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One Dollar

City Island Fights Fire with Fire

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Islanders and local politicians rallied to protest the announced reduction in City Island's fire coverage. First, residents voiced objections to the removal of Ladder Company 53 on Dec. 15 at a standing-room-only town hall meeting attended by about 300 residents at the Lido Restaurant (above photos). Then on Friday evening, Jan. 9, 2009, at 7 p.m., more than 200 residents gathered at Hawkins Park in the cold and walked peacefully to the City Island firehouse on Schofield Street, accompanied by James Vacca, City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera, Deputy Borough President Earl Brown, Senator Jeffrey Klein, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Kenneth Kearns of Community Board 10 and union officers (above, right and on page 5). Marchers chanted "Save our ladder, our lives matter!" during the candlelight march.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, 2008, the New York Fire Department, in an effort to reduce its budget because of the city's financial crisis, closed Ladder Company 53 on City Island from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. except on nights when there is extra personnel available to staff the ladder. The announcement of this cut was made on Dec. 4, 2008, 45 days before the closing took place.

Town Hall Meeting

Residents of City Island immediately voiced objections to the closure of Ladder Company 53, and on Dec. 15, a standing-room-only town hall meeting attended by about 300 residents was held at the Lido Restaurant. The meeting was led by James Vacca, City Council Member for District 13 in the Bronx, and the City Island Civic Association, supported by Community Board 10, the City Island Chamber of Commerce and elected officials, including State Senator Jeff Klein, Michael Benedetto and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, who lives on City Island.

Representatives of the Fire Department, including Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano and Bronx Chief in Charge James Esposito, spoke briefly and listened

as residents addressed their concerns, but appeared to be unmoved by the statements. Speakers included representatives of the NYC Firefighters Union and the Uniformed Fire Officers Union, Community Board district manager Kenneth Kearns, president-elect of the City Island Civic Association Bill Stanton, retired firefighter Captain Edward Sadler, and many residents.

According to the officials, the nighttime closure of the ladder company was based on the low number of runs made by the City Island ladder, the lowest in the city. Islanders pointed out, however, that this is a misleading statistic, as the Fire Department does not allow the ladder company to leave City Island unless it is covered by a substitute truck.

To statements that City Island is a "low rise" community with very few fires, residents responded by noting that the Island is isolated and difficult to access, with one road on and one road off, and that most structures are wood-frame and close together and include a five-story senior citizen residence, a six-story apartment building, 34 restaurants and many three-story houses, most of them requiring a ladder for



access. There are also five yacht clubs and nine boatyards, with many boats stored on land during the winter whose fires cannot be extinguished by Engine Company 70 alone, as a letter from Mike Rauh noted, using the example of a recent fire at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club.

It was also pointed out that most of the serious fires in the past several years have occurred at night, including the City Island Nautical Museum (in a five story building with 16 condominium apartments) and the Morris Yacht Club. If it had not been for the quick response of the City Island firefighters, both of these fires would have increased to dangerous proportions.

Petitions were signed at the town hall meeting, speakers were on point and emotions ran high, but representatives of the Fire Department for the most part merely

listened and provided no explanations to many of the questions raised. Borough Chief Esposito announced that City Island's engine would be getting an additional firefighter, for a total of five, but residents were still concerned about the fact that a search-and-rescue team would be several minutes away off the Island.

Ironically, Mr. Cassano spoke of the danger in which Nicholas Vrettos, a local firefighter, had recently put the community by calling in a false alarm, but when he was asked what kind of danger City Island would be in without a ladder, he had no answer.

Although the Fire Department officials made no response to the commentary, press coverage was intense and a number of residents were interviewed and appeared

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Jan. 6 Fire Fuels Islander Fears Over Ladder 53 Removal

By KAREN NANI



Photo by ED SADLER

At 3:50 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, a two-alarm fire destroyed the roof and second floor apartments at City Island Avenue and Schofield Street. The fire heightened Islanders' concerns about the city's proposed removal of Ladder Company 53 between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.

Islanders' fears surrounding the evening removal of Ladder 53 intensified with the outbreak of a two-alarm fire on City Island Avenue and Schofield Street on Jan. 6, 2009. The blaze destroyed the entire roof and most of the apartments from 232 to 240 City Island Avenue, in spite of the fact that it took place within view of the City Island firehouse, which responded within a minute of the alarm.

In addition to suffering extensive property damage, three Islanders were transported to Jacobi hospital and treated for smoke inhalation. Tenants reported that

one dog and several cats were killed in the blaze, which appeared to break out in or near the apartment above the former Island Pub at 238 City Island Avenue.

Residents of Schofield Street reported hearing people yelling shortly before 4 a.m. and saw a man running toward the fire house up the block from the blaze. Gary Nielson, who lives across the street, awakened to see flames spewing from the upstairs window at the back of the two-story building. He also noticed a sparking electrical wire hanging dangerously from a

Continued on page 5

BRIEFLY...

WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH: There will be a celebration of Women's History Month on March 29, 2009, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, with an international potluck meal, music, dance, meditation, a short lecture and several other fun activities. For more information, call Susan Bellinson at 718-885-2109.

BLOOD DRIVE: The Bronx Masons will be holding a blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009, between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75 weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security number are required at the time of donation.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: Grace Church, on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street, celebrates "Fat Tuesday" on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. Enjoy an old-fashioned pancake supper before the beginning of Lent. Cost is \$5, payable at the door.

THE CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP will open its 10th anniversary season with the classic romantic comedy "The Rainmaker" by Richard Nash, which will be performed on Feb. 27 and 28, March 5, 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 28 and 29 at 3 p.m. Please note that there is now a Saturday matinee. Call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com to reserve your tickets for this fantastic show.

THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM, now open Saturdays as well as Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m., is featuring two special events during the month of February. On Sunday, Feb. 8, Islander Jerry McCue will present a course in "dry sailing" (that's sailing without a boat) for those who would like to become true Islanders, and on Sunday, Feb. 15, Dick Sadler will give a talk on what it was like being a crew member on Ted Turner's City Island-built yacht Courageous when she successfully defended the America's Cup in 1977. For more information, go to www.cityislandmuseum.org or call 718-885-0507.

FIREFIGHTER ARRESTED FOR FALSE 911 CALL

By KAREN NANI

Islander Nicholas Vrettos, age 30, was arrested on Dec. 10, 2008, on a charge of reporting a false emergency to 911, according to the NYC Department of Investigation (DOI). The call was reportedly placed on Dec. 4, shortly after FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta announced partial night closings of fire units at four firehouses, including Ladder Co. 53 on City Island where Mr. Vrettos works.

The arrest added further drama to the ongoing controversy over the removal of Ladder 53 during evening hours and the battle Islanders are fighting with the city to keep Ladder 53 available around the clock (see story this issue).


According to the arrest report, the defendant allegedly placed a call to 911 at 11:24 a.m. stating that there was a fire in the school cafeteria at P. S. 175 at 200 City Island Avenue, while the school was in session.

Ladder 53 responded to the call and did not find any evidence of a fire.

The FDNY determined the call was a "malicious false alarm," said Rose Gill Hearn, DOI commissioner. The investigation alleges that the call was made from the location of the auto body shop at 138 City Island Avenue that Mr. Vrettos also operates.

"Calling in a false alarm to 911 is not the way to protest a budget cut that prompted a partial closure. It defies belief that anyone, much less a firefighter, would report a nonexistent emergency at a school, as alleged in this case," said Ms. Gill Hearn. Mr. Vrettos has been employed by the FDNY since 2002.

The defendant was charged with falsely reporting an incident in the first degree, a class D felony punishable by up to seven years in prison. He was arraigned on Dec. 11 and pleaded not guilty in Bronx Criminal Court, according to the District Attorney's office. Mr. Vrettos was released on his own recognizance and his next court date is scheduled for Feb. 18, 2009.



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Islander Saved from Drowning

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Early in the morning hours of Wednesday, Dec. 17, an Island resident fell into the icy water of Eastchester Bay, but thanks to the quick response and determination of Pat and Liz Montalbano, who live aboard the schooner *Amulet* at the Island Boat Club, she was saved from drowning with moments to spare.

Pat and Liz were awakened that morning by the sound of someone in the water calling for help, and they sprang into action. Pat pulled on his clothes and jumped into his skiff, got his engine started, and headed over to the dock at Stelter's Boatyard, while Liz called 911. He could not see anything in the dark, but he tied the boat up at an icy dock and got out. He found the victim between two of the floating docks holding onto a bracket but unable to pull herself out.

Liz told the 911 operator that someone

was in the water, gave the address, and was transferred to the City Island firehouse. She explained the situation again, got dressed and ran from the Island Boat Club to the gate leading into Stelter's. By the time she got there, a police cruiser pulled up, along with the ladder company. The police remained in their automobile, as Liz convinced the firefighters to cut the lock on the gate and make their way to the dock, where they found Pat holding the victim, who was still in the freezing water.

The ladder company team managed to get the victim onto the dock. She was transferred to Jacobi Medical Center, where she was treated for hypothermia.

The press was quick to respond to the incident and to praise the firefighters for their part in the rescue, but it seems clear that Pat and Liz Montalbano are the real heroes of this near-tragic story.

NAUTICAL MUSEUM OPEN AGAIN

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by RICK DEWIT

Museum trustees (l. to r.) Tom Nye, Jorge Santiago, Russell Schaller, Jane Protzman, Barbara Hoffman, Ed Sadler, Jeanne Pezone, Barbara Dolensek, Evyonne Baker and Julia Gleeson are joined by contractor Georg Grap of United Homesteads and the Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander at the rededication of the City Island Nautical Museum on Dec. 14, 2008.



Treasurer Carol Stewart, volunteer Peter Klopfer, President Ed Sadler, and members Lorraine and Ducky Rauhauser enjoy some of the refreshments along with memories of City Island's past at the reopening of the Nautical Museum on Dec. 14, 2008.



Curator Tom Nye puts a finishing touch on the sign outside the Nautical Museum.

The City Island Nautical Museum reopened to the public on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008, with an open house attended by nearly 150 people. The museum, which is operated by the City Island Historical Society, had been closed for a year and a half, following a disastrous fire on July 13, 2007, which destroyed the front of the building. The portico is now beautifully restored, much to the delight of Island residents, and holiday spirit filled the museum as the Rev. Patricia Phaneuf Alexander held a rededication ceremony and visitors admired the photographic exhibits and new installations in the Community Room and the Principal's Office.

As of January, the Nautical Museum is open to the public every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. as well as on Sundays, with a docent who will guide visitors through the collection. Visits at other times may be arranged by special appointment by calling 718-885-0507.

The museum's new look was made possible largely by insurance funds but also through the generosity of many Islanders, including the students of P.S. 175, which in 1976 replaced the P.S. 17 building in which

the museum is now housed. The structure is on the National Register of Historic Places, and it was necessary for the restoration of the portico to be done as sensitively as possible. Thanks to a grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the owner of the building, Nautical Winds Condominium, was able to hire the award-winning restoration architect Kaitzen Woo. The contractor, United Homesteads, built the portico and also restored the interior, parts of which were seriously damaged by smoke and water.

The museum has also recently begun to refurbish its Web site, www.cityislandmuseum.org, which provides an on-line opportunity to sample the museum's collection of nautical artifacts, photographs and information about City Island and its yacht-building history.

The docent program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and by the Bronx Council on the Arts through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund Reigrants Program, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council. The Community Room exhibit and the photograph program are also funded in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The School Room, which has been closed for about three years, will reopen by spring and will be dedicated to the fourth grade of P.S. 175, with a special presentation for the current fifth grade, which raised a considerable sum for the museum after the fire.

The museum is planning several other events for the coming months, including a "dry sailing" course on Feb. 8, and Sunday afternoon "conversations with clamdiggers" during the month of March. Information about these programs will be available on the museum's Web site or by calling 718-885-0507.

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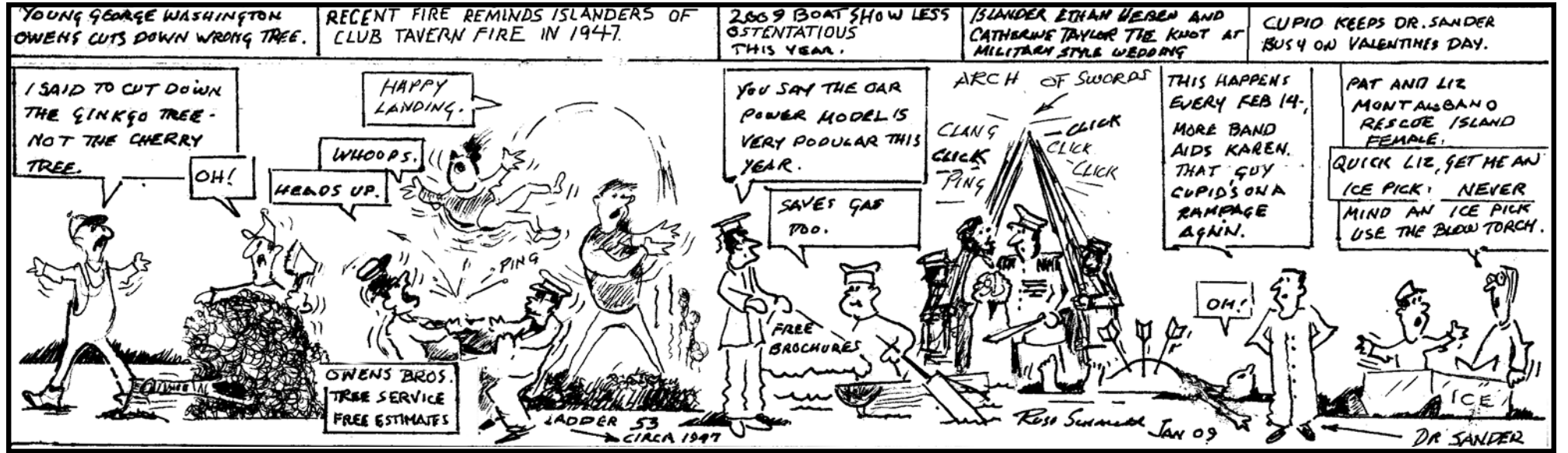
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Re: Ladder Company 53, City Island, Bronx, NY

A copy of the following letter dated Dec. 11, 2008, was received by The Current.

To: Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, N.Y. 10007

I am writing in regard to the Fire Department's decision to close Ladder Company 53 on City Island between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m., beginning Jan. 17.

The residents and merchants of City Island fear this service cut will erode fire protection in their community, placing their lives and property in jeopardy. Several fire officials with knowledge of City Island have also told me this cut would place lives in danger, which leads me to believe that this proposal was crafted without a full understanding of City Island's unique geography and without consideration for its role as a citywide destination for boating, dining, and tourism in general.

On Monday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m., I am hosting a Town Hall meeting in concert with Bronx Community Board 10, the City Island Civic Association, and the City Island Chamber of Commerce at Grace Episcopal Church [later: the Lido Restaurant] on Pilot Street and City Island Avenue, to discuss this issue. The FDNY has agreed to send a representative, but I would also like to share with you my community's objections to this measure as well as some of the questions we feel remain to be answered.

Our Objections

In recommending the closure of Ladder 53, the FDNY's main argument has been the claim that this ladder company is the least used in the city. That may be true, but our objections are not based on usage; they are based on access and the amount of time it would take for the next-closest ladder company to respond to an emergency on City Island.

This is especially important because Ladder 53 currently performs all search-and-rescue operations on City Island, while Engine 70 focuses on extinguishing fires. Engine 70 is not properly equipped to perform both operations simultaneously, meaning that under the FDNY's plan, members of Engine 70 would need to wait upwards of 10 minutes before being able to enter a building and search for victims, time that could very well prove the difference between life and death.

Several locally specific factors also contribute to the community's concern over this plan:

City Island is among the most geographically isolated communities in the city. After Ladder 53, the nearest truck company is four miles away and separated by a frequently congested highway, a winding set of two-lane roads, and the busiest drawbridge in the city, which, on average, opens eight times a day. In the summer, roads surrounding City Island can be backed up for over a mile, due to the popularity of both Orchard Beach and City Island; this congestion continues well into the evening hours. City Island has its own engine and ladder companies precisely because the absence of on-site fire protection could easily mean the absence of fire protection altogether.

City Island houses many structures that pose a unique fire risk. City Island is home to hundreds of century-old, wood-frame homes; 34 large restaurants serving tens of thousands of patrons weekly; over half a dozen marinas and yacht clubs storing highly flammable materials; and a four-story, 131-unit senior citizen residence known as Pilot Cove Manor. We feel the local susceptibility to a large fire heightens the need for a ladder company with rapid, direct access to all corners of the Island.

City Island has recently experienced fires that required rapid response from a ladder company. Ladder 53's closure is based on low usage, yet when the ladder has been called into action, its proximity has been pivotal. In just the past three years, City Island has seen major fires at a local pizzeria and pub, a landmark schoolhouse-turned-museum and condominium, and an historic mansion yacht club. In each of these instances, the absence of a ladder company within minutes of the initial alarm could have meant the difference between contained, rapidly extinguished fires, and uncontrollable blazes that could have spread to adjacent properties and endangered more lives.

City Island has limited ambulance service, meaning that Engine 70 responds to many medical emergencies. To reassure fearful City Island residents, the FDNY notes that Engine 70 will remain available at all times. Yet because of City Island's isolation, Engine 70 must often respond to medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrests and traffic accidents. In the event that a major fire were to strike at the same time Engine 70 were deployed elsewhere on the Island, the FDNY's initial response time to that fire could be 10 minutes or longer, well above the citywide target and surely, enough time for a small fire to engulf a wood structure and begin to spread to neighboring homes.

Town Hall Questions

To gain a better understanding of the FDNY's rationale for closing Ladder 53, I have asked Commissioner Scoppetta to provide the following information in time for our Town Hall meeting, either in writing or through his representative:

1. Please provide any studies the FDNY has conducted to determine how long it would take Ladder 61 of Co-op City and Ladder 50 of Throgs Neck to reach City Is-

land at various times between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. Please include estimates that take into account delays caused by the opening of the Pelham Bridge or the summertime traffic backups associated with tourism at Orchard Beach and City Island.

2. Does the FDNY have a contingency plan should a bridge opening or traffic snarl prevent an outside ladder company from responding to a major fire on City Island? Our understanding is that Engine 70 does not have adequate equipment to conduct firefighting and search-and-rescue operations simultaneously. Which operation would FDNY protocol instruct the engine company to complete first?

3. The FDNY cost-cutting plan presented to the City Council last month called for the nighttime closure of "five engine companies in firehouses where ladder companies will remain fully staffed," indicating that ladder companies would not be affected. What influenced the decision to instead close three engine companies and one ladder company? Which two engine companies were spared the ax and why?

4. FDNY officials have justified the closure of Ladder 53 by citing its low number of runs, yet a notification letter sent to my office on December 4 cites the three main criteria for determining which firehouses to close: "projected post-closing response time to the company's first-due alarm boxes; the number of occupied structural fires the company worked; and projected post-closing response time to the company's second-due alarm boxes." Please provide data explaining how Ladder 53 compares to the next 20 least-used engine and ladder companies in relation to the above criteria.

5. When comparing companies' total runs, does the FDNY give any consideration to the fact that Ladder 53 is prohibited from responding to fires outside of its coverage area, a category that can represent up to 20 percent of total runs for some houses?

In closing, I want to say that I understand these cuts are being proposed with the best intentions. Yet I also feel the FDNY has overlooked important details about the role Ladder 53 plays on City Island. Our city is facing perilous times, but I know you would agree that our budget is nowhere near the point where we are forced to place lives in danger.

History shows that while the FDNY has recommended Ladder 53 for closure several times in the past, most recently during the fiscal crisis of the 1970s, it reversed its position each time after closer examination of the facts on the ground. I am asking you to take the same course now, and I hope that the information above will help you do so.

Thank you for your time, and please do not hesitate to call me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

**James Vacca, Council Member,
13th District, Bronx**

Protesting the Firehouse Cut

To the Editor:

On Dec. 15, I was one of more than 300 City Island residents who crammed into the Lido catering hall to voice our grave concerns to high-ranking Fire Department officials over the cutting of the Island's lad-

der company during the evenings and overnights, a total of 15 out of 24 hours day.

Dozens of residents, along with elected officials or their representatives, experienced firefighters and their union representatives made one good argument after another about why removing the ladder company from the most isolated community in the city for nearly two thirds of the day would be a catastrophe waiting to happen.

Some of the valid arguments offered included the past history of devastating fires on the Island, the heavy traffic to the island during the warm weather months, the nearly constant opening of drawbridges on the roads leading the Island, the fact that an estimated 10-minute response time from the nearest ladder company in Co-op City is a best-case scenario (the actual response time can and likely will be much more), and the preponderance of restaurants and boatyards here, both traditionally a source of major fires.

The response to these arguments by the three high-ranking FDNY officials, including the Chief of Operations, was silence. Even as the gathering begged for answers and some reassurance, none came.

These are men whose basic knowledge of their profession is that the most important factor in preventing any fire from becoming a catastrophic loss of life and property is the time it takes the first companies to arrive. A 10-minute response time from the nearest ladder company is death and disaster waiting to happen, and they know it, yet they choose to say nothing.

There is only one thing clear in this whole sad fiasco. There will be a major structural fire on this Island. Whether it occurs next week, next month, next year or later, it is inevitable. And if the nearest ladder company is more than 10 minutes away, that fire will likely result in widespread destruction, injury and quite possibly death. The blood of those victims, whoever they might turn out to be, will be on the hands of our arrogant Mayor and his lackey FDNY fire brass.

Bill Stuttig

More Ladder Co. Concerns

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

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

Bronx Community Board 10 is writing to urge your office to rescind the decision to close Ladder Company #53 on City Island, during the nighttime hours from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m.

The Board understands that the FDNY plans to staff Ladder Company 53 with firefighters from other units when those units experience a surplus of staff, and only when there is a surplus. This will result in Ladder 53 being staffed on a sporadic basis during the overnight hours. Staffing of this nature for an island community is simply not sufficient.

Recently, City Island suffered a major structural fire and Ladder Company 53 responded and successfully extinguished it.



James Vacca (center) chants along with protest marchers.

Photo by RICK DeWITT

occurred at the same time. Furthermore, the decision does not seem to take into account the real possibility that in the event of a fire on City Island at night, off-Island companies may be busy at fires on the mainland.

Some residents fear that the next step will be the complete closing of the firehouse, and they are mounting a major letter-writing campaign addressed to Mayor Bloomberg, who could reverse the Fire Department's decision and who hopes to be reelected to his third term in the fall.



Photos by RICK DeWITT AND HELEN VAUGHAN

The devastating damage became clearly visible with daybreak.



In an outpouring of support for those left homeless by the blaze, 150 residents and guests attended a fund-raising "Fire Shower" at the Breakers on Jan. 16 to help those who lost their apartments and possessions during the blaze, including Charlie and Hank Boudreau, Peter Coyle and Mary Henry.

Jan. 6 Fire

Continued from page 1

pole near the blaze.

The truck and ladder from the City Island firehouse responded quickly after being alerted to the fire by the resident knocking on the door. However, according to Mr. Nielson and other witnesses, it took 20 to 25 minutes for the off-Island fire companies to arrive at the scene. By that time, the entire side of the second story was in flames. "It spread very fast," one shaken eyewitness told *The Current*.

A total of 25 units and 106 firefighters eventually responded to the scene, according to the FDNY. The blaze was contained by 6 a.m., but not before the roof and most of the second story of the 75 by 30 foot structure were destroyed. Thankfully, no major injuries occurred and the fire did not spread to other buildings on Schofield Street. Hank and Charlie Boudreau, who live at 234 and 236 City Island Avenue, were awakened by the smoke alarm in their apartments. They rushed to get the other tenants out, according to their sister, Helen D'Addario, who was at the scene. Hank was treated for smoke inhalation at Jacobi and returned to City Island about 10 a.m.

Following an investigation by marshals at the scene, the fire was deemed "electrical in nature, caused by an overloaded power strip," an FDNY spokesperson told *The Current*. He added that the fire was not considered suspicious.

The fire occurred as the deadline of Jan. 17 approached for removal of Ladder 53 from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. (see story this issue). "Thank God this didn't happen two weeks from now," Fred Ramftl of the City Island Civic Association said, echoing the concerns of many Islanders over the reduction in coverage. Under the new schedule, only Fire Engine 70 would have been initially available at 4 a.m. to fight the fire. Given that firefighters high in the Ladder 53 basket were fighting the flames on the roof of the two-story structure (see photo), this seemed to validate residents' concerns.

The city maintains that coverage will be adequate by leaving one fire truck (Engine

70) and utilizing off-Island companies. According to the FDNY, response time to this latest blaze was eight minutes by off-Island companies from Throggs Neck and Co-op City. Residents of Schofield Street told *The Current* that it took longer—at least 20 minutes before additional trucks arrived.

When asked about the discrepancy, FDNY officials stood by the eight-minute response time and said, "it may seem longer to someone watching the fire burn."

In addition to the damage to the apartments, the one operating business in the structure, the Island Deli, suffered water damage. Longtime owner Moe Sel was not allowed back into his store during the morning on Jan. 6. "I hope I can move to another location on City Island and reopen for business," he told *The Current*. He was working with an insurance adjuster, who told him that it usually takes one to two months to get assistance.

The other business, the Island Pub, was closed in October 2006, following a nine-month investigation into drug dealing at the pub. Although the pub's sign was still in place at the time of the blaze, it never reopened after October 2006 and has been condemned by the Department of Buildings for structural reasons.

As this close-knit community is known to do in such instances, City Islanders quickly responded to the tragedy with support for the residents who lost their homes and possessions. E-mails and calls went out quickly asking for clothing and donations. According to Islander Helen Vaughan, an overwhelming amount of men's and women's clothing had been collected by Saturday, Jan. 10, exceeding the storage space available.

A "Fire Shower" was then organized by Ms. Vaughan, Gigi Lyons and Diane Pena for Mary Henry and other residents whose apartments were destroyed. The evening event was held at the Breakers on City Island Avenue on Friday, Jan. 16. Generous Islanders donated \$2,000 and brought household gifts to replace the sheets, towels and furnishings lost in the fire. They thanked everyone repeatedly for their help and continued support.

representative of the Borough President. Nevertheless, all of the Council Members present, especially Mr. Vacca, were adamant in their support of City Island and made many good arguments why the ladder company should remain open at night.

Mr. Scoppetta explained that he had been obligated to make cuts by the Office of Management and Budget, which called for every city agency to make the same percentage of across-the-board budget cuts. Council Member Tony Avella of Queens told Mr. Scoppetta in no uncertain terms that his responsibility as commissioner of the Fire Department called for him to refuse to make cuts that affected the safety of city residents and should resign his post if he were forced to do so.

Mr. Scoppetta, who has served the city for over 40 years as an administrator, is not a trained firefighter, and he turned to Mr. Cassano, his Chief of Operations, to answer a number of technical questions relating to response time, the relative functions of engine and ladder companies and other issues. He acknowledged, however, that Fire Department regulations call for City Island's ladder company to be covered by an off-Island ladder should it leave the island for training or another purpose. He also acknowledged that the nighttime closure of Ladder Company 53 would double the ladder response time from less than 5 minutes to 9 minutes and 50 seconds. This response time is based on a situation in which there is no traffic and when the Pelham drawbridge is down (it averaged 8 times a day in 1998, the last time drawbridge use was monitored).

After Mr. Scoppetta left the hearing, union representatives showed a film demonstrating that a small fire can spread destructively within less than five minutes if not appropriately controlled, an argument supported by the Fire Administration of the Department of Homeland Security.

Ladder Company Closed

As of Saturday, Jan. 17, the ladder company was closed, as the Fire Department had threatened. The ladder company did function on Jan. 18 and 19, because available extra personnel clocked in, but it was closed again on Jan. 20, although the information sent to city officials was not consistent, indicating that this process may not be completely reliable. Commissioner Scoppetta made clear at the Council hearing that the extra personnel would eventually be reduced in numbers through attrition and that no new firefighters would be hired until fiscal year 2011. Therefore, unless the decision is reversed, it will not be long before City Island's ladder company will remain permanently closed at night.

It seems clear, even to the Fire Department, that the City Island engine company loses much of its effectiveness without the ladder company doing search and rescue immediately after a call, and that its role as a first responder to emergency medical situations would be compromised if two crises

Ladder Company

Continued from page 1

on local news programs later in the evening and during the following day.

Candlelight March to the Firehouse

Two incidents occurred after the Fire Department's announcement, including a near-drowning on Dec. 17 (see story, page 3) and a two-alarm fire on Jan. 6 (see story, page 1). Both incidents demonstrated that quick response time is essential for the saving of lives and the control of fires. Nevertheless, the Fire Department continued to refuse to back away from its decision.

On Friday evening, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., more than 200 residents gathered at Hawkins Park in the cold and walked peacefully to the City Island firehouse on Schofield Street, accompanied by James Vacca, City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera, Deputy Borough President Earl Brown, Senator Klein, Assemblyman Benedetto, Mr. Kearns, and union officers. Organized by the Civic Association and supervised by the 45th precinct, the march attracted a vocal group of Islanders who carried flashlights and candles and made their feelings clear about the Fire Department's refusal to hear their demands for equal rights to protection from loss of life and property as taxpaying citizens of New York City.

City Council Public Hearing

Because the Fire Department continued to ignore the public outcry of Island residents, U. S. Representative Joseph Crowley, who had written a special plea to the mayor, organized with Council Member Vacca a special meeting with Deputy Mayor Kevin Sheekey to discuss the matter. It was in the days after that meeting that the Fire Department offered to allow Ladder Company 53 to remain open if surplus firefighters were available, a matter to be determined on a daily basis.

The New York Times headlined this offer as a "reprieve for City Island," but Mr. Vacca made it very clear that it was no such thing and that this compromise was not acceptable to the residents of City Island.

This point, and many others, were made at a Public Hearing of the Fire and Criminal Justice Services on Friday, Jan. 16. Fourteen City Island residents braved the extreme cold to attend the hearing, although the Fire Commissioner left the room before hearing their testimony or that of the Community Board district manager and a repre-

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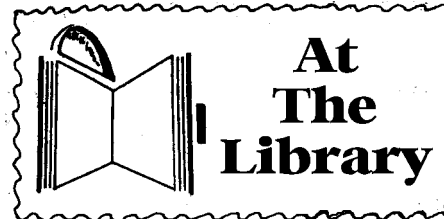
If you have a new business, or if your old business is offering a new service, write to *The Current*, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464 by the 10th of the month.

The February exhibition at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue; 718-885-1403; www.focalpointgallery.com) will be a "Women's Art Exhibition" with paintings, drawings, mixed media and sculpture by Cheryl Brinker, Marian Doherty, Nahiya Goldstein, E.B. Kierney, Jennifer Kinford, Francine Marino, Maggie Myers, Noemi Santana, Irina Smirnoff and Lois Weingarten. The show will open with a reception on Friday, Feb. 6, from 7 to 10 p.m. and will be on view until Feb. 28. At the reception Pamela Sklar—Colorful Flute will offer music for solo flute by various composers, including Alan Hovhaness, C.P.E. Bach, Sergei Prokofiev and others; see www.pamelasklar.com.

Welcome to the new owners of **Bay Rose Nail Spa**, located at 329 City Island Avenue at the corner of Bay Street. Open seven days a week, this full service spa offers silk, acrylic, UV Gel, waxing and chair massage. To welcome you, they are offering a special Spa Pedicure for \$35 (see coupon in their ad). This special is from January to March 25, 2009, only. Manicures and pedicures have a special price of \$23, Monday to Wednesday only. Call 718-885-1970 or stop in and meet Amy and the staff.

There's a lot to love in music and art at **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue) this February, starting with a celebration on the first full weekend of the month. The Starving Artist himself, Elliott Glick, takes the stage on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 8:30 p.m. to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the coffee-house phase of the Starving Artist, with the addition of music to the

menu. Friday, Feb. 6, sees the debut of singer-songwriter Joe Iadanza at 8 p.m. And on Sunday, Feb. 8, the acoustic group Thieves and Poets takes the stage, starting at 3 p.m. Valentine's "Love" Weekend will include a special menu on the big day, Saturday, Feb. 14, along with music fit for the occasion that day and the Friday before; check the Web site for specifics (www.starvingartistonline.com). On Sunday, Feb. 15, at 3 p.m. City Island's Skip Giacco (Lickety Split) presents an "afternoon of standards," accompanied by Frank Pusani. On Friday, Feb. 20, at 8 p.m., another singer-songwriter makes his debut, Pete Sinjin. That Sunday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m., it's the City Island Jazz Quartet led by the Island's own Roger Scala and featuring the "jazz man," Lou Volpe. Stop by the Artist to find out details of our Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 24, starting at 7:30 p.m. The month ends with our last-Friday-of-the-month "Take the Stage" Open Mike Night; songwriters / comics / poets / actors are welcome, as are those who want to just come and watch. And then on Saturday, Feb. 28, the acoustic jazz duo of Brian Conigliaro and Gus Wieland, Two Guitars, are with us, starting at 8 p.m. Fill in more for the month—and beyond—at our Web site.



Adult Programs

Basic Computer Instruction: Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Book Groups: People are invited to join our book discussion group. The next book is entitled "Girlbomb." Last week in February (date and time to be posted).

Children's Activities

Picture Book Program: Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Ages 5 to 11.

Arts and Crafts for Valentine's Day: Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 3:30 p.m.

Baby Story Program: Thursday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. Ages birth to 18 months.

Songs from the Old School: A special concert for children featuring original and traditional songs. Monday, Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m.

Toddler and pre-school programs: To be announced.

Young Adult Activities

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

Teen Time: Game On, every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

For information about any of the programs above, call the City Island branch at 718-885-1703.

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Islander Joanne Brogan on the flight deck of *Intrepid*.

Imagine being a part of a group hosting more than 25,000 visitors during your first week of work, a crowd that included President and Mrs. Bush, Bill and Hillary Clinton, two astronauts and thousands of veterans and current members of the military.

It could only have happened at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City during the first week of November 2008.

City Island resident Joanne Brogan began working at the Intrepid Museum just five days before its grand reopening after a \$120 million overhaul of the *U.S.S. Intrepid* aircraft carrier and of Pier 86, where it is docked.

Ms. Brogan, as the new Director of Grant Management and Administration, joined an incredible team that moved mountains to renovate a world-class museum during the two years the ship was in dry dock.

The *U.S.S. Intrepid* was built in 1943. She and her crew have a distinguished history of service, including tours of duty in both World War II and Vietnam, making seven trips around the globe and surviving five kamikaze attacks and one torpedo strike. The ship then served as NASA's prime recovery vessel.

Intrepid was decommissioned on March 15, 1974, and began a new mission: honoring our heroes, educating the public and inspiring our youth. New York City developer and philanthropist Zachary Fisher spearheaded a campaign to save *Intrepid* from the scrap yard, and the ship opened as a museum in 1982.

In 1986 *Intrepid* was designated a National Historical Landmark. It served as the temporary headquarters for the FBI during the Sept. 11, 2001, attack investigations and for weeks thereafter.

The Intrepid Museum now has on display 30 authentically restored aircraft, a British Airways Concorde, the *Growler* submarine, a wonderful interactive education hall named the Exploreum, flight simu-

lators, the anchor chain room and fo'c's'le, or fore-castle (pronounced folk-sell), all on a beautiful parklike pier. The museum is a great reason to come to New York City for a visit.

But that is not all that the Intrepid Museum is about. It is also part of the Intrepid Family of Foundations, which care for members of today's military. These foundations have built 42 Fisher Houses on 18 military installations and 12 Veterans' Administration medical centers, where families of patients who are receiving treatment can stay free of charge. The foundations also help the families travel to the facilities with airline miles that have been donated for that purpose.

The principal project of the Intrepid Relief Fund is "Operation Mend," a unique initiative that provides returning service members with some of the country's best plastic and reconstructive surgery. This care is provided at no cost by leading plastic surgeons, and the fund provides the soldiers transportation and lodging costs.

The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund will design and build the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, an advanced facility dedicated to research, diagnosis and treatment of military personnel and veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury and psychological health issues.

On Veteran's Day, the day former President Bush visited, he spent nearly two additional hours visiting privately with members of our nation's fallen heroes. No staff. No media. He heard first hand how the Intrepid family of foundations is providing much-needed help to our wounded and deceased service personnel. He and Mrs. Bush were extremely impressed and asked to come back and get more involved in the efforts of the Intrepid foundations.

This was not just another week of work on a new job. It was an incredible experience that Joanne Brogan will remember for the rest of her life.

City Island Marathon Runners

By JUDY RAUH



Photo by JUDY RAUH

City Island's Marathon Team

The 2008 ING New York City Marathon drew a record field of more than 39,000 runners for the annual five-borough race on Nov. 2, 2008. Marilson Gomez Dos Santos of Brazil completed the 26.2 miles in 2 hours 8 minutes 43 seconds. Paula Radcliffe of Great Britain repeated her New York City title in 2:23:56.

Pictured here are the City Island marathoners: (left to right) Dave Kos, Marje Kos, Charlie Morales and Mike Rauh holding coffee mugs from Mike's collection. Mike completed his 31st consecutive New York City Marathon in 4:55:14. This was Charlie's 11th New York City Marathon, and he crossed the finish in 4:49:07.

Once again, Marje and Dave were part of the ham radio team, this time at the 25-mile mark. In the past, they have both competed in the ING New York City Marathon, as well as several marathons in other states.

Not pictured is Earley Street's Lauren Nye, who competed in the Hairy Gorilla Half Marathon in Albany on Oct. 26. She finished her first half-marathon in 2:12:32. Lauren is a senior at the University of Albany. You can bet we'll see her in next year's New York marathon.

On Oct. 30, Mike emceed the "Run With Champions" race in Central Park. Sponsored

by the New York Road Runners Foundation, the event included a 400-meter race for the very youngest "Mighty Milers" and a one-mile run for the older kids. After the races, Mike hosted a question-and-answer session in which the children handed Mike their written questions, and he elicited answers from a group of elite runners.

These runners included the eventual men's marathon winner, Marilson Dos Santos; the #1 wheelchair competitor in the world, Kurt Fearnley, who also won on Nov. 2; and a number of other leading runners. The biggest-name celebrity runner at the event was Grete Waitz, nine-time winner of the New York City Marathon. New York Road Runners honored the 30th anniversary of her first win in 1978 by inscribing on this year's finisher medals "Grete Waitz: the greatest champion in NYC Marathon history."

Cablevision's Bronx 12 filmed part of the "Run With Champions," and then interviewed Mike as a 30-time New York City Marathon competitor. The reporter took note of Mike's retirement career as a track and field announcer and also mentioned his service as a Vietnam veteran. This clip was shown several times on Oct. 30 and 31 as part of Bronx 12's sports coverage.

ISLAND VOTES: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

By KAREN NANI

With the inaugural festivities and speeches still fresh in our minds, the Board of Elections recently reported the results for City Island in the November 2008 election.

The majority of Island residents voted to return some familiar faces to local government, as they joined with the rest of the country to put some new faces in Washington D.C.

Among the 2,543 registered voters on City Island, 1,870 cast ballots, representing voter turnout of about 74 percent.

Although the national race for presi-

dent received the most attention from Island voters, interest was also shown in the local contests for New York State Assembly and Senate. In addition, there was one ballot proposal in relation to additional civil service credit for members of the armed forces of the United States.

The following table indicates the tallies for Election Districts 60, 61, 62 and 63, based on the City Island vote total from the Democrat, Republican, Conservative, Independence and Working Families party lines.

Race/Candidate	# C.I. Votes	%
President/Vice-President		
Obama/Biden	1026	55%
McCain/Palin	825	44
Nader/Gonzalez	19	1
National winner: Barack Obama/Joe Biden		
New York State Senate		
Jeffrey Klein	1271	74%
Daniel Fasolino	450	26
State winner: Jeffrey Klein		
New York State Assembly		
Michael Benedetto	1089	68%
Raymond Capone	515	32
State winner: Michael Benedetto		
Ballot Proposal		
Yes	154	66%
No	80	34
State result: Ballot passed		

Islanders were relieved that lines were shorter at P.S. 175, the polling site for all residents, than elsewhere in the city



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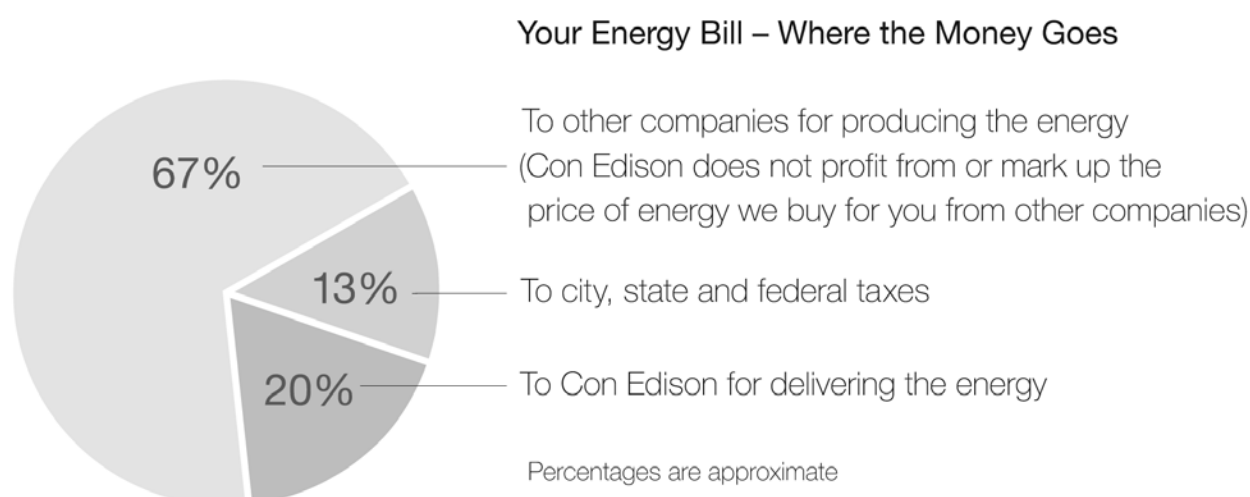
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- Open curtains and let the sun warm rooms; close them at night to keep heat in.
- Close doors and warm-air vents in unused rooms.
- For more energy tips, visit www.conEd.com. Also learn more about conservation and how to get assistance with energy efficient improvements at www.getenergysmart.org (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority – NYSERDA).

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- Call **1-800-75-CONED** if you're having trouble paying your energy bill.
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- **Never** extinguish a pilot light. It could lead to a dangerous gas leak.
- Report any gas leaks immediately to Con Edison at **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)**.





Bartow-Pell February Events

The month of February starts in the spirit of Valentine's Day! On Saturday, Feb. 7, stop by the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to make your own Victorian Valentine. Give one to your beloved or even keep one for yourself. With the beautiful, romantic l'Orangerie as your backdrop and music to set the mood, you'll be inspired to spread the love! Find out why we celebrate Valentine's Day and where the tradition originated. Light refreshments available. Appropriate for ages 3 and up. Fee: \$5 per person, including children ages 3 and up. Registration requested: 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org.

Later in the month learn about the infamous Robert Moses during a presentation on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. on Robert Moses and Pelham Bay Park. Many know that Moses left an indelible mark on New York City, including the creation of Orchard Beach. Bartow-Pell Mansion's tour guide Tom Vasti and volunteer docent Doug Hearle will do a lecture/presentation on how Robert Moses affected the Bartow-Pell historic site through demolitions and buildings in the surrounding areas of Pelham Bay Park. Mr. Hearle was fortunate to be able to interview Moses in the early 1960s and will share his insight from this interview. Appropriate for ages 14 and up. Free with ad-

mission to the museum: \$5 per adult; \$3 for seniors and students. Children under 6 free. Registration requested: 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org.

At the end of February Bartow-Pell begins its annual Winter Lecture Series with the first of three talks. This year's lecture series is focused on important women in American history. The first in this series will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. and discusses Sojourner Truth: "A Geography of Slavery and Freedom: Isabella Van Wageningen (Sojourner Truth) and Her Family." Dr. Myra B. Young Armstead, professor of history at Bard College, will examine Sojourner Truth's experiences between 1797 and 1843 through four kinds of spaces that were important in her life and ideas: religious space, work space, residential space, and legal space. The lecture will be followed by light refreshments. The fee for the program is \$23 per person, \$60 for all three dates, and \$45 for members for all three dates. Please register at 718-885-1461 or info@bpmm.org.

These "Speakers in the Humanities" events are made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Lectures are free; the charge is for refreshments.

SCENES FROM THE SEASON



Photos by BOB BERENT, VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT and CAROL FITZPATRICK
The "Seasons Greetings" lights were still welcoming visitors at the beginning of City Island Avenue as this issue went to press, so why not reminisce with some holiday scenes from Christmas and Hanukkah 2008? The City Island Girl Scouts led off with a Christmas recital on Saturday, Dec. 13 (top photo). The menorah was lit on Dec. 21 by members of Temple Beth El and Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, while Santa visited Lickety Split on Dec. 20 (middle photos). At St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, singers led by organist Ken Farnum awed listeners at the Carols Concert on Dec. 21 (bottom photo) and children presented their pageants at Trinity Methodist and Grace Episcopal churches (top left photos). Even the decorated Christmas tree in Hawkins Park lingered as a warm memory from the season past.



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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

FEBRUARY

Tues., Feb. 10, **Blood Drive**, 4 to 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street.

Tues. Feb. 17 to Fri., Feb. 27, **Pre-K through 8 Registration**, St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, 580 Minneford Avenue (see *School News*).

Tues., February 24, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Grace Episcopal Church, 6 to 8 p.m.

Tues., Feb. 24, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Sat., Feb. 28, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: beef stew.

MARCH

Sat., March 28, **Temple Beth-El Anniversary Dinner Dance**, Lido Restaurant.

Grace Episcopal Church

Weekly worship schedule: Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour and Bible study; this class gives participants a "preview of coming attractions" by looking at the Gospel passage appointed for the following Sunday. Come and see! We also offer Evening Prayer in the church every Monday at 7 p.m., and Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. For more information about Grace, please call the Parish Office at 718-885-1080, or visit our Web site, www.gracecityisland.org.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during February:

Sunday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m.: "The Souper Bowl of Caring." The children of our Church School are fighting hunger locally, and you can help! Our youth will be collecting financial donations on Super Bowl Sunday to help our neighbors in need. Please join us, and please give generously!

Sunday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School. All school-age children are invited to participate.

Sunday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School.

Sunday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m.: Children's Church School.

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 6 to 8 p.m.: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Come join us as we celebrate "Fat Tuesday" and enjoy an old-fashioned pancake supper before the beginning of Lent. Cost is \$5, payable at the door.

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.: Ash Wednesday—Services of Holy Eucharist, Rite I, and the Imposition of Ashes.

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Temple Beth-El

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

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

On Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. our rabbinic intern, Molly Karp, leads a Kabbalat Shabbat service, with song and dance. She also conducts a seminar and our Tu B'Shevat Seder this month.

First, "How Judaism Views the Afterlife"

is the topic of the seminar conducted by Molly on Sunday evening Feb. 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Join us for this fascinating and extensive class. (Free to temple members; \$15 per session for non-members.)

Then celebrate the New Year of Trees. Come to our Tu B'Shevat Seder on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 5 p.m. Dress is casual but reservations for the seder are necessary. Fruits, nuts and wine or juice are featured at this event. Vegetarian dishes are also welcome. Please call with your food contribution and R.S.V.P. as soon as possible. Call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098.

During February, the 75th Anniversary Events Committee sponsors a canned-food drive to benefit the food pantry of JCC of Pelham Parkway. At a time of need, let us help each other. Canned food, Kosher and non-Kosher, may be dropped off at Exotiq, 280 City Island Avenue at Hawkins Street, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. Contributions may also be brought prior to services on Friday evenings from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

With your help, we will have truly well-stocked shelves ready for delivery when we celebrate Purim with Molly Karp on March 8. It is the custom to send gifts to the poor, "mishloah manot." For more information or to volunteer, please call Mike, our chairperson at 718-792-3709 or e-mail michael-iron@optonline.net.

Our gala 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held at the Lido Restaurant on Saturday, March 28. So save the date! Visit our Web site: www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

Cub Scout Pack 211

Cub Scout Pack 211 is doing great, and as expected they have a lot to be proud of. The pack dashed through the first major snowstorm of this winter season and performed an outstanding Christmas carol concert to the residents of Pilot Cove on Dec 19. The scouts' performance certainly brought on the Christmas spirit to all who attended.

On Dec 23, Santa made a special visit to the scout's Christmas pizza party to honor and show some appreciation for all the hard work they have done throughout the year. Santa brought bags of gifts for all the Scouts and their siblings.

The pack would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

The pack has been especially busy lately with community service and earning merit badges. On Jan. 16, the scouts had their annual Pinewood Derby Race. The attendance was incredible and the competition was awesome. The scouts and their families came in full force. Even the scouts' siblings came with their own derby cars and competed against each other. By the end of the night all the scouts were winners.

Angelo Bellocchio

City Island Theater Group

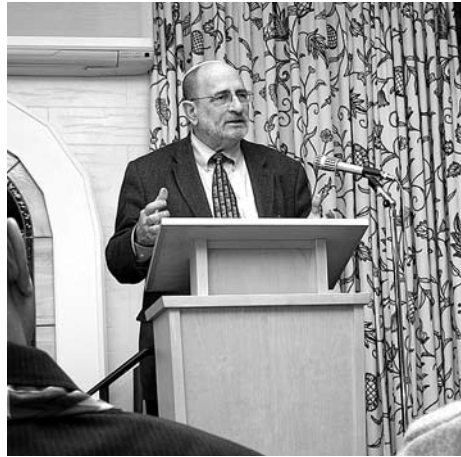
The City Island Theater Group (CITG) will open its 10th anniversary season with the classic romantic comedy "The Rainmaker." Written by Richard Nash, "The Rainmaker" is a wonderfully thought-provoking play that explores the reliance upon dreams versus the acceptance of reality. This classic American romance is a refreshingly heartfelt fable about a con man, a country girl and the way that love can overcome cynicism in even the most tired of souls.

Nick Sala, the production's director and CITG's president promises that this production will make you believe in love and have faith in hope and the human spirit, which is



Photos by BOB BERENT

On Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, members of Temple Beth-El of City Island and guests from Canaan Baptist Church in Manhattan, braved 10-degree weather to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. With more than 60 in attendance, all were inspired by the Canaan men's and women's "Dance the Word Ministry" (top photo). Speakers recalled Jewish participation in the Civil Rights movement and their personal experiences with Dr. King, including guests Leon Harris, Minister Jean Hunter and the Temple's treasurer, Dr. Edmund Rothschild (inset).



Cub Scout Pack 211 prepared for their holiday concert.

something we all need in these current difficult times.

"The Rainmaker" features City Island's own Elizabeth Paldino as Lizzie Curry with CITG regulars John Garcia as Starbuck and Matthieu Regney as Noah. New to the CITG stage are Scott Griffith as H.C., Christopher Meindl as File, Torrey Rodriguez as Jim and City Islander John Schwam as the Sheriff. City Islander Maria Provenzano takes on the duty of production stage manager.

"The Rainmaker" will be performed on Feb. 27 and 28, March 5, 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 28 and 29 at 3 p.m. Please note that we now have a Saturday matinee available! Call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com to reserve your tickets for this fantastic show. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, we look forward to presenting many more great, high-quality productions for the City Island community!

Nick Sala

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

On Thursday, Feb. 5, there will an important meeting of all parents whose children are preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion this year. It will be held in St. Mary's School gym at 7:15 p.m. All parents involved are urged to attend.

Our monthly Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. All are wel-

come to attend.

Sunday, Feb. 8, is National Scout Sunday. St. Mary's will recognize the scouts at a Liturgy at 10 a.m. that morning. All scouts should see their scout leaders for details.

All are welcome to attend our monthly Coffee Hour, which will be held in the rectory after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 8.

The February meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

Wednesday, Feb. 25, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer and fasting. Masses on that day will be at 7 and 8 a.m., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

Save the date! St. Mary's will hold a gala St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 14, 2009, at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. Details will follow!

Sr. Bernadette





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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City Island Community Center Board Members would like to acknowledge and thank Alfie of Fella's, Brian Dempsey's, Crab Shanty, IGA, JGL Liquors and To-Go Express for their generosity, community spirit and the exquisite cuisine they generously bestowed on the City Island Community Center members and fellow Islanders at our 2008 Holiday Party. We hope we can look forward to it again next year, along with your attendance! It was a great evening and many thanks go to each of you and your establishment. Your contributions were extremely generous and greatly appreciated. We could not have done it without your help.

Another Thank You: Special thanks to the City Island Civic Association for the donation of 40 brand new chairs for the Center. They are beautiful, functional and comfortable. Much needed—wow!

City Island Physical Therapy: Licensed physical therapist with private office space. For an appointment call Janine Mantzaris at 917-577-1752.

NEW CLASSES

Art Classes with Laury: Story and Picture: Six classes for grades K through 2. Mondays 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. on Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 23, March 2, 9. Limited to eight students. \$50 fee. A second series of classes will continue on March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 20, 27 (\$50). **Build a Beast Workshop:** Nine classes for grades 4 through 8 on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 3, 10, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 21 (28-make-up). Limited to six students. \$120 fee. **Portfolio Prep:** Nine classes for grades 5 through 8. Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 3, 10, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7, 21, (28-make-up). Limited to six students. \$100 fee. **Storytime Art:** Six classes for preschoolers with an adult on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. on Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 5. Limited to eight students. \$50 fee. New series will continue March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 23, 30. **Experimenting with Materials:** Nine classes for grades 3 and 4 on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. on Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26. Limited to eight students. \$80 fee. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 to sign up or for more information. Leave a message!

Anyone interested in losing weight? If you would like to join a weekly weight-loss group, one will be starting soon at the Community Center, tentatively scheduled for Thursday evenings. Call Deana Weyhrauch at 917-418-1377.

Bosu Balance Training: Every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. for an hour. \$15 per class. One-on-one personal training is also available. Call Janet at 646-544-4292 for more information or to make your

reservation!

Weekly Schedule

YOUTH PROGRAM

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

Tae Kwon Do: Traditional classes to benefit you physically, mentally and spiritually. Some benefits include improved cardiovascular health, better focus and concentration, increased flexibility and lean body mass. Children will learn courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit. Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. \$10 per class, twice weekly. Call 718-885-3702.

Sally's Playground Ages birth to 5 years. Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$7 per child, \$4 for siblings. Buy a five-visit card and get one visit free. Call Sally at 718-885-0349 for more information.

Drama Club Thursdays 7 to 8 p.m. \$1 dues per week. Ages 8 through 14. Starts Jan. 15. Community Center membership is required for these classes. Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 to sign up or for more information. Leave a message!

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

ADULT PROGRAM

Salsa Dance: Dance your stress away to the basic beats of salsa. No partner necessary. \$50 per month or \$15 per class. Friday nights, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call Nilsa at 917-838-6501.

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

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

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

Yoga: A beginner to intermediate class that includes Hatha and Namaste yoga with some Saroope (restorative yoga). Also tai-chi, which will help balance immune system and reduce pain. Please contact Marc Kaplan for inquiries at marc@ohm-chi.com or call 718-885-2445.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Vilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and adults that love them! Saturdays 10 to 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223, visit www.funmusictogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com.

Chess Club: Monday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. For ages 13 and up. No need to register, just show up! Call Bill at 718-541-3995 for more information.

Amy Gottlieb

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

Members Bill and Billy Clancy, John Peters and Commander Todd Davis along with others have been working hard on finishing the downstairs bathrooms at the post and have made huge progress. Furthermore, they also insulated the exterior wall on the parking lot side of the building which will lower the heat bill during these cold days.

The annual pig's-knuckle party will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28. Swing by the Post for more details.

This year, the Post will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. This is truly a milestone, not just for the Post but for our community as well.

Membership Vice Commanders Fred Ramftl and Scott Murphy remind all members that dues are \$30 and are now past due. They can be left in the SAL box at the Post.

We are looking for a few good members. Any male descendant of a male veteran is eligible to join. Anyone interested can call Fred Ramftl at 347-680-7695 or Scott Murphy at 646-314-1000 or stop by the Post for an application.

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. at the Post. Please come and bring your ideas.

Hope to see all around the Post!

Fred Ramftl, Jr.

Legion News

Another year has passed into oblivion and for many it wasn't the best of times. A new president has been sworn in, the first African-American and a relatively young man full of moxie. Let's hope the two major parties will bury the hatchet and work together to make us a better nation.

The Post Christmas party was a big success. Many members and their wives were present, as were VIPs from other posts. All partook of the delicious fare and the usual libations.

Post members supported the efforts to retain Ladder Company 53 between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. Myriad epistles were dispatched to our mayor and his commissioner.

Some Island octogenarians may remember the Club Tavern fire circa 1947, when a three-story structure burned to the ground. Only the quick thinking of Jim McGee saved his family. He kicked out the window frame,

tossed his wife to the firemen below and then executed a perfect swan dive into a net held by the men of Ladder 53.

We mourn the passing of James Lake and past member Jim Schollhamer. If anyone has been omitted from the list, they will be included next month.

The following are members on sick call: Vincent Hecker and Randy Peterson.

A select group of officers is attending the Bronx County Mid-Winter Conference in Albany. They promise a scintillating report at one of our regular meetings.

Work is now in progress on the new restrooms (a.k.a. latrines or heads).

Meetings for February are: regular meetings Monday, Feb. 2 and 16; executive board meeting Monday, Feb. 9.

The SAL pig's-knuckle party will be Saturday, Feb. 28. \$25 charge, well worth it!

Until next month, at ease...

Russ Schaller, Sgt. Emeritus

City Island Republicans

We hope that everyone is staying warm during these cold days. Additionally, our prayers are with the victims of that terrible fire a few weeks ago.

The City Island Republicans would like to clear up one misconception that City Islanders have about the club. We are not a young Republican Club and we welcome any one of any age.

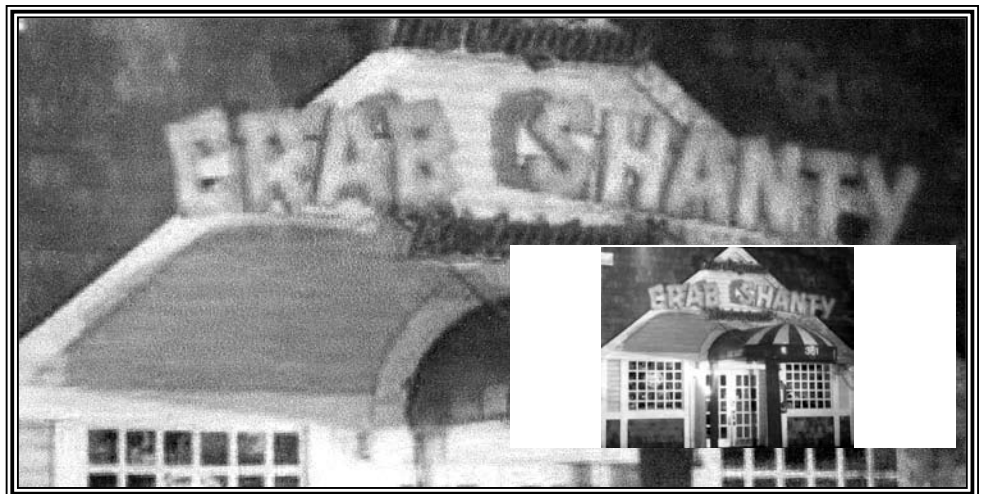
The club is now three years old and, despite what the liberal media may want you to believe, the party is still alive and our club is still growing.

There is not much activity right now although from what I have heard, we will be having a special election to select a new borough president. The date has yet to be set by the Mayor, if indeed the current Borough President receives an expected appointment in Washington. Most likely, the election would be held in late March.

The City Island Republicans stand with the rest of our community in calling on the Mayor to keep Ladder 53 staffed at all times. We have been talking to a few of our contacts to see if they can do anything to put a stop to this safety hazard.

Our first meeting of 2009 will be held in April. Stay tuned to the April edition of *The Island Current* for meeting information. And stay warm!

Fred Ramftl, Jr., President



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A Selected Filmography of Greg Kinnear

Greg Kinnear made a great start in 1995 as an actor in the sweet remake of the Humphrey Bogart, William Holden, Audrey Hepburn film, **Sabrina** (1954). He plays David Larrabee, the good-looking playboy whose brother, Linus (Harrison Ford), is a workaholic for the family business. When Sabrina (Julia Ormond), the chauffeur's daughter, returns from Paris, she is transformed into a beauty who captures the eye of both brothers.

In **Dear God** (1996) Greg Kinnear plays Tom Turner, a con man who deals with the boredom of working in a dead-letter post office by reading mail sent to God, Santa and Elvis. When Tom decides to answer a letter, his co-workers Rebecca (Laurie Metcalf), Herman (Tim Conway) and Vladek (Hector Elizondo) are swept up into answering some prayers.

Kinnear's finest performance comes as gay artist Simon Bishop in **As Good as it Gets** (1997). His lives across the hall from the verbally abusive writer Melvin Udall (Jack Nicholson), who is plagued with obsessive-compulsive disorder. Udall will only eat his meals at a restaurant where he is served by wisecracking Carol Connelly (Helen Hunt), the mother of a severe asthmatic. Udall becomes involved in the lives of both Simon and Carol, and they are all forever changed. Shirley Knight is delightful as Carol's mother, and director Harold Ramis puts in an acting appearance as Dr. Martin Bettes, who is sent to save Carol's son. Hunt and Nicholson won Academy Awards, and Kinnear was

nominated for his performance.

Nurse Betty (2000) is a very quirky film in which aspiring nurse Betty Sizemore (Renee Zellweger) witnesses a grizzly murder and proceeds on a cross-country trip to meet the man of her dreams, Dr. David Ravell (Kinnear), a character in a soap opera. Charlie (Morgan Freeman) and Wesley (Chris Rock) are introspective hit men who follow her. This is a surprisingly deep and droll film.

Someone Like You (2001) has always been a guilty pleasure for me. In this romantic comedy, Kinnear plays Ray Brown, the charming romantic interest of a television talent booker Jane Goodale (Ashley Judd). When life doesn't go as planned, Jane bitterly ends up moving in with womanizing co-worker Eddie Alden (Hugh Jackman). Ellen Barkin is wonderful as her celebrity boss, Diane Roberts; and Marisa Tomei is on hand as Jane's best friend, Liz.

Auto Focus (2002) tells the very disturbing story of the life of Bob Crane, a television sitcom star of "Hogan's Heroes" who is preoccupied with pornography and is eventually murdered. Kinnear portrays the title role as an affable man undone by fame and compulsion. Willem Defoe plays his very creepy friend, John Carpenter.

Stuck on You (2003) is a totally delightful film about two brothers, Walt (Kinnear) and Bo (Matt Damon) Tenor, a pair of conjoined twins. Although promos for the film looked rather ridiculous, it is a clever, kind-hearted humorous movie about how one can live a happy life literally joined at the hip with another person. There are several minorities in the film whose treatment is refreshing. Jack Nicholson, Jay Leno, Cher and Meryl Streep have entertaining cameos. This is among my favorites.

I haven't had a burger since I saw **Fast Food Nation** (2006). Kinnear plays the decent yet slightly sleazy Don Anderson, a fast food executive sent to the Colorado ranch to investigate reports of contaminated meat. In a parallel plot addressing

another social issue, the exploitation of Mexican illegals and the working poor is explored. This is a surprisingly deep and complex film.

Little Miss Sunshine (2006) is a bitersweet comedy about an unconventional family that goes on a road trip to take their daughter, Olive Hoover (Abigail Breslin), to the rather appalling "Little Miss Sunshine" beauty pageant. The other passengers on the relic VW bus include her father, Richard (Kinnear); his wife, Sheryl (Toni Collette); Sheryl's suicidal brother, Frank (Steve Carell); teenage son Dwayne (Paul Dano); and grandfather (Alan Arkin).

In **Ghost Town** (2008) Kinnear plays Frank Herlihy, a yuppie who is killed early

in the film and transformed into a ghost. Frank is worried that a human-rights lawyer (Billy Campbell) is after the money of his widow, Gwen (Tea Leoni), and employs a dentist, Bertram Pincus (Ricky Gerwais), who can see ghosts, to take care of her. The repartee in this charming film is reminiscent of such cinema classics as **Topper** (1937).

Flash of Genius (2008) stars Kinnear as real-life electrical engineer Bob Kearns, the man who invented and patented the intermittent windshield wiper. His invention is stolen by major Detroit automakers, which triggers an obsessive 10-year quest for credit and recompense.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .



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| ∞ Full-day Pre-K and full-day Kindergarten | ∞ Yearbook |
| ∞ Computer lab | ∞ Choir /Violin |
| ∞ Spanish - Grades 7 and 8 | ∞ Full-time nurse |
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Registration begins on Tuesday, February 17th, 2009.

LOCAL VIEWS

By MIRIAM KLEINBERG

Question: *Have you made any New Year's resolutions for 2009? If so, have you managed to keep them (or it) so far, or do you think you will manage to keep them?*



Mike Rauh
Resident of Centre Street

I tend to volunteer for too many jobs. I am the treasurer of the American Legion and also of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club, where I am on the board of directors; I'm a member of Adolfo Carrion's Veterans' Advisory Council; I accompany P.S. 175 on its annual Camp Greenkill trip; and I work as a sports announcer within the stadium for Track and Field events, as well as being the voice in the webcast.
My resolution: No new jobs!

Tommy Nye
Resident of Earley Street

My resolution is to become more organized and less procrastinating. So far so good. I work at UK Halsey Sailmakers, and I get original orders and orders for work in progress. I've tried to organize all the papers so that my work goes much more smoothly. So far so good, but it's early days yet. Also, at the City Island Nautical Museum, it's been very difficult finding room for everything, but we're making good progress, thanks to the fact that we have more volunteers involved now. It is definitely true that many hands make light work.



Kim Nye
Resident of Earley Street and student at SUNY Albany

My resolution is to be more productive with my free time. So far I haven't done so well, but when I get back to school I hope I'll be able to balance my time between school work, my job and my social work. Whatever free time is left I'd like to try to be more physically active and to spend more time studying.

Cheryl Berent
Resident of Pilot Street

I resolve to spend more time with my family and to put them on the calendar first. So far we've already been to a wedding and I am planning to go sailing with them more later this year. We are also planning a trip to Florida. Unlike last year, I am able to leave the work at my job (as a Mount Vernon Public Librarian) when I come home.



Celeste Shanahan
Resident of King Avenue

I resolve to get back to exercising because I need to do it for my health and because I feel better mentally after I work out. Exercising gives me a whole different and more positive outlook on life.

Janie Blanks
Resident of Tier Street

My main resolution is to give back to the community where I live and try to take care of the environment, because we need to take care of our natural resources. So far I have been feeding the birds in my backyard and cleaning up litter in my neighborhood. I have just been elected recording secretary of the City Island Civic Association, which is the organization that represents our community and protects our interests. Everyone should come to our monthly meetings (last Tuesday of the month). That would be a good way for all of us to give back to our community.



SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

The New Year has started off with a flurry of activities. During the second and third weeks of January, the fourth- and eighth-grade classes took the New York State English-Language Arts exam. Then the entire school took mid-term examinations, which end the second marking period. Report cards will be distributed on Feb. 5.

Catholic Schools Week ended on Jan. 31. The theme this year was "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service." As a Catholic school, St. Mary's has a rich tradition of incorporating service projects to deal with social issues into the curriculum, teaching students the value and responsibility of helping others as an expression of faith and good citizenship. Along with Catholic Schools Week we celebrated Spirit Week here at St. Mary's.

On Jan. 31, we engaged in the festivities of the 20th annual St. Mary's International Luncheon. Our students in Grades 3 through 8 brought dishes representing their own heritage or that of a culture or region they are studying in school. Classes pre-K through Grade 2 brought in desserts for the school to enjoy. The feast was shared by all classes with the eighth grade as the Class of Honor; the seventh-graders served and teachers and parents joined in the repast. In addition, the school had an assembly with performances by each of the grades.

Other Spirit Week activities included Crazy Hat Day, as well as Color Day, for which each class picked a color and adorned their uniforms in creative ways with items of that color. That and bingo for each of the classes ended the month with some fun and a little silliness.

Open House at St. Mary's is Sunday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be guided tours of the school for parents interested in enrolling their child and an opportunity for them to speak with the principal, Mrs. Jane Dennehy. If you are interested in enrolling your child at St. Mary's but can't make the Open House, please call Mrs. Dennehy at the school (718-885-1527). Information on registration, which will begin on Feb. 17 and continue through Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, will also be available at the Open House.

If you are considering registration in St. Mary's for your child during our Presidents' Week dates above, please be sure to bring the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate (if applicable), record of immunization, latest report card from the last school attended (if applicable) and a \$75 registration fee. We offer the Cardinal's Scholarship, an income-based award, for incoming kindergarteners and for any student in Grades 1 through 6 coming from a public school.

Last October the school was paid a visit by Chris Godfrey, the former guard for the NFL's New York Giants. When Chris retired from football, he founded Life Athletes, Inc., an organization that attempts to reach the hearts of young people, inspiring a commitment to integrity, purity and a respect for life. He spoke to the students about building good, healthy relationships, taking responsibility for their actions and making good decisions in life. Chris will be back to conduct an in-service program for parents on Feb. 10.

Family Movie Night will take place on Feb. 27. See the Church Bulletin for fea-

ture details.

St. Mary's is delighted to have received a donation of excellent professional quality microscopes from a local hospital, thanks to the gracious efforts of a school parent. The children are enthusiastically investigating all specimens, from prepared slides to items in nature around the school.

We wish all *The Island Current* readers a St. Valentine's Day full of love and a happy Presidents' Day.

Public School 175

December was filled with exciting educational activities. Third-graders went to the Lehman College Center for the Performing Arts to see a production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." As part of the fourth-grade social studies curriculum, students went to Gracie Mansion, which tied into their study of historic buildings and landmarks in New York City and afforded them the opportunity to visit the residence of New York City's former mayors.

Seventh-graders attended a wonderful performance by the Boston-based Chamber Theater Group of classic short stories at Purchase College. Included in the performance were "The Fall of the House of Usher" by Edgar Allan Poe, "The Open Window" by Saki, "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell, "The Ransom of Red Chief" by O. Henry and "The Lady or the Tiger" by Frank Stockton. Our eighth-graders visited the Botanical Garden to do some preliminary work on their science exit projects.

The Hollyrock Game Show returned for its annual trivia competition. The students in grades K through 8 were asked trivia questions in various subject areas and participated in physical challenges. It was great fun and very informative.

Finally, on Dec. 23, P.S. 175 got into the holiday spirit with our annual Holiday Sing. Children in Grades K through 8 sang some of the great holiday classics, which is part of our rich tradition at P.S. 175. This ended our year on a high note!

January was just as exciting. The Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation After-School Program resumed for fifth- through eighth- grade. Students are participating in a variety of activities, including cooking and baking, athletics, art, games and homework help. In the weeks to come, students will also have the opportunity to create books that will be submitted to the Ezra Jack Keats National Book-Making competition and to work on set design for our fifth-grade play, "Willy Wonka Jr."

The Citizens-of-the Month for December were: Wesley Hranyczny and Isabel Whalen (kindergarten), Nicole Masi and Sarah Stark (first grade), Claudia Kimmel and Madelyn Ploch (second grade), Nicholas Capalbo and Dino Esposito (third grade), Christine Rice and Paige Brown (fourth grade), Katie Moore and Chloe Brelsford (fifth grade), Ruben Caamano and Catherine Graves (sixth grade), Alana Pecorelli and Jonathan Dyal (seventh grade), Brian Devlin and Marlyn Sanchez (eighth grade).

We have begun our sale of P.S. 175 apparel. Available for sale to students, parents and the greater City Island community are P.S. 175 T-shirts, zippered fleeces, sweatshirt hoodies, hats and flannel pajama bottoms, all either embroidered or silk-screened with the school logo. Please join us in sharing the P.S. 175 school spirit! Anyone outside of P.S. 175 interested in making a purchase should contact our general office.

The P.S. 175 family is excited about all of the opportunities that we are able to offer our students that enable them to explore educational as well as enriching pursuits.

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Continued from page 4

The building was destroyed, several people were hospitalized and a number of pets lost their lives. This fire could have been much worse if this ladder company had not been present on City Island to suppress it.

Last night, Jan. 22, an oil barge containing millions of gallons of highly flammable heating oil ran aground near Hart Island, which is adjacent to City Island. Fortunately, the oil did not leak out of the barge and the matter is being taken care of by the Coast Guard. However, if a fire occurred, it is conceivable that Ladder 53 could have been called to assist in its suppression. This would not be possible if the Ladder Company was deactivated on that evening.

If Ladder Company 53 is not staffed during the nighttime hours, the nearest Fire Department unit to respond to a City Island-related fire or emergency is based in Co-op City. It would take this company upwards of 10 to 20 minutes to reach City Island. This would result in City Island having the longest response time in the City of New York for a fire.

Once again, the Board is formally requesting that the decision to close Ladder Company 53 be rescinded. The Board believes that the FDNY can identify other areas of their operations where savings could be realized, such as purchasing, contracting, eliminating leased space and reviewing personnel practices.

**Kenneth Kearns, District Manager,
Community Board 10**

Knowing Thanks

To the Editor:

You know who you are and we are grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Many thanks!

Monica, Steve and Steven Schmitz

Softball Fund-raiser Thanks

To the Editor:

The Pelham Bay Girls 18U softball team fund-raiser did take place despite frigid, icy weather at Breakers Sports Bar on Jan. 10. Although it was a smaller crowd than usual, the team did raise money for their upcoming season.

The team and the coaches would like to thank the Salzarulo Family for hosting the party at Breakers and paying for the live band; Brian Dempsey's Restaurant, the Black Whale, AER Property Management and the Tree House for donating prizes; Chrissy T. for keeping the "spirits" flowing, Jeff B. for setting up and breaking

down tables, Billy M. for selling all those raffle tickets, the band A/K/A "The Second Coming," which played at a huge discount (gas money) and whose members include Terry Dunphy, Frankie Strazzera, Tony Di-orio, Johnny Valenti, Frank (Gootch) Greco and "Quiet" George.

The team and coaches would also like to thank everyone who braved the weather and purchased raffles.

**Bob Carmody,
18U Manager/Coordinator**



Martin Luther King Day

To the Editor:

We always seek a celebration on the anniversary of Dr. King's birthday. All have been inspiring, but none has been more inspiring, more inspiring and more comforting than the one on Jan. 15, 2009, at Temple Beth-El of City Island.

The speakers had so much to tell us. Mr. Leon Harris had been a Black Panther, converted to non-violence by meeting and listening to Dr. King. Minister Jean Hunter told us of her call to be a minister. Dr. Edmund Rothschild told us of his deep involvement with the civil rights movement in the South and of actually administering an aspirin to Dr. King, who was suffering with a headache.

We were swept away by the Dance the Word Ministry of Canaan Baptist Church of Christ; first two men and then a group of women expressed their deep feelings in unforgettable dances. We are so grateful to the temple for giving us this tribute to a great humanitarian. He led us in accomplishing a great social revolution. He brought about non-violent change.

**Carol and Jack Ullman
Inge Unger**

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Is Your Medicine Cabinet Safe?

The subject of alcohol and drug abuse is being discussed a great deal these days, and everyone knows about the dangers of heroin, cocaine and other illegal substances. But how many of you are aware of the perfectly legal but in some cases equally dangerous substances that exist right in your own home? Here are a few tips to keep useful drugs from becoming harmful to you or your family.

First, make a list of the drugs that are now in your medicine cabinet. On the list put the name and strength of each medication (both prescription and over-the-counter); include the date the prescription was filled and the date the drug expires, as well as the original quantity. Count the pills once a week and mark the number on your list.

Second, be sure to keep all prescription drugs out of the reach of young children and teenagers. The non-medical use of medications by teenagers has steadily increased, largely because these drugs are easily accessible in the family medicine cabinet.

Third, never increase or decrease the recommended doses for yourself without consulting your doctor. Ask your doctor if any prescribed drug has the potential for

abuse, and don't assume that just because it is approved by the FDA that it is safe. The non-medical use of certain prescription drugs can lead to addiction.

Prescription drug abuse is not always deliberate. Studies report that older persons regularly consume an average of two to six prescription medications, in addition to over-the-counter drugs. And one in five older Americans may be affected by combined difficulties caused by the misuse of alcohol and medications.

Fourth, dispose of any medications that are unused or have expired. Before you throw them away, mix them with used cat litter, coffee grounds or sawdust to make them less appealing than simply throwing bottles in the garbage.

Educate yourself and your family by discussing the use and abuse of drugs. More than 1.5 million American kids have admitted to using prescription drugs, and many more undoubtedly do so. The Federal Drug Abuse Warning Network reports that emergency visits due to abuse of prescription drugs are greater than the number of visits caused by abuse of marijuana and heroin combined.

Remind seniors in your home that many medications do not mix well with al-

how can you keep a kid off drugs?

The truth is, a little of your time can make a lifetime of difference. Because kids with something to do are less likely to do drugs. **You can help.** For more information on drug prevention programs in your community, call or visit:

1 877 KIDS 313 www.youcanhelpkids.org

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How Do I Love Thee, City Island?

By MONICA GLICK

Elizabeth Barrett Browning may never have lived on City Island, but she would have found it easy to count the ways to love our Island home, thanks to our galleries, restaurants, cafes, antique stores, unique shops and businesses. So let's count to 10 and watch the love grow, as we prepare to celebrate another Valentine's Day!

Timeless Treasures. Glimpse into the door of **Early Ruth Antiques** (319 City Island Avenue) and travel through decades of memories and magic. But don't stop there; stop by **Quality Antique Furniture** (270 City Island Avenue), **Silver Arrow Antiques** (275 City Island Avenue), or **Midtown Antiques** (310 City Island Avenue) for even more gifts from yesteryear. And while you're in Midtown Antiques, say hello to two treasured folks, Mort and Violet Ellis! And don't leave out a Sunday afternoon visit to the newly reopened **City Island Nautical Museum** (190 Fordham Street) with its new, well-stocked gift shop now open every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. as well as on Sundays.

Flights of Fancy. Create marble from paint; make your wall a mural. That's the magic that Mary Colby of **Fe Fi Faux Studio & Gallery** (276 City Island Avenue) weaves; sometimes, she's even in there painting or helping others learn how. Fantasy toys and creations from countries of the world are part of what you'll find at **Exotiq International Arts** (280 City Island Avenue), not to mention the nautical, wicker and stained-glass wonders of **Corona's Hidden Treasures** (327 City Island Avenue). There are also artisans in residence on our island, **Cheryl Brinker** at her studio / gallery (282 City Island Avenue) and Toby Z. Liederman of **Ceramics...and More** (30 Pilot Street), each set to dazzle with their fare.

Pampering Possibilities. Want a new look? Stop by **The Art of Beauty Salon** (413 City Island Avenue) for a new hairdo or to get just the right polish on those nails.



Art of Beauty Salon

Michelle recommends "hearts on fire" red for this Valentine's Day. The ladies at **Lina Petite Salon** (474 City Island Avenue) are also waiting to help you look just marvelous! There are nails being done as well at **Nail Island** (462 City Island Avenue) and **Nails on the Bay** (329 City Island Avenue). Or if the stress is what you'd like to shed, spend some time with **Debra Fatone**, a New York State licensed massage therapist (718- 885-3430).



Photography by Ron Terner at Focal Point Gallery

Picture Perfection. Look into the possibility of capturing your new look, or the most tender of family moments, by visiting Ron Terner at **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue) to arrange your next family portrait or to photograph your next family wedding or other event. Check out the artwork while you're there too! Or you can picture the Mediterranean inside **The Tree House** (273 City Island Avenue) where the food is from that part of the world. The shunka wrappers are a classi-



Shunka wrappers at The Treehouse

cally delicious treat! Stop by that establishment's **Euro Café** across the street, and check out the scene there. Perhaps Italian is what you've got in mind. Try the food at **Portofino** (555 City Island Avenue) or at the southern end of the Island at the **Lido Restaurant** (101 City Island Avenue). Or you can stay in the middle and try **City**

Island Tapas Restaurant (435 City Island Avenue). No matter the destination you picture, fear not, **O'Sullivan's Travel** (travelo@aol.com) has the just the ticket you need!

Arts and Entertainment. Both music and art find a home inside the **Starving**



Forbidden Love by Don Nester at Starving Artist

Artist Café & Gallery (249 City Island Avenue), where February offers must-see paper sculptures by Don Nester on the walls—including a cute-as-can-be Cupid—and talented musicians and songwriters on the stage, including owner / musician Elliott Glick. A meal at **Ohana Japanese Hibachi Seafood & Steakhouse** (500 City Island Avenue) is pure entertainment, not to mention a treat for your taste buds. There's an art to a good cigar, and City Island's **Cigar Store** (470 City Island Avenue) wants to show you their top smokes. There's also fine art to a good cup of coffee, prepared with **Arabica Coffee** (90 City Island Avenue). And never forget the "art of a good time and a good meal," both of which can be found at the **City Island Diner** (304 City Island Avenue) and at **The Snug** next door (302 City Island Avenue). The latter provides a new menu nightly, from Italian to Mexican, burgers to free wings.

Kitchen Creativity. Everything you need to prepare the perfect romantic meal at home can be found in one of our Island markets: the **IGA City Island Market** (385 City Island Avenue) and **Connie's New Way Market** (307 City Island Avenue). And while you're at Connie's, ask Sara for her favorite recipes for romance! If you forget something, and it's late, don't worry: the **City Island Sunoco** gas station convenience store (410 City Island Avenue) is open 24 hours. If you're planning on staying in, then bring in a bottle of the bubbly from **JGL Wines & Liquors** (358 City Island Avenue) to celebrate your home-cooked meal. And try some fresh fruit and vegetables from **Island Produce** (292 City Island Avenue). To end the night, maybe you'll snuggle under the covers and watch a flick from **JTs Island Event** (294 City Island Avenue). The **City Island Pharmacy** (290 City Island Avenue) can provide some snacks to munch on, plus cards, candy-filled hearts and other Valentine treats to exchange with your honey.

Nautical Delights. To make sure you've got what it takes for a high seas adventure, stop by **Island Bait & Tackle** (632 City Island Avenue) or **Jack's Bait & Tackle** (551 City Island Avenue). **Capt. Mike's Diving** (530 City Island Avenue) can provide tips for taking trips on the waterways. **Remy's** (272 City Island Avenue) will make sure you've got the goods to set sail come the spring. And for your hardware needs, on sea or dry land, check out **Buddy's Hardware** (260 City Island Avenue) and **J. J. Burck** (526 City Island Avenue). If you'd rather leaving the fishing to others, there are great catches at several restaurants on our Island. Try a seafood feast at **The Lobster Box** (34 City Island Avenue). There's also fine fish fare at **Sammy's Fish Box** (41 City Island Avenue) and the **Shrimp Box Restaurant** (64 City Island Avenue) at the southern



Seafood feast at the Lobster Box

end of the Island, and **The Lobster House** (691 City Island Avenue), **JP's Restaurant** (703 Minnieford Avenue), **Sea Shore Restaurant** (591 City Island Avenue) and **The Harbor** (565 City Island Avenue) at the north end. Smack in the middle is the **Crab Shanty** (361 City Island Avenue). Check out the photo memories on their Web site; it's a trip down memory lane! And if you want your fish fast, there's always **Seafood City** (459 City Island Avenue).

You Can Hurry Love. You can find what you want to eat—and get it fast—at several spots on City Island. If it's a no-nonsense breakfast or a sandwich, stop in at **Papa John's Deli** (325 City Island Avenue). There's also Chef Rafael's **To-Go Express** (415 City Island Avenue), the **City Island Chinese Restaurant** (84-86 City Island Avenue) and **Dunkin' Donuts** (636 City Island Avenue) for some fast but fine bites. If you have some time, chill at the **Island Café** (205 City Island Avenue). To chill and relax and maybe even shoot some pool, the Island offers two hot spots: **Breakers** (247 City Island Avenue) and **Fella's Bar** (522 City Island Avenue). And "loving thanks" to Joe of the Breakers, who provided that location for two fund-raisers in January!

Full-Service Menus. How about dinner and a movie? Maybe you'd rather Sunday brunch? Perhaps it's a special occasion party? **The Black Whale** (279 City Island Avenue) can fit all those possibilities and even offers gift certificates for you to pass that love on to those you love! At **Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Avenue), you can taste the love in every offering on its extensive lunch and dinner menus. A light and deliciously satisfying treat is the grilled



Broiled tuna salad at Artie's

tuna and shrimp over mixed green salad, served with a balsamic vinaigrette dressing. And to offer others the chance to dine and shop locally, stop by **Chase Bank** (207 City Island Avenue) for a gift card from the full-service and friendly staff.

A House and an Inn. How does a pint of your favorite ale and fine New York sirloin sound? Look no further than **Brian Dempsey's American Ale House** (288 City Island Avenue), another of our Island's newest eateries. Say hello to Brian Dempsey when you're there, and ask about other special events, including music offerings. And at the end of the day (or rather at the end of the winter, since it is closed until the first of April), it's good to know we've got a place to lay our heads, **Le Refuge Bed & Breakfast** (586 City Island Avenue).

How do we love thee, City Island? In many, many ways! For each of us, then, it's really Happy Valentine's Day all year long!

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Easter 1987, Age 5



Easter 1988, Age 6



Easter 1989, Age 7



Lorien Lea Denham.

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If you don't stop your friend from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.



AND ALL THAT TRASH

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Most residents of City Island know that garbage is collected twice weekly—on Mondays and Thursdays—and that recycling is collected on Monday. But many people are unaware of the many rules and regulations connected with garbage collection and the cleaning of public property. These are all clearly stated on the Sanitation Department Web site (www.nyc.gov/sanitation), and one may call 311 with questions, but the following information will answer most questions that Islanders may have. The specific rules and fines are available on line at <http://nyc.gov/html/dsny/downloads/pdf/rules/digest/digest.pdf>.

Regular Garbage

Regular garbage is picked up on Monday and Thursday except on holidays (see below), sometimes early in the morning. If you put out your garbage the night before collection, wait until after 5 p.m. to do so. From Oct. 1 through March 31, garbage may be put out at 4 p.m. It is against the law to put it out earlier.

Garbage must be placed in a garbage receptacle with a securely fitting lid or in a securely tied opaque plastic bag (black or brown, no clear bags). Do not use litter baskets placed on the street by the Department of Sanitation; these are designed for use by pedestrians. Do not mix leaves, pruned plant materials, ashes, earth, stone or bricks with regular household waste but put them in separate containers. You may dispose of small amounts of noxious waste, such as bleach, paint thinner and pesticides, but soak it in kitty litter or sand to prevent it from leaking and injuring children, pets or sanitation workers. Asbestos, medical waste and other hazardous materials must be disposed of in accordance with the law.

There is no need to make a special appointment for bulk collection, except for refrigeration appliances (refrigerators, air conditioners, etc.) containing CFC/Freon gas. Bulky items that are too large for your garbage can should be placed beside your regular garbage on any regular collection days. Each collection day you can discard up to six pieces of bulk, which includes bags of plaster, broken rock, or dirt (maximum weight 60 lbs.); bundles of wood (no longer than four feet, nails removed); or rugs (tied in five-foot lengths); and any other non-metal items too large for your can.

Before discarding a refrigerator, the doors must be removed and a special appointment must be made for the removal of CFC/Freon before the refrigerator will be picked up by Sanitation. Call 311 to make an appointment.

The following items must not be put into regular garbage at all: household batteries; rechargeable batteries; automobile oils; fluorescent light bulbs (including the new energy savers); mercury-filled thermostats and thermometers; paint and automobile tires.

To enable residents to dispose of these items, the Department of Sanitation operates a Self-Help Special Waste Drop-off Site in the Bronx at Hunts Point, which is open on the following days: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 27; March 7, 14, 21, 27; April 4, 11, 18, 24; May 2, 9, 16, 23, 29; June 6, 13, 20, 26; July 11, 18, 25, 31; Aug. 8, 15, 22, 28; Sept. 5, 12, 19, 25; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 30; Nov. 7, 14, 21, 27; Dec. 5, 12, 18. Special Waste sites will not be open July 4, Aug. 1, Dec. 25 and 26.

Residents may return used automobile batteries, motor oil, transmission fluid, car tires and rechargeable batteries to retailers that sell them. Home Depot has a disposal site for energy-saver fluorescent light bulbs.

Full, unopened cans of paint may be returned to the point of purchase; latex paint cans can be taken to any Special Waste Drop-Off Site. For partially full cans, open the can, let the paint dry out and place it in regular trash. Or you may pour the paint into a non-recyclable container and put it in the trash, and put the empty metal paint can in the recycling bin. A third option is to pour the paint into absorbent material like kitty litter, sand, rags or newspaper, and put the

material into the trash; put the empty metal paint can in recycling. See the Sanitation Web site for waste-prevention tips and for places where paint may be donated.

Recycling Garbage

Metal should be recycled in clear bags or blue-labeled recycling containers. Place bulk metal next to recycling bags or bins. Empty all cans, bottles and jars and rinse them. The following items can be recycled: metal cans (including empty aerosol cans, dried-out paint cans with no lids), aluminum foil wrap and trays, bulk metal (furniture, cabinets, appliances, except those with CFC gas), glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs, beverage cartons and drink boxes. Paper should be recycled in clear bags or green-labeled recycling containers. Flatten and bundle large pieces of corrugated cardboard and tie them with twine or place them loose in your container. The following paper items can be recycled: white, colored and glossy paper (staples are okay; no spiral bindings); mail and envelopes; wrapping paper (no tape or ribbon); smooth cardboard (food boxes, shoe boxes, paper towel tubes, etc.); paper bags; paper egg cartons and trays; newspapers, magazines, catalogues; phone books, softcover books, comic books and corrugated cardboard (flattened boxes).

Do not recycle: hardcover books; napkins, paper towels, tissues; soiled paper cups or plates; heavily soiled paper; paper with a lot of glue and tape; plastic or wax-coated paper (candy wrappers, takeout containers); any plastic items other than jugs and bottles; Styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, etc.).

Collection Schedule

There is no garbage or recycling collection on City Island on the following holidays: Thursday, Feb. 12 (Lincoln's Birthday), Monday, Feb. 16 (Presidents' Day), Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day), Monday, Sept. 7 (Labor Day), Monday, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day) and Thursday, Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving).

For pickups delayed by a holiday, set out garbage after 5 p.m. on the holiday so that it can be collected the following day, as the collection time may be earlier than normal. Set out recyclables for collection on Monday of the week following the holiday. During snow emergencies, residents may experience disruption in service.

Sidewalks and Streets

Although most of the information in this article relates to residential rather than commercial garbage collection (which has its own set of rules), all property owners, including both stores and residents, must keep the sidewalks in front of their property and an area of 18 inches into the street clean. Sweepings must be picked up and placed in

containers for collection. Because we do not have regular street cleaning services from either the city or the private sector, this rule is a very important one to the quality of life on City Island.

Another rule often neglected is the one stipulating that it is illegal to place notices of any kind on street trees, utility poles, bus shelters, city garbage bins, mailboxes, traffic signs, etc. Violations will be issued for each incidence. It is also illegal to place handbills on vehicles.

All residents with sidewalks must clear them of snow and ice within four hours after a storm has ended (or by 11 a.m. for a storm ending after 9 p.m. at night). If the ice is difficult to remove, sand or salt must be laid down and the ice cleared as soon as it melts.

Every dog must be on a leash no more

than six feet in length in any public place, including parks, and every dog owner must clean up dog feces from the street, sidewalk, gutter or other public property.

Two miscellaneous city rules that residents may not be aware of: 1) Owners of vacant lots are required to keep the lots clean, sanitary and free of debris and litter. If the owner fails to comply with this law, Sanitation may provide for the cleaning of the premises at the expense of the property owner. 2) It is illegal to prune or cut down or kill a street tree without permission from the Department of Parks.

If you do not find the information you seek in the above paragraphs, call 311 or visit the Department of Sanitation Web site at www.nyc.gov/sanitation.

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)

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 PM 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

FEBRUARY 2009

DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Sun	0229	7.72	0857	0.08	1456	6.83	2110	0.13	Sun 01
02 Mon	0320	7.63	0952	0.29	1551	6.49	2203	0.41	Mon 02
03 Tue	0416	7.47	1056	0.50	1655	6.21	2303	0.67	Tue 03
04 Wed	0520	7.33	1229	0.55	1810	6.10			Wed 04
05 Thu	0017	0.81	0634	7.31	1410	0.24	1946	6.30	Thu 05
06 Fri	0159	0.66	0802	7.49	1516	-0.25	2104	6.76	Fri 06
07 Sat	0322	0.18	0919	7.81	1612	-0.73	2203	7.28	Sat 07
08 Sun	0423	-0.35	1020	8.11	1702	-1.10	2255	7.72	Sun 08
09 Mon	0517	-0.80	1112	8.27	1750	-1.31	2342	8.02	Mon 09
10 Tue	0607	-1.08	1202	8.25	1835	-1.32			Tue 10
11 Wed	0028	8.15	0656	-1.15	1249	8.06	1919	-1.14	Wed 11
12 Thu	0113	8.11	0744	-1.00	1336	7.72	2001	-0.80	Thu 12
13 Fri	0158	7.92	0832	-0.68	1424	7.29	2043	-0.34	Fri 13
14 Sat	0245	7.62	0923	-0.24	1515	6.83	2125	0.18	Sat 14
15 Sun	0337	7.28	1019	0.24	1613	6.42	2212	0.69	Sun 15
16 Mon	0436	6.97	1119	0.65	1718	6.14	2313	1.13	Mon 16
17 Tue	0543	6.77	1222	0.92	1822	6.05			Tue 17
18 Wed	0023	1.40	0647	6.73	1321	1.01	1922	6.14	Wed 18
19 Thu	0127	1.47	0745	6.82	1416	0.96	2017	6.36	Thu 19
20 Fri	0223	1.37	0838	6.99	1504	0.80	2106	6.63	Fri 20
21 Sat	0311	1.16	0924	7.16	1547	0.61	2150	6.88	Sat 21
22 Sun	0352	0.90	1004	7.30	1624	0.43	2227	7.09	Sun 22
23 Mon	0427	0.61	1037	7.38	1654	0.26	2255	7.25	Mon 23
24 Tue	0456	0.32	1056	7.43	1715	0.09	2309	7.43	Tue 24
25 Wed	0520	0.03	1114	7.51	1734	-0.09	2328	7.67	Wed 25
26 Thu	0550	-0.22	1143	7.56	1801	-0.24	2359	7.90	Thu 26
27 Fri	0625	-0.38	1220	7.55	1836	-0.30			Fri 27
28 Sat	0037	8.06	0705	-0.41	1301	7.43	1915	-0.23	Sat 28

MARCH 2009

01 Sun	0119	8.10	0749	-0.28	1346	7.20	1959	-0.01	Sun 01
02 Mon	0205	7.99	0839	-0.01	1437	6.87	2048	0.32	Mon 02
03 Tue	0257	7.75	0936	0.34	1534	6.52	2144	0.71	Tue 03
04 Wed	0356	7.44	1050	0.67	1643	6.26	2252	1.04	Wed 04
05 Thu	0506	7.17	1246	0.68	1820	6.25			Thu 05
06 Fri	0041	1.09	0643	7.12	1402	0.34	1956	6.65	Fri 06
07 Sat	0216	0.66	0818	7.41	1502	-0.12	2058	7.19	Sat 07

OIL BARGE HITS ROCKS NEAR HART ISLAND

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

A barge carrying 5 million gallons of oil was damaged by hitting an unidentified object near Execution Rocks on Jan. 22 but the oil was transferred to other vessels without spilling.

During the evening of Thursday, Jan. 22, a barge carrying more than 5 million gallons of heating oil from the New York City area to Boston struck an unidentified object in Long Island Sound near Execution Rocks. Although the vessel took on water, no oil spill occurred, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The master of the commercial tug *Meredith C. Reinauer* told the Coast Guard that the barge was taking on water and took it to anchor off nearby Hart Island. Divers examined the hull of the barge and reported

that it suffered three cracks and a 40-foot tear on the starboard bow but was not discharging any oil.

After the salvage plan was reviewed by the Coast Guard and a representative of the state Department of Environmental Conservation, an oil spill removal company, Miller Environmental, put a 3,500-foot protective boom around the barge as a precaution and transferred the oil to other vessels. After the transfer was completed Friday morning, the barge was taken to Staten Island to be put into dry dock for repair.

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Obituaries

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



Richard DeLuce

Richard DeLuce

Richard DeLuce, a City Island resident for more than 35 years, died on Dec. 25, 2008, at the age of 56.

He was born in the Bronx in 1952 and graduated from Evander Childs High School. He worked as a plumber for many years.

As son, brother, husband, father, uncle, and friend, he left an indelible impression with his charm, sense of humor and generosity. Richard was an accomplished sportsman who enjoyed bow hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his daughter, Krystal, 26, and by two sisters, Janice Calella of Lafayette, New Jersey, and Candy Mancuso of City Island, and a brother, Robert DeLuce, of Long Island.

His family would like to thank everyone for their genuine expressions of sympathy. Those of you who attended his services enabled the family to remember Richard in a very special way, through the eyes of his lifelong friends and neighbors. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Alice Payne

Alice Payne, a longtime Island resident, passed away suddenly on Jan. 19, 2009. She was 94.

She was born Alice Nelson in the Bronx on Nov. 30, 1914. She began her career as secretary to the president of the Propeller Club of the United States, a position she held for 10 years. This was followed



Alice Payne

by three years as an Ediphone operator at Union Carbide and several years as a secretary at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

She married James O. Payne on April 1, 1939, and moved to City Island. After taking time off to raise her family, she returned to the work force as a clerk for the Department of Corrections on Hart Island. Later, she worked as a clerk for 20 years at the City Island branch of the New York Public Library before she retired in 1980.

In 1969, Alice Payne and her husband, Jim, published a book about local history entitled "City Island—Tales of the Clam Diggers." Her daughters republished the book in 2004, and the City Island Nautical Museum hosted a book signing that was attended by many Island residents.

After she retired, Mrs. Payne volunteered at Aging in America, where she taught tai chi for more than 20 years. She was also in a dance group called the Academy Seniors, which performed at hospitals, nursing homes and Lincoln Center senior programs. Mrs. Payne also taught tai chi and dancing at Trinity Methodist Church on City Island.

Her other interests included putting ships in bottles and oil painting and collage; her work was exhibited at art shows in Greenwich Village and New Rochelle.

Predeceased by her husband, who passed away in 1989, Mrs. Payne is survived by her daughters, Dorothy Payne of City Island and Virginia Letourneau of New York City.

She will be very much missed by Islanders for the contributions she made to her community. As she wrote in her journal: "Look forward with optimism and enjoy each day" and "Enjoy life and be kind to others."

A well attended memorial service was held at Trinity United Methodist Church on January 24, 2009.

Five Ways To Know You Are Doing It Right

By BRUCE NIEVES

Do you ever wonder just how effective your workout routine really is? Maybe you saw great results when you first started to exercise, but now those results have come to a screeching halt. Do you want to know why?

If the following five statements accurately describe your exercise routine, then fear not—you're doing it right. If they don't describe your exercise routine, however, then listen up. There is no better time than now to rev up your routine.

1. You make the most of each move. Gone are the days when workouts lasted more than an hour and you had time to single out each muscle individually. Nowadays time is of the essence, and compound movements deliver excellent results in less time than ever before.

Are you not sure whether your routine includes compound movements? Any exercise that uses two or more joints is considered to be a compound movement. Squats and lunges are great examples. If you want to pack even more benefit into each move, try adding a shoulder press with your squats and a bicep curl with your lunges.

2. You keep it intense. Let's be honest; at one time or another you've spent time in the gym "exercising" without ever breaking a sweat. Maybe you drifted from one machine to the next or joined an aerobics class for a few minutes, but the bottom line was that your heart wasn't into it.

Workouts that lack intensity are practically a waste of time. Your body craves a challenge, and you see the best results when you keep your intensity high. Keep your workouts concise and push yourself with each exercise.

3. You're consistent. Anyone can have one great workout, but one workout won't translate into killer results. Only consistency will do that for you. Exercise must be a part of your daily routine, plain and

simple.

One of the best ways to stay consistent with your routine is to do your workout at the same time every day. We are creatures of habit, so once your exercise schedule has been firmly set, you will find that the process will become automatic rather than an occasional afterthought.

4. You seek a challenge. Just like hairstyles, exercise routines quickly become outdated. That is why the best routines are dynamic, and the worst routines never change. How do you know when your routine needs to be updated?

You'll know how effective your routine is by the results you experience, or by the lack thereof. If you feel that you are simply going through the motions, then stop wondering about the effectiveness of your routine and start doing something new.

5. You're having a blast! Do you dread the very thought of going for a jog but force yourself to do it simply because you've no other ideas for exercise? Stop right there. Exercise is an enjoyable activity, especially when you find the form that is best suited for your personal preferences.

If you don't like exercise, there is a good chance that your technique needs help. I pride myself in showing my clients the fun side of exercise. Yes, exercise is fun!

If your routine includes all of the above, congratulations! You are doing it right. You're consistent, you challenge yourself and you're seeing results. However, if your routine doesn't include the above, you now have the blueprints to do it right.

Do you want a routine that incorporates everything you need to reach your fitness goals? Call or e-mail today to set up a consultation, and I'll show you how to get amazing results in less time than you think.

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PINEWOOD CHAMPS



Photos by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

On Jan. 16, 2009, Cub Scout Pack 211 held its annual Pinewood Derby Race. Tiger trophy winners (l. to r.): second place Brandon McGaughn, first place Paul Mazzella, third place Gerald Mazzella.



Webelos I winners: first place Casper Pederson, second place Frank Guadio.



Webelos II trophy winners: second place Michael Bellocchio, first place Nicholas Gvonaj, third place Jack Green.



Bears winners: first place John Tomsen, second place Joseph Kramer, third place Joseph Gvonaj.



Wolf winners: first place Joseph Leni, second place James McGaughn, third place Aiden Saulnier.

SOCIAL SECURITY

5.8 Percent Benefit Increase for 2009

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 55 million Americans will increase 5.8 percent in 2009, the Social Security Administration recently announced. The 5.8 percent increase is the largest since 1982.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year.

The 5.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that more than 50 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2009. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$106,800 from \$102,000. Of the estimated 164 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2009, about 11 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2009 can be found at www.Medicare.gov.

Test Your Knowledge of Social Security

Social Security is a vital program that

touches the lives of almost everyone in the country. Test your knowledge by answering the following questions, and check your accuracy by visiting our Web site using the links provided.

If you are an average wage earner, how much of your pre-retirement earnings will Social Security replace? about 20 percent, 40 percent or 70 percent? (Answer at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10035.html).

In 1940, a 65-year-old male could expect to live another 12 years, but today it is 10 years, 12 years, 16 years, or 25 years? (Answer www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/background.html).

How many years of earnings will your basic Social Security retirement benefit be based on? Your last 10 years of earning, your highest three years or earnings or your highest 35 years of earnings? (Answer at www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/Benefits.html).

How much is the average Social Security benefit—about \$507, about \$1079, about \$1201 or about \$2024? (Answer at www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/cola-facts2008.htm).

If you don't retire at your full retirement age, will your eventual benefit be higher or is it final once you reach your full retirement age? (Answer at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/delayret.htm).

How many baby boomers are expected to reach retirement age over the next 20 years—about 20 million, 50 million or 80 million? (Answer at www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/babyboomerfiles-pr.htm).

But remember this: you don't have to answer all the questions right to be a winner. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov, where the prize is an informative and easy-to-use Web site.



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.



Ethan Heben married Catherine Xecominos-Taylor at the Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Maryland on Dec. 13, 2008.

Happy birthday wishes on Feb. 1 to Bay Street's Virginia DiGregorio, with love from your family and friends.

Happy belated birthday(s) to Michael Mancuso on Dec. 7 and to his big sister, Alaura Mancuso, who celebrated her big day on Dec. 29. With love from your family.

Friends and family gathered at the Lobster House on Nov. 22, 2008 to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Virginia and Ben DiGregorio, who were also celebrating their 80th birthdays.

Congratulations across the miles in the Netherlands to former Islanders Magda and Austin Dooley, who became the proud parents of twin girls, Emma Paula and Megan Sophia, on Dec. 19. Thrilled grandparents are Paula and Austin Dooley of Earley Street and Aunt Siobhan.

Birthday greetings go out to Bay Street's Lucy Zec, who will celebrate her big day on Feb. 26.

Goodbye and good luck to Rae Ann Petrone, who recently retired from City Island's Chase Bank. We will all miss you. And a warm welcome to Eric Garcia, Chase's new manager.

Congratulations to Peter Vincent and Eric Girardi on the opening of their new restaurant, Valentina's, in Carmel, New York. We wish you both the best of luck in your new venture. Love, Mom and Dad, Michelle and Ed.

It's a girl! Cameron Avery Kratzer was



Ben and Virginia DiGregorio with two of their great grandchildren, Ben and Julia Henning.

born on Dec. 8, 2008, weighing in at 9 lbs. 5oz. Proud parents are Karen (Ulmer) and Ryan Kratzer. Cameron was welcomed home by her big sister Allison Grace. Proud grandparents are Linda and John Ulmer of Earley Street

Congratulations to two former City Islanders Edward T. Nilon of Pilot Street and Lori Vogt of Bridge Street on their recent engagement on Christmas Eve at her parents home in Spring Hill, Florida. A late Spring or Summer wedding is planned. Lots of luck & happiness to them from her parents, Richie & Marlene Vogt. Sr.

Ed and Bette Heben of City Island are happy to announce the marriage of their son, LTJG Ethan Heben ("E") to Ms. Catherine Xecominos-Taylor of Baltimore. The ceremony was officiated at the Naval Academy Chapel in Annapolis, Maryland, on Dec. 13, 2008. Having served more than two years with the Pacific 7th Fleet, "E," a 2006 Naval Academy graduate, left an ensign and returned from Japan a lieutenant just two and a half months ago. He will now be joining his ship on a tour of duty in the Arabian Sea. Catherine, a CPA graduate of the College of Notre Dame, the University of Baltimore and a CPA candidate, will be employed by KPMG. Godspeed to Ethan, his captain and crew in this new assignment and "fair winds and following seas" to the newlyweds during the voyage of their lifetime.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Frank Ring, who is recuperating after surgery for a pacemaker and a new knee. He is at home at 454 City Island Avenue and welcomes visitors. Stop by and say "hi."

Happy 79th birthday on January 22 to Walter Huffell, with LOVE from your wife, Paula.

Maria Swieciki



Does anyone remember this charming young pair photographed just a few years ago on City Island? If you think you know who they are, drop a line to The Island Current, Box 6, City Island NY 10464.

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