiles painted by City Islanders and installed at the school during the summer. In addition to the ceremony, there will be refreshments and musical entertainment. The PTA suggests a donation of \$5 for adults and \$2 for seniors and children; all proceeds from this reception and the Community Wall project will be used to support art, music and sports programs at the City Island School. For more information, please call 718-885-2109.

GRACE CHURCH TAG SALE on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited, and all proceeds from the sale will go to support the ministries of Grace Church. Please call Evyonne Baker at 347-226-8041 for more details.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON PRIMARY DAY, on Tuesday, Sept. 12, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. at P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue. Republicans have one choice to make: John Spencer or K. T. McFarland for U.S. Senator. The Democratic primary includes three races: Governor (Eliot Spitzer and Thomas R. Suozzi), Attorney General (Andrew M. Cuomo, Mark Green, Charles G. King and Sean Patrick Maloney), and U.S. Senator (Hilary Rodham Clinton and Jonathan B. Tasini).

BRONX ROTARY CLAMBAKE: On Friday Sept. 29, starting at 4 p.m., the Bronx Rotary Club will host its seventh annual clam bake at the Morris Yacht Club. This club fund-raiser will feature all the clams on the half shell, hamburgers, hot dogs, beer and soda you can eat and drink, as well as a DJ and activities for kids (face painting, clown, etc. from 4 to 6 p.m.). \$50 per couple, \$35 per person, children 12 and under will be free, so bring the whole family! Last year's clam bake raised funds for life-saving heart operations for two children; refurbishing a school in Nigeria; rebuilding a village in earthquake-devastated Kashmir and Pakistan; helping Katrina victims; clean water wells in Tanzania; meals for Bronx seniors; and scholarship awards and science equipment for local schools, to name just a few of the great service projects Rotary initiates. Come, have fun, and be a part of helping so many! For more information, please call Captain Mike at 718-885-1588.

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SEWER PROJECT UNDER WAY

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

At last, the long-awaited replacement of storm and sanitary sewers on City Island has finally begun. Carp Construction, working with the city's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) started on east Schofield Street this summer and hopes to complete this portion of the work within the next two months.

The water main on east Schofield has been replaced, but more work must still be done on the site, including the installation of a storm-sewer outfall on Landing Way and of a sanitary sewer for 150 feet along the north side of Schofield Street.

The water-main replacement caused numerous problems for the residents of the street. Maura Mandrano, who lives at the Sailmaker, told *The Current* that she did not have running water for three weeks between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays. That meant no running hot water, no toilet flushing, no laundry or dishwasher all day. "The worst part," she said, "was when they turned the water on at the end of the day, because the black sediment backed up into everything. Most of us have had one or more faucets or appliances completely stopped up every afternoon because of the silt."

Ms. Mandrano was quick to point out,

however, that "the DDC and Andy Macagnone [the project supervisor] have been *extremely* accommodating, *extremely* nice and professional in dealing with the project and our needs, so I have no complaints whatsoever."

Beginning on or about Sept. 18, the installation of the outfall will involve the construction of a coffer dam on Long Island Sound to keep the water out while part of the seawall is removed and a new 60-inch pipe is set in place. The primary inconvenience to residents will be noise, as construction may start as early as 7 a.m. and continue through the day.

The installation of the sanitary sewer on the north side of Schofield Street will also involve noise, but the main inconvenience will be the DDC's request that residents refrain from flushing toilets during the day, as doing so will unpleasantly affect the workers.

On Sept. 11, DDC will also begin work on other areas on City Island, possibly at the north end, although plans are not final. For up-to-date information, call Andy Macagnone at 718-885-0308 or e-mail him at hed549B.andy@verizon.net; or you may visit the Web site www.outreachny.com for updates on the City Island project.

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PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt.
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Russell Schaller Sr., Stephanie Ribaldo, Melissa Koller, Marge McNulty, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, 33 Earley Street, City Island, N.Y. 10464
 Printed by Hi-Speed Printing Co., 1123 Worthen Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10474
 The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$10.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0984 or 885-0760. Copyright 2006 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

READY OR NOT! HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

City Island residents were given a short course in hurricane emergency preparedness at a meeting hosted by the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on the evening of Aug. 9, 2006, in the Trinity Methodist Church hall. Because of the short notice and an imperfect notification system, few Islanders attended the meeting, but the information given was useful and brochures will soon be mailed by OEM to all residents of City Island, which lies in an evacuation zone.

Although hurricane season officially runs from June through Nov. 30 each year, New York City is at risk primarily from August to October. There are several types of tropical cyclones that typically affect New York—from nor'easters (which can occur at any time of year, most commonly during the fall and winter months) to tropical storms (with sustained winds between 39 and 73 mph) to hurricanes (with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater).

Hurricanes are measured by strength in five categories, with category 5 being the strongest, with winds of 156 mph or more. Sam Benson, speaking for OEM, assured residents at the meeting that the waters in this area are too cold for a category 5 storm but cautioned that a category 4 storm making landfall in Atlantic City would be capable of causing catastrophic damage in New York City.

There are four major types of hazards caused by hurricanes, such as storm surges (exceptionally high tides), flooding rains, high winds and tornadoes. New York is at special risk for storm surges, which can cause the greatest damage, from major structural destruction to water contamination, coastal flooding, erosion and the accumulation of debris.

OEM has divided the city into hurricane evacuation zones based on the risks faced by different areas along the waterfront. Residents of areas designated Zone A face the highest risk of flooding from any hurricane's storm surge; Zone B may experience storm surge flooding from a moderate hurricane (category 2 or higher) and Zone C, which may experience flooding from a major hurricane (categories 3 and 4). According to an evaluation made by the Army Corps of Engineers, almost all of City Island is considered Zone B, except for the area marked Zone A, which runs along the waterfront from west Tier Street north through the location of Seafood City.

If a Hurricane Threatens

Because City Island is at risk of serious flooding during a storm surge, the city is likely to order residents to evacuate the Island, and because there is only one road off, OEM recommends that residents make plans to evacuate well in advance of the hurricane's arrival. A hurricane watch will be issued by OEM and the media when there is a threat of

hurricane conditions within 24 to 48 hours; a hurricane warning is issued when dangerously high water and rough seas are expected within 24 hours. Residents are advised to stay informed of the storm situation by listening to television and radio, by accessing www.nyc.gov/oem or by calling 311.

If a hurricane watch is issued, residents are advised to bring in from outdoors any loose, lightweight objects, such as lawn furniture, garbage cans, tools and toys, and to anchor anything that is unsafe to bring indoors, such as gas grills or propane tanks (which should be turned off). Windows should be shuttered securely and outside doors braced (hardware stores can offer advice and information about materials and techniques). Valuables should be placed in waterproof containers or plastic bags.

Check on friends, relatives and neighbors, especially those with special needs, and help them prepare their homes and get ready to evacuate if necessary. Stay tuned to local media or call 311 to obtain specific instructions about evacuation. If you have a place to go outside the coastal area, tell neighbors and friends where you are going, and leave in enough time so that traffic off the Island is not a problem. Pack lightly, arrange for your pets to accompany you (or find them shelter), and take your go bag. **Do not wait for evacuation to become mandatory to leave City Island.**

If you plan to go to an evacuation center, note that there are two centers near City Island, Truman High School at 750 Baychester Avenue in Coop City and Evander Childs High School, 800 Gun Hill Road. Those who do not have cars or cannot get rides will be picked up by buses, which will respond to all 311 calls in advance of the storm.

There are 65 evacuation centers in the city; these are transit points, where people will be assigned to one of the 509 hurricane shelters. Those with special medical needs will be directed to special shelters.

If you are advised by OEM to remain at home, be sure you have enough supplies to survive for at least three days. See emergency supply list in box.

Make a Plan Today

OEM strongly advises that everyone in a flood zone begin today preparing for a hurricane evacuation in order to avoid last-minute stress should a storm head our way.

- Prepare a disaster plan with members of your household so that everyone will know what to do, how to find each other and how to communicate if a hurricane strikes.

- Know where you will go. Make arrangements with friends or relatives who live outside the evacuation zone to provide you and your family with shelter during the evacuation period.

- Prepare a go bag for each member of the family in an easy-to-carry container, such as a backpack. Be sure it is easily accessible

if you have to leave in a hurry.

Veteran Island residents who have lived through many hurricanes over the years tend to scoff at the idea of evacuation, since they know that there are areas on City Island that are high enough to escape flooding. But the Island has become much more densely built up than it was and the risks are greater as a result. The storm of 1992, which wasn't even a full-blown hurricane, did a great deal of damage, especially on the east side of the island, and the road between the bridge and the City Island circle was flooded, making the road impassable for several hours.

Anyone wishing more information on this subject is invited to visit www.nyc.gov/oem.

A Go Bag Should Include:

- Copies of important documents in a waterproof container (insurance cards, photo IDs, proof of address, etc.)

- Extra set of house and car keys
- Credit and ATM cards, plus \$50 to \$100 in cash

- Bottled water and nonperishable food (granola or energy bars)

- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries

- Up-to-date medical information and other essential personal items. List of medications, dosages, and physician information

- First-aid kit
- Contact and meeting place information for your household with a small regional map

- Child-care supplies or other special care items

An Emergency Supply Kit Should Include:

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day

- Nonperishable food items (ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener)

- First-aid kit
- Flashlight

- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries

- Whistle

- Iodine tablets or one quart of unscented bleach (for disinfecting water only if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper

- Personal hygiene items (soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush, etc.)

- Cell phone or land-line phone that does not rely on electricity

- Child-care supplies

LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD GETS SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of JOSEPH J. SAVINO

The crew responsible for installing surveillance cameras at the Ambrosini Little League Field on Aug. 9, 2006: (from l. to r.) Bronx GOP chairman Jay Savino, Chris Cannon of Superior Technology, Little League president Bob Whelan, and Fred Ramftl and Patrick Rocchio of the City Island Republican Club.

In direct response to a recurring graffiti problem at Ambrosini Field, the City Island Little League baseball field behind P.S. 175, smart technology has been installed at the site in hopes of catching vandals in the act, thanks to efforts of Bronx Republican Party chairman Jay Savino and the City Island Republican Club.

The sophisticated video monitoring equipment will not be limited to the City Island location but will be installed on a rotating basis in other neighborhoods across the borough that have seen a rise in graffiti vandalism.

"The problem at Ambrosini Field is just a microcosm of an increasing graffiti problem that has quietly resurfaced in the borough's neighborhoods and threatens our quality of life," said Mr. Savino.

Pleas for help from City Island Little League officials, and from retail store owners and community leaders in other neighborhoods, prompted Mr. Savino to use his own resources to resurrect the graffiti camera program, an initiative that was formerly funded by a state grant that aided community organizations and local police in the North Bronx

and Westchester.

The surveillance cameras are equipped with infrared lighting, giving them the ability to record in darkness, and criminal activity will be provided to local police on DVD. "No one will know where or when the cameras are installed, which will not only aid in the arrest of graffiti vandals, but will provide a deterrent effect," Mr. Savino said.

The City Island Little League field was chosen as one of the first sites for the cameras because graffiti vandals have tagged the storage clubhouse multiple times. "It has been frustrating, but hopefully the cameras will put an end to the vandalism at Ambrosini Field," said City Island Little League president Bob Whelan.

Chris Cannon, president of Superior Technology Consultants, which has operated in the Morris Park community for 35 years, provided the equipment at below cost and installed it at no charge. "We embraced this project without hesitation," Mr. Cannon said, "because when quality of life issues deteriorate, it impacts the business community in an adverse way."

Mr. Savino said that more video surveillance equipment is needed so that multiple problematic locations can be monitored at the same time. He has established an anti-graffiti camera program committee so that retail and business owners can make donations that would fund the purchase and installation of additional smart technology.

"Graffiti is on the rise. Vandals are tagging residential, retail and commercial buildings and institutions like our schools and museums. If we want to make an impact on maintaining a graffiti-free borough, we need to quickly expand this project," he said.

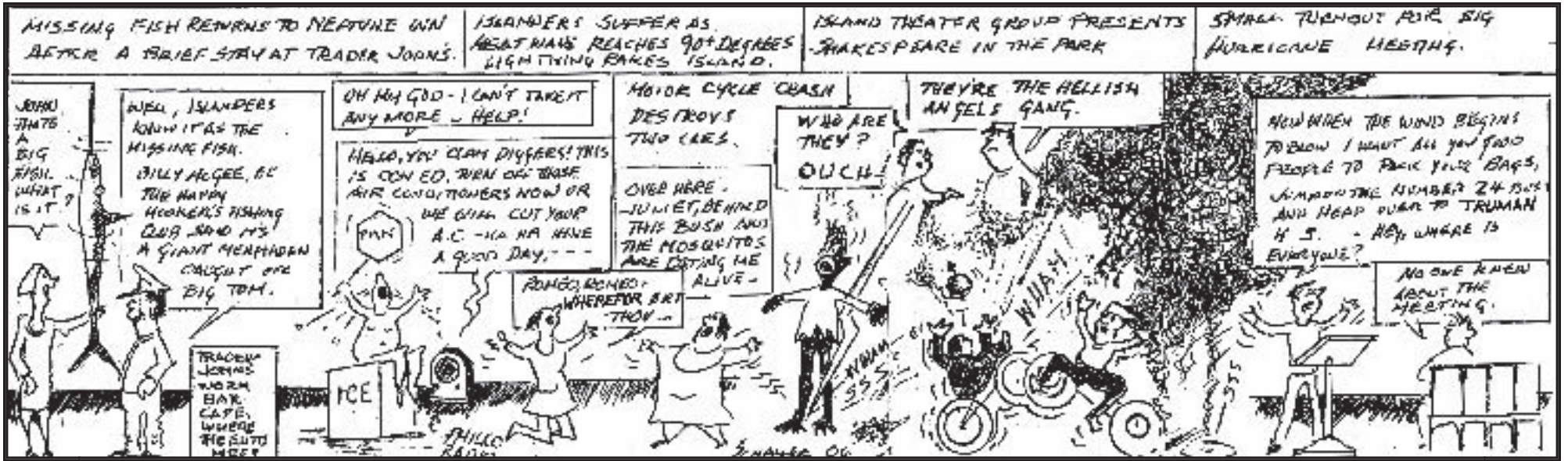


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Garden Club Gratitude

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

On behalf of the Garden Club of City Island, I would like to thank you for your generous response to our annual fund drive. I would also like to thank the local Island businesses who sweep and keep the fronts of their shops and restaurants clean and attractive. Many have placed planters in front of their establishments.

We have hired a gardener to plant and groom the American Legion triangle, and we placed three planters in front of the American Legion hall. We also arranged for the grounds at the City Island Nautical Museum to be cleaned and groomed, and we have put two planters there.

We continue to maintain the Post Office garden and the planters at the library, and we replanted the planter at Hawkins Street Park. In addition, we have put additional planters in several locations along City Island Avenue.

We have finally received permission from the Department of Parks & Recreation to erect a "Welcome to City Island" sign with appropriate plantings in Bridge Park. Our Bronx Borough President and Community Board 10 were helpful in getting the permission, and we thank them for their efforts. We are currently working with a sign maker, who is making a rendering for our approval. The sign will be installed in the fall or next spring.

Our fund drive book is still open for anyone who wishes to make a donation. We would appreciate it very much.

Joan Ficarra

Returning Thanks

To the Editor:

Thanks to all my City Island friends for your cards, your calls, and your well wishes. I'm back!

Arlene Byrne

Correction

To the Editor:

The photograph on page 4 of the June issue of *The Current* showing the 1935 kindergarten class is of P.S. 17, not P.S. 175, as stated in the caption. I remember it well, a wonderful school and great school chums.

Rita Murphy Kyle

Farewell to a Friend

To the Editor:

There are certain things that characterize us as City Islanders: a loving support of all things community, a shared celebration of our rich nautical history—and dogs.

We are an Island filled with dogs, of all shapes, sizes and personalities; some are even better known than their owners. In mid-August, a tiny piece of the heart of our community left us when Barney, the black-and-tan coonhound owned by our dear friend Marion Rosenfeld, passed away after a brief illness.

Barney was known by practically every shopkeeper on the Island; many even kept treats for him as he made his daily rounds with Marion. The letter carrier Laura made a special delivery each day to him we are

told. Barney attended every one of our community events, from Halloween and Memorial Day parades to our Arts and Crafts Fairs. And he was often "dressed" for the occasion, sporting a seasonal bandana.

For our family, Barney was indeed our best friend, especially for our daughter, Hannah. We cherish the pictures taken of her and her pal Barney over the years.

Barney's distinctive bark and his remarkably good nature—he was a big dog with a big heart—made him unforgettable. We offer our sympathies to our amazing friend Marion, but we rejoice in the memories of Barney walking the avenue these 13 years, making the Island feel more like a home for us all.

Elliott and Monica Glick

Photography by Ron Turner

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City Island's Boldface Names

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Earlier this summer, the world of entertainment lost two stars, June Allyson on July 8 and Red Buttons on July 13. When they were both very young, they were well known on City Island, but by their real names, Ella Geisman and Aaron Chwatt.

June, that is, Ella, grew up in the Bronx and suffered a serious back injury as a child. She taught herself to dance as part of her recuperative therapy, but her other love was swimming. Russell Schaller remembers her at Casino Beach, which was then on the east side of City Island, though *The Current* was unable to determine whether she remembered him in her 1982 autobiography.

Red Buttons got his famous stage name on City Island, where he worked during high school (Evander Childs) as a bellhop and singer at Ryans, now The Harbor. He had red hair at the time and his bellhop uniform featured buttons, and the nickname stuck all during his long career, which went from Burlesque at Minsky's to Broadway to the Army's entertainment unit in World War II, followed by nightclubs and then movies. His red hair had turned brown, but Joshua Logan, the director of "Sayonara," made Red Buttons dye his hair red for his supporting role as Airman Joe Kelly, for which he won the Oscar in 1957.

96th Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner

This year's awards dinner will be hosted by the City Island Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Nov. 17, at the Lido Restaurant on City Island. The awards given at this 96th annual dinner will be as follows:

The recipient of the Sam Bierman Business and Community Service Award will be longtime businessman Michael Carew of Capt. Mike's Diving School. Mike has volunteered his time and expertise for a number of worthy causes, including the Bronx Rotary Club. He is also a board member of the Chamber and a member of the publicity and advertising committee.

The Tom Cerreta Accomplished Business Service Award will go to City Island Pharmacy owner Joseph Miccarelli, who

has willingly contributed his help and funds to support the programs of this community's organizations many times over the years.

The Exemplary Service to Community Award will go to John Calozzi, editor of the Bronx Times Reporter. He has donated his services to many Bronx community projects for over 30 years, one of his favorite's being the Chamber's Catherine Scott Awards.

The Catherine Scott Award this year will go to the City Island Boy Scout troop, which has contributed many years of service to this community.

The recipient of the Service to Community Award will be announced in the next issue of *The Current*, along with other details about the dinner.

Current Review

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DEWITT

The talented crew that brought Shakespeare to Hawkins Street Park on July 14 and 15, 2006 (bottom from l. to r.): Michael Flanagan, director and actor; Julie White, rap artist; Jason Fogarty, actor; Gwynnellen DeWitt, usher; and Christian De Matteo.

One summer event that City Islanders have learned to anticipate with enthusiasm is the City Island Theater Group's annual presentation of works by (or inspired by) William Shakespeare in the Hawkins Street Park. This year's event, held on July 14 and 15, was a special success, not merely because the weather cooperated but also because the production was terrifically amusing and very suitable for a midsummer night.

Modestly titled "Shakespeare Tonight! Featuring the Complete Works of William

Shakespeare Abridged," this composite of parodies (written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield) managed to run the gamut from "Antony and Cleopatra" to "A Winter's Tale" with a great deal in-between, including a fabulous "Macbeth" rap performance by Julie White.

Michael Flanagan, who directed this production, brought out the best in the actors Christian De Matteo and Jason Fogarty (as well as himself), who gave each of the two performances their all, as they played both male and female roles and managed to keep the audience in stitches for over an hour.

There were many funny moments, but this critic was especially taken with "Titus Andronicus" (not my favorite play) presented as a cooking show, "King Lear" as a football game and "Hamlet" presented in quick time both forward and backward. Interestingly, Shakespeare's genius was never brought into question, in spite of the silliness, thanks to the clever dialogue and the way in which this talented group of actors delivered their lines and masterfully rendered their slapstick comedy.

We eagerly await next year's tribute to the Bard.

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“Live at the Starving Artist, Volume One”

A Review by BARBARA DOLENSEK

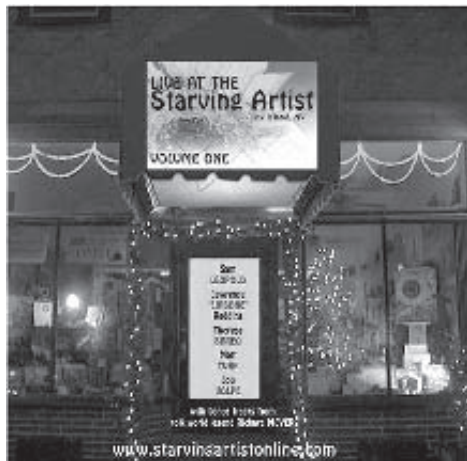


Photo courtesy of Monica Glick

The cover of the CD “Live at the Starving Artist, Volume One” recently issued by the Starving Artist café / gallery.

The release of the first volume of “Live at the Starving Artist” is a groundbreaker in more ways than one. To this writer’s knowledge, there has not been a CD—or even a record—recorded at and produced and distributed by a City Island venue. This is significant but even better, the collection of performances is truly entertaining. The CD was officially launched on July 29, at a celebration of the 57th birthday of Elliott Glick, proprietor of the Starving Artist Café & Gallery, complete with cake (whose frosting bore an image of the CD’s cover art) and champagne.

The Starving Artist will celebrate 10 years on City Island next year, and its roster of artists now includes musicians as well as visual artists. In February 2004, Elliott moved his studio and gallery to its current home at 249 City Island Avenue, where he put music into the artistic mix. “Everything in the place is handmade,” he explains, “even the songs. These are singer-songwriters, you know.”

Live music is offered at the gallery every Friday, Saturday and Sunday to audiences, whose support is acknowledged in the CD’s liner notes, a text that reflects the welcoming atmosphere of the café / gallery. Also acknowledged, for their “generous hearts and overflowing talents,” are the musicians who are showcased in this first volume: singer-songwriters Sam Leopold, Lawrence “Lipbone” Redding, Theresa Sareo and Matt Turk, and jazz guitarist Lou Volpe. “Live at the Starving Artist” also includes two bonus tracks from City Islander Richard Meyer, who is hailed as a “folk world legend” and who “attends virtually every live performance at the Starving Artist.”

On the CD Elliott Glick, who has been a guitar player and songwriter for more than 40 years (he will perform at the Starving Artist on Oct. 28), introduces each performer on the CD with a story of how each came

to be a part of the Starving Artist family of musicians.

As the music columnist who reviewed the CD in the Bronx Times Reporter noted: “The CD moves on a sea of airy grooves and thought-provoking words.” I could also add that the performances speak to our life experiences, from relationships (“Endurance” by Matt Turk and “Solo Choreography” by Richard Meyer) to family dynamics (“When He’s a Man” by Sam Leopold) to the triumph of the human spirit (“Alive Again” by Theresa Sareo). Not to be forgotten is the engaging “The Legend of Lipbone / Titi” by Lawrence “Lipbone” Redding, and at the end of the CD, a track to take the edge off—Lou Volpe’s jazzy tune “Jester Strum.”

The CD was recorded by two Island young men, John Valesio and Evan Berent, who have formed, in their teens, a recording venture called Green Room Studios. The CD was produced by Elliott Glick as part of his new effort, Starving Artist Records. He hopes to get airplay on radio stations for the talented musicians featured on the recording. He is grateful to his wife, Monica, for the art direction and design, and to his daughter, Hannah, “for holding us all together.”

Volume two of “Live at the Starving Artist” may be soon in the works. Two singer-songwriters—15-year-old sensation Anthony Da Costa and the inspiring Fred Gillen Jr.—have already been recorded, and there are plans to capture the Oct. 21 performance by City Island’s Dr. Chris Wertenbaker and his group, Port O’ Monkeys.

“Live at the Starving Artist, Volume One” for \$10 at the café / gallery (249 City Island Avenue) or online at www.starvingartistonline.com, which also includes a complete listing of musical performances and art exhibitions to be held at the Starving Artist in the near future.



Photo by RICK DEWITT

Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión (l.) presides at the ribbon cutting of the new dock and slips at the Boatyard condominiums.



In response to popular demand, **Exotiqua**, 280 City Island Avenue, has expanded a section of the store devoted to plush toys, games, baby gifts, puzzles, puppets and educational and craft projects for children. Also featured is a board game about the five boroughs that highlights City Island. The store has also expanded its exclusive jewelry designs and repair business to include gold, silver, platinum and pearl and bead restringing. Exotiqua will feature five of the best fragrances from a new line of aromatherapy soy wax candles from Vermont’s Bennington Candles. In the works is a new Web site at www.themagicofgifts.com so that customers can shop on line.

The **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779) starts out September laughing, with its Open Mic Comedy Night on Thursday, Sept. 7, at 8 p.m. Then it’s the debut of songwriters Jeff and Karen on Friday, Sept. 8, at 8 p.m. The following weekend, on Friday, Sept. 15, songwriter Matt Keating makes his debut at 8 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 16, songwriter Lawrence “Lipbone” Redding returns to the café/gallery at 8p.m. On Sunday, Sept. 17, at 3 p.m. there will be a performance by a cellist and acoustic guitarist, a duo called Cellar. Songwriter Judy Corbalis performs classic rock, neo-folk music for the first

time at Starving Artist on Friday, Sept. 22, at 8p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3 to 6p.m. there will be an opening reception for the art of Yvonne Ward, and later songwriter Timothy Hill will perform starting at 8 p.m. The City Island Jazz Quartet will appear on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 8 p.m. The last weekend of the month features the regular open mic poetry night (Thursday, Sept. 28, 8 p.m.) and open mic songwriter night (Friday, Sept. 29, 8p.m.). On Saturday, Sept. 30, at 8 p.m., the gallery will feature the original harmonious and acoustic rock and modern folk group Project Mercury. For more about the schedule, visit www.starvingartistonline.com.

Judith Rawcliffe, a long-time Islander and partner in Island Financial Group, a planning firm located at 295 City Island Avenue for many years, has opened a law office at 284 City Island Avenue. Ms. Rawcliffe told *The Current* that City Island is demographically unique (we knew that!) in that there are more than 150 small businesses here and the average household income is three times that of the rest of the Bronx. In her work with clients on business succession and estate planning, Ms. Rawcliffe found that she needed to be able to communicate with her attorney clients as a peer, so she went back to school, graduating from Rutgers Law School in 2002. After practicing law for three years in New Jersey, she was admitted to the New York Bar last January. Her practice is limited to financial areas: tax, estate and business succession planning, trusts and estates, real estate and bankruptcy. She looks forward to offering these expanded services to Islanders at her new location.

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RIDING THE YOUTH WAVE

By MICHAEL SHANLEY

After breaking for summer vacation, the City Island Community Center Youth Club is scheduled to be open every Saturday night from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 23, with a new slogan and new energy. The new slogan, "Riding the Youth Wave," was the winning entry submitted by Paula Huffell in the Drue Breen youth center slogan contest.

The Youth Club is available to Community Center members currently enrolled in the sixth grade through high school. The purpose of the club is for neighborhood young people to socialize in a safe, fun and nurturing environment. According to Youth Club volunteer Deana Weyhrauch, "we intend to expand on what was a very successful 2005-2006 season. We hope to recruit many more adult volunteers and offer more activities than previous years."

Already on the agenda for the new season is a health fair, CPR and first aid training, dances, arts and crafts, ping-pong and pool tournaments. "The sky is the limit. We can do as many creative and exciting things as we can think of. It all hinges on the support we receive from the parents and civic-minded members of our community," Ms. Weyhrauch continued.

The parents of Youth Club members and anyone interested in working with our neighborhood youth are encouraged to attend the first night, when cake and coffee will be served, followed by a question-and-answer session. There will also be an active recruitment drive to enlist as many adult chaperones as possible. "We need more adult involvement than we had last year,"

says longtime volunteer Jay Howard. "There were a few Saturday nights that we couldn't open because we didn't have enough chaperones. That can not happen this year."

The Community Center has recently undergone many positive changes. A new floor was recently installed, and the center was given a fresh paint job. The 2006-2007 season will also see many new programs added to the curriculum. "We want the Center to offer something for everyone. This year we intend to increase membership as well as services," said program director Amy Gottlieb. Community Center President Brenda Prohaska added: "The Community Center needs to be the focal point of our neighborhood. We hope to greatly expand on membership and program offerings. We intend to create a dynamic place for gatherings and constructive interaction. The Center must never stand still but continue to move forward."

To achieve these goals, the City Island Community Center is hosting an information and registration fair on Sunday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Center volunteers will be present to give information on the various courses and activities available this upcoming season. They are also offering a discounted, half-year membership fee of \$7.50 for an individual or \$12.50 for a family or business.

For more information on the Youth Club, please call Deana Weyhrauch at 718-885-0564 or Jay Howard at 718-885-2192. The City Island Community center is located at 190 Fordham Street.

COMMUNITY WALL UNVEILING AND RECEPTION

By MICHAEL SHANLEY

Last spring, the PTA of P.S. 175 embarked on an ambitious project to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the City Island School. On three separate occasions, members of the City Island community were invited to paint ceramic tiles depicting their personal interpretation of "community," and the result was that individuals representing all facets of our Island community painted as many as 300 tiles.

"The response from the community was tremendous," said Susan Bellinson, the project coordinator. "Children, teens, seniors, elected officials, local businesses, Island organizations and members of our churches and synagogue all painted tiles. The turnout was exactly what we had hoped for." Committee member Lisa Fine added: "Each and every tile is magnifi-

cent. Some are incredibly intricate while others are beautifully simple. When they are displayed together, the contrast will be stunning." PTA activist Nancy Adams added: "The sense of community was so apparent at each of the tile painting parties. The significance of the project was not lost on anyone."

In July the tiles were sent to Manhattan to be professionally fired. They will be installed in September in the auditorium area of the school known as "the Pit," where they will form a giant collage. Entitled "The Community Wall," this mosaic will be on permanent display and will be the first public artwork in the school building's three-decade history.

To mark this momentous occasion, the PTA fund-raising committee will host a formal reception and unveiling ceremony scheduled for Friday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. The group has planned a very special evening complete with hors d'oeuvres, beverages and musical entertainment. The main event of the evening will be the unveiling of the Community Wall, which was installed in complete secrecy.

Commenting on the planned reception, PTA board member Christine Williams said: "We couldn't just put this up without any fanfare. We want the unveiling to be something very special as well. We need to celebrate the completion of this public artwork. So much heart and soul went into this project. We hope the entire community will view it together for the first time."

For the reception, the PTA suggests a donation of \$5 for adults and \$2 for seniors and children. All proceeds from this reception and the Community Wall project will be used to support art, music and sports programs at the City Island School. For more information, please call 718-885-2109.

MANMADE vs. MOTHER NATURE'S SUMMER FIREWORKS



Photos by RICK DeWITT and KAREN NANI

The summer of 2006 started with a man-made bang courtesy of the Bronx Fireworks Spectacular on June 20 at Orchard Beach. Some rain showers threatened to dampen the pyrotechnics, but they ignited on schedule and created a spectacular display as promised by the sponsors, Senator Jeff Klein and Borough President Adolfo Carrion. Mother Nature seemed to be out to top the effort with a string of lightning and thunderstorms during July and August. The storms coupled with the heat wave caused power outages on City Island on July 18 and lots of downed branches through the rest of the month.



Arts and Crafts Fair

The City Island Chamber of Commerce is again sponsoring a fall arts and crafts fair on City Island Avenue on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Music coordinated by the Lickety Split Band will perform in Hawkins Part on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

This will be a juried arts and crafts show, and a panel of local business owners will approve the type of merchandise to be sold in order to avoid the fair from be-

coming a flea market. Small businesses on City Island, as well as local artists and craftspersons, have been invited to apply. Many of the vendors have participated in this annual event for several years.

The artistic works will range from painting and photography to stained glass, jewelry, woodworking, sculpture and more. For more details, call the Chamber of Commerce at 718-885-9100 or Paul Klein of Exotiq International Arts at 718-885-3090.

The City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, will be open on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the fair so that visitors and residents alike will be able to enjoy a trip back into City Island history.

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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 9 and 10, **Arts and Crafts Fair** sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Tues., Sept. 12, **Primary Day**. P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue. Polls open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fri., Sept. 15, **Community Wall Unveiling and Reception**, P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue, 7 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 21, **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m. Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expwy.

Tues., Sept. 26, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

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

Garden Club

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Because of the success of last year's planters at the Public Library, during the summer, the Garden Club placed beautiful flowering planters at the American Legion, the City Island Nautical Museum and several businesses. Unfortunately, the planters in front of City Island Hardware and Exotiga were stolen. We will continue to try to beautify City Island with similar projects.

Gardening hint: We have had a strange summer with heavy rains and very hot temperatures, and many areas around the Island have become overgrown. To make your property look more appealing, trim your bushes and pull up weeds.

Phyllis Goodman

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, "your shul by the sea" (480 City Island Avenue between Beach and Bowne Streets) is an all-inclusive, multiethnic, egalitarian, Jewish congregation for all ages, with Sabbath services every Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Shohama will lead the Sept. 8 service with Cantor Elaine. Experience community, music, and spiritual expression. Cantor Elaine composes unique melodies, which inspire us. Come and listen!

Tai chi and yoga classes will resume on Thursdays in September (starting Sept. 7), led by Marc Kaplan. His exercises will leave you feeling refreshed, more flexible and energetic. Eight sessions: \$80 for members; \$120 for non-members. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

SHOHAM meditation classes (Spiritual Healing of Heart and Mind) resume Monday evening, Sept. 11, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. This year will focus on teachings from "Kabbalah Month by Month: A Year of Spritual Practice and Personal Transformation" by Melinda Ribner.

We wish our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year (5767). Our doors are open to all and holiday attendance is free. Although holiday attendance is free, please call President Mort Ellis at 718-885-2820 to indicate attendance, in order to assure enough seating.

Hight Holy Day Services Schedule

A special Slicot Service will be conducted on Saturday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashana evenings: Friday, Sept. 22, and Saturday, Sept. 23, at 8 p.m.

Rosh Hashana mornings on Saturday, Sept. 23, and Sunday, Sept. 24, begin at 9:30 a.m. with Torah reading at 10:15 a.m.

Tashlich at waterside will be conducted

at 12 noon on Sunday, Sept. 24. (Great for kids!) And after Tashlich a children's service will be held in the sanctuary.

Yom Kippur eve (Sunday, Oct. 1) will begin at 6 p.m. (promptly). This is the moving and meditative beginning of the most solemn holy day in the music of Kol Nidre.

Yom Kippur Day (Monday, Oct. 2): Morning service begins at 9:30 a.m.; Torah reading starts at 10:15 a.m. and Yizkor at 11 a.m. Closing service begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 7:15 p.m.

A Sukkot celebration will be led by Pastor Dan Klipper on Friday evening, Oct. 6, at 7:30 p.m. The first day of Sukkot (Saturday, Oct. 7) will feature a service at 10:30 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch (dairy and vegetarian foods). If you wish to help build the Succah in our newly planted garden (thanks to volunteers in cooperation with the Botanical Garden), please let us know.

We are starting Sunday school classes once a month for children 4 through 12 years of age. Register now! Classes are free to members, \$90 for non-members, and will begin in November. For more information, call Amy Gottlieb at 718-885-3502.

Simchat Torah will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 13, with a service led by Pastor Dan Klipper at 7:30 p.m.

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available. Visit our Web site at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

City Island Nautical Museum

We were delighted to learn that Council Member Jimmy Vacca managed to get \$5,000 for us in the 2007 city budget, helped by the efforts of Council President Christine Quinn. Needless to say, we are immensely grateful for their efforts and will use the funds wisely and well.

To honor the memory of Andy Sbare, who died on Dec. 19, 2005, at the age of 94, we are planning to hold an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23. Everyone who remembers Andy's lively involvement in Island activities, including Island Seniors, Stuyvesant Yacht Club and the American Legion, is cordially invited to come and share your memories of this wonderful man.

In order to accommodate visitors to the Arts and Crafts Fair on the weekend of Sept. 9 and 10, we will open the Museum on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. in addition to our regular hours on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tom Nye

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Summer is nearly over and fall is upon us. We hope everyone enjoyed their summer vacation.

We are glad to announce a few upcoming events at St. Mary, Star of the Sea. First, we will be hosting an outdoor mass on Saturday Sept. 16. The mass will take the place of the 5:15 and be held in the school yard behind St. Mary's. Following the mass, we will have a barbecue dinner and a movie for the children. We encourage you to join us as we celebrate mass together in the open air overlooking picturesque Long Island Sound.

The cost for the dinner will be \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Reservations are necessary for the dinner. In the event of inclement weather, the mass will be held in the church and the dinner in the school gym. For information or to make a reservation for the dinner, you can log onto our Web site, stmystaroftheseacityisland.com, or call Kelly and Larry Saulnier at 718-885-1313.

Our second annual Fall Carnival will be held Friday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Oct. 22. We hope to see you all at the Carnival. Last year's was an outstanding event even though the weather did not cooperate. We



Photos by STEVE MARCUS

Another successful Vacation Bible School was held at Grace Episcopal Church from July 10 to 13, 2006. The children enjoyed the fiesta theme and delighted the organizers with their enthusiasm during singing, games and crafts.

will remind everyone in the October issue of the dates and times. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

If anyone would like to volunteer at any of the events, please contact as indicated above. Thank you all for your continued support of St. Mary, Star of the Sea.

Larry Saulnier

Cub Scout News

It's that time of year again, and Cub Scout Pack 211 is looking forward to another fun-filled calendar year. This year, as always, we have an exciting year filled with educational and entertaining trips and events for the scouts and their families to enjoy and participate in, along with hands-on educational projects.

This year some changes have been made. First, we will be having our weekly or bi-weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings, at the Methodist Church from 6:30 to 8 p.m. We are hoping that this will be more convenient and enable parents to get more involved with their young boys. Adult participation is surely needed and is, needless to say, very rewarding. As we all know the organization is based on family, god and country, with an emphasis on integrity, character and social awareness. So please make this a serious consideration as you decide to register your sons.

Registration will be held on Tuesday Sept. 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The fee will be \$45, and uniform order forms will be available.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or suggestions, please email us at cubscoutpack211@aol.com.

Angelo Bellocchio

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday, and you are warmly welcomed to join us. Childcare is available for young children in the Parish Hall beginning at 9:45 a.m.; for older children, Church School is offered approximately three times a month,

beginning at 10 a.m. Please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080 for dates and more information.

Here is an overview of what is happening at Grace Church during September and early October:

Sunday, Sept. 3, 9 a.m.: Last Sunday of our summer worship schedule, as well as Father Curtis Hart's farewell as our summer supply priest.

Sunday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m.: "Homecoming Sunday." Join us as Mother Patty returns from maternity leave and we resume our schedule of 10 a.m. worship.

Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Grace Church Tag Sale. All proceeds from the sale will go to support the ministries of Grace Church. Please contact Evyonne Baker at 347-226-8041 for more details.

Sunday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.: Episcopal visitation by the Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk, Bishop of New York. Please plan to be present for this historic visit when Bishop Sisk administers the rites of baptism, confirmation, reception into the Episcopal Church, and reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

Sunday, Oct. 1, 12 noon: The Blessing of the Animals. In keeping with tradition, all pets (four-legged, winged and finned) are invited to come to the Grace courtyard for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. In the interest of peacekeeping, we do ask that attendees be leashed, caged or otherwise restrained!

Rev. Patricia Alexander

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Photo by RON TERNER

The City Island Community Center held its annual beach party on Aug. 12.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Riding the Youth Wave." The Saturday Night Youth Center is reopening on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Parents are invited to enjoy coffee and cake, to come see where the kids are hanging out and to get involved! Call Deana at 917-418-1377 for more information.

NEW THIS YEAR

Fall Registration Fair: Sunday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register for all your favorite activities in one location! Demonstrations and free classes throughout the day. Come visit the Mini Haunted House open from 1 to 4 p.m.

Vilma's Playground: City Island's indoor playground for families with young children is especially designed for children 5 and under. An everyday low admission price of \$6 for the first child and \$3.50 for each sibling (the first adult is free, additional adults are \$3.50). Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Tuesday and Thursday also open 3 to 5:30 p.m.

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. Call Deirdre at 201-679-1450.

Martial Arts: Marrero's Martial Arts Academy teaches tai chi soft and hard, kick-boxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Three days a week: Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays. Ages 4-7 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. (Saturday at 10 a.m.); ages 8-12 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. (Saturday at 11:30 a.m.); teens: see adult schedule. Only \$100 per month! Call José at 646-671-7264.

Jazz/Tap for Grades 2 through 6:

Thursdays after school. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914-576-5515.

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, kick-boxing, self-defense, self-discipline, physical fitness and tournament prep. Three days a week, Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Saturday at 1 p.m.) Only \$100 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: Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 to 10 a.m. Babysitting available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. 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 or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com

Vilma's Playground: Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Call 718-882-2223 for more information.

Knitting Club: Join a knitting circle. Open to all ages! Thursdays from 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!

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, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy

Legion News

Our last regular meeting for the summer was held on Monday, Aug. 21, and our last function of the summer, the annual clambake, was held Saturday, Aug. 5. More than 90 people attended, and Richard O'Keefe declared it a financial success.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m. There will be no meeting Monday, Sept. 4, Labor Day. There will be an executive board meeting on Monday, Sept. 11.

Commander Dave Carman said that all requests for use of the Post facilities should be scheduled by past commander Vincent Hecker, the reservations manager. This procedure insures that there will be no conflicts.

Commander Carman reported that Americanism chairman, Ed Shipp, has commissioned local artist of repute, Mark Whitcombe, to create a mural for the used flag receptacle, which will be placed at the entrance to the Post. This will be an improvement over the cardboard box now used as a repository for old flags.

For those of you who have asked about the southwest corner of the building still under construction, the commander said that repairs will soon be finalized.

The annual Pumpkin Sale will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Oct. 6 to 8. Volunteers are needed, so sign up at the Post or see Ed Shipp.

At the next meeting, a procedure will be put in place to properly record donations of memorabilia. It seems that a helmet has disappeared. Should you see any Islander walking on the Avenue sporting a helmet of WWII vintage, immediately contact the sergeant-at-arms, Tom McMahan.

Comrade Treat said that the Sept. 18 meeting will be a Post Everlasting meeting to honor those members who have recently passed on.

Our representative for homeland security, Pat Bramley, informs us that he, like many representatives of other Island organizations, was not informed of the important hurricane meeting held at the Methodist Church Hall in August. Let's hope that we have some input at any subsequent meetings. Pat said that the only sage advice he can offer is to keep your rowboats in good repair.

I don't know if any of you are aware that Comrade Mike Rauh has been appointed by Borough President Adolfo Carrión as a member of his advisory council on veterans' affairs. The council will be concerned with a plethora of veterans' issues, including education, benefits and hospitalization. I'm sure Mike will be a viable asset and would entertain any suggestions you might have.

The Servicemen's Annual Dance is a little way off—Saturday, Nov. 18. Chance books will be distributed in advance of the event, and proceeds will be dedicated to providing Christmas checks to those in service. Gen. Robert Mennona Jr. (Ret.) maintains a list of those in service. You might consider checking and updating his address list.

Mike Treat informs me that he is accepting dues for 2007. More than 100 have already paid.

Aug. 6 was Purple Heart Day. It was instituted by George Washington and awarded for wounds sustained in action.

Sept. 2, 1945, is recognized in the United States as V-J Day, the official end of the war with Japan.

I'd like to thank those of you who appreciated the prisoner-of-war article I did several months ago on Tom Costello. Most of what I wrote was taken verbatim from his diary, which he wrote while a prisoner in Italy and Germany.

At ease until next month.

Russell Schaller

City Island Theater Group

The City Island Theater Group is thrilled to announce that we will be the first theater company to produce the acclaimed 2005 Pulitzer

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Prize winner and 2005 Tony Award winner "Doubt" written by Bronx native John Patrick Shanley. After the play's successful two-year run on Broadway, CITG has scored the exclusive rights to present it at the start of its 2007 season in February. Bronx-born John Patrick Shanley says, "I'm delighted to have City Island be the first production of "Doubt" after Broadway!"

Set against the backdrop of a Bronx Catholic school in 1964, "Doubt" is the story of a strong-minded woman faced with a difficult decision: Should she voice concerns about one of her male colleagues, even if she's not entirely certain of the truth? This modern American masterpiece leaves the audience deep in discussion long after the curtain has fallen. Michael Flanagan, who directed CITG's celebrated productions of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Bus Stop," will direct "Doubt."

Rehearsals are currently under way for CITG's fall production, "Wait Until Dark." This classic thriller is guaranteed to give the audience chills and keep them on the edge of their seats. CITG is ecstatic to welcome back Eileen Marcus as director. Ms. Marcus directed CITG's thought-provoking production of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Opening night for "Wait Until Dark" is Friday, Oct. 13. Don't wait to reserve your tickets; call 718-885-3066 today.

We are currently putting the finishing touches on our 2007 season, and we hope to announce the rest of this season very soon. Not only will we be bringing you "Doubt" but we will also be presenting a musical comedy favorite that is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

On a final note, CITG has been awarded \$5,000 from City Council Member James Vacca for its 2007 season. This money will enable us to continue bringing City Island the high-quality productions it has always expected from the group. Last year's money from the City Council allowed us to purchase a new lighting system, which brought a wonderful new aspect to our productions.

Sadly, for many years CITG has been performing without a working curtain, and we are currently looking into purchasing a new one. We have started a curtain drive to help with this expensive project and have already raised \$109. If anyone would like to donate to the New Curtain Fund, checks can be mailed to City Island Theater Group, P.O. Box 45, Bronx NY 10464. Your support allows us to continue to bring the joys of theater to City Island. Thank you for your support and see you at the theater!

Nick Sala

City Island Republicans

Although this summer has been a hot one, the City Island Republicans have kept on going. Bronx Party chairman Jay Savino was our guest speaker at our Aug. 9 meeting, along with his associate Bill Gouldman. Jay updated the membership on his race, along with the other candidates on the party's slate. He spoke about how his campaign, with the help of the City Island Republicans, collected more than 4,000 signatures, breaking a 27-year record and guaranteed him a spot on the Republican line.

We were also fortunate to have the Bronx Conservative Party chairman, Bill Newmark, speak at our August meeting. He gave us a brief explanation on why he joined the Conservative Party and said that this is the first election in a long time where the Republican and Conservative Parties endorsed all of the same statewide and local candidates. He encouraged the members to support John Spencer in the upcoming Republican primary for U. S. Senator; he is already on the Conservative party line.

Ray Capone, candidate for the State Assembly, also spoke at the meeting. His campaign is focused on children's issues and includes a fight for the passage of Jessica's Law, along with a civil confinement law.

We would also like to thank State Senate candidate Jay Savino for helping the City Island Little League obtain security cameras for the ball field. The purpose of these cameras is to combat the vandalism that has plagued the field over the past year.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion hall.

Last but not least, we remind all eligible voters to come out and vote in the primary on Tuesday Sept. 12. The polls are open from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Frederick W. Ramftl Jr.

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Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The eagerly awaited movie "Groomsmen," which was filmed mostly around City Island during May 2005, debuted in theaters in August 2006. Actor-writer-director Edward Burns (top photo, right) chatted with Current editor, Karen Nani, during a break from filming at Dr. Mamdouh Moukhtar's house on King Avenue. Actor John Mahoney (best known as the father in the television series "Frasier") is shown escorting actress Brittany Murphy after the wedding scene filmed at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church. Both the Moukhtar and McGuire homes on King Avenue, as well as locations on Fordham Street, were used as backdrops for several scenes in the film, which received positive reviews from *The Current's* film critic, Marsha Treiber.



The Groomsmen

Set in our hometown, City Island, **The Groomsmen** (2006) is a comedy with surprising depth. This film was written and directed by Edward Burns, who stars as Paulie, a young man who is about to marry his pregnant fiancée, Sue (Brittany Murphy). The wedding brings together five of his old friends, who are 30-something guys on the verge of finally growing up.

Paulie has a serious case of pre-marriage jitters. His miserable brother, Jimbo (Donal Logue), acts like such a jerk that Paulie even considers not letting him be his best man. Jimbo isn't getting along too well with his wife, Julianna (Heather Burns), and he disapproves of his brother's impending marriage. The fact that Jimbo has a reason for his horrible behavior makes for a very poignant, revelatory moment in the film.

Their infantile cousin Mike (Jay Mohr) still lives with and works for his father (John F. O'Donohue). Mike is a nuisance and spends a lot of time stalking his ex, Jen (Jessica Capshaw). He desperately wants to get back together with her, but she firmly refuses. He is the group comic and is pretty irritating.

Dez (Matthew Lillard) is my favorite of the five. He is married to Tina (Shari Howard), and they have two sons, Jack and Matt (Spencer Fox and John Russo). He is a wonderful father and is teaching them to play the guitar, partly out of his nostalgia for the past, when he and his friends had a rock band. The garage where the kids practice looks exactly like the one on Minneford Avenue where my own sons spent a lot of their teen years making music.

The fifth of the group is T.C. (John Leguizamo), who has been gone for eight years and comes back to inform his friends that he is gay. Their individual responses to his news are very touching and demonstrate what

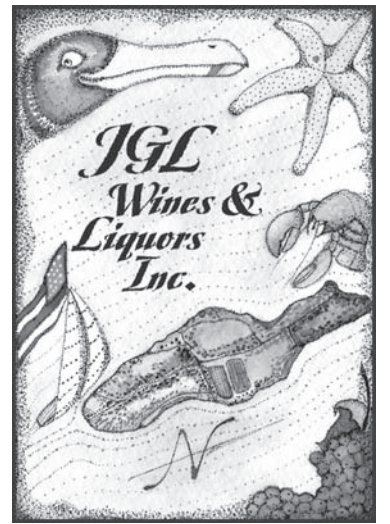
old friendship really means. His confrontation with his father (Arthur Nascarella) is rather unexpected.

As writer/director, Ed Burns knows male characters, and this film hits the mark. Although the women are relatively two-dimensional, the characters of the five friends are effectively fleshed out. Their interactions, rivalries, disagreements and mutual understanding all ring true. The continuity of their lives is satisfying, even with its highs and lows. This is a much more mature work than any of Mr. Burns's previous films.

I found myself distracted as I tried to follow the plot while figuring out where each scene was shot on City Island. Of course, this was a rather enjoyable dilemma as there was plenty of figuring to do. I definitely recognized the fence by the water at the St. Mary, Star of the Sea schoolyard. And it was great fun watching the five friends walk down the middle of City Island Avenue in the wee hours of the morning.

This is a decent, friendly film with a familiar setting that we will all find enjoyable. Thank you Mr. Burns, for showing our community as a swell place to live.

And until next time, happy viewing. . . .



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Photo by JENNIFER RIVERA

City Council Member Jimmy Vacca and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (not pictured) visited the City Island Library's annual summer reading celebration on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2006.

Have Bat, Will Travel

By BOB CARMODY

During July and August, the Pelham Bay Belles softball team, which includes three City Islanders—Samantha Erosa (shortstop), Jillian Lotrionte (catcher/right field) and Kelly Carmody (catcher/extra hitter/first base)—traveled to Queens and to northern and southern New Jersey, where they competed successfully in several tournaments and state and regional competitions. Samantha plays on the 14U team, and Jillian and Kelly play on the 16U team.

In early June, the 14U team went to Sparta, New Jersey, for the annual School's Out Tournament. The Belles had won two games and lost none before the skies opened up, and the rest of the remaining games were cancelled. Because of scoring and runs allowed, the Belles placed third, even though they were favored to win it all.

The next tournament was the 14U Metro-State Championship, and with Samantha at shortstop, using the all-around skills that are familiar to all who saw her play with the City Island Little League, her team swept the competition to win the championship title.

The next stop was the regional competition in Waretown, New Jersey. The Belles outhit, outran and outfielded each and every team they faced and won the tournament, which was a first for the Pelham Bay Little League organization. Samantha was unstoppable and was rightly and unanimously named Most Valuable Player.

The first tournament for the Belles' 16U team was the Mount Olive (New Jersey) Mid-Summer Madness Tournament. The first game went well, and the Belles won. Unfortunately, the next two games didn't go as well, and the team went into Sunday with a 1-2 record. In order to stay in the tournament, the team needed to win the rest of their games to come out victorious. After a good night's rest, the Belles came out swinging, bunting, running, fielding and cheering, and after winning the first two games that day, they earned themselves a spot in the championship game.

The first inning was tough, The Belles were down 4-0, but not out, and the girls were in good spirits. They scored two runs, and with two runners in scoring position, Kelly hit a rocket for a stand-up double that tied the game. The Belles scored six more runs, which included a couple of hits from

Jillian. One of those was a bunt that Jillian beat out to keep the inning and the scoring going. Eventually, the Belles closed it out and won the championship by a score of 10 to 6.

The 16U Belles then traveled to Queens for the Metro-State Championship games, and they brought with them their bats, their gloves and their speed. Jillian and Kelly both made key plays in the final game. Jillian again beat out a bunt for a single and then she stole second base. Kelly hit two doubles, driving in two runs, which were all the Belles needed to win the championship. The last inning was a repeat of the play that occurred two years ago when Jillian made a fantastic running catch for the last out of the game.

For the regionals, the Belles traveled south to Waretown, New Jersey, and again Jillian and Kelly played their parts. Kelly made multiple hits, including a three-run homer, and Jillian made hits and did a great job behind home plate and in right field. After winning the first two games on Saturday, the girls lost their first game on Sunday but came back with a win in their second game.

In the third game on Sunday, which was win or go home, Kelly came up to bat with two outs and hit what could have been the tying run with a line drive to right center field. Unfortunately, the ball was perfectly played by the center fielder, who made the final out of the game. The Belles finished a respectful third place in the regionals, the best result ever for the 16U Belles.

On Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. at the Belles' home field (Naclerio Field on Westchester Avenue), both teams will be honored and the championship signs will be raised for their assorted wins.

The 16U team is grateful to their manager, Will Cawley, and to coaches Frank Orrico and Bob Carmody for their hours of work and overall support. The girls would also like to thank Joe Agazzi and Carmine Dedonato (FDNY) for their generous donations, which helped to offset the tournament costs. The 14U team is grateful to their manager, Frank Toscano, their coaches, Bob Cavigliano and Andy Sedia, and their trainer/coaches, Danny Vitulli and Chris Abbate, for their hours of coaching and support.

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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

SEPTEMBER 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	0519	8.5	1127	1.6	1738	7.4			Fri 01
02 Sat	0019	1.5	0620	6.4	1229	1.7	1842	7.4	Sat 02
03 Sun	0139	1.4	0737	6.6	1341	1.6	1952	7.6	Sun 03
04 Mon	0306	1.0	0854	7.0	1502	1.2	2104	7.9	Mon 04
05 Tue	0409	0.5	0958	7.6	1615	0.6	2209	8.2	Tue 05
06 Wed	0500	-0.1	1048	8.1	1714	0.0	2305	8.5	Wed 06
07 Thu	0547	-0.5	1135	8.6	1807	-0.6	2356	8.7	Thu 07
08 Fri	0632	-0.8	1221	9.0	1858	-0.9			Fri 08
09 Sat	0646	8.6	0717	-0.8	1908	9.0	1949	-1.0	Sat 09
10 Sun	0136	8.4	0802	-0.7	1956	8.9	2042	-0.9	Sun 10
11 Mon	0228	8.0	0849	-0.3	2045	8.6	2140	-0.6	Mon 11
12 Tue	0325	7.6	0941	0.2	2142	8.2	2244	0.0	Tue 12
13 Wed	0432	7.1	1045	0.7	2242	7.9	2354	0.4	Wed 13
14 Thu	0650	6.8	1202	1.2	2345	7.5			Thu 14
15 Fri	0102	0.7	0703	6.7	1817	1.4	1920	7.4	Fri 15
16 Sat	0207	0.8	0807	6.9	1923	1.4	2033	7.5	Sat 16
17 Sun	0306	0.8	0905	7.1	2022	1.2	2128	7.7	Sun 17
18 Mon	0357	0.7	0955	7.4	2118	0.9	2219	7.9	Mon 18
19 Tue	0443	0.6	1041	7.7	2209	0.7	2303	7.9	Tue 19
20 Wed	0524	0.6	1122	7.8	2240	0.5	2343	7.9	Wed 20
21 Thu	0600	0.6	1158	7.9	2315	0.5			Thu 21
22 Fri	0618	7.8	0829	0.7	1227	7.8	1844	0.4	Fri 22
23 Sat	0646	7.6	0646	0.7	1244	7.8	1902	0.6	Sat 23
24 Sun	0101	7.4	0653	0.8	1255	7.8	1818	0.5	Sun 24
25 Mon	0117	7.3	0717	0.8	1320	7.6	1946	0.5	Mon 25
26 Tue	0146	7.2	0750	0.8	1354	7.9	2022	0.6	Tue 26
27 Wed	0228	7.0	0829	1.0	1433	7.8	2104	0.8	Wed 27
28 Thu	0308	6.9	0914	1.2	1519	7.7	2152	1.0	Thu 28
29 Fri	0355	6.8	1004	1.5	1611	7.6	2248	1.3	Fri 29
30 Sat	0453	6.6	1102	1.8	1710	7.4	2353	1.4	Sat 30

OCTOBER 2006									
DAY	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH:MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sun	0558	6.7	1209	1.7	1817	7.4			Sun 01
02 Mon	0114	1.3	0715	6.9	1331	1.5	1934	7.5	Mon 02
03 Tue	0240	0.9	0832	7.4	1500	0.9	2052	7.7	Tue 03
04 Wed	0342	0.4	0934	8.0	1607	0.2	2157	8.1	Wed 04
05 Thu	0434	-0.1	1025	8.5	1703	-0.4	2252	8.3	Thu 05
06 Fri	0522	-0.5	1113	8.9	1754	-1.0	2342	8.4	Fri 06
07 Sat	0607	-0.7	1158	9.1	1844	-1.2			Sat 07



Summer Summary

We spent a pleasant afternoon with new friends on Terrace Street who introduced us to a different side of City Island, a side that doesn't always conform to island beach-combing as we are accustomed to it—a side of sandbars and sand crabs, of sea weed and seashells that were in many cases brand new to us. The razor clam, for instance, otherwise known as the Atlantic jackknife clam, is a variety of shellfish that we have seen nowhere else around the island but there. The same goes for the bright red seaweed, which may have been a kind of coral. Another find was the discarded shell of a spider crab, a species of crab we haven't seen on City Island for years.

Another species of crab we haven't seen lately but have heard about it is the blue claw. Dom landed one last month accidentally in his spearing net. Hearing of Dom's good fortune, John suggested that he try his luck on the pilings in the water out front of the Harlem Yacht Club. Apparently the Harlem was a hotspot for local blue claw crabbers in the 1950s.

To our knowledge, there has never been a time on City Island when seahorses were "hot"; and we are not prepared to say that they are or will be hot anytime soon. But for the record, at least one seahorse was caught this summer in City Island waters. Ken told us all about it.

No one had to tell us all about the terns. For two weeks or so, a couple of hungry common tern chicks were raising quite a racket on the Bay Street beach float. Hour after hour, the parents of these youngsters

were kept busy diving for food in the bay. This would seem to represent another step forward for the ecology of Long Island Sound: terns, while common enough in the eastern part of Long Island Sound, have been making their presence increasingly known in the west for a number of years now. Sanctuaries for terns, such as the one on Falkner Island off the Connecticut coast, have propped up the population, making it possible for individual families to call our part of the Sound—the extreme western part—home.

The cormorants are another story. The double-crested cormorant has been calling western Long Island Sound home for years and years. These regulars are the "diving ducks" that are often seen spreading their wings in a breeze, vampire-like, to dry off.

On the subject of bird behavior, we have it on good authority that the monk parakeets have been half eating the crabapples again on William Avenue; the squirrels have been eating the pears. Carol tells us that so far her figs have been spared, which is, no doubt, a testament to her vigilance and her husband's, their fig tree having been especially productive this year.

By the way, anyone interested in reading more about monk parakeets, or quakers, as they are sometimes called, should check out www.brooklynparrot.com. The focus there is the birds of Brooklyn, but the information is germane and the photographs outstanding.

And finally, anyone with a City Island sight or sound to share is invited to do so at jdsstrat@msn.com.

Orchard Beach Events

During the month of September, there will be a number of events at Orchard Beach that will interest residents of City Island.

An International Kite Weekend will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. Come and fly a kite at Orchard Beach, taking part in a tradition that has existed for hundreds of years around the world. Free kites while supplies last, but there will be plenty to see as artisans build and fly their own kits.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, at 10 a.m. wildlife manager Dave Kunstler will team up with naturalist Ute Gore for "Asters and Oysters," a search for flowers in bloom in the upland forest of the Hunter Island Sanctuary. Then they will explore the shoreline for oyster beds that are protected by state law. Wear old sneakers and a hat and meet at the canoe/kayak launch in the northwest corner of the parking lot at Orchard Beach.

A classic car show will take place in the parking lot on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., hosted by the East Coast Classic Car Association. Admission will be charged. For information, call 914-557-7575.

ACCIDENTS

Continued from page 1

restrained by the police officers. The tape, which was broadcast the next evening on Channel 7, shows a number of police officers holding Mr. Pritchett down as one of them appears to be striking him. Reporters later interviewed a couple of witnesses, including Mr. Pritchett's fiancée, who claimed that he had been beaten for no reason. Allegations of police brutality, however, were disputed by Island residents who saw the incident.

According to the Bronx District Attorney, Mr. Pritchett was arrested and subsequently charged with three counts of second-degree assault, three counts of third-degree assault, resisting arrest, criminal mischief, two counts of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and leaving the scene of an incident without reporting.

Accident Claims Island Resident

On Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 16, a tragic accident occurred when the driver

of a Boar's Head truck was leaving the Island and, according to reports, lost control on City Island Road because of a blowout. The truck landed on an automobile driven by Paul Hergen, 61, of Carroll Street, who subsequently died as a result of his injuries.

Because the debris spread across all three lanes of the road between the bridge and the traffic circle, causing traffic on both sides of the bridge to wait for nearly two hours until the vehicles were cleared from the scene.

There were also a few minor incidents, including one reported in the Daily News, in which a motorcyclist was apprehended by a police officer for using the fire lane on the bridge and allegedly reacted by trying to run the officer down and threatening pedestrians. Civic Association members have been complaining for months about the noise caused by motorcycles speeding along City Island Avenue, especially late at night after the police have left the Island.

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Obituaries

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Carmelo Rotello and Alice Rotello

Earlier this year, City Island lost two beloved residents, Carmelo Rotello, known as Kenny, and his wife, Alice Rotello. Kenny died on Feb. 14, 2006, at the age of 83 after a long illness, and Alice died on July 4, 2006, at 78.

Born in Manhattan in 1923, Kenny was the second youngest of six children. After attending Commerce High School, he and all of his brothers joined the United States Army to fight in World War II. At one point during the war, the brothers met unexpectedly in a tavern in France. The odds of such an accidental meeting must be staggering; needless to say, the brothers were overjoyed by their reunion.

After the war, Kenny went to Pace University and became an accountant. He got a job at the Borden Milk Company, where he met Alice Ohanian, who also worked in the accounting department. They became engaged and were married in June of 1958. The following year they moved to City Island, where they raised their family and lived in the same house until they died.

Kenny was well known on City Island as treasurer of the Fordham Street Beach Club and as a stalwart member of the American Legion and the City Island Civic Association. With Alice, he was a parishioner of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church. For many years, until he himself became ill, Kenny looked after Alice during periods when her health was poor.

Alice Ohanian Rotello was born in Manhattan in 1928, the younger of two siblings. She grew up in Manhattan and Queens and attended William Cullen Bryant High School and Hunter College. She worked for the Borden Milk Company while she



Photography by Ron Turner
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of becoming a writer. After she and Kenny moved to City Island, Alice qualified to become a New York City teacher and volunteered as a dispatcher for the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps (CIVAC). When her children were in school, Alice began to teach full time at P.S. 17 and later P.S.175. She was known throughout City Island as an amazingly competent teacher and, after her retirement, as a remarkable tutor.

Kenny and Alice are survived by their children: Dr. Leo Rotello and his wife, Lisa, of Rockville, Maryland; Michael Rotello of Miller Place, Long Island; Karen Di Maggio and her husband, Chris, of Liverpool, New York; and five grandchildren, Michael Rotello, Keith Rotello, Briana Rotello, Alexandra Rotello and Nicole DiMaggio. Kenny is survived by three brothers, Ben, Sal and Tom; one sister, Gerry Glass; and three nephews and six nieces. Alice leaves her sister, Rose, and her nephew and his family, who live in Arizona.

Hertha Hermann

Hertha S. Hermann of City Island died on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at Morningside Nursing Home. She was 93.

Hertha was born on July 29, 1912, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Karl and Marie Ederer Spitaler. She was married to the late John Hermann and lived for years on Minneford Avenue.

She worked for 30 years in a prominent New York law firm. After her retirement, she walked a mile every day with her dachshund, despite her loss of sight, and lived out her days as an energetic and intelligent lady.

She is survived by her son, Bruce J. Hermann, of Rock Tavern, New York, and her niece, Diane Morgan, of Boise, Idaho.

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Another fine season of baseball on City Island has passed. Over 100 children participated in our programs. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors, who continue to give generously and keep baseball alive for our young people.

Registration will be held in the winter for next season, dates to be announced. Please register your children early. Each year we are flooded with late registrations, and this makes it difficult for us to plan the season, so please be considerate.

We are looking forward to the renovation at Ambrosini Field. This makeover will be truly beautiful and give us a park for all

City Islanders to enjoy. It will cause a minor hardship, as we will have to relocate for two seasons, but we believe the benefit is well worth it. Many of you may not recall, but having a baseball field on City Island was a pipe dream for many of us when we were young. Hopefully, this project will produce results deserving of the honor of the man whose name it bears.

Most importantly, we must thank the many volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the program going. In this day and age, when most families have two working parents, we appreciate how difficult it is to schedule volunteerism into a busy schedule. To all the coaches and managers, parents and especially the executive board—thank you for your time and hard work.

See you at the winter program!

Larry Saulnier

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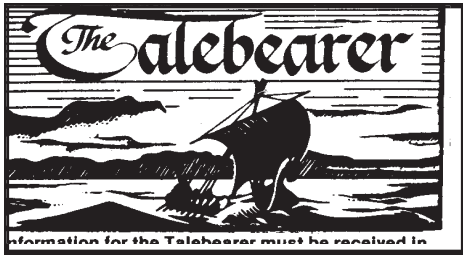
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.

Birthday wishes go out to Chase Bank's Alma Oliva, who will celebrate her big day on Sept. 19.

Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to Zarai Castillo and Salvador Cornejo, who were married at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on July 29, with a reception following at the Lido Restaurant.

Happy 77th birthday on Sept. 9 to Reynolds Street resident Teresa Teto. She recently became a dog owner and plans to celebrate her big day with her "precious sons and grandchildren." The "Brain Trust" wishes Terry a blessed birthday.

Best wishes to Seaman Apprentice Bobby Swieciki, who recently left for his first assignment at Coast Guard Station Cape Cod Canal in Sandwich, Massachusetts.

Belated happy first anniversary to Beth and Matt Rota on July 24. What a year it's been after Katrina. Beth just started as director of choral activities at Loyola University in New Orleans. Matt was recently promoted to director of the Water Resources Program with the Gulf Restoration Network.

Happy birthday to Mike Rauh. You'll see him training for his 29th New York City Marathon.

She keeps on going! Happy 96th birthday to "Aunt Evie" on Sept. 21 with much, much love from your whole family (including 11 great grandchildren). *The Talebearer* is wondering if she is the oldest City Islander still living at home. If you know of others approaching 100 and living on the Island, please let *The Current* know.

Happy 20th birthday to Bay Street's Stephen Swieciki on Sept. 2.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Ben and Virginia DiGregorio, who will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary on Sept. 5.

Happy birthday(s) on Sept. 12 to Bay Street residents Bob Swieciki, Ben DiGregorio and Jean Anderson.

Happy first birthday on Sept. 16 to Jaiden Glick from your mom and dad, Jamie and Joshua Glick, grandma and grandpa Monica and Elliot Glick, your proud aunt Hannah Glick, Great Uncle Bill Yehle and honorary aunt Marion Rosenfeld. Also, belated birthday wishes to Hannah Glick who turned eight on Aug. 24.

Happy birthday on Sept. 28 to Tina Ruggiero with love from your family and friends.

Congratulations to Kelly Carmody and Jillian Lotrionte on winning the Mount Olive (New Jersey) Softball Tournament in July. The girls also won the New York Metro State Championship. In the age 14 and under category, the championship was won by City Islander Samantha Erosa and her team.

Belated happy birthday wishes go out to



Seaman Apprentice Bobby Swieciki.

Winter Street's Cathy Cebek on Aug. 3 and her son Frankie Cebek on Aug. 22. Happy birthday, also, to Frank Cebek on Sept. 21.

Best wishes for a happy retirement to the Post Office's Mary Smith, who worked as a window representative at the City Island branch for many years. City Islanders will miss Mary's cheery attitude and quick smile.

Happy Sept. 4 birthday to Hawkins Street's Diane Carmody, with love from Bob, Kelly and little Bob.

Happy birthday to the Sailmaker's Ann McGuire on Sept. 5, with love from the Swieciki family.

Congratulations to Minneford Avenue's Jack Doyle, who celebrated his 80th birthday with family at Artie's on Aug. 9.

Best wishes to Peter Booth and Laura Cucinello, who were married at St. Benedict's Church on Aug. 11. A reception followed at the Lido.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Marine Street's Ann and Chuck Butterworth, who will celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary on Sept. 11.

Happy 46th wedding anniversary to Minneford Avenue's Cathie and Jack Doyle with love from your family.

Happy anniversary on Sept. 24 to Kim and Willie Strnad, who also share the same birth date.

Happy birthday on Sept. 26 to Dick Eberhart, with love from your family and friends.

Happy retirement to Terry Barnes, who retired from the Post Office after more than 30 years of service. Her friends at the City Island branch wish her the very best.

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Photo by RON TERNER
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