

The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York

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

Volume 34 Number 6 July-August 2005

One Dollar

Venturelli Corner Dedicated

By RUSSELL SCHALLER

With police bagpipers playing in the background, the family of fallen officer Pat Venturelli pulled the ceremonial cord on June 24, 2005, to officially name the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue as Police Officer Pasquale Venturelli Corner. Officer Venturelli was the first policeman killed in the line of duty from the 45th Precinct, and it happened on City Island.

Pasquale J. Venturelli, nicknamed Pat, was born in Corona, Queens, on Feb. 28, 1911, to John and Angeline Vetnturelli. Pat had two sisters, Helen and Jenny, and a brother, Louis. In 1932 he married Helen Kessler and relocated to the Bronx, where he joined the Police Department in 1938. He would meet his untimely demise on a bitterly cold and snowy Saturday night, Jan. 23, 1943. Aside from his wife of 11 years, he would leave behind two sons, Robert, 9, and Alfred, 4.

Following a car in the vicinity of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue, Patrolman Venturelli and his partner, Patrolman Bitterscomb, stopped a car driven by three young men who appeared to have been drinking. Pat directed the driver to the police booth, which was located in the park at the corner of Hawkins Street and City Island Avenue, a block away. Instead the driver sped south on the avenue to Centre Street with Pat hanging onto the car. He turned right on Centre Street and swerved wildly in an attempt to throw Pat off the running board. At William Avenue, the driver made another right, speeding toward



Police Officer Pasquale Venturelli

Carroll Street.

The car, now out of control, lurched right at Carroll Street and struck a tree on the north side of the street, just east of William Avenue. Pat was crushed between the car and tree and died instantly. Two of the miscreants, Frank Giordani and Vincent Urquhart, were apprehended at the scene, but Donald Sebia ran back to 22 Centre Street, where he sought refuge in the rear yard. Officer Hearle, a City Island resident and off-duty police officer, caught the culprit and returned him to the scene of the accident.

Officers at Patrolman Venturelli's

precinct, the 45th, vowed to have a plaque placed at the precinct in his memory, but some did not want to be reminded of his passing and nothing was done, much to the chagrin of Pat's wife, Helen. She would fight for some recognition of her husband's sacrifice for many years, and at long last her quest was finally realized. On Jan. 24, 1977, 34 years after his death, a plaque was dedicated.

At this point let me digress and tell a related story. Captain Ben DiGregorio, Island resident and former commander of the 49th Precinct in the Bronx, was visiting his wife's niece Maryann Vent and her husband, Dr. Al Vent, a psychologist. The conversation turned to the recent death of police Officer John Scala, who was believed at that time to be the first officer from the 45th Precinct to have been killed in the line of duty. When Ben mentioned this, Al Vent said, "That's not true, my father was a police officer, Pat Venturelli, of the 45th, and he was killed while on duty in 1943." Ben told *The Current* that this revelation took him by surprise, since he did not know that Al's father had been a police officer.

A memorial service for Officer Scala

was being planned at the time, and Ben quickly enlisted the help of PBA delegate Tony Petrella, whom Ben had befriended while working on the Orchard Beach detail. Tony began to hunt for details relating to Pat's death.

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IUC PROPERTY TO BE DEVELOPED

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

Pulte Homes, a major development corporation, has entered into a contract to purchase and construct a housing complex on the five-acre property on the southeast end of Fordham Street that once belonged to International Underwater Contractors.

Representatives of Pulte addressed the May meeting of the City Island Civic Association and explained their plans for the property, which include the construction of 22 two-family houses on the site. Each of the 44 units will have about 2,600 square feet with three or four bedrooms and will sell in the range of \$750,000 to \$1 million.

The property is now zoned Manufacturing (M-1), and in order to build housing, the firm will have to apply for a zoning change through the ULURP process (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure). This process will take about seven months to pass through the Department of City Planning, Community Planning Board 10, the Borough President's Office and the City Council.

Pulte, which is based in Detroit, Michigan, but has built developments in many different parts of the country, originally presented plans to the Community Board for many more housing units, but members of the board and representatives of the Civic Association objected to a number of aspects of the plan. Pulte

went back to the drawing board, after reviewing existing houses on City Island, and developed a new housing type that incorporates a number of local design elements.

Although the houses will be designed for two families, only one entrance will be visible from the road. There will be a gated private road off Fordham Street for a number of the houses, as well as public access to the waterfront, where a boardwalk and a sitting area will be open during daylight hours. There will also be houses constructed along Fordham Place, which, like the other houses in the development, will provide parking for residents, as well as visitors.

Debris and barges along the waterfront will be removed and riprap installed, but no additional landfill will be put in place, the Pulte representatives assured those in attendance at the meeting.

The distance between houses will range from 20 to 26 feet, which is more than the 13 feet required by law, but the height of each house will be about 42 feet, higher than the current zoning allows. The IUC property, however, is one of the few areas on City Island where the Special District Zoning passed in 1977 allows for structures to reach 50 feet with a special permit.



Photos by KAREN NANI

On June 24, 2005, the corner of Carroll Street and City Island Avenue was officially declared Police Officer Pasquale Venturelli Corner in honor of the first policeman killed in the line of duty in the 45th Precinct. Family members, including his granddaughter Patricia Cobbin, helped unveil the new sign. Islanders Ben DiGregorio (middle photo, left) and Matthew Murphy (bottom photo) spearheaded the effort to have the corner dedicated in his memory.

BRIEFLY...

SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE STARS will be presented by the City Island Theater Group in Hawkins Street Park on Friday, Aug. 12, and Saturday, Aug. 13. This presentation of the bard's greatest works has been made possible by support from Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano. Admission is free. Just bring a blanket or chair to sit on and something refreshing to drink.

CIVAC REUNION. In October 2005 there will be a reunion for all former members of the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Please contact Regina Murphy at civacreunion@yahoo.com or call 718-885-3185. Spread the word and help make the reunion a huge success.

PET VACCINES: Dr. Tom Rogers D.V.M. of Stamen Animal Hospital of New Rochelle will be holding a vaccine clinic at the Community Center on Sunday, July 10, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Appointments are suggested but walk-ins are welcome. You may call 914-632-1269 for appointments or for more information.

COMMUNITY CENTER AWARDS DINNER will be held this year at the Fordham Street Beach Club on Aug. 20, at 5 p.m. Honorees include Reverend Susan Chadwick, Fred Ramftl, Phil Ficarelli, Karen Garcia and Jacinda Economas. Tickets are available at the Focal Point Gallery, 321 City Island Avenue, or call 718-885-1145.

SUMMER MUSIC 2005 presented by the Bronx Arts Ensemble will perform in two locations on each date in July and August: Rockwood Drive Circle in Van Cortlandt Park (near Mosholu Avenue and Broadway) at 2 p.m. and McGinley Center at Fordham University on Southern Boulevard at 4 p.m. The concerts are Mozart Summer Winds (July 24), Two Irish Tenors (July 31), More Latin Tangos (Aug. 7), Hot Harpsichord & Co. (Aug. 14) and A Tribute to Billie Holiday (Aug. 21). For information and directions, call 718-601-7399 or visit www.bronxartsensemble.org.

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THE ISLAND CURRENT
P.O. Box 6
City Island, N.Y. 10464

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760
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PHOTOGRAPHY: Rena Hansen, Rick DeWitt.
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Russell Schaller Sr., Stephanie Ribaldo, Melissa Koller, Marge McNulty, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, 33 Earley Street, City Island, N.Y. 10464
Printed by Hi-Speed Printing Co., 1123 Worthen Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10474
The Island Current (USPS 114-590) is published monthly except for January and August by the Island Current Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Subscription rate, \$10.00 per year. Single copies, \$1.00. All subscriptions, editorial, advertising and other correspondence must be mailed to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. Display advertising deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication, call 885-0984 or 885-0760. Copyright 2005 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The second phase of the sewer project that was to have begun last year is slowly working its way toward a start date, which is now scheduled for December 2005, according to representatives of the Department of Design and Construction (DDC).

At a meeting attended by representatives of the City Island Civic Association and Chamber of Commerce, as well as various city agencies, the DDC described the current status of the project. The contract was awarded in April 2005 to Carp Construction, which will officially start the job in December. In the meantime, DDC is working to obtain the various necessary permits involved from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the federal Army Corps of Engineers, among other agencies.

According to Eric MacFarlane, Deputy Commissioner of DDC, the contractor will not start digging in December but will do preconstruction work, such as setting up a staging area for equipment and meeting with members of the community to discuss scheduling. A field office will be established on City Island where a community liaison officer will be responsible for distributing brochures and newsletters and answering questions relating to the project.

After two to three months of preparatory work, the actual project will start, probably in April 2006. Work is expected to continue for at least three years, which is likely to delay the bridge project, originally scheduled to begin in the fall of 2007.

Most of the work will take place along the east side of City Island Avenue, and DDC plans to enforce a summer embargo on work on the Avenue, in light of the heavy traffic anticipated by Island busi-

nesses, especially the restaurants.

Frank Fitts, president of the City Island Civic Association, and Virginia Gallagher of Community Board 10 strenuously objected to the summer embargo, which DDC admits would delay the project by as much as a year. Mr. Fitts also insisted that the contractor work with traffic agents, rather than police officers, to monitor traffic conditions throughout the project.

Paul Klein of the Chamber of Commerce, however, spoke in support of the summer embargo, saying that the businesses would suffer if work took place during the summer months. He suggested that DDC require the contractor to work a 9-hour day in order to move the project along more quickly.

DDC said that work would still be done during the summer months, between Mother's Day and Labor Day, on the side streets and in Pelham Bay Park, where traffic would not be affected. However, Mr. Fitts indicated that only two side streets are involved (Schofield and Ditmars), and that the area around the school would be best dealt with in summer rather than when school is in session.

Mr. MacFarlane expressed willingness to work with the community but said that there must be a consensus reached through the Community Board before DDC could respond to these objections. At a meeting held on June 24, Mr. Fitts, Mr. Klein and other representatives of the Civic Association agreed that the Community Board should send a letter to DDC requesting that the summer embargo be modified on the basis of preconstruction meetings with DDC, the contractor and City Island organizations as the schedule for the project is established.

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ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The City Island Community Center's Annual Drue Breen Literary Contest is pleased to announce the winners of the essay contest. This year's topic was the City Island Bridge, and writers were asked to submit any original, fictional essay or poem (500 words or less).

Barnes & Noble gift cards were awarded in all of the youth categories, courtesy of the Drue Breen Literary Fund, with winners receiving \$25 cards and runners-up receiving \$15 cards.

The winner of the Grades 1 to 3 category is Lindsey Zapata, a second-grader at P.S. 175. The runner-up is Grace Ramos, also a second-grader at P.S. 175. Their entries are published below.

The winner in the Grades 3 through 5 category is Korinna Lane, who is in Grade 4 at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. The runner-up is Brenton Howell, also in Grade 4 at St. Mary's.

The Grades 6 through 8 category winner is Kristina Dilorio, who is in the sixth grade at P. S. 175, and the runner-up is Alexander Miccoli, also in the sixth grade at P.S. 175.

The adult winners will be announced in the September issue of *The Current*, which will also publish the rest of the winning entries. The adults who submitted entries are asked to call the Community Center at 718-885-1145.

Congratulations to all the winners and a special thank-you to Tracy Tomsen and

Barbara Dolensek for their help in judging the essay contest!

**Grades 1 to 3: Winner,
Lindsey Zapata, Grade 2, P. S.175**

There once was a bridge and a road. The road challenged the bridge to a contest to see who had the most important job.

If the road won, it would be called Road Island. If the bridge won, it would be called City Island.

The road just lay flat, while the bridge connected an island to a city. The bridge won because people were able to get to hospitals, stores, and visit their families.

That is why the bridge is called the City Island Bridge.

**Runnerup- Grace Ramos, Grade 2
P.S.175 Grade 2**

The City Island Bridge is such a pretty place on City Island. If the bridge was not there, people would not ever be able to leave City Island unless they traveled by boat. We are lucky we have the City Island Bridge. We can go driving, bike riding and fishing. The color green is such a pretty color; it is a beautiful light green.

The bridge is a wonderful place to be. I love the bridge because it is an honor to people!

Garden Club 45 Years Young!



Photos by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The Garden Club of City Island celebrated its 45th anniversary at the annual luncheon on June 9, 2005, at the City Island Yacht Club. Outgoing president Ruth Collins (top photo, right) presented Pelham Bay Park administrator Margot Perron with a hanging arrangement while longtime member Jackie Kall looked on. Islander Liz Montalbano (middle photo) was a lucky winner of one of the many raffle prizes.



Island Firefighters Win Medals

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

For making heroic rescues from a burning building in April 2004, two Islanders—resident Lieutenant William McGee and Rodney A. DeCuffa Jr., who was raised on City Island, the son of Betty Anderson of City Island and Rodney DeCuffa of Pelham Parkway, received medals from the New York Fire Department on June 1, 2005.

Ladder Company 51 responded to the call at 8:48 a.m. on April 15 and sped to Dereimer Avenue in the Bronx along with Engine 38. Lieutenant McGee and his inside team, which included Firefighter DeCuffa, entered the two-story building in search of people whom neighbors indicated were trapped inside.

In spite of no visibility and punishing heat, the team managed to make its way down a hallway toward a bedroom, where flames were seen coming through the doorway. Firefighter DeCuffa moved a bookcase in front of the door to slow down the blaze,

and Lieutenant McGee reached the bedroom to find Susan Jackson, 48, a victim of multiple sclerosis. The two firefighters were able to drag her from the bedroom and down the hall past heavy fire.

Knowing that two children were still inside, Firefighter DeCuffa entered the house a second time and found a 13-year-old boy, Marcus Jackson, and with the help of Lieutenant McGee, he managed to remove the boy from the house. Using his own body to shield the boy, he made his way past the engine crew and to the front door. He fell, injuring his back and neck, but protected the victim, whom he turned over to another firefighter.

Firefighter DeCuffa then entered the house a third time to search for a second child. As he reached the bedroom, according to the Fire Department, the child was

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Venturelli Corner

Continued from page 1

Searching through dusty ledgers and boxes of files stored in the basement archives, it took Tony more than two weeks, but he finally found the records and newspaper articles he was looking for. As a result of Ben's findings, another plaque was ordered and a dual ceremony was held on Jan. 24, 1977. Helen Venturelli's wish for recognition of her husband's valiant deed was finally realized. Both she and Officer Scala's wife were present at the ceremony.

Enter Islander Matthew Murphy, a police lieutenant in the 50th Precinct. Matt grew up on west Carroll Street, just a few hundred feet from the crime scene. He had heard stories over the years and wondered why City Island had not recognized Patrolman Venturelli's death and contributions to City Island.

Despite the fact that more than 60 years had passed, Matt felt that appropriate honors were better coming late than not at all.

An activist par excellence, he started working toward community recognition of the officer's heroism. Enlisting the help of New York City Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano, Matt asked that the corner nearest the tragedy be dedicated "Police Officer Pasquale Venturelli Corner." Ms. Provenzano introduced legislation to the City Council and it was approved.

Matt spoke at the dedication and told stories he had gathered from longtime Islanders who remembered Officer Venturelli. Pat had been an old-fashioned "beat cop" who knew the residents and worked to keep the Island safe. He used a soft touch with young Islanders like Stuart Hawkins, whom he allegedly caught throwing rocks at the windows of an abandoned house. Rather than arresting him or telling his parents, Officer Venturelli gave the boy a stern warning and, according to Matt, Stu never threw rocks at windows again. Ironically, Stuart Hawkins, now in his 80s, was present at the dedication.

Other Islanders, including Jack Hartigan (who was also present at the dedication), Bill Harrigan and Ducky Rauhauser, remembered being recipients of Officer Venturelli's stern warnings. Frank Hoffman reminisced fondly that Officer Venturelli and his partner would hand out replica badges to children and young teenagers in an effort to develop a rapport with Island youth.

The police department did an excellent job of honoring their fallen colleague at the dedication, and even kept Friday night traffic moving on the avenue. It was a fitting tribute.

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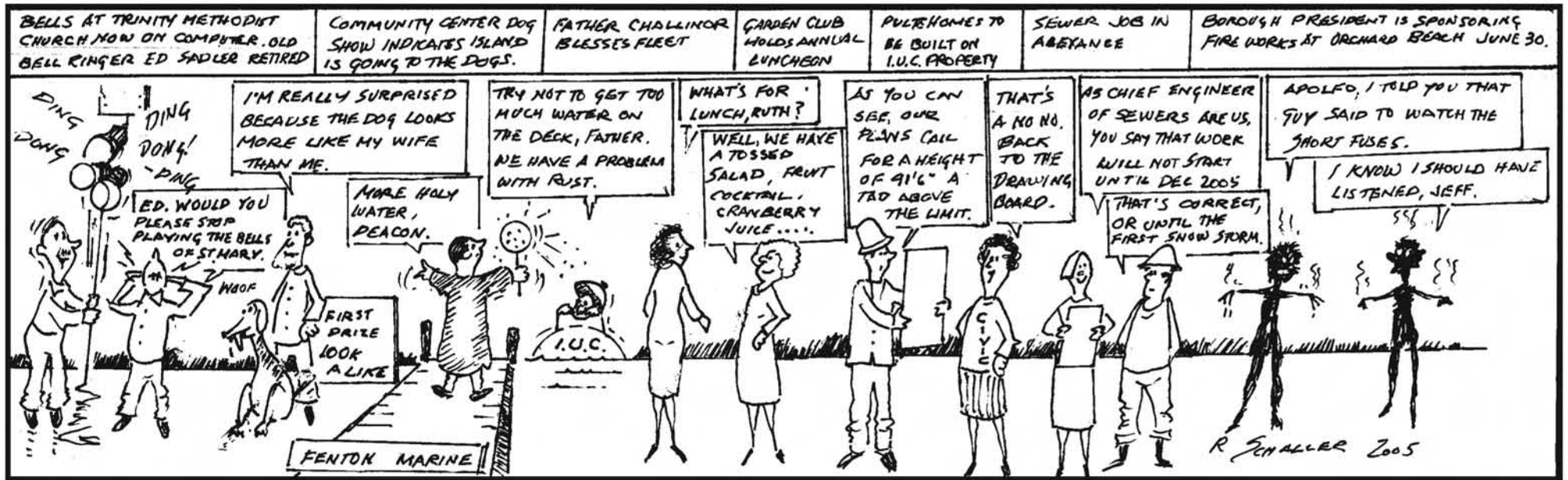
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Walk for CF Cure

To the Editor:
Hello to all my neighbors who gave wonderful donations for the Cystic Fibrosis Walk. Jeremy, the team and I thank you.

The day went well, a little rain, but we kept on walking. As a team of 10 people we collected over \$5,000 and walked for Jeremy. Each year of research increases my nephew's life. The foundation comes out with new ideas and new items to make his everyday better in some way. We all want CF to stand for Cure Found.

I've always believed that if you do for someone else, you have a good heart and good things will come your way. If you would still like to give, you can mail to me at 39 Fordham Street or call me and I will pick it up. My phone is 718-644-1384. Have a great summer.

Debra Chadwick (and Jeremy, too)

Hail and Farewell

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

To Milagros Efre-Lopez, Principal Public School 175,
To say goodbye to a wonderful lady is not enough.

To think about why this is happening is beyond belief.

Is this the American way? No, it is not, and shame on those responsible: she was not Mrs. Ellwanger, but you didn't give her a chance.

Mrs. Lopez, may God bless you. I hope this bitter experience does not reflect on the good people associated with P.S. 175.
Frank B. Ring Sr.

Waving the Flag

To the Editor:
Many years ago, the United States Supreme Court made a tragic decision. It ruled that legislation outlawing the burning of the American flag was illegal and that burning the flag was a right under the free speech protections of the United States Constitution.

After years of delay and inaction, we may finally be seeing an end to this unwise and irresponsible court decision. The U. S. House of Representatives has passed a constitutional amendment that would protect

the dignity of our flag once and for all. At this point, only a constitutional amendment specifically making flag burning unconstitutional can overturn the Supreme Court decision.

Our flag represents the sacrifices so many have made to protect our liberty. It is more than a symbol; it has represented over the course of many years a nation known for democracy. It speaks of the thousands of veterans who have died or been wounded abroad fighting for freedom. Its stars and stripes fly high around the world representing a proud country, one nation under God.

The process to amend our constitution requires that the House of Representatives and the Senate each vote with a two-thirds majority to approve such an amendment. The House has done so, and now it is up to the Senate. After that, 37 state legislatures must do so as well.

This may seem a very easy proposition to support, but there are those in the Senate who say that amending the constitution only takes place under "very important" circumstances and that we should not do so in this case. I believe they are wrong! Our flag is entitled to basic protection because of what it represents. Even in the most extreme demonstration, there can be no justification for burning or desecrating our flag. Those in Washington are there to represent the will of the people and protect our national interests. I believe they should do so without further delay.

If you agree with me, please write to Senators Schumer and Clinton or call their offices and let them know how you feel. We cannot let this amendment be buried once again by excuses or failure to act. Tell them you insist they support the flag amendment and ask for their commitment to do so.

James Vacca



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Remembering Roger

To the Editor:

For the past eight years, I worked for Roger Roberge, the former owner of Moon-cursor Records here on City Island. Last year, he passed away at the age of 83. His passing was very hard on me, and I felt that I wanted to honor him in some way. He was a very kind, generous and compassionate man. Almost everyone on City Island knew him, if not his name. He used to spend his summer days sitting on a rocking chair outside the record store.

I learned more about music and life from him than from anyone else, including schools. His most important lesson was that it's who you are, not what you do that makes you feel good about living.

On Saturday, June 18, I took the side yard next to the record store and transformed it into the Roger Roberge Memorial

Garden. It is located between the property of 223 and 229 City Island Avenue. Both landlords gave the okay, since they also knew and appreciated Roger.

So now anyone can visit this small garden and reflect on Roger. It's my way of saying thank-you to someone who came into my life and gave me a chance to be somebody. I thank all those who made this garden a reality.

Gary Makufka

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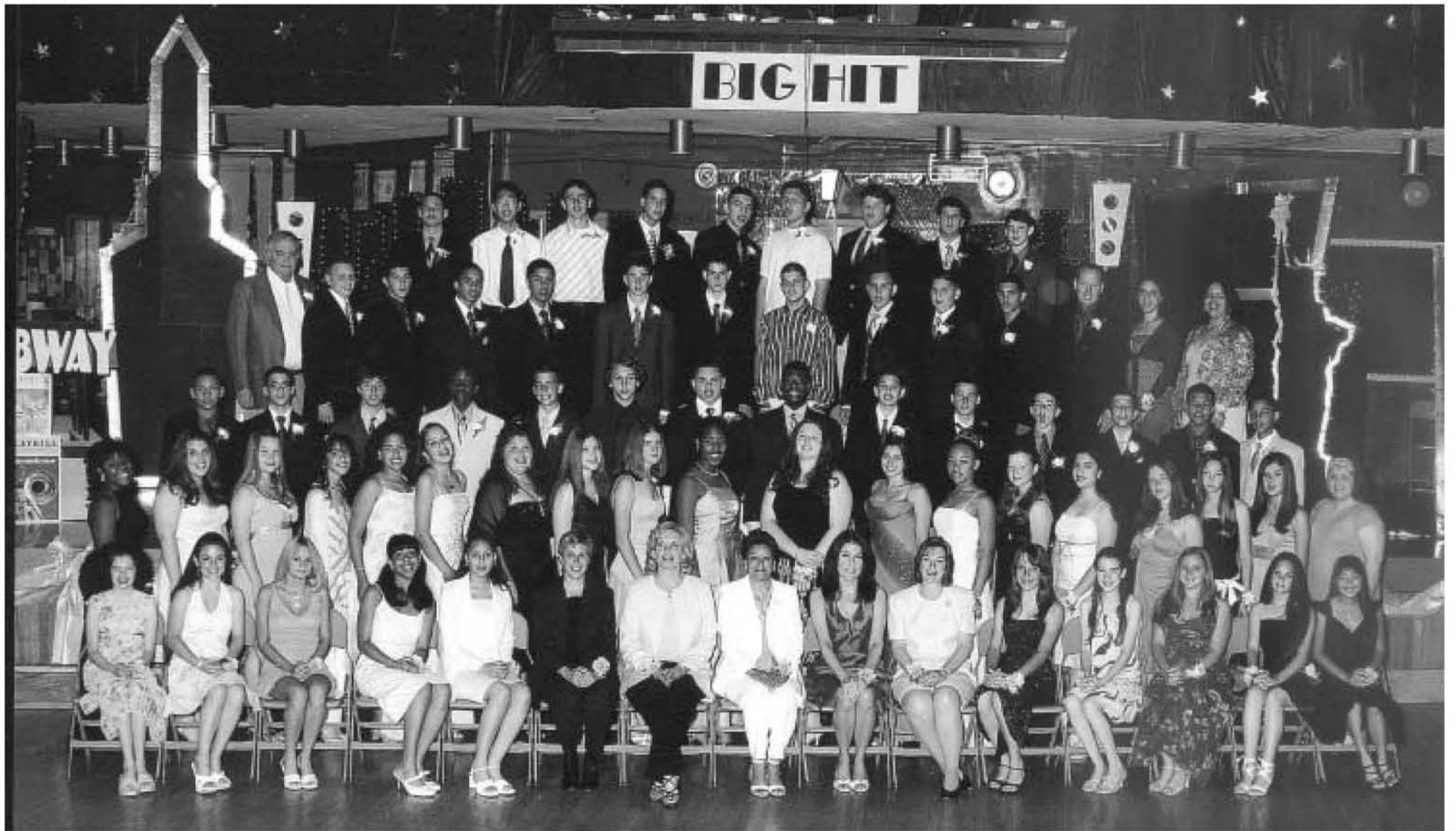
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Phot courtesy of NUCONCEPT SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the 2005 graduating class of Public School 175. First row; bottom (l. to r.): Graduates: Maeve Prendergast, Angelina Mazzella, Alyssa Brogli, Alyssa Williams, Jahaira Escarraman. Faculty: Karen Heil, Josephine Rondi, assistant principal; Milagros Efre-Lopez, principal; Jacqueline Jensen, Jeanne McDonald. Graduates: Maria Swieciki, Alanna McIntyre, Emily Eckman, Olympia Condoluci, Sue Panurach. Row two: Hannah Agyeman, Sophia Piscitelli, Lisa Butler, Tonasia Jines, Marie-Louise Nangle, Rosa Perez, Samantha DiNome, Amanda Figueiredo, Delia Berger, Shenequa Rashford, Kelly McCabe, Jacinda Economas, Kristen Loudermilk, Dana Faulkner, Stephanie Zambrana, Nicole Cody, Julia Walker, Bianca Bastone, Jessica Lombardo. Row three: Steve Delgado, Anthony Giocondo, Anthony Maimone, Jeremiah Anderson, Lawrence Boothroyd, Thomas Lott, Anthony Lauria, Stefan Halstead, Michael Jaffe, Nicholas Harty, Zachary Mirabito, Anthony Valentino, Omar Garcia, Jonathan Andino. Fourth row: Faculty: Peter McConnell. Graduates: Andrew Michalski, Daniel Henning, Raymond Figueroa, Jonathan Rosa, Michael Doati, Scott Connell, Arian Pali, David Mooney, Anthony Gaudio, Joshua Roman. Faculty: William Fecht, Danielle Ramos, Jomarie Figueroa. Top row: Robert Vivolo, Sung Hun Kim, Lan Pali, Keith Costanza, Jehad Mahmud, Ricky Biqiri, Jake Connell, Frank Ross, John Devlin.

Graduation Awards 2005

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

At the June 24 graduation ceremony, principal Milagros Efre-Lopez made the following presentations: The Mary P. Fitzpatrick Award for Academic Excellence was presented to Andrew Michalski, and the Award for General Excellence from the City Island Chamber of Commerce went to Christian Fernandez and John Devlin.

The essay award from the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post #156 was presented to John Devlin, and the essay from the Women's Auxiliary went to Rosa Perez.

The Lucrezia A. Fusco Award for Effort and Perseverance went to Alanna McIntyre; the Alice Persteins Award for Outstanding Service to School or Community with Conviction, and Moral Strength was given to Jahaira Escarraman; the Alice Connolly Service Award was presented to Amanda Figueiredo.

The UFT Millie Scheintaub Award for Citizenship, Leadership, Loyalty and Service was given to David Mooney; the UFT Citizenship Award for Academic Achievement and Character was presented to Christian Fernandez; the Gloria Misurski Award for Fairness, Involvement, Concern for Others and Love of Learning went to Kristen Loudermilk who was also the recipient of the CSA Award for Outstanding Leadership.

The NYC Comptroller Achievement Award went to John Devlin and Daniel Henning; the City Council Citation for Achievement, sponsored by Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano, was given to Sung Hun Kim and Thomas Lott; the award from the Governor's Committee on Scholastic Achievement for Character, Citizenship and Scholarship was presented to Christian Fernandez and Andrew Michalski.

Maria Swieciki received both the Christine Jorgensen Hansen Award for Commu-

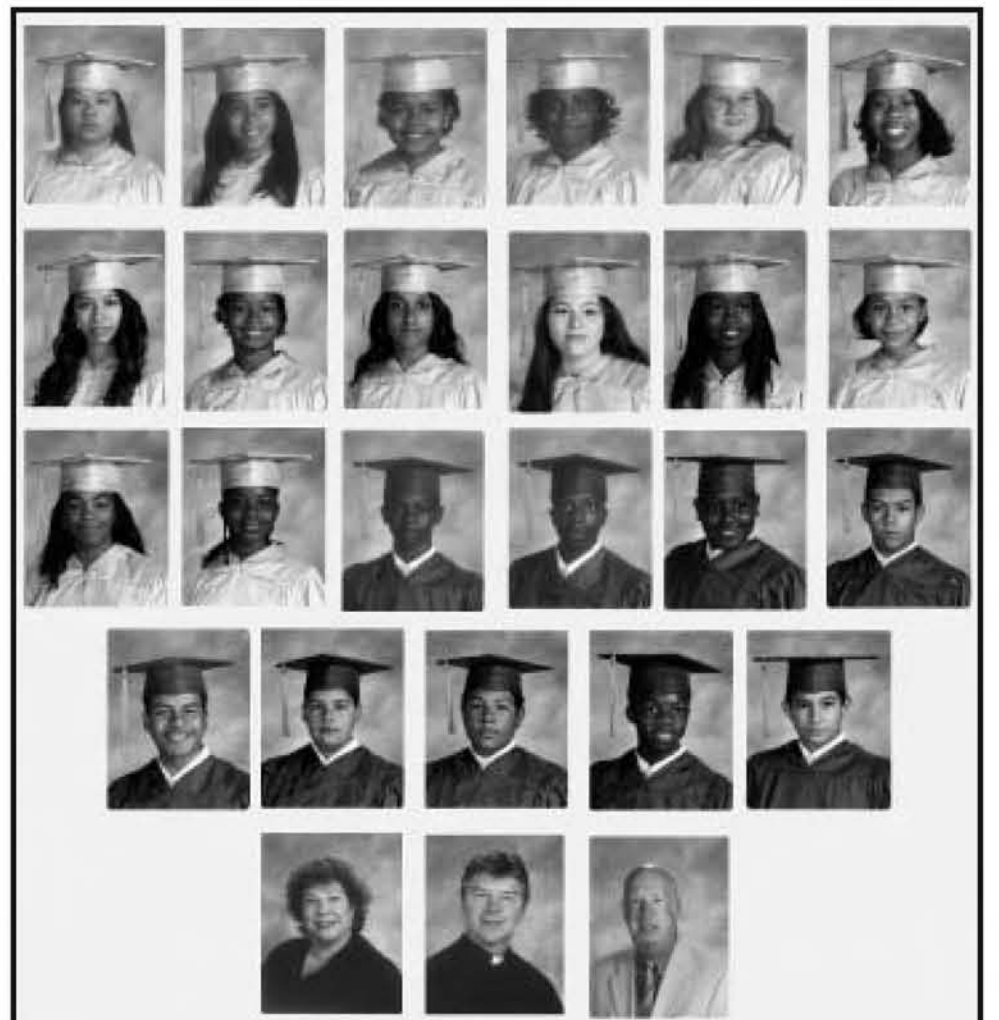
nity Service and the Italian Heritage Award; the Catherine Scott Literary Award from The Island Current went to Emily Eckman, and the Philip J. Abinanti Award for Service and Leadership was presented to Omar Garcia.

The Ena P. Ellwanger Award for Compassion, Humor, Integrity and Love of Learning was given to John Devlin; the Blanche Schwartz Award for Effort went to Jessica Lombardo; the Public Advocate for the City of New York Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement was presented to Emily Eckman and Rosa Perez. Rosa Perez also received the City of N.Y. Commission on Women's Rights Leadership Award.

The AARP Minneford Chapter 3303 Award for Most Improved Student went to Shenequa Rashford; the Association of Assistant Principals Certificate of Merit was given to Sophia Piscitelli and Nicholas Williams; Alyssa Williams received the Assemblyman Michael Benedetto Perseverance Award and the New York State Assemblyman Jeff Klein Civic Award was presented to Emily Eckman and Marie-Louise Nangle.

The winners of the NYCESPA Principal's Award are Lan Pali and Sue Panurach. The Bronx Rotary Club gave Community Service Certificates to Delia Berger, Lawrence Boothroyd, John Devlin, Anthony Gaudio, Nailah Hinton, David Mooney, Frank Ross and Maria Swieciki.

The UFT presented awards in individual subject areas: Science, Christian Fernandez, Anthony Maimone and Andrew Michalski; English Language Arts, Keith Costanza and Emily Eckman; Mathematics, Christian Fernandez and Andrew Michalski; Foreign Language, Christian Fernandez and Kristen Loudermilk; Social Studies, John Devlin and Sue Panurach; Computers and Technology, Scott Connell, Christian Fernandez,



Members of the 2005 graduating class of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. First row; top (l. to r.): Jobeth Arceo, Kristiana Brooks, Jasmin Crowder, Deidre English, Jean Flick, Keyarah Kemp-Jones. Row two: Alice Mori, Raven Perkinson, Cassandra Reyes, Ariana Ridriguez, Jasmine Roman, Jolle Thomas. Row three: Marae Thompson, Tara waring, Damon Cyburn, Aaron Davis, Julius Greene, Marae Guitierrez. Row four: Isaac Mercado, Jorge Nieves, David Quick, Brannon Snowball, Fernando Vergara. Row five: Mrs. Jane G. Dennehy, Principal, Rev. Michael Challinor, Pastor, Mr. Peter Caddell, Teacher.

Anthony Giocondo and Maeve Pendergast.

The Champs Award for Sportsmanship went to Rosa Perez and Most Improved was given to Nicholas Harty.

The P.S. 175 Academic Achievement Awards (90 percent or better) were given to Delia Berger, Lawrence Boothroyd, John

Devlin, Emily Eckman, Christian Fernandez, Anthony Gaudio, Daniel Henning, Kristen Loudermilk, Andrew Michalski, Rosa Perez and Maria Swieciki.

The P.S. 175 Effort Awards were presented to Jonathan Andino, Nicole Cody,

Continued on page 17



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

The **Kathlyn Moses Gallery** at 327 City Island Avenue will present works by Madeline Braisted, Greta Jaklitsch and Ruth Kraiem of the National Art League in Douglaston and by Bronx painter Mary Rappold during the month of July. An opening reception will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 16. All are welcome.

At the **Starving Artist Cafe & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779), the summer heats up with music and lots of it. Celebrate the Fourth of July weekend with some hot jazz from the guitar of Lou Volpe on Saturday, July 2, at 8 p.m. The following weekend, new art, from Ursula Thomas, debuts at a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 9. Later that Saturday, starting at 8 p.m., singer-songwriter Matt Turk takes the stage for the first time at the cafe / gallery. Then on Sunday, July 10, it's more jazz from the City Island Jazz Quartet, starting at 3 p.m. On Saturday, July 16, singer-songwriter Kenny Cunningham will perform at 8 p.m., with covers and originals. It is back to jazz again on Sunday, July 17, with City Island's own quartet, from 3 to 5 p.m. Listeners on Saturday, July 23, at 8 p.m. are in for a real treat, a kids' band for all. Jacob London, son of FOX News' Lis Wiehl, leads the "Runaway Five" in their debut at the cafe / gallery. Finishing off July is a singer-songwriter weekend: Theresa Sareo brings her

powerful voice back to the stage on Friday, July 29, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, July 30, at 8 p.m., brings Sam Leopold on for a performance.

August has its share of jazz as well: Sunday, Aug. 7, 3 p.m., the City Island Jazz Quartet; Saturday, Aug. 13, 8 p.m., Lou Volpe. Visit www.starvingartistonline.com for more calendar updates. Reservations are suggested for performances; no cover or minimum, but if you join us, you must order something (even a little!) from the menu.

On display at the **Focal Point Gallery** (321 City Island Avenue, 718-885-1403) from July 8 through July 31 are new paintings by Terry McElroy. There will be an opening reception on Friday, July 8, from 7:30 to 10 p.m.



As a service to our readers, *The Island Current* will periodically list recent sales of residential and commercial property as found in the public record. This feature is designed to give a general idea of the fair market values of property on City Island. An update will be published every few months at our discretion. The listings below represent some of the recent sales. *The Current* is not responsible for errors or omissions in the data.

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
525 Minneford Ave.	4/11/05	\$415,000	1 Family
401 Hunter Avenue	4/26/05	\$560,000	1 Family
625 King Avenue	4/28/05	\$525,000	1 Family
190 Fordham Street	5/6/05	\$600,000	Condo



Photos courtesy of FOCAL POINT GALLERY

Top photo: Ron Turner of the Focal Point Gallery (321 City Island Avenue) was awarded the BRIO award from the Bronx Council On The Arts for the photographic portrait work that he did in Puerto Rico as Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano looks on. Below, Mr. Turner stands before some of the photographs, which are on view at the Longwood Art Gallery at the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx, until Aug. 4, 2005.



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Photography by Ron Turner
Focal Point Gallery 321 City Island Avenue
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Photography by Ron Turner

Weddings
Baptisms
Bar Mitzvahs
Baby Showers
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Banquets
Birthday Parties
Portraits
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DOG DAY AFTERNOON

By CELESTE ZAYAS

It was a "dog day afternoon" on Saturday, June 11, down at Ambrosini Field. After several years on hiatus, the annual City Island dog show was resurrected to benefit the 2005 Floor Fundraising Campaign for City Island's Community Center. Owners entered their canines in a variety of classes, which were judged by experienced dog show judges. Michelle Falcon judged the Costume, Owner Look Alike, Best Trick, and Obedience classes, and Dr. Rogers judged the People's Choice.

Grace Ramos's dog Daisy won Best Costume dressed as a hula girl. Amanda Ajnglow's dog Oreo Cookie won Best Trick by performing a jump to catch a Beggin Strip. Alyssa Grillo and her pooch Jake must have been separated at birth because they were the winners of the Owner Look Alike contest. The best-behaved dog was Jeannine Giacovelli's dog Luca, who won in the Most Obedient category, and Marc Hohenstein's dog Kiki won the hearts of all and was voted People's Choice. All winners were awarded ribbons donated by the Bronx Equestrian Center and Petco gift certificates.

An agility demonstration was performed by Diane LaValle and her dog on an obstacle course set up by Leslie Gallo.

An obedience demonstration was performed by Patty Day and her dog.

The New Rochelle Humane society was on hand to raise awareness of its not-for-profit animal shelter, which provides loving care for lost, abandoned and mistreated animals. The organization is known throughout Westchester County for having the finest shelter in their county. Interested volunteers or animal lovers should visit the shelter or look at the Web site at www.NrochelleAnimalShelter.org, for the organization is in need of donated supplies such as cat litter, dog and cat food, toys and leashes.

Stamen Animal Hospital located in New Rochelle provided important dog health and care tips, which all owners should keep in mind, especially as we are entering the hot dog days of summer. The animal hospital will hold a low-cost vaccine clinic on Sunday, July 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the City Island Community Center (see Briefly section in this issue for more information).

Organizers and participants would like to thank the City Island Little League for use of the field and facilities and for the donated league shirts. And a big thank-you goes out to the organizers, Marcy Brennan from the Bronx Equestrian Center and Brenda Prohaska, as well as to all participants and spectators for making the dog show a huge success.



Photos by RICK DeWITT

On Saturday, June 11, 2005, at Ambrosini Field, the annual City Island dog show was resurrected to benefit the 2005 Floor Fund-raising Campaign for City Island's Community Center. Owners entered their canines in a variety of classes including Best Costume, Owner Look Alike, Best Trick, Obedience and the People's Choice. It was "Westminster" City Island style and all canines (and humans) had a great time.





Free City Island "Seaside" Trolley Schedule

On the first Friday evening of each month catch the free Bronx Trolley to The Bartow Pell Mansion Museum and gallery events, performances and restaurants on City Island

Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

- *driver takes 15 minute break

Pelham Bay Station #6 Train Bx5 Bx 12 Bx14 Bx 29 QBx1	Bartow Pell Mansion Museum +	City Island Ave Seashore Restaurant	City Island Ave Kathlyn Moses & Focal Point Galleries (Bay St to Fordham St)	City Island Ave Starving Artist Café & Gallery (Carroll St to Schofield St)	City Island Ave Sammy's Fish Box (Rochelle St) TURN AROUND	City Island Ave Grace Church (Pilot St)	City Island Ave Quality Antique Furniture & Main Street Antiques (Carroll St to Hawkins St)	City Island Ave Midtown Antiques (Fordham to Bay St)	City Island Ave Le Refuge Inn at Samuel Pell House
5:25 - 5:30 pm	5:40 pm	5:50 pm	5:55 pm	5:57 pm	6:00 pm	6:05 pm	6:07pm	6:10 pm	6:15 pm
6:25 - 6:30 pm	6:40 pm	6:50 pm	6:55 pm	6:57 pm	7:00 pm	7:05 pm	7:07 pm	7:10 pm	7:15 pm
7:20* - 7:35pm	7:45 pm	7:55 pm	8:00 pm	8:02 pm	8:05 pm	8:10 pm	8:12 pm	8:15pm	8:20 pm
8:25 - 8:30 pm	8:40 pm	8:50 pm	8:55 pm	8:57 pm	9:00 pm	9:05 pm	9:07 pm	9:10 pm	9:15 pm
9:25 - 9:30pm	9:40 pm**	9:50 pm	9:55 pm	9:57 pm	10:00 pm	10:05 pm	10:07 pm	10:10pm	10:15 pm
10:25 pm***									

- **pick up only
- *** Drop off only, last stop
- + Bartow Pell Mansion Tour takes approximately 45 minutes. Admission \$5 Adults / \$3 Seniors & Students, Children under 6 Free

Times can vary depending on weather and traffic conditions.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CITY ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT 718-885-9100 OR ON THE WEB AT WWW.CITYISLANDCHAMBER.ORG

Provided by the City Island Chamber of Commerce with the generous support of Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. and The Bronx Tourism Council

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Scott Meyer: Profile in Courage

By MIRIAM KLEINBERG

In everyday life, things happen to people that most of us would consider overwhelming, and we sometimes wonder "What would I do, how would I cope if something like this happened to me?"

For Scott Meyer, the overwhelming event was blindness, and it began with his premature birth in 1957. He underwent many surgeries and enjoyed a long period of fairly normal vision, but lost his sight completely soon after he turned 43. His family's attitude was one of acceptance, even stoicism. He was taught to use the abilities he had and deal with the disabilities when he had to.

Scott says his childhood was a normal one. He went to school, played ball, had friends, did all the usual stuff. He grew up on City Island with his parents and three sisters: Dawn Moen, Lynette Panzarino and Julene Valentine. He attended St. Mary's Elementary School, Salesian High School and Iona College, where he earned a degree in history and political science.

He then found work at the Manhattan School of Music (where Dawn Upshaw of the Metropolitan Opera had been a student) and there he did a little bit of everything, including payroll, accounts and benefits, and he ended up knowing everything about everybody. His final title there was assistant comptroller. He says that other people might have been able to do whatever job it was more quickly, but not better. Since he had been involved in so many aspects in the life of the school, people came to him with every problem imaginable. He was the most accessible staff member, and he knew what went on in the whole building. However, as his vision continued to deteriorate, he had to leave his job in 1996 after 13 years at the school.

Since Scott knew well in advance what was going to happen to him, he made financial plans and bought long-term ben-

efits while he was on the job. He contacted the Jewish Guild for the Blind to obtain mobility training and to learn how to be independent at home, since he planned to live alone. He had left City Island in 1987, but he returned in 2000. He says that living here was wonderful for him because he was so familiar with the streets and the people, and everyone knew him. He doesn't want a seeing eye dog because they are mostly useful in traffic, so he has four cats and a girlfriend.

In-house training involves a lot of ingenuity and even more common sense. Things must be kept where they belong, and some things are marked with Braille. Also, in this age of technology, great gadgets are available, such as a color detector, and voice-activated alarm clocks, watches, televisions and computers. Voice-activated computers are available in a variety of languages and can be made to sound like a man or a woman. Scott's computer sounds like a standard male radio announcer.

Amazingly, Scott is totally without self-pity and attributes his "normal" life style to several factors. First, his family never treated him as deficient in any way. Second, on City Island he is surrounded by family and friends and is very familiar with the terrain since he grew up here. He has been involved in many community activities, starting with CIVAC (the now-defunct City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps) in 1976; he served as president of that organization from 1982 to 1983 and continued to be active until the organization dissolved in the late 1980's.

The organization that sustains him now is the Masons, which he joined in 1980, along with Charles Butterworth and Jimmy Lutz. Freemasonry (or simply, Masonry) is an ancient fraternal order based on the principles of brotherly love, philanthropy

and truth. It is not a religious organization or a secret society but a brotherhood that offers men the opportunity to meet like-minded people. Religion and politics are not discussed in Masonic lodges, as these issues can be divisive, and the brotherhood includes a wide range of religious and political beliefs, encouraging men to be religious without advocating a particular religion and to be active in the community without advocating any specific political position.

Scott has been active in the Masons since 1980, becoming Grand Master in 1986-87 and District Deputy Grand Master from 1994 to 1996 and again from 1998 to 2000. When Scott isn't serving as Grand Master, he is a trustee. He is also in charge of the blood drive that the Masons sponsor three times a year. When Scott joined the Masons as a young man 25 years ago, there were more than 400 members, but membership is now down to 120. Scott Meyer feels that this is a real pity, because many young people are missing an opportunity to do good works and to make lasting friendships.

I asked Scott if he thought it would have been better to be born without sight than to lose it in mid-life as he did. He said that he was glad he had been able to see for so many years, because he has memories of the way things looked, even though so-called experts say that adjustment to blindness from birth is easier. But Scott can find the bank, the post office and other necessary locations because he remembers the layout of City Island. (If they keep on tearing down buildings, however, nobody is going to be able to find anything!)

Scott Meyer is a very charming man, and I found that his most appealing traits are his quiet efficiency and his matter-of-fact approach to his disability. He simply continues to do what he has always done, to go about the business of living without fuss, without drama, and to contribute his considerable talents to the welfare of others.



Scott Meyer

Note to City Island from Scott Meyer:

To all City Islanders, especially the people in the bank and Post Office, thanks for all your help.


To my parents, Jens and Antoinette, along with my family, thanks for your love and support.

To the members of Pelham Lodge 712 and the Bronx District of Masons, for giving me the confidence to achieve worthy goals with hard work and for making friendship, morality and brotherly love mean something, thus proving that masonry makes good men better.


To Joe Cozzi, who taught me that a sense of humor is essential in life, for the honor of being his straight man for over 40 years.

And to Joanne Delaney, who I was lucky to have met four years ago and who accepted me for who I am and who reminds me that love is God's greatest gift and we should remember to spread it.

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

Joining Stephen B. Kaufman at a fund-raiser on City Island on May 24, 2005, were (l. to r.): Rose Rodtrom, Steve Kaufman, Bob Carmody and Walter Rodstrom. Mr. Kaufman is a candidate for the New York City Council.

Island Firefighter

Continued from page 3

removed through the window by Kevin Wacha of Ladder 51. Lieutenant McGee made a quick search for a third child, but learned that he had earlier jumped from a rear window and suffered minor injuries.

Because he "performed two rescues and attempted a third by repeatedly putting himself in harm's way without the protection of a charged line," Rodney DeCuffa was presented with the Pulaski Association Medal and a Class III rating. Mr. DeCuffa was appointed to the Fire Department in October 1992 and is assigned to Bronx Ladder Company 51. Rodney DeCuffa's father retired from Battalion 20 and his brother, James T. DeCuffa, is assigned to Engine 62.

Rodney Jr. was also a recipient of the World Trade Center Rescuer Ribbon/Medal. He lives in Hawthorne, New York, with his wife, Patty, and their children, Kyle and Lydia.

Lieutenant McGee was honored with the Commissioner Edward Thompson Medal for his role in the rescue operation. He joined the Fire Department in November 1989 and was previously assigned to Engine 96 and Ladder 54. He is a member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies and City Island Firefighter Association, and a recipient of the Albert A. Cinnelli Medal, the Battalion Chief Frank T. Tuttlemondo Medal, a Service Rating B, and a Class III rating for this incident. He has also been honored by *Firehouse Magazine*. He lives on Bay Street with his wife, Annie.

Organization News

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

Current Calendar

JULY

Thursday, July 14, **Temple Beth-El's Annual Summer Dance**, Stuyvesant Yacht Club (at the foot of Centre Street). 7 to 11 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19, **Pelham Cemetery Lot Owners meet**, 7:30 p.m., Leonard Hawkins Post, 550 City Island Avenue. This meeting is for lot owners only.

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

Saturday, July 30, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: barbecued or baked chicken with rice.

AUGUST

Saturday, Aug. 27, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: chef's salad (lettuce, tomato, cucumber, ham, turkey, etc.).

Tuesday, Aug. 30, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10 and 11, **Crafts Fair and Chowder Contest** sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. City Island Avenue.

Chapter 318 AARP

Our next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, July 12. The bus departs at 9 a.m. from 113 Bay Street on City Island. For reservations, call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844. Since we will not have any more meetings for July and August, the next trip to Atlantic City is on Tuesday, Aug. 9. Please mark your calendars.

Our end of season luncheon was a huge success, thanks to the wonderful planning by Florence Quinn, Gloria Salacan and Lucy Pontecorvo. It was great to see many of our members there. The food and music were great. Again, thanks to Lucy and Florence for donating the plants that adorned the tables.

Please mark your calendars: the next meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 7.

Have a nice and safe summer.

Marie Tirelli

Chapter 3303 AARP

As we've done in the past, the Minneford Chapter of the AARP #3303 made its annual donation of cash awards to a graduating student from P.S. 175 and one from St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. The students were selected by the principal of each school. Frank Ring, chairperson of our Community Services committee, contacted the principals and made all the arrangements for the awards. He will also represent the Minneford Chapter at the graduation exercises of each school. We offer our congratulations to the students selected and wish them success in their future endeavors.

Reservations are being accepted for an exciting four-day vacation trip to the Finger Lakes Region and the famous Auriesville Catholic Shrine near Amsterdam, New York, from Monday, Aug. 22, to Thursday, Aug. 25, 2005. Every day we will tour the famous and historical sights, including the Corning Glass museum, Bully Hill Winery, Sonnerberg Gardens and more. The Auriesville Shrine is dedicated to St. Isaac Jogues and seven other martyrs, called the Jesuit Martyrs of North America, who were killed by the Iroquois

Indians. The trip will also include first-class accommodations on a lakefront hotel, all meals, a luncheon cruise on Keuka Lake, deluxe motor coach transportation with professional tour manager and much more.

On Thursday, Oct. 20, 2005, the Chapter will sponsor its annual fair in the Trinity United Methodist Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Prices and more details for these events will be discussed at our meetings, or call Tina De Cristofaro at 718-885-0865.

Lucy Puglia

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El, "Your Shul by the Sea," a welcoming Jewish Renewal Congregation, conducts Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Our doors are open to all at 480 City Island Avenue (between Beach and Bowne Streets). Rabbi Wiener will conduct the Kabbalat Shabbat service on July 15 and on Aug. 5 for our Shabbat by the Sea (see below).

Our Torah study group and SHOHAM classes will resume in the fall.

Our Annual Summer Dance will be held on Thursday, July 14, at the Stuyvesant Yacht Club (at the foot of Centre Street). Join us from 7 to 11 p.m. for music and dancing and refreshments. A cash bar will be available, and possibly a ballroom dance performance by Elaine Belasco. Advance tickets are available at Midtown Antiques and Exotica International Arts: \$15 for TBE members, \$20 for non-members and \$25 at the door. For information, call 718-885-2820.

Shabbat by the Sea will be conducted on Friday, Aug. 5, at the City Island Yacht Club (foot of Pilot Street). Services with Rabbi Shohama and Cantor Elaine will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a kosher chicken picnic-style dinner (priced at \$24 per adult and \$12 per child). Those who wish to stay for dinner are required to make reservations by Aug. 1. Please call 718-885-2820.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer—and visit our Web site at www.your-shulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

City Island Theater Group

The theater group's second annual Shakespeare in the Park extravaganza will be held on Friday, Aug. 12, and Saturday, Aug. 13, at Hawkins Street Park. Last year's program, "A Midsummer Night's Festival," was a wonderful success, and this year's production, "Shakespeare Under the Stars," promises to be even better.

Your favorite City Island performers who have twinkled on stage will be bringing the bard's greatest works to life under the twinkling stars. This free event is guaranteed to be a dazzling and entertaining night, thanks to the support of Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano, who has underwritten the event.

So don't just sit there. Grab a blanket or a chair and something refreshing to drink and meet us at the park. We'll be the ones in costume!

Don't forget to look out for the Battle Of The Bands concert sponsored by CITG. This rocking event lets City Island's youngest talent strut their stuff, so don't miss the opportunity to meet our future rock stars.

Hope your summer will be a theatrical one!

Nick Sala

Grace Church

During July and August (through Labor Day Weekend), our regular Sunday service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II, will move to 9 a.m. in order to enable more people to come and worship with us before heading out for the day. We will continue our weekly service of evening prayer on Mondays at 7 p.m. throughout the summer.

Grace Church warmly welcomes visitors and newcomers at all times, and we extend a special invitation to anyone who is on City Island during the summer months. Our doors are open and, as our sign says, we're here for you! For more information, please contact Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@gracecityisland.diocesen.org.

Looking ahead: Sept. 11 will be Homecoming Sunday, which we will celebrate with a special children's Eucharist at 10 a.m. Children's Church School will resume the following Sunday, Sept. 18. Please join us!

Rev. Patricia Alexander

Garden Club

The next meeting of the City Island Garden Club will be our summer lunch for members only on Friday, July 15, at the City Island Yacht Club at 12 noon. Our annual spring luncheon in June was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended.

The new officers for 2005-2007 are Susan Strazzera, president; Barbara Hoffman, vice president; Phyllis Goodman, secretary; Joan Lyons, treasurer.

Gardening Tip: Be sure to mulch your flowers and vegetables to help keep weeds down and moisture in the soil. And during hot dry weather, remember to water early in the morning or in the evening to keep evaporation to a minimum.

Phyllis Goodman



Photo by RICK DeWITT

On Sunday, May 15, 2005, new carillon bells were dedicated at Trinity United Methodist Church. Longtime parishioner Ed Sadler rang the old bells one last time.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Summer has arrived and thank God for it! Trinity will hold its regular Sunday service throughout the summer at 10 a.m. However, the Budget Shop will be closed until September. We ask that no drop-offs be made until that time. Trinity would also like to extend thanks to all of you who supported us during the year. Hope to see you in September.

Our annual picnic will be July 31 at the Fordham Street Beach. There will be no rain date. If it rains, we will hold the picnic in Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing you.

Anne Sill

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NEW RELEASES



If you wish to submit, for inclusion in this column, information regarding events and activities at the City Island Community Center, please call Amy Gottlieb at 885-1145 no later than the 15th of each month, except December and July. Leave a message, including your name and phone number.

Announcements

New Floor Our goal of \$6,600 for a new floor has been reached! Thanks to everyone for all the support and hard work.

Pet Vaccines Dr. Tom Rogers D.V.M. of Stamen Animal Hospital of New Rochelle will be holding a vaccine clinic at the Community Center on Sunday, July 10, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Appointments are suggested but walk-ins are welcome. You may call 914-632-1269 for appointments or for more information.

The Community Center Awards Dinner will be held this year at Fordham Street Beach Club on Aug. 20, at 5 p.m. We will be honoring Reverend Susan Chadwick, Fred Ramftl and Phil Ficcarelli. The honored teens will be Karen Garcia and Jacinda Emonds. Tickets available at the Focal Point Gallery or call 718-885-1145.

Ongoing Events

Monthly Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the

Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

To schedule events at the Center, call Amy Gottlieb at 885-1145.

Teen Center: Saturday evenings. To volunteer your time so that we can keep the Teen Center open, please call Jay Howard at 885-2192.

Martial Arts Class: Ba Gua Zhang Dragon Style: Exceptional Instructor Saturdays 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m, for ages 16 and up. For more information call Florence at 718 885-3551.

Beginner Knitting Classes for ages 8 and up! Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

Dance Classes: Preballet, jazz and tap for kids: Thursdays after school. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914 576-5515.

Painting Classes Call Laury Hopkins at 718-885-3202 for more information.

Millennium Babies: A Moms and Babies Playgroup. Call Brenda Prohaska at 885-9040.

Irish Dance: call Deirdre O'Mara at (201) 947-8535

Adult Tap Classes: Call Corinne Grondahl at 718-309-8041.

Photography Classes: for adults and teens. Call Ron Turner at 885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery.

Step Aerobics Classes: Sun. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and Mon. & Wed. 7 to 8:00 p.m. Babysitting available Mon. and Fri. a.m. Call Mary Immediato at 885-0793.

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

Amy Gottlieb



Photo by JUDY RAUH

Officers of the American Legion Leonard Hawkins Post 156 were installed on June 20, 2005. Seated (l. to r.) are: Anthony Pontecorvo, executive board; William Clancy, adjutant; Mike Rauh, commander; Richard O'Keefe, vice commander activities; Russell Schaller, vice commander Americanism. Standing (l. to r.) are: Jack Hartigan, judge advocate; Joe Goonan, historian; Dave Carman, sergeant-at-arms; Mike Treat, vice commander membership; Tom McMahon, chaplain; Bob Mennona, service officer; Pat Branley, executive board.

Legion News

The installation of Post 156 officers was on Monday, June 20 (the slate of officers was listed in my June 2005 newsletter). A number of members, family and friends attended the abbreviated meeting and enjoyed a little libation and a buffet prepared by the kitchen crew. A number of past commanders were present and recognized by the Second Vice Commander of Activities, Richard O'Keefe. Judge Advocate Jack Hartigan urged fellow legionnaires to be present on Friday, June 24, at the corner of Carroll Street and William Avenue to pay homage to Police Officer Pasquale (Pat) Venturelli, who gave his life while attempting to corral three feral youths who had stolen a car and were intoxicated (see story this issue).

Meetings for July and August will be Monday, July 18, and Monday, Aug. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

The annual clambake will be held on Saturday evening, July 23. The fare will include clams, shrimp, steak, chowder and many seafood delicacies gleaned from local waters. Try to make this gastronomical extravaganza.

I was verbally chastised by the mother of one of our servicemen for not including the name of her son and of another Islander who had recently completed their tours of duty. I

apologize. Both Matt Delaney and Michael Knapp have completed their military obligations and are pursuing their civilian professions. Matt is a fireman and Michael is in the business world. Matt's late father, Robert, was a fire captain with the New York City Fire Department. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Call me on extension 2087 about any change in status of our young men and women in the armed forces. Your call is important to me.

I received a nice note from Betsy Gray of 38 Tier Street informing me that her son LCPL Malcolm Gray is with the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in Afghanistan. His seven-month tour has been completed and he is expected home by June 25. He will be enjoying a three-week respite from the rigors of combat duty.

Comrade Fred Hess is home from the hospital and welcomes visitors. I saw him several days ago, and he is now on the road to recovery. It was good to see Donald Varian reviewing the Memorial Day Parade from City Island Avenue. Don, you know, was a very active member of the Post and a past commander. Also in the reviewing stand at Reynolds Street was Anthony Mirabito, who is recuperating at home. Anthony distinguished himself during the Big Deuce as a tank commander and was the recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star and other medals.

We could use some volunteers for the flag detail. Several SAL members gave me their names recently but only one, Brendan Murphy, responded. You need not be a Legion member to help.

I sat with my friend Joseph DeLuca at the installation of officers meeting. Joe was drafted before we entered World War II and spent five years in the U.S. Army, most of it with the 9th Infantry Division in Africa, France and Germany. His baptism by fire was the African campaign, where we fought the Vichy French. Landing on Omaha Beach, his division took the port of Cherbourg in three days. Having had more combat time than any soldier in his company, Joe was discharged June 20, 1945, before the end of the war.

And for you WWII buffs, the Patton 75 was a drink attributed to the famous general. It consisted of champagne and brandy but often included other selected alcoholic ingredients to give it more "body."

Until September, at ease.

Russell Schaller

Easter 1987, Age 5

Easter 1988, Age 6

Easter 1989, Age 7

Lorien Lea Denham.

Killed by a drunk driver on Good Friday, March 29, 1991, at College Park Drive and Hwy. 19 North in Meridian, Miss.

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From Paper Clips to Crash: Dispelling Stereotypes in America

As a change of pace, this month I have chosen two movies shown in theaters this year that seem very different but are in fact about the same topic—dispelling stereotypes in America. First is an independent film called **Paper Clips**, a documentary that recounts the progress of a middle-school project in Whitwell, Tennessee (pop. 1,600). In 1998 two eighth-grade teachers, Sandra Roberts and David Smith, with the full support of their principal, Linda Hooper, began teaching students about intolerance using the Holocaust as the basis.

During the course of their Internet research, the students discovered that the paper clip was invented in Norway and that during World War II Norwegians wore paper clips on their lapels as a silent gesture of resistance to the Nazis. In order to comprehend the concept of 6 million anything, the students began to collect paper clips as a testimonial to the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust. What makes this so special is that this project took place in a school of 425 students in which there were no Jews, Catholics or Asians and only one Latino and five blacks. The principal wanted the students to learn about diversity, stereotypes and tolerance.

The paper clip project came to the attention of two German-born White

House correspondents, Peter Schroeder and Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand, who passed the word to the press; the project was eventually reported by Tom Brokaw and featured in the Washington Post. A contingent of Holocaust survivors came to Whitwell to address the students. The Schroeders then procured a cattle car that had transported victims to the concentration camps, and they had it shipped to Whitwell as a place to house the paper clips and to create a Holocaust memorial. Ultimately, 24 million paper clips were collected, and 11 million were placed in the cattle car to memorialize not only the 6 million Jews, but also the 5 million homosexuals, Jehovah's witnesses, Gypsies, disabled Germans and others who had died in concentration camps. The students then went on a mission to other schools in order to teach other students, face-to-face, what they had learned.

It would be hard to find a film as different from **Paper Clips** as **Crash**, an R-rated, violent, heart-wrenching, dramatic, fictional film with an excellent ensemble cast. Set in present-day Los Angeles, it tells many interlocking stories. The film explores the feelings of a district attorney, Rick Cabot (Brendan Fraser), and his wife, Jean (Sandra Bullock), toward the young black men (Larenz Tate and Ludacris) who carjacked them. A locksmith (Michael Pena) is a loving father and good provider, but many people look at him with distrust because he is Mexican-American. Farhad (Shaun Toub) is a Persian who speaks little English, who believes everyone is out to cheat him, and whose store is burglarized because he is mistaken for an Arab. Finally, there is the story of Shaniqua Johnson (Loretta Devine), who plays an unhelpful black HMO administrator.

For the most part, however, the screenplay focuses on cops, good and bad. Officer Ryan (Matt Dillon) struggles to help his ailing father. Ryan's rookie partner,

Officer Hansen (Ryan Phillippe), is horrified when he is forced to participate in harassing a black couple, a television director (Terrence Dashon Howard) and his light-skinned wife (Thandie Newton). The strongest performance in the film comes from Don Cheadle, as Officer Graham, a black man involved in a sexual relationship with his white partner, Ria (Jennifer Esposito), as he tries to care for his addict mother, find his missing

brother and solve the crimes he encounters.

What is astonishing about this film is that the stereotypes we observe are the ones in our own mind, because the behavior we expect from each of the characters is not necessarily what occurs. This is a film not of black and white, but of grays and the dispelling of our own stereotypes.

And until next time, happy viewing. . .

Thank You !!

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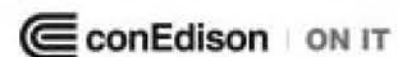
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Photos by RICK DeWITT

The City Island Chamber of Commerce sponsored an Arts and Crafts Fair on June 11 and 12 on City Island Avenue. Islanders enjoyed shopping for jewelry, having their photos taken and their faces painted. The Fall Fair is scheduled for Sept. 10 and 11, 2005, and will include a chowder contest. Watch *The Current* for more details.

Social Security Issues

By DIANA VALDES,

Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

Disability Programs

Here is a quick primer on the answers to the four most frequently asked questions about the Social Security disability programs, together with a reference source that will answer many other questions you might have.

How does Social Security decide if someone is disabled? By law, Social Security has a very strict definition of disability. We consider you disabled under Social Security rules if, due to a medical or mental condition, you cannot do work that you did before and we determine that you cannot adjust to other work because of your condition(s); and if your disability is expected to last for at least one year or to result in death.

Why is Social Security's definition of disability different from that of other programs? Social Security disability laws are different from those of most other programs because, unlike many other programs, Social Security pays only for total disability. No benefits are payable for partial disability or for short-term disability. Social Security program rules assume that working families have access to other resources to provide support during periods of short-term disabilities, including workers' compensation, insurance, savings and investments.

How long does it take to receive a decision about a disability claim? It usually takes between three and five months to get a decision on an initial application. The time needed for a decision depends on how much time it takes to get your medical records and any other evidence needed to make a decision. The more information you can provide about your medical condition, the better your chance for a quicker decision.

What is the difference between the Social Security disability and SSI disability programs? The medical criteria for the

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability programs are basically the same, but Social Security disability insurance is based on work done in jobs covered by Social Security. The program is financed with Social Security taxes paid by workers, employers and self-employed people. The amount of the monthly disability benefit is based on the Social Security earnings record of the worker. In 2005, the average monthly benefit payment for a disabled worker is about \$895, and for a disabled worker, spouse and one or more children, about \$1,497.

SSI disability payments are made on the basis of financial need. The program is financed through general revenues. The monthly payment amount varies up to the maximum federal benefit rate, which may be supplemented by the state or decreased by countable income and resources. Effective January 1, 2005, the federal benefit rate was \$579 for an individual and \$869 for a couple.

More complete information about these Social Security disability questions and many others can be found on our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Travel Abroad

An old family friend planned a lengthy overseas trip this summer to research his family's roots and asked if there were any Social Security or Medicare issues that he and his wife should be aware of. This information may be useful to anyone else who plans a trip abroad in the near future.

First, if you haven't already done so, consider getting direct deposit of your benefit payments. More than 80 percent of Social Security beneficiaries now use direct deposit. You never have to worry about your check being lost or stolen, and direct deposit makes funds available to you even when you are not at home to cash your checks.

You should also be familiar with how your Medicare coverage works outside the United States. If you get sick or hurt while

Continued on page 16

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City Island Summer

One recent morning we were awakened by the sound of what seemed to us a young bird in distress. Well, we got the young bird part right, anyway. But what we thought was probably a sparrow or a starling turned out to be a young osprey. Actually, more than one young osprey hovering above a neighbor's heron-shaped weather-vane.

Had it turned out to be what we thought it was—a sparrow or a starling in distress—it would not have been the first time we were so awakened. This time of year, especially, when the first wave of new neighborhood birds is making ready to leave the nest, neighborhood cats (our own included) move in for a little natural selection. Already we have rescued half a dozen fledglings, one unfortunate little fellow on two separate occasions.

Vinny attempted to rescue a newly hatched crow that had apparently fallen from its nest near Fordham Street. No sooner had he begun the rescue operation than he was besieged from above by a number of adult crows. They swooped down upon poor Vinny, making it very clear that his assistance was not at all welcome.

Sometimes the best thing to do is nothing at all. The Tier Street lot, for instance, is not only just about all that remains of City Island in something like its natural

state, but it is also home to a unique assortment of wildlife, thanks to the kind of landform it is (at least partially)—a marsh. The water there is brackish, owing to the estuary underground. There was a time when City Islanders drew their fresh water from this same supply. We know of a well still in working order, as well as an unearthened cistern and an old-fashioned hand pump (once functional, now decorative), all of them in close proximity to one another and to the Tier Street lot.

This summer why not take another, closer look around City Island? At the old wells? At the sailboat races on Wednesday nights? At the interesting array of homes all over? At someone's garden? At the trees? At the wildlife? City Island is at its best in summer. Why else would visitors line up as they do on the weekends? We don't get crowds like that in winter, that's for sure.

But City Island's appeal is more than its restaurants, which have come and gone for years and years. What does a City Island summer mean to you? If you're still not sure, it may be helpful to take a drive along the waterfront in Country Club, Edgewater or Whitestone in Queens. Then compare. As usual, we'd be interested to hear your thoughts on this subject or any other. We can be reached at jdsstrat@msn.com all summer long. Have a happy!

CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK

Times and heights of high and low water (Daylight Savings 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 P.M. time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).
HH = hours; MM = minutes.
Tide chart by Tom Smith

JULY 2005

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Fri	0253	0.0	0851	7.0	1505	0.5	2112	8.0	Fri 01
02 Sat	0348	-0.1	0945	7.0	1558	0.6	2203	8.0	Sat 02
03 Sun	0440	-0.2	1036	7.0	1646	0.6	2251	8.0	Sun 03
04 Mon	0527	-0.2	1123	7.1	1731	0.7	2335	8.0	Mon 04
05 Tue	0611	-0.1	1206	7.1	1812	0.8			Tue 05
06 Wed	0016	7.9	0651	0.1	1247	7.1	1847	0.9	Wed 06
07 Thu	0051	7.8	0727	0.3	1323	7.1	1914	1.0	Thu 07
08 Fri	0119	7.7	0755	0.5	1352	7.1	1931	1.1	Fri 08
09 Sat	0137	7.6	0810	0.7	1411	7.2	1958	1.1	Sat 09
10 Sun	0202	7.5	0826	0.7	1433	7.2	2034	1.0	Sun 10
11 Mon	0236	7.4	0857	0.7	1505	7.3	2115	1.0	Mon 11
12 Tue	0316	7.3	0935	0.7	1543	7.4	2200	1.0	Tue 12
13 Wed	0400	7.1	1017	0.8	1627	7.5	2249	1.0	Wed 13
14 Thu	0449	6.9	1104	0.9	1715	7.5	2342	1.0	Thu 14
15 Fri	0543	6.7	1154	1.0	1808	7.6			Fri 15
16 Sat	0042	1.0	0642	6.6	1249	1.0	1905	7.7	Sat 16
17 Sun	0149	0.8	0745	6.6	1349	1.0	2005	7.9	Sun 17
18 Mon	0308	0.6	0853	6.7	1455	0.9	2107	8.1	Mon 18
19 Tue	0422	0.2	1000	7.0	1604	0.7	2210	8.3	Tue 19
20 Wed	0524	-0.2	1104	7.3	1713	0.4	2311	8.5	Wed 20
21 Thu	0619	-0.5	1202	7.7	1818	0.1			Thu 21
22 Fri	0010	8.7	0711	-0.7	1257	7.9	1918	-0.2	Fri 22
23 Sat	0107	8.6	0802	-0.8	1351	8.1	2017	-0.3	Sat 23
24 Sun	0205	8.4	0853	-0.7	1445	8.2	2116	-0.3	Sun 24
25 Mon	0305	8.1	0945	-0.5	1542	8.1	2216	-0.2	Mon 25
26 Tue	0408	7.7	1040	-0.1	1642	8.0	2319	0.0	Tue 26
27 Wed	0515	7.3	1138	0.2	1745	7.8			Wed 27
28 Thu	0024	0.2	0622	7.0	1238	0.6	1849	7.7	Thu 28
29 Fri	0127	0.3	0726	6.8	1339	0.8	1951	7.7	Fri 29
30 Sat	0228	0.4	0826	6.8	1439	1.0	2049	7.7	Sat 30
31 Sun	0325	0.4	0922	6.8	1534	1.0	2142	7.8	Sun 31

AUGUST 2005

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Mon	0417	0.3	1014	7.0	1624	1.0	2232	7.9	Mon 01
02 Tue	0504	0.3	1101	7.1	1710	1.0	2317	7.9	Tue 02
03 Wed	0547	0.3	1144	7.3	1751	1.0	2357	7.9	Wed 03
04 Thu	0625	0.4	1223	7.4	1826	0.9			Thu 04
05 Fri	0032	7.9	0658	0.5	1256	7.4	1853	0.9	Fri 05
06 Sat	0058	7.8	0721	0.6	1319	7.4	1910	0.9	Sat 06
07 Sun	0111	7.7	0732	0.6	1331	7.5	1933	0.7	Sun 07
08 Mon	0134	7.6	0751	0.5	1353	7.6	2006	0.7	Mon 08
09 Tue	0206	7.6	0822	0.5	1426	7.7	2045	0.6	Tue 09
10 Wed	0244	7.4	0900	0.5	1505	7.8	2128	0.7	Wed 10
11 Thu	0327	7.2	0942	0.7	1549	7.8	2215	0.8	Thu 11
12 Fri	0415	7.0	1028	0.8	1638	7.8	2309	0.9	Fri 12
13 Sat	0510	6.8	1120	1.0	1733	7.7			Sat 13
14 Sun	0010	1.0	0611	6.6	1219	1.2	1834	7.7	Sun 14
15 Mon	0125	1.0	0721	6.5	1326	1.3	1942	7.8	Mon 15
16 Tue	0302	0.8	0839	6.8	1445	1.1	2055	8.0	Tue 16
17 Wed	0415	0.3	0956	7.2	1611	0.7	2208	8.3	Wed 17
18 Thu	0513	-0.1	1059	7.7	1719	0.2	2312	8.5	Thu 18
19 Fri	0605	-0.5	1152	8.1	1817	-0.3			Fri 19
20 Sat	0009	8.7	0654	-0.8	1242	8.4	1911	-0.6	Sat 20
21 Sun	0102	8.7	0741	-0.8	1331	8.6	2004	-0.7	Sun 21
22 Mon	0154	8.5	0828	-0.7	1420	8.5	2057	-0.6	Mon 22
23 Tue	0247	8.1	0915	-0.4	1511	8.3	2152	-0.4	Tue 23
24 Wed	0343	7.6	1005	0.1	1606	8.1	2251	0.0	Wed 24
25 Thu	0445	7.2	1100	0.6	1708	7.7	2353	0.4	Thu 25
26 Fri	0551	6.8	1202	1.0	1815	7.5			Fri 26
27 Sat	0057	0.7	0657	6.7	1307	1.3	1922	7.4	Sat 27
28 Sun	0159	0.9	0759	6.7	1410	1.5	2023	7.4	Sun 28
29 Mon	0257	0.9	0856	6.9	1508	1.4	2118	7.6	Mon 29
30 Tue	0349	0.8	0948	7.1	1559	1.3	2208	7.7	Tue 30
31 Wed	0435	0.8	1034	7.3	1645	1.2	2253	7.8	Wed 31

SEPTEMBER 2005

DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Thu	0516	0.7	1116	7.5	1725	1.0	2332	7.9	Thu 01
02 Fri	0553	0.6	1153	7.7	1759	0.8			Fri 02
03 Sat	0006	7.9	0622	0.6	1222	7.7	1825	0.7	Sat 03
04 Sun	0029	7.8	0640	0.6	1236	7.8	1844	0.5	Sun 04

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Remember When...



Photos courtesy of THE CITY ISLAND NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Robert Jacob Shipyard - Part of the crew on dock by a tug just finished at the Jacob yard, World War II. In the middle of the top row is Andy Spbare of Earley Street who recently celebrated his 94th birthday.



YT 154 - One of a number of harbor tugs built by the Robert Jacob Shipyard during World War II.

SPIRIT IN THE SKY: JOHN F. NIXON, PARATROOPER

By RACHAEL LANNICI

Last month on Memorial Day, City Island honored our veterans, and Grace Episcopal Church held a special service for the Leonard Hawkins American Legion Post. It is fitting, therefore, to honor the memory of veteran John F. Nixon, father of Island resident and Grace senior warden Joe Nixon, by sharing his story with readers of *The Island Current*.

John Nixon was a staff sergeant in the United States Army and a member of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment for the I Company, although he did not serve as a paratrooper until the last year of World War II. John served in the war for nearly five years, beginning in the winter of 1941 and remaining on active duty until 1945, when he was honorably discharged. During his service, he earned three Bronze Service Stars for his successful participation in the campaign invasions in France, Germany and Italy.

He joined the service at the age of 24 and was very proud to participate in the cause. At that time he was unmarried and full of youthful vitality, so like many others he joined voluntarily instead of waiting to be drafted. By 1943 he decided to become a more active force in the war and chose to begin training as a paratrooper. He was required to attend jump school, where he learned the basics of operating a parachute, and in April 1944 he was sent to Europe as a paratrooper.

John Nixon was involved in at least three major battles overseas, notably D-Day at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. At Normandy, he jumped from his plane right onto the Cherbourg peninsula during the night, among the first troops sent out for that invasive attack. During the winter of 1944, he was deployed to Germany, where he fought in the snow-packed German Ardennes counteroffensive, more commonly known as the Battle of the Bulge. This was one of the biggest battles the United States Army saw during the war. Miraculously, John Nixon escaped the perils unscathed and was never wounded.

The paratrooper division was a tough department of the military, requiring soldiers to undergo many hours of training and to possess unusually strong self-confidence and faith. Unlike the ground troops, who were usually able to remain with their colleagues, a paratrooper never knew where he was going to land once he reached the earth. It could become very lonely, just the soldier and his parachute. But the excitement of the job far outweighed the downside. Imagine leaping from a plane—soaring like a bird through the open air. It gave one a sense of freedom amid the horrors of war, offering breath-

taking scenic views along with the chaos below as the war raged on.

John's friends and family were always amazed by his ability to endure the stresses of battle. Although he was only 5 feet 2 inches tall and weighed a mere 129 pounds, John's drive was so strong that he was capable of confronting men twice his size. Fighting the robust German army was a real accomplishment. Because of the relatively high risk factors of their job, paratroopers had to carry a great deal of equipment; an equipment pack could weigh as much as 90 pounds. Because of Joe's small size, his pack was probably closer to 70 pounds, more than half his own weight.

John Nixon married in 1951, five years after the war ended, and a year later, he and Joan bought their first home in Mount Vernon, New York. Their first child was a son, Joe, who was followed by two daughters, Leslie and Kathleen. John's dedication to hard work did not cease when he retired from the service. He was a family man, and he held down as many as three different jobs at one time, which included working at the United States Railway Post Office and running his own taxicab station. Part of his discipline was no doubt formed during his years of service.

John had a quiet nature and never spoke much about his wartime service. Like others of his generation, his memory blotted out those years of combat, which many soldiers considered the "lost years" of their lives. The pain associated with the memories of such a terrible war was too much to burden their families with, so John, like many others, remained silent about the events they had witnessed and taken part in.

John Nixon was known for his frankness, however, and when his children asked, he was more than willing to share his accounts of the war. Joe remembers hearing his father recount at least four different war accounts. Because John was also a creative man with a passion for drawing and writing, it is not surprising that he wrote a novel that may have been an autobiographical account of his experience in the war.

In the first chapter of the manuscript, "Maneuvers in Louisiana," he describes the life of a young soldier that was probably based on his own training in jump school. This novel, as yet unpublished, may hold the keys to many experiences that other veterans can identify with. Joe Nixon has recently begun to piece the unfinished project together, and who knows? Maybe one day you will see the book on the shelves of your bookstore.

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HEALTH-CARE PROXIES

By LINDA L. KORDES, ESQ.

Many people followed the long, sad story of Terry Schiavo, the young Florida woman who, in a vegetative state, had left no written directives (a health care proxy or a living will) that stated her health-care wishes. Consequently, her parents and husband fought for years over the removal of the feeding and hydration tubes that were keeping her alive.

Anyone who does not wish to be kept alive in the event of a persistent vegetative state resulting from illness or injury should prepare specific written directives. Speak to your attorney for advice. These health-care directives are inexpensive but invaluable; they put the world on notice as to what you do or do not want with respect to life-saving measures if you cannot speak for yourself. Without such a directive, as in the Schiavo case, doctors must keep you alive unless someone can prove your intent to the court with clear and convincing evidence. Such evidence can be difficult and expensive to provide, and the lack of clear evidence can also create acrimony, as it did in the Schiavo family.

Ordinarily, interest in this type of issue peaks when it appears in the news, but interest decreases once the story is no longer a prominent news item. Many think that because the doctors disconnected Terry Schiavo's feeding and hydration tubes, the same would be done for us in a similar situation. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, a local judge recently ordered that tubes be reinserted in a Queens woman, despite the fact that she had a health-care proxy, because her proxy did not specifically address the issue of feeding and hydration tubes. The only solution is to prepare and execute advanced directives and be sure that you clearly state exactly what you intend.

Linda L. Kordes, Esq. is an attorney with law offices in Manhattan and City Island.

Social Security

Continued from page 13

traveling, you should know that generally Medicare does not pay for hospital or medical services outside the United States, except for some emergency services in Mexico and Canada.

If you plan to stay outside the country more than 30 days, other rules may apply. You can find out about these rules and more by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov. Or call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), and ask for a copy of the booklet "Social Security: Your Payments While You Are Outside the United States."

Most Popular Baby Names for 2004

The names Emily and Jacob again topped the list of popular baby names. Every year the Social Security office announces the top names on the basis of applications for the previous year.

The top 10 names for boys and girls for 2004 are:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| <u>Boys:</u> | Jacob | <u>Girls:</u> | Emily |
| | Michael | | Emma |
| | Joshua | | Madison |
| | Matthew | | Olivia |
| | Ethan | | Hannah |
| | Andrew | | Abigail |
| | Daniel | | Isabella |
| | William | | Ashley |
| | Joseph | | Samantha |
| | Christopher | | Elizabeth |

Emily has been the most popular female name each year since 1996, and Jacob has been the top male name since 1999. New to the top ten this year are Isabella and William.

For a full list of the 1,000 most popular baby names, click on Most Popular Baby Names link at the Social Security Web site (www.socialsecurity.gov). The most popular baby names for each state are also listed, along with the top 100 names for twins born in 2004 and the most popular baby names for each year since 1880.

The Web site also includes helpful information relating to babies and children, and there are links to other government Web sites that offer valuable information about pregnancy, caring for newborns and programs and services for families.

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

The fourth-grade students of P.S. 175 presented their family histories to the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum on Thursday, June 16, 2005. Tom Nye, president, accepted the histories into the museum's collection, where they may be viewed any Sunday between 1 and 5 p.m.

Graduation Awards

Continued from page 5

Jahaira Escarraman, Dana Faulkner, Omar Garcia, Sung Hun Kim, Jessica Lombardo, Alanna McIntyre, Maeve Pendergast, Sophia Piscitelli, Shenequa Rashford, Anthony Valentino and Nicholas Williams.

The P.S. 175 Service Awards were given to Bianca Bastone, Delia Berger, Olympia Condoluci, Scott Connell, Keith Costanza, John Devlin, Emily Eckman, Christian Fernandez, Amanda Figueiredo, Omar Garcia, Anthony Gaudio, Anthony Giocondo, Nicholas Harty, Kelly McCabe, Andrew Michalski, David Mooney, Maria-Louise Nangle, Rosa Perez, Jonathan Rosa, Maria Swieciki, Alyssa Williams and Julia Walker. The following students were awarded \$50 checks for School and Community Leadership by the Rotary Club in a luncheon held on June 7: Frank Ross, David Mooney, Nailah Hinton, Delia Berger, Anthony Gaudio, John Devlin, Maria Swieciki and Lawrence Boothroyd.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

At St. Mary's graduation on June 17, principal Mrs. Jane Dennehy made the following presentations: The General Excellence Awards, with \$50 each donated by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, were presented to Jobeth Arceo and Ariana Rodriguez.

The American Legion Award, with a \$100 savings bond from Post #156 for the best essay on "How Has the War on Terrorism Affected Life in the United States?," was presented to Damon Clyburn. A \$100 savings bond was donated by the Ladies Auxiliary of Leonard Hawkins Post #156 to Jobeth Arceo for the best essay on "What America Means to Me."

Awards were also given in individual subject areas: the Religion Award to Jasmin Crowder; the Reading Award to Jean Flick, and the Language Arts Award to Jolle Thomas. Keyarah Kemp Jones received the Creative Writing Award; the Mathematics Award went to Damon Clyburn; the Social Studies Award was given to Marae Thompson, and the Science Award to Brannon Snowball.

The Art Award and the Music Award

were given to Julius Greene and Kristiana Brooks, respectively, the Computer Award was given to Raven Perkinson, and the Physical Education Award was presented to Isaac Joshua Mercado.

The church award Pro Servicio Ad Altare Dei was given to David Quick and Fernando Vergara.

The St. John's University Women in Science Society Certificate of Recognition was presented to Jobeth Arceo and Ariana Rodriguez.

The AARP Minneford Chapter 3303 Award for Most Improved Student, along with a \$50 check, was given to Isaac Joshua Mercado, who also received the Principal's Award for the student who exemplifies the true spirit of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School.

Jasmin Crowder was the recipient of The Island Current, Catherine Scott Literary Award with a \$50 check, and the Saturday Academy at Salesian High School Certificate of Merit was presented to Ariana Rodriguez.

The Triple C Award for Commitment, Character and Courage from the State of New York office of Attorney General Eliot Spitzer was presented to Isaac Joshua Mercado and Fernando Vergara. The New York State Student Leadership Award sponsored by Senator Jeff Klein was given to Julius Greene and Keyarah Kemp Jones, and the Farenga Brothers 2005 Community Affairs Award and \$100 check was presented to David Quick. The City Council Citation for Community Service sponsored by Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano was given to David Quick and Cassandra Reyes, and Alice Mori was the recipient of the 2005 Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto Perseverance Award for Academic Achievement. In the computer typing contest, first place went to Jasmine Roman, second place to Raven Perkinson and third place to Jobeth Arceo. The computer touch-typing certificate was given to Damon Clyburn.

The following students were awarded \$50 checks for School and Community Leadership by the Rotary Club in a luncheon held on June 7: Jobeth Arceo, Julius Greene, Keyarah Kemp-Jones, Isaac Joshua Mercado, David Quick, Cassandra Reyes, Arianna Rodriguez and Fernando Vergara.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET 2005



Photos by RICK DeWITT

The traditional Blessing of the Fleet was hosted by the City Island Power Squadron on June 12, 2005, from the Fenton Marine Dock. Vessels large and small, powered by sail, oar and motor, came to be blessed by (top photo, front row, l. to r.) Power Squadron officers Bob Luciano, Mike Fabrizi, Marie Milillo, Peg Morton and Salvatore Scotti; clergy Reverend Patricia Alexander, Rabbi Shahoma and Pastor Susan Chadwick. Back row: Post 156 members Peter Booth, Bill Clancy and Mike Rauh; Rabbi Henry Katz and Rabbi Alan Paul Katz from Throggs Neck, Father Michael Challinor; Post members David Carman and Ed Shipp.

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Social Security Issues Keep Social Security in the Loop

By DIANA VALDES,

Social Security Manager, East Bronx Office

About four of every five American weddings take place between May and October, which means we are now in the middle of the matrimonial season. If you or someone you know is getting married, here is a little advice to keep in mind.

If you plan to exchange your maiden name for a married name—including a hyphenated name, such as Smith-Jones—be sure to let Social Security know.

Telling Social Security about your name change shortly after you marry will help keep track of your earnings and will ensure that you and your family get the retirement, disability or survivors benefits you are entitled to. Also, if the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security records do not show the same name and Social Security number, your federal income tax refund could be delayed.

Many women continue to use their maiden name after marriage. If you continue to use your maiden name consistently throughout your working years, you do not need to contact us. But if you decide to change your name at a later time, you should let us know so that we can update your Social Security record.

This is a quick, easy and free service. Visit your local Social Security office or go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber and click on "Application Form SS-5." You can also call 1-800-772-1213 to obtain the form. There is no need to pay a third party to mail in the information for you.

Social Security will need the completed application, along with either your marriage certificate showing your old and new names, or two documents, one showing each name. If you were born outside the United States, you also need proof of your U.S. citizenship or proof that you are lawfully living in the country. You can bring or mail these documents to Social Security.

So remember, if you are changing your name because of marriage, divorce or any other reason, be sure to keep Social Security in the loop.

If you are among the more than 7 million Americans who get monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, you should know that whenever your living arrangements change, you must let your local Social Security office know.

Your monthly benefit may vary depending on where you live and whether someone else pays for your living expenses. Generally, you can get up to the maximum SSI payment if you live in your own place or if you live in someone else's residence but pay the full cost of your food and shelter.

However, your SSI benefit may be reduced if you live somewhere else and pay only a part of your share of food or housing costs; or if you live in a house, apartment or trailer but someone else pays for your food, rent or mortgage expenses, and other things like electricity and garbage removal; or if you are in a nursing home or hospital for the whole month and Medicaid pays for over one-half of your bills.

Your SSI payment is based on your income, not on your expenses, but the cost of living expenses such as food, clothing or shelter provided by someone else may be considered income and could reduce your SSI payment. Items you receive that cannot be used for food, clothing or shelter are not considered income and will not affect your SSI payment. For example, we don't count things like kitchen appliances or the gift of a piece of jewelry.

If you are homeless, you may receive up to the maximum SSI amount payable, but if you live in a public shelter, you can only receive SSI for up to six months out of any

nine months that you live there.

Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for more information about living arrangements and how they may affect your SSI eligibility or monthly payment amount.

Ticket to Work Program

The 15th anniversary of the signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be observed in July. As President Bush noted during last year's ADA anniversary, "Today, individuals with disabilities are better able to develop meaningful skills, engage in productive work, and participate fully in society." Social Security's Ticket to Work program has been an important part of the effort to move individuals with disabilities into working life.

Nearly all individuals receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits have now received a "ticket" that they can use to get free vocational rehabilitation, employment or other support services from an approved provider of their choice. Social Security pays providers for successfully helping a beneficiary go to work.

Ticket to Work is a voluntary program that also has important provisions to ensure that people with disabilities no longer have to choose between keeping their health care coverage and trying to go back to work.

Medicare hospital insurance coverage now extends for eight years and six months after most Social Security disability beneficiaries go to work. Medicare coverage continues even if an individual no longer

receives a monthly benefit from Social Security. Medicare coverage for SSI disability beneficiaries may also be extended. Since Medicaid is a state health benefit, the individual states have the option to extend coverage to SSI beneficiaries who work. State Medicaid offices can provide further information.

Ticket to Work has been a success. Within the past few weeks, the number of individuals using a Ticket to Work passed the 90,000 mark.

If you or someone you know has a disability and would like to become one of the thousands of success stories that the Ticket to Work program is creating, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) for more information.

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Photos by JIM ROMEO
Sixteen City Island students from Public School 175 and St. Mary, Star of the Sea School were recognized by the Bronx Rotary Club luncheon on Tuesday, June 7, for their outstanding service at school and in the community. P. S. 175: (top photo, standing, l. to r.): Bronx Rotarian Paula Gannon; Frank Ross; Principal Milagros Efre-Lopez; David Mooney; Nailah Hinton; Delia Berger; Anthony Gaudio; Parent Coordinator Tina Gisante; John Devlin. Seated are Maria Swieciki and Lawrence Boothroyd. St. Mary, Star of the Sea (bottom photo, standing, l. to r.): Bronx Rotarian Paula Gannon; Arianna Rodriguez; Julius Greene; Keyarah Kemp-Jones; and Principal Jane Dennehy; back row (l. to r.): Fernando Vergara, Isaac Joshua Mercado and David Quick. Seated are Cassandra Reyes and Jobeth Arceo.



WARRIORS OPEN PRACTICE

Jerry Demers, Chief of Warrior Football, announced that practice for the 2005 season will begin according to the following schedule:

- New Tackle Players (Pee Wee and

Junior Divisions) start Aug. 6 at 5:30 p.m. every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday at Pelham Bay Park.

- Returning Tackle Players start Aug. 16 at Pelham Bay Park.

- Mite Players start Aug. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Lehman High School every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (sneakers).

- All Flag Players (ages 6, 7 and 8) start Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m. every Monday and Friday at Pelham Bay Park.

Some roster spots are still available, and applicants should bring a copy of their birth certificate and be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call Jerry Demers at 718-829-7574.

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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.

Happy 14th birthday on Aug. 22 to Bay Street's Maria Christina Swieciki, with love from Mom and Dad, Stephen, Bobby, Nana, Aunt Toni, Uncle John and Aunt Judy.

Welcome to City Island, Derek and Jen, King Avenue's newest residents.

Happy July birthdays to those "Crabby" Cancer ladies: Mary Ellen Power, Sondra Edwards-Smith and Juliette Conover. Now, which one of your girls is hitting the big 6-0?

Calling all former CIVAC volunteers! A reunion is being planned sometime in October for all former members of the City Island Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Please contact Regina Murphy at civacreunion@yahoo.com or call 718-885-3185. Please spread the word and help make the reunion a huge success.

Happy Fourth of July birthday to Nicky Carmody, with love from the Carmody and Cebek families.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success to Molly Sakura Donovan on your graduation from St. Hilda and St. Hughes School. You looked beautiful and we are so very proud of you.

Happy birthday on July 18 to Jimmy Kolb, on July 25 to Donnie Kolb, on July 26 to Donald Kolb and on July 27 to Billy Seiter, with love from your family.

Rochelle Street residents Maria and Joseph Plaza welcome with love Joseph Anthony, born May 9 at Lawrence Hospital.

Congratulations to former Islander Heidi Fiederlein, daughter of Phil and Dorothy Fiederlein, who was awarded a doctorate in physical therapy from New York Medical College. All your hard work paid off! We love you—Mom and Dad and your brother Erich.

Thank you to St. Mary, Star of the Sea eighth-grade class of 1965-66. At a class reunion on City Island, 36 years later,

Dorothy Comeau Fiederlein and Jesse D'Allesandro became reacquainted. The former Fordham Street residents had dated in 1966 and went their separate ways until they met at the reunion in 2002. They began dating again and were married on June 25 in Conowingo, Maryland. Dorothy and Jesse send their thanks for all the good wishes and gifts they received from their fellow classmates.

Best wishes and good luck to Pilot Street's Sean P. O'Connell, the son of Patricia and Dennis O'Connell. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Hamilton College on May 22. Sean, a graduate of P.S. 175 and Fordham Prep, graduated magna cum laude with departmental honors in African studies.

Feb. 18 was a special day for three generations of Costello graduates at Mount St. Michael. Thomas P. Costello, Class of 1941, Tom's son Michael J. Costello, Class of 1968 and grandson Michael A. Costello, Class of 1992, toured the Mount and walked the halls they all had trod years before.

Happy birthday on Aug. 30 to Bay Street's Samantha Emerick.

Happy 19th birthday wishes on Sept. 2 across the miles to Stephen Swieciki, who is entering his sophomore year at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York.

A good time was had by all at the Fordham Street Beach Opening Day breakfast in May. Thanks to all the beach associates from Yolanda Cirulli, who enjoyed the celebration and wishes everyone a neighborly fourth of July.

Congratulations to Joseph Schaller, Esq. The Ditmars Street resident graduated from Pace University School of Law in June. No objections!

To all of our neighbors, readers and friends: Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer. See you in September!

Maria Swieciki



Photo by YOLANDA CIRULLI
Julie Bates and Ollie at Fordham Street Beach opening day in May.



Photo courtesy JOHN COLAZZI

State Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto welcomed 48 fourth-grade students from P.S. 175 to the New York State Capitol Building in Albany on Wednesday, June 1. The students also received a tour of the State Museum and the Assembly Chambers and ate lunch in the Legislative Office Building. The trip was coordinated by their teachers, Julia DiMaio and Candida Tighe.

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