

One Dollar

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER and KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI

"I was grateful to be part of the Soap Box Derby team. It taught me how to be competitive and to overcome challenges," Ashly Garcia proudly explained. She reminisced how, while practicing with her derby car, she flipped over but remained calm to the applause of her teammates.

Lily Lakatos began her speech by saying "It has been a beautiful privilege to attend the best and most loving school out

The next issue of *The Island Current* (September 2024) will be published and on sale at the end of August.



Then Ms. Porras, Assistant Principal Kathy Wiehler and the eighth-grade teachers awarded the diplomas and made the following presentations: The City Island

Chamber of Commerce Award for Highest Average was given to Lili Lakatos, who also received the UFT Science Regents Award. Paul Klein from the Chamber presented the award for Academic Excellence to Sarah Kokaj. The recipient of the Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic and General Excellence was Joseph Tucci. The

Continued on page 5



Photos by MONICA GLICK and LAURA JUNER

The Rotary Club of the Bronx installed its second annual Flags for Heroes project at Catherine Scott Promenade Park on June 11, 2024, just before its weekly luncheon meeting at The Snug. Large flags were planted in time for Flag Day and will stay up for about two weeks. The project was open to participation by Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. Sponsors purchase the flags to honor anyone who has been a personal hero in their lives. Honorees run the gamut from family members to military service personnel, frontline workers, teachers, mentors and more. Medallions were created for each honoree and were hung on each flag (top photo and insets). At the end of the display, sponsors will receive their medallions as keepsakes. This year's display has grown by 60% over last year's, and it is hoped that the growth trend will continue. Proceeds from the display will go toward the Club's service projects. Rotarians and friends worked together to install the display (bottom photo, l. to r.): Rick Sherman, Mary Springman, Adolpho, Maria Sipas, Linda Cerbone, Hon. Eugene Oliver, Pat Capasso, Sal Farenga, Laura Juner, Rev. David Jolly, Sandy Wolstein, Pat Fichera, Ralph Scottino and Monica Glick (not pictured).

BRIEFLY...

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: On July 1, Rev. Sara Gi-ron-Ortiz will assume pastoral duties from Rev. David Jolly, who is retiring after seven years at Trinity. Pastor Sara’s first Sunday service will be on July 7, at the new time of 9:45 a.m., and Holy Communion will now be celebrated on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday School, which will resume in September, will also begin at 9:45 a.m.

BARTOW-PELL DISCOVERY DAYS. Discovery Days, July 29 through Aug. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is an exciting chance for children in grades 2 through 5 to engage with local history and nature through immersive indoor and outdoor activities. Children will unearth the site’s rich past by exploring the lives of the Lenape in the 1600s and the Bartow family in the 1800s. They will also discover the wildlife that now call the site home, learn about vegetable gardening and make a craft each day. An afternoon snack will be provided, but a bag lunch should be brought from home. Cost: \$625 or \$550 for Bartow-Pell Members.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during May and June 2024. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

1 – CRIMINAL TRESPASS
2 – ASSAULT
1 – PETIT LARCENY
2 – AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
1 – HARASSMENT
1 – GRAND LARCENY
1 – LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from May 23 to June 19, 2024.

6/3 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island female, 40, and charged her with assault at 12:18 a.m. on City Island Avenue. An off-Island female states that the defendant, with intent to cause physical injury, threw her wine drink at her. The defendant then broke the glass cup on the table and threw the cup at her, causing glass shards to hit the victim in the face resulting in minor lacerations.

6/4 – On Tier Street at 9 a.m., an Island male reported an incident of criminal trespass. Victim states that a worker from a construction company opened his sliding glass door and left a note stating: “You can move all things for balcony tomorrow because we need to work, please.” Worker did not have permission to enter apartment. No property was stolen or damaged. Owner of company did call to apologize.

6/7 – At 10 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island female reported an assault. Victim states that an unknown male hit her with a Wet Floor sign, causing minor

injury to her right arm. Victim states she was walking in front of location when the defendant got upset that she put her purse down on the stairs in front of him. After a dispute, he hit her with the sign.

6/8 – An off-Island female told police that while sitting in traffic, a vehicle rear-ended her car at 6 p.m. on City Island Avenue and left the scene without giving any information.

6/10 – On Minneford Avenue at 5 a.m., an Island male reported an incident of petit larceny. The victim, who is a NYC Department of Sanitation employee, parked his vehicle and upon return found that items had been removed from the glove compartment by an unknown person without his permission or authority.

6/10 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 36, at 1:33 p.m. on City Island Avenue and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Defendant was stopped for a plate reader violation and for a suspended registration. Upon further investigation, defendant’s driver’s license was found to have been suspended.

6/10 – On Tier Street at 1:20 p.m., an Island male reported being harassed. Victim states that a male had been harassing his cleaning woman and when he told him to stop the defendant threatened him.

6/11 – At 4:04 p.m. on City Island Avenue, an off-Island male, 31, was arrested and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. The defendant was stopped for a plate reader violation and for a suspended registration. Upon further investigation, the defendant’s driver’s license was found to have been suspended.

6/11 -- An Island male reported an incident of grand larceny at 8 p.m. on Fordham Place. Victim states that he parked his vehicle and left the door open and his wallet inside the vehicle. When he returned, he noticed his wallet containing cash and credit card was no longer there. His credit card was later used at a CVS on Pelham Parkway.



Photos by PAUL NANI
Police from the Office of Cannabis Management and troopers from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation raided and shut down the small shop at 310 City Island Avenue. The shop known as Sparks & Recreation called itself an “educational Canna Club.” The owner, Diego, had attended a City Island Civic Association in April 2023 to explain the business and said that he would run it legally, but apparently police did not agree.



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Photos by CAI HALL and RON TERNER
The fourth annual City Island Pride Picnic was held on June 8, 2024, on Ambrosini Field. It was a family friendly afternoon of music, games, face painting and food. Organizers thanked supporters (see *Letter to the Editor*), including New York State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (photo, left), and also remembered Daniel “Bird” Sterman (top photo).

CITY ISLAND AND THE CITY OF YES

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A slightly altered version of the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity proposed by Mayor Eric Adams and the Department of City Planning (DCP) passed the City Council on June 6, 2024, with a vote of 36 for and 14 against. The third phase of the City of Yes focuses on housing—or as the mayor puts it, building “a little more housing in every neighborhood”—has begun. DCP is in the process of visiting community boards throughout the city to explain the proposal. Some boards—including Bronx Community Board 10—have voted against it, although board approvals will not affect the acceptance or rejection of the plan, which is not likely to receive a final vote from the City Council until the end of 2024.

The Council’s modifications to 14 of the 18 proposals in the economic opportunity package addressed concerns that included limitations and safeguards to balance the expansion of opportunities for small businesses, to create jobs and to protect neighborhoods. The provision to bring more corner stores to residential neighborhoods was cut from the proposal, since many communities were concerned about the clash of commercial and residential space. For more information about the changes that were approved, visit <https://www.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/city-of-yes/city-of-yes-economic-opportunity>.

City Island will not be affected by every aspect of the economic opportunity proposal, although some changes may take place here in the future as a result. For example, indoor agriculture and micro-distribution centers will be permitted in all commercial districts, with certain limitations, as will nightlife and amusement uses and the construction of residential apartments above existing shops along City Island Avenue..

City Island will definitely be affected by some of the proposed changes in the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity. Areas of the Island now zoned R-2 (such as along the northern part of King Avenue) will no longer be restricted to one-family

detached houses but will allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs), although these would not be allowed in flood districts. Most residential areas on City Island are classified as R3A, limited to one- and two-family houses, and these also will be allowed to build ADUs, as well as potentially removing green space and parking requirements.

Islander Maria Caruso, who serves on the zoning committee for Community Board 10, told *The Current* the conclusions she had drawn from the DCP presentation: “The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity does nothing to solve the affordable housing crisis. All it does is line the pockets of big builders, developers and real estate lobbyists, who will add a whole lot more unaffordable, market-rate housing throughout the city. This proposal only requires them to have a very small percentage of affordable housing within those developments, thus doing nothing to help those who need it the most.”

The impact on other city agencies, such as the Buildings Department and the Department of Environmental Protection, is cause for concern as well, according to residents who worry about developers taking advantage of revised zoning laws to build expensive housing rather than much-needed affordable housing.

For DCP’s illustrated summary of the proposal, see www.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/city-of-yes/city-of-yes-housing-opportunity.page. For objections to the proposal, visit bceq.org/2024/02/21/city-of-yes-for-housing-opportunity or read the letter from Karen Argenti of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality on page 4 of this issue of *The Current*.

In a meeting of Community Board 11 in Bayside, Queens, which voted against the proposal on June 3, one of the residents summed up the board’s objection to the proposal: “We are a city made up of hundreds of unique neighborhoods. The City of Yes is a package of one size fits all. Each neighborhood and community should be respected for unique composition and concerns.”

ISLAND OSPREY

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by HAILEY CLANCY and KAREN NANI
Unlike eagles and many other birds of prey, osprey often build their nests and raise their young on or near human structures. Please note that the photograph above was taken with a long-distance lens; it is never appropriate to cause stress to a nesting bird. If you look carefully, you can see two fledglings seated between their parents awaiting a fish dinner.

In 1848, Robert Bolton of Pelham published the first volume of his “History of the County of Westchester,” in which he wrote: “Perhaps the finest view of City Island and the adjacent waters are to be had from [Rodman’s Neck]. It deserves to be mentioned that this district affords a favorite haunt for the fish hawk, whose nests may be seen in the loft summits of the venerable oaks and chestnuts which abound on the Neck and neighboring shores. These birds are greatly respected, and a kind of superstition prevails that it is a lucky omen if one builds on the farm.

“The nest is an immense fabric of rotten sticks—itsself a burden for the tallest tree. They subsist altogether on the finny tribes that swim in the bays and creeks adjacent, procuring their prey by their own active skill and industry. The regular arrival of this noted bird at the vernal equinox, when the busy season of fishing commences, adds peculiar interest to its first appearance, and procures it many a benediction from the fishermen. He then quotes from “The Fisherman’s Hymn”: “God bless the fish hawk and the fisher.”

At the time Bolton wrote his history, the primary threats to the fish hawks, now commonly known as osprey, were egg collectors and those hunters who targeted birds of prey. But by the middle of the 20th century, osprey populations plummeted in many areas, likely caused by the use of insecticides such as DDT, which caused calcium deficiency in the birds so that their eggs were easily broken or infertile. After DDT was banned in the 1970s, ospreys made a dramatic recovery and are once again building their nests and laying their eggs.

This is perhaps nowhere more obvious than on City Island, which is literally surrounded by osprey nests, eight of them at last count. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), there are more than 230 breeding pairs on Long Island alone. The NYC Parks Department reports that the Thomas Pell Wildlife Refuge in Pelham Bay Park is now one of the



best places in the city to view osprey, and many have noticed that the Bronx Victory Memorial is now hosting an osprey nest, not for the first time!

The American osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*), which is also called a sea hawk or fish hawk, occurs from Alaska and Canada to Central and South America, except Chile and Patagonia. Many live year-round in Florida and California, but the osprey we see here in the Bronx arrive in spring and leave for the south during the fall, once their offspring have mastered the arts of flying and catching fish. Experts estimate that an osprey can migrate more than 160,000 miles during its 15-to-20-year lifetime.

Ospreys possess a reversible outer toe that enables them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind, and barbed pads on their feet help them keep hold of fish. According to the National Wildlife Federation, “osprey have an oily waterproof coating on their wings and can close their nostrils when they plunge into the water.” Their strong wings give them extra lift to fly up and out of the water with a heavy fish. Once they catch a fish, they consume it using a black bill with a sharp hook. The male, which has a white chest, is usually smaller than the female.

After the osprey pair has built the nest and fertilized the eggs, incubation will take up to 40 days, after which time the female will remain with the young to shelter them from sun and rain until they begin to fly, usually at about 52 days. Then they have to learn how to catch fish and fend for themselves.

As Robert Bolton noted, osprey have lived near City Island for many years, but this year seems to mark an all-time high, with at least eight nests. City Islanders who are fascinated by these amazing birds will have the entire summer to enjoy their presence, and because osprey tend to return to the same location year after year, we will have them to look forward to for years to come. See the Sights and Sounds column for an amazing story about our special relationship with this remarkable bird.

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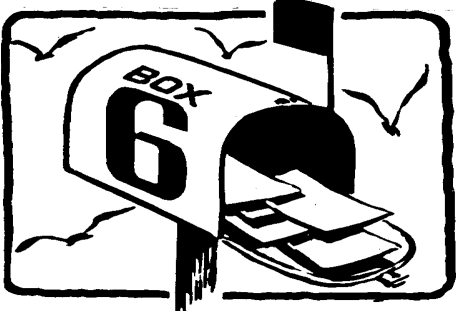
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Thanks to City Island

To the Editor,

On behalf of myself and my family, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our City Island community. We were, and continue to be, humbled by the love and support we received during our challenging time. No words can truly capture the depth of our gratitude toward your kindness and support. Whether it was a note, a meal, a kind word, a hug or a donation, you were all there for us.

We are forever grateful,

The Mastracchios and Andersons

Pride Picnic

To the Editor,

The City Island Annual Pride Picnic and its executors would like to express their deepest thanks for the support of the City Island community. We attribute this year's success to many hearts, including the following: Pryor Law, Imagine That, Clipper Coffee, Kaleidoscope Gallery, Buddy's Hardware, Dan's Parent's House, City Island Dental, The Pearl Studio, Maura Schley, George Callas, Daniel Michael "Birdman" Baird, Taste of Italy, JGL Wine and Liquor, the Erosa family, Janie Blanks and Orion Lillyreed. Thanks to all who supported by way of attendance and positive vibes. See you next year!

City Island Pride Picnickers

Why the City of Yes is Wrong

To the Editor,

Mayor Eric Adams's Department of City Planning (DCP) proposal purports to address a crisis in housing availability, particularly affordable housing, and it does so by lifting regulations to encourage accelerated construction. However, we believe that lifting zoning regulations will likely accelerate the construction of expensive market-rate housing and reduce incentives to provide affordable units.

The mayor's plan is based on factual assumptions that are simply wrong.

The City Planning Department claims that building construction is down when it is not, and the plan assumes that the 1.4% vacancy rate is an accurate measure of unoccupied apartments when it is not. The vacancy rate measures only the 33,210 apartments that are being currently marketed and leaves out the 230,200 vacant units that owners have held back from the market. Together the number of unoccupied units, at more than 11.1% of the available housing, is actually quite high.

The DCP has not proved the need for change. The real crisis is the paucity of economical rentals for low-to-middle income residents. Construction project numbers are the highest they have been in the last 14 years, as is the number of units built.

The mayor's Housing and Preservation Department (HPD) is required to publish a housing vacancy survey every few years. This is because in New York State, a vacancy rate of less than 5% is considered an emergency situation and requires the survey. But the current vacancy rate is at 11.1%. The most recent survey identifies the 2023 off-market housing to be 230,200 units, or 9.8% of all occupied housing units. However, the administration only talks about 1.4% vacant housing units, those at lower monthly rental levels.

The real crisis is in the high cost of rents for low-to-middle income residents. The current plan offers no housing with affordable rents. Meanwhile, the city states that there has been little construction since 2010, but the housing database proves that is wrong. The lack of affordable rents is not new in past zoning changes. In 1987, the zoning text amendment called Quality Housing used the wording "affordable" to mean cheaper to build for the developer and contractor, but not cheaper for the renter.

The Racial Equity Report (RER) for the City of Yes for Housing "aims to address the housing shortage and affordability crisis in the city." In fact, the data it presents tells another story. For true racial equity, zoning laws must be developed to comply with fair housing law, so that development mitigates rather than reinforces segregation in the city. The mayor's plan—a little bit of housing in every neighborhood—does not even make an effort to claim that a fair housing assessment was done for the City of Yes proposal, and there is no evidence that the resulting changes would affirmatively increase fair housing,

as they must under law.

At a meeting on May 23, 2024, the City Planning Commission (CPC) estimated a citywide housing unit increment range to be merely 58,000 to 108,000 units in 15 years. This low rate allows them to declare no impact on categories such as land use, water and sewer, solid waste, etc. Moreover, the number is lower than what is happening with the current zoning.

It is clear, therefore, that the Draft Environment Impact Statement is fatally flawed, because its purpose and the need are wrong, public policy is not identified, and the number of units is kept purposely

low to avoid a full-scale environmental review. The current purpose and need in the DEIS are misleading for three reasons: the vacancy rate is not in crisis, although affordable rental rates are; hundreds of thousands of market-rate housing units are vacant, decontrolled rentals; and the numbers of past construction and demolition are not counted.

Clearly, the City of Yes for Housing makes no sense.

Karen Argenti, Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, www.bceq.org

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Members of the 2024 graduation class of Public School 175. Front row (l. To r.): graduates Sabrina Petty, Sofia Rexhaj, Gabriella Ortiz-Desantis, Nicholas Garcia, Ashly Garcia; faculty Mrs. Wiehler, Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Porras, Principal; graduates Tabitha Del Pozzo, Noah Burch, Jenesis Daza, Madelyn Hayes, Alexia Alarcon. Second row: faculty Mr. Corona, Ms. Heil; graduates Gabriella Alvarez-Middleton, Joseph Tucci, Julio Lopez, Lili Lakatos, Edwin Miranda-Paredes, Ibrahim Awadallah, Xavier Alvarez, Keilanny Ramirez, Lillian Chadwick, Nathaniel Quinones, Khloe Brown; faculty Mr. Smith. Top row: faculty Mr. Esposito; graduates Chloe Lopez-Sterling, Emma Riordan, Christopher Fragola, George Ramirez, Samantha Kokaj, Andy Nunez Torres, Sarah Kokaj, Angel Velazquez, Jayden Medina-Kong, Mia Alberto, Terrance Howell, Kaiden Rodriguez; faculty Ms. Mazza.

P.S. 175 Graduates 2024

Continued from page 1

Principal's Award for Academic Excellence was given to Alexia Alarcon.

The Dr. Ed Rothschild Award for Citizenship and Community Involvement was presented to Edwin Miranda-Paredes, who also received the UFT Science Award. The NYC Comptroller Award for Special Scholastic Achievement went to Terrance Howell and Edwin Miranda-Paredes.

Emma Riordan received both the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership and the Lucretia Fusco Award for Perseverance and Consistency. Madelyn Hayes received the Alice Persteins Award for Moral Strength and Community Involvement. The Andrea Horowitz English Language Arts Award went to Joseph Tucci who also received a UFT Math Regents Award.

The Math Superintendent Award went to Lillian Chadwick and the Triple C Award for Commitment, Character and

Courage was given to Alexia Alarcon. The UFT Social Studies Award was presented to Angel Velazquez. Samantha Kokaj received the Superintendent ELA Award. The STEAM Award for Computer Science was presented to Ibrahim Awadallah, who also received the Catherine Scott Literary Award presented by Karen Nani from *The Island Current*. The P.S. 175 Physical Education Award for Enthusiasm and Team Spirit was awarded to Sofia Rexhaj.

Regents Earth Science and Math certificates were given to Alexia Alarcon, Ibrahim Awadallah, Madelyn Hayes, Samantha Kokaj, Sarah Kokaj, Lili Lakatos and Joseph Tucci. P.S. 175 Service Award/Green Team certificates were presented to Alexia Alarcon, Xavier Alvarez, Ashly Garcia, Nicholas Garcia, Madelyn Hayes, Lili Lakatos, Julio Lopez, Chloe Lopez-Sterling, Gabriella Ortiz-Desantis and Sofia Rexhaj.

The P.S. 175 Soap Box Crew Award was given to Ashly Garcia. Madelyn Hayes, Lili Lakatos, Chloe Lopez-Sterling and Gabriella Ortiz-Desantis received P.S. 175 Student Government Awards.

Students on the honor roll were (Gold) Alexia Alarcon, Ibrahim Awadallah, Lillian Chadwick, Madelyn Hayes, Samantha Kokaj, Sarah Kokaj, Lili Lakatos, Gabriella Ortiz-Desantis, Emma Riordan and Joseph Tucci; (Silver) Mia Alberto, Terrance Howell and Julio Lopez.

After the presentation of diplomas and awards, a lively performance by the entire

class to the music of "Home" by Philip Philips brought the 2024 graduation to an enthusiastic close. Graduates and their families rushed to the stage to take photos of their last moments at the school and to make plans for the graduation dance later that night at the Sea Shore Restaurant.

Congratulations to the award winners and all the 2024 graduates!

P.S. 175 NAMED A LONG ISLAND SOUND SCHOOL

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

City Island's P.S. 175 was recently honored by being selected as one of 10 schools to be made part of the Long Island Sound School network, the only one in New York City to be designated as committed to the protection of local watersheds, Long Island Sound and the ocean.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with support from the Connecticut Sea Grant and Mercy University, funded the program to support schools that implement school-based projects and create plans to increase ocean literacy by engaging students, families and the general public.

Program funding will provide stipends for lead teachers at these schools and up to \$5,000 to implement projects, opening access to a network of educators, scientists, community organizations and stewardship sites in order to incorporate Long Island

Sound into the curriculum and expand it to the community level.

P. S. 175 has been engaged in numerous environmental activities, most recently a "Teach-In for Climate Justice" held on May 30. This was a school-wide event with a day full of climate-themed activities with community partners, during which all of the classes visited the Living Shoreline behind the school to observe marine wildlife, such as oysters, crabs and fish, that inhabit Long Island Sound.

P.S. 175 principal, Julie Porras, told *The Current*, "We are excited to be partnering with this organization and continuing the work already begun with the City Island Oyster Reef and other initiatives. This designation strengthens our ability to provide opportunities for students to make an impact. P.S. 175 is proud to know the work we started is being recognized."

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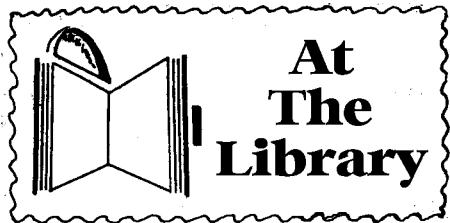
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JULY-AUGUST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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.

Family Storytime: 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.

Steam Play: Focuses on giving children the freedom to create, design, engineer and innovate in their own way by

experimenting with provided toys. Ages 6 to 10. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Stories in the Shade: Every Thursday at 11 a.m. in July and August. Join us at Pelham Bay Park for stories and fun as part of the New York Public Library's Summer at the library. Under the Gazebo at the Playground for All Children (Along Bruckner Blvd. near Middletown Road). Thursday, July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

JULY-AUGUST TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Unwind: Every Tuesday at 3 p.m. **Zine It!** Zines are self-published, non-commercial print-works that are typically produced in small, limited batches and about niche topics. Learn about zines, look at examples and make your own—talking all about whatever is important to you! Tuesday, July 2, at 3 p.m.; **Community Mapping:** What's in your community? Where is it, and why is it important? Make a map—traditionally or digitally—that's special to you, and the way that you and your community impact each other. Tuesday, July 9, at 3 p.m.; **Speak up—in Teen Voices:** For this summer's Teen Voices magazine, we want you to tell us, through your writing and art, about a journey you've taken. This journey can be metaphorical or real, solitary or in community, but we want to know how you got from one place to another and what you learned along the way. Work on your entry, for the chance to be published in NYPL's Teen Voices magazine (and \$100!). Tuesday, July 16, at 3 p.m.; **Journaling 101:** A journal is your story of yourself. Learn about the basics of writing your own stories and the different methods available—writing by hand, drawing as a comic, typing it out online, recording vlogs, scrapbooking, and more! Tuesday, July 23, at 3 p.m.; **Make Music:** Explore making music that speaks to you, with Soundtrap, Garage Band and more! Tuesday, July 30, at 3 p.m.; **For Art's Sake:** Everyone's an artist! With

access to the same art supplies, you are welcome to just create, and make art for art's sake. Don't worry about skill or making something good. Creation is the journey, not the destination! Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 3 p.m.; **Speak Up—in Teen Voices!** Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 3 p.m.; **A Little Muggy Out:** Explore graphic design by creating your own mug with our Cricut cutting machine and mug press! Limit of 10; first come, first served. Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 3 p.m.; **Unplug & Relax:** Relax in analog, with board games, books, word puzzles, and anything else without a screen. Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 3 p.m.

Teens Read: Join us for a book club and discussion. Pick up the book starting July 26! Title to be announced. Every Friday in August from 3 to 5 p.m.

JULY-AUGUST ADULT PROGRAMS

One-to-One Resumé and Job Search: Subjects will include Job Search and Resumé Help. Online with Google Meet, please register online at www.nypl.org/locations/city-island. Every Thursday at 11 a.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. Monday, July 1, and Monday, Aug. 5, 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.

Origami for Adults: Origami, the art of paper folding, originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for over 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it "engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination."

Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 2 p.m. There will not be a session on July 31.

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. Programs are subject to change.



This summer the **Focal Point Gallery**, 321 City Island Avenue, will feature photographs by Robert Arthur King from July 13 to July 24, with an opening from 1 to 4 p.m. on July 13. The Artist's Choice exhibition will open on Aug. 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. and remain on view until Aug. 25.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The following information was collected by Janie Blanks, associate broker with Exp Realty, LLC. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price
One-Family Houses		
221 Kirby Street	1/05/24	\$710,000
194 Carroll Street	4/19/24	590,000
Multi-Family Houses		
50 Reynolds Street	4/29/24	885,000
66 Bay Street	5/16/24	999,000
Condominium		
70 Island Point	6/05/24	790,000

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THE ENDURING IMPACT ON A LIFE SAVED

By MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER

The Rotary Club of the Bronx is very proud of Chizaram “Chizzy” Chibueze, who graduated from Hunter College on June 4, 2024, with a degree in computer sciences.

In 2007 Chizaram Chibueze was the Club’s seventh child to receive life-saving heart surgery through Gift of Life, Inc. When he first arrived from Nigeria with his mother, Evelyn, he was so weak that he could not walk from the car into the meeting at the restaurant without assistance and stopping to rest. His mother told Club members at the time, “Chizaram means God answered my prayer.” She also said the name was prophetic, for her prayers had indeed been answered. She thanked Bronx Rotarians and said, “When we lost hope, you brought hope. You are walking with God and working for God.”

The Rotary Club of the Bronx raised the money to pay for Chizzy and his mother to travel to the United States and for hospital costs. Chizzy’s surgery was done at Montefiore Children’s Hospital by Dr. Suvro Sett, who, along with his surgical team, donated their services. While Chizzy and Evelyn were here, they stayed with Megan Charlop and her husband, Richard Powers, who had hosted six children and their guardians for Gift of Life surgery. Tragically, Megan was killed in 2010 in a traffic accident while cycling on the very streets that she so loved. She was known as “The Angel of the Bronx” for very good reason. Her love knew no restrictions.

Through the years following his successful surgery and return to Nigeria, Chizzy and his mother kept in touch with the Club, corresponding through member Ed Hicks. When the Club learned that Chizzy was planning to come to the United States to get his college degree, members quickly decided to help him with his tuition costs. He also received help from Richard



Gift of Life surgery recipient, Chizaram Chibueze, at Barclay’s Center where the Hunter College class of 2024 had their graduation ceremony.

Powers, who had maintained his ties to Chizzy. Ambitious, hardworking Chizzy also found employment on campus.

Throughout his time in college, he participated in Club meetings in person or on Zoom when he could, keeping members updated on his progress. He is a living testament to the enduring effects that Rotary can have on a life, and the Club has high hopes that, wherever he goes, he will become a Rotarian himself and “pay it forward,” honoring the Rotarian motto, “Service Above Self.”

Save Our Environment Community Forum

By PAGE DOUGHERTY DELANO



Dr. Eric Sanderson, Island resident and Vice President of Urban Conservation at the New York Botanical Garden, gave a fascinating talk at an environmental meeting hosted by City Island Indivisible on Saturday, June 8, at the Community Center. Here he is pointing to a map that shows what City Island may have looked like thousands of years ago.

On Saturday, June 8, City Island Indivisible held a meeting at the Community Center to inform interested City Islanders about the increasing problems of climate change, environmental degradation and pollution, as well as to urge everyone to get involved in one of the many organizations that address these serious issues.

Introduced by moderators Alice Shechter and David Diaz, Dr. Eric Sanderson, Island resident and VP of Urban Conservation at the New York Botanical Garden, gave the first presentation, a lively history of City Island—from prehistoric times to the future. Dr. Sanderson is the author of the best-selling book “Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City,” and he is now working on a second volume that will include the Bronx, along with Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. This new project is called Welikia, which has been translated as “my good home” in the language of the Lenape people who inhabited much of this region.

Dr. Sanderson showed a series of maps of the area, beginning with an imagined map of the region before European settlement and ending with a projection of City Island and environs in the foreseeable future. He noted that about 20 percent of New York City’s inhabited areas are in the “blue zone,” former or current tidal zones that are likely to be underwater in the near future. He noted that denial of the serious environmental problems facing us “comes out of the same ideology that put us there in the first place, that is, that man can control nature and always ‘fix’ it.”

Our species, homo sapiens, he noted “means wise ape” (which got a laugh from the audience). “We need to put our wisdom to work, understanding not just the disasters themselves, but the after effects as well.” He reminded the audience of Hurricane Sandy’s effect on City Island. Although we did not suffer the storm’s full force, the impact was significant, including many problems in the storm’s wake.

The speakers who followed Dr. Sanderson addressed legislative issues, local projects, and ways to get involved. Dan Guenzburger of New York Renews, a coal-

ition of nearly 400 environmental justice groups, reported the good news that the Climate Change Superfund Act had just been passed by the state legislature (95-46). However, other environmental bills, such as that limiting single use plastic, lie in the dust bin. Barbara Zahm and Adjie Henderson spoke of the challenges faced by the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, including the fact that raw sewage spills out of upriver pipes during storms and then flows past City Island into Eastchester Bay.

Alexandra Acevedo, a project coordinator for the City Island Oyster Reef, explained the importance of creating oyster reefs on the island, as well as the organization’s clean-up efforts, educational projects and activities that welcome volunteers. Dorian Fulvio, who is a member of the NYC350.org group, told the audience about her grandfather’s farm in Pelham Bay and Morris Park and revealed highways and housing development has been changing this area for centuries, and not always for the best.

Also in attendance were several local elected officials and politicians, including State Senator Nathalia Fernandez, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto and his challenger in the upcoming Democratic primary, Jonathan Soto. Representatives of Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) set up a table with information and green tee-shirts printed with “Green New Deal,” and local singer John Scardino had a lively effect on the gathering as well, offering Joni Mitchell’s “Big Yellow Taxi.” The audience enthusiastically repeated “garbage, garbage, garbage” each time he sang the word.

There are many local groups that encourage residents to become active in environmental matters, such as the City Island Oyster Reef, the Hutchinson River Restoration Project, New York Renews, and Third Act, as well as the Nature Conservancy, Bronx River Alliance, the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, the Bronx Zoo, and more, all of them with online websites that are rich in ideas about saving our environment.



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Photo by RON TERNER

On June 11, City Island residents were shocked to see that the middle section of Ron Turner's wall of remembrance along City Island Avenue—which includes 225 portraits of Islanders who have passed away over the last 50 years—had been defaced with white paint by an unknown vandal. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, which will provide up to \$1500 so that Ron can reprint the damaged portraits, Ron will restore the wall as much as he can, although the fence itself is not in good condition and the City Island Marina behind the fence has recently been put on the market for \$9 million. Vandals also took Rotary flags from the park and defaced posters on the bridge.

Helming the “Friendliest Club on City Island”: Anthony Rosco

By DAN HICKEY

The following profile is part of our longtime advertiser series.

If you want to know anything about the Harlem Yacht Club, Anthony Rosco is the one to ask. Such as how did the Harlem Yacht Club wind up in The Bronx. It's one of the oldest yacht clubs in The United States, founded on the East River in 1883. After 11 years of dealing with Hell Gate currents, the members moved the club to its current location at 417 Hunter Avenue, off Ditmars Street. Having been a member for over 40 years, Anthony earned life membership status to add to his list of Harlem Yacht Club titles. He's a past Commodore and current Membership Chair and has held most positions in the club since joining in the early 1980s.

Anthony grew up in the Belmont

neighborhood of the Bronx and took some mechanics classes in high school. When he got drafted into the Vietnam War, he served as a marine mechanic, which mostly kept him out of harm's way. He worked on an offshore tugboat plying Asian seas, so he didn't see much combat, although he take fire on the Saigon River. “They wanted to sink a big barge like ours so it would block the river.” The crew was brave and fortunate enough to avoid such a calamity.

Returning from his service in Vietnam, Anthony came to City Island to quench his newfound thirst for the sea. He and a friend wanted to learn to sail and realized that the best way was to buy a sailboat. His friend subsequently passed away, but Anthony still has the same boat. He got an apartment on Pilot Street, and his biggest decision

was to join the Harlem Yacht Club. “I came here, and it looked like a great place.”

It was at the Harlem that Anthony met Catherine Standridge, whose parents founded the *City Island Star*, a precursor to *The Island Current*. They fell in love and bought a two-family house on Pilot Street through Jackie Kall. “Everybody falls in love here!” Cathy eventually became the Harlem's, and City Island's, first woman Commodore.

There has been a lot of history since then. “You can see the articles in the New York Times about it.” Not about Cathy and Anthony, but about the world class racing at the Harlem. The articles are mostly about the traditional Memorial Day races, but there are series of other traditional races too. For many years, the Eastchester Bay Yacht Racing Association ran weekly races that drew from clubs around the western Long Island Sound. Now the Big Tom Yacht Racing Association is the governing body of the weekly races. There aren't as many boats racing lately, but that hasn't hampered the social scene at the Harlem.

The Moon Over Harlem is a series of Friday twilight races every other week. Started by race chairman Paul Beaudin in 2014, the series has been successful enough that other clubs are sponsoring races on the off Fridays. “At the end of the race, everybody comes back here, and we have a band made up of Harlem Yacht Club members.” This is where the two segments of the Harlem Yacht Club membership come together.

Although the club is famous for its racing heritage, it is also famous for its food and beverage service, spearheaded for many years by Anne Booth Catering. Landlubbers love the deck and the sunsets, or any other time of day. The Bloody Mary crew comes for Sunday brunch, and this writer has enjoyed the lively scene at numerous times and days.

Social members are welcomed and encouraged at the Harlem because it's a way to get people using the club in winter, when the boats are up on the hard, and this makes it possible to have a full-time restaurant. “What you have here is a really good group of people. We call ourselves the friendliest club on City Island, and I think it's true.”

A lot of social members go out sailing with friends and may even take lessons through the club's affiliation with Port Sailing School of New Rochelle. Once qualified, they can step up to intermediate membership without the commitment of owning a boat. The qualification allows them to sail the Harlem's “club boats.”

The Summer Affiliate Program is an option for boat owners who are not sure which club to join. Beginning in April, you can join the program and take full advantage of everything the club offers all sum-



Photo by DAN HICKEY

Anthony Rosco of the Harlem Yacht Club

mer. “We'll have a mooring for you. You use the club. You get all the amenities. You just can't come to a meeting and vote.” At the end of the summer, they hope you will decide to join the club.

The friendliest club on City Island thrives on offerings that appeal to a wide range of members. “The club has a solid structure with strong and stable bylaws, and all the work is done by volunteers.” Anthony describes how members haul and launch all the boats, among other tasks. When the clubhouse was devastated by a nor'easter in 1992, club architects and carpenters led the rebuilding efforts. They had to close for a year but ended up with today's modern facility, which is equipped for banquets and similar uses.

“You can always find an answer to something. Whether it be sailing, fixing your boat, things like that. You just have to know who to ask.” The club draws social members largely from City Island, and its sailors come from a wider area that stretches to New Jersey and Westchester. There's no reason to be intimidated by the complexities of sailing, there is a deep well of expertise right in our backyard—and a great social scene to go with it.

You can come to the Harlem at any time of year. Things slow down in the fall, but New Year's Eve and International Night get the members out to the club in the winter. The open houses come in late winter and early spring, and Anthony runs social media ads to encourage membership. His ads in *The Island Current* are special because the club wants locals to join more than anyone. Reach out to Anthony Rosco at membership@HYC.org, and he will invite you to come by to meet other members and hear about the various ways to enjoy the Harlem Yacht Club.

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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.

Trinity United Methodist Church

On July 1, Rev. Sara Giron-Ortiz will assume pastoral duties from Rev. David Jolly, who is retiring after seven years at Trinity. Pastor Sara's first Sunday service will be on July 7, at the new time of 9:45 a.m., and Holy Communion will now be celebrated on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday School, which will resume in September, will also begin at 9:45 a.m.

The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Budget Corner is closing soon for the season and is no longer accepting donations. A special thanks to those who volunteered, donated items and shopped over the past season.

Rick DeWitt

City Island Civic Association

The next meeting of the City Island Civic Association will be Tuesday, July 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Island Community Center. Feel free to bring any matters or concerns to the meeting, and we will do what we can to be of assistance to you. Bring a friend or neighbor with you.

You can e-mail the Civic at 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 streetlight, graffiti or potholes is the best way to document your issue. Send your complaint number to the Civic Association. Remember that all of our elected officials have full-time staff to assist constituents with community issues.

The district office for Councilmember Kristy Marmorato is at 3040 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 107, Bronx, NY 10461 Her telephone number is 718-931-1721. The Legislative Office is at 250 Broadway, Suite 1554, New York, NY 10007; telephone 212-788-7375. The website is District13@council.nyc.gov.

State Senator Nathalia Fernandez's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, Room 814, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-3595. The District Office is 3853 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-822-2049 and the e-mail address is fernandez@nysenate.gov.

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto's Albany office is Legislative Office Building, 188 State Street, Albany, NY 12247; the telephone number is 518-455-5296, and the e-mail address is benedettom@nysassembly.gov. The District Offices are at 3602 East Tremont Avenue, Suite 201, Bronx, NY 10465; telephone 718-892-2235, and 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 12, Bronx, NY 10475; telephone 718-320-2220.

Captain Johnny A. Orellana is the commanding officer of the 45th Precinct. Our NCO is Officer Rugovac; telephone number 917-434-8847. Our Community Affairs Officers are Hannah Rivera (hannah.rivera@nypd.org) and Wilfredo Sanchez (wilfredo.sanchez@nypd.org).

City Island is represented by Bronx Community Board 10, 3165 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461; telephone 718-892-1161; on Facebook at BronxCommunityBoard10; Twitter: @BronxCB10; Instagram: @BronxCB10.

We are collecting dues for 2024 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. Remember to use the "friends and family" option so a service charge is not deducted.

Cathy Cebek

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, is open for in-person and remote services. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

Worship schedule during the month of July and August: Sunday services at 10 a.m. led by Father Kevin Moroney. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the second Sunday of the month.

Save the Date: The vestry and clergy of Grace are planning to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the parish on Sunday Sept. 22, 2024 with a special service at noon, followed by a luncheon. Invitations will be sent out soon with details about reservations and journal ads. If you would like to attend or place a journal ad, please call the parish office.

Sunday School: Members of Grace's Sunday School participate in the liturgy every month and present special services, including the Youth Service on Father's Day on June 16. Church school teens led all parts of the liturgy, including the homily. Thanks to Elsa and Maggie Moroney, Sofia and Emilio Aponte, Gwen and Naomi Boyle, and Sarah Goonan. 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.

Food Pantry: Grace Church collects non-perishable food items and delivers them to the Trinity Methodist Food Pantry after the fourth Sunday of every month. Please bring items to Grace any Sunday, and we will bless them before delivery to Trinity.

The **Grace Tones** are back! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, they perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. If you'd like to join, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Karen Nani

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 Vigil Saturday evening 5:15 p.m.; Sunday 9 and 11 a.m.

The Our Lady of the Assumption/St. Mary Star of the Sea Religious Education Program had another successful year; we thank everyone for your support! Please keep an eye out for registration forms. Have a safe and blessed summer. See you in September.

On Thursday, Aug. 15, we will celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. This is a holy day of obligation, and we encourage everyone to join us at one of our Masses that day. Masses are 7 a.m. and 12 noon.

St. Mary's Thrift Shop will be closed for the summer and will reopen in September. Happy summer to all!

Rosette Dietz

Temple Beth-El

Welcome to the new year at Temple Beth-El (TBE), "your shul by the sea," celebrating our 90th year of joyous Judaism on City Island. In July we will be welcoming our new rabbi, Barbara Symons. We look



Photo by NOREEN LAWLESS

Michelle Del Pozzo, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 156 Corresponding Secretary, and Laura Booth, ALA Bronx County President, visited P.S. 175 in June to present fifth-grade students who participated in the Poppy Poster competition with certificates of appreciation. Each student also received a gift certificate to Lickety Split. Ian Ryan, not pictured, won both the Unit award and Bronx County award. His poster will go on to compete at the state level. What an amazing and talented group of kids!

forward to introducing Rabbi Barbara to the City Island Community.

Our shul 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. Our offerings are either on Zoom only or take 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, and identify which you would like to attend.

To members and non-members, we offer Torah study, educational classes related to Jewish history, meditation, study groups on a variety of topics, social gatherings and rabbinic office hours. Pre-registration may be required for some offerings. A schedule and Zoom links can be found on our website, www.yourshulbythesea.org. We look forward to welcoming you.

The following events are scheduled for the Summer 2024.

EREC Shabbat Services (all services begin at 7 p.m.)

July 5: Zoom service with community leaders

July 12: First Shabbat service with Rabbi Barbara Symons and band (at TBE)

July 19: Zoom service with community leaders

July 26: TBE service with Rabbi Barbara and band

Aug. 2: Zoom service with community leaders

Aug. 9: TBE service with Rabbi Barbara and band

Aug. 16: Zoom service with community leaders

Aug. 23: Shabbat by the Sea. Bring your chair and join us by the sea. (Information can be found on our website: www.yourshulbythesea.org)

Aug. 30: Zoom service with community leaders.

Torah Study Returns

In person, at TBE, join Rabbi Barbara as we dive deep into the stories and lessons in the books of Torah.

Saturday morning, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., July 20 and Aug. 17, and stay for lunch.

Special Events in July and August

Sunday, Aug. 18: Annual Jewish Music and Arts Festival: Kensico Dam Park, Valhalla.

TBE will have a table at this Westchester Jewish Council festival. Come join us. Noon to 6 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 23: SHABBAT-BY-THE-SEA: Our annual special shabbat under the setting sun and the rising stars. Service begins at 6 p.m. for light refreshments.

See our website for location.

Hold the Date

Our 90th Anniversary Celebration. Sunday, Sept. 22, 1 to 4 p.m. Check our website for registration information. Seating is limited.

Do you have a special topic you might like to speak about? Let us know. We'd be happy to host you.

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.

Prayer Group: TBE has an informal prayer group to hold members, friends and family in prayer for healing. If you feel called to join this group, please e-mail us at 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.

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

Rachel Stark, President, and Shari Berkowitz, Vice President

City Island Nautical Museum

The Museum is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. until the end of October. Visitors are enjoying our new exhibitions, including the Sail Makers of City Island, the History of Hart Island, and Navigation and Hell Gate Pilots, and we have enjoyed having several tour groups, from students to senior citizens to members of local yacht clubs.

Our beautiful new website is up and running, so look for stories about City Island history, especially the boat-building business. Stay connected with us on social media for updates on special events and albums of City Island images. If you wish to arrange a group tour, call 718-885-0507 or e-mail info@cityislandmuseum.org.

The Nautical Museum shop is stocked with unique City Island-themed gifts and apparel. If you can't get to the museum on the weekend, Paul Klein's Kaleidoscope Gallery at 271 City Island Avenue has some museum gifts for sale.

The best way to support the museum is to become a member! Individual membership is \$35, family membership is \$45, and corporate membership is \$75. Membership enables you to visit for free and a 10% discount at the Museum gift shop. Single-day admission is \$8 per person, with children under 12 free.

Lauren Nye



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

Happy Summer, City Island! Wishing all of our members, residents and supporters a happy and healthy summer. Remember to stay hydrated, get some safe physical activity and connect with your community over the summer months.

A special thank you to our current members and your commitment to the Community Center. Please look out for our membership renewal drive in July. Membership dues are affordable for individuals or families. We look forward to welcoming our current members back and meeting new members.

Our summer schedule of offerings are below:

City Island Culinary Club: Every other Monday at 7 p.m. Have fun with other Islanders who like to cook, Share your favorite recipes and pick up some new cooking skills. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

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

Children’s Playgroup: Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. 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.

AA: Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m. For up-to-date information, call 718-885-1145 or like us on Facebook! Enjoy the heat,

Melissa Cebollero

American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you to all who came out to support the Memorial Day Parade. Although it was a wet one, we all walked proudly in honor of our fallen heroes.

Our unit enjoyed the end-of-the-year dinner, which was beautifully coordinated by Regina Murphy. What a great success and joy to spend that time with each other. Please, all of you enjoy your summer!

Please e-mail all inquiries for membership or in support of the American Legion Family’s commitment to serving our community, veterans and all military personnel and their families to *Ala-*

156correspondence@gmail.com.

Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, which will be on Sept. 3.

Service, Not Self.

Michelle Del Pozzo

PSS City Island Center

Summer is here and it is time to explore the many exciting activities PSS City Island Center has to offer in July and August. Don’t miss the last two Gleeeful Dance programs this July before the instructor goes on vacation. Our SU-CASA arts program was such a success that we are excited to announce that Crystal will be continuing the program until the end of August! Please stop by PSS City Island Center and check out our calendar for more details on these and other exciting activities we have to offer this summer. All you need to do to join is complete a membership form. Membership is free. Members have access to the Center’s classes, activities, special membership-only trips/events, as well as a variety of support services.

If you need assistance with your technology devices, be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning and more formal tech classes in the afternoon for I-phone and Android phone users. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE, and Medicare/ Medicaid. 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 at noon as well. To participate in our lunch program, you have to sign for your own meal, and you can either eat at the Center or take out. We have a friendly visiting program for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program and/or if you would like to volunteer a friendly visit. We

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Capt. Dan

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also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like biweekly or monthly check-in calls.

We offer in-person and remote classes; remote classes are through Zoom. Please pick up a calendar for login information and check for weekly updates. If you are interested in receiving free nutritional counseling with a Nutritionist over video (Zoom, FaceTime, WeChat etc.), please call the center at 718-885-0727.

July Activities

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

Tuesday, July 2 and 16, at 12:30 p.m. Gleeeful Dance Program

Monday, July 15, at 12:45 p.m. Meet us at the City Island Nautical Museum for a discounted tour

Thursday, July 18, at 12:30 p.m. Birthday Party with live music

Wednesday, July 24, at 1 p.m. Elder Abuse and Neglect with Pearl Hacker (virtual program)

The Current Schedule

All of our exercise instructors are certified. **Monday:**

8:15 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in-person)

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

11:30 p.m. Mensa Mondays

1 p.m. iPhone classes with Julio

1:45 p.m. Android Smartphone classes

Tuesday:

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

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

12 noon In the News

12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

Wednesday:

10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)

12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Immersive Art Explorations with Crystal starting July 10

1 p.m. Board Games. Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg

Thursday:

9 a.m. Tai Chi with Lucy (remote and in person)

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

1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

Friday:

9 a.m. Broadway Dance with Becky (in person and remote)

10 a.m. Zumba with Maria (in person and remote)

11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing

11:30 a.m. Brain Games

12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Immersive Art Explorations with Crystal

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for morning shopping trips, which include Aldi, Key Food, Stop N Shop, Trader Joe’s and Target. On-Island afternoon trips are also available. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Please note the Center will be closing at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3, and is closed on July 4 for Independence Day.

Several trips are planned for the summer: Wave Hill, the Cloisters, and New York Aquarium. We are still trying to get tickets to a Yankee game.

Happy Independence Day!

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

Garden Club of City Island

The Garden Club thanks all of our businesses that help beautify City Island by making their storefronts attractive, whether through flower containers, window displays, interesting architecture, or just keeping things clean and neat. Your efforts help make our unique island a great place to live or visit. The Garden Club will acknowledge these efforts by choosing one or two photographs of businesses with great curb appeal for publication in The Island Current each issue.

Garden Club members were thrilled to have Renée Marsh, instructor at the New York Botanical Garden, give an excellent presentation on “Plant Parenthood” (Plant

Propagation) at our June membership meeting. Whether you are planting seeds, dividing plants, rooting cuttings, layering or grafting, these techniques enable us to use the plants we already have to create new ones, saving the expense of purchasing plants. Knowing which techniques work best with the plants you want to propagate helps to ensure success. Renée’s photos and demonstrations were very helpful, and we all learned new techniques and hints. Our presentations are open to the public, so join us at our meetings.

In June, members refurbished two sections of the Post Office garden. This included removing a thorny plant that had grown into the loading dock and, of course, weeding. Plants native to the Northeast were installed next to the loading dock fence and under the dogwood tree. As these plants grow and flower, we will be looking for the butterflies that are attracted to them. The Post Office purchased a new hose, and their employees have volunteered to help with the watering.

Our beautification projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund, and we are very grateful to our residents and our businesses. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us beautify City Island, we encourage you to join us as a Garden Club Helping Hand. There are no meetings to attend and no dues. You simply volunteer to help with one or more projects, such as the spring container planting. Call Judy at 917-940-6348 to sign up.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club, drop a note to *gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com* or attend one of our meetings. The next meetings that are open to the public will be Monday, Aug. 5 and Sept. 9, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

City Island Oyster Reef

CIOR has been busy this summer! Over the past month we have been involved with P.S. 175’s Teach-In for Climate Justice, in which the entire school learned about City Island’s environmental history, the impact of bees on an ecosystem and local environmental efforts along the Hutchinson River, as well as touching live oysters in the living shoreline behind the school. The science teachers from P.S. 583, a public elementary school in Parkchester, organized a field trip for their fourth-graders to enjoy the living shoreline, where they studied oysters, water-quality parameters and biodiversity along with CIOR and Sea Grants staff and interns. CIOR staff and volunteers offered an assembly for all the kindergarten classes at Jefferson Elementary School in New Rochelle, and a training for teachers to learn about the ways in which they can present marine ecology curriculum.

Our fifth annual Water Jubilee is happening on Saturday, June 29, at the Morris Yacht Club. Get involved by kayaking around the Island, sailing in Eastchester Bay or simply enjoying an evening reception at the Morris Yacht Club.

If you want to come out on our skiff to monitor water quality and the oyster cages, check out our calendar on the website or send an e-mail to *info@cioysterreef.org*!

Sally Connolly

Quilters by the Sea QOV

QBTS anticipates a dual award ceremony later this summer. Legionnaires Kevin Lenz and Anthony Rosco will be wrapped in Island-made Quilts of Valor. We will have a July Sew Day. Contact *harlan.sexton1@gmail.com* if you are interested in attending.

Harlan Sexton



Fun Family Films

Live Action

With kids out of school for the summer, it's nice to have a selection of films the entire family can enjoy. **The Wizard of Oz** (1939), is a classic musical film starring Judy Garland as Dorothy, who while seeking shelter from a tornado hits her head and finds herself swept away from her Kansas home to the mythical, mystical Land of Oz. There she finds ruby red slippers on her feet and is terrified by the Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton), who wants them for herself. She is sent by Glinda the Good Witch (Billie Burke) on a journey to Emerald City by following the Yellow Brick Road. There she hopes to ask the great Wizard (Frank Morgan) to help her get home. On her way she befriends the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), the Tin Man (Jack Haley) and the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr), who join her.

As a child I loved **Mighty Joe Young** (1949), winner of the Academy Award for Special Effects. Robert Armstrong plays producer Max O'Hara, who with the help of a cowboy (Ben Johnson), persuades a young woman (Terry Moore) to bring her pet gorilla, Joe, from Africa to Hollywood to become headliners for his show. Joe is overwhelmed by the crowds, but while being taken to safety he stops to save children from a burning orphanage. In the decent 1988 remake, Joe is brought to America by Jill (Charlize Theron) to keep him safe from poachers. Gregg O'Hara (Bill Paxton), an American zoologist, helps her take Joe to a Los Angeles animal conservancy.

For kids, or any grown-up who ever went to sleepaway camp, there is the original **Parent Trap** (1961) a personal childhood favorite. It stars Haley Mills as twin sisters separated at birth when their parents divorced. They are unaware of each other's existence until they meet at summer camp, where they scheme to bring their parents back together. One sister has been living with their mother, Maggie McKendrick (Maureen O'Hara), and the other with their father, Mitch Evers (Brian Keith). To work on their plan, they decide to switch places after camp. Their first objective is to scare off a gold-digger (Joanna Barnes) who is pursuing their father.

My Bodyguard (1980) stars Chris Makepeace as Clifford, the new kid in town, and the way this imaginative newcomer deals with the gang of bullies who extort "protection" money from the students at the local high school. The leader of the gang is Moody (Matt Dillon), and Clifford thwarts Moody's leadership by hiring his own "bodyguard," Linderman (Adam Baldwin). This is a very poignant drama, with comic relief offered by an excellent supporting cast, which includes Martin Mull as Clifford's hotel manager dad, Ruth Gordon as Clifford's hilarious, man-crazy grandmother, and John Houseman as the hotel owner. A very young Joan Cusack is on hand as one of Clifford's friends.

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) is a classic sci-fi adventure starring Henry Thomas as Elliott, a young boy who lives with his single mother (Dee Wallace), his older brother Michael (Robert MacNaughton), and his younger sister Gertie (Drew Barrymore). When Elliott finds an alien whose scientific spaceship accidentally left him behind on Earth, he names him E.T

and tries to help him figure out a way to get home. E.T. rigs up a communication device from junk he finds around the house, but will he be rescued before a group of government scientists capture him?

The Karate Kid (1984) stars Ralph Macchio as Daniel, who moves to Southern California with his mother, Lucille (Randee Heller). He quickly finds himself the target of a group of bullies who study karate at the Cobra Kai dojo, one of whom is Johnny Lawrence (William Zabka), the ex-boyfriend of Daniel's love interest Ali Mills (Elisabeth Shue). Fortunately, Daniel befriends Mr. Miyagi (Noriyuki "Pat" Morita), an unassuming repairman who just happens to be a martial arts master himself. Miyagi takes Daniel under his wing, trains him in a more compassionate form of karate and prepares him to compete against the brutal Cobra Kai.

A fabulous family film is the delightful comedy-fantasy-adventure **The Princess Bride** (1987). When a grandfather (Peter Falk) reads a book to his sick grandson (Fred Savage), the characters come to life. The beautiful Buttercup (Robin Wright) falls in love with a peasant boy named Westley (Cary Elwes), who goes away to make his fortune. Several years later, when he is reported as dead, Buttercup agrees to marry the evil Prince Humperdink (Chris Sarandon). The story features Christopher Guest as the evil Count Rugen; Mandy Patinkin as Inigo Montoya, sworn to avenge his father's death; Andre the Giant as Fessik, Montoya's companion; Wallace Shawn as Vizzini, hired by Humperdink to help start a war by kidnapping Princess Buttercup; and Billy Crystal and Carol Kane as the hilarious Miracle Max and his wife, who agree to help humiliate the prince. Perhaps the funniest scene in the movie is when Buttercup and Humperdink are being married by the inimitable Peter Cook as the Impressive Clergyman.

In **Big** (1988), 13-year-old Josh Baskin (David Moscow) makes a wish at an amusement park fortune-telling machine (a scene filmed at Rye Playland), and the next morning he wakes up to discover that he has grown into an adult body overnight (Tom Hanks). Still mentally and emotionally an adolescent, Josh decides to hide in Manhattan. A chance meeting at FAO Schwarz with toy company exec McMillan (Robert Loggia) turns into a big-time job. Although he falls in love with fellow employee Susan (Elizabeth Perkins), he still misses his home and family. Hanks received his first Oscar nomination for this role.

No family film column would be complete without the Harry Potter series of films **The Sorcerer's Stone** (2001), **The Chamber of Secrets** (2002), **The Prisoner of Azkaban** (2004), **The Goblet of Fire** (2005), **The Order of the Phoenix** (2007), **The Half-Blood Prince** (2009) and **The Deathly Hallows Part 1** (2010) and **Part 2** (2011), which are based on the J.K. Rowling best-selling novels. Director Chris Columbus has remained faithful to the books, and the look of the films is precisely as I had imagined. Orphan Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) has been living with his awful relatives, when he discovers that he is, in fact, a wizard and is fetched by Hagrid the gamekeeper (Robbie Coltrane) and taken to Hogwarts School of Magic. There he becomes friends with Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson). The ensemble cast includes great British actors, including Richard Harris/Michael Gambon as Headmaster Albus Dumbledore, Maggie Smith as Prof. McGonagall, Alan Rickman as Prof. Snape, Gary Oldman as Sirius Black and John Cleese as the ghost Nearly-Headless Nick. Harry is famous in the wizarding world because he survived an attack in infancy by a dark wizard as his parents sacrificed their lives to save him. These supernatural tales, while long, are magical and exciting.

Akeelah and the Bee (2006) is the

story of Akeelah Anderson (Keke Palmer), an 11-year-old black girl and her siblings who are being raised by their widowed mother, Tanya (Angela Bassett), a hard-working nurse. Because of Akeelah's aptitude for spelling, she is asked by her school principal Mr. Welch (Curtis Armstrong) to participate in the school spelling bee, which her mother thinks is a waste of time. Akeelah is challenged by the driven Asian-American Dylan (Sean Michael Afa-ble) and befriended by Mexican-American Javier (J. R. Villarreal), both of whom live in very upscale neighborhoods. Akeelah really begins to shine when she secures the tutelage of Dr. Joshua Larabee (Laurence Fishburne). The film demonstrates that ambition can coexist with generosity of spirit.

Queen of Katwe (2016) is a Disney movie that follows 10-year-old Phiona (Nadina Nalwanga), an impoverished Ugandan girl, whose entire outlook on life changes when she discovers the game of chess. Living in Katwe, a slum in Kampala, Uganda, is a constant struggle for Phiona; her mother, Nakku Harriet (Lupita Nyong'o), and younger members of her family. On a missionary event, she meets Robert Katende (David Oyelowo), who becomes her mentor. With him teaching her the ins and outs of the game, she soon becomes the top contender in the Katwe village. The movie isn't so much about chess as it is a timely reminder that imperiled individuals have to struggle to pull themselves out of poverty—and that sports and game mastery can sometimes be an avenue of escape.

Animated/Computer-Generated

My favorite animated film is Disney's **Beauty and the Beast** (1991). When an arrogant young prince and his castle's servants fall under the spell of a wicked enchantress, the prince is turned into a beast until he learns to love and be loved in return. This is a musical story of Belle, an independent girl who loves to read, resists the advances of the town narcissist, and teaches the beast how to love. After Belle's father is imprisoned by the Beast, Belle enters the castle to rescue him. The servants who have been turned into a teapot, teacup, candelabra, wardrobe, stove and feather duster all try to help her. Belle eventually begins to draw out the cold-hearted Beast.

Taking place in a world where toys come to life when humans are not present, the plot of **Toy Story** (1995) focuses on an old-fashioned pull string cowboy doll named Woody. When his owner, Andy, receives a modern space cadet action figure, Buzz Lightyear, Woody is jealous when Buzz becomes Andy's new favorite toy. The most critically acclaimed franchise of all time, the adventures continue with **Toy Story 2** (1999), **Toy Story 3**

(2010) and **Toy Story 4** (2019), with a fifth film to be released in 2026. The beginning of the series is the first feature-length film to be made entirely using computer-generated imagery.

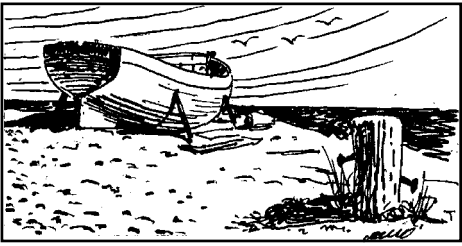
Pixar's **Monsters Inc.** (2002) is the name of a company set in the city of Monstropolis in the monster world. It is powered by energy from the screams of human children, which are harvested through portals in children's bedroom closets. The film focuses on Sulley, a huge, furry blue monster with large purple spots and horns, and his green one-eyed, opinionated partner Mike. Because children are considered toxic, when a crack is left open in a portal closet door, a tiny human girl wanders into the Monstropolis, terrorizing all the monsters.

Set in the ocean, **Finding Nemo** (2003) is the delightful animated story of Marlin, a very nervous overprotective father of his son, Nemo. When the two get separated, Marlin sets out on a quest to find his son. He is accompanied by Dory, a blue tang fish with a bad memory, and Bruce, a great white shark who has adopted a 12-step program to curb his ravenous appetite for fish. My favorite scene takes place in a dentist's office where Nemo winds up in a fish tank and the escape attempts are inventive and masterful.

How to Train Your Dragon (2010) is a hilarious action fantasy film. It takes place in a mythical Viking world where a teenager named Hiccup aspires to follow his tribe's tradition of becoming a dragon slayer by catching a dragon and killing it. When he finally captures his first dragon, he instead decides to befriend it, even though this loses him his last chance of gaining his tribe's acceptance. The film was followed by **How to Train Your Dragon 2** (2014) and **How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World** (2019), wherein Hiccup endeavors to bring peace between Vikings and dragons.

An Oscar winner for Best Animated Feature Film, **Encanto** (2021) is the musical story of the Madrigals, a magical family that lives hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a charmed place called the Encanto. The magic has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift—except Mirabel. However, she soon may be the Madrigals' last hope when she discovers that the magic surrounding the Encanto is now in danger. Lin-Manuel Miranda served as chief songwriter for the film.

And until next time, enjoy your summer and happy viewing!



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RODMAN’S NECK: THEN AND NOW

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

A true history of Rodman’s Neck should begin with the Hartland Schist, which created the landmass in this area about 400 million years ago—or perhaps the ice sheet that came this far south 20,000 years ago. However, there are no images or documents to confirm exactly how this piece of land was formed, so we shall begin with evidence in the form of human habitation that existed on the peninsula long before the New York City Police Firing Range and Bomb Squad took up residence there.

We know, for instance, that the area was inhabited—at least for part of the year—by the Lenape, who built temporary houses, grew vegetables and buried their dead there and gathered clams and oysters in what is now Eastchester Bay. In 1898, Mark Raymond Harrington, a budding archaeologist working for the American Museum of Natural History, found human bones in what he determined was a burial site on Rodman’s Neck, near a shell middens filled with oyster shells.

No date has been suggested for the burial site, nor is its exact location known now, but it is clear that the Lenape inhabited this part of what is now Pelham Bay Park during the 17th century, when the Dutch controlled the area. Wilhelm Kieft, director of New Netherland from 1638 until he was removed from office in 1645, demanded payments from the Native Americans, but some resisted, which led Kieft to attack Lenape camps and massacre the inhabitants, in what became known as Kieft’s War. It was in 1643, in the midst of Kieft’s War, that the Lenape massacred Anne Hutchinson and most of her family, who had settled in what is now Pelham Bay Park, although the exact site has never been identified. The Lenape chief, Wampage, led the raid and later adopted the name of Anhōōke, perhaps because of a Mohican tradition of taking the name of a victim. The name "Anne's Hoeck" (or Ann Hook's Neck) came to refer to the land where the massacre was believed to have occurred, and for many years that was the name given to the peninsula we now call Rodman's Neck.

The Peninsula Becomes Farmland

Pell’s Point and Pell’s Neck were the first English names applied to the entire peninsula that once encompassed Turtle Cove and the original Orchard Beach, many years before it was expanded by Robert Moses in the 1930s. Bronx historian Stephen Jenkins wrote in 1905 that the peninsula is “almost an island, the tide ebbing and flowing over the salt meadows, which separate it from the mainland.” It was named for the English-born physician Thomas Pell, whose 1654 agreement with five Lenape sachems served as a deed for 50,000 acres of land extending from what is now the middle of the Bronx to Mamaroneck. (One of the sachems called himself Anhōōke and may have been the son of the man who killed the Hutchinson family.) Thomas Pell was a resident of Connecticut, but he maintained a farmhouse on what is now Rodman’s Neck, presumably as a base for when he visited his property in Pelham until his death in 1669.

Robert Bolton's 1881 history of Westchester County reports that “on the site of the dwelling-house [on Pell’s Point] stood the residence of Thomas Pell, Esq., first lord of the manor. Perhaps the finest view of City Island and the adjacent waters are to be had from this portion of the Point.” Court records suggest that one of Thomas Pell’s friends, William Newman of Stamford, CT, a witness to Pell’s agreement with the Lenape sachems, may have grazed cattle on the neck before September 1668. Newman reported that “In 1675 the Indians must have been still residing on the neck in considerable numbers, for, at a General Court of Assize held the same year in New York, it was resolved ‘that the Indyans at Mr. Pell's or Anne Hook’s Neck, be ordered to remove to their usual winter quarters,

within Hell Gate.’” Bolton also reported that numerous burial mounds were still visible in the area in the middle of the 19th century, possibly those found by Mark Harrington in 1898.

In 1671, John Pell, Thomas’s nephew, is referenced in the records of the Town of Eastchester as being “of ye manor of Annhocks neck,” which suggests that when he arrived in the Manor of Pelham to claim his inheritance after his uncle’s death, he lived, at least temporarily, in the house his uncle had built. It is known that John Pell also had a manor house near today’s Bartow-Pell Mansion, and one can assume that he lived in his uncle’s house on Ann Hook’s Neck while he built the larger house.

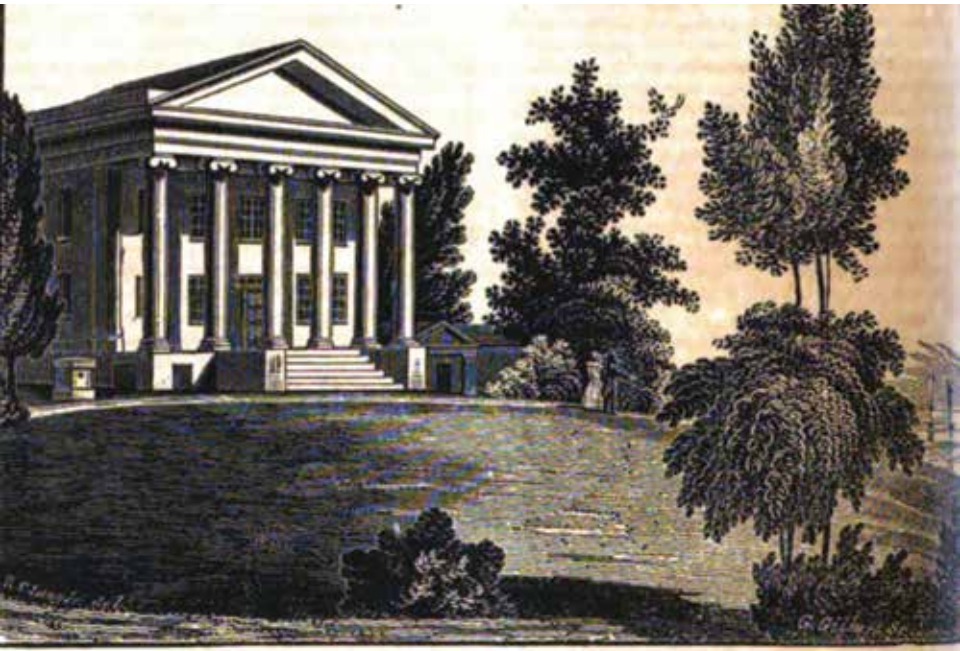
Pell’s Point to Rodman’s Neck

Seventy-five years later, Samuel Rodman, born in 1715 in New Rochelle, purchased what was then called Pelham Neck from the Pell family and lived on a large farm there, where he and his first wife, Mary Hicks, raised seven children. After Mary’s death in 1751, Rodman married Mary Pell, and the family continued to live on the farm, which he left to two of his sons, William and Samuel, at his death in 1780. In 1755 Rodman ran a ferry (passengers only) from Rodman’s Neck to Hempstead Bay on Long Island, and in 1763 he established a ferry to the north end of “New City Island,” formerly Minneford’s Island.

In 1775, Samuel Rodman, apparently still the owner of the property, and a developer named Benjamin Palmer successfully lobbied New York State to enact a statute authorizing them to build a free drawbridge between Rodman's Neck on the mainland and New City Island, part of a major plan to develop the island as a major seaport. The statute required that the bridge be built within seven years, but of course the Revolutionary War went on for the next eight years, and bridgeless City Island never became a rival of New York City. Rodman’s Neck, however, soon became famous for its role in the Battle of Pell’s Point, which did not take place on the peninsula but further inland, where Colonel John Glover and his Marblehead patriots successfully kept the British from going more than a few miles past their landing spot on Rodman’s Neck on October 17, 1776.

Although Samuel Rodman retained a strong interest in Rodman’s Neck, he did not always live there, and in 1774, his nephew Joseph Rodman Jr., who was apparently suffering a financial crisis, had placed an advertisement for the property in local newspapers with the following description: “A valuable peninsula . . . known by the name of RODMAN'S NECK, distant 23 miles from the city of New-York; containing about 200 acres, including 8 or 10 acres of salt meadow. On the premises is a commodious new dwelling-house, a large new barn, with stables and other convenient out-buildings; a good bearing orchard, and a variety of peach and other fruit trees. The Farm is in excellent order, divided in proper lots from five, ten, to fifteen acres, mostly inclosed with lasting stone fences; is well water'd, and has a sufficiency of timber for fire-wood. . . . The situation is healthy and most delightful—a full prospect up the Sound, unbounded as the ocean—an extensive view of New-England and Long-Island shores, with the innumerable islands interspersed, most of which are covered with cedars, pines, and other ever-greens;—the continual passing and repassing of topsail vessels, sloops, boats, &c.—and the pleasant and fruitful adjacent country around; renders it all together, inviting and agreeable beyond description.”

Thanks to this and other appealing advertisements, some or all the property may have at this point been sold to the Bowne family, which was already connected to the Rodmans through the marriage of Samuel Rodman’s sister, Mary, to Daniel Bowne. In 1790, a man named Samuel Bowne was born on Pelham Neck,



Photos courtesy of the CITY ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY and BARBARA DOLENSEK
This pile of shells, or shell middens (top photo), was discovered on Rodman's Neck by an archaeologist in 1896, evidence that the Lenape had resided long ago on what later became part of Pelham Bay Park. Nearby, in 1820, Elisha King built a mansion he called Hawkswood (center photo), later known as the Colonial Inn, which was demolished in the 1930s. The west end of Rodman's Neck is now occupied by the NYPD Firing Range and Bomb Squad, whose noise and smoke have been the source of much concern to nearby residents for decades.

perhaps the grandson of Mary and Daniel Bowne, whose son, Thomas, may have lived there.

Samuel Bowne later moved to Brooklyn, but he remained a major investor in real estate on both Rodman’s Neck and City Island until his death in 1853. He built a farmhouse on the neck and bequeathed it and the farm to his son, Gilbert Washington Bowne, who died shortly after his father. The family permitted Gilbert’s brother, John Bowne, to live there with his own son, also named Gilbert, in what was known for generations as the “Bowne House.” In 1869, the Bowne property on Pell’s Point, estimated at 97 acres, was valued at \$77,000.

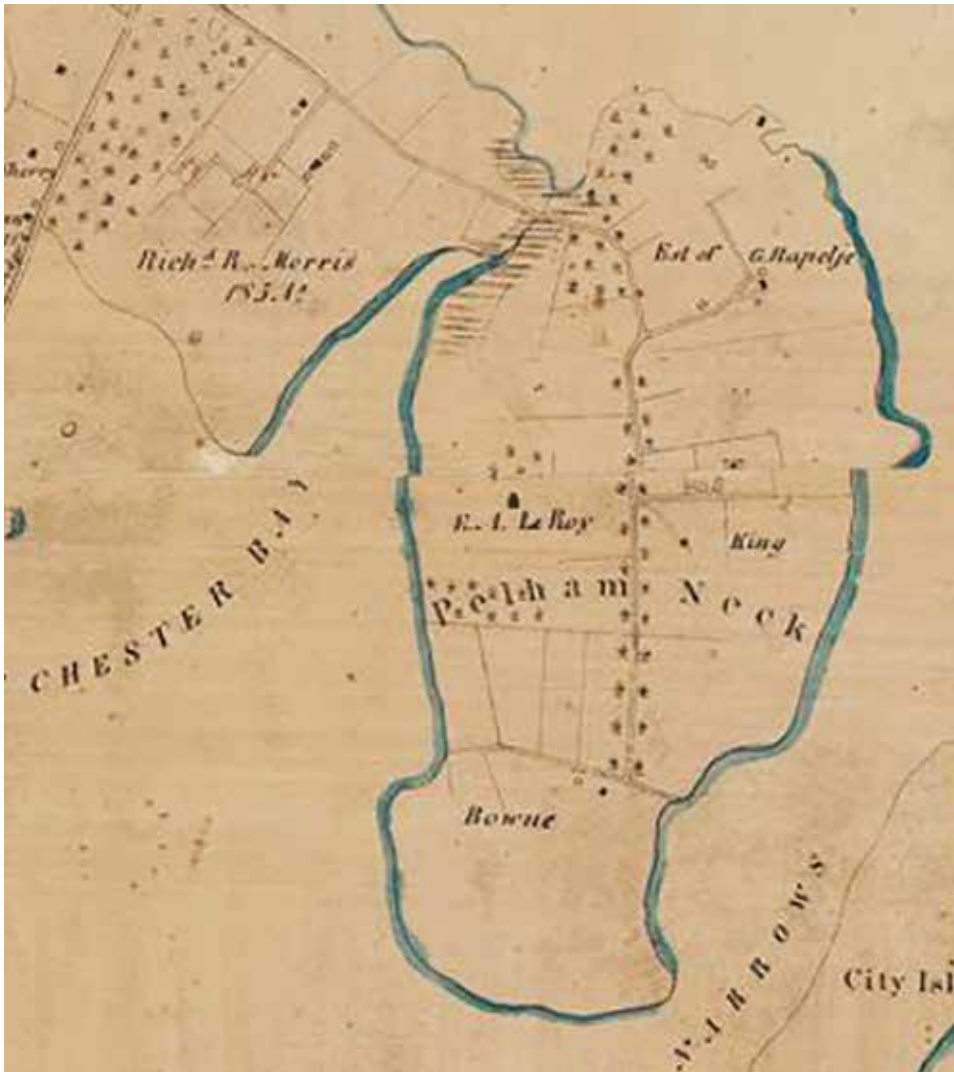
Rodman’s Neck Attracts the Rich

A glance at the 1853 Beers map clearly indicates that there were several owners of property on the peninsula. The Bowne estate is located at the southern end, but other sections belonged to families named Rapelje, King and Le Roy. A later map indicates an owner called A.R. Morris, perhaps a relative of Pelham resident Governor Morris Jr., whose grandfather was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

By 1790, according to the U.S. Census, a man named Rem Rapelje owned a massive farm on Pelham Neck and the surrounding region. After his death, it was put up for sale, offering “a comfortable dwelling having 4 rooms with fire places, several attic rooms with garrett above all, a large spacious cellar under the whole house, a large kitchen joining the house by an enclosed passage with servants rooms above, a large dairy, a smoke house, a large coach house, with stables, a large garden with excellent fruit, two good meadows, one is covered with an orchard of the best grafted apples and pears, and a large pasture lot both fresh and salt, and privilege of wood, being altogether between 20 and 30 acres of land. This place is favorable for game and fish, having water near it on every side.”

In the 1820s, a New York City lawyer named Elisha W. King built a lavish home on part of Rodman’s Neck. He also purchased High Island, where he quarried stones for the foundation of his new house, as well as a good deal of property on City Island. After King’s death, the house was

Continued on page 14



These two maps show how the peninsula now called Rodman's Neck has changed over the years—from a group of country estates owned by wealthy residents of Pelham to a naval training base during World War I. The 1853 map at the left indicates the farm owned by Samuel Bowne, which replaced that of the original settler, Thomas Pell; Bowne also owned much property on City Island. The map at the right reveals that plans for a naval reserve base from Turtle Cove to the tip of the point had been drawn up in 1908, long before the war, but were never implemented until 1917.

Rodman's Neck

Continued from page 13

purchased by L.R. Marshall of Mississippi, and eventually it became the Colonial Inn, which was demolished by Robert Moses in the 1930s.

Another landowner on Pell's Point was Herman Le Roy, a wealthy merchant who owned hundreds of acres of land in the area, including the northwest side of the peninsula facing Eastchester Bay, now Turtle Cove. In 1834, his son, Herman Le Roy Jr., was granted permission by the state to erect a dam at the mouth of a creek running from his lands into Pelham Bay for the purpose of creating "an oyster pond or bed." This was one of the earliest efforts to create an oyster bed in the waters of City Island and Pelham, but subsequent studies of the area have not come up with any remnants of such a structure.

In 1888 New York City purchased 1,700 acres of what is now Pelham Bay Park, a decade before City Island became part of the city, and it quickly became a spot attracting visitors. Hunter Island, then a real island, was used as a campground, but when it became overcrowded, the Parks Department opened a campsite in 1906 at the south end of Rodman's Neck, complete with 100 bathhouses. Tent colonies and primitive wooden bungalows were built all over the place; by 1908 there were more than 200 bathhouses, and summer crowds on Sundays and holidays were estimated at 5,000 a day. These summer colonies were not located at the tip of Rodman's Neck but north of the bridge to City Island, so by 1917, when the United States entered the first world war, the Parks Department allowed a naval training base to be created at "Pell's Point," where the British Navy had landed 141 years earlier. Interestingly, there is a Sanborn map dated 1908 that shows a plan for a "naval reserve training station" on Rodman's Neck; when the actual training camp was built there in 1917, the final design was much larger and more complex.

Parkland Becomes a Rifle Range

In November 2023, *The Current* published a history of the U.S. Navy training base that was constructed on Rodman's Neck during the final years of World War I. The facility opened on a 280-acre site

that had a 90-acre hospital (remember, this was during the 1918 pandemic), housing units and barracks, a mess hall, a library and laundry, a training ship and a host of facilities for both training and entertainment. The camp was dismantled after the war, and many barracks ended up as private houses on City Island, but thanks to Robert Moses, most of the acreage used by the Navy became parkland again. Moses spent about \$8 million and added 115 acres of land to the park by importing white sand from the Rockaways and Sandy Hook in New Jersey to create Orchard Beach and incorporating Hunter Island into Rodman's Neck.

However, the southwestern tip of Rodman's Neck continued to hold a particular attraction as a rifle range. Between 1930 and 1936, it was used by the NYC Police Academy for summer training and the detonation of explosives, and during the summer it was used as a summer camp called Camp Mulrooney. In 1941, the U.S. War Department used the area as a Navy base, and the Army used it during the 1950s, draining the site and building a radar fire control center and barracks. Then the land was returned to the New York City Police Academy, which established a 54-acre permanent training facility and firing range, which remains there today. The base was used during the 1960s by the National Guard to train riot troops and was an emergency base of operations during the September 11, 2001, attacks, and is restricted for police and military use only.

The facility has seven rifle ranges, a lecture hall and classrooms, as well as a large armory, a firearms machine shop and a training area that resembles a city neighborhood. The range is operated by the NYPD Firearms & Tactics Section and has been used for handgun and rifle practice and qualification by the NYPD, the FBI, Fire Marshals, the Department of Correction, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, among other units. Nearby is the NYPD Bomb Squad, a separate operation that detonates explosives at the southern part of the peninsula, including impromptu displays of illegal fireworks early each July.

The range was originally intended as a temporary facility, and the Parks Department tried several times to refuse to issue new permits to the NYPD, but in the late 1980s, Governor Mario Cuomo signed a

law separating this land from the park and giving the NYPD the right to stay on a permanent basis. Complaints and lawsuits have been filed by City Islanders since the early 1990s, because of lead deposits as well as noise, and the city conducted a

study that determined the noise was excessive. Mayor David Dinkins wrote a letter to the NYS Assembly in June 1993 agreeing to remediate the lead contamination and to complete the study and construction of sound barriers within a year.

The City Island Civic Association prepared a lawsuit because no sound barriers had been built, but the NYPD agreed to erect them, and the lawsuit was dropped. Funding was put into the capital budget, with an estimated completion date of September 1999, but the prototype was found to be ineffective, and the project was abandoned. Sound abatement was again promised in 2005 but Mayor Bloomberg wanted to use the facility as a rifle range when he submitted a bid for the Olympics in 2012, so the plan was abandoned again. Then the range was going to be moved to a new facility in Queens, but in 2014, Police Commissioner Bratton decided it was too expensive. Two years later Mayor di Blasio put funding in place for sound abatement, and Councilmember James Vacca called for temporary baffling. Although the NYPD and the Department of Design and Construction have shown plans to Community Board 10 and report that the sound abatement will be in place by 2026, nothing has yet been built.

The noise and smoke that come from Rodman's Neck these days certainly make one wish for the days when Rodman's Neck was "pleasant and fruitful . . . inviting and agreeable beyond description."

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CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK									
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									
JULY 2024									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	HH:MM	FEET	
01 Mon	0221	0.1	0803	7.2	1421	0.5	2026	2026	Mon 01
02 Tue	0321	-0.1	0909	7.3	1525	0.5	2125	8.6	Tue 02
03 Wed	0417	-0.3	1005	7.5	1622	0.5	2219	8.6	Wed 03
04 Thu	0509	-0.4	1057	7.6	1716	0.4	2309	8.5	Thu 04
05 Fri	0559	-0.4	1146	7.7	1806	0.5	2357	8.4	Fri 05
06 Sat	0646	-0.3	1234	7.7	1852	0.5			Sat 06
07 Sun	0042	8.2	0729	-0.1	1318	7.6	1934	0.6	Sun 07
08 Mon	0124	8.0	0809	0.1	1400	7.6	2011	0.8	Mon 08
09 Tue	0203	7.7	0844	0.4	1439	7.5	2044	0.9	Tue 09
10 Wed	0239	7.4	0909	0.7	1516	7.4	2113	1.1	Wed 10
11 Thu	0314	7.1	0923	0.9	1549	7.4	2150	1.2	Thu 11
12 Fri	0353	6.8	0954	1.0	1622	7.3	2235	1.2	Fri 12
13 Sat	0436	6.7	1035	1.2	1659	7.3	2326	1.3	Sat 13
14 Sun	0524	6.3	1121	1.3	1742	7.3			Sun 14
15 Mon	0022	1.3	0620	6.2	1222	1.3	1830	7.2	Mon 15
16 Tue	0134	1.2	0733	6.2	1307	1.5	1926	7.3	Tue 16
17 Wed	0249	1.0	0848	7.5	1408	1.5	2025	7.5	Wed 17
18 Thu	0344	0.7	0937	6.6	1509	1.3	2119	7.8	Thu 18
19 Fri	0433	0.4	1018	6.9	1606	1.0	2207	8.2	Fri 19
20 Sat	0519	0.1	1058	7.2	1700	0.7	2255	8.5	Sat 20
21 Sun	0602	-0.2	1140	7.6	1752	0.4	2344	8.8	Sun 21
22 Mon	0644	-0.4	1226	7.9	1843	0.1			Mon 22
23 Tue	0034	8.9	0725	-0.5	1313	8.2	1934	-0.1	Tue 23
24 Wed	0125	8.8	0807	-0.5	1401	8.5	2028	-0.1	Wed 24
25 Thu	0218	8.6	0852	-0.4	1452	8.6	2129	0.0	Thu 25
26 Fri	0313	8.2	0941	-0.2	1546	8.7	2239	0.1	Fri 26
27 Sat	0414	7.8	1038	0.1	1645	8.6	2350	0.2	Sat 27
28 Sun	0521	7.4	1143	0.4	1750	8.4			Sun 28
29 Mon	0059	0.2	0637	7.1	1258	0.2	1903	8.2	Mon 29
30 Tue	0205	0.2	0753	7.1	1411	0.8	2016	8.1	Tue 30
31 Wed	0306	0.1	0859	7.2	1516	0.7	2119	8.1	Wed 31
AUGUST 2024									
01 Thu	0402	0.0	0955	7.4	1613	0.6	2213	8.2	Thu 01
02 Fri	0453	-0.1	1045	7.6	1705	0.5	2302	8.2	Fri 02
03 Sat	0541	-0.1	1132	7.7	1752	0.5	2347	8.2	Sat 03
04 Sun	0625	-0.1	1215	7.8	1836	0.5			Sun 04
05 Mon	0028	8.1	0705	0.1	1255	7.8	1914	0.5	Mon 05
06 Tue	0105	7.9	0738	0.3	1330	7.8	1946	0.6	Tue 06
07 Wed	0137	7.7	0801	0.5	1359	7.8	2007	0.7	Wed 07
08 Thu	0202	7.4	0808	0.6	1422	7.7	2027	0.8	Thu 08
09 Fri	0230	7.2	0831	0.8	1448	7.7	2101	0.9	Fri 09
10 Sat	0304	7.0	0907	0.9	1522	7.6	2142	1.0	Sat 10
11 Sun	0345	6.7	0949	1.1	1602	7.5	2229	1.1	Sun 11
12 Mon	0432	6.5	1037	1.3	1648	7.4	2322	1.2	Mon 12
13 Tue	0553	6.4	1129	1.5	1739	7.3			Tue 13
14 Wed	0021	1.2	0622	6.3	1226	1.6	1837	7.3	Wed 14
15 Thu	0138	1.1	0735	6.3	1330	1.5	1943	7.5	Thu 15
16 Fri	0306	0.8	0853	6.7	1441	1.2	2051	7.9	Fri 16
17 Sat	0403	0.4	0947	7.1	1548	0.8	2149	8.4	Sat 17
18 Sun	0452	0.0	1033	7.6	1647	0.4	2240	8.8	Sun 18
19 Mon	0537	-0.3	1118	8.2	1741	-0.1	2331	9.0	Mon 19
20 Tue	0619	-0.6	1204	8.6	1834	-0.4			Tue 20
21 Wed	0021	9.1	0701	-0.7	1251	9.0	1925	-0.5	Wed 21
22 Thu	0112	8.9	0742	-0.7	1339	9.2	2018	-0.5	Thu 22
23 Fri	0203	8.6	0826	-0.4	1428	9.2	2117	-0.3	Fri 23
24 Sat	0258	8.2	0916	-0.1	1522	9.0	2224	0.0	Sat 24
25 Sun	0400	7.7	1016	0.3	1623	8.6	2334	0.2	Sun 25
26 Mon	0511	7.3	1132	0.7	1734	8.2			Mon 26
27 Tue	0042	0.4	0653	7.9	1250	1.0	1853	7.9	Tue 27
28 Wed	0147	0.5	0740	7.0	1401	1.0	2007	7.8	Wed 28
29 Thu	0248	0.4	0845	7.2	1503	0.8	2109	7.9	Thu 29
30 Fri	0343	0.3	0940	7.5	1558	0.7	2201	8.0	Fri 30
31 Sat	0432	0.1	1028	7.7	1648	0.5	2248	8.1	Sat 31
SEPTEMBER 2024									
01 Sun	0518	0.1	1111	7.9	1733	0.4	2329	8.1	Sun 01
02 Mon	0559	0.1	1151	8.0	1814	0.4			Mon 02
03 Tue	0008	8.0	0634	0.3	1226	8.1	1850	0.4	Tue 03
04 Wed	0041	7.8	0702	0.4	1255	8.1	1918	0.5	Wed 04
05 Thu	0107	7.6	0713	0.6	1314	8.0	1932	0.6	Thu 05

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Photos by JOHN SHERIDAN
When this osprey nest began to fall, the New York Harbor Patrol came to the rescue and saved it for the osprey pair.

Operation Osprey

It was probably inevitable. The osprey pair trying to build a nest on the pilings at the end of Hawkins Street these last couple of years was bound to get lucky sooner or later, at least for a little while. In the past, the nesting material they used had fallen between the pilings, almost as soon as they set it down. So the birds have had to go elsewhere to raise their young. This year, however, somehow the material took hold and a nest was established. Barely. Not long after, Mr. and Mrs. produced an egg that was incubating inside.

Then it happened! The nest began to collapse between the pilings as it had happened before, only this time with an egg inside. It did not happen all at once, though. It was gradual at first. Almost imperceptible. But it was happening. A heavy rain one night added a lot of extra weight all at once to the nest, and that was it, the proverbial straw that broke the camel’s back. While it had not yet fallen through, Mrs. must have sensed the end was near because she was not entering the nest as much anymore. She stood to the side instead, on one of the pil-

ings. From what we could see, she was spot on for doing so, too.

It was at this point that all the noise that an osprey can make—and those of you who know osprey know they can be VERY noisy birds—it took on an entirely different meaning, although whether or not the ornithologists at the Cornell Lab would agree is another story. But it was clear to us that every noisy syllable the osprey were making from that point on was a cry for help. Our help. We simply had to act. The problem was that the pilings were in the open water and could not be safely accessed.

The first thing we did was put out the call to as many people we knew who might be able to help us help them. We needed a creative solution fast. And we got them from all over: we heard back from the Wild Bird Fund, the folks at Audubon in NYC and New Jersey, a raptor specialist on Long Island, local birders, including Jack, Joe and Brendan, as well as the Bronx’s own Birding Bob. In the end, we placed a call to the NYPD’s Harbor Patrol unit, and they put their own call in to Emergency Services, which is a part of the Special Operations Bureau of NYPD.

As luck would have it, that day in early June was a relatively quiet one around the city for police. A Harbor Patrol boat arrived to the cheers of the swimmers on Hawkins Street beach. It moved into place beneath the nest, allowing the Emergency Services officers to tie ropes around the nest, supporting it in two places. As they worked, Mr. and Mrs. watched from the spreader of a nearby sailboat. They were uncharacteristically quiet. After the operation, they returned to the nest and resumed the incubation. And the racket. The next morning, with the help of our neighbor, Don, who was able to position a float beneath the nest, we built a makeshift plywood platform for additional support. This way if the line used by NYPD failed, the nest had nowhere to fall but onto our plywood.

It was quite the team effort! Now if we could only get those osprey to quiet down about it.



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SPRING AIR FAIR



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK and PAUL NANI
It was clear sunny skies for the Spring Arts & Crafts Fair, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, on June 1 and 2, 2024. More than 50 booths lined City Island Avenue from Bay to Schofield Streets, featuring Island businesses and organizations, including the Legion Auxiliary and Grace Church (middle photos), as well as local artists showcasing paintings, photography, jewelry, crochet, body care, folk art, clothing, crafts, woodworking, gems, minerals, stained glass, great food and baked goods. There was also music in Hawkins Park on both afternoons. Calendar Alert: the Fall Arts & Crafts Fair, including the popular chowder contest, will return on Sept. 14 and 15, 2024.

In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photo by MARY COLBY
My garden with the indigenous tall hibiscus coccineus, Phlox David and a red annual zinnia.

Summer Flowers

Summer has arrived with soaring temperatures. This is the time for hot-headed plants: zinnia, petunia, marigold and sunflower. Raised from seed sown in mid-May or bought now at a garden center, they are great for cutting. Even a late sowing in July will produce beautiful plants in September that are alarmingly colorful and are much needed as accents.

Aside from all this color, wouldn't it be charming to have some fragrant flowers too? All during May and June I have seen small white carnations that smell of clove and perfume the air when the sun is out.

In a small garden, phlox eventually grow too large, but in a wide border nothing is more festive in late summer than these beauties. Phlox paniculata come in pink, white, purple and magenta, and many revert to magenta as they age. Some people dread this color, but on phlox it is, in my book, just the right shade. "Miss Lingard" begins blooming in late June and is followed by "David," which is mildew resistant. Their flowers froth in pure white, and the fragrance is sweet with a hint of vanilla that wafts through the garden in the gloaming. They should be divided every three or four years for better blooms. Russian sage is a delightful companion for phlox, and there are shorter varieties, like "Blue Jeans" at 30 inches.

Now I'd like to say something nice about nasturtiums. They are entirely worth growing and easily had on the seed racks of hardware stores. The seeds are large and easy enough that even small children can set them out. Rich soil, the kind that roses, oriental poppies and peonies like, is their preference. Scrambling over pavement, they are suitable for edging. The flowers are edible and the aroma sweet. Ask Monet: His rose and iris allée are graced with nasturtiums whose leaves mimic his beloved water lilies.

On to lilies. The oriental, the madonna and the turk's-cap all give off such heady

perfume as to be almost overwhelming when brought into the house. Lilies bloom in July and August. These noble flowers planted in spring also want rich, free-draining soil. Day lilies are at their peak now and would benefit from extra nutrients.

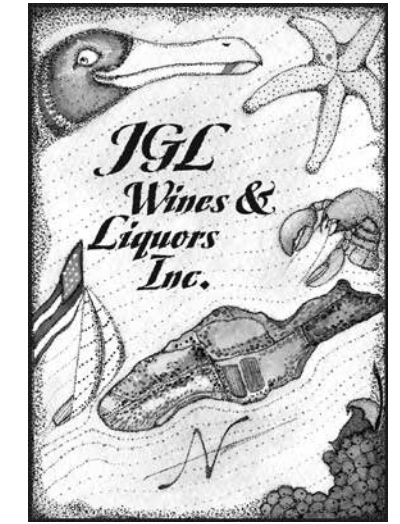
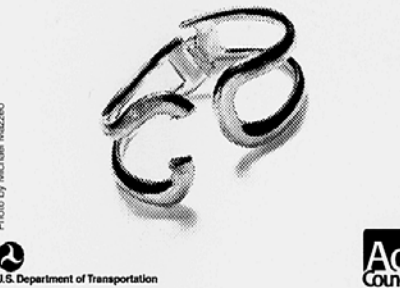
I feed the plants that are to flower now with Dyna-Gro 7-9-5 or Miracle-Gro every two weeks. Mulching at this time is important if it has become thin. Retaining moisture is of the utmost importance when the weather is very hot. Be sure to water shrubs deeply. Give even established boxwood a good drink every few weeks so they don't stress and are better able to fight off disease and insects.

The temperature has risen, and it's not really the best time to garden except in early morning or early evening. Personally, I like the garden to be done by June with work to begin again in mid-September, but for those of you who are veggie Kings and Queens, I understand you will be harvesting soon, which is the best part of this endeavor! Here's to enjoying the garden with a cool drink and your feet up. Have a great summer.

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. Questions can be answered via message on her instagram page #marycolbystudiogallery.

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

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The Need for Mentors: For Ourselves and For Our Children

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

When I was growing up, my best friend Jack’s father, whom I called Uncle George, was a mentor for me. My own father had never graduated from high school, and my mother wasn’t allowed to go to college because my Italian immigrant grandfather did not believe in education for women. Uncle George was a high school history teacher, a college professor and an author. His study was lined with bookshelves, and he asked really good questions when it came to the subject of what I wanted to do after high school. Uncle George gave me a copy of Michael Harrington’s “The Other America,” a book that changed my life. That’s what mentors do.

We can all look to someone in our past who had this kind of influence on us—an aunt or uncle, a teacher, a coach, a scout leader, a faith practitioner. Often these people were not our parents but members of our extended community. Parents already had many roles to fill in our lives, and mentors could provide that extra guidance, especially when we were at odds with mom or dad.

Do your children have access to adults in their lives whom they might emulate? Given the rise of technology, and the hours spent on screens, do we help to create experiences that are face-to-face and centered

on the passing on of knowledge? I can easily name the people who influenced my life: Mr. Dickinson, my elementary school music teacher who instilled a love of music in me; Father Berman, the young parish priest who helped me earn my Boy Scout religious award; Mister Oelrich, my Little League coach who emphasized teamwork and personal growth over winning. BUT, to meet these people, I had to get out there and join the school band, become a scout and participate in my local baseball program. My parents helped to make that happen.

Children need extended communities as much as adults do. Take advantage of this summer to help your child put down the screens and get involved with learning new skills from caring adults. You might also take a moment to drop a line to those who were instrumental in your life. And of course, what people in your community might you be a mentor for? How can you share your gifts and talents with others?

Check out my website www.inward-passages.com if you identify as a male and are going through a transition in your life: marriage, divorce, birth of a child, loss of a loved one, new job, retirement, relocation. We men need to talk with one another and develop positive masculine paradigms that support one another.



Photo by JON SIMON for NYRR

City Island’s Mike Rauh was honored by New York Road Runners (NYRR) at its Youth Awards Night on May 8, 2024. Mike was given an award for his decades of service announcing youth running events for NYRR. He was also dedicated to the Youth Ambassadors Program, training young runners to become race announcers. Mike is pictured above with Matt, one of the youth ambassadors.

SCHOOL NEWS

2+2=4

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Julie Porras, Principal of P.S. 175, announced that members of the eighth-grade graduation class of 2024 will be attending the following high schools: Astor Collegiate, Bronxdale H.S., Cardinal Spellman H.S., Fordham H.S. for the Arts, High School of Language and Innovation, Julia R. Masterman Secondary School, Lehman H.S., Monsignor Scanlan H.S., Montfort Academy, Mount St. Michael

Academy, Preston H.S., Renaissance H.S., St. Catharine Academy, St. Raymond H.S. for Boys, The Ursuline School, Townsend Harris, and Westchester Square Academy.

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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.



Diane Lott

Island resident Diane Lott passed away peacefully on June 12, 2024, at the age of 66.

She was born in the Bronx on Sept. 19, 1957, to George and Dorothy Burlage. She attended St. Anthony Grammar School and graduated from Aquinas High School in the class of 1976. After graduating from Berkley Claremont Business School in New York City, she was employed by Rockefeller University from 1977 to 1988 and then for the New York City Board of Education from 1999 until her retirement in 2019.

Diane married Stephen Lott in 1984,

and they first lived in Flushing, Queens, where they had two sons, Stephen Jr., and Thomas, and in 1993 moved to City Island. Diane was an active member of the Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 156 and always the first to volunteer to lend a helping hand. She was a member of Post 156's weekly ladies card club. Her Friday "theme night" at the Legion with her best friend, Judy McCormick, inspired many others to join in the fun and dress the theme.

She was a longtime member of the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. She loved boating with her husband and was more than a second mate on their boat, *Gerrylander III*. She was an avid and skilled fisherwoman and always caught the first and biggest fish.

To her cats, Bonnie and Clyde, she was the "treat lady," having taught them as kittens to sit for a reward. To her sons, Stephen and Tommy, and grandson, Ethan, she was a doting and dedicated mother and grandmother. To her husband, Stephen, she was his soulmate and partner of 44 years. Her memory is a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Diane is survived by her husband, her two sons and their families: Stephen Jr., his wife, Kelsey and their son Ethan, who live in Wappinger Falls, and Thomas, who lives on City Island. She is also survived by her brother, George Burlage of Yonkers, and her sister, Christine D'Alessandro of Wilton, CT, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

After a Mass of Christian burial at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on June 17, Diane was interred in Pelham Cemetery.

The City Island Poem

Sanctuary

You know you are home
as you climb the bridge rise,
temperature falling,
an earthy whiff of a
salty ebb tide.

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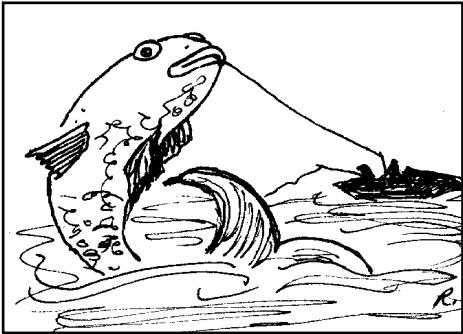
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SUMMER IS HERE! Get your home office or boat ready for Summer. Call Margaret 917-287-1132.

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ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: 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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Photo by JANIE BLANKS
Curb Appeal: The Garden Club of City Island is delighted to draw special attention each month to a local business that makes its storefront especially attractive, as the Crab Shanty does with great style.



At the request of the Civic Association, Councilwoman Kristy Marmorato arranged to have a Fire Department emergency medical service unit stationed on City Island this summer.

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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.



Former Islander Alex Persteins will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point this fall.

Congratulations to former Islander Alex Persteins, who will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point this fall. Keep an eye out for visits by Alex and his brother, Joseph, who just completed his second year at West Point.

Kudos to City Island's Mike Rauh, who was honored by New York Road Runners at its Youth Awards Night on May 8, 2024. Mike was given a special award for his decades of service



Phoebe Mankiewicz Ledins received her Ph.D. from Yale University.

announcing youth running events for NYRR. He was also instrumental in its Youth Ambassadors Program, training young runners to become race announcers. He created a practice module as a guide for the ambassadors, helping them develop their announcing skills.



Elise Catherine Nani celebrated her first birthday on June 23, 2024.

Happy first birthday to Elise Catherine Nani, who celebrated with her family and friends at her grandparents' home on King Avenue on June 23, 2024. Elise's dad, Roger, will celebrate his 40th birthday on Aug. 9. Happy birthday to all Roger's classmates from P.S. 175's class of 1998 who are turning 40 this year.

Belated birthday greetings to Patrice Ortega, who celebrated on May 28.

Kudos to former Bay Street neighbor Phoebe Mankiewicz Ledins, who is proud to announce that she has completed her Yale Ph.D. in green infrastructure. Way to go!

Many happy birthday wishes to my lovely granddaughters, Kayla on July 4 and Alyssa on July 23. Have a great summer. With love, Grandma Penny.



Islander Mya Rose Senior Antelmi graduated from The Ursuline School in June 2024.

Congratulations to Islander Mya Rose Senior Antelmi, who graduated from The Ursuline School in New Rochelle. She was accepted at nine art colleges and will attend the Maine School of Art and Design in the fall.

Happiest of birthdays to Maria Christina Swieciki, who celebrates with family and friends on Aug. 22.

Long-distance happy birthday wishes on July 9 to former Islander Ellen Dier-enfeld.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Pilot Cove's Barbara Henreckson, who celebrates on July 14. With love from Deb, Elzie and Ken.

Happy birthday to Jennifer Carman on July 21 and to Nolan Quinn on Aug. 16, with love from your families and friends. Celebrate!

Happy July birthdays to Arlo Rota, Beth Rota and Susie Rauh. And Happy July Anniversary (#19) to Beth and Matt



Keri A. Campbell earned a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Maritime in June 2024.

Rota. Mussel sucker Keri A. Campbell earned a Bachelor of Science in International Transport and Trade from SUNY Maritime. In July, she will start a career in Manhattan with an international transportation insurer. Her Dad, Mickey Burke, wishes her great success in this new venture. Go, Keri!

Wishing all our readers, neighbors and friends a safe and happy summer! See you in September!

Maria Swieciki



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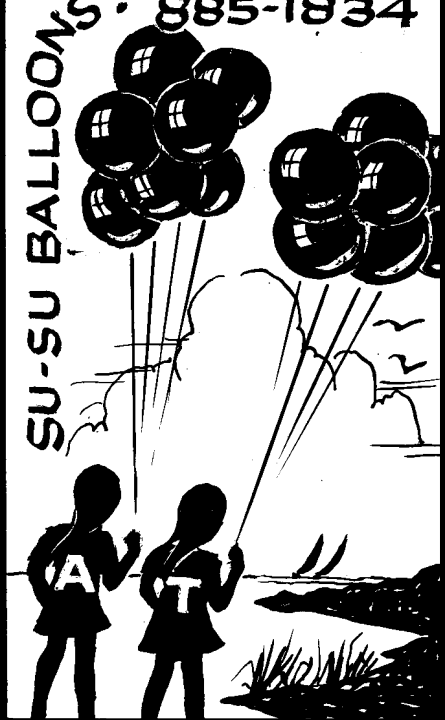
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