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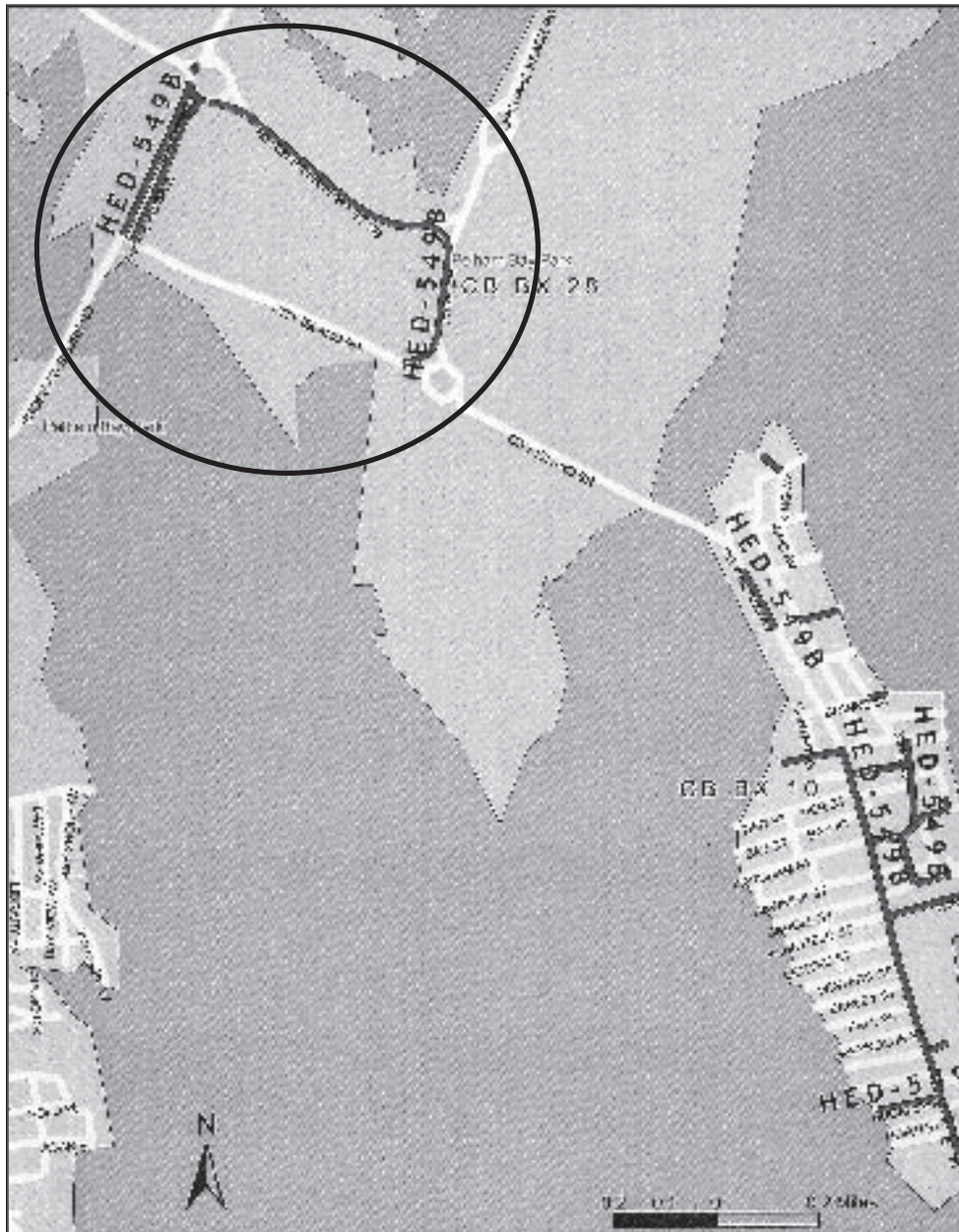
Volume 35 Number 2

March 2006

One Dollar

THE 'MAIN EVENT' BEGINS

By KAREN NANI



The long-awaited sewer and water main project is scheduled to get under way in the middle of March, and the work will begin off City Island.

The first phase involves replacement of the 12-inch water mains under the Shore Road by the Hutchinson River Parkway exit and leading to the Pelham Bay Bridge (also known as the Shore Road Bridge). According to Andrew Macagnone, community liaison from the Department of Design and Construction (DDC), these mains are over 100 years old and 5,000 linear feet have to be replaced.

"All roads will remain open to traffic during the excavation and replacement, but there will only be one lane in each direction," Mr. Macagnone told *The Current*. There will be a work crew of 20 people, an excavator (back hoe), and two or three work trucks on site. Traffic flaggers will direct traffic around the equipment from Monday to Friday when the replacement work is under way.

DDC officially opened a field office for the project in February at 261 City Island Avenue between Carroll and Hawkins Streets. The office will be open to Islanders from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday until work begins. Then the hours will change from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment. The office, and Mr. Macagnone, can be reached at 718-885-0308 or by email at hed549b.andy@verizon.net.

During the course of the work, there

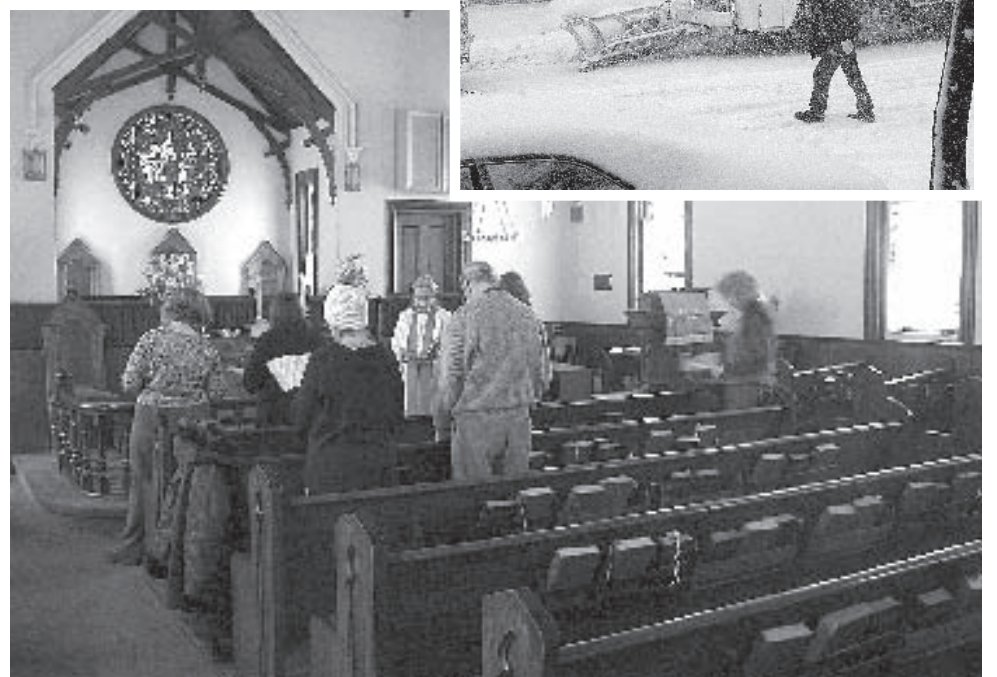
will be water service interruptions, according to the "Reconstruction Newsletter" for project #HED-549B: The City Island Water Main and Sanitary Sewer Project. The existing water service must be shut off by closing the valves at either end of the section to be worked on. Islanders will receive written notice in the afternoon the day before service interruption. Water service will be restored at the end of each workday, according to DDC. Islanders with special needs (dialysis, etc.) should alert Mr. Macagnone prior to water service interruption.

The estimated time to complete the water main replacement off the Island is one to two months. The next phase of work then moves onto City Island and is tentatively scheduled to begin in May 2006, according to DDC. The water main, sanitary sewer and storm sewer outfall will be reconstructed on Schofield Street.

This somewhat controversial DDC project has been discussed with community leaders and at Civic Association meetings open to all residents for over two years. The contract for the work went to bid in January 2005 and was awarded to Carp Construction.

The debate over DDC work during the summer months is ongoing. Islanders who want to express their opinions or concerns about the project should visit the field office and attend Civic Association meetings the last Tuesday of the month at the Community Center on Fordham Street.

ISLE OF WHITE



Photos by RICK DeWITT

Old man winter has struck only once so far in 2006, but it was a major blow. Snow started falling on Saturday, Feb. 11, and before it ended the next day, there were more than 26 inches of snow on the ground, breaking the single snowfall record in Central Park. On City Island, church service attendance was limited to a few hearty souls at both Trinity Methodist (see photo) and St. Mary, Star of the Sea. The Department of Sanitation sent plows to clear City Island Avenue and the side streets, while many Islanders dug themselves and neighbors out from under the blanket of white. Warm temperatures the following week led to a meltdown and only memories remained of the storm of 2006.

BRIEFLY...

SMALL POTATOES—COOKING CLASSES FOR KIDS

are being offered on Thursdays at the City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, for ages 2 and up. The classes are 45 minutes long, and a variety of cooking lessons are available throughout the year. Included are such treats as "Good Morning Sunshine"(smiley-face pancakes, waffles and ice cream, and some egg-citing omelets); "Easy Italian" (some of the easiest Italian recipes such as baked ziti, chicken parmigiana, and pizza); "Nothin' But Desserts" (decadent brownie sundaes, chocolate-dipped fruit or yummy mud 'n' bugs chocolate pudding); "Appetizing Appetizers" (kick off any meal with one of these tasty starters); and "Mix It Up" (one recipe from each of the above programs for those who aren't sure which to choose). School class trips, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are all welcome. If you are looking for a new idea for a birthday party, we now offer Interactive Cooking Parties. Space is limited, so call 845-531-5011 today.

NAUTICAL SEMINARS

of interest to both sail and power boaters will be held at the South Minneford Yacht Club. Admission is free and open to all, but seating is limited, and non-members must register in advance. The seminar schedule is as follows: Saturday, March 11, 11 a.m.: Bob Thaula, a diesel mechanic, will discuss launching your diesel in the spring; at 1 p.m. Mark Ploch of Doyle Sails will discuss improving sailing techniques and the care and maintenance of sails. On Saturday, March 25, at 10 a.m., Gary Senft of Maritime Marketing will demonstrate the new MAX-SEA weather and navigational program and at 1 p.m. Ralph Irizzary of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, will discuss Coast Guard safety requirements. All the seminars will be held at South Minneford Yacht Club, 148 City Island Avenue, except for the afternoon session on March 11, which will be held at Doyle Sails, 225 Fordham Street. For information and to register, call 718-885-3113.

BARTOW PELL MANSION MUSEUM EVENTS:

On Thursday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at the Bartow Pell Mansion in Pelham Bay Park, Dr. Trudie Grace will present a slide lecture entitled "America the Beautiful: Women and the Flag." The program, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities' Speakers in the Humanities program. Dr. Grace will examine the connections between women and flag imagery and the changing role of women in society as it pertains to personal behavior and involvement with social causes from the Civil War to the end of World War I. In addition, the Mansion will have its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1, from 11 to 1 p.m (raindate Saturday, April 8). There will be hunts every 15 minutes, crafts, light refreshments and pictures with the Easter Bunny (extra). For information, call 718-885-1461 or email bartowpelled@aol.com.

YOGA/ TAI-CHI CLASSES

continue at Temple Beth-El on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. during March. The exercises, which are led by Marc Kaplan, will leave you more flexible, more energetic and refreshed. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

CORRECTIONS

In the January-February 2006 issue of *The Current*, there were some mistakes and omissions.

On page 16, the location of the Montefiore Hospital party was incorrect; the correct location was the Harlem Yacht Club, to which the organizers are extremely grateful.

On page 6, the designer of the postage stamp honoring Sergeant John Basilone should have been the United States Postal Service.

On page 5, Jordan DeSantis's name was omitted from the caption under the Brownie photo.

The Current apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these errors.

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Robert J. Leavy, engineer

INTRODUCTORY WEAVING: Bronx Community College is offering as part of its winter arts program a course for beginning weavers that will be held on Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at West 181st Street and University Avenue. You will construct your own portable lap loom, learn basic weaving techniques, and design and weave personal objects, such as small purses, cell phone bags, eyeglass cases, decorative mats, wall tapestries or pillow covers. There will be take-home instruction sheets so that each week students can take their looms home and practice what they've learned. Students will pay \$20 to cover the cost for supplies. For more information, call 718-289-5170.

SPRING MUSIC EVENTS presented by the Bronx Arts Ensemble include a performance by Latin percussionist Orlando Marin on Saturday, March 11, at 8 p.m. at the Russian Mission Residency in Riverdale (Mosholu Avenue at 255th Street). Tickets are \$20 or \$15 with the Bronx Cultural Card. On Sunday, March 26, at 3 p.m., Chamber Music in Great Homes will be presented at 761 West 231st Street in Riverdale. Admission is \$25 to hear works by Schubert, Beethoven and Robert Baksa. For children, "The Frog Prince" will be performed on April 2 at 2 p.m. at the Riverdale Y at 5625 Arlington Avenue and 256th Street. Admission is \$7. For information and directions, call 718-601-7399 or visit www.bronxartsensemble.org.

DRIVER SAFETY COURSES are being offered in the Bronx by State Senator Jeff Klein to help New Yorkers save money on their car insurance. The courses, which are open the public, are aimed at helping drivers brush up on their skills while saving up to 10 percent on their auto insurance premiums. The AARP, which administers the course, charges a nominal \$10 fee to cover the cost of course materials and completion certificates. The courses will take place at the following locations: Morris Park Community Center, 1824 Bronxdale Avenue, on Saturday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at Fort Schuyler House 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway, on Saturday, April 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Senator Klein's office at 718-822-2049.

CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON: This unit of the U.S. Power Squadron will conduct an eight-week public safety boating course at the City Island Yacht Club, 63 Pilot Street, beginning Monday, March 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The course is for individuals 14 years of age or older and will provide personal watercraft certification on completion. Topics will include boat types, boat terminology, seamanship, navigation aids, marlinspike, boat handling, rules of the road, elementary piloting, plotting, regional boating, fundamentals of sailing, marine radio telephone usage and more. The instruction is free; materials cost \$70. For more information and to register, call 718-863-3855.

ART AUCTION FUNDRAISER: The PTA of P.S. 175 will be hosting its second annual art auction presented by Ross Art Galleries on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at the Morris Yacht and Beach Club. There will be a live auction, a silent auction, raffle prizes and more. The art preview time is 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Buffet dinner with dessert and coffee, beer, wine and soda will be served. Admission is \$25 per person and \$45 per couple. Tickets will be available at the door on the night of the auction.



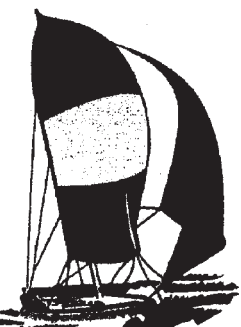
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Senator Klein Lends Helping Hand

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

On Jan. 31, 2006, State Senator Jeff Klein presented Civic Association president Frank Fitts with a check for \$2500, a state grant to help the organization fight crime and carry on other programs for the residents of City Island.

Residents concerned about the recent incidents of vandalism that has created havoc in various places on City Island can rest assured that their concerns are being heard off the Island. The 45th Police Precinct is taking a proactive role in trying to round

up suspects and bring them to justice, and elected officials are doing their part as well.

State Senator Jeff Klein recently presented the City Island Civic Association with \$2,500 in state funding to help the organization with crime prevention and other activities, following up on the \$14,000 in federal money given by Representative Joe Crowley last year.

"This is the first time our organization has received state funding," said Frank Fitts, president of the Civic Association, "and we are very grateful to Senator Klein for securing this grant. Since being elected to the Senate, Jeff Klein has been a strong advocate for the people of City Island, and we look forward to working with him for many years to come."

When he attended the Civic Association meeting in January, Senator Klein described his free program for removing graffiti, which has been plaguing several areas in his district in spite of tougher penalty laws and rewards offered by the city for the capture of graffiti vandals.

Representatives of the City Island Little League called upon Senator Klein to help remove graffiti from the league's clubhouse, which was vandalized last fall, and within days, the graffiti was gone. Unfortunately, not all the damage could be repaired, as the equipment shed was torched and a window broken. Local teenagers are suspected of the crime, and the 45th precinct has been actively investigating this and other acts, such as broken windows and burglaries, although no arrests have been made as of press time.

Fits and Starts: Island Development Update

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photos by PAUL NANI

Consolidated Yachts, which has been a boatyard since the middle of the 19th century, has been slowly emptied of boats. The developer Cava Construction plans to build 26 one-family houses on the site.

Now that spring is around the corner, the developers have been busy making their plans to turn City Island's vacant spaces into housing for people rather than boats.

Harbour Pointe Court

The Beechwood Organization, which built the attached housing on east Cross Street some years ago, has received approval for permits to build 22 two-family houses, plus a commercial building with an apartment upstairs, on west Cross Street on the former site of Royal Marina. Although the property was purchased in 2004 and all the boats were removed from the site, it has remained empty, and this has given rise to speculation as to why the developer was not proceeding with the project.

It has been rumored that the bulkhead for the property is in need of repair, for which permits may be required from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers; however, no permits have been applied for as of press time and calls from *The Current* to Beechwood were not returned. The property has also been advertised for sale in the New York Times.

In the meantime, Beechwood has built three storefronts on City Island Avenue south of Cross Street, all of them occupied now by a branch of West Marine, and five one-family houses on Reville Street and City Island Avenue. The original plans for Reville Street called for five two-family houses, but the structures were reduced in format because of the more restrictive low-density zoning regulations that became law last year.

Although Beechwood has not come before the City Island community to describe the Royal Marina project, called Harbour Pointe Court, residents assume that the houses will resemble the designs originally shown to Community Board 10 and published in the *Island Current*—two rows of identical two-story houses along a private road to be built onto the property from City Island Avenue just south of Cross Street. The houses on Reville Street are of the same type, although smaller in size, with only 2,137 square feet, while the proposed houses will have 2,376 square feet for the two housing units.

Consolidated Yachts

Another unhappy sight for City Islanders has been the movement of boats out of Consolidated Yachts, which has been a boatyard since the middle of the 19th century, when David Carll first opened his ship-building operation on the site.

Cava Construction has optioned the property and hoped to build three apart-

ment buildings no higher than the 35 feet allowed by law in areas zoned residential. Since the property is now zoned for manufacturing, Cava must file for a zoning change, which for the larger buildings would have required a change to commercial rather than residential zoning. When the developer approached City Planning in the first stage of the ULURP process by which zoning changes are made, the commissioner, Amanda Burden, stepped in to object strenuously to this commercial development.

Citing all the efforts that City Planning had made to preserve the low-density zoning and character of City Island, Ms. Burden stipulated that the department would authorize only a change to residential or R3A zoning, which covers most of the Island.

This decision means that Cava will have to go back to its original plan of building 26 one-family houses, and this may mean a delay of several months as the developer refines the plans and starts the ULURP process again. Consolidated customers have been told that they will be able to keep their boats at the yard through the summer of 2006.

A representative of Cava told *The Current* that the developers would definitely come before the Civic Association again with the plans, as they did earlier, so that residents will be able to review them. "These will not be cookie cutter houses," she said, "and though the look will be similar, they will be attractive and suitable for City Island."

Other Projects

The building project at the former site of International Underwater Contractors on Fordham Street is progressing with the developers, Pulte Homes, which is preparing to go through the ULURP process to change the zoning from manufacturing to residential.

The Marine Street project, which was originally approved over a decade ago, has not shown signs of life in recent months, but community watchdogs are keeping their eyes open.

One of Councilman James Vacca's first accomplishments has been to get the city to dedicate east Bay Street as a public street. Because it was considered a private road, the residents were not given the services of those who live on public streets, such as snow removal, surface repair and so on. Bay Street resident Ann McIntyre is thrilled that the street is now officially part of the city. "We've been working on this since my child was three weeks old and she is now 10 years old," Mrs. McIntyre told *The Current*.

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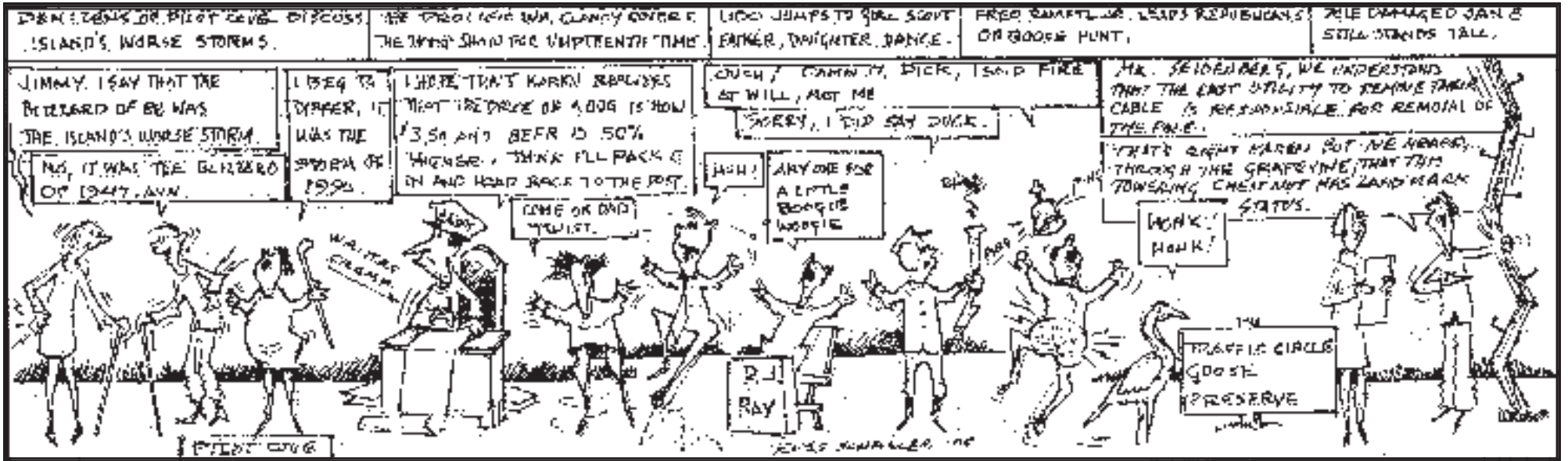
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Honest Abe

To the Editor:

My two little girls, Ann and Julia, lost their Gameboys somewhere on Carroll Street on Sunday, Feb. 19. We put out "Lost" fliers on Monday, and by Tuesday the toys were returned by a young man who gave us only his first name.

What a wonderful person and a terrific role model. Thank you, thank you.

Joanne Lotrionte Fernandez

Lots and Lots

To the Editor:

Recently, while walking to the renovated IGA, I was stunned to see the number (and prices) of the new homes built on the former Loughman Lumber Yard property. I can easily remember when the six brick homes across the street, were a kid-filled lot. Its special attraction, was a dilapidated chicken (or was it a pigeon) coop among the trees, with an occasional sleeping alcoholic.

As Colonel Glover could tell you about the battle of Pell Point, let me describe the age before landfills and condos, the 1950s and 1960s, the final days of loose kids and lots of lots. So listen my children and you shall hear . . . of the often litter-strewn but litigation-free playgrounds of my youth (pronounced yout).

As a kid, in addition to playing stick-ball using manhole covers as home base, a sweater as second and a telephone pole or hydrant as third, we would say, "Meet me in the lots." I never thought of them as property for sale but as great places to hide, play ball, build forts, have rock fights and ride imaginary horses, chariots or motorcycles.

Mulfield's lot was the best, it was huge. You could enter from behind the Post Office on the Avenue and Tier (alongside

Burt Johnson's old place) or from Hunter Ave. or from almost anywhere on Ditmar, even by climbing the back fence alongside the Raymond Theater (IGA). You then had instant access to jungles, pampas, mountains, creeks, and an old "castle" with overgrown stone walls for sword fights (using sticks).

The foot of Marine and Pilot also had a large lot, at one point, someone kept Shetland ponies in there. Before video games and computers, the abandoned shorefront shipyards with their empty sheds, rusted machinery and rotting docks were also our personal holodecks (look up virtual reality or Star Trek).

The lots, and the shortcuts into them, through backyards, under hedges and over fences, were essential for quick escape routes from one street to another. Although my older brother was a high school All City running star, he had no chance of quickly finding or catching my friends, if we chose to pound him with snowballs or rotten crab apples.

With minimal street or sidewalk travel, we could dart into the alleys of the Bowne Street and City Island Avenue apartments and quickly run the "secret" backyard trails, which included the Temple Beth-El lots, to rejoin with multiple options, west to Vidal's Marina, southeast to Casino Beach (Ditmar) and perhaps on through the graveyard to under the ferry slip (Fordham) or maybe head north to Beach Street Beach and beyond (especially, if it was low tide).

Of course, when exploring the other ends of the Island, you had to find the kid guides for that territory. I doubt it's allowed today but even when a lot was being "developed," the construction site, including the foundation hole, sand piles and early brick or framework, were also fair game for our urban exploration and fantasy play.

This was pre-predator New York, so all of Pelham Bay Park, including the bridle paths and train tracks from Bartow Station to New Rochelle or Split Rock were also part of our open space. A kid could have mud ball fights on the Rodman's Neck "clay" fields (soft-bottom mud dredged out of the channel), play hide and seek in the Orchard Beach woods, drink cool water from a "spring," or just run around the pine forests and the remnants of the Hunter Island Inn.

Trees (does anyone still climb them?), Tarzan rope swings and roof tops were the

aerial part of this giant playground. During the off season, we regularly played on the grounds of families, yacht clubs and closed businesses that were active only during the summer.

The bare awning pipes of Ryan's and the Riviera's open air decks had to be world's

best monkey bars. And you thought Halo or Grand Theft Auto was fun. With a little imagination and so much free space, no wonder packs of kids were out of the house from dawn to dusk or at least until the (street) lights came on.

Gerald Clancy

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Photos by RICK DeWITT

Grace Church Parish Hall was transformed into a diner for the City Island Theater Group's production of "Bus Stop" on Feb. 9, 10 and 11, 2006. The talented cast included Susan Rauh, Keith Trauceniek, David Cook, Lindy Tabano, Ed Incle, Justine Costanza, and William Kozy. The play, written by William Inge, was directed by Michael Flanagan with costumes by Carol Sullivan and Carol McCabe, and set design by Chris McGowan and Con Grondahl.

Current Review The Bus Stops Here

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



Photo by WALTER POFELDT

Susan Rauh's Cherie resists the advances of Keith Trauceniek's Bo in the City Island Theater Group's production of "Bus Stop" in February 2006.

Who would want to spend a chilly February evening watching a group of strangers stranded during a snowstorm at a midwestern diner and acting out their individual yearnings for love? Well, if that diner were in Grace Church Parish Hall and the strangers were the talented actors of the City Island Theater Group in a production of "Bus Stop," then I can't imagine a more enjoyable way to spend such an evening. The warmth of the performances and the incisive tenderness of William Inge's comedic dialogue were enough to keep the audience enthralled in this latest production of the Theater Group.

The central theme of the play is the relationship between Cherie (Susan Rauh), a young nightclub singer, and Bo (Keith Trauceniek), a brash young cowboy, who has fallen in love with her after a one-night stand and put her on a bus to Montana, where he intends to marry her and install her on his ranch. She has no intention of marrying him, of course, and when the bus stops in a diner somewhere in Kansas to wait out the storm, she enlists the aid of the local sheriff (David Cook) to help her es-

cape Bo's clutches. She also turns to Bo's friend, Virgil Blessing, for help and advice, and, as one can infer from his name, it is Virgil who plays the pivotal role in making things right.

In the meantime, the owner of the diner, Grace (Lindy Tabano) finds herself yearning for the bus driver (Ed Incle), and the waitress, an innocent young girl named Elma (Justine Costanza) is drawn to the wit and wisdom of a professor named Dr. Lyman (William Kozy), who is also a drunk attracted by young girls.

As we have come to expect from the Theater Group, the splendid acting was beautifully complemented by the costumes (by Carol Sullivan and Carol McCabe, who was also a co-producer) and the set (designed by Chris McGowan and Con Grondahl), which cleverly turned the audience away from the stage and toward the kitchen of the Parish Hall. Nicholas Sala as co-producer and Julie White as stage manager made sure that everything and everyone went according to plan.

The director, Michael Flanagan, did a wonderful job bringing this traditional play to life by making the audience care about these oddball characters as if they lived right here on City Island (which several of them do, of course!). The actors were all terrific, but I'd like to single out one performance that was especially outstanding. Susan Rauh as Cherie was funny and poignant and never once made me think of Marilyn Monroe, who played Cherie in the 1956 film.

Congratulations to all for a job well done.

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

Dipti Joshi, MD, CAC is offering acupuncture treatments at the Medical Group of City Island at 340 City Island Avenue. Acupuncture stems from traditional Eastern healing practices. A medical acupuncturist, Dr. Joshi is a Western-trained licensed medical doctor who uses a combination of scientifically based European, American and traditional Chinese practices. The goal is to promote proper functioning and natural healing using hair-thin needles inserted at specific points along energy channels or meridians. These meridians run on the surface of the body and through the body in regular patterns. A blockage in any of the meridians may result in imbalances that result in illness and pain. The inserted needles stimulate the nervous system to release substances in the spinal cord and brain that can act to decrease pain perception and to stimulate and support the body's natural healing abilities. Multiple acupuncture treatments may be needed initially, but over time, fewer treatments are usually needed to control the same problem or symptom. In addition, there are generally very few side effects. Dr. Joshi welcomes questions on this and other medical topics. She can be reached at 917-670-2757.

Moving into spring with music and art "on the menu" this March at the **Starving Artist Café & Gallery** (249 City Island Avenue, 718-885-3779). The "fun" starts with laughs at Open Mic Comedy Night on Thursday, March 2, starting at 8 p.m. That weekend is "singer-songwriter" weekend, featuring Frank Critelli (Friday, March 3, 8 p.m.), Matt Turk (Saturday, March 4,

8 p.m.) and Theresa Sareo - a City Island "darling" (Sunday, March 5, 3 p.m.).



The following weekend features a blues / jazz guitar performance by Seth Okrend on Friday, March 10, at 8 p.m., an art reception on Saturday, March 11, from 3 to 6 p.m., Bombshell - the "princesses of harmony" - at 8 p.m. that Saturday night, and a Sunday afternoon (3 p.m.) with Two Guitars, acoustic jazz. City Island's Dr. Chris Wertenbaker and his Port O' Monkeys bring Spanish, Middle Eastern and original music to the Starving Artist on Saturday, March 18, at 8 p.m., and the City Island Jazz Quartet headlines at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 19. On Friday, March 24, at 9 p.m., Sam Leopold, singer-songwriter, takes the stage. Get set for a "Saturday night blues party" on Saturday, March 25, with Bennett Harris, starting at 8 p.m. And on March 26, the last Sunday of the month, come play "Name that Tune" with Charlie Milligan and his keyboards, beginning at 3 p.m. For more on our schedule - including the end-of-month Open Mic Poetry (March 30) and Open Mic Songwriters (March 31) nights, both starting at 8 p.m., and our plans for St. Patrick's Day (Friday, March 17) - visit www.starvingartistonline.com.

Nails on the Bay at 329 City Island Avenue (718-885-1970) is open from Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Starting April 1, the shop will be open on Sundays as well, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Minh Lee and the girls provide waxing, tips, wraps and chair massage. The shop is also available for children's birthday parties.

Burck's Boat Supplies is now showing a "Varnishing Made Easy" video. Stop by for a viewing at 526 City Island Avenue from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information, call 718-885-1559.



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

Address	Closing Date	Sale Price	Type
422 City Island Ave.	1/6/05	\$655,000	1 Family
191 Fordham Street	10/3/05	\$450,000	2 Family
123 Horton Street	11/10/05	\$522,050	1 Family
419 Minneford Ave.	1/10/06	\$432,500	1 Family

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For information on any of the events you can contact:

Kelly (Kreizer) Soubier 718-885-1317 1981	Eileen (McGee) Hess 718-885-2809 1937
William Mueller 718-885-2352 1958	Helen (Livingston) McMahon 718-885-1197 1971

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You can also e-mail -- stmarysstarofthesea@earthlink.net

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Rock Hounding in the Park

On Saturday, March 4, Dr. Sydney Horenstein of the American Museum of Natural History will lead a "Rock Hounds" geology tour of Hunter and Twin Islands in Pelham Bay Park. This will be a rare opportunity to explore the shore's stunning boulders and ribs of crystalline bedrock, while learning about the formation of New York City's modern topography.

Over the centuries, storm waves from Long Island Sound have eroded parts of the two islands, exposing bedrock and creating a picturesque landscape reminiscent

of New England's rocky coast. These geological processes also created a rare habitat for the wide variety of plant and animal species found in the park today.

The group will meet at the northeast corner of the parking lot, and the tour will run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The "Rock Hounds" geology tour is part of a series of outdoor walks highlighting the startling beauty of natural areas within Pelham Bay Park's 2,765 acres. For more information, please call 718-430-1890.

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Photos by RICK DeWITT and ROSE KOLB

On Feb. 11, 2006, the Girl Scouts held their annual Sweetheart Dance at the Lido Restaurant. All the girls had a wonderful time, laughing with their fellow scouts and dates, dancing to the wonderful music and entertainment compliments of D.J. Ray, savoring the Lido's wonderful food, eating the delicious chocolate favors made by Janet Kramer, and enjoying their lasting photo memories, compliments of Rick DeWitt and Laury Hopkins. All the scouts and their families send a big warm hug of thanks to all the leaders and supporters who made this spectacular event possible.

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NEW YORK BOAT SHOW 2006

By BILL CLANCY

With our usual great sense of anticipation, son Bill and I breeze through the door of the Javits Center. It is a beautiful, mild January afternoon, and we are greeted by a big sign saying "Happy New Year" and "Welcome to 101st Edition of the World's Longest-Running Boat Show."

Seeing that boats have been around forever, it is interesting that the longest-running show is only 101 years old, isn't it? Cars maybe, boats no. Nevertheless, the next sign we see is advertising the 50th anniversary of Glastron Boats. Humbug! In my mode of reverie, I'm looking for a sign designating Penn Yans and Whirlwinds that used to be sold on City Island in the 1950s. Kids used to look in wonderment at those beauties, while running their hands over the glossy finishes. There was another beautiful line of boats at that time which were made in Finland. Someone help me out with the brand name. They were sold near the City Island Bridge, by the Nickel Palace.

We checked our coats in the show office, where I was surprised to not recognize anyone. Remember last year's story of the pregnant secretary who knew all the eating places on the Island? Instead, a very imperious woman introduced herself as being in charge for the last nine years and that our names were not and never were in the printer nametag program. She possibly was a relative of Ms. Fitzpatrick of ol' P.S. 17 fame.

First thing we commented on when arriving on the show floor was that the recent trend toward colored hulls must be over. Any craft over 25 feet seemed to be back to plain white bread. I used to love the deep blue hulls in particular. The second thing we noticed was that the place was crowded. Every boat had a good-sized line and, as all New Yorkers know, this is not a good thing. Our directory showed a large area on the other side of the floor called the "Discover Boating Center." There was another listing of a Cybercafe in the same spot. They both sounded good, and we said we'd be back to the big boats in an hour or so.

On our way over we passed the Godfrey Marine exhibit from Elkhart, Indiana. They were featuring Polar fishing boats, Sweetwater Pontoon and Hurricane Deck boats. What stopped us was a nice-sized picture of a J Lo lookalike in a very skimpy two-piece outfit on the deck of one of these

boats. The script below said "exceptional comfort—scuff, stain and tear resistant—fade resistant—more comfortable—more durable." We were not the only ones who stopped to look, it was that effective. If our friend Gene Valesio from BBD&O had been with us that night, he would have had that sign on video for future use.

When we arrived at the Cybercafe, it wasn't anything like what I thought it would be. It was a series of computer stations set up for public use to research boating information. Different manufacturers, models, power packages, insurance options, safety concerns, etc., everything pertaining to the show. By the way, all of these stations were in use.

What was good about the Discovery Center was that it was the entrance to the Electronics and Services section, always one of the most interesting series of booths. Every year we see more and more sophisticated instruments and gadgets. The screens on the fishfinders, charting systems, GPSs and radar units are now larger than the old television screens used to be, besides being in color. Boaters who are attracted to products with lots of initials, numbers and acronyms are right at home in this section. One of the larger exhibits was the Si-Tex Corp. from St. Petersburg, Florida. Just looking at the countertop displays was mind-boggling. Try this example: "Combine the MDSRadar Sensor with your Si-Tex C Map Charting System, and you can display your raw radar image on the new C-Map Max or NT+ charts for a complete overview of vessel traffic, weather, and fixed target data." Whatsay? My opinion of this is that it is a sure sign the economy is booming along. If wives of boaters, especially sailors, ever found out the cost of some of these seldom-used high-end gadgets, we would see some of the most magic kitchens of all time.

One of my major marine concerns has always been having a dead "batt." Now you have to have batts for the batts. As always I was impressed with local innovations. Doug and Donald Malin of the *Nothing Yet* are second to none in terms of the latest electronic devices. This winter I have heard that they are training vegetarian cormorants to use with their satellite fishfinder; hopefully, this will allow them to change the name of their boat.

We stopped to listen to a demonstration of an "autopilot" device. It was, as we expected, quite technical. Built-in loran/gps interface, automatic sea state and trim controls, selectable levels of rudder sensitivity, etc., etc. The key question is "Who's on the helm?" There have been at least three instances on the *Kitty Clyde*, two going down the Sound and one going downriver, that caused us to do a zigzag maneuver to get out of the way of a 50- or 60-footer steaming right up our wake. As the boat passed us, there was no one on the helm. These events happened on beautiful summer afternoons on busy waterways. Everyone must remember the accident on Roosevelt Island a few years ago, when a U.N.-chartered boat crashed while autopiloting down the river. This did happen at night, however, when many scenarios are

taking place concurrently.

The last items we looked at in this section were two consumer electronic products that were honored for innovative achievement. The first was a three-watt Cellular Mobile Dual Band Amplifier/ Repeater System. This unit, made by Digital Antenna, extends the range, power and reliability of existing mobile and cell phones. The second product was the Maretron SSC 200 Compass. This is the only solid-state marine compass using magnetometers to sense magnetic fields and compensate for them. I have to tell Captain Ed Sadler about this. It looked like a large TV splitter unit.

Since we were starting to get a headache, we decided on a diversion. The show's first "Boats of Bond" exhibit, put on in conjunction with the Ian Fleming Foundation, was calling. Memorabilia and the actual boats from five of the 007 movies were on display: the Bath-o-Sub from "Diamonds are Forever," the "Thunderball" tow sled used by Bond and Largo, the Glastron Amazon Chase Boat used in "Moonraker," the Neptune sub from "For Your Eyes Only" and Qs Jet boat from "The World Is Not Enough."

There were a lot of people looking in the showcase at the Odd Job death hat from "Goldfinger." Later on that week they were going to have a costume contest for Bond Day. I was sorry we were going to miss it. I would like to see Miss Money Penny and, of course, Miss Galore and Dr. Holly. When big ticket craft are on display at a show like this, a never-ending loop of James Bond should be playing below. I think he has a

similar effect of empowerment on both men and women. Quite nautical, I say.

Right next to Bond, a rugged-looking old race boat, *Ghost Rider*, was on display. It was the undefeated 1966 World Offshore Champion. She was 30-foot long with twin 750 turbo charged Daytonas. The owner, Captain Barry Cohen, was aboard and having a swell time talking about his famous craft. The last appearance of the *Ghost* was at the 1981 America's Cup Races in Newport as a host/ committee vessel. There were many photos of the *Ghost Rider* in action and many others of yesterday's ocean racers.

There was a tribute to James Wynne, the former chief test engineer of Kiekhaefer (Mercury) Corp., who died in 1990. I remembered his name from the 1950s, when Mercury took the outboard world by storm. From the KE, KF, & KG models to the Mark series with Quicksilver lower units [quicksys], they were the rage of the age. The display indicated that Mr. Wynne was also a crew member of the first transAtlantic outboard crossing, from Copenhagen to New York in 1958.

This unexpected brush with Mercury brought back thoughts of a childhood friend named Kenny Schafner, who lived on Pell Street. In the mid-50s, he had one of the fastest boats on the Island, no mean feat at that time. He had a 16-foot Raveau, a class D racing runabout, with a new Mark 40H Merc. I know that these numbers do not sound impressive nowadays with everything measured in hundreds, but believe me, be-

Continued on page 17

LOCAL VIEWS

By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

How did the snowstorm of 2006 affect you?



Spiros Chagares
Artie's Steak and Seafood

"We were devastated by the storm. It came on one of the two busiest weekends of the year. After having a very busy Saturday afternoon, the snow started to fall around 5:30 p.m. and it was pretty much over after that. On Sunday we didn't even open. There was no mass transportation available for the employees or patrons."

Rev. Susan Chadwick
Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church

"Despite the weather, we had nine people present at the Sunday service. Our lay leader, George Cavaliere, played the piano for us since our organist couldn't get here from Manhattan. After the service, someone went out and got refreshments, and we had a coffee hour and fellowship in the midst of the storm."



Nicholas Peluso
Age 12



"The snowstorm affected me in a good way, because I played in the snow with my friends and got some money shoveling. Snow only comes about three times a year, and I like the snowstorms because sometimes they cancel school."

Eileen Hess

"The problem was that my street wasn't plowed and my car was snowed in. My husband has a new pace-maker and I was concerned about being able to get him to the hospital in case of an emergency. I know that if I called 911 and told them my husband was experiencing heart problems, emergency vehicles would come right away, but I would have felt more at ease if the streets had been cleared better."



Christine Sortino



"I think the snowstorms from years ago were a lot worse. I didn't find this one to be any inconvenience at all, and everything cleared up quickly because of the warm weather."

Paul Scavello
Manager IGA

"With the forecast of snow everyone panics and rushes to the supermarket to stock up on all the necessities. Knowing that a big storm was coming, I double ordered things such as bread, milk, eggs and so on. I had an extra cashier on duty."



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Organization News

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

Current Calendar

MARCH

Tues., March 14; Wed., March 15; and Thurs., March 16: **Pre-Registration for Grades Pre-K through 7**, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, St. Mary, Star of the Sea School, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street (see *School News*).

Thurs., March 16: **Community Board 10 meets**, 7:30 p.m., Villa Barone Restaurant at Pelham Bay Station, 3289 Westchester Avenue, Bronx.

Sat., March 25: **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: baked ziti.

Tues., March 28: **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

Thurs., March 30, and Fri., March 31: **Kinder-garten Registration**, 9 to 2 p.m., P.S. 175, 200 City Island Avenue (see *School News*).

Garden Club News

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be Monday, March 6, at 10 a.m. at the City Island Yacht Club on Pilot Street.

We are planning a spring garden tour on Saturday, May 13. Further information will be in next month's *Current*.

Gardening hint: A nice way to bring some color into your home during the dreary winter is to force spring-blooming bulbs, such as hyacinth, narcissus and tulips.

Phyllis Goodman

Chapter 318 AARP

Our trips to Atlantic City are starting again. Our first one is on Tuesday, March 14. The bus leaves from 113 Bay Street on City Island at 9 a.m. For reservations, please call Jean Ringel at 718-885-1479 or John Bonicoro at 718-885-1844.

We are also going on a three-day, two-night trip to the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore area on April 20-22. We still have a few openings, so if you are interested, please come to our meetings and see Flo Bonicoro or Marie Tirelli.

We are opening our books for new members. Please join us and bring a friend. We meet the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church at 113 Bay Street. Refreshments and cake are served following the meeting. We sometimes have guest speakers or we play bingo. It is a pleasant way to spend an afternoon socializing with others.

Happy St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's Day!

Marie Tirelli

Trinity United Methodist Church

Lent is upon us, and spring will soon be in the air. We at Trinity hold our Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. every Sunday, and we have Sunday school at the same time. All are welcome for both services and Sunday school.

During this Lenten season, Trinity will host Bronx United Methodist Church on March 22 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

George Cavalieri has a bible study in session for the Lenten season. It follows our regular service. Please come and join us.

Spring wouldn't be spring without our annual Spring Fair, which will be held in April. The actual date is April 1. For further information on the fair, call Reverend Sue at 718-885-1218.

We still need volunteers at the Budget Shop. If you are interested in helping out, please call Ellen Hebard at 718-518-7241.

Anne Sill

Temple Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of City Island (at 480 City Island Avenue, between Beach and Bowne Streets) is an all-inclusive egalitarian, multiethnic Jewish congregation with Sabbath services each Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Shohama and Cantor Elaine will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday, March 10.

Adar is the month of fun, and the second weekend of Adar and March should be a blast at Temple Beth-El. To begin with, Rabbi Shohama will conduct a special Shabbat service on Friday, March 10. Our rabbinic interns, Karyn Berger and Daniel Klipper, will conduct a special family event for children on Saturday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m. Then, at 10:30 a.m., they will conduct our Spirituality Service and Torah Study workshop for adults.

And, finally, our gala Purim party will take place on Sunday, March 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. Come in casual attire or costume.

SHOHAM classes led by Rabbi Wiener offer Spiritual Healing Of Health And Mind and will be conducted on Monday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. The classes are a pathway to personal and global spiritual transformation based on the mystical practices of the Kohanim, the Priests of Biblical Israel (Free for members; \$15 per class for non-members).

Learn to Read Hebrew classes will be conducted on Wednesdays (from 7:30 to 9 p.m.). Materials and classes are free to everyone, thanks to the National Jewish Outreach Program. Mort Ellis will lead the classes in March.

Yoga/ Tai-Chi Classes continue on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. during March. Marc Kaplan's exercises will leave you more flexible, more energetic and refreshed. For more information, call Marc at 718-885-2445.

A Passover seder is being planned for April 12 or 13. Please call Bob Berent at 718-885-3098 to discuss your preferences or to make reservations. Our seders are quite comfortable, congenial and kosher!

Memorial plaques for your departed loved ones are now available. Visit our website at www.yourshulbythesea.org.

Bob Berent

City Island Seniors

Since we did not have a meeting in February, there isn't much to report. Our next meeting, the first of 2006, will be on Tuesday, March 7, at 1 p.m. If you could come a little early, about 12:30 p.m., to help set up tables and chairs, let Charlie Rosa know. He can be reached at 718-829-0245. We also could use kitchen help. We will discuss this at the meeting.

As I stated in the last issue of *The Current*, the renowned magician Bobo Yorburg will entertain us with his repertoire of magic tricks at the March meeting. If you haven't seen Bobo, you are in for a treat. Thanks go to Alice Stuttgart, who arranged this special performance.

This meeting is also special because we intend to pay homage to Andy Sbare, who for many years was our president. Andy, for those who knew him, was a gentleman and a good neighbor. As always, coffee, tea and cake will be served, and there will be a 50/50 drawing. Contributions for the drawing are voluntary.

Several people have called and asked why we don't hold meetings in the evening, since they are still employed. There are a number of reasons, all associated with the aging process. We're just not as young as we used to be.

See you on March 7.

Russell Schaller



Photo by ANGELO BELLOCCHIO

Feb. 5, 2006, was National Scout Sunday and a special 10 a.m. mass was held at St. Mary's church. Many Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as Brownies of all denominations attended a jam-packed service led by Father Michael Challinor. Some of the scouts participated and served in all the functions of the mass, which was followed by a continental breakfast for the families of the scouts in St. Mary's gym. Shown above is the scout color guard in front of St. Mary's congregation.

City Island Republicans

The first meeting of the City Island Republicans was held on Feb. 1 at the American Legion headquarters to a very fine turnout. The goal is to elect more Republicans, give our community representation from another perspective and to assist our new county chair Jay Savino get elected to the 34th District, first by going through the primary if there is one, followed by the general election in November.

Jay Savino was chief of staff for State Senator Vellella for 10 years, and he helped prevent the proposed water park at Orchard Beach and provided some funding for graffiti removal and a clean environment. Jay Savino will help to increase the funding for our City Island projects.

Republican Islanders Fred Ramftl Jr. and Patrick Rocchio chaired the meeting and said we need more Republican voices to be heard. We will campaign in the following months for more representation in our community. Anyone wishing to get a voter registration form can call Fred at 718-885-0984, or you may come to the next City Island Republican Club meeting at the American Legion on Wednesday, March 1, at 8 p.m.

Margie McNulty

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church celebrates Holy Communion, the Eucharist, every Sunday at 10 a.m., and you are warmly welcomed to join us. Supervised child care is now available every Sunday in the Parish Hall, beginning at 9:45 a.m., for young children who are not quite ready to sit with their parents throughout a whole service. For older children, church school is offered approximately three times a month, beginning at 10 a.m. Please call church school director Harlan Sexton at 718-885-9749 for dates and more information.

Here is an overview of what's happening at Grace Church during March and early April:

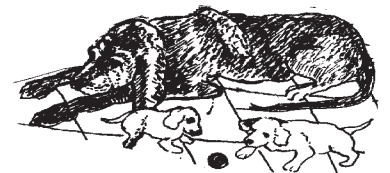
- Tuesday, March 7, 7:15 p.m.: Book Discussion Group (Parish Office). New members are always invited to join us. For more information about the Grace Church Book Group, please call Mother Patty in the Parish Office.

- Sunday, March 12, 12 noon, Parish Hall: Monthly "Health Talk" (free and open to the public.) This month's topic will be smoking cessation, offered through the generosity of Jacobi Medical Center. This program will explain how smoking affects your health and will provide some tools to stop smoking. Monthly Health Talks are sponsored by the Grace Church Health and Healing Ministry; if you have ideas for future programs, please leave a message at the Parish Office.
- Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Lenten

Quiet Day (offsite). To register, please be in touch with Mother Patty directly.

For more information about Grace Church, please contact Mother Patty Alexander at 718-885-1080 or RevPPA@gracecityisland.org, or visit our Web site: www.gracecityisland.org. See you in church!

Mother Patty Alexander



St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church Thrift Shop will put out its "spring collection" of clothes starting March 16. The Thrift Shop is located in the church on City Island Avenue near the bridge and is open every Thursday and select Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arlene Byrnes

Photography by Ron Ternei

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Our 2006 Membership Drive is under way. If you would like to become a member, please call 718-885-1145 for more information and a membership form.

Ongoing Events

Monthly Meetings of the Board are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room, 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend.

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

Weekly Schedule

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

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

Jazz/Tap for Grades 2 through 6: Thursdays after school. Call Linda at Dance Connection, 914-576-5515.

Girl Scouts: Fourth Grade. For information, call Grace Nagy at 718-757-1338.

Daisies: Kindergarten. For information call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040.

Small Potatoes-Creative Cooking for Kids: Thursdays. Give Gina a call for more information at 845-531-5011.

TEEN PROGRAM

Teen Center: Saturday evenings 7:30 to 10 p.m. Please call Jay Howard at 718-885-2192 for more information.

ADULT PROGRAM

Belly Dancing With Nadia: Fridays from 7 to 8 p.m. Call Nadia at 718-885-9660 for more information.

Belly Dancing With Myriam: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays. Call Myriam at 347-602-8968 for more information.

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

Aerobics Classes: Sundays, from 9 to 10 a.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m.; and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Babysitting available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793.

FAMILY PROGRAM & MIXED AGE GROUPS

Millennium Babies Playgroup: A free playgroup open to all with babies and/or pre-school children. Call Brenda Prohaska at 718-885-9040 for more information.

Vilma's Music Together: Music and movement for children ages birth through 5 and the adults who love them! Fridays, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., Saturdays from 10:15 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 718-882-2223 or visit the Web site www.vilmasmusictogether.com or e-mail info@vilmasmusictogether.com.

Knitting Club: Beginner knitting classes for all ages! Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call Carol at 718-885-3190 for more information.

Photography Classes: For adults and teens. Call Ron Turner at 718-885-1403 or inquire at Focal Point Gallery.

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

Amy Gottlieb-McElroy



Legion News

The Post tentatives returned from the mid-winter conference held in Albany in January. Attendees were Richard O'Keefe, Joe Goonan, David Carman, Bill Clancy and Doug Malin. Committees were formed to discuss and resolve the myriad issues facing the Legion in the coming year.

You probably have noticed that work to repair the southwest corner of the Post building has begun. There was serious structural deterioration requiring major rehabilitation. Also on the agenda for improvement is the unisex restroom on the first floor.

Even the best of us make mistakes, and I committed the following faux pas. In the last issue of *The Current*, I stated that flags were available for \$18. The cost is actually \$20 since we opted for aluminum poles in lieu of the cheaper pole, which rusted when exposed to the elements. Should you want a flag, see past commander Vincent Hecker at the Post any weekday after 12 noon.

At our Feb. 6 meeting we piped aboard Ed Watkins, who is a resident of the Boatyard. Welcome aboard, Ed.

The Sons of the Legion annual pig's-knuckle party was held on Friday, Feb. 24.

Mike Treat reported that 200 members had paid their 2006 dues and that 70 associate members had paid as well. Thanks go to Mike, who always does a good job.

The annual St. Patrick's Day dinner will be held on Sunday, March 12. There will be two sittings for this gala event, 2 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. A \$20 ticket will entitle the bearer to a corned beef and cabbage dinner, beer, wine and soda.

The annual Throggs Neck St. Patrick's Day parade will be on Tremont Avenue, on Sunday, March 12, starting at 12 noon.

I was surprised to get two volunteers for our flag detail and even more surprised to learn that both are senior citizens and not Legion members. I'd like to note here that a number of our volunteers are just Islanders who enjoy being able to help. Thanks to Arthur and Lorraine Rauhauser. I was given the names of several S.A.L. members last year, but only one, Bill Murphy, contacted me. I'll be asking Bill to work with me this year.

Regular meetings for the month of March are Monday, March 6, and Monday, March 20. Following the March 20 meeting, a corporation meeting will be held. An executive board meeting will be held on Monday, March 13.

For you WWII buffs, the fighting in Europe was winding down in late winter 1945. I was a sergeant in the photo interpretation section of the 33rd Photo Recon Squadron. On March 7, a sergeant yelled "we got a bridge over the Rhine and we're crossing over." The bridge was the Ludendorff railroad bridge, which would become known as the Remagen Bridge (see recon photo above). Germany's last natural barrier had been breached. Major Hans Scheller had attempted to destroy the bridge, but thanks to German engineering and construction, the bridge remained standing for 10 days. Major Scheller would become the scapegoat and was executed on orders from Adolf Hitler.

At ease until next month.

Russell Schaller

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Quests

Quests, Hollywood style, can take many forms. The first that come to my mind are the classic Harrison Ford films—**Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981), in which he searches for the Ark of the Covenant; **Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom** (1984), in which he searches for fortune and glory, as well as the kidnapped children of an Indian Village; and **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** (1989), in which he and his father (Sean Connery) search for the Holy Grail. I happened to see **Raiders** on opening day at noon, without having read a review of it. This was probably the most awesome action adventure movie experience of my life.

Then there is the epic **Lord of the Rings** trilogy: **The Fellowship of the Ring** (2001), **The Two Towers** (2002) and **The Return of the King** (2003). These films are a reverse sort of quest because Frodo (Elijah Woods) and his friends are trying to take the evil ring back to its place of origin in order to destroy it. Note: the DVD extended versions are far superior to the theatrical releases. Although they are extremely long, they are much more coherent, and the story is easier to follow for those who haven't read the books (or who read them too many years ago to remember).

For children, there is the animated film **The Sword in the Stone** (1963), an Arthurian legend set in the dark ages, when England was without a ruler. A sword embedded in a stone has an inscription:

"Whoso pulleth out the sword of this stone and anvil is rightwise king born of England." Everyone who attempts this feat fails, until an unlikely 11-year old boy is successful.

A grown-up version of another part of the Arthurian legend is told in **Excalibur** (1981). It stars Nigel Terry as Arthur, a heroic and naive man who searches for the Holy Grail while using his sword, Excalibur, to help him battle his way. There are stunning performances by Nicol Williamson as Merlin and Helen Mirren as Morgana. A very young Liam Neeson and Patrick Stewart also appear in this cinematographical beauty, which is often confusing but never dull.

For a total change of pace, there is the wacky, comedy cult classic **Monty Python and the Holy Grail** (1974). The ensemble cast features members of the British comedy troupe: Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin, all of whom collaborated on the script. Monty Python is certainly an acquired taste, with gags galore, such as trying to enter an enemy castle using a Trojan rabbit. For those who enjoy parodies, this uneven film can be a lot of fun.

John Boorman, who directed **Excalibur**, also directed the action-adventure film **The Emerald Forest** (1985), which is based on a true story of a 7-year-old boy who was kidnapped by Indians in 1972 in South America. The movie stars Powers Boothe as Bill Markham, a dam engineer on assignment in Brazil with his family. When his son (played by Boorman's own son Charley) is abducted, Markham goes on a 10-year quest to find him. With spectacular, lush-green cinematography, the film questions the environmental impact of United States engineering projects on tribal civilizations, but it is also a touching tale of the integration of an American boy into primitive life in the Amazon jungle.

Quest for Fire (1981) is the story of cave-dwellers who relied on fire for sur-

vival and comfort 80,000 years ago. They only know how to keep the fire going, and when it accidentally goes out, tribesmen are dispatched on a quest to find more. They finally encounter another tribe that has the secret of creating it. Special languages were designed for the movie, and the demonstration of humankind's ingenuity is fascinating. With striking locales, this is a convincing depiction of what the past might have been like and a suspenseful, touching and funny film.

My favorite of the quest movies is set in present-day America. **The Fisher King** (1991) stars Robin Williams in a stunning performance as Parry, a traumatized homeless man who is on a quest for the Holy Grail. Parry is befriended by Jack (Jeff

Bridges), a has-been radio star, and Anne (Mercedes Ruehl), Jack's girlfriend, who owns a video store. Parry has a secret in his past that causes demons to come upon him at times. He is in love with Lydia, (Amanda Plummer), a meek and clumsy office worker, and Jack tries to encourage the romance. There are some wonderful moments in the film. After her first date with Parry, Lydia describes her fear of getting involved in a relationship, which provokes a response from Parry that is both surprising and touching. There is also a memorable scene where everyone in Grand Central station suddenly breaks into a grand ballroom dance, which is pure magic on the screen.

And until next time, happy viewing....

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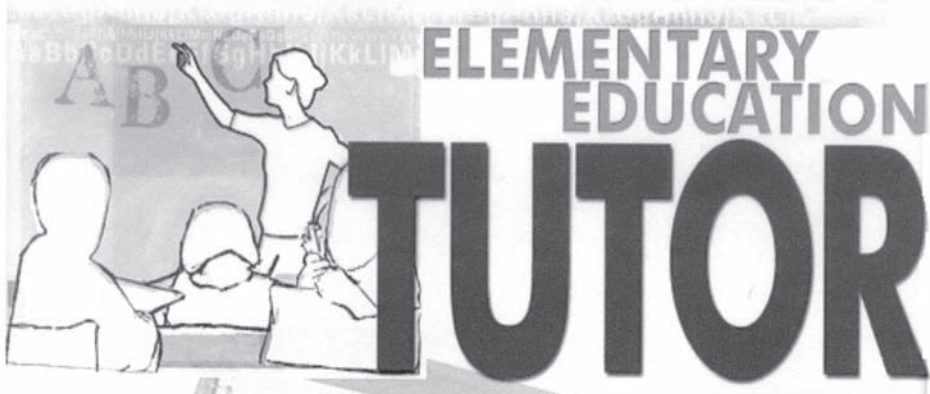
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Enrique Vega, director of the Bronx chapter of the American Red Cross, receives a check from Jane Dennehy, principal of St. Mary, Star of the Sea School in the amount of \$1,000 for Hurricane Katrina Relief. The money was raised during the school's annual Mission Awareness Day held in November 2005. It was a day filled with fun and games for the students who participated in raising the money and becoming aware of the needs of others outside their school community.



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

February was a month of many celebrations; Black History Month, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Kindness Week, Catholic School's Week and Honors Assembly.

March is here, and the students are once again preparing to take the ITBS standardized tests, as well as the New York State math exams. The ITBS tests give a fair overview of the progress the students have made this year with special attention paid to math and language arts.

A second round of pre-registration for grades Pre-K to 7 will take place on Tuesday, March 14; Wednesday, March 15; and Thursday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please bring with you a copy of your child's birth certificate, baptismal and sacramental certificates if applicable, immunization and health records, the most recent report card, any standardized testing results and a \$50 non-refundable pre-registration fee when you come to register. It is not necessary for you to bring the child on these days. A date will be set up to do an entrance screening if necessary. You will be notified of your child's acceptance by telephone during the last week of March. If you have any questions, please call 1-718-885-1527 or stop in during the school day. You are most welcome!

As spring draws closer, several field trips are being planned: the Aquarium at Norwalk; Medieval Times in Rutherford, New Jersey; a trip to our State Capitol in Albany; and an eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., are among some of our upcoming events.

A very happy St. Patrick's Day to all! He is the beloved patron of the Archdiocese of New York. Hope to see many of you later this month at our second round of pre-registration.

Public School 175

Although a short month, February had been quite busy. Students in Grades 3 through 8 worked diligently with their teachers to prepare for their standardized math tests, which will be given in March. Many students in Grades 1 through 8 have been selected to participate in the Extended Day Program. During this time, the school offers academic programs, as well as Lego Robotics, to the sixth- and seventh-graders, and the Toy Challenge to Grade 8.

All the students have been working with Lincoln Center Teaching Artists and their

classroom teachers studying the Shakespeare play "Twelfth Night." On Feb. 13, members of the Aquila Production Company gave an enthralling performance of excerpts from the play at the school. After the performance, the students asked the actors very insightful questions about the production. We are most grateful to the PTA for providing the students with the opportunity to work with Lincoln Center.

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill continued this year. Grade 6 spent three days learning about the environment and themselves. Mrs. Rondi, Ms. Loscalzo, Mr. Lafreniere, Ms. Bottjer and Mr. Breen accompanied the students and said it was an enriching experience for both the students and themselves. The school was most fortunate that Mr. Rauh accompanied the students for the twenty-first consecutive year!

The fifth-graders have been busy working with classroom teachers and Mrs. Fatement on their May performance of "Bye, Bye, Birdie." Judging from the rehearsals, it is obvious that this is going to be a marvelous production! In April, as an extension activity, the students and teachers are going to see "Hairspray" on Broadway and will meet with one of the actors after the show to learn more about what goes into a professional production.

Grade 7 is gearing up for two trips: in March they will be going to Philadelphia and in May to Boston. Both trips tie in with what they have been learning in social studies.

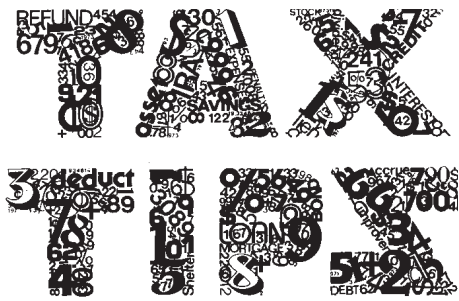
The students and parents of the eighth-grade graduation committees have been meeting with Mrs. Rondi and Mrs. Gisante to plan for their momentous June event. The annual Valentine's Day Sale fundraiser provided an opportunity for the children to purchase Valentine's Day gifts for their family members. Their final fundraising event will be a pasta dinner for their families. This year's senior trip will be an overnight visit to Washington, D.C.

Please keep in mind these important dates: Parent-teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday, March 21, from 1 to 3:40 p.m. and from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Science Fair display will take place on this day, as well.

Kindergarten registration for City Island residents only will take place on March 30 and March 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ongoing registration will continue on Thursday mornings beginning April 6, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Eighth-grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 23, at 10 a.m. The eighth-grade dance will take place the same evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 22, at 10 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the field adjoining the schoolyard.



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

Energy Credits for Homeowners

The Treasury Department and the IRS recently issued guidelines relating to the credits that homeowners may claim for purchases that make their homes more efficient. During 2006 and 2007, individuals can make energy-conscious purchases that will provide tax benefits when filling out their tax returns in subsequent years. Manufacturers who offer energy-efficient items, such as insulation or storm windows, can assure their customers that these items will qualify for the tax credit if certain energy-efficiency requirements are met.

In order to improve the efficiency of existing homes, a recent tax law change provides a 10 percent tax credit for buying qualified energy-efficient improvements. To qualify, a component must meet or exceed the criteria established by the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code and must be installed in the taxpayer's primary home in the United States.

The following items are eligible: insulation systems that reduce heat loss/gain; exterior windows (including skylights); exterior doors; and metal roofs that meet applicable Energy Star requirements.

In addition, the law provides a credit for costs relating to residential energy property

expenses. To qualify as residential energy property, the property must meet certification requirements prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury and must be installed in the taxpayer's primary home in the United States.

The following items are eligible: \$50 for each advanced main air circulating fan; \$150 for each qualified natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water heater; and \$300 for each item of qualified energy-efficient property.

The maximum credit for all taxable years is \$500, no more than \$200 of which can be attributable to expenses for windows.

Additionally, the new law makes a credit available to those who add qualified solar panels, solar water-heating equipment or a fuel-cell power plant to their homes. In general, a qualified fuel-cell power plant that converts a fuel into electricity using electrochemical means has an electricity-only generation efficiency of more than 30 percent and generates at least 0.5 kilowatts of electricity.

Taxpayers are allowed one credit equal to 30 percent of the qualified investment in a solar panel up to a maximum credit of \$2,000 and another equivalent credit for investing in a solar water-heating system. No part of either system can be used to heat a pool or hot tub.

Additionally, taxpayers are also allowed a 30 percent tax credit for the purchase of qualified fuel-cell power plants. The credit may not exceed \$500 for each .5 kilowatt of capacity. These items must be placed in service after Dec. 31, 2005, and before January 1, 2008.

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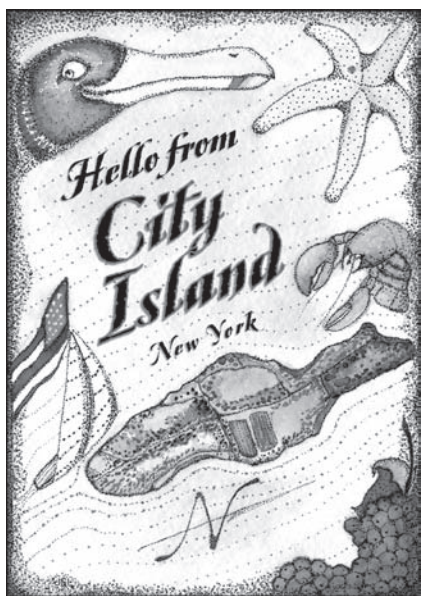
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 HH = hours; MM = minutes. *Tide chart by Tom Snuff*

MARCH 2006									
DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Wed	0629	-1.3	1218	8.3	1850	-1.3			Wed 01
02 Thu	0641	8.5	0720	-1.3	1308	8.0	1935	-1.0	Thu 02
03 Fri	0129	8.4	0813	-1.1	1400	7.6	2027	-0.8	Fri 03
04 Sat	0220	8.1	0910	-0.6	1457	7.1	2113	0.0	Sat 04
05 Sun	0317	7.8	1014	-0.1	1605	6.6	2216	0.5	Sun 05
06 Mon	0428	7.2	1122	0.3	1719	6.3	2330	1.0	Mon 06
07 Tue	0546	7.0	1230	0.8	1829	6.2			Tue 07
08 Wed	0643	1.2	0656	7.0	1332	0.7	1832	6.4	Wed 08
09 Thu	0147	1.2	0757	7.1	1429	0.6	2028	6.6	Thu 09
10 Fri	0243	1.0	0851	7.3	1519	0.5	2117	7.0	Fri 10
11 Sat	0333	0.8	0939	7.4	1603	0.4	2202	7.2	Sat 11
12 Sun	0417	0.6	1022	7.5	1642	0.4	2241	7.4	Sun 12
13 Mon	0455	0.4	1100	7.5	1718	0.4	2315	7.4	Mon 13
14 Tue	0523	0.3	1192	7.4	1741	0.4	2340	7.4	Tue 14
15 Wed	0552	0.2	1153	7.2	1753	0.4	2351	7.5	Wed 15
16 Thu	0608	0.1	1205	7.2	1807	0.3			Thu 16
17 Fri	0607	7.6	0631	0.1	1228	7.1	1834	0.3	Fri 17
18 Sat	0608	7.7	0700	0.1	1302	7.0	1910	0.4	Sat 18
19 Sun	0113	7.8	0742	0.2	1341	6.9	1950	0.6	Sun 19
20 Mon	0155	7.7	0826	0.4	1427	6.7	2035	0.8	Mon 20
21 Tue	0242	7.6	0917	0.6	1519	6.5	2128	1.1	Tue 21
22 Wed	0337	7.5	1016	0.9	1618	6.4	2228	1.3	Wed 22
23 Thu	0438	7.3	1128	1.0	1730	6.4	2340	1.3	Thu 23
24 Fri	0550	7.2	1306	0.8	1854	6.7			Fri 24
25 Sat	0113	1.1	0713	7.4	1422	0.4	2017	7.2	Sat 25
26 Sun	0239	0.4	0832	7.7	1518	-0.2	2111	7.8	Sun 26
27 Mon	0341	-0.3	0934	8.0	1610	-0.5	2201	8.3	Mon 27
28 Tue	0435	-0.9	1027	8.2	1657	-0.9	2248	8.8	Tue 28
29 Wed	0528	-1.3	1116	8.3	1741	-1.0	2333	8.8	Wed 29
30 Thu	0615	-1.4	1204	8.1	1825	-0.9			Thu 30
31 Fri	0018	8.7	0704	-1.3	1292	7.8	1908	-0.6	Fri 31

APRIL 2006									
DAY	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	TIME HH MM	HEIGHT FEET	DAY
01 Sat	0104	8.5	0754	1.0	1342	7.4	1959	-0.2	Sat 01

ALL TIMES ARE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINNING SUNDAY, APRIL 2

02 Sun	0252	8.1	0940	-0.4	1537	7.0	2142	0.4	Sun 02
03 Mon	0347	7.6	1046	0.2	1641	6.6	2244	1.0	Mon 03
04 Tue	0457	7.2	1158	0.7	1752	6.4			Tue 04
05 Wed	0600	1.4	0616	6.3	1258	1.0	1900	6.4	Wed 05
06 Thu	0119	1.6	0728	6.8	1358	1.1	2001	6.6	Thu 06
07 Fri	0217	1.5	0827	6.9	1453	1.1	2055	6.9	Fri 07
08 Sat	0319	1.3	0921	7.1	1542	1.0	2144	7.2	Sat 08



Coyotes Plus

We got a call recently from a friend who said that he and his wife had spotted a coyote by the golf range in Pelham Bay Park one night last month at around 8 p.m. It was gray, as far as they could tell, and approximately 55 to 65 pounds. That information seemed to confirm our own observations in the woods between the golf course and Glover's Rock. In a shallow pool of water there, we found two sets of animal tracks; one was made by a deer and the other by either a stray dog or a coyote.

Coyotes are not native to the Eastern United States, let alone the Bronx and Pelham Bay Park. Scientists point to historically aggressive attempts by humans to control wolf populations out West as a contributing cause to the increasing coyote populations in the country. (Wolves and coyotes, apparently, don't get along.) That the coyotes have finally made their way East should not surprise anyone, these same scientists say.



By now, coyotes in Pelham Bay Park are nothing new any more but always interesting and still exciting. If you've seen a dog out there with a bushy tail and it wasn't a German shepherd, there's a good chance that it wasn't a dog, after all, but a coyote. As an omnivore, a coyote would be just as likely to make a meal of discarded French

fries at the mini-golf course as it would of a rabbit in its hole in the woods. Keep your eyes open for coyotes this spring, and let us know if you come across one (or two, or three . . .). As usual, we can be reached at jdsstrat@msn.com.

As for the record snow storm, you really have to give the city credit for the effective way it handled the gargantuan task of snow removal. Granted they had a little help from the weather that followed the storm, but it wasn't the weather that got City Island Avenue ready for business as usual Monday morning. Of course, children who were hoping for a snow day wouldn't appreciate the city's efforts, but, you may recall, even in the worst of years—the 1970s, for example—New York City's public schools always found a way to stay open in a storm.

And, finally, it appears that New York City hawks have finally made their way to City Island, perhaps attracted by the pigeon population we have here. Twice in the last two months, we have witnessed pigeons being taken by Cooper's hawks, once in a tree on the beach at Winter Street, the other time in Catherine Scott Park. Let us know what you see and hear.

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SOCIAL

Public Warned About Identity Theft E-mail Scam

The Social Security Agency has issued a warning about a new e-mail scam that has surfaced recently.

The agency has received several reports that an e-mail message is being circulated addressed to: "Dear Social Security Number And Card owner" and purporting to be from the Social Security Administration. The message informs the reader "that someone illegally is using your Social Security number and assuming your identity" and directs the reader to a Web site designed to look like Social Security's Web site.

"I am outraged that someone would target an unsuspecting public in this manner," said Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security. "I have asked the Inspector General to use all the resources at his command to find and prosecute whoever is perpetrating this fraud."

Once directed to the phony Web site, the individual is asked to confirm their identity with "Social Security and bank information." Specific information about the individual's credit card number, expiration date and PIN number is then requested. "Whether on our online Web site or by phone, Social Security will never ask you for your credit card information or your PIN number," Commissioner Barnhart said.

The agency recommends that people always take precautions when giving out personal information. Patrick O'Carroll Jr., Social Security's Inspector General, says: "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the

information."

To report receipt of this e-mail message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General, please call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-269-0271. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at 1-866-501-2101). A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's Web site www.socialsecurity.gov/oig.

Retirement Decisions

Deciding what age to retire and start collecting Social Security retirement benefits is a personal decision that depends on a person's financial resources, health, retirement plans and many other variables.

Before making such a decision, however, it is well worth your while to become aware of certain basic Social Security facts about the retirement age and the benefits a worker can receive.

As a famous American athlete once said "The question isn't at what age I want to retire, it's at what income." This is true for many people, and it is why you need to know what your "full retirement" age is as it relates to Social Security. And you need to know what retiring earlier than your full retirement age might mean in actual dollars and cents.

Many people still do not know that an increase in the retirement age was included in the Social Security Amendments of 1983. Based on the provision in those amendments, the age for receiving full benefits is gradually rising from 65 to 67. That age will continue to rise until 2027, when it reaches 67 for those born in 1960 or later. Workers can still retire as early as age 62, however, and collect a reduced benefit.

If you were born in 1941 and are planning to retire in 2006, your full retirement age will be 65 years and 8 months. What does this change mean in terms of benefit payments? There is a formula that you can use to figure out the difference between

retiring at age 62 or 64 or 65 or 65 and 8 months, but it can be time-consuming and require several computations.

Thankfully, Social Security has a convenient online chart at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/retirechart.htm that you can use to get the same information at a quick glance. For example, if you were born in 1941 and decide to retire at age 62, you would receive about 77 percent of your full retirement benefit, or a 23 percent reduction for retiring early.

The question you need to ask is: Can I meet my financial needs or expectations with that level of income? Of course, any private pensions and savings or investments that you may have should be figured into the decision, as would any income from a spouse if you are married.

And you should know that Social Security benefits are increased by a certain percentage (depending on date of birth) if you delay your retirement beyond full retirement age. For more information, visit Social Security's Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/delayret.htm.

Because Social Security is the financial foundation that most retirees build on, most workers are advised to evaluate the financial pros and cons of retiring early or waiting until they reach full retirement age or later. One of the best places to begin weighing these alternatives is by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/. Find out what your full retirement age is and how your retirement age will affect your Social Security benefit.

Saving for Retirement

Some Americans are surprised to learn that today's workers and families are not nearly as diligent about saving as previous generations have been. From the 1950s through the early 1980s, personal savings hovered between 6.6 and 11 percent of income. Since the early 1980s, however, personal savings have steadily declined. And now, in the first decade of a new century, personal savings have virtually flat-

lined at about 1 percent of income.

According to financial experts, you will need at least 70 percent of your annual working income when you retire to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. For the average worker, Social Security will provide about 40 percent of that amount. That means you would have a 30 percent gap to fill.

Most workers can reach this goal by contributing to an employer's 401(k) or other pension plan, Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or other savings and investments.

Of course, these numbers are just general guidelines. The percentage of pre-retirement earnings that a worker may count on from Social Security can vary greatly. That amount will depend on how much you have earned and how many years you have worked in a job where you paid Social Security taxes. If you are married, your retirement financial goals would also be affected by the entitlement and expectations of your spouse to Social Security and other retirement benefits.

A convenient way to see if the percentages for your retirement savings plan are in your favor is by using our online Retirement Benefits Planner at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/index.htm>. You can plug in the numbers and get estimates of what you (and your spouse) might expect in terms of Social Security benefits, and what you need to come up with yourself by other means. And, of course, the earlier you start planning for your retirement financial needs, the easier it will be.

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Photo by BARBARA DOLENSEK

Grace Church Parish Hall was the setting on Feb. 24, 2006, for a NYC Fire Department training program in CPR, and many residents took part.

Boat Show

Continued from page 9

sides *Bronx Thunder*, there is not a boat in Eastchester Bay today that could get close to Kenny's boat if it were still around. Upon acceleration there was a feeling of great excitement and fear as you looked at the water rushing past you 24 inches away. Bob Leavy and Frank Jensen had the *Doodlebug*, another fast boat of its day, and there was a guy in Dunhams/Sagmans who was a world record-holder in an A Class Hydro.

We stopped at an oasis (one of the many) to have a Big Bud and a Big Dog, \$4.50 and \$3.50, respectively. A bargain when you think that we were surrounded by millions of dollars of marine products. Bill Jr. was disappointed to not find any Bond girls lounge-lizarding. I told him they would be here on Bond Day.

We were wondering how my #2 son, Mike, and his wife, Hailey (the double majors) were doing in Iraq. They are in Camp Anaconda near Balad, 70 km north of Baghdad. They say it is not too bad there even though the place has the nickname of Mortarville. Because of American sensitivity toward the Muslim culture, our military is in a dry (alcohol free) country. Mike says that it is like a year-round Lenten season. They are doing great work over there, and some day it will be divulged to the rest of the world. We give a toast to all our overseas troops.

Getting back to business, we ran into a familiar face, the inimitable Robin Ricca of the City Island YC. Rob was accompanied by fellow club members, Kirby and a new resident of the Island, Leigh Mulroy. They were on a "critique tour" of the show, and I'm sure will be making a report back to the YC. Rob is the captain of the *Phoenix*, a racing sailboat of note on Long Island Sound.

One of our annual visits is at the NY/NJ Baykeeper exhibit. This is a great, mostly volunteer organization that in the last 15 years has preserved and restored more than 10,000 acres of critical habitat in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. A very personable young lady named Tara was on duty, and she gave us a brief report of last year's activities.

A major project of the last half dozen years has been the restoration of oyster beds, which are vital to the ecological well-being of the estuary. As we all know, oyster harvesting was a major industry in the NY/NJ area, including City Island, up to the turn of the 20th century. On a good year, 500,000 bushels would be collected, with one third shipped to England. Unfortunately, the oyster population deteriorated after 1900 because of overharvesting, pollution, disease and siltation.

I told Tara that I had just read an interesting book, "The Bottom of the Harbor." It is a series of "New Yorker" magazine articles written by Joseph Mitchell in the 1940s and 1950s. He was a newspaper reporter with eclectic interests, one being the harbor. I found it fascinating. One fact he mentioned will always stick in my head: there was a series of oyster beds that ran continuously from Sandy Hook up to Ossining. Tara picked up one of her handouts, opened it up and pointed to a phrase stating that very fact. Can you imagine?

One of the initiatives of the Baykeeper is the restoration of hundreds of thousands of oysters to the Hudson/Raritan Estuary ecosystem, using its volunteer-driven oyster gardening program combined with an aquaculture program. The public is encouraged to get involved by becoming an oyster gardener, possibly by raising oysters at your dock or beach for habitat restoration. It is said that an adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day. Anyone interested in this worthwhile program can call the Baykeeper at 732-888-9870. Their e-mail is oysters@nyjbaykeeper.org. Sounds very interesting, doesn't it?

Another organization I heard about that day was the International Coastal Cleanup. They claim to have removed more than 7.6 million pounds of garbage from the ocean in 88 countries in 2004, including 1.3 million cigarette butts. To learn more or to volunteer for this year's beach cleanup, visit www.coastalcleanup.org.



Last year I reported that my oldest brother, Boston Kev, was having a new boat built by Morris Boat Works in Maine. His craft, *Alacrity*, was going to be the first Morris 42 built, with an April '05 launch date. The owner of the second of the line, scheduled six weeks after *Alacrity*, became serious ill and backed out of the deal. The Morris people decided to sail the boat down to the Annapolis Boat Show to show it and to compete in the Cruising Worlds 2006 Boat of the Year Contest. Could you ever imagine—the Morris 42 was declared the Domestic Cruising Boat of the Year! This is one of the best Christmas presents an avid sailor like Boston Kev could ever receive.

Time passed very quickly as we wandered through the accessory section, which is one of my favorites. It always astounds me to see all the products being sold. Among others, there were 8 firms selling "Bedding, Sheet and Fitted Mattresses," another 8 selling sunglasses, 5 doing jewelry; 24 featuring gift shop items; and 21 with footwear and clothing. The hugeness of this section and its success are hard to fathom until you realize that we have 17.6 million boats in use in the United States. Of these more than 10 million are recreational powerboats. There are more than 69 million Americans boating on over 50 million acres of lakes, on more than 600,000 miles of rivers and on more than 88,000 miles of coastal shoreline. The survey went on to say that half the population lives within 50 miles of a coastline. The highest number of registered boaters are in Michigan, followed by California and Minnesota. Where are Florida, Maryland and New York? Is City Island even a blip? One mention of the Island that I saw was that there is a pump-out station at the Sailmaker Marina.

We were about to leave when we ran into an old friend, Jerry Carew of the Silver Beach Post. Jerry is the younger brother of Captain Mike of Dive Shop fame. He was hanging out that day with Max Mazzella of Boat Max, and they were talking to about 10 people at the same time. But the security men were waving to us and we were out the door. Another good show in the book. See you around the Island!

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City Island

AN INFORMAL HISTORY

By BERNARD WITLIEB

Bronx Oysters

From a report of the Commissioner of Fisheries of the State of New York in charge of the oyster investigation - 1885.

"City Island is located near the entrance of the East River into Long Island Sound, in one of those numerous small bays which indent the shoreline of Westchester County. It is about fourteen miles, as the crow flies, or nineteen mile by river, from the City Hall, and is a center of a large and important oyster industry; in fact the people who find a home here represent as near a typical oyster community as can be found anywhere within a long distance of this metropolis, since there are very few of the residents of the island or, so far as that goes, of its immediate vicinity, who do not gain their living, or the greater portion of it at least, by oystering..."

"Most of the land under water in the immediate vicinity of City Island and in the neighboring bays and covers along the shore of westchester County was, fifty years ago or more, valuable oyster territory, and much of it still has natural beds of oysters growing upon it. These beds, varying greatly in size, extend all along the shore to and beyond the Connecticut line. With probably few, if any, exceptions these coast or shore beds are much less productive at the present time than they were years ago, and most of these oysters which are taken are small and are used almost exclusively for the purpose of stocking the planted or private beds. The "set" or catch of young oysters, upon most of them each year is good, sometimes excellent owing to the cleansing action of the tidal currents and the nearly constant turning and tumbling about which the shells and oysters get from the incessant working of the oystermen upon them."

"The lands under water in the neighborhood of City Island are held in very primitive style. Each man originally staked out as much as he thought he wanted to use, or as he could get, placed oysters on a part of the whole of it, and henceforth claimed it was private property. Very few planters can tell

today how much land they are working and no public record is kept of it, or any returns made for it to the State, County or Town. Each man is supposed to know where his property lies, and so innocent and peaceable are the inhabitants of this island of the waters that not only does each man know his own territory but also the territory occupied by his friends and neighbors, and what is more to the purpose, not even his oysters. It is a striking illustration of each right hand knowing what every other right hand is doing and respecting the secrets of the fingers. If we can believe what we hear, this is not only a typical, but it is also a model community, where few crimes are committed and few punishments are meted out, and where even those ungodly outsiders, who are caught loitering over forbidden treasures, are sent away in charming confusion with the injunction to 'go and sin no more'."

"The people of City island have two grievances which disturb them much more than does the intrusion upon the natural oyster territory. One is the dumping of garbage brought from the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and the other the deprivation which they suffer from not being allowed to dredge for seek oysters along the shores of the Hudson river in State waters. In regard to the first grievance, the oystermen say that a great many captains of the vessels which bring away garbage from the cities of New York and Brooklyn, instead of taking their load beyond the limits established by law, dump the contents anywhere along the river and sound where they think it will not be discovered and a charge made against them. In this manner many localities have recently been rendered unfit for oyster planting, and many beds have been buried up and consequently destroyed, and the dumping is still going on."

(Note: Off the Bronx shoreline, City Island's population was originally almost exclusively employed in the oyster industry. This was still true at the turn of the century, though beds were not producing the quality or quantity they had in years before.)

Obituaries

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

Violet Brasack

Longtime Islander, Violet Brasack, passed away on Feb. 18, 2006. She was 89.

She was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 16, 1916. Mrs. Brasack moved to City Island, and she and her husband lived on Ditmars Street for over 25 years.

Mrs. Brasack was active in the City Island Garden Club and AARP Chapter 318. For many years, she also worked in the old Bloomingdale's on Main Street in New Rochelle.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Wilford; her brother, Robert Travers; and her nephew and niece, Reid and Lorie Travers.

Mrs. Brasack's wake was at Schuyler Hill Funeral Home in the Bronx, with prayers led by Reverend Susan Chadwick. She was interred at Ferncliff Cemetery.



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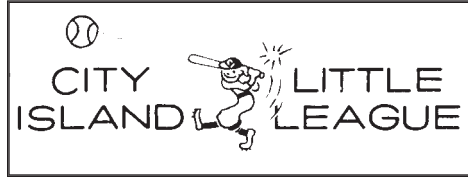
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TUTORING: TACHS, Latin, Elementary subjects, S.A.T., S.A.T. II Lit., S.A.T. II Writing, P.S.A.T., S.S.A.T., help with term papers. Call Alice Rotello 718-885-0764.



Pitchers and catchers have reported, and spring training is in full swing. We are now preparing for the new season. If anyone is still interested in playing, please contact us as soon as possible. We will select our teams for the Minor and Major Leagues in the near future. Once teams are selected, it will be difficult to place new players. Each year we are inundated with late registrants, so we ask that you be considerate and enroll your children early. If you have a child between the ages of 7 and 15 interested in playing, contact us at cityislandlittleleague@yahoo.com or call Larry Saulnier at 718-885-1313. Five- and six-year-olds may register anytime

for our instructional league by calling Larry Saulnier.

We are once again excited about another season of baseball here on City Island. At the last Civic Association Virginia Gallagher introduced the proposed plans for the renovation at Ambrosini Field. This upgrade includes a new playing field and practice field and the replacement of the playground at the entrance to the park. We are optimistic that the improvements will benefit all of the residents of City Island.

We will soon begin our own spring-training program. The time and location are yet to be determined, and we will notify registered players as soon as the information becomes available. We hope to see you all down at the field. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact us.

Executive Board

Warrior Football and Cheerleading Registration

Warrior chief Jerry Demers announces that the registration for the 2006 season will take place at Lehman High School on Sunday, March 5, and Sunday, March 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registrants should enter through the side entrance by the field and proceed to the gym. Lehman High School is located at 3000 East Tremont Avenue.

Players should come prepared for light exercise and should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registrants must bring a copy of their birth certificate.

Chief Demers welcomes all City Islanders and told *The Current* that many residents have participated in Warriors over

the years, including some season MVPs.

The age and weight categories for 2006 are as follows:

- Cheerleading – 6 to 13 years old, no weight restrictions
- Flag football – 6, 7 or 8 years old, no weight restrictions
- Mite tackle football – 7, 8 or 9 years old, 90 pounds or less
- Pee Wee tackle – 9, 10, or 11 years old, 110 pounds or less
- Junior tackle – 11, 12 or 13 years old, 130 pounds or less
- Travel tackle – 13, 14 years old, 150 pounds or less
- Travel team – 14, 15 or 16 years old, 180 pounds or less

Ages are determined as of July 31, 2006. All divisions are co-ed.

Practices begin in August on week-day evenings for the fall football season. Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays at Pelham Bay Park and Lehman High School. The cost schedule for the 2006 season is \$120 for tackle football and cheerleading, \$100 for flag football, and \$150 for travel teams.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, and those who fail to register in the spring are not guaranteed a roster spot in August, even if they are returning players. For more information about football, call Jerry Demers at 718-829-7574, and for cheerleading, call Geri Demers at 718-792-5747.



Photography by Ron Turner
Phone: 718-885-1403



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

Speedy recovery to Buckley Street resident Bill Stuttig, who underwent surgery in February. Bill is a staff writer for The Current and we wish him a complete recovery.

Congratulations to Frank J. Koller, Jr. and Ryan Ann White on their Jan. 27 engagement, which took place in Keystone, Colorado, while they were riding a gondola up the mountain.

Happy 84th birthday to Buckley Street's Charlie Lacina, who will celebrate his big day on March 29. With love from Stacey, Natalie, Charles and Bette.

A big HELLO to all my friends at P.S. 175. You are always in my thoughts and I love you, from Frank B. Ring, Sr. (the "Doorman").

Terrace Street and King Avenue joyfully welcomed City Island's newest clamdigger, beautiful Maya Rose, born on Feb. 13 only hours after the "storm of the century." Proud parents are Craig and Juliet Senior-Jones-Antelmi. Although Dr. Ed Rothschild and "Uncle Bob" Kraemer did not directly deliver the baby, they frantically cleared the snow when they saw the stork circling. Con-

gratulations to Craig and Juliet; your friends and family are thrilled. Proud grandmothers are Dopcie Senior and Vivian Jones.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Hailey Nelson, who turned five on Feb. 23; her brother Joseph, who turns eight on March 10, and their dad, Joe, who celebrates on March 28. Congratulations to all from your family.

Warm birthday wishes are sent to Marine Street's Christopher Butterworth, who will celebrate his 16th birthday on March 8. Love from your family.

From the Occhicone family: Happy birthday to Phil Tomsen on March 3 and Dottie Tomsen on March 10. Happy third birthday to our three precious grandchildren, James, Jese and Jenee, who celebrate on March 7. Love from Grandpa Gene and Grandma Maryann. Happy birthday on March 15 to Grandpa Gene Occhicone. Are you ready to retire yet? Don't forget April 4, 2006—your 25th wedding anniversary.

And to Judy Tomsen McCormick, a big happy 50th birthday on March 18. Little sister can't be 50. Tina's still 39. Love from your big sisters, Tina, Karen, Maryann and family.

Happy birthday wishes to Pell Place's Barbara Stiene, who will celebrate her big day on March 31. With love from your family and friends.

Happy birthday to Devon Zapata, who will celebrate his second birthday on March 26, with love from the Carmody and Cebek families.

Maria Swieciki



Photo by BOB SWIECKI

City Island was well represented at Adolfo Carrión's State of the Borough speech, given on Feb. 2, 2006, at Lehman High School. Pictured above are (l. to r.) Bill Clancy, Ben DiGregorio, Maria Swieciki, Borough President Carrión and Mike Rauh. Not pictured: Frank Fitts.

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