

Periodicals  
Paid at Bronx, N.Y.  
USPS 114-590

# The Island Current

Published on City Island, New York



Volume 53 Number 1 January-February 2024

One Dollar

## “BEST OF THE BRONX”

By PAUL KLEIN



Photos by RON TERNER and courtesy of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For the “Best of the Bronx” competition, the City Island Chamber of Commerce sent in 27 nominations, and 16 member businesses captured wins. Winners were announced in December 2023. “Best Concert Venue” went to The Artist (Starving Artist). On Jan. 13, 2024, owner and musician Elliott Glick organized an all-star show and celebration of that honor (top photo). Artie’s Steak & Seafood won in four categories, including best “Clam Chowder” and “Romantic Dinner” (bottom photo).

Nominated in 27 categories for the “Best of the Bronx” program, City Island Chamber of Commerce member businesses captured 16 wins. Winners were announced in mid-December; more information may be found on this website: <https://bestof.bxtimes.com/winners/>.

The “Best of The Bronx” campaign, presented by Ponce Bank and promoted by Schneps Media (publisher of The Bronx Times, Bronx Times Reporter and other local outlets), accepts nominations from January to mid-April each year on their website (<https://bestof.bxtimes.com/nominations/>). The top nominees then advance to an online ballot, which opened for voting last year in mid-April and extended through end of August. Voting took place online via that same website; each person is allowed one vote per person per day for each category. Once the voting ends, results are added up and doublechecked for fraudulent voting or obvious abuse (those votes are then removed) by the campaign’s organizers. After this, the results are added up again. According to the campaign’s website, a third-party administrator runs the “Best of The Bronx” voting pages, and the quotations are taken from statements made by the voters.

The City Island Chamber of Commerce organized a marketing campaign not only to promote the nomination of Chamber businesses, but also to use the opportunity to tell the stories of those businesses and their

nominations on the Chamber website and social media. The Chamber congratulates the following winners:

### Arts & Entertainment

**Art Gallery Clipper Coffee:** “Renowned for seamlessly blending the rich aromas of freshly brewed coffee with the captivating allure of contemporary art, it offers a sensory experience unlike any other.”

**Concert Venue The Artist (Starving Artist):** “Bronx residents know that when they want to see a concert—whether it’s pop, rock, holiday music or just about any other genre—The Artist (originally called Starving Artist) is an intimate, small venue where they will be able to best enjoy a show.”

### Bars & Nightlife

**Long Island Iced Tea Lobster House:** “City Island Lobster House reigns supreme as the Bronx’s cocktail haven, with its crown jewel being the best Long Island Iced Tea in the borough.”

### Food

**Breakfast City Island Diner:** “While New York City has lost its share of beloved diners in recent years, others continue to live on and thrive, including City Island Diner, which voters selected as the best breakfast spot in The Bronx.”

**Clam Chowder Artie’s Steak & Seafood:** “Immerse your senses in a bowl brimming with succulent clams, tender potatoes, and a rich, creamy broth that boasts a per-

Continued on page 3

## THE CITY OF YES? MAYBE NO!

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, who directly controls the Department of City Planning (DCP) and other city agencies, has proposed a three-part plan to “modernize and update our city’s zoning regulations to support small businesses, create affordable housing and promote sustainability . . . for a more inclusive, equitable ‘City of Yes.’” Because these proposals include a number of elements that would seriously affect City Island’s Special District zoning regulations, residents and business owners are encouraged to pay attention to what the mayor wants for every community in the city.

According to DCP, the first part of the plan, to promote carbon neutrality, was passed by the City Council in December of 2023 and is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 by transforming the city’s energy grid, retrofitting buildings and shifting to electric vehicles, transit and other modes of transportation. However, the other parts of the City of Yes could have significant effects on City Island and many other residential communities in the city.

### The City of Yes for Economic Opportunity

DCP describes the second part of the proposal, to promote economic opportunity, as being designed to remove “outdated zoning limitations on businesses in the city and allow them to remain the ‘lifeblood of our neighborhoods.’” However, many New York City residents and property owners have expressed concern that residentially zoned neighborhoods will be adversely affected by new businesses encouraged by this package of 18 proposals that will allow increased nightlife, urban agriculture and small-scale manufacturing on neighborhood commercial streets. The proposals would affect largely low-density residential communities such as City Island, Country Club and Throggs Neck, whose objections to upzoning probably caused Marjorie Velázquez to lose her seat on the City Council to Kristy Marmorata in 2023.

One proposal in particular would allow storefront, retail, office and other commercial development up to 2,500 square feet within 100 feet of every corner on every residential block, spreading commercial development into quiet residential areas. Another proposal would allow for up to 15,000 square feet of commercial development on any parcel or assemblage of parcels of 1.5 acres or more located in a residential zone. A third proposal would allow home businesses—defined today as limited to professional offices (attorneys, accountants, etc.) and sole proprietorships, and currently are limited to 25% of a primary residence and a maximum of 500 square feet—to be 49% of a primary residence, no maximum square footage and up to three employees.

Meetings with community boards have been held since November of 2023 and are continuing until the end of January 2024. Community Board 10 (CB10), which includes City Island, Country Club, Co-op City, Pelham Bay, Throggs Neck, Waterbury Lasalle, Westchester Square and Zerega held a special meeting on Jan. 24 at which representatives of the DCP presented the program, which most board members had never even heard about.

Urban planning consultant Paul Graziano attended the meeting at the request of the zoning committee and explained certain details of the plan that had not been mentioned by DCP but that would definitely

affect residential neighborhoods like City Island. Representatives of the communities in CB10 spoke out against the plan, and the full board voted unanimously against it. The City of Yes for Economic Opportunity will be brought to the City Council for a vote in March 2024.

### The City of Yes for Housing Opportunity

The third part of the soon-to-be certified City of Yes plan makes it clear that Mayor Adams is specifically targeting lower-density areas of the city by calling for the elimination of many zoning regulations as they now exist. For example, accessory dwelling units (ADUs) would be allowed on all one- and two-family properties, where basements, cellars, attics and garages could be converted for additional housing and new 800-square-foot houses built in backyards. Additionally, up to six-story apartment buildings would be encouraged in one and two-family residential zones, particularly in proposed Transit Oriented Development Zones (TODs), which if adopted would cover large portions of Community Board 10. Low-rise commercial zones, such as on City Island Avenue, would also be allowed to build up to four stories of apartments above under a “Town Center” zoning plan covering all low-density zoning. Basic zoning regulations would change, making lots narrower, side, front and rear yards smaller and buildings taller and denser. And, finally, Mayor Adams wants to eliminate parking requirements for all new residential development across the city.

For one example of how these new regulations could affect City Island, imagine that the empty lot next to JGL Wines and Liquors between Reville and Tier Streets were to suddenly support a six-story apartment building that extended to nearly every corner and offered no parking. This is an unlikely scenario, given that the lot has several sinkholes and might not support any building, let alone a large one, but you get the idea.

Mayor Adams has stated: “Our goal is to create ‘a little more housing in every neighborhood’ to finally tackle New York’s housing shortage head-on. By addressing the root cause of New York’s high housing costs, displacement, homelessness and the imbalance of power between tenants and landlords, we can build a city where working families can thrive.”

City Island resident Adolfo Carrión Jr., commissioner of the NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD), supports the City of Yes: “Without the City of Yes, we won’t successfully tackle the housing crisis that continues to be a drag on our city’s potential.” But other Island residents have objected to the proposed zoning changes, which they believe will seriously change the quality of life here by encouraging the construction of apartment buildings on side streets and reducing green spaces, trees and the distance between buildings.

### The City of No

Paul Graziano is a zoning, historic preservation and land use consultant from Flushing, Queens, who has successfully fought against similar efforts in the past. He spoke to the zoning committee of Community Board 10 in December and to the full board on Jan. 24, noting that “This proposal does not consider the carefully negotiated

Continued on page 7

**BRIEFLY...**

**VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY** for children in grades 6 through 9, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156, will take place at the Legion Hall, 550 City Island Avenue, on Sunday, Feb. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. with music, dancing and food. Cost: \$10 per child; reservations are required. Payment may be made by Zelle to [ALA156treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ALA156treasurer@gmail.com); please give your child's name and grade. If you have questions, e-mail [ALA156correspondence@gmail.com](mailto:ALA156correspondence@gmail.com).

**CITY ISLAND THEATER GROUP** will present Steven Dietz's play "Becky's New Car" on Friday, March 1; Saturday, March 2; Friday, March 8; and Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. as well as Sunday, March 3 and Sunday, March 10, at 3 p.m. All performances will be at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue. Tickets will cost \$30, \$25 for seniors and students. Additional information will be available soon on social media as well as on the website [cityislandtheatergroup.org](http://cityislandtheatergroup.org).

**PELHAM BAY PARK PHOTO CONTEST:** Pelham Bay Park's 2,772 acres are filled with amazing scenic vistas, diverse wildlife and rich history. Help capture all the amazing parts of New York City's largest park. Starting Jan. 7, the Friends of Pelham Bay Park will be collecting digital submissions for Pelham Bay Park: Past, Present & Future Photo Contest. There are five categories with submission deadlines as follows: Seasons (Jan. 7-13), Wildlife (Jan. 21-27), Secret Treasures (Feb. 4-10), People in the Park (Feb. 25-March 2) and Hidden History (March 17-23). Visit this website for more information and contest rules: [pelhambaypark.org](http://pelhambaypark.org).

**COMMUNITY CENTER INDOOR FLEA MARKET** invites you to turn your unwanted items into quick cash on Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tables are \$25 per day, \$40 for both dates, with an additional table for \$15. Items for sale can include clothing, shoes, tools, jewelry, home improvement items, handbags, furniture, electronics and more. Free coffee and hot chocolate available. City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street. To reserve a table, e-mail Lisa at [CityIslandEvents@gmail.com](mailto:CityIslandEvents@gmail.com).

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER:** On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the night before Ash Wednesday (and Valentine's Day), a traditional pancake supper will be held at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island Avenue at Pilot Street from 5 to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages, hot cross buns and hot and cold beverages. Father Kevin Moroney ("The Singing Vicar") will provide musical entertainment. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested. For more information, call the parish at 718-885-1080.

**45 BLOTTER**

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during November and December 2023 and January 2024. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 - LOST PROPERTY
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY
- 1 - FALSE INCIDENT REPORT
- 1 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 1 - GRAND LARCENY AUTO
- 1 - ASSAULT
- 1 - LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT
- 1 - ROBBERY

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from Nov. 20, 2023, to Jan. 23, 2024.

11/27/23 - On King Avenue at 9 a.m., an Island male reported lost property. He told police that he was working and lost his wallet containing his NYPD Retired ID and gun license.

12/4/23 - An Island male reported an incident of grand larceny on William Avenue at 11 a.m. Complainant states that his wife sent out a Chase check for \$40 on 12/4/23. An unknown defendant changed the name on the check and the amount to \$4,967.14. The victim had not given permission or authority to withdraw money.

12/15/23 - Police investigated a false report on Centre Street at 9:55 a.m. An unknown person made a 911 call that there

was an active shooter at the location. The patrol sergeant was at the location when the call came over, and there was no such incident going on. A canvass was done of the location with negative results.

12/27/23 - At 2 p.m. on Marine Street, a report of criminal mischief was made when a male complainant stated that he parked his vehicle and upon return saw damage to his driver side bumper.

12/28/23 - On Marine Street at 10 p.m., an Island male reported that his car had been stolen. He had parked the vehicle in his driveway, and when he returned the vehicle was missing. Video footage shows two unknown males approaching and entering the vehicle and fleeing on Marine Street.

12/28/23 - Police arrested an off-Island male, 19, on City Island Avenue and Rochelle Street and charged him with assault at 8:40 p.m. Officers from the 114th Precinct in Queens had responded to the robbery of a vehicle where complainant stated a male approached her and said "Give me your keys." When she refused, he grabbed her wallet and keys from her hand and fled the location in her vehicle. Officers from the 114th Precinct observed the defendant entering the RFK Bridge and heading toward the Bronx. A pursuit began into the Bronx and onto City Island. Multiple NYPD marked and unmarked vehicles assisted with the pursuit. The defendant rammed an unmarked NYPD vehicle occupied by two officers and one sergeant from the 114th Precinct. As the defendant rammed the unmarked car, one officer was standing outside the vehicle with the door open and he was struck on

both legs. The defendant then continued to flee and struck head-on another unmarked vehicle that was occupied by an officer and a sergeant from the 45th Precinct. After a pursuit on foot, the defendant was apprehended and placed under arrest by the 114th Precinct.

1/10/24 - On King Avenue at 3 p.m., an Island female told police she had parked her car and upon return found that the car had minor scratches to the front bumper caused by an unknown vehicle that had left the

scene of the accident.

1/14/24 - An off-Island female reported a robbery on City Island Avenue at 4:22 p.m. Complainant states while she was running on a park trail, she was approached by an unknown male, who began to chase after her on foot. Complainant was then stopped by another unknown male, who was operating a moped and who blocked her from leaving. The first male displayed a knife and demanded money. She didn't have money but gave them her cell phone and headphones.



**CJS**  
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, LLC.

LAWN CARE \* HEDGES & SHRUBS \* TREE SERVICE \* PRESSURE WASHING \* MULCH  
GUTTERS \* FENCING \* PLANTING \* BACKYARD OVERHAUL \* DECK REPAIR \* PATIOS  
DEMOLITION \* GENERAL CLEAN-UP \* TOP SOIL/SAND/GRAVEL \* SNOW REMOVAL  
!!FREE ESTIMATES!! - [CJSPROPERTY10464@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CJSPROPERTY10464@GMAIL.COM) - 646.772.7681

SERVING THE CITY ISLAND COMMUNITY FOR DECADES

**Insuring City Island families and businesses since 1965.**



- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Homeowners        | Business Owners Policies      |
| Auto              | Liability                     |
| Flood             | Workers Compensation          |
| Landlord Packages | Life, Health & Long Term Care |

**Call or stop by for a quote.**  
[www.islandinsuranceagency.com](http://www.islandinsuranceagency.com)

(718) 885-1050  
(718) 885-3419  
498 City Island Ave.  
City Island, NY 10464  
[info@islandinsuranceagency.com](mailto:info@islandinsuranceagency.com)



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



EDITOR: Karen Rauhauser Nani

Editorial Office: 718-885-0760  
Display Advertising: 718-885-1636  
or: [margci@aol.com](mailto:margci@aol.com)  
Subscriptions: 718-885-9268  
[www.theislandcurrent.com](http://www.theislandcurrent.com)

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Sara S. McPherson  
COPY EDITOR/WRITER: Barbara Dolensek  
ART EDITOR: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner

DISTRIBUTION: Emily Leni  
SUBSCRIPTION: Rose Kolb  
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Margaret Lenz  
BUSINESS MANAGER: Judith Rauh

STAFF: Maria Swieciki, Mary Colby, Marsha Treiber, Bill Stuttig, Tom Smith, Virginia Dannegger, Monica Glick, Maria Sutherland, John Sheridan, and Johanna Paciullo  
PHOTOGRAPHY: Rick DeWitt, Matt Panza and Ron Turner  
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS: Stephanie Ribaudo, Lorraine Nicoletti. Masthead and special artwork by the late Theodore J. Mazaika. Cartoon format originated by Russell Schaller Sr.

Typeset by Marguerite Chadwick-Juner, Witworks Studio Graphic Design, Oriental, NC 28571  
Printed by Stellar Printing Inc., 3838 9th St., Long Island City, NY 11101  
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, \$12.00 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 885-0760. Copyright 2024 by The Island Current, Inc., 724 King Ave., City Island, Bronx, NY 10464. All rights reserved.  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BRONX, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464.

**WHEN YOU WORK WITH ME TO BUY OR SELL, YOU ARE WORKING WITH THE BEST!**



**Louise Del Giudice**  
NYS Lic. Real Estate Salesperson, CBR, CDPE  
2022 Centurion President's Producer & Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Awards  
#1 in Westchester and the Bronx  
#14 C 21 Agent in New York State

Century 21 Marciano  
546 North Ave.,  
New Rochelle, NY 10801 **CENTURY 21**  
Marciano

e-mail: [Louisedel.C21@gmail.com](mailto:Louisedel.C21@gmail.com)

Cell : 914.497.9021

Looking to sell your house?  
Now's the time.  
I would love to help you.



Sea Shore Restaurant captured best "Waterview" (above photo) and Lobster House won for its Long Island Iced Tea and best Lobster Roll (bottom photo). Kaleidoscope Gallery picked up two nods for "Collectibles" and "Toys" (below).

### Best of the Bronx

Continued from page 1

fect balance of flavors."

**Coffee Clipper Coffee:** This is Clipper's second year in a row winning in this category. "With an illustrious history woven into the fabric of the Bronx, Clipper Coffee has emerged as the preeminent coffee house in the borough."

**Ice Cream Lickety Split:** "Lickety Split reigns supreme as the Bronx's sweetest escape, delivering an unrivaled ice cream experience that transcends the ordinary."

**Lobster Roll Lobster House:** "City Island Lobster House claims the throne for the Bronx's best lobster roll, a culinary masterpiece that transports diners to coastal bliss."

#### Restaurants

**Italian Artie's Steak & Seafood:** "The restaurant boasts a menu that reflects a commitment to excellence, featuring premium steaks, fresh seafood, and Italian-inspired delicacies."

**Oyster Bar Tony's Pier Restaurant:** This is Tony's second year in a row winning in this category. "Tony's Pier is not just a dining destination; it's a waterfront experience that captures the essence of seaside indulgence in the heart of the Bronx."

**Waterview Sea Shore Restaurant:** "Sea Shore Restaurant reigns supreme as the Bronx's unparalleled waterfront dining destination, offering a dining experience that merges culinary excellence with breathtaking views."

**Romantic Dinner Artie's Steak & Seafood:** "Love is in the air at Artie's Steak & Seafood. The restaurant marries classic elegance with a warm, inviting ambiance that is sure to spark romance in your evening."

**Seafood Artie's Steak & Seafood:** "For a seafood selection that's out of this world, Bronxites go to Artie's Steak & Seafood."

**Steakhouse Artie's Steak & Seafood:** This is Artie's second year in a row winning in this category. "When it comes to its steak options, Artie's does not disappoint."

#### Shopping

**Collectibles / Nostalgia Kaleidoscope Gallery:** This is Kaleidoscope's second year in a row winning in this category. "All of your Custom Designed Jewelry, Jewelry

Repairs, Kids Toys, Art, Gifts and souvenirs wants can be taken care of at one place - Kaleidoscope Gallery."

**Toys Kaleidoscope Gallery:** "Kaleidoscope Gallery emerges as the foremost destination for discerning toy enthusiasts in the Bronx."



Photo by RICK DEWITT

A new light on City Island Avenue appeared during the holiday season. It did not please many in the community, even those who live on Centre Street, where the new spotlight is only one block away from the light at Winters Street. The Department of Transportation (DOT), which has rejected the community's many requests for a light at Pilot Street, claims that no one asked for the Centre Street light but that it was the result of a DOT study. It is likely that the study was performed because of the amount of pedestrian traffic in the area caused by the school, the bank and the Post Office, as well as past accidents at the intersection.

## TROOP 211 CROWNS ANOTHER EAGLE

By DAN HICKEY



PHOTO BY ROBIN ACCOCELLA

Islander Paul Goonan achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at the Court of Honor held by Troop 211 at Trinity United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023. The newest Eagle Scout is shown above (center) with his parents James and Susan, his sister Sarah and his brother Joseph.

At its Court of Honor in December, Troop 211 recognized its 43rd Eagle Scout and several other scouts who advanced in ranks and earned merit badges in 2023. Paul Goonan achieved scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout, culminating a career that began as a first-grade Tiger Cub scout 12 years ago.

In his acceptance speech, Paul recounted the challenges he overcame organizing and implementing his service projects while balancing his other activities. He thanked his scouting brothers for helping him complete his service projects, which included renovating sections of the Legion building. His most heartfelt thanks were for his brother Joseph, who has always been there to help with scout projects and schoolwork, and his parents for being his biggest influence. Paul also had heartfelt remarks for his scouting brothers. He told the assembled crowd: "This is more than just camping trips and Friday night meetings. This is a family, and I wouldn't want my life any other way without this family."

After the Eagle ceremony, Scoutmaster James Goonan recognized the troop's adult leadership, honored guests and other troop achievements, beginning with another first place in the council-wide Klondike Derby skills competition. Troop 211 had four camping trips in addition to a ski trip last year, and Thomas Riordan took part in Scouting's National Jamboree in West Virginia. As many as 27 scouts attended summer camp and earned 130 merit badges, and six earned their lifeguard certifications. Twenty-four scouts achieved higher ranks in 2023, which produced over 1,000 hours of community service to local churches and organizations, including the American Legion, City Island Oyster Reef, the Garden Club, the Chamber of Commerce and others.

There's more in the pipeline as seven scouts earned the rank of Life, the last step before Eagle. With Paul Goonan joining his fellow Eagle Scout Peter Hickey as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, other scouts moved up in the troop leadership positions, taking on additional responsibilities. Another Life scout is completing his Eagle requirements as an enthusiastic corps of younger scouts follow the examples of their leaders.

Scoutmaster Goonan closed out another inspiring Court of Honor by wishing everyone happy holidays and reminding the scouts about defending their Klondike Derby championship in January, a ski trip in March and a bigger trip for spring break. It won't be long until the annual Easter flower sale to raise funds for summer camp at Ten Mile River. Congratulations to all the Troop 211 scouts on another year of stellar achievement.



**300 City Island Avenue**  
Bronx, New York 10464  
**718-885-1166**

Visit us at:  
[www.directchoicerealty.com](http://www.directchoicerealty.com)  
e-mail: [info@directchoicerealty.com](mailto:info@directchoicerealty.com)



**FOR SALE: 1849 Stillwell Avenue BX, NY 10469**

**\$999,999. Single family home in quiet Pelham Gardens.**

**4 bedroom, 4 bathroom, fireplace, above ground pool, garage and driveway. A must see won't last!**



**Call Cecilia today at 646-242-6167**

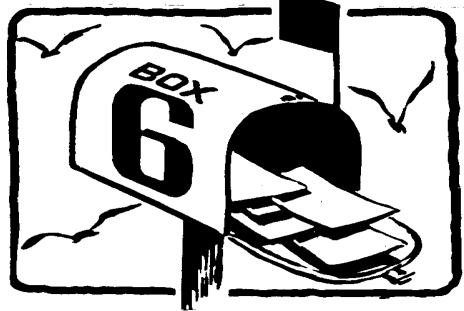
VHF-Ch 16      Capt. Dan  
**718-885-3420**



U. S. Coast Guard Licensed & Approved  
For Marine Towing Assistance & Salvage

P.O. Box 58  
City Island, N.Y. 10464

<b>BEST OF BRONX AWARDS</b> <b>16 CI WINNERS</b>	<b>NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT AT</b> <b>CENTRE STREET</b> <b>BAFFLES ISLANDERS</b>	<b>FINALLY SNOW ON</b> <b>CI AFTER 700</b> <b>SNOWLESS DAYS</b>	<b>CITY OF YES?</b> <b>COULD BE OH NO!</b> <b>FROM ISLANDERS</b>	<b>HARLEM YACHT CLUB</b> <b>DOES A BALL DROP</b> <b>AT NEW YEARS</b>
<p>WOW! CI BUSINESSES HAD 16 WINS IN 27 CATEGORIES THEY WERE NOMINATED FOR!</p> <p>THEY SHOULD HAVE HAD BEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE BRONX. WE WOULD HAVE WON THAT TOO!</p>	<p>JUST TYPICAL CITY SNAFU POLITICS. ASK FOR A LIGHT FOR YEARS IN A SPOT IT'S TRULY NEEDED, WE GET ONE WHERE IT'S MERELY REDUNDANT!</p>	<p>IT'S SNOWING! YAY!</p> <p>IT'S SNOWING. YUK!</p>	<p>I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CITY WANTS TO REPEAL CI'S SPECIAL DISTRICT ZONING. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT AND SAY "NO" TO "YES"</p>	<p>IT WAS FUN TO SEE THE HARLEM YC DROP THE BALL ONCE AGAIN!</p> <p>WELL, I THINK YOU MEAN TO SAY THEY HAD A BALL DROP FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE.</p> <p>YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I SAID!</p>



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

**A Santa Story**

To the Editor,

We discovered a piece of City Island Christmas nostalgia this past December. Islanders Ann-Marie and Joe Lizarazo went to visit Mark Nani at his house on Horton Street, when Ann-Marie noticed the standing Santa decoration in Mark's front yard. At first glance, she recognized it as the same Santa she had owned for years and had placed by her house on Fordham Street.

But there was one curious difference: the Santas were waving with different hands (see photos). Mark asked his mother and his uncle, Eric Rauhauser, about the history of the Santa, but they recalled that the Santa had always been part of Ducky and Lorraine Rauhauser's Christmas display. Neither of them could recall how the Santa was obtained.

Ann Marie's father, Joe Goonan, came to the rescue with his recollection of the Santas' origins. According to Joe, carpenters at Minneford Yacht Yard made them for the shipyard workers as a gift back in the 1940s or 1950s. The head carpenter at the time was Bill McDaniel, who would have supervised the production of the Santas. Joe surmised that they probably put two pieces of plywood together and then cut both in the shape of Santa. Then they opened the two pieces and painted them with the cheery design that has lasted for decades. This would explain why one Santa is a mirror image of another Santa.

Since Philip Gauss was the manager of Minneford's at the time, he probably gave one to his brother-in-law, Ducky, as a gift. It is a credit to the skill of those



Photos by ANN-MARIE LIZARAZO and MARK NANI  
 Islanders Ann-Marie and Joe (above) Lizarazo and Mark Nani discovered that they both owned similar nostalgic Santa decorations that date back to the 1950s and were probably made by carpenters from Minneford Yacht Yard.

carpenters and painters that the Santas have survived for so many years! We wonder if there are any others around, so if you know of someone who has a Santa like these or remembers the story behind their creation, e-mail *The Island Current* ([info@theislandcurrent.com](mailto:info@theislandcurrent.com)). Don't forget to note whether your Santa is waving with the right or the left hand.

Happy New Year!

Ann-Marie Lizarazo  
 Mark Nani

**Catherine Mazzaro**  
 Income Tax Preparation

**INDIVIDUALS**  
**CORPORATIONS**  
**NOT-FOR-PROFITS**  
**SMALL BUSINESS**  
**ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
 914-260-2982  
 CATHERINE.MAZZAROCPA@OUTLOOK.COM

**CRAB SHANTY**  
 OPEN 7 DAYS (11a.m.-2a.m.)  
**DAILY LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS**

361 CITY ISLAND AVENUE  
**885-1810**  
 PARKING AVAILABLE

**SCHUYLER HILL**  
 FUNERAL HOME

**THE PRE PLAN**  
 A PERSONAL FUNERAL FUND

Jacqueline McQuade, Owner  
 Family Owned & Operated for over 50 years  
 3535 East Tremont Avenue  
 Bronx, NY 10465  
**718-792-0270**  
[www.schuylerhill.com](http://www.schuylerhill.com)

Helping people find their dream home IS MY PASSION!

**exp REALTY**  
 YOUR GO-TO AGENT!

777 Westchester Ave, Ste 101  
 White Plains, NY 10604  
[janie.blanks@exprealty.com](mailto:janie.blanks@exprealty.com)

**JANIE BLANKS**  
 RE Associate Broker  
**PHONE: 646-404-1048**

**BAYVIEW GLASS**

Insulated Glass and Parts  
 Mirrors • Table Tops • Blinds • Shades  
 Storm Windows and Doors

Tel: 718-885-2100 or 718-885-2155  
 Fax: 718-885-2126  
 104 Hawkins Street, City Island, NY 10464

Windows Repaired & Replaced

# 2023 Recap: A Change of Hart and More

By KAREN NANI



The year 2023 saw on- and off-Island changes that affect City Island residents. The Department of Parks and Recreation, which took over jurisdiction of Hart Island in 2021, launched a program to enable the general public to visit the island and learn on site about its fascinating history (top photo). The City Island Civic Association, led by officer Bill Clancy, completed the first phase of its tree-planting program along City Island (second photo). In March, the 127-year-old Rosenberg boathouse (aka Worm Bar) near the City Island Bridge was demolished (top right). Swarms of the spotted lanternfly found their way to City Island and Pelham Bay Park during the summer of 2023 (bottom right).

The year 2023 may be remembered as much for the impact of off-Island events as those affecting the on-Island landscape of City Island and residents as they carried on their daily routines.

In March and December, *The Current* reported on major changes to our “sister island,” Hart Island. After about 40 years during which few people were allowed to visit Hart Island, the Department of Parks and Recreation, which took over jurisdiction for the island in 2021, launched a program for the general public to visit the island and learn on site about its fascinating history. Before the opening, 19 buildings were demolished on Hart Island following an order by the Department of Buildings (DOB) in 2021, days before jurisdiction over the island was switched from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Parks & Recreation. Among these was the smokestack that served as a navigational aid to boaters. At the last moment, the chapel, built in the 1930s, was saved from demolition, much to the relief of many who understood its significance in Hart Island’s history. The Peace Monument, constructed in 1948 by prisoners where Civil War barracks had been located, also remains.

As the largest public cemetery in the United States, with more than 1 million people having been laid to rest there since 1869, the island will gain several thousand square feet for more burials with the demolition of these buildings.

The Parks Department, working with the Department of Transportation, which operates a ferry from Fordham Street on City

Island to Hart Island, will reserve two days a month for families of those buried on the island. Thirty members of the public will be able to visit on two other days each month and given tours by Urban Park Rangers. Registration is required, and if the tour reaches capacity, individuals will be selected by lottery.

On March 8, the old Rosenberg boathouse (aka Worm Bar) at 663 City Island Avenue, near the City Island Bridge was demolished. Some Islanders were upset at the loss of this historic building, while others were relieved to see the deteriorated structure gone for good. For well over a hundred years, the building, supported on pilings that were covered with water at high tide, housed Rosenberg’s Boat Livery, owned and operated by Ferdinand Rosenberg and his descendants from 1890 to 1991, when Eddie Rosenberg (the fifth Edward to operate the business) sold it to Island residents “Trader John” Persteins and John Burke.

Since 2009, after the property went into receivership, the building went downhill very quickly, with holes in the roof, a collapsing chimney, sagging ceilings and broken windows, although the piers that held it even during the highest of tides stayed intact. Some Islanders wanted to save the un-landmarked landmark from demolition, but according to civil engineers, there was no way the building could be renovated or restored, and so the DOB and the Department of Housing Preservation declared it a hazard and ordered it to be destroyed.

In April and October, *The Current* reviewed the impact of the \$30 million high-



way project on I-95 near the Pelham Parkway interchange to widen the highway after the exit ramp to City Island and Orchard Beach. The project is also designed to increase safety, improve pedestrian and bicycle paths and provide access to Co-Op City from the Hutchinson River Parkway north. Many Islanders, however, did not realize that access to I-95 north would not be as easy as in the past, because that ramp, along with several others were eliminated. A new traffic signal was installed along Pelham Parkway, closer to I-95 than the current signal. That is where drivers heading west along Pelham Parkway will have to turn left onto a new ramp to I-95, one that will also accommodate drivers coming east on Pelham Parkway.

Despite the intention to create “a better traffic merge for motorists entering the highway and reducing traffic delays,” the opposite occurred. The elimination of ramps caused traffic tie-ups along the parkway and congestion for Islanders driving over the Shore Road Bridge. The problem arose when the two entrance ramps from eastbound and westbound Pelham Parkway to northbound I-95 were removed. The overall project is slated for completion in the fall of 2024. Needless to say, Islanders trying to reach Pelham Bay or the rest of the Bronx via Pelham Parkway are relieved that this traffic issue has been resolved, at least most of the time. As part of the project, a new exit and ramp is also being constructed off the Hutchinson River Parkway North right before the City Island and Orchard Beach exit. This will enable access to Co-Op City and Bay Plaza for drivers heading north on the Hutch. It is hoped that improved access to Co-Op City from the northbound Hutchinson River Parkway will eliminate the illegal U-turns in Pelham Bay Park at exit 3, which has caused several collisions over the years.

Back on the Island, the City Island Civic Association, led by officer Bill Clancy, completed the first phase of its tree-planting program along City Island Avenue, in spite of the heavy rain, on Saturday, May 20. The ambitious effort involved working with the Department of Parks & Recreation, which provided the young native species of trees, and with elected officials, to obtain funding for the program. Members of the Civic put together a map of the avenue that identified empty tree pits (where a tree died), tree stumps (which could be ground out), grassy areas between the sidewalk and the street curb, and concrete areas where a new tree pit might be created. Forty-five possible spaces were identified, and 25 of them were filled with new trees in May.

Thankfully, the newly planted trees were spared by the swarms of the spotted lanternfly that found their way to City Island and Pelham Bay Park during the summer of 2023. Many residents found these annoying insects on their decks and houses, while hundreds swarmed trees along the walking path between City Island and Orchard Beach. One Islander even had them swarm her paddleboard while she was paddling on Eastchester Bay. Although not harmful to humans, the flies are large, annoying and can damage trees, grapevines and other plants. Islanders and organizations resorted to makeshift traps to contain the insects and are hoping they don’t return in 2024.

Sadly, the Island’s nautical landscape changed for the worse with the closings of



one of the oldest remaining marinas and the last sailmaker. On May 31, the owner of U.S. Crane and Rigging officially evicted Consolidated Yachts from 155 Pilot Street, which had been the site of a boatyard for over 170 years. Wesley Rodstrom Jr., whose family had owned the property since 1959, was forced to leave the property, with all of his equipment and possessions, after three years of fighting the eviction.

Then in October, the last sailmaker on City Island, Doyle-Hild, moved to Westchester County, leaving the Fordham Place address where it had been located for nearly 60 years. Hild Sails was founded in 1962 by clam digger Herbert Hild (1928–2016), who opened a small loft with three employees at the United Shipyard at the east end of Caroll Street (now the Boatyard Condominium). An avid sailor, Hild had worked for 16 years for Charles Ulmer’s sail loft (now UK Sailmakers, which left City Island in 2018 for Port Chester, NY). In 1966, he purchased the lot at 225 Fordham Street, the former site of Airways, a sea plane facility and restaurant, and the sail loft dramatically increased its production. By 1973, the business had grown substantially with a staff of 33 and a 12,000 square-foot loft.

In the fall of 1998, Herb Hild sold the business to Mark Ploch of Doyle Clearwater who had previously worked on City Island, and in 2000, the name of the company was then changed to Doyle-Hild, which remains in business as Doyle Sails but no longer on City Island.

Accomplishments by young Islanders were highlighted by *The Current* throughout 2023. In April, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) celebrated Autism Awareness Month by bringing in children with autism to experience the subway and tell their stories. One of them, City Islander Morgan Calles, age six, takes the subway to school every day accompanied by his father, and he loves trains. The MTA invited kids with autism to pre-record a message for riders, and Morgan submitted a tape based on his love of riding the trains. His announcement was selected as one of eight winners and was played during April for thousands of commuters at 10 different stations throughout the five boroughs. Morgan was featured in an ABC News story that aired on April 10.

City Island scouts worked hard during 2023. Peter Hickey, 16, received the exceptional and hard-earned award of Eagle Scout at the Court of Honor held by Troop 211 at Trinity United Methodist Church. He is the 41st City Island Scout to achieve that goal

*Continued on page 15*



ortegaupholstery
**Eddy Ortega - CEO**

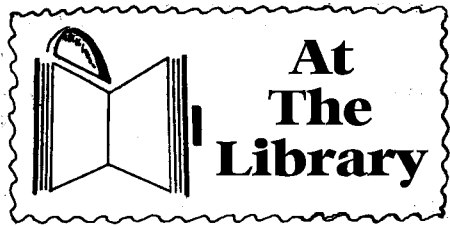
**Phone: 347-995-0890 • Cell: 646-354-8024**

1278 Bronx River Ave., Bronx, NY 10472 • 152 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464

**Email: ortegaupholstery21@gmail.com • Web: www.ortegaupholstery.com**

- SEAT COVERS
- FLOOR LINERS
- CHAIRS
- PLASTIC COVERS
- AUTO TOPS
- BOATS
- GENERAL RESTORATION
- AND MORE!

15% off any purchase of \$1000 and 10% off cost of material



**CITY ISLAND LIBRARY**

**Hours:**

**Mondays & Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**Tuesdays & Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**320 City Island Avenue, Bronx 10464**  
**718-885-1703**

**Shelf Help:** Tell us your reading interests, and we'll pick five books for you! Fill out the online form or call Ask NYPL to receive reads handpicked for you based on your interests. [www.nypl.org/shelfhelp](http://www.nypl.org/shelfhelp)

**FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

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

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

**Chill Zone:** No-stress, no-fuss relaxation time for kids, teens and tweens. Laptops, games, activities and snacks will be available. Ages 10 through 14. Every Friday at 3 p.m.

**Steam Play:** Focuses on giving children the freedom to create, design, engineer and innovate in their own way by experimenting with provided toys. Ages 6 through 10. Every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

**FEBRUARY TEEN & TWEEN PROGRAMS**

**Teen Unwind:** Every Tuesday at 3

p.m. Feb. 6: Looking at Black History; Feb. 13: Year of the Dragon; Feb. 20: We Love the Library; Feb. 27: Origami Frog Jumping Contest.

**Complimen-Tree!:** Fill a leaf with compliments about a friend or family member and attach it to our Complimen-Tree! Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

**Teen Hang Out:** Let the library be your home away from home! Come hang out at the City Island Library for snacks, games, crafts, TV and more. You never know what you're going to find! Saturday, Feb. 10, from 1 to 2 p.m.

**FEBRUARY ADULT PROGRAMS**

**One-to-One Resumé and Job Search:** Subjects will include Job Search and Resumé Help. Thursday, Feb. 1, in person. Thursdays Feb. 8, 15, 22 and 29 online with Google Meet. Please register online at [www.nypl.org/locations/city-island](http://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island).

**City Island Book Club:** Every month, a new title will be chosen, and copies will be available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis. Call us for details on what we're reading. Monday, Feb. 5 and 19, at 5 p.m.

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

**Origami for Adults:** Origami, the art of paper folding, originated in southeast Asia and has been used for both ceremonial and recreational purposes for over 1,000 years. According to numerous experts, origami is both mentally and physically therapeutic because it "engages the mind, cultivates concentration and develops fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination." Plus, it's fun! Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.

**Movie:** "A Thousand and One" on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m.

For any or all programs listed, please go to <https://www.nypl.org/locations/city-island> or call 718-885-1703 for more details and to register. Programs are subject to change.



**Bartow-Pell Events**

Both a New York City and a National Landmark, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road in Pelham Bay Park, offers programs, exhibitions and special events that speak to contemporary life, connect the past to the present and cultivate appreciation for the area's historical, natural, and cultural resources. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 4 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, call 718-885-1461 or visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org). Museum admission is \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and students. Members enjoy free admission. Private group tours of 10 or more and school class trips are available daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with advance reservation.

In "Performing with Masks," writer in residence Amy Frey will work with students on the basics of mask-work, including physicality and improvisation. Students will explore the famous commedia dell'arte masks, including Arrlechino, Pantelone, Columbina and Brighella, and will use their skills to create their own lazzi. Sunday, Feb. 4, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free.

Feb. 9 is the deadline for artists to submit works of art to an exhibition of contemporary art, "Art in Bloom," curated by Mary Colby and Alison McKay. The opening reception will be on Saturday, March 9, and the show will be on view through Sunday, March 31. The focus of this year's show will be "all things bloom-

ing." The theme of the exhibition could be horticulturally inspired but does not have to be literal. Instead, it should be used as a launching point for your creative inspiration.

On Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. BPMM will host a Valentine's Day Crafting and Card Making Workshop. Show your sweetheart that you care with a charming, unique, and handmade Victorian-style Valentine's Day card! Learn about the history of Valentines and the printed "scraps" used to make them in the 19th century while you craft your own original card.



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price
<b>One-Family Houses</b>		
158 Ditmars Street	\$615,000	10/16/23
48 Tier Street	\$250,000	10/19/23
50 Tier Street	\$500,000	10/19/23
95 Schofield Street	\$400,000	11/09/23
70 Buckley Street	\$735,000	11/28/23
<b>Two-Family House</b>		
100 Winters Street	\$675,000	10/11/23
86 Schofield Street	\$745,000	11/21/23
96 Fordham Street	\$730,000	11/30/23
211 Kirby Street	\$919,000	11/30/23

# HARLEM YACHT CLUB

established in 1883, still *the* friendliest place to be on City Island!

Share light refreshments in our beautiful waterfront Clubhouse and let us tell you why we love the Harlem Yacht Club--for more than 135 years the friendliest place on the Western Sound.

## JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

March 10, April 14, May 19, 2024 • 1-6pm • Learn More About Us



**Membership Options:**

- Active—boat owners
- Intermediate—Club Boat Program
- Social—access to restaurant, bar, and social activities including live music & dancing!
- Summer Affiliate—trial program for prospective Active members

**ASA Sailing Lessons:**

- Sailing school for adults & teens
- Junior Sailing Programs for kids and teens
- Waterfront dining April - October
- Award-winning chef
- Active racing program on water
- Social events ashore

If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Membership Chair Anthony Rosco at [membership@hyc.org](mailto:membership@hyc.org) or call our office at 718-885-3078. If you'd like to visit but can't make an Open House, send Anthony an e-mail and arrange a tour when you can.

# THE PATH NOT TAKEN

By MARY MCINTYRE

City Island Theater Group kicks off its 2024 season with Steven Dietz’s play “Becky’s New Car.” It tells the story of Becky Foster, a middle-class woman caught in middle age, a mediocre job and an everyday ho-hum marriage with no prospects of excitement or change on the horizon. However, everything does change the night a socially clumsy, newly widowed millionaire comes to buy nine new cars at the dealership where Becky works. She is offered a new life, and the audience is offered the chance to ride shotgun, with the cast constantly breaking the fourth wall and engaging the audience in ways that most plays don’t. Dietz has written a comedy that is funny, not ironic, not slapstick, not corny, just very

funny. The production is directed by Maria Provenzano, and Pam Johnston is the stage manager. Cast members are Steven Bendler, Laura Lee Botsacos, Sandy Dunn, William Kozy, Imani Logan, James Mohn and Mike Sedia.

The play will run Friday, March 1; Saturday, March 2; Friday, March 8; and Saturday, March 9, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, March 3, and Sunday, March 10, at 3 p.m. All performances are at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue.

Tickets will cost \$30, \$25 for seniors and students. Further ticketing information will be available soon on social media or on our website, [cityislandtheatergroup.org](http://cityislandtheatergroup.org).

## City of Yes

Continued from page 1

rezonings of the past 20 years that have occurred throughout the city—rezonings that encouraged significantly more development in some places while contextualizing new development in others to protect neighborhood character while promoting orderly growth.” He believes that the City of Yes will severely compromise the democratic process in future land use decisions by communities and their elected officials through the massive expansion of as-of-right development and limiting of ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), a standardized procedure in which applications affecting land use in New York City are publicly reviewed.

Mr. Graziano believes that the City of Yes marks an “inflection point” in the history of the city. Previous administrations have always respected the right of different communities to maintain the basic character of their neighborhoods, particularly low-density areas with high owner-occupancy, far from transit and with minimal infrastructure. In contrast, the Adams administration has stated clearly in its scope of work for City of Yes for Housing Opportunity that lower-density neighborhoods—particularly one and two-family neighborhoods—do not have a right to exist. “This is a do or die moment for our low-density areas in New York City,” according to Mr. Graziano.

Many organizations in low-rise housing communities throughout the city, described as exclusionary by Mayor Adams, despite the incredible demographic diversity of these neighborhoods, are fighting this proposal by informing their residents about details of the proposals supported by the mayor, much of it at the expense of one- or two-family housing communities. For informational purposes, New York City’s one-family zoning covers 15% of residential areas and two-family

zoning is another 9%; less than 5% of the Bronx is zoned one-family. By contrast, single-family zoning in Seattle is 81%; Chicago is 79%, Los Angeles is 75% and even Washington D.C. is 36%.

To make the City of Yes into law, Mayor Adams is seeking the support of all 59 community boards, although he does not need their approval to proceed. Approval is required, however, from both the City Planning Commission, which is chaired by the director of City Planning, and the City Council.

At the CB10 meeting on Jan. 24, DCP announced that on that same day community boards and members of the public had been invited to express their concerns or support at the only public hearing that will be held on the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity. Community boards that had not yet voted on the issue were not invited, however, and many of them remain uninformed about the plan. Nevertheless, no further hearings will be held even after the remaining boards have voted, according to DCP.

City Islander Jerry Landi pointed out at the meeting that it is highly likely all three parts of the City of Yes will be passed by the City Council in spite of concerns raised by residential areas in the city and that our communities should all be on the alert for unwanted changes in local zoning.

For that reason, the City Island Civic Association will be sponsoring a town hall meeting for the community in February to discuss the third part of the City of Yes, on residential development, which will be voted on by Community Board 10 before the summer. Check Facebook for updates.

Visitors to the NYC website will find attractive images and brief descriptions of these three sections of “The City of Yes,” but those interested in the ways in which City Island might be affected are encouraged to read the fine print of the housing plan, all 1,100 pages of which are available at <https://zap.planning.nyc.gov/projects/2023Y0427>.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Photos by VIRGINIA DANNEGGER, RICK DeWITT, PAUL NANI and courtesy of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE The Chamber of Commerce hung sparkling lights above City Island Avenue for the holidays and made sure the Christmas tree and Hanukkah menorah were lit in Hawkins Park in spite of weather delays. Children and teens told the story of Christmas during pageants at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Trinity United Methodist Church and Grace Episcopal Church (top three photos). Other joyous Chamber holiday events included visits with Santa in Hawkins Park on Dec. 9 and a countdown to 2024 at the Harlem Yacht Club on Dec. 31.

**city island handyman**

christian owner

168 ditmars street  
city island, ny 10464

**718-679-2396**

sheetrock, painting, power washing,  
carpentry, kitchens, baths, faucets,  
fences, light fixtures, locks,  
furniture assembly, moving demo  
and a whole lot more

free estimates

## 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.

### Sons of the American Legion

February greetings, and here's hoping everyone has had a good start to the year.

Our meeting will be on Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. If you are thinking about joining the SAL, this would be a good night to stop in and meet some of our members. We are here year round to support the American Legion and our veterans and veteran families. We are always looking to welcome new members into our ranks.

On Feb. 9, the Post will be hosting Cupid Con. The party starts at 7 p.m. Wear red or your best Valentine's Day garb. Faded Vinyl will be supplying the music for the evening, so come ready to rock out.

On Feb. 10, the Post will be holding a Valentine's Day Party for grades 6 through 9 from 6 to 9 p.m.

On Feb. 11, the Legion will host its annual Super Bowl party starting at 5:30 p.m. This will be a potluck party, so bring your best party dish. We have plenty of screens to watch the game, so nobody will have a bad seat.

On Feb. 24, the SAL will host the 74th annual Pig's Knuckle Party which will kick off at 6 p.m. The price for the party is \$35, which includes tap beer and soda along with our dinner menu.

For questions about membership or any of our events, you can call American Legion Post 156 at 718-885-0639 from 12 noon to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the American Legion, our veterans, and those who currently serve in our armed forces.

**Peter Chadwick**

### American Legion Auxiliary

On Nov. 6, 2023, the American Legion Auxiliary's Corresponding Secretary, Michelle Del Pozzo, arranged a visit by Col. Michael Clancy at P.S. 175 to speak with fifth-grade students. He spoke about how he came to join the Army and about his 28-year career in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As he explained what each of the numerous pins and patches on his uniform jacket represented, the children asked many intriguing questions and were quite interactive. This was a great experience for all involved and they thanked Col. Clancy for his service.

The holiday fair was a great success! Thank you to all for coming by and supporting our local vendors.

Please note that there will not be a January meeting. We will meet again on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

**Michelle Del Pozzo**

### City Island Oyster Reef

In December City Island's P.S. 175 and Jefferson Elementary School in New Rochelle were selected to be part of the Long Island Sound (LIS) School Network. Funded by EPA Long Island Sound Study and facilitated by Connecticut Sea Grant and Mercy University, this designation was given to schools that have demonstrated a commitment to the protection and conservation of Long Island Sound, and our one global ocean. Only five schools were chosen from the New York State area. This designation means they will receive additional funding and resources related to the study of the marine environment. CIOR has supported the educational programs at both schools over the past few years.

Julie Porras, principal of P.S. 175, and Karen Heil, science teacher and CIOR advisor, along with fellow science teachers organized an Oysterama in December

where the students showcased the oyster spat collectors that they designed with the help of Col. (retired) Michael Clancy and Mike Carew of Captain Mike's Diving. Julie, Karen and their team continue to ignite our student scientists' passion for marine ecology and preserving our natural environment.

This coming summer CIOR, with the support of a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Long Island Sound's Futures Fund, has been able to hire college and graduate students who are passionate about protecting the environment. They will be actively involved in collecting and analyzing data, developing our educational programs and running our shell collection program with local restaurants throughout 2024. CIOR is a 100 percent volunteer organization except for the students that we support.

To find out more about City Island Oyster Reef, visit [www.cioysterreef.org](http://www.cioysterreef.org).

**Sally Connolly**

### Trinity United Methodist Church

These times are such that God has given us a beautiful mission; "That by the power of the Holy Spirit we are to seek, grow and share the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ." Come and receive, then go forth and share this love, joy and peace with those you know and love. The world we all live in needs us all to be the beacon of light that Trinity is known for being. Won't you come?

Our worship is Sunday at 10 a.m. Come and experience inspired worship and fantastic music all by the grace of God.

Our Sunday School has reopened, and runs during Sunday worship, in a freshly revitalized room with Pat LaPorte and David Ellis as our teachers. Children and youth, won't you come and be blessed? Jesus wants all to make room and time for children and youth and we do so with love, joy and peace.

Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. our Budget Corner Thrift Shop is open. The Rev. Susan Chadwick Food Pantry is Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Youth Group meets each Wednesday at 4:30 with a free community supper following at 6 p.m. and Prayer Group at 6:45 p.m. All youth are invited to the Youth Group and everyone is invited to the meal and prayer time. Love, joy and peace to all!

A new form of serving our neighbors comes at Trinity UMC in the formation of a "Mommy and Me" Group. Although it has not yet begun, it will begin soon. Call Pastor Dave at 845-532-3378 for more information.

Finally, Trinity joined with the Rotary Club of the Bronx to collect more than 55 coats for people in the Bronx. Members of Trinity's Youth Group helped to gather and package coats, hats, gloves and socks. The Rotary developed the drive and collected most of the coats, and Trinity's sister church, Iglesia Evangelica of Co-op City also gathered many. Community works!

**Rick DeWitt**

### Grace Episcopal Church

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

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



The Bronx Community Guardianship Network, Inc., of 311 City Island Avenue, held its first Friendraiser/Fundraiser event at the Harlem Yacht Club on Dec. 28, 2023. On hand to share information about their important work was (l. to r.) Chairman of the Board Dr. Peter Masella, President Pat Hennessy and John D'Alessandro, Esq., board member.

**Pancake Supper:** On Tuesday, Feb. 13, Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras), Grace will hold its famous pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. in the church hall. The menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausages, hot cross buns and hot and cold beverages. Fr. Kevin Moroney ("The Singing Vicar") will be providing musical entertainment. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

**Ash Wednesday:** The Ash Wednesday service will be held the following day, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Fr. Kevin will also distribute ashes at 12 noon on Ash Wednesday.

**Sunday School:** It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children and teens. The students range in age from 2 to 18, and newcomers are welcome. Members of the church school will begin preparing for their presentation of "The Passion of Christ" on Palm Sunday, March 24. For more information, call Karen Nani at 917-853-4401 or e-mail her at [karenrnl@optonline.net](mailto:karenrnl@optonline.net).

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

Trinity.

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

**Karen Nani**

**BUDDY'S HARDWARE & MARINE**

**A full service hardware & marine supply store**  
**KARL HOEDL**

268 City Island Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10464

718-885-1447  
Fax: 718-885-1617  
[hoedlk@buddyshardware.com](mailto:hoedlk@buddyshardware.com)

**LICENSED & INSURED MASTER ELECTRICIAN**

**Office: (718) 885-0824**  
**Office: (718) 885-1200**

**KEE** Emergency: (914) 760-1106  
**INC.**

**ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION**  
**KURT W. EBINGER**

**"QUALITY IS OUR KEE TO SUCCESS"**

**RESIDENTIAL • EMERGENCY SERVICE • COMMERCIAL**  
Light • Heat • Power • Installations • Design Service

107 Caroll Sreet • City Island, NY 10464  
[keelectric@aol.com](mailto:keelectric@aol.com)







**City Island's Expert and Resident**  
**Raymond "Stingray" Maldonado**  
Has 28 years experience in the Real Estate Business

**A Retired NYPD Officer.**

**He does not use a lockbox because he will be there personally for every showing.**

**When you need help CALL Stingray!**




**Raymond Maldonado**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

[RaySells123@yahoo.com](mailto:RaySells123@yahoo.com)

C. 646-296-7995  
760 White Plains Rd.  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**KW REALTY GROUP**  
KELLERWILLIAMS







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

Greetings from the City Island Community Center. Although we are braving the blustery cold weather right now, the Center is thinking ahead to our end-of-winter Flea Market. On the weekend of March 2 and 3, the City Island Community Center will offer table rentals for a fundraiser sale. Rent a table for Saturday at \$25 or for both Saturday and Sunday at \$40. Bring all good-condition items for sale and get a headstart on some spring cleaning.

Our Center rental schedule has picked up for upcoming holiday and ceremonial celebrations. Book your party soon to reserve your preferred dates. Friendly reminder: Community Center rentals are limited to City Island residents. Please contact board member Maria Sipas at 917-807-5933 if you are interested in any upcoming dates.

Our winter schedule of offerings is below:

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

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

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

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

**Girl Scouts:** Fridays, bi-weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**AA:** Saturdays and Sundays, 7:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Melissa Cebollero

**St. Mary's Thrift Shop**

The Thrift Shop is open on Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come see our Valentine's Day items, our half-price sales and bag sales. We will be showing our Spring Collection starting on March 14. We look forward to seeing you.

Arlene Byrne

**AARP Chapter 318**

We meet at Trinity United Methodist Church Hall on Bay Street. Feb. 8, 2024, is our next meeting, which will start at 12 noon with bingo to follow. There will also be a meeting on Feb. 15 with sandwich bingo. At this meeting they will be collecting \$115 for a trip to Mardi Gras at Staaten, on Staten Island. We will also collect \$35 for a St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 14, to be held at Trinity Church Hall. For more information, call Cathy Kehoe at 718-824-0037.

Cathy Kehoe

**Garden Club of City Island**

At our January general meeting, member Hailey Clancy presented the second in her series of talks on native plants. Since establishing her native plant garden, Hailey has many more native birds visit her garden (and her neighbors' gardens), and her presentation included beautiful photographs of her bird visitors. Hailey shared some important tips on successful gardening, such as matching the plants to the conditions in different parts of your garden. This means having your soil tested for pH levels and nutrients, as well as observing where your garden gets sun and where shade predominates. Trying the same type of plant in several locations can tell which location is the best for that plant. She pointed out that there is a difference between the "species" version of a plant and a cultivar. In nature, we generally see the generic "species" version. However, nurseries now sell cultivated varieties of native plants that have been chosen or bred for specific characteristics. Only time will tell if the cultivars work as well as native plants. She also suggested downloading the app "Picture This" on your cell phone to make sure you are buying the plant that you think you are buying.

In February, Isak Mendes from the New York City Parks Department will give a presentation on the Parks Department's community garden program, GreenThumb. The presentation starts around 10:15 and runs for 45 minutes. All are welcome!

The Garden Club has started working on its projects for the upcoming year, including our annual fundraiser luncheon which will be held in May. Everyone is invited to attend this fun event. We will be sending out more information about the luncheon as the details are worked out.

We have ordered additional plant containers to replace the old white ones on the north end of the Island. These will match the new containers in the middle of the Island. All of the containers will be filled with plants in the spring and again in the summer. Once again, we will be asking the residents and businesses for donations to support our beautification projects and will be distributing letters to all who live on the island.

These projects are possible because of the generous donations made to our Beautification Fund. Thanks go to our residents and businesses for making this possible. Future donations may be sent to Garden Club of City Island, P.O. Box 43, Bronx, NY 10464.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Garden Club or being a "Helping Hand" for club projects, drop a

note to [gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com](mailto:gardenclubofcityisland@gmail.com) or attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. at City Island Yacht Club.

Judy Judson

**PSS City Island Center**

Happy New Year! Please stop by PSS City Island Center and check out the many exciting activities we have to offer. Please remember to update your membership in the New Year. Membership is free. Members have access to the Center's classes, activities, special membership-only trips/events, as well as a variety of support services.

If you need assistance with your technology devices be sure to stop by the center on Mondays to book an appointment with Julio Melo-Ramos. Julio is at the Center on Mondays for individual appointments in the morning. He is now offering a Zoom only class on Androids at 11 a.m. and two in-person classes for iPhones and Android phones in the afternoon. Our part-time social worker, Miriam Rodriguez, is available to help with benefits and entitlements such as Meals-on-Wheels, SNAP, Access-A-Ride, SCRIE, and Medicare/ Medicaid. Please call the center at 718-885-0727 to book an appointment for Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Lunch in the center is from 12 to 1 p.m. Pick up for lunch will be available at noon as well. The Grab and Gab friendly visiting and lunch program has started for isolated, homebound members of the City Island community. Please let us know if there is someone on the Island who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer to bring someone a meal and join them with lunch and a friendly visit. We also have a telephone reassurance program if an older adult would like weekly check-in calls.

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

**February Activities**

(get calendar as activities are constantly updated)

**The Current Schedule**

**Monday**

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in-person)
- 10:30 a.m. Balance Class with Susan (remote and in-person)
- 8:15 to 11 a.m. One-on-one tech assistance with Julio
- 11 a.m. to 12 noon Technology class on Zoom with Julio
- 11:30 a.m. Mensa Mondays
- 1 p.m. i-Phone classes
- 1:45 p.m. Android Smartphone classes

**Tuesday**

- 9 a.m. CardioFit with Mary (remote and in person)
- 10 a.m. Yoga Stretch with Mary (remote and in person)
- 12 noon In the News
- 12:45 p.m. Daily Dad Jokes

**Wednesday**

- 10:15 a.m. Arthritis Exercise (remote and in person)
- 1 p.m. Board Games-Play Chess, Scrabble, Canasta, Mahjongg
- 1:15 p.m. In The News

**Thursday**

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi (remote and in person)
- 10 a.m. VNS Health Chair Yoga (remote)
- 10 a.m. Acrylic Painting with Lois (in person)
- 1 p.m. Trivia Thursdays

**Friday**

- 9 a.m. Broadway Dance (in person and remote)
- 11 a.m. Blood Pressure Testing
- 11:30 a.m. Brain Games
- 1 p.m. Self Defense with Sensei Eddie of City Island

Transportation: Transportation is available daily for shopping trips with a donation which is needed to keep this service at City Island. Please call Alex at 347-834-6466 for the monthly trip calendar and/or to reserve a seat.

Stay safe and healthy.

Susan Rosendahl-Masella

**Quality Wash Dry & Fold**  
**Professional Dry Cleaning**  
**Service**  
**Expert Tailoring Available**  
**Free Pick Up & Delivery!**  
**7 a.m. - Last Wash - 9 p.m.**  
**Clam Digger Owned & Operated**  
**917-709-0713**  
**310 City Island Avenue**

**Family Owned & Operated**  
**Since 1959**  
**OWENS**  
**TREE SERVICE**  
**Trimming & Removal**  
**718.885.0914**  
**Free Estimates & Fully Insured | OwensTrees.com**



### George Clooney Revisited

As I said about him in my column in 2010, George Clooney is one of the most “likable” actors I’ve ever encountered on the screen. No matter what role he takes, there seems to be a genuine decency at the core of each character. Back then his works that I covered were: **ER** (1994-99), **From Dusk Till Dawn** (1996), **One Fine Day** (1996), **The Peacemaker** (1997), **Out of Sight** (1998), **Three Kings** (1999), **The Perfect Storm** (2000), **O Brother, Where Art Thou?** (2000), **Ocean’s Eleven** (2001), **Twelve** (2004), **Thirteen** (2007), **Solaris** (2002), **Good Night and Good Luck** (2005), **Syriana** (2005), **The Good German** (2006), **Burn After Reading** (2008), **The Men Who Stare at Goats** (2009) and **Up in the Air** (2009). It was delightful to check out some films I overlooked and those he has made since then.

**Michael Clayton** (2007) stars Clooney in the title role as a “fixer” for a very powerful law firm run by Marty Bach (Sydney Pollack). Karen Crowder (Tilda Swinton), the chief legal executive for the firm, is representing a guilty corporation that is the target of a poisonous pollution class action suit. The story revolves around a close personal friend of Clayton, Arthur Edens (Tom Wilkinson), a top partner in the firm, who stopped taking his medication and freaked out during a deposition. Clayton’s job is to bring Edens back under control before the class action suit comes tumbling down. This film received seven Academy Award nominations, with Tilda Swinton winning for her outstanding supporting role.

**The American** (2010) is an intriguing film starring Clooney as a weapons expert

and assassin. He works for Pavel (Johan Leysen), who assigns him a job that involves meeting a woman named Mathilde (Thekla Reuten) in an Italian village. There he meets the local priest, Father Benedetto (Paolo Bonacelli), who unwittingly helps him find all the parts he needs to build a custom silencer. In the village he also meets a prostitute, Clara (Violante Placido), whom he wants to love, but his ability to trust is non-existent. The irony in the name of the film is that it is very European in its approach and leisurely pacing, and Clooney’s character is the only American in the movie.

Directed by Clooney, **The Ides of March** (2011) stars Ryan Gosling as idealistic press secretary Stephen Meyers, who makes some crucial mistakes (both personal and professional) while working on the presidential primary campaign of a man he genuinely believes in, popular governor Mike Morris (Clooney). As Ohio’s Democratic primary nears, Morris seems a shoo-in for the nomination over his opponent, Senator Pullman (Michael Mantell). Meyers is a gifted campaign spokesperson whose inexperience occasionally plays a key factor, and he drives campaign manager Paul Zara (Philip Seymour Hoffman) crazy while they both have to deal with a nosy New York Times journalist (Marisa Tomei). The two campaigns heat up after the endorsement of local Senator Thompson (Jeffrey Wright), a heavyweight with enough delegates to tip the scales and determine the winner. Although Meyers believes in his candidate’s integrity and the democratic process, he has a meeting with Pullman’s campaign manager (Paul Giamatti) and a dalliance with a young intern (Evan Rachel Wood). These actions set in motion events that threaten Morris’s election chances.

**The Descendants** (2011) is the story of Matt King (Clooney), who lives with his family in Hawaii. Their world shatters when a tragic accident leaves his wife, Elizabeth (Patricia Hastie), in a coma. Overnight he must become a full-time parent to his young daughter, Scottie (Amara Miller), and her older rebellious teenage sister, Alexandra (Shailene Woodley). Clooney has never been better. Not only must Matt struggle with the stipulation in his wife’s will that she be

allowed to die with dignity, but he also faces pressure from relatives to sell their family’s enormous historic land trust. Angry and terrified at the same time, Matt tries to be a good father to his young daughters, as they too try to cope with their mother’s possible death. The films received five Oscar nominations with a win for best adapted screenplay.

**Gravity** (2013) stars Sandra Bullock as medical engineer Dr. Ryan Stone and George Clooney as veteran commander Matt Kowalsky. Stone is on her first shuttle mission, and Kowalsky is helming his last flight before retirement. During a routine space walk by the pair, disaster strikes as their ship is hit by a rapidly expanding cloud of space debris accidentally caused when the Russians shot down a presumed defunct spy satellite. The shuttle is destroyed, leaving the astronauts stranded in deep space with no link to Earth and no hope of rescue. As fear turns to panic, they realize that the only way home may be to venture farther into space. The films received seven Oscar nominations with a win for Bullock as best actress.

**Monuments Men** (2014) is loosely based on the true story of the greatest treasure hunt in history. Also directed by Clooney, this action drama focuses on an unlikely World War II platoon tasked by FDR with going into Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and returning them to their rightful owners. The team, dubbed “the Monuments Men,” consists of Frank Stokes (Clooney), James Granger (Matt Damon), Richard Camp (Bill Murray), Walter Garfield (John Goodman), Jean Claude Clermont (Jean Dujardin), Preston Savitch (Bob Balaban) and Donald Jeffries (Hugh Bonneville). The men find themselves taking a great personal risk in their race against time to avoid the destruction of 1,000 years of culture. Cate Blanchett appears as Claire Simone, a curator in occupied France who, though forced to assist the Nazis, has secretly compiled a comprehensive ledger with valuable information on the stolen art and the rightful owners. It was not critically acclaimed because of questions about the historical accuracy. However, I found this an exciting thought-provoking film that considers the question of whether works of art are worth

the sacrifice of human life.

Directed by the Coen Brothers, **Hail Caesar!** (2016) is set in the early 1950s at Capitol Pictures, a fictional movie studio. Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) is tasked with trying to solve all the problems of the actors and filmmakers. His latest assignments involve disgruntled director Laurence Laurentz (Ralph Fiennes), singing cowboy Hobie Doyle (Alden Ehrenreich), beautiful swimmer aquatic musical star DeeAnna Moran (Scarlett Johansson), and handsome dancer Burt Gurney (Channing Tatum). A pair of twin gossip columnists (both played by Tilda Swinton) are demanding answers to awkward questions and threatening to go public with an awkward story about the studio’s biggest matinee idol, Baird Whitlock (George Clooney), who was mysteriously kidnapped while in costume for the swords-and-sandals epic “Hail, Caesar!”

Directed by Jodie Foster, **Money Monster** (2016) is the story of Wall Street guru Lee Gates (George Clooney), who picks hot stocks as host of the television show “Money Monster.” Suddenly, during a live broadcast, disgruntled investor Kyle Budwell (Jack O’Connell) storms onto the set and, claiming he has lost everything on one of Gates’s tips, takes Gates hostage. As Gates tries to plead with Budwell, he is using an earpiece to communicate with his longtime producer Patty Fenn (Julia Roberts) in the control room. Together, they must figure out a way to defuse the situation and disarm the angry young man.

In the rom-com **Ticket to Paradise** (2022) George Clooney and Julia Roberts are together again, this time as a divorced couple David and Georgia Cotton. The two race to Bali, Indonesia, to stop their daughter, Lily (Kaitlyn Dever), from marrying seaweed farmer Gede (Maxime Bouttier). Gede saved Lily and her friend Wren (Billie Lourd) when a boat left them behind while they were snorkeling. As the parents desperately try to sabotage the wedding, the bickering duo soon find themselves rekindling old feelings that once made them happy together, much to the consternation of Georgia’s current boyfriend, Paul (Lucas Bravo), who was the pilot of the airplane that flew them to Bali. And until next time, happy viewing...

# The Cormac McEnery Law Firm

Kerry A. Dinneen, Esq.  
Elizabeth Esola  
Margaret A. Murphy  
Brian Esola

718 885-1234  
cormac@cormacmcenery.com

562 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY



# Strive for Loving Kindness and Look for Daily Delights: Two New Year's Resolutions You Can Keep

By JOHN SCARDINA, Certified School Psychologist

Welcome to 2024. It's been quite a January, hasn't it? You may have had some new year's resolutions, and maybe they are going well. I hope so; keep the faith and persevere!

As we move into February, let's decide to put some simple practices in place as we parent our children and live our lives.

• **Loving kindness:** We all like to be treated with love and respect. Our children respond to our warmth and generosity, and interactions based on love and kindness might provide better results. In general—with everyone, including our children, our spouses, our colleagues and our neighbors—good communication goes a long way. Here is a simple acronym that might guide our words with others: THINK: is what I am about to say **T**True, **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary and **K**ind? Now we can move forward with the world from a place of positivity, giving the recipient of our words the gift of conscious communication based on positive intention. Children get it when they receive loving kindness, but you may need to coach your child on how to give loving kindness to others.

• **Delight:** Often I find myself rushing through my day, focused on what I need to do and where I need to be. Reading the news can leave me in despair, and a general sense of pessimism can lead me to find fault with everything and everyone (just ask the people who live with me!). I often need to stop and just pay attention. The natural world offers many opportunities for delight: sunlight through a frozen branch coated with ice; a cardinal calling out its territory; the beauty here on City Island of the wind on the water. Music gives me delight—both listening to it and playing it myself. Children are wired for delight; they point out delightful sights (“Daddy, look—a rainbow!”), often while we are stuck in traffic and ready to go into road rage. How about adding a “delight practice” to your daily routine, with journal entries to chronicle the small wonders of your day?

This all sounds so simplistic, yet in fact it really works. Adding loving kindness and delight to your daily life will make you a better person (and parent and colleague and spouse and neighbor!) and definitely see you through challenging times like these.

## City Island Culinary Club

By KENNY SELESKY

Hello and greetings from the Culinary Club. It's hard to believe we are already well into 2024 with the holidays behind us, but we are all excited to be back and cooking up a storm. And, of course, love is in the air as Valentine's Day is almost upon us. We truly encourage anyone who has any interest to please drop in and join us at the City Island Community Center. on Mondays Feb. 5 and 19, at 7 p.m., when our theme will be cozy winter comfort foods. Here is our recipe for Meatloaf Cupcakes, my go-to recipe for a potluck or a party. You can use your favorite meatloaf recipe or try this one.

### Meatloaf Cupcakes (serves 12)

#### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 4 cups mashed potatoes
- Chives, cherry tomatoes

#### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Mix the ground beef, breadcrumbs, eggs, onion, pepper, milk, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, black pepper, and seasoned salt together with the ketchup in a bowl.
3. Fill 12 muffin cups with the beef mixture, leaving a half-inch space on the top.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until it is no longer pink in the center, about 30 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 160 degrees F. Drain fat from the muffin cups.
5. Top each “cupcake” with mashed potatoes and sprinkle with chives and top with a cherry tomato.
6. Insert the cupcakes in cupcake papers to serve.

# THE DRAGON QUEEN: MARGUERITE CHADWICK-JUNER



Photos by ANGIE PROPST and STEPHEN RICE

The 2023 Dragon Burn bonfire effigy was steampunk style. Marguerite Chadwick-Juner stands in front of her creation on the morning of the burn just after the head was lifted up on top of the body and secured by a local tree service company using a spyder. Inset shows the 20-foot-tall first dragon from 2019 fully engulfed in flame.

Several years ago, Marguerite Chadwick-Juner—clam digger and artist, and designer, typesetter, and cartoonist for *The Island Current*—moved to Oriental, a waterfront town in North Carolina. Every year, beginning in 2019, the Pamlico Arts Council has burned a huge bonfire as a membership fundraiser to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Because the dragon is Oriental's official mascot, Marguerite proposed that the bonfire be created in the shape of a dragon made of natural and burnable recycled materials. Pallets are used to create the body of the dragon which is then “skinned” in cardboard, pallet wood pieces and other safely burnable materials. Chris Daniels builds the body and tail “skeleton”, and Marguerite creates the head and cardboard skins that cover that substructure.

Before the fire is lighted, attendees are

invited to write wishes, dreams, thoughts or memorials on the dragon's body, which “will be sent to the heavens on wings of smoke.” Students from local schools are invited to submit drawings of a dragon using the year's chosen theme which is used on t-shirts and advertising for the event and the winning student is invited to attend the event and autograph the t-shirts. Before the burning, a team of dragon dancers dances around the effigy in a traditional Chinese dragon costume. There is also a corps of drummers called the Drummin' Dragons who build the beat for the lighting of the bonfire. After the fire collapses, people remain to finish off the night listening and dancing to the music of the Southern Hellcats and have a few drinks around the small auxilliary firepits sprinkled around the property of the of the Red Rooster outdoor bar and stage.



COMING SOON

On City Island

Opening in

February 2024

Dollar store items

Arts & Crafts

Passport Photos

Household & Beauty Products

Snacks

Party Supplies & Rentals

Toys

Balloons

and many more...

**Island Bargains & Party Boutique**  
 290 City Island Ave,  
 City Island, Bronx NY.  
 (917) 634-5140

Follow us on  
**Facebook & Instagram:**  
**@Islandbargainsparty**

Happy Valentine's Day From

## COMPLEXIONS of City Island

complexionsci.com  
 complexionsci@gmail.com  
 Call: 718-885-0188  
 Text: 347-210-5402  
 403 City Island Ave  
 Bronx, NY 10464

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!

-Facials

-Peels

-Microderm

-Massage

-Botox

-Juvederm

and more!

Gift Certificates Available!

# Obituaries

The Current will print obituaries free of charge upon notification by a member of the deceased's immediate family. Call 718-885-0760 or write to P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464, including your telephone number.



### Domenick DiMarco

Longtime City Island resident Domenick DiMarco passed away on Dec. 3, 2023, at the age of 90 in Winter Haven, FL, surrounded by his family.

Dom was born in the Bronx on Feb. 19, 1933, to Galliano and Assunta DiMarco. He grew up in New York City and attended Cardinal Hayes High School in the 1940s. Dom went on to serve his country in the Korean War in the 1950s and on his return graduated from Manhattan College on the GI Bill. He met and married his wife, Joanne (Germino) DiMarco, on Nov. 22, 1959, and after spending a few years in Connecticut in the 1960s, Dom and his family planted roots on Bay Street on City Island, where they raised their two children, Stephanie and Christopher.

Dom loved his work as an engineer during the 1970s and 1980s for RCA Global Communications until his retirement. He became a full-time grandparent to his grandchildren until he and Joanne moved to Florida in 2006 to enjoy their later years. Dom loved helping his family and friends with all types of house projects and everyday needs, and he was a talented carpenter who built model cars in his spare time.

Nothing was more important to Dom than his family and the many friends he made on his daily walks to Orchard Beach. He was a devoted father, grandfather to his four grandchildren, and husband to Joanne, who passed away in February 2023. Dom was an adventurer and loved traveling with Joanne to many states and countries over

the years. He loved boating and fishing on Long Island Sound, and he spent much time with his son at Yankee Stadium in the '70s and '80s and on many visits to Cooperstown.

Dom regularly attended services at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church for many years and then went to St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Winter Haven, FL. His generous attitude, devotion to his family and grandchildren, heart of gold and love of fitness and being a great neighbor defined Dom's life.

He is predeceased by his wife, Joanne, and survived by his daughter, Stephanie Brusco-Barker (Alton) of Tampa, Fla; his son, Christopher DiMarco of City Island and four grandchildren, Jennifer Desroches, Jessica Wurzbarger, Christopher DiMarco Jr. and Julia DiMarco.

A celebration of Dom and Joanne's lives and funeral services will be held in early 2024 in their final resting place here in New York.



### Mary Ann Brownlee

Former City Island resident Mary Ann Brownlee passed away on Jan. 7, 2024, in Fredericksburg, TX, at the age of 93.

She was born on Oct. 29, 1930, to Cicilia and Chester Brownlee, and spent about 20 years living on City Island from the mid-1980s to 2004. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Mary Ann worked as a high school and college English teacher, but she was also a fashion model and a television weatherwoman, and she portrayed funny characters in numerous children's programs and in community theaters.

While living on City Island, she worked with underprivileged adults as a career

educator and as a chaplain and counselor following the 9/11 attack.

She is survived by her children, Lynn Marentette, Greg Vosgerchian and Karen Roberts; her grandchildren Kara, Lauren, Jessica, Tyler, Charity, Nathaniel, Aaron and Bethany; and great-grandchildren Levi and Kaspian.

Instead of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Foundation at 500 Eighth Avenue, Suite 900, New York, NY 10018, or online at [franciscanfoundation.org](http://franciscanfoundation.org).



### Carol Gauss McKenna

Clam digger Carol Gauss McKenna passed away peacefully on Dec. 23, 2023, at her residence in Shannondell in Audubon, PA, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. She was 86.

Carol was born to Philip and Evelyn Gauss on April 14, 1937. She spent her childhood growing up in City Island, where her father was General Manager of Minneford Yacht Yard, which built several America's Cup racing sailboats.

Carol married Islander Robert (Bob) McKenna in 1961. They were raised on the same block, Earley Street, and were happily married for 62 years. They had two children, Lauren and Kenneth. After living in Puerto Rico and New Jersey for several years, Carol and her family settled in Tappan, NY, where they lived for 47 years.

Although she had a successful career in advertising, Carol chose to dedicate herself full time to raising her children and to charitable initiatives. She was an active parishioner at Grace Episcopal Church on City Island through her adult years. After moving to Tappan, she and her family became parishioners at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pearl River. Christian faith was extremely important to her. She

was dedicated to serving others and was an integral part of various church outreach programs, including the St. Stephen's Cooking Ministry and food cupboard. She established and ran a program in which volunteers would regularly visit elderly members of the community to make sure their physical and social needs were being met. Carol was also very active in the church leadership during her years at St. Stephens, which included serving as warden of the church. Her children would often remark that her various volunteer positions added up to more than a full-time job.

In her later years, Carol pursued her love of tennis and golf in Naples, FL, where she and Bob would spend the winter. The most important thing in Carol's life was her family. She was a gracious and generous host, wonderful cook and the organizer of countless joyful family gatherings.

Carol is survived by her beloved husband, Bob; her children, Lauren (Damian) and Kenneth (Wasana), and her grandchildren, Philip, Christopher, Alexandra and Boone, whom she adored. She is also survived by her sister, Melinda Halligan, and her cousins Karen Nani and Eric Rauhauer.

Friends and family are invited to attend a service in celebration of Carol's life, which will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, located at 84 Ehrhardt Road, Pearl River, NY, on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund via check to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 84 Ehrhardt Road, Pearl River, New York 10965.



## PIANO TUNING

Rebuilding & Refinishing  
Buying, Selling & Moving  
30 Years Experience


Please Contact:  
**Ralph Merigliano**  
Cell: 914-262-6912  
[rmerig3@msn.com](mailto:rmerig3@msn.com)

Stop waiting for the City Council to lower its budget; we still need more TOUCHSCREEN SUBWAY KIOSKS.

Stop waiting for Albany to lower the state annual budget; they need to deal with the rising costs of the TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE.

There's a more immediate path to saving money on your property taxes...

**Apfelbaum & Apfelbaum**  
LLP



**LOWER. PROPERTY TAXES. NOW.**

We advise and represent owners of commercial and retail properties, apartment buildings, condominiums and cooperatives throughout the five boroughs of New York City in property tax-related matters and tax certiorari.

Visit us today and fill out our easy online Property Form  
[www.apflaw.com](http://www.apflaw.com)

**Apfelbaum & Apfelbaum, LLP**  
Attorneys at Law  
31-18 38th Avenue, Suite #2  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
(646) 355-8602 | [info@apflaw.com](mailto:info@apflaw.com)

Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.



MAN OVERBOARD presents

# Vic Anthony

## Saturday Feb 17th

### Showtime 9:00 pm

Reservation Suggested

**NO COVER / 2 DRINK MIN.**  
**COMPLIMENTARY BUFFET INCLUDED**

# 718.885.3333



# The Sounds of Sinatra

**CITY ISLAND, NEW YORK**  
Times and heights of high and low water (Eastern Standard Time)  
Heights in feet above soundings printed on charts of water adjacent to City Island. Times shown are nautical times. For times on the table beginning with 1300, subtract 1200 to get ordinary PM time (e.g., 1625 - 1200 = 4:25 P.M.). Times less than 1200 are A.M. times (e.g., 1154 = 11:54 A.M.).  
HH = hours; MM = minutes Tide chart by Tom Smith

FEBRUARY 2024									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	HHMM	FEET	
01 Thu	0251	6.95	0912	0.74	1514	6.29	2124	0.72	Thu 01
02 Fri	0335	6.92	1002	0.87	1604	6.06	2213	0.91	Fri 02
03 Sat	0425	6.90	1058	0.96	1701	5.89	2306	1.07	Sat 03
04 Sun	0501	6.80	1146	0.60	1743	5.70	2351	0.80	Sun 04
05 Mon	0603	6.90	1313	0.40	1858	5.90			Mon 05
06 Tue	0058	0.60	0712	7.20	1433	0.60	2012	6.20	Tue 06
07 Wed	0209	0.30	0818	7.70	1529	-0.50	2107	6.70	Wed 07
08 Thu	0315	-0.20	0915	8.20	1618	-0.90	2156	7.20	Thu 08
09 Fri	0413	-0.60	1008	8.50	1705	-1.20	2244	7.70	Fri 09
10 Sat	0508	-1.00	1100	8.70	1749	-1.40	2333	8.10	Sat 10
11 Sun	0601	-1.20	1151	8.60	1853	-1.50			Sun 11
12 Mon	0021	8.40	0653	-1.20	1242	8.40	1914	-1.30	Mon 12
13 Tue	0110	8.40	0749	-1.10	1334	8.00	2000	-1.00	Tue 13
14 Wed	0202	8.30	0851	-0.80	1432	7.50	2054	-0.60	Wed 14
15 Thu	0258	8.00	0959	-0.50	1536	6.90	2159	-0.10	Thu 15
16 Fri	0402	7.60	1108	-0.20	1648	6.50	2314	0.30	Fri 16
17 Sat	0516	7.20	1214	0.00	1803	6.30			Sat 17
18 Sun	0027	0.50	0632	7.00	1318	0.00	1913	6.30	Sun 18
19 Mon	0133	0.50	0740	7.00	1416	-0.10	2013	6.50	Mon 19
20 Tue	0231	0.40	0837	7.10	1509	-0.20	2104	6.70	Tue 20
21 Wed	0323	0.20	0926	7.30	1556	-0.30	2150	7.00	Wed 21
22 Thu	0409	0.00	1010	7.40	1639	-0.40	2232	7.10	Thu 22
23 Fri	0451	-0.10	1050	7.40	1718	-0.40	2310	7.30	Fri 23
24 Sat	0529	-0.10	1125	7.30	1751	-0.30	2342	7.30	Sat 24
25 Sun	0600	-0.10	1154	7.20	1813	-0.10			Sun 25
26 Mon	0007	7.30	0619	-0.10	1213	7.00	1819	0.00	Mon 26
27 Tue	0022	7.30	0634	0.00	1233	6.90	1838	0.00	Tue 27
28 Wed	0044	7.40	0702	0.00	1302	6.80	1910	0.10	Wed 28
29 Thu	0116	7.40	0737	0.00	1339	6.70	1948	0.30	Thu 29
MARCH 2024									
01 Fri	0154	7.30	0820	-0.20	1422	6.50	2032	0.50	Fri 01
02 Sat	0239	7.20	0908	0.30	1511	6.30	2122	0.70	Sat 02
03 Sun	0329	7.10	1004	0.50	1606	6.10	2218	0.80	Sun 03
04 Mon	0426	7.00	1109	0.60	1708	6.00	2321	0.80	Mon 04



Photos by MARK NANI and KAREN NANI  
The year 2024 began with some turbulent weather. On Jan. 13, high tides and heavy rains caused flooding along Bridge Street. Then on Jan. 16, after 700 days with no snow, Islanders and the rest of New York City woke up to two inches of powder, to the delight of some Island children.



Pictures courtesy of ebird

Notice the white arcs above and below the eye of the MacGillivray Warbler versus the complete ring of the Mourning Warbler.

**Another Year, Another Bird Count**

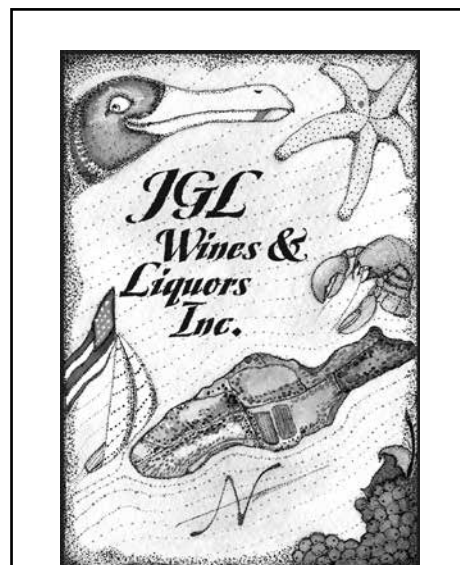
Ordinarily, we would skip a review of the annual Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count for the February issue of *The Current*, but this year's count was anything but ordinary. First, a little background. This year's count was the 124th, the inaugural census having taken place in 1900. How it all began was in response to another tradition of that time called a side hunt, which was a kind of hunting competition on Christmas day to see which team could shoot and kill the most birds and mammals. The more conservation-minded members of the new Audubon club in New York were able to coordinate with other like-minded individuals from as far away as Toronto and Pacific Grove, California. In all, 27 counters participated in the first

Audubon Christmas Bird Count, with a tally of about 18,500 individual birds.

For a sense of how much the count has increased since 1900, consider that for this year's census nearly 16,000,000 birds were counted. The Pelham Bay Park sector alone counted close to 10,000 individuals. Unfortunately for those of us counting birds in the Pelham Bay Park sector, what happened that was extraordinary happened on the other side of the Bronx, in Riverdale. Two participants came across a warbler that at first glance they took for a Mourning Warbler, an unusual find for this time of year but not extraordinary. Upon second glance, however, eye arcs were detected instead of eye rings, which meant that the warbler was the much rarer MacGillivray's Warbler, a bird that is normally found on the other side of the Rocky Mountains!

For those of us busy in our own sectors counting our own birds, this MacGillivray was cooperative indeed, as it stuck around for about three weeks. It didn't take that long, though, for crowds to gather outside the yard where the bird was first sighted. Then re-sighted, again and again. And as if that weren't enough excitement for people who get excited by birds, a Townsend Warbler made an appearance and hung around a while, like the MacGillivray. And though we don't like to toot our own horn, we can take a kind of credit for seeing that bird first. While we were hanging around, waiting for the MacGillivray to make an appearance, we noticed another warbler high up in a nearby tree. We couldn't positively identify it at the time, but we saw enough of it to be reasonably sure that it was the Townsend Warbler that birders who came to see the MacGillivray after us saw and posted pictures of online.

Anyone interested in participating in the Audubon Society's next Christmas Bird Count should visit the NYC Audubon's website this November. They can always use another pair of eyes.



358 City Island Avenue  
City Island, NY 10464  
jgl1358@verizon.net  
718-885-0200

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**



**LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT**

**Betty Lavelle-Esola**

Residential

Condos

Commercial



Houses

Co-ops

Rentals

City Island ♦ Country Club ♦ Throggs Neck ♦ Pelham Bay

*A City Island business serving City Island*

562 City Island Avenue, City Island, NY 10464

718-885-9600

www.cityislandrealestateny.com

agent@cityislandrealestateny.com



# In The Garden

By MARY COLBY



Photos from "THE EXOTIC GARDEN" by CHRISTOPHER LLOYD

## Steps for taking dahlia cuttings

### The Miracle of Cuttings

As I was raking up the never-ending barrage of acorns this winter, I spotted a white geranium barely clinging to life. It was shivering and quite fetching with a vermilion eye, and I thought what a pity it would be not to save its life. So I took some cuttings with a sharp knife and pressed them down into some seed starting mix, watered them well and waited. Slowly, after a few weeks, the limp leaves became turgid, and a new shoot emerged. It had rooted!

I remember when I was young, studying botany at Lehman College, I assisted at the greenhouse propagating streptocarpus plants, which are in the gesneriad family related to African violets. All that was required to make more plants was to slice the underside leaf veins with a razor, deposit the leaves on good compost and pin them down. Then in a month or so at least 10 tiny plants would emerge from the cut ribs or veins. Propagating plants from cuttings, divisions or layering is a miracle and a mystery, yet most people are not aware of the benefits—namely, more plants! It's as if you could cut off your foot, plant it and weeks later have it born anew.

Rooting cuttings in water is the easiest method. Did you know that willows root the easiest this way and do not discard the water, because willow water contains enzymes that promote rooting. Hydrangeas like it, as do ivy, impatiens, begonias and coleus, not to mention all the house plants like pothos, which you can distribute to friends.

Dahlia cuttings are easy too. To prepare a cutting, use only vigorous stems and cut off any flowering shoots and flowers. Trim the stem below the joint node. Trim to just two pairs of leaves and dip the stem into hormone rooting powder. Insert the cuttings around the edge of a pot with 50/50 seed starting mix and grit and be sure to label them. You can strike a cutting at any time of year, but in the warm half of the calendar plants are more active and cooperative.

Perennials need division. Plants nowadays are expensive, but from three plants in one year you can have 10, with division. A garden looks best when there are five or seven rather than three, so go ahead and chop them up. The plants will perform better too, as perennials lose their vigor after a few years. The crowns or middle of the

plants usually need to be discarded, and the outer part of the clump can be divided into new plants. Use a knife, a saw or your bare hands. Just be sure to plant straight away, firming the soil around them so there are no air bubbles around the roots, and water them well, with a watering can. I divide my primroses every two years, and the Japanese kind (kisona) are happily populating my woods. There are so many now from one plant that the sight of them in bloom makes me break into song.

Layering is the method whereby woody shrubs can be propagated by keeping the stem or branch attached to the parent plant. For roses, nick the stem with a knife and bend the stem or whip down to the ground and bury a portion of it. It's advisable to put a brick or a rock on it for good contact, or you can buy horticultural staples to pin it down. You will have to wait a year, but it does give you something to look forward to. If the branch is high, as on a viburnum, you would again nick the branch and surround it with wet sphagnum moss and cover this with plastic wrap, securing the ends with twine to keep in the moisture. You have to check it now and then to be sure the moss stays wet. This method can produce small new trees. How fabulous is that!

So now I have seven geranium plants rooted from just one, and they are ready for spring. That is what I would call good economy. If this really floats your boat, you might like to invest in some grow-lights. I have them and it keeps me chipper all winter long. February begins the seed sowing season but make haste. It is already time to sow the sweet peas.

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

**TOR TOLL**

**EZPass & Tolls by Mail Violations?  
Sent to Collections?  
No Problem!**

**Let our violation dispute  
analysts fight your case!**

**607-867-8655**

**www.tortoll.com**

Se Habla Español

## A NEW LOOK AT DEATH, PART 2

By CAROLINE COPPOLA

There is a wide spectrum of people's feelings and actions when it comes to thinking about their own death. Regardless of how much or how little we like to think about it, at some point we are all going to leave our earthly existence and those we love behind.

In the December issue of *The Island Current*, I explored trends in death care and the language that accompanies it. Here I would like to acknowledge or refute some of the myths in the funeral business and encourage making plans ahead of time.

Here are just a few reasons people choose to make their own arrangements in advance.

**Peace of mind for you and your family so that the decisions have already been made when the time comes.** Studies tell us that the death of a spouse is the most stressful of life events and that the death of a family member is a close third. (Divorce is second, followed by marriage, personal injury/illness and the loss of a job.) Your death will NOT be an easy time for your family members. Some of them live far away, and others may not necessarily agree on everything. Making plans at the time of your death can take away important time from their need to grieve and support one another. If you make decisions about your own funeral, however, you and they will rest more easily. This doesn't mean you have to do it all on your own unless you want to. Conversations with spouses, children, siblings, grandchildren and close friends are encouraged as you begin this process.

**Protect your loved ones from a financial burden.** When people die unexpectedly, they often do not leave funds to cover their funeral expenses. In some cases, this happens even when a death is expected. Life insurance policies may cover expenses, but family members aren't always aware of funds put aside for this purpose. If you've seen Go Fund Me requests on social media for funeral expenses, you know how sad some situations can be.

The range of expenses starting with cremation only (with no services) all the way to full services and burial range from \$2,500 to \$25,000. Planning ahead (this is also called Pre-Arranging) includes several options for funds to be set aside in trust or even to be paid for over time. A guaranteed contract means that the cost of the goods and services purchased will not increase between the purchase and the time of need.

(Read that sentence again.) If the casket you paid \$4,000 for costs \$9,000 when you need it, it's already paid for and no one has to pay any more.

**Guarantee that your wishes are respected and carried out.** As reported in my first article, there are two primary methods of disposition in our society: cremation and preservation of the body before burial. The cremation rate in the United States in 2023 was 60 percent. It should be your own decision whether you would like to be cremated, buried, placed in a mausoleum, have services, or have your ashes scattered somewhere or your body donated to science. Regardless of which of the options and combinations of services and disposition you choose, putting a plan in place means that your wishes will be carried out. Your funeral director will also work with you on securing your final resting place and note which religious services should be held.

Does your family know which funeral home you would like to take care of you and your services when the time comes? Sometimes, the funeral home that took care of your own parents or spouse isn't in business any longer, or you've moved away from that geographical area. When people don't know, they tend to "shop" for prices at the time of someone's death. Imagine having to call a funeral home to report a death and then asking the question "how much is this going to cost?" And then you call others and learn basically the same thing. Even if you do not make a formal pre-arrangement, please let your loved ones know these four things:

- Do you wish to be buried or cremated?
- Do you have funeral home in mind?
- Do you have a burial site in mind?
- How can they access any funds you've saved for this time?

Your funeral director is an expert resource who can help you start these plans and explain the different payment arrangements available. Make a call and set up an appointment. You will be glad you did.

*Caroline Coppola has been the Minister of Music at Grace Episcopal Church for the past 13 years. After a career in higher education, she felt called to "work with the living and the dead," and she enrolled in the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science online program in January 2020. After a practicum and working part time at funeral homes in Westchester and the Bronx, she is now working in Danbury, CT.*

**Cory Fontana**

Personal Driver/Owner

914-646-1611

**TEAM**

**Sambrina Transportation .LLC**

We Serve where others promise

Sambrinatransport@Gmail.com

All Major Airports, NYC and beyond

---

**Your Comfort is our Goal**

**Thank you**

Like us on Facebook

# CLASSIFIED

al maintains an excellent redressing and retrimming service whereby the diamond is inspected, re-dressed and re-trimmed to its original shape and size. Each generator is checked for proper taper and is diamond impregnated for correct roughness and texture. Contour of cutting face is checked and corrected. Each generator is checked for maximum wear and is re-dressed and re-trimmed to its original shape and size. Each generator is checked for proper taper and is diamond impregnated for correct roughness and texture. Contour of cutting face is checked and corrected. Each generator is checked for maximum wear and is re-dressed and re-trimmed to its original shape and size.

All classified ads must be prepaid. Rates: \$6.00 minimum for 20 words or less. Over 20 words—30 cents per word. Type or print your ad and mail with check or money order to: The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, N.Y. 10464. ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 20th OF EACH MONTH except December and July.

**CLEANING SERVICES:** Home or Office City Island references available. Text Fany @ 646-881-2784.

**DAVE, THE PAINTER & MORE:** Painting and plastering, electrical, carpentry, plumbing, snow removal. Professional work at affordable rates. Call for a free quote. C.I. references available. 646-548-8573.

**MARY COLBY STUDIO GALLERY** open by appointment to browse and shop. Call 917-804-4509.

Maria Swieciki and the staff of TODAY REALTY, CORP. would like to wish our clients, neighbors and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous NEW YEAR! Call us at 718-885-0017 for all your real estate needs! We love what we do!

**CITY ISLAND AQUARIUM** 316 City Island Avenue. Tropical AND saltwater fish and supplies. 914-303-FISH. Open 7 days from 2:30-8:30.

**CITY ISLAND SOUVENIRS:** Sweatshirts (children's and adult), T-shirts, mugs, post-cards, bumper stickers @ Kaleidoscope Gallery. 271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

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

**CITY ISLAND NOTARY PUBLIC:** Certified in New York State. By appointment only, including weekends. Call Johanna at 914-299-1414.

**COMPUTER REPAIRS, UPGRADE, TROUBLESHOOTING, VIRUS, DATA RECOVERY,** cracked screen, power jack, cassette music transferred to CD's. Call James 646-

281-4475, 718-324-4332.

**WEBSITES THAT BRING IN BUSINESS:** Mobile-friendly, custom, gorgeous, smart web design. Wordpress & shopify E-commerce. Everything you need. Call Katie 646-309-7850.

**O'PIDDLE D'POO!** Daily individualized walks, leash training, pet sitting. Caring for City Island's adorable pets for 20+ years. References available. Call 646-316-6089.

**OWENS TREE EXPERTS:** Tree trimming & removal. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call 718-885-0914.

**MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE:** Humans are social beings. Our brains are wired for interactions with others. Why not share your experience/strength/hope with a good listener who has worked with children and families for 50 years? Call City Islander, John Scardina at 718-885-9305 or 610-864-9505.

**JEWELRY REPAIRED & DESIGNED:** Cash for gold, watch batteries, engraved gifts, artwork, toys & housewares. Kaleidoscope Gallery, 271 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3090. [www.kaleidoscope280.com](http://www.kaleidoscope280.com).

**AVON REPRESENTATIVE:** Full line of cosmetics, jewelry, clothes and much more. Call Emily Leni at 718-885-2430 for a catalog, or view my website on [avon.com/eleni](http://avon.com/eleni). (My rep. name is Erminia Leni).

**CHRISTIAN, THE HANDYMAN, IS BACK!** Reliable, professional, and affordable home repairs. Serving the City Island community for over 15 years. Free estimates cheerfully given. Friendly and honest, low rates. Carpentry, painting, power washing, sheetrock, doors and windows, kitchen and bathroom light fixtures, fences, faucets, holiday decorations. Call Christian at 718-679-2396.

**BOAT SUPPLIES:** Burck's Boat Store. 526 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York 718-885-1559. Customer parking. Open 8 a.m.

## Recap

Continued from page 5

since 1975. Then Scoutmaster James Goonan and the Scouts of Troop 211 organized a fundraiser for Grace Episcopal Church on Jan. 21, 2023. The event included a dinner in the church parish hall, a 50/50 raffle and tributes to parishioners Karen and Paul Nani and the City Island Theater Group, which then presented its first show in three years, "Play On" in March. The boys and their scoutmasters earned their badges and a day of rest after all their efforts, which raised more than \$10,000 for Grace Church.

In February, Islanders Gwen Boyle and Sarah Goonan were part of the Silver Medal team from Maria Regina High School at the 2023 National Cheer Competition in Orlando, FL. Then on March 31, 2023, at the Morris Yacht Club, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) of P.S. 175 held its first card party fundraiser since the pandemic. The evening was a huge success, thanks to the eighth-grade volunteers, PTA board members, and P.S. 175 principal Julie Porras.

Longtime adult Islanders, past and present, were also recognized in 2023. On May 6, a sign was raised at the corner of Hawkins Street, to honor the late Richard DePierro, known to many as Richie. The corner was named "Richard DePierro Way" across the street from the Black Whale, which he founded over half a century ago. The Bronx Council of the Boy Scouts of America bestowed the Silver Beaver Award, its highest honor, on fourth-generation City Islander Gregory J. Clancy at the 2023 Recognition Dinner on May 11. Also honored at the dinner were Islanders Alex Linzer and Jerry Filomio, who each received Unit Scouter awards for their service to Cub Scout Pack 211 and BSA Troop 211.

A story about Islander Brenda Prohaska appeared on the front page of the New York Times in March, not because of her many volunteer efforts on City Island but because of her newfound activity rescuing aquarium fish in trouble. Artist and garden designer Mary Colby celebrated 30 years on City Island at her studio Fe Fi Faux at 276 City Island Avenue, and many Islanders gathered to view her latest paintings and to congratulate her for so many successful years here. Monica Yehle, known to many Islanders as Monica Glick, started up a new Island business, M4 Consulting Services, using her 40 years of experience in communications, development, fundraising, management and planning for the Pontifical Mission Societies. Violet Smith, a longtime resident of City Island Avenue, was honored for her contributions to the City Island community at the annual 45th Precinct Community Council breakfast on May 18, at SUNY Maritime College.

On June 30, City Island's Temple Beth-El said goodbye to Rabbi David Markus, who served Temple Beth-El for 13 years. Later in the year, the Temple welcomed a new spiritual leader, Rabbi David Levy.

The Current recognized a number of hard-working City Island businesses and longtime advertisers, including musician Ralph Merigliano, realtor Janie Blanks, handyman Christian Rota, painter David Lacilento, Karl Hoedl of Buddy's Hardware and Complexions Spa owners Mary Jo Byrne and Joanne Rooney.

These are just a few of the highlights from 2023. The Current covered the accomplishments of many other Islanders and organizations, including City Island Oyster Reef, City Island Little League, the Bronx Masons,



There were many happy events in 2023, including the wedding of Alexander Cebek and Alison Wiedmann and the birth of Miles Nicholas Pollack (bottom photos).

Quilters by the Sea, P.S. 175, the Chamber of Commerce, the Garden Club of City Island, Leonard Hawkins Post 156 of the American Legion, and the Hutchinson River Restoration Project.

Love, marriage and the baby carriage for clam diggers and mussel suckers was again celebrated in *The Current's Talebearer*, including the 2023 weddings of Mitchell Santiago and Vanessa Arredondo, Alexander Cebek and Alison Wiedmann, Emily Sexton and Christian Torres, Sebastian Wiley and Jennifer Fajardo, Marissa Ferris and Andrew McGuire, Bridget McGowan and Osmar Martinez. Welcome to babies Christopher Joseph Hennessy, Theo James Cherry, Elise Catherine Nani, Miles Nicholas Pollack, Charlotte Ann Rodstrom, Natalie Sophia Nani, Emma Josephine Paula Kolb and Summer Rosemary Doulos.

Islanders mourned the loss of several prominent clam diggers and longtime residents who passed away in late 2022 and 2023, including Addie Cozzi, Virginia Gallagher, Anthony Grimaldi, Judi Cozzi, Mary Ann Manfredonia, Joanne DiMarco, Herbert McDaniel, Frances Carrollo, Nicholas Vaughan, Martin Fahy, Robert Zervas, Carmela Ramftl, James Breen, Sister Bernadette Hannaway, Teresa Teto, Frank Hoffman, Freddy Staudt, Edward Genovese and Kevin Clancy.

The dedicated volunteer staff of *The Island Current* (see photo page 16) worked hard to cover the many events of 2023, our 53rd year! We welcomed a new column, City Island Culinary Club, and the return of longtime historian Bernie Witlieb during the year. The steadfast support of our advertisers and many loyal readers has kept *The Current* running in the black, unlike many newspapers across the country. Thanks to all who subscribe and purchase *The Current*, and with your unwavering support we will keep proving that community newspapers are a vital part of American journalism.

**THE ALL CLEAN SYSTEM**  
By Father & Son  
Maintenance & Restoration Co. Carpet & Upholstery Specialist

Discover the **Deep Cleaning Power** of our State of the Art **Truck Force Steam Equipment**  
Using our own Power & Water supply

**Carpet & Upholstery Restoration**  
**Residential & Commercial**  
**Steam Cleaning**

**3 AREAS SPECIAL \$149<sup>95</sup>**  
**FULL SERVICE**  
Living Room, Bedroom & Hall  
**DEODORIZED**

**All Work 100% Guaranteed**  
**We use Green Products**  
Ask about our Allergy Relief Program

You get the most thorough cleaning or **IT'S FREE**  
Please Call Jimmy for **FREE estimates** **718-892-5827**

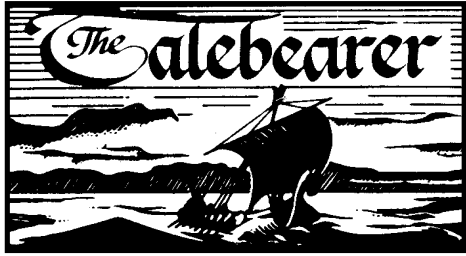
**NOW**  
IS A GREAT TIME TO INCREASE YOUR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

American Heart Association  
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

**Heating & Central Air Conditioning Installation & Service**

**COTTAM**  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
800-734-8367

**24 Hour Priority Service**  
**718-885-3328** [www.cottamhvac.com](http://www.cottamhvac.com)



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.



Mary Rocchio was baptized on Dec. 16, 2023.

Bay Street clam digger Gwyn (Hopkins) Valentio was recently promoted to Sergeant. Gwyn, shown with her partner Desi, is part of the 549th Military Working Dog Detachment stationed in Fair-

banks, Alaska. We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Sam and Joe.

God bless Annabelle Carmen DeRosa, who was baptized on Nov. 4 at Free Gospel Assemblies of God. Thrilled parents are Michael and Izzy DeRosa and big brother Daniel.

Happy fifth birthday on Valentine's Day to Wyatt. We love you to the moon and back. Keep reaching for the stars! With love from Grammy and Bpa.

Bay Street residents Larry and Kristie Berger have had their hands full with their first child, Angela Eileen Berger, born July 2. Six months of happiness with this sweet baby.

Happy birthday greetings on Feb. 20 to my brother Reid with love from Lori.

Wishing my beautiful wife, Vanessa, and my son, Nathan, very happy birthdays. Vanessa celebrated on Jan. 8, and Nathan turned three on Jan. 5. All my love, Adam.

Mary Rocchio was born in October to Patrick and Anh Rocchio, who reside on Pell Place. On Saturday, Dec. 16, a baptism for Mary took place at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on City Island. Godparents are Minh Wendt and Pasquale Cipollone.

Best wishes and "Anchors Aweigh" to Pell Place's Timmy Stiene, who recently joined the Navy. Your City Island family is very proud of you!

Maria Swieciki



Photo courtesy of RICK DeWITT

Sergeant Gwyn Hopkins Valentio, shown above with Desi, is part of the 549th Military Working Dog Detachment.



Photo by MICHELLE DEL POZZO

On Nov. 6, 2023, the American Legion Auxiliary's Corresponding Secretary, Michelle Del Pozzo, arranged a visit by Col. Michael Clancy at P.S. 175 to speak with fifth-grade students. He spoke about his 28-year career in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Photo by PAUL NANI

The Island Current staff celebrated the start of the 54th year of publication on Jan. 7, 2024, at the home of longtime board member Barbara Dolensek. Shown above is the best volunteer newspaper staff in the country along with some special guests: (seated l. to r.) Janie Blanks, Roxie, Karen Nani, Sandy Dunn, Rose Kolb, Monica Glick and Margaret Lenz. Standing: Barbara Dolensek, Maria Sutherland, Irene Hickey, Ginger Dannegger, Dan Hickey, Bruce Weis, Tom Smith, Melanie Benvenue, John Sheridan and Elliott Glick.

Authentic Italian Deli advertisement for 'A Taste of Italy' in City Island, featuring a sandwich logo and contact information: 250 City Island Avenue, Bronx, New York 10464, 718-885-0919.

Advertisement for A&E Safeway Systems Pest Control, offering services for roaches, bedbugs, fleas, ants, spiders, mice, rodents, termites, and ticks. Includes contact info: 189 Schofield Street, City Island, NY 10464, 718-506-2250.

Moving form with fields for old and new addresses, names, and phone numbers. Includes instruction: PLEASE ALLOW 6-8 WEEKS FOR CHANGE TO TAKE EFFECT.

Advertisement for All Pro Marine Contracting Corp., providing dock building, pile driving, bulkheads, surveys, towing, and salvage. Contact: (718) 885-0429.

Advertisement for Su-Su Balloons, featuring a graphic of balloons and contact number 885-1834.

Subscriptions section for The Island Current, including a form to send a gift subscription and pricing information: Rate: \$12 per year.

Advertisement for Hailing Port Service Inc., located at 19 Schofield St., City Island, NY 10464, managed by Jane La Scala. Services include vessel documentation, insurance, and commercial/pleasure services.