

# The Island Current

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One Dollar

## CI Water Main Project Completed Despite Traffic and Tragedy

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos courtesy of NYC DEP and DDC

DEP completed installation of two 20-inch water mains under Eastchester Bay in July 2022 (top photo). The project increased the reliability of City Island's drinking water supply. A cofferdam was used during construction to prevent water from entering the work zone on City Island, while the yellow turbidity barrier prevented unwanted discharge from the work area into Eastchester Bay (bottom photo).

After living with nearly three years of construction along City Island Avenue, residents were relieved when the major water main project was finally completed in July this year, as announced by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Design and Construction (DDC). The \$34 million project upgraded the drinking water connection from the Bronx to City Island by installing two new 20-inch water mains that extend 4,100 feet under Eastchester Bay and will ensure a reliable supply of water for the residents and businesses located on the Island.

Although the replacement of the water mains was clearly necessary, the construction did cause traffic disruption with daily detours and was indirectly the cause of a fatal shooting of one of the workers on the project in April 2021 (see May 2021 issue of *The Current* on our website). And more construction is on its way, with new sewers being installed at the northeast end of the Island next year and the installation by Con Edison of a new underwater gas line that is scheduled to begin before the end of 2022.

Mayor Eric Adams praised the water main project: "Thanks to the team's strategic and creative work, the residents and small businesses of City Island will have reliable access to the clean drinking water they deserve." DEP Commissioner

Rohit T. Aggarwala also expressed his appreciation for the work that went into the completion of the water main: "This complex project included tunneling under Eastchester Bay, and I want to thank our partners at DDC for overseeing this complicated and environmentally sensitive work."

DDC Commissioner Thomas Foley responded by reporting that "Tunneling under Eastchester Bay was a complicated project that will ensure a reliable water supply for City Island for decades to come. I commend the DDC staff for their diligence in working through the pandemic and for their dedication to environmental protection and ensuring that the work did not disturb environmentally sensitive areas nearby."

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson noted that "Clean drinking water is a fundamental human right, and it is in the best interest of our city that all New Yorkers have tap water that is safe to drink and free of contamination. I applaud The NYC Department of Environmental Protection and NYC Department of Design and Construction for their commitment to this project, and smart execution to ensure City Island residents and businesses have clean water access."

As Council Member Marjorie Velázquez put it: "The residents and businesses of City Island are entitled to clean

drinking water and a well-managed water supply, and I'm glad to see the New York City Department of Design and Construction and Department of Environmental Protection deliver just that. I'm glad to see the completed project not only provides water but a new pipeline and new fire hydrants for both City Island and Pelham Bay Park, as well as restored pedestrian pathways and bike paths."

And Assembly Member Michael Benedetto expressed his gratitude "to all who were involved in the completion of this much-needed project."

The project included the use of horizontal directional drilling technology to create a passage for the new pipes beneath Eastchester Bay. During construction, engineers utilized horizontal directional drilling technology to create two 2,000-foot pathways under the bay for the pipes to travel from the Rodman's Neck peninsula on the mainland toward City Island. The process included boring a pilot hole from one surface point to another, expand-

ing that hole to the appropriate diameter to accommodate the pipes being installed, grouting into place a steel sleeve that stabilizes the tunnel that has been created and then pulling the water main pipes through the enlarged hole. Work on City Island itself included the construction of a receiving pit where the new pipes would tie into the local water main distribution system.

The new pipelines replace an older 12-inch subaqueous water main and a temporary 16-inch main that was previously installed on the City Island Bridge and which has been removed. Construction also included the addition of new fire hydrants on Pelham Bay Park and City Island. The bike path on the bridge and the bike path that connects Pelham Bay Park to City Island were restored, as was the pedestrian pathway connecting the Catherine Scott promenade to the Pelham Bay bike path.

The project was designed by Dew-

*Continued on page 12*

## Water Jubilee 3 A Great Success

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Oyster Reef held its third Water Jubilee on Aug. 20, 2022, starting with a kayak/paddleboard race around the Island. A sailing race took place in the afternoon, followed by a reception at the Morris Yacht Club.

Forty-two kayakers and paddleboarders swarmed the west coast of City Island off Tier Street on Saturday morning, Aug. 20, as they prepared to race around the Island in the first part of the annual fundraising event for the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR). The receding tide and the lack of wind made the conditions ideal for the race, and the first kayaker completed the four-mile course in 37 minutes and 38 seconds. (The last kayak to finish made it in one hour and 42 minutes!) A sailing race in Eastchester Bay took place at 2 p.m. and was won (for the second year in a row) by Roy Smith and Ellen Murphy on *Panic Attack*, a J-24, which outpaced its competitors.

A reception for participants and supporters of CIOR was held on Saturday afternoon at the Morris Yacht Club. Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, who has recently made possible a substantial NYS legislative initiative grant to CIOR, was present, and Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez spoke enthusiastically about her support for the organization. Ahmed Abbas, a graduate student in

environmental science who is working for the organization as a field coordinator, explained to the crowd a program funded by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund in which five sites around the Island are being monitored so that two may be selected for the construction of oyster reefs. Dive surveys, sediment sampling, oyster research cage comparisons and water-quality testing are being conducted at the survey sites, and the most promising sites will be selected at the end of 2022.

Awards to the winners in the Kayak Challenge went to Marshall Seddon, who won the high performance division; Leeming Wordsman, who won the community paddle, and Jason Barnhill, who was the fastest paddleboarder. The Heike Neumeister Nautilus Cup went to Roy Smith and Ellen Murphy for their victory in the sailing race, and a special award for her contributions—the CIOR Spirit Award—was awarded to Ellen Grace Zaltas, the organization's photographer. A tribute to Captain Mike Carew, vice chair of CIOR, was made by "Bird," a lifelong City Island resident.

**BRIEFLY...**

**CLEANING THE 9/11 MEMORIAL MURAL:** The new owner of the property on the northeast corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue has given permission for a clean-up of the mural painted on the building. The cleaning will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11, beginning at noon. Volunteers are welcome (please bring scrapers and gloves), as are donations from businesses, residents and local organizations. Funds can be used for materials and to commission an artist to repaint the damaged parts of the mural. For more information, call 347-242-4393 or e-mail [aerbobci@gmail.com](mailto:aerbobci@gmail.com).

**INSURANCE REDUCTION PROGRAM,** approved by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto. The course will be held at Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway. This six-hour course will refresh your driving knowledge with a review of time-tested safe driving tips. Those who complete the course will receive a reduction of approximately 10 percent from the base rate of automobile and motorcycle liability premiums each year for three years. The cost for this class is \$30. For more information and to register, call Assemblyman Benedetto's office at 718-892-2235.

**BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM THEATER:** A new play titled "Monster," written and directed by Amy Frey based on the novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley, will be presented by the Red Monkey Theater Group at Bartow-Pell on Saturday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, at 2 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Sept. 29 and 30, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 2, at 2 p.m. Cost: Adults \$35, Seniors/Students \$30. For tickets, visit [bartowpellmansionmuseum.org](http://bartowpellmansionmuseum.org). In this site-specific production, audiences will follow both Shelley and her characters through historic Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, tracing a tale of gothic horror and the creation by a revolutionary female teenager of the world's first science fiction story.

**FIND PELL THE PARROT:** From Monday, Sept. 12, through Sunday, Oct. 2, several Island businesses will hide a cardboard cutout of Pell the Parrot somewhere in their establishments. Participants will be children between the ages of 4 and 8, and they will visit these places with their guardians to find the parrot. When they get a signature or stamp from each location to confirm that they spotted Pell the Parrot, they will take their game cards to the Chamber of Commerce office at Kaleidoscope Gallery, 280 City Island Avenue, to receive a prize. The more businesses they visit, the more prizes they will get. Once a card is complete, the child can start a new card for additional prizes.

**COMPOST FOOD SCRAPS** can be dropped off at 239 City Island Avenue, since the Department of Sanitation does not provide this service for City Island. For more information, call 917-727-4453 or send an e-mail to [info@GreenFeenOrganiX.com](mailto:info@GreenFeenOrganiX.com).

**VIVA LA SOUND,** an environmental festival sponsored by the City Island Oyster Reef, will take place again this year at Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175, on Saturday, Oct. 1 (rain date Oct. 2) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Families and friends of the environment are invited to attend the festival for a free, fun-filled day of educational activities that will focus on the benefits of oyster restoration, various clean-water initiatives and the importance of wetlands restoration on Long Island Sound. More than two dozen environmental nonprofits and community groups have been invited to participate in the festival by sponsoring tables that explain their programs and initiatives. Local schools will provide beautiful murals, and there will be activities for children with an ecological theme. The event is supported by a generous grant from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation. Food donated by City Island restaurants, music and lively demonstrations will be provided for all visitors.

**TOURING KAYAK CLUB POKER RUN.** The TKC welcomes all human-powered vessels to join in the first Poker Run sponsored by the club on Saturday, Sept. 17. The run (not a race) begins at 10 a.m. and will take about an hour and a half. Paddlers will receive a colored check mark on their scorecards from each of the designated five stops; they may check in and may draw one card from each kayak stop until they total five cards and five unique colored check marks on their scorecard. Paddlers must complete the run and be at TKC no later than 12:30 p.m. and present their scorecard to the TKC judges. The best hand and the lowest hand will win a cash prize. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.touringkayakclub.org/>.

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**CITY ISLAND ORAL HISTORY VIDEOS** are on view at the City Island Nautical Museum, 190 Fordham Street, which is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Four videos based on oral histories recorded in 1984 feature historical events, the City Island community, boat-building and sail-making and Island schools.

**45 BLOTTER**

**Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during June, July and August 2022. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.**

- 3 – HARASSMENT
- 2 – ASSAULT
- 1 – FORGED INSTRUMENT
- 3 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 2 – GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 4 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 – PETIT LARCENY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from June 23 to Aug. 23, 2022.

6/29 – An incident of criminal mischief was reported on Centre Street and City Island Avenue at 6:45 a.m. The owner of a commercial establishment opened his business and upon entering noticed broken glass and a cinder block next to it. He checked inside and found an off-Island male sleeping on the floor.

7/1 – A female Islander reported harassment on Winters Street at 12:19 a.m. The complainant told police that she had received a message from an unknown defendant of a video of her daughter with a voiceover on it. The defendant stated that it would be sent to her daughter's school for unknown reasons.

7/1 – On City Island Avenue at 6:30 p.m., an off-Island male told police that an unknown defendant sideswiped his vehicle causing damage to the driver's side mirror. The unknown driver left the scene.

7/4 – At 6 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported an assault. The complainant states that when she was on a boat an unknown female punched and kicked her, causing pain and injuries to her legs and arm.

7/7 – An incident of criminal mischief was reported on Fordham Street at 10 p.m. An Island male stated that an unknown perpetrator broke his glass door.

7/13 – On Hawkins Street at 9:27 p.m., a female Islander told police that she had parked her vehicle and upon returning found damage to the rear bumper. Her neighbor had seen an unknown vehicle hit her vehicle and leave the scene of the accident.

7/15 – At 1:20 p.m. on Fordham Street, an Island female reported being harassed by another Island female. Complainant states that the perpetrator went to her property and used foul language calling her a liar for filing 311 complaints. She stated she was going to sue the complainant, who stated that she had made complaints to the Civic Association, but not to 311.

7/16 – An incident of grand larceny auto was reported by an Island male on Marine

Street at 7:30 p.m. The complainant states that he had parked and locked his vehicle, but that it was missing upon his return.

7/17 – A report for leaving the scene of an accident was made by an off-Island male and female on City Island Avenue at 9:30 p.m. Complainants state that while stopped in the emergency lane on a moped, their vehicle was hit by an unknown perpetrator who drove out of a lot, causing injuries, and then left the scene.

7/17 – On Reynolds Street at 7:30 p.m., an Island male reported an incident of grand larceny auto. Complainant states that he had parked his vehicle and found it missing when he returned.

7/20 – At 1:20 p.m. on Fordham Street, an Island male states that he parked his vehicle and upon return found it had damage on the driver's side. Neighbor stated that an unknown person had struck the vehicle while making a U-turn.

7/22 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an off-Island male, 39, on City Island Avenue at 10:30 p.m. and charged him with possession of a forged instrument. Defendant was observed driving a vehicle with a license plate covered in plastic. The arresting officer observed that the license plate was paper with an improper expiration date. Defendant stated that he had knowingly purchased a fraudulent license plate.

7/24 – On City Island Avenue at 5:50 p.m., an off-Island male reported an assault at a commercial establishment. He said that while trying to intervene in a dispute between a customer and an employee, the employee became irate and punched the complainant in the face multiple times.

7/29 – At a business on City Island Avenue, an incident of criminal mischief was reported at 5:20 p.m. The complainant told police that two males were having a dispute, then entered the location and continued arguing. The second proceeded to swing a chair, causing damage to the front door.

8/2 – An Island female told police that she was harassed on City Island Avenue at 12 midnight. She was walking her dog when an unknown male walked toward her and stated "B---, I will stab you and your dog."

8/9 – A report of petit larceny was made on City Island Avenue at 10:15 p.m. Complainant parked her vehicle and upon return realized that items had been removed from the vehicle.

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# Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Steps Up for City Island

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



On June 27, 2022, Katie Friedman of Save the Sound (above with Assemblyman Michael Benedetto) announced the award of \$400,000 to Save the Sound to develop a watershed management plan for the Hutchinson River.

Since winning the Democratic primary for District 82 of the New York State Assembly in April, Michael Benedetto has been very busy working on behalf of his community, and at least three recent announcements are for actions that will be beneficial to City Island.

On June 27, 2022, at a press conference on the Island, the Assemblyman announced that New York State has granted \$400,000 to the environmental organization Save the Sound to enable the development of watershed management for the Hutchinson River as part of a larger effort to clean up portions of the lower Hutchinson River that flows into Long Island Sound. Save the Sound is a Connecticut-based nonprofit that has been dedicated to improving water quality in Long Island Sound, among many other achievements, such as public engagement and habitat restoration. The organization is currently working with the City Island Oyster Reef by providing equipment, materials and experience to the volunteer group.

“Pollution in the Hutchinson River is a major problem for my district,” Mr.

Benedetto said. “Before we can fix it, we need a plan and that’s why I’m so excited to team up with Save the Sound and our local environmental groups to get the ball rolling on this effort! Like my constituents, I’m tired of seeing our section of the Long Island Sound having an ‘F’ for water quality, and together we will change that negative distinction.”

For many years, polluted stormwater runoff, along with raw or partly treated sewage, has caused serious harm to the ecology of the river, which empties into Eastchester Bay, and all segments of the lower Hutchinson River are listed on the NYS list of “impaired waterbodies.” In December 2020 *The Current* published an article about efforts by State Senator Alessandra Biaggi and several local organizations to work with the city of Mount Vernon to help correct the various serious issues caused by lack of infrastructure to cope with sewage. But Mount Vernon alone is not the only source of problems for the river.

Katie Friedman, New York ecological restoration program manager for Save the

Sound, stated at the press conference: “By developing a watershed management plan, we will gain a better understanding of the river’s existing conditions and the goals of communities along its banks, to produce a roadmap for collectively improving the Hutchinson River’s water quality, flood resiliency and ecological habitat. We thank Assemblyman Benedetto for securing this funding that will improve conditions for Bronx residents and local ecosystems alike, and we look forward to collaborating closely with the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, City Island Oyster Reef, NYC Parks and other stakeholders.”

The plan will identify runoff pollution contributing to the impairment of water quality and flooding risks in the Bronx, and engage and educate local agencies and the public by forming a Watershed Steering Committee. The goal is to restore the health of the river so that it can be removed from the NYC Department of Environmental Conservation’s list of impaired water bodies.

On July 31, the Assemblyman was joined by Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez to announce a new bill they have introduced to control the excessive noise and other issues created by the NYPD firing range at Rodman’s Neck in order to restore quality of life to communities in the East Bronx. As is well known, the shooting range has for decades been a concern for residents of City Island, as well as neighboring communities, and in spite of promises made over the years, the range continues to suffer from many delays in the construction of indoor ranges and in providing information regarding water pollution caused by the range and the nearby Bomb Squad. John Doyle, who is on the 45th Precinct Community Council and works part-time for Mr. Benedetto, told *The Current*: “For too long, the city has been less than transparent regarding their plans for Rodman’s Neck. I’m pleased to have collaborated with Assembly Members Benedetto and Fernandez to develop legislation that will force the city, by statute of law, to rein in their operations.”

The new bill, which will come before the Assembly in 2023, covers such issues

as noise pollution, hours of operation and environmental concerns, not only for Rodman’s Neck but also for municipal firing ranges throughout the state.

Assemblyman Benedetto recognizes that his constituents have been more than patient for over 30 years. “In the 1990s, the State alienated parkland to the City and in turn, the City promised to address residents’ environmental and noise concerns. Thirty years later, this has yet to happen, and I think its time for the State to step back in and codify its expectations under the penalty of law. Furthermore, my bill [Assembly Bill 10613] will undertake a first-of-its-kind environmental study so we can have clarity about any health concerns associated with the Range.”

Assemblywoman Fernandez said that “today marks real progress in the movement to reduce noise pollution in Rodman’s Neck, and serves as an important reminder of the change we can achieve when the community and government work together.” This legislation was developed in close collaboration with community leaders and area residents and has been referred to the Assembly committee on local governments.

Just as *The Current* goes to press for the September issue, City Island Oyster Reef received a notice that Assemblyman Benedetto has awarded the organization a New York State grant of \$20,000 that will enable it to carry out ambitious plans to restore oyster reefs in the waters around City Island and to education the local community, schools and future generations about issues of climate change, carbon capture and so on. Along with this generous grant, the Assemblyman also allocated the sum of \$2,500 to each of the following City Island groups: the City Island Nautical Museum, the Little League, the Chamber of Commerce and the City Island Theater Group.

When asked about other issues affecting his district, the Assemblyman was quick to notice that the subject of abandoned boats has never been satisfactorily addressed, and he agreed that statewide legislation and funding would help deal with this ongoing issue in the waters of the East Bronx.

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Photo by CATHY CEBEK

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson (second from right) and Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez (second from left) joined Civic Association officers Kim McGaughan, Bill Stanton and Tom Smith at the July meeting of the City Island Civic Association.

## Primary Election Results

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Many Islanders were puzzled when they showed up at the poll in the P.S. 175 gym on Tuesday, Aug. 23, to find that there was only one primary vote that needed to be cast—either for the Democratic nomination for the office of New York State Senator in the 34th Senatorial District, a position now held by Alessandra Biaggi, or for the Republican nomination for the office of U.S. Representative to Congress.

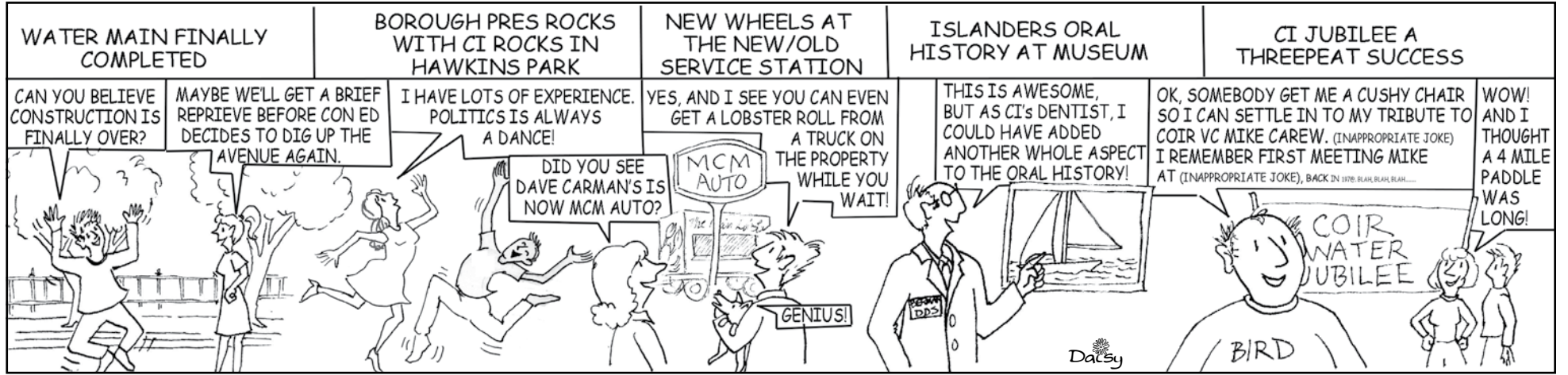
The three candidates in the Democratic primary were Christian Amato, who earned 2,439 votes as of Aug. 25; John Perez, who received 652 votes, and Nathalia Fernandez, who got 5,286 votes, with 115 write-in votes recorded. City Island votes were 144

for Fernandez, 129 for Amato and 28 for Perez, with 6 write-ins.

The two Republican candidates for the House of Representatives were Tina Forte, who won with 1,530 votes (43 from City Island), and Desi Cuellar, who got 722 votes (34 from City Island).

Alessandra Biaggi ran in the Democratic primary for U.S. Representative, but she came in behind Representative Seth Patrick Maloney in New York District 17.

At the primary election on June 28, 2022, for candidates for the NYS Assembly, Michael Benedetto won on City Island with 233 votes; Jonathan Soto received 154 votes and Algernon Quattlebaum 17.



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

**A Farmers' Market Not to Miss**

To all Islanders:

Through mid-December, a lively Saturday morning market occupies a 50-yard stretch of the southbound Larchmont Metro North parking lot, a 15-minute drive from City Island. The hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and there are many more vendors now than there were during the pandemic.

The vendors' items include seasonal vegetables and fruits, fresh and processed meats, seafood fresh from Long Island, baked goods and dairy offerings such as eggs, cheese, cow and sheep milk and yogurt. Especially popular are freshly prepared, take-home ethnic dishes (Italian, Greek, Mediterranean, Korean, Croatian). Other foods include specialty pickles, fresh hummus, fermented items, artisanal chocolates that are works of art, cheeses, meat pies and spirits. Unusual, freshly cut flowers are available in the spring and fall, and you can get a cup of coffee, as well as a sandwich for lunch or breakfast made with ingredients from local farms.

The Larchmont Farmers Market is one of five in the greater New York area managed by Down to Earth Farmers Markets. Their website, [www.downtoearthmarkets.com/contact](http://www.downtoearthmarkets.com/contact), includes a list of all vendors, their specialties and websites that give detailed descriptions of the offerings. It also gives the dates that vendors are there, because some come only every other week.

Some of the busiest vendors (American Pride Seafood, Stone and Thistle Farms and Wave Hill Bakery) will occasionally reserve items for customers through e-mail. Sales at all vendors are for cash, Venmo or an approved credit card.

And don't overlook the fact that this is a convenient place to take clothing, linen and shoes for recycling. The collector of these items, Green Tree Textile Recycling, has a large green bin adjacent to the market entrance. It is an established organization that does non-profit work in support of people who are disadvantaged and for

the environment <https://www.greentree-textiles.org/>.

Hope to see you all there next Saturday!

**Herbert H. Schaumburg and Lucy L. Brown**

**CI Rocks**

To the Editor:

We would like to express our gratitude to all City Islanders, businesses and elected officials who supported the City Island Rocks Summer Music events in Hawkins Park, as well as the performers and the volunteers. We are especially grateful to Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, the City Island Diner, JP's Restaurant, the Atlantic Emeritus Realty staff and John Paul. Thanks to Skip and Louise Giacco of Lickety Split for supplying the electricity, and of course the musical talent that performed free or for minimal fees.

We are also planning a Tunnel to Towers fundraising event on Sunday, Sept. 18, and will confirm the time and place on the City Island Rocks page and on multiple Facebook pages.

Volunteers, donations and gift certificates for raffles are always welcome, along with any musical talents who wish to perform. Contact us through Facebook or the AER office at 718-885-0088 or 347-242-4393.

**Bob Carmody and Sue Kawczynski**



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Photo by SUE KAWCZYNSKI

Bronx Borough President, Vanessa Gibson (center), rocked on with the bands that made City Island Rocks 2022 a success during July and August. Organizer Bob Carmody announced that the Borough President pledged to fund the popular summer event for 2023.

Fall is just around the corner!

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# City Island Speaks Up—in 1984!

By JAMES MOHN



Photo by SUSAN RAUH

The City Island Nautical Museum is now offering four videos based on oral histories gathered in 1984. Above is a photograph in the Community Room video showing Louis the Clip sitting in front of his barber shop. Participants in the project watched the videos at a special reception in August, hosted by Mary McIntyre who chaired the project for the Museum.

On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 14, 2022, a small group gathered in the library of the City Island Nautical Museum for the first screening of four videos created by its City Island Oral History Project. The reception marked the opening to the public of the films that will run in four different rooms in the museum during open hours: Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Four large flatscreens have

been installed in the rooms of the museum, and these new exhibits will add context and depth to the already impressive collection of photos and artifacts there. The four videos entitled School, Community, Nautical and History will play on a loop in the museum's rooms dedicated to each of those aspects of City Island's rich history.

Mary McIntyre has been involved shep-

herding the project since 2018, along with Museum board members Barbara Dolensek, Julia DiMaio and Barbara Harrison. Like so much history, this project has taken many twists and turns. The initial effort began with the simple act of pulling a box off a shelf in the museum. Mary attributed her discovery of the box of typed transcripts to her being a "busy body." What she found that afternoon became the basis of an effort to bring to life a project that had begun nearly 40 years earlier.

In 1984 City Islander Elizabeth Oliver obtained a grant from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs to record the recollections of life of City Island's "old timers." She feared that with the passing of these people, many personal records of the period between 1900 and World War II, during which profound changes took place in the community, would be lost forever. With the help of museum board members, she took her tape recorder to the homes of 30 residents and recorded many hours of personal stories and recollections of significant events in the history of the Island.

The next bit of the story is cloudy. What Mary found on the shelf of the museum was not a box of reel-to-reel tapes, but a ream of

typed pages that included edited transcriptions of the recordings. One of the joys of doing work in history is that often it's like reading "someone else's mail." This fascination was what gripped everyone to whom Mary showed the transcriptions. So she and the "three musketeers," as she refers to them, met several times a week for over a year, "either at the museum if the heat was on or at each other's houses when it was not" to pore over the transcripts and edit them. They began to take shape into the four categories covered in the videos: what it was like to grow up in the community, attend City Island schools (public and Catholic), the significance of the boat building and sail making industries, and the major historical events from hurricanes to wars that shaped life here.

Because the voices of the original subjects of the interviews could no longer be heard, the group decided on a couple of routes. Families of the original subjects still on the island were asked to record their ancestors, and in the videos, there are two grandchildren and one son and one daughter reading the words of their relatives. The team then drew on another City Island resource, the City Island Theater Group, and over several weekends in August 2019 the audio recordings were completed.

Museum board members also began combing through the collection at the museum for photographs and other items that could be married with the voices. Hundreds of hours were spent searching for pictures and documents, editing the recordings to usable clips and adjusting the final product. James and Thomas Breen began the initial work of recording the voices and shaping the presentations, but the pandemic intervened, and work on the project went into its own version of quarantine. Late last year, the material was handed over to the Island's film maker Stephen Franciosa Jr. of Spot On Productions, and he crafted the four fascinating videos that are now on display at the City Island Nautical Museum.

Even if you or your relatives were not living on City Island during the 20th century, these lively and often amusing interviews bring that period to life in a way that you will certainly be able to identify with and give you a special understanding of what makes this community so unique.



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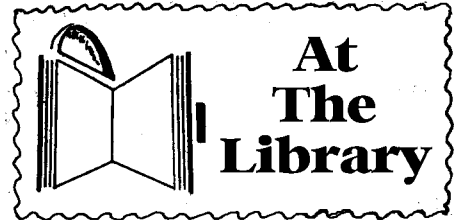


A new take-out shop specializing in Mexican cuisine will open in September at 415 City Island Avenue, where To Go Express thrived for 24 years.



Although we are sad to see **To Go Express** go after 24 years of serving delicious take-out dinners for City Island, the good news is that the shop at 415 City Island Avenue will soon become **Little Frida's Eatery**, serving authentic Mexican and American cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The new proprietors are Jose Hernandez and Orfilda Perez, and they look forward to opening in September.

Dave Carman's service station has taken on a new life, as **MCM Auto**, with Dan Fini as manager and Luis Calderon as mechanic. The garage is already open and ready for business on Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The telephone number is the same: 718-885-1227.



**CITY ISLAND LIBRARY**  
**Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
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**SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Family Storytime:** This event will take place in person at City Island. Join us for a live program with songs, rhymes and favorite read-aloud books as we show you that story time is fun for the whole family. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Tuesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m.

**Start with Art:** Promote early literacy through art, while getting creative! Young artists will explore colors, shapes and more while working on motor skills—and creating some fun crafts along the way. Limited to 12 children and caregivers per session. First come, first served. Mondays at 11 a.m.

**Bilingual Storytime:** It's Spanish story time! Gather your preschoolers and toddlers to enjoy stories, rhymes and fun! / ¡Tiempo de Lectura para niñxs! ¡Media hora de cuentos cortos, rimas, música, y diversión! First come, first served. Limited to 15 children and caregivers per session. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 11 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Monday Makers:** Kids and teens ages

8 to 14 can explore art and technology with our makerspace, featuring varied monthly activities designed to get kids creating! Monday, Sept. 12, at 3 p.m.

**Twisted Stitches:** A teen/tween knitting, crochet, and needlework club! Bring your own project to work on in a calm, relaxed environment, or use our materials to learn a new skill. Thursdays at 3 p.m.

**Teen Unwind:** Celebrate the end of the week every Friday at 3 p.m.

**Bookface Photos:** Explore photography, with books as your masks! Friday, Sept 9.

**Unplug & Relax:** Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles, coloring pages and anything else without a screen. Friday, Sept 16.

**Model Magic Makers:** Use Model Magic clay to create sculptures! Friday, Sept 23.

**3D Pens:** Explore space, engineering and physics with our 3D pens. Friday, Sept 30.

**SEPTEMBER ADULT PROGRAMS**

**Introduction to Computers:** Join our computer class, with a different subject being taught each week. Subjects will include Internet literacy, social media, video chatting and more. All work will be conducted on our Library computers. No registration required. Call us for details on upcoming subjects. Thursday, Sept. 8 and 22, at 11 a.m.

**Color Me Calm:** Have you been feeling more stressed than usual lately? The City Island Library will be hosting a bi-weekly adult coloring program to help relieve that stress and promote calmness. Coloring materials will be provided. Thursday, Sept. 15 and 29, at 11 a.m.

**Spanish Café:** Online Advanced Spanish Conversation Hour: This program will provide a relaxed space for Spanish-language students to practice their conversational skills by discussing art, film, culture and more exciting topics, as well as getting answers about the language itself. Coffee or tea encouraged! Thursday, Sept. 22, and Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 4 p.m.

**City Island Book Club:** Every month a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading next. Monday, Sept. 12 and 26, at 5 p.m.

**Island Writers:** Do you have a passion for writing? Join us for our Island Writers, a creative writing group. This group is for writers of different levels and expertise. We are here to help one another on the journey of self-expression and creativity! Every Tuesday at 1 p.m.

**One-on-One Job Support:** Do you need help with your resumé, cover letter or job search? Our trained staff can help you write and format your resúmes and cover letters, conduct mock interviews and identify job search resources. No registration required. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 11 a.m.

**What Are You Reading?** Calling all avid readers! Let's come together as a community to discuss what you've been reading and what you may want to read next! This is an open discussion for all genres. Saturday,

Sept. 24, at 3 p.m., this program will be presented virtually with registration required. For any or all programs listed, please

go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register.



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# American Legion

## Pumpkin Sale

**MUMS**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 30th - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**SAURDAY, OCT. 1st - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**SUNDAY, OCT. 2nd - 10 a.m. to End**

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**CORNSTALKS**

**Please Support the American Legion**



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Under beautiful blue skies, the City Island Sail and Power Squadron and the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post 156 hosted City Island's annual Blessing of the Fleet held on June 26, 2022, at Barron's Boatyard dock. Clergy from all four houses of worship blessed the passing vessels (l. to r.) Rabbi David Evan Markus (Temple Beth-El), Deacon Bill Mueller (St. Mary, Star of the Sea), Rev. David Jolly (Trinity United Methodist Church) and Rev. Canon Kevin Moroney (Grace Episcopal Church).

# Helping the Living Shoreline Live

By PETER HICKEY



Photos by SALLY CONNOLLY

Peter Hickey (inset, standing on a sail donated by Doyle Sails), helped by the scouts in Troop 211, cleaned the living shoreline behind Ambrosini Field of weeds and debris as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project through much of the summer of 2022. Scoutmaster Angelo Bellocchio told *The Current*: "I'm very proud of Peter and his inspirational spirit. His dedication to scouting has been admirable and contagious."

For most of the summer of 2022, two days each week, the scouts of Troop 211 joined me and anyone else who could help the City Island Oyster Reef down at the living shoreline behind Ambrosini Field to work on my Eagle Scout Service Project. Because we cleared so much, the living shoreline is almost unrecognizable compared to what it was before we started.

This area belongs to the Department of Parks & Recreation, which allowed me to carry out the project, which will enable the shoreline to become an outdoor classroom where students and members of the community can study marine ecology.

Most of our workdays were spent cutting weeds with a weed whacker, raking up the clippings and putting them in bags. Then we covered the cleared areas with donated tarps, awnings and old sails to starve the weeds of light and water and kill them. Much of the equipment we used, including the weed whacker landscape tools, tarps, grass seed and paper bags for the weeds, were donated to the City Island Oyster Reef by the Citizens Committee for NYC.

Our primary target was Japanese

Knotweed, an aggressive invasive species here in New York. It is an incredibly resilient plant that can grow under almost any condition, which makes killing it very difficult and time consuming. Because of the living shoreline's proximity to the water, using weed killer or other methods of killing weeds was not possible. Despite all the challenges we faced, however, we completed an incredible amount of work.

This was my service project for Eagle Scout, the highest and most difficult rank to achieve in scouting. As a member of Boy Scout Troop 211 here on City Island, I can say it is one of the greatest troops around. I'm certain that if I had been a member of another troop, we would not have had nearly as many people show up to help with the project. For one thing, we are a tight knit community, and when anyone needs help, there are always more than enough volunteers ready and enthusiastic to help. For another, 211 is one of the largest troops around, and it is one of the few troops that is actually growing. I consider it truly an honor to be a part of 211, and I think that anyone you ask would agree that 211 is a special troop.

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# City Island Arts & Crafts Fair

Sat. & Sun. September 10th & 11th

Clam chowder contest Saturday Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. in Hawkins Park  
Sponsored by Councilperson Marjorie Velasquez

11am to 7pm

Live Music Gifts Great Food Face Painting

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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.

### City Island Civic Association

The July 26th meeting was held at the Morris Yacht Club, and we welcomed the following guests: Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson, Councilmember Marjorie Velázquez, Captain Isaac Soberal and officers of the 45th Police Precinct.

There were several questions asked of the guests, including safety, car break-ins, false 311 calls made on residents and the lack of police officers. Captain Soberal pointed out that because retirees are outnumbering new officers, numbers are down, and several other precincts in the Bronx have a much higher crime rate than the 45th. The idea of a police substation on or near City Island, such as at Rodman's Neck, was suggested and would be supported by the membership.

Zoning. Because of issues caused by U.S. Crane relating to noise and the blocking of the Avenue, the subject of City Island Special District Zoning was raised and should be reviewed by the elected officials and the Department of City Planning.

The Municipal Services Committee has communicated with the Department of Transportation regarding the dangerous road condition, especially the one near the golf course parking lot, which was subsequently repaired. The catch basin on Park Drive was cleaned, as were various catch basins along City Island Avenue. DOT has confirmed that various issues we reported to them were to be fixed this year, including the City Island Circle and City Island Road. DOT also plans to address the Hutchinson River Parkway exits by the Amtrak Bridge as many have had wrong way drivers entering the Hutchinson River Parkway via exit ramps.

The Unity and Solutions Committee continues to work with the Trinity Church food pantry. Pantry items may be dropped off on the porch at 113 Bay Street, and items ordered from Amazon may also be delivered there. Checks payable to Trinity Church may be left in the mailbox on the porch.

Responding to recent complaints about noise after hours at one of the Island restaurants, the proprietors attended the meeting, and there was much discussion of the situation, which the Civic will continue to monitor in order to come up with a solution that will be satisfactory to everyone involved.

Community Board 10's general meetings are held the third Thursday of the month (except in summer), and City Island residents can and should attend these, as well as committee meetings where City Island issues are discussed. The Municipal Committee, for example, encourages residents to request that road conditions be fixed. You can fill out a form on line. Important surveys, letter campaigns and upcoming meetings are posted on social media to keep the community in the loop. Have a voice.

Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to our meetings, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. And bring a friend or neighbor with you. You can e-mail the Civic at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com) to ask for assistance. Calling 311 beforehand (and getting a reference number!) to register a complaint about anything from a flooded street to a broken street light or graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association at [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Additionally, remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues. Our Community Police Officer can be reached

at [Neil.Anderson@nypd.org](mailto:Neil.Anderson@nypd.org).

We are still collecting dues for 2022 membership. \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. Please send to P.O. Box 117, Bronx NY 10464 or via PayPal to [city.island.civic@gmail.com](mailto:city.island.civic@gmail.com). Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Our next City Island Civic Association meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at 21 Tier Street (if it is raining, the Community Center).

City Island Civic Association

### American Legion Post 156

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 12 noon, our first meeting back after the summer break. It is vital you attend this meeting! Dues are due (\$55 for the 2022-23 year). Please drop the dues off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party; we can accommodate up to 80 people, and members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

Please come in and play the Queen of Hearts game of chance each week. The weekly drawing is held at 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The jackpot grows each week until someone selects the Queen of Hearts. The game is open to all, and the proceeds help fund projects around the Post.

All retired flags should be dropped off in the former mailbox, by the Post's flagpole.

Post 156 will host the Department of NY, Bronx County Visitation. This serves as an opportunity for you to meet with the NY leadership for the 2022-23 year. Please consider attending the Bronx County Visitation Dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at the Post. Social hour will be 5 to 6 p.m. and then a buffet dinner (with beer, wine and soda), coffee, dessert from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$55 per person. RSVP by email to: [Leonardhhawkinspost156@gmail.com](mailto:Leonardhhawkinspost156@gmail.com) or call Peter at 914-760-2588.

The annual Pumpkin Sale will be held on Friday, Sept. 30, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1 and 2. Details will be on the Post 156 website.

Please visit our website ([Leonardhhawkinspost156.com](http://Leonardhhawkinspost156.com)) for the latest information and an ability to e-mail the Post directly.

Thank you to the entire City Island community for all your support over the years. It's our honor to be your community partner.

Peter C. Del-Debbio

### Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 116 City Island Avenue, at the corner of Pilot Street.

New to Grace: We have the pleasure of announcing that a new priest, Father Kevin Moroney, has started presiding over our worship services. Please join us for Sunday worship services starting at 10 a.m. and stay for fellowship during coffee hour immediately following the service.

Grace Church will have a bake sale at the City Island Fall Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, Sept. 10: While enjoying the arts and crafts, jewelry, face painting, clam chowder contest and more, please stop by the Grace Church booth on Saturday and pick up some of the tastiest baked goods prepared by our parishioners and friends of Grace Church. We'll be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Back to School Blessing of the Back-



Photo by DAVID SEXTON

Quilt of Valor award ceremony for Jack Valdovinos (l. to r.): Leslie Pelecovich, Mr. Valdovinos, Harlan Sexton.

packs on Sunday, Sept. 18, at 10 a.m. Any kid with a backpack Pre-K through 12th grade is invited to bring their backpacks to church to have them blessed by Fr. Kevin Moroney.

Bible Reading over Coffee & Tea: Molly Grose, a certified mentor of Bible studies, will lead in reading a chapter of the Bible with parishioners and friends of Grace over coffee and tea right after church service, around 11 a.m. Usually held on the second Sunday of the month, our next reading will take place on Sunday, Sept. 4. All are welcome.

Sunday School: Church school activities will resume in September 2022. If you would like to be part of Grace's Sunday School, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrn1@optonline.net](mailto:karenrn1@optonline.net).

The GraceTones are in rehearsal for upcoming shows at Cinema on the Sound and The Artist this fall. We are seeking male tenor and bass singers. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Dunn at [accentfix@gmail.com](mailto:accentfix@gmail.com) or send a text to 917-566-1296.

Sandy Dunn

### City Island Oyster Reef

The second annual Viva la Sound festival is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 1 (rain date Oct. 2), at Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175. This environmental festival is free for everyone, because of generous grant funding from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation. Many environmental nonprofits will attend to offer hands-on activities about the marine environment. There will be free food from our local City Island restaurants and live music from the band Papagayo! Come to learn more about the waters of Long Island Sound! For more information, e-mail Luna Placchi at [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com).

The third annual Water Jubilee on Saturday, Aug. 20, was a lot of fun! There were 42 kayakers and paddleboarders racing around City Island in the morning and a fleet of four boats in the Nautilus Cup in the Eastchester Bay later in the day. We are so grateful to our partners—the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, the Touring Kayak Club of City Island (TKC) and the Auxiliary Coast Guard—for their help throughout the day. We are also grateful to Proud Pour and Patagonia for generous donations that were used as prizes for the winners of the races. Congratulations to Ellen Grace Zaltas who received the CIOR Community Spirit Award for her exemplary work as a volunteer photographer, field data collector and educator. Thank you to Mary Colby for her contributions of paintings to the silent auction, and to the many City Islanders who donated their time and energy.

Biodiversity has been documented and collected at the oyster research stations (provided by the Billion Oyster Project) throughout the summer. In addition to measuring oyster growth, we identified and counted

American eels, oyster toadfish, blackfish, cunner fish, various crabs, shrimp, snails, worms, tunicates and sponges. (A quick aside: kayakers from TKC recently spotted a dolphin off Hart Island.) CIOR volunteers together with specialists in the field have been doing dive surveys and sediment sampling. Water-quality monitoring takes place every two weeks early on Saturday mornings in the CIOR skiff. Check out our calendar on our website and sign up to volunteer!

Our seasonal shell collection is going strong! We are always looking for willing clam diggers (or mussel suckers) and off-Islanders to help collect oyster and clam shells (which are crucial to reef-building efforts) from our local restaurant partners and deliver them to our curing site at the Pelham Bay landfill. If you are interested in getting involved, e-mail Luna Placchi at [cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com).

Sally Connolly

### Trinity United Methodist Church

God has asked us and is empowering us at Trinity United Methodist Church to help others to know greater love, joy and peace. Our Budget Corner Thrift Shop, the Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry, our Wednesday Morning Prayer Group (9 a.m.), and our Wednesday Evening Grief Group (7 p.m.) are all intended to increase love, joy and peace for all. Greater focus of the Sunday Morning Worship (10 a.m.) is on how each of us is being gifted by God's Spirit to seek, grow and share this love, joy and peace. If you know someone who could use more of these gifts from God, then come and see what is happening. Come and see what only God can offer.

Sunday School will reopen on Sept. 11 or 18. The Budget Shop will reopen on Sept. 17, and we will have a Blessing of the Animals and picnic on Sept. 25. Please join us.

Pastor Dave Jolly

### Quilters by the Sea QOV

QBTS-QOV awarded a Quilt of Valor to Jack Valdovinos (born 1933), a longtime American Legion member and U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Korea during the Korean War. He and his wife, Gail, are members of the Morris Yacht Club. The ceremony was a private one on their front porch. Earlier in the summer, we awarded a Quilt of Valor off-Island to a U.S. Navy nurse. Catherine Berge served in a Philadelphia hospital treating wounded servicemen and veterans during the Korean War. Three more award ceremonies are anticipated this fall for other senior City Island American Legion members. Our next Sew Saturday will be Sept. 24. Please stop by if you are interested in seeing what the Quilt of Valor project is all about. Contact [harlan.sexton1@gmail.com](mailto:harlan.sexton1@gmail.com) for more information.

Harlan Sexton





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

Happy Autumn 2022 from the board members of the City Island Community Center! We hope everyone enjoyed a safe and healthy summer and is looking forward to a new season and new school year.

Our center was busy this summer season. We hosted an end-of-school movie night to celebrate the beginning of summer vacation. We organized a free FDNY CPR class to train our members and neighbors on hands-only CPR. And, finally, we partnered with RAIN Senior Center to educate our attendees and raise awareness on early signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and information on the resources available in our region. Thank you to all who attended and participated in our special events. We work hard to bring our members and the City Island community relevant programs and information.

Our regular programming continued as well, with our most popular offerings of yoga, dance and the children's playgroup. Below please find our Fall 2022 programming schedule:

**Irish Dance:** Mondays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Caitlyn Kelly, 914-262-4517.

**Culinary Club:** Mondays at 7 p.m.; back on Sept. 12.

**City Island Civic Association:** Last Tuesday of the month (except December) 7:30 p.m.

**Playgroup:** Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your little one for some fun and play and tons more. Please come join Gigi, the amazing woman running this program. For information, call Gigi at 347-739-1686.

**Yoga:** Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. and Saturday morning from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Call Joann at 917-853-4719 for more information.

**Yoga & Meditation:** Wednesday evening 7 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 4 to 5 p.m.

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.  
**Zumba:** Saturdays, 10 a.m. with Julia; for information call her at 917-601-5514.

For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook!  
Happy Fall,

Melissa Cebollero

**Temple Beth-El**

Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," is a stimulating non-denominational, welcoming place for observance of Jewish traditions. Jewish Renewal is the style of our deeply spiritual, innovative, all-inclusive and open-minded worship. During this Covid period, most of our offerings are on Zoom only; however, some are taking place at shul, with a Zoom option. You do not need a Zoom account to participate. If you are new to Zoom, there are helpful tutorials online for registering a new free Zoom account. To participate in any of our offerings please e-mail [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com), and identify which you would like to attend.

To members we offer Torah study, mystical teachings, ethics study, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. We also offer meditation and Feldenkrais classes, suitable for all persons, ages, body types and experience levels. Pre-registration is required. Suggested free-will offering \$10 per session. All classes and services begin promptly, so sign in 10 to 15 minutes early. A schedule can be found on our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org). We look forward to seeing you.

The following events are scheduled for September 2022:

Thursday, Sept. 1, 10 a.m.: Meditation with Barbara G. (online only by Zoom)

Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services: (all begin at 7:30 p.m.)

Sept. 2, with Rabbi David (online only)

Sept. 9, with Shari B. and Monty R (online only)

Sept. 16, with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth El with online Zoom option) Selichot

Sept. 23, with Stu G and Leslie L-B. (online only)

Sept. 30, with Rabbi David (at Temple Beth El with online Zoom option) Shabbat Shuvah

Saturday, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, at 10 a.m.: Saturday Morning Torah Study, Chevruta Style (online only)

Sundays, Sept. 4, 11, 18, at 7:30 p.m. Lifting Higher: A weekly Teshuvah practice for the High Holy Days (online only)

Tuesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, at 10 a.m. Meditation with Tenzin (online only); and 7:30 p.m. Feldenkrais with Rachel R. (online only)

Tuesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, at 7:30 p.m. SHOFAR SO GOOD: Learn how to blow shofar and learn the history of the shofar (online only)

**High Holiday Services**

(all services at Temple Beth-El with an online Zoom option)

Sunday, Sept. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashana

Monday, Sept. 26, at 10 a.m. Rosh Hashanah I

Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. Rosh Hashanah II

Friday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Shuvah

**Ongoing Activities:**

Chesed Committee: If you need a helping hand, a caring call, a ride to the doctor, etc., please let us know. If you have love to give, we need your support. No experience required. To seek support and/or to volunteer, please e-mail us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal prayer group to hold members, friends & family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us at [yourshulbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:yourshulbythesea@gmail.com).

Our newsletter has returned to a monthly schedule; if you would like to be on our mailing list, please e-mail us. For additional information and membership opportunities, check out our website, [www.yourshulbythesea.org](http://www.yourshulbythesea.org).

The entire TBE community offers prayers and best wishes to all during these unprecedented times.

Rachel Stark and Shari Berkowitz

**St. Mary's Thrift Shop**

We're back! The thrift shop will reopen for the season on Sept. 15, and our coat sales will take place on Sept 15 and 17. Hours are Thursday and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Arlene Byrne

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea**

Masses continue to be celebrated on weekdays, Monday through Friday, at 7 a.m., on Saturday at 8 a.m. and at Vigil Saturday evening at 5:15 p.m., and on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

Religious Education Program: Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary, Star of the Sea Religious Education Program will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 21. An e-mail will be sent to parents of current students very soon. For new students, please send an e-mail to [smsreled@yahoo.com](mailto:smsreled@yahoo.com) and you will be added to the distribution list.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will officially reopen on Thursday, Sept. 15. Come check out all the fall selections.

On Saturday, Sept. 24, we will hold our Annual Outdoor Mass at 5:15 p.m. in St. Mary's schoolyard. Our catechists will be commissioned at this Mass. This is always a very special occasion so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Teri Kurtz and Rosette Dietz

**PSS City Island Center**

PSS City Island Center is fully open so why not stop by the center and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer. We are still following safety precautions issued by the NYC Department for the Aging and the NYC Health Department which means a face covering must still be worn.

Good news! We have a part-time social worker at the center—Miriam Rodriguez. Please call the center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. A new Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates.

The center is closed two days during September—Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day and Tuesday, Sept. 13.

**Special Events in September**

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m.: Virtual program with the Department for the Aging. Chat with the Expert: Social Security Disability Benefits: Common Problems.

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 1 p.m.: Virtual program with the Department for the Aging. Chat with the Expert: Medicaid Eligibility Part 1: Age 65+ and People with Disabilities.

Bi-weekly videoconferencing on Health Topics with Weill Cornell, St. John's, LIU and DFTA.

**The Current Schedule**

**Monday**  
9 a.m.: Tai Chi (remote)

10:30 a.m.: Balance Class with Susan (remote and in person)

11:30 a.m.: Mensa Mondays  
12:45 p.m.: Classic Cars

**Tuesday**  
9 a.m.: CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)

10 a.m.: Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)

11 a.m.: Game Day. Grab some friends for chess, checkers, Rummy q, Scrabble, cards, Mahjong or Monopoly.

1:15 p.m.: Bingo, Sept. 6, 20 and 27

**Wednesday**  
10:15 a.m.: Arthritis Class with Patty (remote recording; live remote class will be on Fridays.)

10:45/11:45 a.m.: Fiftiesville Cars or Celebrities and their Cars

1 p.m.: Gardening Exchange

1:15 p.m.: Evelyn's Loving Needles Crochet and Knitting Class

**Thursday**  
9 a.m.: Tai Chi (remote)

10 a.m.: Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)

1 p.m.: Trivia Thursdays and Music with Don

**Friday**  
9 a.m.: Broadway Dance with Danny Durr (in person and remote)

10 a.m.: Individual Tech Instruction with staff and college students

10:15 a.m.: Arthritis Class (remote)

11 a.m.: Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m.: Brain Games

1:15 p.m.: Singing Group with Napat with live, in-person classes held on Sept. 16, 23 and 30! The program will also be on Zoom.

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar or to reserve a spot. Face masks are to be worn at all times and the windows will remain open to circulate air.

Stay safe and healthy.  
Susan Rosendahl-Masella

**AARP Chapter 318**

We will resume meetings on Sept. 8 at 1 p.m. at Trinity Unity Methodist Church on Bay Street. Hope to see you there.

Carroll A. Reid

**Garden Club of City Island**

Garden Club members are looking forward to the fall, with its cooler weather. August was hot and dry, giving us lots of extra work watering our containers on the Avenue. They needed at least ten gallons per week! A very big thank-you goes to the businesses who helped us! The drought also meant that the garden at the Post Office needed watering many times a week. Thanks to Post Office employee Jim Wu, the plants have survived. The Garden Club contracted with Bartlett Tree Experts to weed and mulch tree pits between Bay and Hawkins Streets. This should give our middle "business district" a more tailored and well-kept look.

On July 7, members were treated to a tour of Barbara Harrison's beautiful garden. The weather was perfect for enjoying her hydrangeas and daylilies along with other flowering plants. This was a great opportunity for members to share gardening information. Cookies and wine provided by Barbara gave us time to socialize in the shade on her patio. Thanks, Barbara. The following day, the Garden Club had its July meeting and member lunch at the City Island Yacht Club. At this meeting, the club had its installation of officers: President Judy Judson and Vice President Barbara Dennis, who will serve for two more years.

At our next meeting, on Monday, Sept. 12, we will start a series of presentations by Jennifer Capello-Ruggerio on "The Fundamentals of Gardening." In this series, Jennifer will present the most practical highlights from the class given at the New York Botanical Garden where she is a course instructor. The content is designed to give beginners a foundation for gardening but has pointers that even seasoned gardeners will find interesting. These presentations, which will be on Oct. 4, Dec. 5 and Jan. 2, are open to the public.

We thank all of you who contributed to our efforts by donating to the Beautification Fund. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for Club projects, drop a note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

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### In Flight

For over 50 years Hollywood has thrilled the viewing audience with “crisis in flight” films, from which there are plenty to choose. The classic airplane disaster film that spawned all the rest is 1970’s **Airport**. It stars Burt Lancaster as man in charge Mel Bakersfield, who is struggling to keep his airport open during a major snowstorm. This Oscar-nominated film features an excellent ensemble cast that includes Helen Hayes (who won an Oscar) as Ada Quonset, a comically clever elderly stowaway; Dean Martin as pilot Vernon Demerest, who is in love with stewardess Gwen Meighan (Jacqueline Bissett), and Maureen Stapleton (also nominated) as Inez Guerrero, whose clinically depressed husband, V.O. (Van Heflin), has boarded the plane with a bomb.

**Die Hard 2** (1990) stars Bruce Willis as L.A. detective John McClane, who is at Washington Dulles International Airport waiting for the plane carrying his wife, Holly (Bonnie Bedelia), to land. That same night, South American politico and drug profiteer Ramon Esperanza (Franco Nero) is arriving in U.S. custody. McClane takes action when a treasonous ex-colonel (William Sadler) seizes control of the airport, threatening to crash every inbound flight unless Esperanza is freed. The combination of thrills and comic relief that are the trademark of Willis’s John McClane films continue very satisfactorily.

Arab terrorists take over the plane in **Executive Decision** (1992). It stars Kurt Russell as scientist David Grant, who is teamed with Lt. Col. Austin Travis (Steven Seagal) to prevent a nerve-gas bomb from decimating Washington D.C. In an “only-in-the-movies” fashion, Grant, Travis and their elite team (Capt. Carlos Lopez [John Leguizamo], Dennis Cahill [Oliver Platt], Sgt. Campbell “Cappy” Matheny [Joe Morton], Sgt. Louie Jung (B. D. Wong)) “sneak” on board the hijacked plane. Halle Berry is on hand as a feisty flight attendant Jean, who helps them overcome the odds in this nail-biting and exciting (though unbelievable) thriller.

The President is the action hero in **Air Force One** (1997), which stars Harrison Ford as President James Marshall. The plane has been hijacked by excellent Russian villain Ivan Korshunov (Gary Oldman), who wants his compatriot, General Alexander Radek (Jurgen Prochnow), released from prison. Glenn Close is Vice President Kathryn Bennett, and Wendy Crewson and Liesel Matthews are Grace and Alice, the president’s wife and daughter, whom he valiantly tries to save along with the rest of the passengers and crew.

There have been a number of “transferring prisoners” disaster-in-the-air films. In 1992 we got **Passenger 57**, which stars Wesley Snipes as an anti-terrorist expert who, coincidentally, is on board a high-jacked plane. In **Turbulence** (1996) Lauren Holly is a flight attendant who has to save the passengers from the likes of serial killer Ray Liotta. Is she up to the task? In 1997 there was **Con Air**, with Nicholas Cage as a soldier imprisoned for killing someone in defense of his wife (Monica Potter). On the day of his release, it’s his misfortune to be transported along with the most horrible criminals alive, played convincingly by John Malkovich, Ving Rhames and Steve Buscemi. **Guess What Happens?** 1998 brought us **U.S. Marshals**, with Tommy Lee Jones reprising his **Fugitive** character. Whichever one you choose to see should depend on which actors you like. They’re very similar in quality, excitement and unbelievability.

For a change of pace there is **Airplane!** (1980), the very funny classic comedy spoof of terror-in-the-skies films. Drowning his sorrows after a botched mission during

WWII, the traumatized former fighter pilot with a fear of flying, Ted Striker (Robert Hays), still hasn’t got over his old flame and flight attendant, Elaine Dickinson (Julie Hagerty). Determined to win her back, Ted boards a domestic flight from Los Angeles to Chicago, only to come face to face with a severe case of inflight food poisoning that is threatening everyone’s lives. The hilarious supporting cast includes Lloyd Bridges, Peter Graves and Leslie Nielsen. Be sure to read the closing credits!

A unique drama that is well worth seeing is **Fearless** (1993). It stars Jeff Bridges as plane crash survivor Max Klein, who in the aftermath feels alienated from his family (Isabella Rossellini, Spencer Vrooman) and invincible, which causes strange changes in his behavior. He befriends fellow survivor Carla Rodrigo (Rosie Perez—nominated for an Oscar), who is suffering tremendous guilt over the death of her baby in the crash. The excellent script and acting make this a very thought-provoking, haunting film.

In **Red Eye** (2005), after attending the wake of her grandmother’s funeral, hotel manager Lisa Reisert (Rachel McAdams) is waiting to fly back home when she meets charming Jackson Rippper (Cillian Murphy) at check-in. She thinks it’s luck that they are seated together on the plane but soon learns otherwise. Jackson plans to assassinate the head of Homeland Security, but to do so he must force Lisa to reassign the official’s room number at her hotel by kidnapping Lisa’s father (Brian Cox).

**United 93** (2006) is a fictionalized account of what might have transpired as terrorists seized control of United Airlines Flight 93 Sept. 11, 2001. The behind-the-scenes chaos in trying to identify other hijacked planes is depicted in riveting detail. As the imminent horror of this particular flight dawns on passengers, crew and loved ones on the ground, the courageous acts by those held hostage in the air count down in actual time. Not an easy film. However, the filmmakers have made a special feature in which the actors meet family members of the people they portray.

**Flight** (2012) is the story of commercial airline pilot Whip Whitaker (Denzel Washington in his Oscar-nominated role), who has a problem with drugs and alcohol. Although he has managed so far to complete his flights safely, his luck runs out when a disastrous mechanical malfunction sends his plane hurtling toward the ground. Whip pulls off a miraculous crash-landing by flying the plane upside down in order to slow the speed when the hydraulics give out. His stunning maneuver results in the loss of six souls out of 106. Shaken to the core, Whip vows to get sober—but when the crash investigation exposes his addiction, he finds himself in dire straits. The supporting cast includes John Goodman as the outrageous drug supplier Harling Mays, Bruce Greenwood as Whip’s friend Charlie Anderson, Kelly Reilly as Nicole, who tries to help Whip in recovery, and Don Cheadle as brilliant Attorney Hugh Lang, who works very hard to keep Whip out of prison.

**Above & Beyond** (2014) is a documentary of the little-known true story of what transpired after the 1948 United Nations Partition of Palestine, which created the State of Israel. Without an air force, the Israeli people were faced with 10 million Arabs who were ready to annihilate them. Just three years after the liberation of Nazi death camps, a group of Jewish American pilots answered a call for help. In secret and at great personal risk, they smuggled planes out of the U.S., trained behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia and flew for Israel in its War of Independence. As members of Machal—“volunteers from abroad”—the Jewish volunteers, most of them World War II vets, came to fight for Israel during the War of Independence. Produced by Stephen Spielberg’s sister Nancy, the film brings together interviews with surviving 90+-year-old pilots who were articulate, charming and funny. It also features re-created aerial recordings, which are so seamlessly inserted into the film that the astonished viewer wonders how the filmmakers managed to find “real life” footage.

Directed by Clint Eastwood, **Sully** (2016) is the story of the January 15, 2009, “Miracle on the Hudson” when Captain

Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger (Tom Hanks) landed his disabled plane on the Hudson River in New York City, saving the lives of all 155 aboard. However, even as Sully was being praised by the media for this extraordinary feat of aviation skill, an investigation was unfolding that threatened to destroy his reputation and his career; much to the dismay of co-pilot Jeff Skiles (Aaron Eckhart) and Sully’s wife, Lorraine (Laura Linney).

**Top Gun: Maverick** (2022) brings back Tom Cruise as Pete “Maverick” Mitchell after 30 years of service as one of the Navy’s top aviators. Wanting to stay in the air as a test pilot, he avoids advancement in rank that would ground him. He is helped by his friend and former Top Gun rival, Tom “Iceman” Kazansky (Val Kilmer), now commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, who has often protected Maverick from being grounded. With the use of drones overtaking the military, Maverick wants to save his fighter pilot program, so he finds himself training a detachment of Top Gun graduates for a specialized mission the likes of which no living pilot has ever seen. His life is complicated by an encounter with

Lt. Bradley Bradshaw (Miles Teller), call sign: “Rooster,” the son of Maverick’s late friend and Radar Intercept Officer Lt. Nick Bradshaw (Anthony Edwards), aka “Goose.” Jennifer Connelly is on hand as Maverick’s rekindled love interest, Penelope Benjamin. Facing an uncertain future and confronting the ghosts of his past, Maverick leads a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who will be chosen to fly it. Anthony Edwards, Meg Ryan and Kelly McGillis appear as Nick “Goose” Bradshaw, Carole Bradshaw and Charlotte “Charlie” Blackwood in archive footage from the original **Top Gun** (1986). While I often find myself disappointed by films that are raved about by critics and the public alike, I found myself totally blown away by this film. It was the top-grossing film this year at the box office and (at the time of this writing), seventh all-time in the US. If you could only watch one “in flight” film, I would definitely recommend this one. And seeing it in a theater is the best way because the viewer can become totally immersed in the film.

And until next time, happy viewing...

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# How City Island Nearly Became The Home of the Belmont Stakes

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo courtesy of the CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August Belmont Jr. (right below) made several important contributions to City Island early in the 20th century. He sponsored the fabled (and troubled) monorail that ran from Bartow Station in Pelham Bay Park to the City Island bridge (above) and purchased a great deal of land on City Island, where his yacht *Mineola* was often in residence (above right).

Most residents of City Island are aware that the City Island population has grown a great deal over the years, from the days before the first bridge was constructed in 1873, when the Island was still part of Pelham, to the middle of the 20th century, when boat building was at its peak. In 1865 most of the 800 residents of Pelham actually lived on the Island, and after it became part of New York City, the population quickly grew to about 1,500 as the construction of residential dwellings began to increase substantially. Not all of these houses were designed to be lived in year-round, however; many were built as summer homes, which implies that the census records for City Island did not reflect the actual population during the warm months of the year. Those who did live on City Island year-round worked in local businesses, first the oyster market and then boat building and sail making, but their clients and customers were often extremely wealthy, with names like Vanderbilt, Whitney, Astor and Havemeyer.

Historian Lockwood Barr wrote in 1946 that during the 1870s, the financier and racehorse owner August Belmont developed plans to build a racetrack in the center of City Island. Barr wrote that "August Belmont, John Hunter 3rd and others actively interested in horse-racing in the 1870s, projected a plan to buy all the property on City Island. The high ground along the center of the Island was to have been converted into a race track, with its grandstands, Club House, and stables. Around the water's edge was to have been a carriage boulevard, and back of that a boardwalk, on which would face hotels, clubs and private seaside summer cottages."

It is true that August Belmont considered City Island for a racecourse, but it was his son, August Belmont Jr., who hatched such a plan, not in the 1870s but around 1902. The first Belmont, for whom the Belmont Stakes was named, ran his horses at the Jerome Park Racecourse, which opened in 1866 and operated successfully until 1890, the year of his death, when racing moved to the Morris Park

Racecourse.

The interest that August Belmont Jr. had in City Island, however, did not begin with the horse racing track but with a horse-drawn trolley that made it possible for him to become founder of the Interborough Rapid Transit system (the IRT) and the primary force behind the creation of the New York City subway system. Belmont wanted to build a subway on the east side of Manhattan into the Bronx but there was one big hurdle he had to overcome. According to the city's Rapid Transit Act, one had to own and operate an existing system in the city before one could build and operate a subway in New York. As Belmont himself described the situation: "Every streetcar company with an operating franchise was owned or controlled by the old traction interests, but after a search I found a little company up in the Bronx which had a perfectly valid charter to operate a street railroad. That was the City Island railroad. It wasn't much of a railroad, but I bought it and fully intended to operate the subway under that franchise if I couldn't find one of my own."

Accordingly, his syndicate proceeded in late 1901 to purchase over 95 percent of the stock and control of the outstanding bonds in the City Island and Pelham Bay Railroad Companies from Judge Henry Carey (father of the first Western star Harry Carey), a Tammy Hall-connected politician who lived at the northeast end of City Island. In spite of the grandiose name, his "railroad" was a simple horse car operation that ran once an hour from the New Haven railroad line at Bartow Station in Pelham Bay Park to Belden Point at the southern tip of City Island, a route that extended three miles and always operated at a deficit.

The only reason we know all this is that Belmont was sued some years later for having turned his stock in the City Island Railroad over to the IRT in May 1902 for the princely sum of \$1.5 million. The plaintiff claimed that Belmont had paid Carey only \$32,000 but the defense claimed that the syndicate paid \$270,000. Whatever the sum, the profit was well over \$1,300,000,



which is what Belmont claims he charged for his time and trouble, and the IRT, which Belmont owned in any case, can't have been unhappy because it was able to build the first subway in the city.

It was Belmont's IRT that also built the famed and ill-fated City Island monorail, which operated from July 1910 until April 1914, the first of its kind in New York City. An experimental monorail displayed at an exposition in Virginia in 1907 impressed the IRT management, which obtained permission for a similar electric monorail to run from the Bartow Station to the City Island bridge, through what is now Turtle Cove. Although dubbed "The Flying Lady" (in the press it was called Belmont's grape arbor), the monorail car fell over on its first run because it went around a corner too quickly, and operation was suspended until November. It never achieved the success the IRT had hoped for, so in 1913 the IRT decided to convert the line to an electric trolley system, and the tracks from the park to Belden Point were converted to standard gauge. The monorail stopped running in April 1914, and the IRT sold the company to the Third Avenue Railway. A few months later the last horse car in the Bronx stopped operating, and a few minutes after that the first storage battery car began its run from Bartow Station to City Island.

Given the IRT's investment in the railway and the fact that Belmont was negotiating for rights to run a railroad from the Bronx to Port Chester, it is not surprising that he tried to buy up as much of City Island as he could with a syndicate of other wealthy investors, including J. P. Morgan. It also isn't surprising that Morgan was interested in City Island real estate, since his yacht *Corsair* was kept on City Island, and it is said that he envisioned a yachtsmen's paradise on there, a kind of Newport South. Belmont also had his 70-foot racing yacht, *Mineola*, serviced at the Robert Jacob yard on the Island, and like his father before him, was an enthusiastic racehorse owner who must have thought City Island just the right shape for a race track and resort.

The Daily Argus in Mount Vernon reported on Jan. 28, 1902, that many large lots on City Island had been purchased during the previous two months; the New Rochelle Press on February 1 reported that \$1 million was being spent by Belmont's syndicate for three large tracts of land on the island and that the developers were intending to make City Island a fabulous tourist place, with a racetrack, recreational facilities, and an upscale housing development like Tuxedo Park—all of it conveniently connected to the railway that was going to be constructed from New York to Port Chester and ultimately to Boston.

City Island was clearly regarded as a desirable waterfront property for yacht owners (like Belmont), racehorse owners (like Belmont), and tourists (like Belmont's railroad passengers), and the land was for a while very cheap. The scheme to create such a resort did not come to pass, however; in fact, local newspapers later suggested that no such scheme ever had been planned and that the efforts to buy properties on City Island and High Island were real estate speculation that City Island properties might increase in value if a street trolley line were built to replace the old horse car that ran



between Bartow Station and City Island.

The Daily Argus reported on March 21, 1902, that the short-lived boom has suddenly stopped, perhaps because railway commissioners had not granted Belmont the franchise for the Port Chester line, although legend has it that the property owners on City Island had simply raised their prices too high. In any event, Belmont found a much larger tract on Long Island for his racetrack in 1902, which he named Belmont Park in memory of his father. His plans for City Island didn't disappear, however. In 1905, the New York Times reported that the New York, Westchester and Boston Railway Company had finally made a deal with August Belmont for land on which to build that line, and in 1906, according to the New York Herald, a firm called City Island Real Estate, which was at least partly owned by August Belmont, had bought up "much of the island," obviously speculating that prices would soar once the horse car had been replaced by a trolley (which didn't happen for another eight years).

In 1914, a real-estate company called City Island Homes, under the direction of prominent realtor Joseph P. Day, who likely worked for the Belmont syndicate, proposed dividing the island into five residential parks, and published a very attractive booklet promoting City Island's attractions. Clearly Belmont wanted to divest himself of the property now that he no longer had interests in the local railway. It isn't clear exactly how many of the lots actually sold in 1914, but soon after Belmont died in 1924, Day's firm sponsored a major auction offering 30 lots on City Island, and the following year a second auction offering 170 lots in "Rodman Park," between Centre and Pilot Streets on City Island. In 1945, according to the Herald Tribune, Joseph P. Day, for City Island Homes, sold the "last of the interest of J. Pierpont Morgan and August Belmont on City Island." By that time, of course, the farms and orchards on City Island had disappeared, and the streets from Centre to Pilot had been built, named and filled with houses.

This is the first in a series of articles about housing on City Island—from the dramatic increase in population and house building before World War II to the influx of condominiums and co-operative housing in the 1980s.



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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 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



## Nelson Powell

Former Islander Nelson Powell passed away quietly in his sleep on July 12, 2022, at the age of 81. Stephen Nelson Dunaway Powell was born in Newport News, VA, on Dec. 19, 1940, to Lilian Veronica Taylor and Nelson Dunaway Powell, who worked at the naval shipyard as a welder.

After the war, the family moved back to the Bronx, where his father continued his trade. Nelson graduated from Morris High School and then joined the Army and was stationed in Germany. He and his buddies would travel to various countries, and he got to see some of Europe. He then came home to the Bronx and worked at Merrill-Lynch. By that time, his father and he moved into the nut business, and where Nelson developed a "route" on Wall Street selling nuts to people working at the trading houses.

Nelson had a passion for boating and was a member of the Morris Yacht and Beach Club, where he was a past Commodore. After his parents passed away, he moved to Las Vegas for a while but then returned to City Island, where he purchased and lived on his sailboat and continued selling nuts as a side business.

He had a passion for reading and for music; indeed, it was hard to mention a rock band that Nelson had not been to see in concert. You could not walk down City Island Avenue with Nelson if you were in a hurry, because he seemed to be friends with everyone he passed. He was also an instant friend to almost every dog he met.

Nelson is survived by his cousin Ann Young of Fredericksburg, VA, her brother in Brooklyn, and his cousin Lynn O'Shea in Meriden, ID.

improperly claim that the transfer of the appreciated assets to the CRAT in and of itself gives those assets a step-up to fair market value as if they had been sold to the trust. The CRAT then sells the property but does not recognize gain due to the claimed step-up in basis, and then uses the proceeds to purchase a single premium immediate annuity (SPIA). The beneficiary reports, as income, only a small portion of the annuity received from the SPIA. Through a misapplication of the law relating to CRATs, the beneficiary treats the remaining payment as an excluded portion representing a return of investment for which no tax is due.

### 2. Maltese (or Other Foreign) Pension Arrangements Misusing Treaty

In these transactions, U.S. citizens or residents attempt to avoid U.S. tax by making contributions to certain foreign individual retirement arrangements in Malta (or possibly other foreign countries). In these transactions, the individual typically lacks a local connection. Local law allows contributions in a form other than cash or does not limit the amount of contributions by reference to income earned from employment or self-employment activities. By improperly asserting the foreign arrangement is a "pension fund" for U.S. tax treaty purposes, the U.S. taxpayer misconstrues the relevant treaty to improperly claim an exemption from U.S. income tax on earnings in and distributions from the foreign arrangement.

### 3. Puerto Rican and Other Foreign Captive Insurance

U.S. owners of closely held entities may participate in a purported insurance arrangement with a Puerto Rican or other foreign corporation with cell arrangements or segregated asset plans in which the U.S. owner has a financial interest. The U.S.-based individual or entity claims deductions for the cost of "insurance coverage" provided by a fronting carrier, which reinsures the "coverage" with the foreign corporation. The characteristics of the purported insurance arrangements typically include one or more of the following: implausible risks covered, non-arm's-length pricing, and lack of business purpose for entering into the arrangement.

### 4. Monetized Installment Sales

These transactions involve the inappropriate use of the installment sale rules under section 453 by a seller who effectively receives the sales proceeds through purported loans in the year of a sale of property. In a typical transaction, the seller enters into a contract to sell appreciated property to a buyer for cash and then purports to sell the same property to an intermediary in return for an installment note. The intermediary then purports to sell the property to the buyer and receives the cash purchase price. Through a series of related

steps, the seller receives an amount equivalent to the sales price, less various transactional fees, in the form of a purported loan that is non-recourse and unsecured.

### 5. Pandemic-related Scams

**Economic Impact Payment and tax refund scams.** Identity thieves who try to use Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), also known as stimulus payments, are a continuing threat to individuals. The IRS has issued all Economic Impact Payments, and most eligible people have already received their stimulus payments.

**Unemployment fraud leading to inaccurate taxpayer 1099-Gs.** Many taxpayers lost their jobs and received unemployment compensation from their state during the pandemic. Scammers took advantage of this by filing fraudulent claims for unemployment compensation using the stolen personal information of individuals who had not filed claims. Taxpayers should also be on the lookout for a Form 1099-G reporting unemployment compensation they didn't receive.

**Fake employment offers posted on social media.** There have been many reports of fake job postings on social media. These fake posts entice their victims to provide their personal financial information that can be used to file a fraudulent tax return for a fraudulent refund or used in some other criminal endeavor.

**Fake charities that steal your money.** Bogus charities are always a problem. To check the status of a charity, use the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search tool. Individuals should never let any caller pressure them. A legitimate charity will be happy to get a donation at any time, so there's no rush, and donors are encouraged to take the time to do the research.

### 6. Offer in Compromise (OIC) "mills"

An "offer," or OIC, is an agreement between a taxpayer and the IRS that resolves the taxpayer's tax debt. The IRS has the authority to settle or "compromise" federal tax liabilities by accepting less than full payment under certain circumstances. OIC mills are a problem all year long but tend to be more visible right after the filing season ends, and taxpayers are trying to resolve their tax issues perhaps after receiving a balance due notice in the mail. These "mills" contort the IRS program into something it's not - misleading people with no chance of meeting the requirements while charging excessive fees, often thousands of dollars. They make outlandish claims, usually in local advertising, regarding how they can settle a person's tax debt for pennies on the dollar. The reality usually is that taxpayers pay the OIC mill a fee to get the same deal they could have gotten on their own by working directly with the IRS.

OIC mills are just one example of

unscrupulous tax preparers. Taxpayers should be also wary of unscrupulous "ghost" preparers and aggressive promises of a bigger refund.

**Ghost preparers.** Although most tax preparers are ethical and trustworthy, taxpayers should be wary of preparers who won't sign the tax returns they prepare, often referred to as ghost preparers. For e-filed returns, the "ghost" will prepare the return but refuse to digitally sign as the paid preparer. By law, anyone who is paid to prepare, or assists in preparing federal tax returns, must have a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). Paid preparers must sign and include their PTIN on the return.

**Inflated refunds.** Not signing a return is a red flag that the paid preparer may be looking to make a quick profit by promising a big refund or charging fees based on the size of the refund. Unscrupulous tax return preparers may require payment in cash only and will not provide a receipt, invent income to qualify their clients for tax credits, claim fake deductions to boost the size of the refund, or direct refunds into their bank account, not the taxpayer's account.

## Water Project

*Continued from page 1*

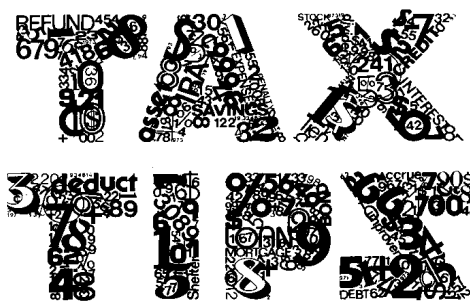
berry and carried out by Northeast Remsco Construction, Inc.; engineering services were provided by McMillen Jacobs Associates. Work began in June 2019 and was substantially completed in December 2021. It received a Diamond award in the water resources category of the 2022 Engineering Excellence Awards by the American Council of Engineering Companies. It was also named "2021 Project of the Year" in the \$25 to \$100 million category by the Construction Management Association of America's NY/NJ Chapter (CMAA) for providing safe and reliable drinking water to the 4,500 residents in City Island.



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From EDWARD D. HEBEN, C.P.A.

### Tax Scams for 2022 Part 1

The Internal Revenue Service recently released its list of common tax scams that target taxpayers. The IRS compiles this list and issues it annually, including of aggressive and evolving schemes that taxpayers should avoid. Let's take a look at the first six of this year's Dirty Dozen:

#### 1. Use of Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT) to Eliminate Taxable Gain

In this transaction, appreciated property is transferred to a CRAT. Taxpayers

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Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Daylight 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*

SEPTEMBER 2022									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	
01 Thu	0247	7.67	0901	0.30	1506	8.31	2136	0.33	Thu 01
02 Fri	0335	7.36	0948	0.56	1556	8.15	2231	0.60	Fri 02
03 Sat	0430	7.01	1041	0.89	1652	7.92	2335	0.88	Sat 03
04 Sun	0534	6.70	1142	1.20	1757	7.69			Sun 04
05 Mon	0111	1.01	0651	6.57	1259	1.38	1914	7.59	Mon 05
06 Tue	0249	0.77	0833	6.78	1451	1.19	2050	7.74	Tue 06
07 Wed	0355	0.35	0947	7.24	1607	0.69	2206	8.06	Wed 07
08 Thu	0451	-0.07	1044	7.74	1706	0.14	2305	8.35	Thu 08
09 Fri	0542	-0.40	11:34	8.15	1759	-0.31	2356	8.50	Fri 09
10 Sat	0629	-0.57	1221	8.41	1849	-0.59			Sat 10
11 Sun	0044	8.47	0713	-0.56	1305	8.50	1936	-0.65	Sun 11
12 Mon	0130	8.28	0755	-0.38	1348	8.42	2022	-0.51	Mon 12
13 Tue	0215	7.96	0836	-0.05	1430	8.21	2108	-0.19	Tue 13
14 Wed	0301	7.57	0915	0.38	1513	7.91	2156	0.24	Wed 14
15 Thu	0350	7.15	0952	0.86	1600	7.56	2248	0.71	Thu 15
16 Fri	0445	6.79	1031	1.33	1657	7.24	2346	1.14	Fri 16
17 Sat	0549	6.55	1125	1.73	1806	7.02			Sat 17
18 Sun	0048	1.42	0654	6.49	1245	1.99	1914	6.97	Sun 18
19 Mon	0147	1.53	0754	6.62	1354	2.04	2015	7.07	Mon 19
20 Tue	0242	1.48	0848	6.86	1451	1.89	2108	7.26	Tue 20
21 Wed	0331	1.32	0937	7.15	1540	1.61	2154	7.47	Wed 21
22 Thu	0413	1.10	1019	7.42	1623	1.27	2234	7.64	Thu 22
23 Fri	0450	0.86	1055	7.65	1659	0.91	2306	7.76	Fri 23
24 Sat	0519	0.63	1120	7.85	1729	0.54	2328	7.86	Sat 24
25 Sun	0542	0.41	1137	8.07	1757	0.19	2350	7.95	Sun 25
26 Mon	0606	0.19	1201	8.31	1828	-0.10			Mon 26
27 Tue	0022	8.00	0636	0.04	1234	8.53	1905	-0.26	Tue 27
28 Wed	0059	7.97	0713	0.01	1313	8.64	1945	-0.27	Wed 28
29 Thu	0141	7.82	0753	0.12	1356	8.61	2030	-0.11	Thu 29
30 Fri	0227	7.57	0838	0.37	1443	8.43	2120	0.20	Fri 30
OCTOBER 2022									
01 Sat	0318	7.23	0928	0.75	1535	8.10	2219	0.60	Sat 01
02 Sun	0417	6.87	1026	1.17	1635	7.71	2340	0.95	Sun 02
03 Mon	0529	6.62	1140	1.50	1749	7.38			Mon 03
04 Tue	0129	0.97	0720	6.68	1342	1.46	1941	7.32	Tue 04
05 Wed	0242	0.68	0841	7.10	1502	0.98	2105	7.61	Wed 05



**THESE TREES NEED MORE THAN HUGS**

The poor street trees of City Island Avenue! If they're not being hit by cars or vandalized branch by branch, they're being undermined by the very people who are supposed to know better. In this case that would be Beucler Tree Experts, LLC, the contractors hired by NYC to trim City Island's street trees. You may have noticed Beucler's presence this summer. If not by the ridiculous-looking results of some of their tree-trimming, then perhaps by the numerous cable TV and/or internet lines that they and their bull-in-a-china-shop-ways left behind on the ground.

A street tree is a tree on a city street. It is maintained by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, although Parks has been known to enlist the assistance of residents and/or businesses when it comes to watering newly planted trees. You may have already noticed that in far too many instances street trees are planted directly below power lines. As a result, many will be and have been needing to be trimmed just to keep them away from the lines. It does not have to be this way, though. City Island's electrical infrastructure could be relocated underground, as has been whispered about for years now. Imagine how much more attractive and inviting the Avenue would be: no more ugly telephone poles and unsightly lines; no more butchered trees. And if you think we exaggerate, have a look at just the one specimen shown here.

Before you shrug your shoulders and think, "What else could have been done?" consider the fact that in the past contrac-



tors have figured out how to cut only those branches out of the way that presented an immediate or soon to be immediate hazard. Case in point: the magnificent London plane tree at the intersection of Fordham Street and William Avenue.

As long as our street trees are going to have to be trimmed, is it too much to ask that it be done by professionals who care as much about the quality of their work as the quantity of branches cut? We have been told that there are approximately 38 beds for new trees remaining on City Island. That means someday soon, City Island will have 38 new trees. Wouldn't it be nice to watch them mature naturally, without the interference of the grid? And to see them cared for consistently by genuine tree experts?

*Cormac McEnery, Esq.*

**Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.**

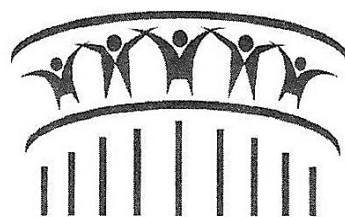
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# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY

## The Gardener's Tools

The right tool for the right task always makes working easier and more pleasurable. I have collected over many years an array of what I consider essential gear. Buying the best makes for long life and precision, so I would recommend buying Sneeboer, Niwaki and Felco.

Weeders may be the most valuable as that activity is ongoing throughout the gardening year. Buy the hand hoe from Sneeboer, right- or left-handed. Although the price is dear, you will thank god you have one. My hand pruners or secateurs are all Felco, and they come in different sizes to accommodate the size of your hand. They are colored red so they are easy to find as you absent-mindedly lay them down. Be sure to get a leather holder that you can clip onto your pocket or belt. Loppers with an anvil blade are made for pruning larger branches and give you a longer reach and more leverage. No need for the expensive type here. I have an old pair from Gardeners Supply Company and they work fine. To clip hedges, you will need a great pair of garden shears. The sharper the blade, the better the cut, and Niwaki from Japan fits the bill; they are delight to work with.

For turning the soil, adding compost and manure, and just plain old digging come the long-handled shovels, hoes and pitchforks. The pitchforks come in two types. The first has thin tapered tines that are great for aerating the soil, particularly the lawn when it

has become impacted. The other type from Sneeboer has larger flat tines, and this can heft and turn large amounts of soil, incorporate compost, and dig up by a rocking motion shrubs and grasses. For a shovel I like a smaller ladies shovel and one with a narrow head for getting into tight spots in a perennial border. Long-handled hoes make weeding a breeze, since you don't have to bend and stoop. Choose one with a small blade for they are awkward and heavy if too large.

Hand trowels are excellent for digging small holes, and they are all adequate, but my most precious tool of all is the Christopher Lloyd Great Dixter planting spade from Sneeboer at [www.Garden Heir.com](http://www.GardenHeir.com). If you were to buy one thing, I would suggest this and the hand hoe. You can get them both from the Garden Heir online. I use this short shovel constantly; it makes quick work of digging sizable holes for vegetables and flowers without bending.

Of course you will need a rake, a two-gallon watering can and a garden bag of sorts to fit everything into. Gloves by FoxGloves Gardening Gloves are nice.

Keep your tools sharp, clean and in the case of pruners, well oiled. I use a honing stone for sharpening and 000 steel wool for cleaning with dish detergent. That's about it, but don't forget the hat!

You can visit Mary in her studio-gallery at 276 City Island Avenue, on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is available for consultation, garden plans and installation. Call 917-804-4509.

# Here Comes School Again

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

It's that time of year again: summer is winding down, and we need to prepare for school. There is a lot of turmoil in our world, and our children need their home and school environments to be models of love, peace-making, responsibility and good citizenship.

Here are some ideas that I hope will help to make that transition as smooth as possible:

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

2) Begin thinking about the new developmental tasks your child will be facing this year and start doing some "school" activities to anticipate these tasks: more reading every day, more writing every day, some math practice every day, etc. It takes all of us some time to adjust to new schedules and workloads, so practice at home can be most beneficial. (By the way, this works best if the entire family engages in these activities at the same time—perhaps impossible given our busy schedules yet good modeling whenever you can do it.)

3) Reinforce daily chores that develop responsibility. Classroom jobs and personal responsibility for completing one's work are realities of school life. By practicing a good work ethic at home you will help your child

grow and mature into responsible school citizens.

4) Start adjusting bedtimes the week before school. It really helps!

5) Practice having some quiet times at home, and see how this time for contemplation enhances your family sense of togetherness. Even a few minutes of silent gratitude before eating, in addition to saying grace, if that is your practice, can set a healthy and peaceful tone for your meal.

6) Have some practice school mornings: do some timed drills, make a game out of it and develop your morning routine!

7) Set some goals for the coming school year. Have each family member design a goal and post these on the refrigerator. Goal setting builds discipline and creates a vision of the person we want to become.

8) Make a plan as a family to do community service this year. Choose a local organization where you can help and weave this into your weekly schedule.

9) Recognize that most of us are quite privileged because of our race, family background, access to education and cultural mainstream experience. Once we realize how fortunate we are, it becomes much easier to recognize that working for a diverse society based on justice and equity is the best form of citizenship and patriotism.

There you go—and here comes September!

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**ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE** by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: [marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com](http://marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com). Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas. Show your bridge love!

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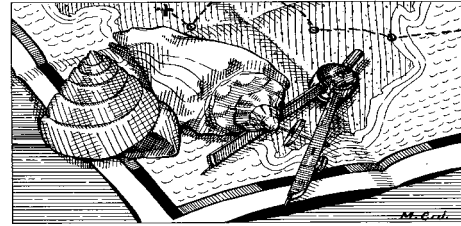
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Lobsters have left Long Island Sound for Maine, but they find their way back to numerous seafood restaurants on City Island, including this new lobster truck at the corner of Winters Street, open on weekends for lobster lovers.



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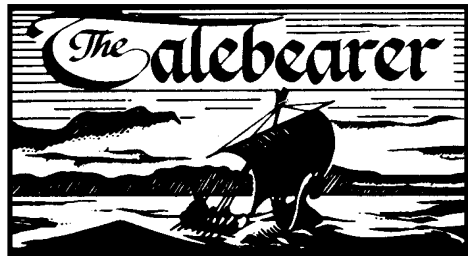


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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



After 25 years of delivering delicious meals to Islanders, Patrice and Rafi Ortega closed To Go Express and are starting a new chapter in their life on City Island.

Happy September birthday to Mike Rauh and, yes, he's training for his 43rd consecutive New York City Marathon! Happy birthday also to Dan Wright!

Blessings to Joseph Arturo Menon, who was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church on July 31, 2022. Proud parents are Islanders Joseph Menon and Sarah Garcia. The entire Menon family was on hand for the celebration, including proud grandparents Estelle and Chandra Menon, who flew in from Florida for the blessed event.

Congratulations and good luck to Joseph Persteins as he begins his next

adventure as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The Ulmer family has been very busy with lots of celebrations! On Aug. 28: Happy anniversary to my husband, John Ulmer, with love from Linda. Wow! 57 years! On Aug. 27: Belated happy birthday to our granddaughter Gabriella Nicole Alit. On Aug. 14: Happy anniversary to our daughter Karen and son-in-law Ryan, who celebrated 30 years. Where has the time gone! On Aug. 4: Happy birthday to our grandson Dylan Thomas. On Aug. 12: Happy birthday to our son-in-law Ryan. On Sept. 18: Happy 18th birthday to our granddaughter Allison Grace. We love you!

Best of luck to Islanders Patrice and Raf Ortega of To Go Express for 24 years of keeping Islanders well fed. They thank customers for all their support throughout the years and will never forget the many good friends they made along the way.

Happy Sept. 18 birthday to Elizabeth "Beth" Peters of O'Piddle D'Poo! We miss you, your Clamdigger Mom and brothers, John and David.

Best wishes for continued happiness to Ann and Chuck Butterworth, who will celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary on Sept. 11. With love from your family and friends.

Happy and safe travels to Islander Travis Prohaska, who will be spending a semester in Italy at the Prato campus of the University of New Haven. Buon viaggio!

Happy 87th birthday on Sept. 19 to Carroll Street's "Walking Man," aka "Tough Tony" Grimaldi. You are an inspiration to us all. "It's hard to hit a moving target!" Lots of love from your family.

Happy September birthdays to Lorraine Cea and Millie Perez from your friends and neighbors on Hawkins Street.

More happy birthday wishes to Stephen Swieciki (9/2), Bob Swieciki (9/12), Cait O'Dwyer (9/23), Tommy Lott (9/24) and Tina Ruggiero (9/28).

Wishing all our returning students a healthy, safe, fun and productive school year!

Maria Swieciki



Photo courtesy of JOE GOONAN

The Leonard Hawkins Post 156 sponsored Islander Matt McGaughan (top row, right) to the 2022 American Legion Boys State program. The program was conducted at SUNY Morrisville from June 25 to July 1. Matt was assigned to the City of Clark (Jim Hosford, counselor) part of the county of Wong (Islander Joe Goonan, counselor). The boys have a book that guides them from the lowest level of government (towns and villages) to the next level of county and then on to the state election process with all that goes into the process. They learn about democracy, caucusing, electoral process, elected offices and appointed offices. The end result is that they elect their own governor and other officers who make up a similar government as New York State. They also have organized sports, baseball, basketball and soccer. This year Wong County won Overall Best County. This national program is conducted in every state with two members of each state going to Washington, DC, where they are designated Senators and conduct a similar program creating a national government and elect their own officers.



Joseph Arturo Menon was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church on July 31, 2022. Proud parents are Islanders Joseph Menon and Sarah Garcia (center with sister Olivia) and grandparents Estelle (right) and Chandra Menon (left).



On Friday, July 29, 2022, the Sons of the American Legion held their annual end-of-season dinner at the Snug. Front row (l. to r.): Tom Morron, Gene Valesio, Mike Grimaldi, Glen Nunez, Jimmy McGowan (with the flag), Donnie Penny, Pete Chadwick, Vic Anderson Jr., Fred Ramftl Jr., Jim Levins, Danny D'Allara (holding the flag), Commander Tom Vivolo; back row: Huey Naan, John Di Cassamiro, Tim Smyth, Reid Travers, Tom Schaller, Walter Natiw, Joe Collella, Jim Livingston, Chris Di Marco, Pete Zvara, Steve Ragan, Tom Hughes, and Steve Lott Sr.

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