

The Island Current

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One Dollar

FLOOD ZONES ON CI: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps 2015

- V Zone
- A Zone
- Shaded X Zone

Courtesy NYC DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

Did you know that if you are in a flood zone, there is a 1 in 4 chance your building will flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage? Floods have the potential to destroy homes and businesses, damage subways and utilities, and threaten safety. In New York City, the primary causes of flooding are hurricanes, tropical storms, nor'easters, intense rain storms and even extreme high tides. With climate change and sea level rise, these risks are expected to increase in the future.

Damage from floods is not covered by homeowner or property insurance, and flood insurance must be purchased as a separate policy. Most flood insurance policies are administered by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and sold through the same agents that sell other kinds of insurance. You may be required by federal law to purchase and maintain flood insurance if your property is located in a high-risk flood zone, has a federally backed mortgage, or has received federal disaster assistance. Ask your insurance agent, mortgage lender or broker to learn more. You can look up your address and see if you are required to purchase flood insurance at www.FloodHelpNY.org.

It's important to note that flood insurance often doesn't cover basements or cellars. In these spaces, any foundation elements or electrical, mechanical, and plumbing equipment necessary to support your home may be covered, but personal belongings, floors, ceilings, or walls are not. The reason that flood insurance is more limited is that basements or cellars are most

susceptible to flooding.

One way to reduce your risk to flooding and also reduce your flood insurance premium is by elevating your home and all habitable spaces above the base flood elevation (BFE). You can check your BFE at www.FloodHelpNY.org. When your home is elevated, the space below the lowest elevated floor must be designed in a way that allows water to flow through the structure, and can only be used for parking, minor storage, and access to the building. If you live outside the flood zone as defined in the 2007 Flood Insurance Rate Map, you are not required to purchase flood insurance, but you are eligible to purchase it at a low cost. Homes outside the flood zone can still flood, and this risk is increasing because of climate change.

There are a number of ways to understand your flood risk. For flood insurance and building regulations, the official source of data is the flood maps created by FEMA. You may also hear the flood zone referred to as the Special Flood Hazard Area or the 100-year floodplain. But the latter term is misleading, since these floods can occur multiple times within 100 years.

If you are in the flood zone, there are special zoning regulations in place that enable and encourage flood resistant building construction. These regulations are referred to as the Flood Resilience Zoning Text or Flood Text, which was adopted after Hurricane Sandy on a temporary, emergency basis. The Flood Text removes zoning barriers to resiliency investments, whether these investments are required by Building Code, or if they are being done proactively to protect against future storms. New York's Department of City Planning is currently undergoing an effort to make these regulations permanent, but they have also identified opportunities for improvement based on lessons learned during the Sandy recovery process.

New York City is overdue for accurate and up-to-date flood maps that are based on the best available science and modeling. The first flood maps were adopted in New York City in 1983, and small updates were released in 2007. FEMA was in the process of creating new maps when Sandy hit. These Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMS) were released in 2013 and updated in 2015 (see map on this page).

The City conducted a review of the PFIRMS and found errors in FEMA's modeling and filed a technical appeal of the maps. In October 2016, FEMA accepted the City's appeal and announced that it would revise the maps to better reflect NYC's flood risk. FEMA began the revision process in 2017 to create two new flood maps that will show: 1) a scientifically accurate 100-year floodplain and flood elevations for purposes of calculating annual flood insurance premiums, and 2) a progressive

and climate-smart flood map product that better reflects the impacts of sea level rise and climate change for building and planning purposes.

These changes will help ensure that

buildings can be made resilient to flooding both now and in the future, and at the same time will ensure that homeowners are not required to purchase more insurance than is

Continued on page 7

Marine Street Development Closer to Reality

By BARBARA DOLENSEK



A few weeks ago, Islanders were surprised to notice a handsome advertisement that appeared online at <https://41degreesnorth.condos/residences> and was quickly shared on Facebook pages. Then news outlets began to report that permits had been applied for at the Buildings Department, and it became clear that a condominium development that started more than 25 years ago might actually become a reality at the east end of Marine Street.

Originally the site of the B.F. Wood Shipyard and then Tri-boro Marine, the lot at the end of Marine Street has remained vacant for years, even after permits were granted by the city of New York for rezoning the property from manufacturing to commercial and for demapping the east end of the street. A vacant building was demolished on the site, but neighbors continued to complain about raccoons and other varmints, and, more seriously, lead contamination and other environmental issues.

The site was purchased in 1989 by the developer Alexander Goren of GBG, and the project went through various stages. Representatives of Mr. Goren came to City Island on at least two occasions to explain the project, most recently in 2010. The current plan is to construct two 35-foot-high buildings, each with 16 units, separated by a driveway down to the water, where there will be a marina for at least 43 boats, plus guest boats; underground parking will be provided for 90 cars.

Originally called Sea Breeze Estates, this property has gone through several design stages, but the most recent version is now being called "41 Degrees North." The project calls for units with one, two or three bedrooms, and cost estimates range from \$488,000 to \$888,000, with units ranging

from about 859 square feet to 1,571 square feet. Promotional materials describe rooftop pools, a spa with a view of the water, a community garden and grilling area, a kayak and canoe launch, a waterfront gazebo and fish-cleaning station. Douglas Elliman is the listing agent and has already received 400 expressions of interest in the units. The developer awaits approval for the condominium by the state's Attorney General's office before sales can be made.

City Planning zoning regulations call for any sizeable property on the waterfront to grant public access to the water. On the Sound, the development at the east end of Fordham Street, chose to construct a seating area separated by walls from the condominium complex, but this project will grant public access between the two buildings. Mr. Marfione explains that there will be closed-circuit television security, however.

One of the most difficult aspects of the project has been dealing with the soil contamination caused by decades of boat construction, but *The Current* was assured by Cosmo Marfione, the project manager, that this aspect of the project was well in hand and that there is no lead contamination at the site. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps have approved the waterfront plans, and the city's Department of Environmental Protection has granted permits for remediation of the site. He said that construction, using City Island contractors, would not begin until all of the permits had been approved, in order to avoid unanticipated delays in the project. He estimated that construction might be able to start as early as July and take 12 to 14 months to complete; in the meantime, the site will be cleared of brush and other debris and a new fence will be installed.

BRIEFLY...

A NEW GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP is forming at Trinity United Methodist Church, 331 City Island Avenue, at Bay Street. The group is open to all who are grieving. Their next meetings will be Tuesday, May 1, 13 and 29, at 7 p.m. in the lower level of Fellowship Hall; the entrance is on Bay Street. All are welcome. Call Pastor Dave at 845-532-3378 for information.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 211 CLOTHING/FOOD DRIVE will take place May 8, 2018, at Trinity United Methodist Church on Bay Street and City Island Avenue. Life Scout candidate Brandon McGaughan will be helping the Masonic Temple of City Island to organize and run the blood/clothing /food drive as his project. The food and clothing that are collected will be donated to the POTS (Part of the Solution) program. "Save a life & clothe and feed the poor."

BRONX MASONS BLOOD DRIVE will take place on May 8 from 3:30 to 7:45 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street. Almost anyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good general health, can be a blood donor. Photo or signature ID and Social Security Number are required at the time of donation. Refreshments, including pizza, will be provided.

JAMES AND THOMAS BREEN will present a program entitled "Community-Focused Filmmaking" at the Manor Club on Tuesday, May 8, at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for non-members and includes the program and the traditional Manor Club High Tea reception afterwards. The Manor Club is located at 1023 Esplanade, Pelham Manor, NY.

TEMPORARY BRIDGE REMOVAL began in mid-April and is expected to take about four months. As a result, the south sidewalk of the temporary bridge will be closed, and pedestrians will be able to access the south sidewalk of the new bridge.

"SUITE SURRENDER," a comedy by Michael McKeever, will be presented by the City Island Theater Group during the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May. The evening performances are Friday, April 27; Saturday, April 28; Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5, at 8 p.m. Matinee performances are Sunday, April 29, and Sunday, May 6, at 3 p.m. All performances are at Grace Church Hall, 116 City Island Avenue, at Pilot Street. For tickets, call 718-885-3066 or e-mail tickets@cityislandtheatergroup.com. Tickets may also be purchased on line by visiting www.cityislandtheatergroup.com.

BARTOW-PELL ANNUAL PLANT SALE will take place on Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, May 20). Unusual annuals, perennials, herbs and roses for sale, plus demonstrations and plant potting. Bring your favorite container and the Bartow gardeners will help you plant it. Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road in the Bronx; for more information, visit www.bpmm.org or call 718-885-1461.



Photos by MATT PANZA

After all the snow in March and April, temperatures then spiked into the 70s on April 13 and 14, 2018, which led to heavy traffic congestion and several accidents on City Island Avenue and over the bridge. The accident shown above occurred on April 14 between the riding stable and the driving range and resulted in heavy traffic into City Island around 9 p.m.; six people were reported injured in the accident. Friday night traffic was also congested, with many drivers using the fire lane in both directions, which resulted in an accident on City Island Road. Although Councilmember Gjonaj and Civic president Bill Stanton had spoken with the commander of the 45th precinct about potential congestion, the police were not present to direct traffic until late in the day on Saturday.

45 BLOTTER

Complaints reported from City Island to the 45th Precinct during March and April 2018. Unfounded complaints are not included in the list.

- 1 – GRAND LARCENY
- 1 – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
- 3 – ASSAULT
- 1 – BURGLARY
- 1 – HARASSMENT
- 1 – AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT
- 1 – MENACING
- 1 – OPERATING A VEHICLE WITHOUT A LICENSE

Police provided details on the following incidents and arrests for the period from March 1 to April 18, 2018:

3/5 – Two off-Island females reported cross complaints of assault at 9:30 p.m. on Centre Street. A verbal dispute became physical, resulting in minor injuries to both parties.

3/11 – On Bridge Street at 11:47 p.m., an off-Island male was assaulted by two unknown males. During the altercation, the victim was threatened with a knife and pushed to the ground causing minor lacerations.

3/15 – At 11:35 a.m. on Carroll Street, a male Islander reported that another male Islander harassed him. The victim was parking his car when the other male drove in from the opposite direction and a verbal argument

ensued.

3/23 – An Island female reported an incident of aggravated harassment on Cross Street at 3 a.m. A male off-Islander tried to gain entry to the victim's home and, after being denied, sent her threatening messages.

3/27 – At a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 4:35 a.m., two unknown females had a verbal dispute, and one of them broke a window upon leaving the scene in an act of criminal mischief.

4/3 – Police from the 45th Precinct arrested an Island male, 51, and charged him with menacing another Island male, 57. The victim said that he feared for his safety when the defendant allegedly waved a bag at him and threatened to kill him. Police found a baseball bat and a knife inside the bag.

4/7 – At 4:30 p.m., a male Islander reported an incident of grand larceny on Schofield Street. The victim told police that unknown person(s) had withdrawn money from his bank account without his permission.

4/8 – On Hunter Avenue, a burglary was reported at 3:30 a.m. when construction tools were removed from a trailer without permission.

4/15 – Police arrested an off-Island male, 38, and charged him with the unlicensed operation of a vehicle on Fordham Street and City Island Avenue at 4:32 p.m. Police stopped the driver after he went through a red light and found that he did not have a license.

4/16 – A female off-Islander told police that she had been pushed and punched in the jaw by an unknown person at a commercial establishment on City Island Avenue at 9:35 p.m.

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FRIGID FIRST PITCH: CILL SEASON BEGINS

By KAREN NANI



Photos by KAREN NANI and MATT PANZA

It was a chilly start to the 2018 Little League season on April 7, but the century-old baseball tradition continued on City Island. League president, Dom Esposito, announced a new interleague play format to the crowd (top photo, right). Special guests (l. to r.), including Famed Konneh, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio; New York City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj; Tom Messina, representing Congressman Joseph Crowley; and New York State Senator Jeff Klein, joined the American Legion color guard (second photo, right) for the singing of the national anthem. There are major, minor and t-ball teams competing once again, thanks to the support of many businesses and organizations. Head down to Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175 and catch some of the exciting interleague games in May and June. Don't forget to visit the concession stand and grab a hot dog!



ing special guests in attendance, including New York State Senator Jeff Klein, City Councilman Mark Gjonaj and representatives from the offices of Mayor Bill de Blasio and Congressman Joseph Crowley. Senator Klein thanked the parents for their support of CILL and applauded the lessons to be learned from youth sports like baseball. Councilman Gjonaj, a former Island resident, told about the positive experience his own children had when they played in CILL.

When it came time to play ball, special "first pitches" were thrown out by two Island residents, Tom Vivolo and Tim Byrnes, who organized a memorial softball game for Robert Vivolo and Danny Barry that took place on Sept. 30, 2017. "It was a fantastic event that was well attended and raised money for the CILL. I invited them, along with Paul Saulnier, who had to work on Saturday, to throw out the first pitch in recognition of their efforts. They were each presented with a souvenir ball that said Opening Day 2018 on it," Mr. Esposito told *The Current*.

The president thanked the Leonard H. Hawkins Post 156 for providing the color guard for the opening day ceremony and then acknowledged the all-important sponsors: JP's Restaurant, Sammy's Fish Box, American Legion Post 156, The Gilder Scholarship Fund, Seafood City, Jack's Bait & Tackle, Local 79 Laborers, Crab Shanty, Seashore Restaurant, Dugout Sporting Goods, Amanda Bear Party Rentals, the City Island Theater Group and 239 Play!

"We couldn't do this without the support of our sponsors, so please patronize these City Island and other Bronx businesses," Mr. Esposito told the crowd.

The 2018 CILL board members who work hard alongside the president to keep the league going are Arturo Mazzeo, vice president; George Spencer, treasurer; Edward Esposito, player representative; Maria Piri, safety officer; John Tomsen, corresponding secretary; Cindy Lomonaco, recording secretary; and Lou Lomonaco, equipment manager. Several of these board members have served multiple terms on the CILL board.

When spring finally arrives, head down to Ambrosini Field next to P.S. 175 and catch some of the exciting games featuring the following CILL teams named for their sponsors.

JP's - Anthony Piri, manager; Maria

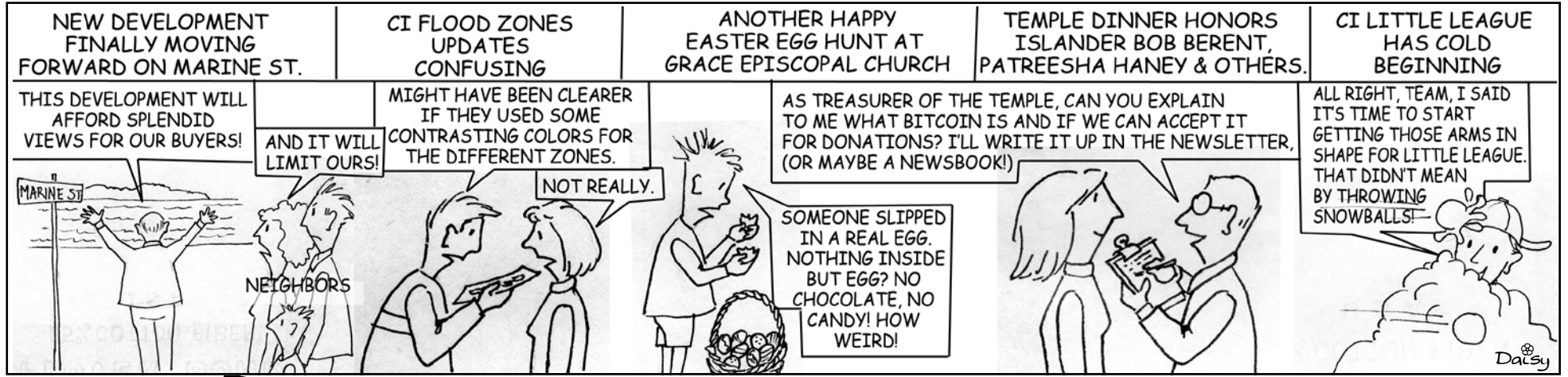


Piri, coach
American Legion Post 156 - James Goonan, manager; Cesar Sosa and Brian Kenny, coaches
Gilder Scholarship - Lou Lomonaco, manager; Ginutis Sipas and Paul Mazzella, coaches
Sammy's Fish Box - Dominic Esposito, manager; Vic Lopez and Bob Riordan, coaches
Local 79 Laborers - Brian Kenny, manager; Brendan Delaney and Greg Penny, coaches
Seafood City - Arturo Mazzeo, manager; Matt Curry and Brian Moynihan, coaches
Jack's Bait & Tackle - Corley Schaller, manager; Brendan Delaney and Greg Penny, coaches
T-Ball sponsored by 239 Play!, Sea Shore, Dugout Sports, Crab Shanty, Amanda Bear Party Rentals, and the City Island Theater Group; Greg Clancy, man-

ager; Paul and Alexandra Siegfried, Corley Schaller, Arturo Mazzeo, James Lee, Rene Matos, Dan Treiber and Reina Mia Brill, coaches.
 Don't forget to grab a hot dog at the concession stand staffed by parent volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, the CILL can always use extra help, so contact them at cityislandlittleleague@gmail.com. And be sure to like the City Island Little League on Facebook.

CORRECTION
 The April issue of *The Current* identified Sam Miller's grocery store as the building at 319 City Island Avenue where Early Ruth's antique shop is now located. Sam Miller's store was actually across the street; Mrs. Miller's candy store was at 319, later becoming A&A Sheet Metal, owned by Donald Varian.

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From Appleton to the Big Apple

To the Editor:

I want to assure everyone (especially Greg) that I'm alive and well in Appleton, WI. And a special word to Greg Clancy (see Boat Show article in the March issue of *The Current*): I wouldn't have given you 4,000 words, but I sure do enjoy the 2,000 you got (I didn't count them). And I would not cover your beer expense either; besides, they brew better stuff out here.

I can't tell you all how much I enjoy reading *The Current*. My life is so full of memories of City Island and my friends there; it will always be my second home. I will be 80 this summer, and my brain is having trouble making my body understand it, something that I know many of us are dealing with! But I'm healing from the last surgery and keep on trucking!

It is with extraordinary pride that I note how many years the paper has published with volunteers. And to all the people in the community: you are doing wonderful things. If I tried to name everything you are doing and all the individuals who I remember so well, you wouldn't have space enough to print it.

So you, too, keep on trucking.

Sara (aka Sally) McPherson

Comptroller's Safety Concerns

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

To: Darryl C. Irick, President
MTA Bus Company 2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

I am writing to express my concern regarding public transportation to and from City Island in the Bronx, and specifically, the lack of 24-hour bus service. City Island is served by only one local bus route, the Bx29. Late night bus service on the Bx29 is infrequent and ceases to operate between 1 and 5 a.m. This is leaving many local residents and those who work on the Island in the lurch; stranded at the closest subway station three miles away and forced to rely on expensive—and sometimes unsafe—transit options.

The situation is particularly acute due to City Island's unique location. Jutting off the mainland of the Bronx and into the bay, City Island is only accessible by one road that cuts through isolated parkland and is dimly lit at night. After 1 a.m. when bus service stops, residents without vehicles must bike, walk, or take a taxi to return home, creating potential hazards. This issue was brought into

sharp relief three years ago, when Gabriela Aguilar-Vallinos was tragically killed in a hit-and-run accident while biking home from work. The road through Pelham Bay Park is clearly treacherous in the late evening, reinforcing the need for reliable, frequent, and safe public transit.

Beyond these core safety concerns, there is a financial imperative for improved transit service. As you know, the city's economy has experienced dramatic changes in the last decade. In many of our fastest growing industries—like healthcare, hospitality, retail, food services and entertainment—employees operate outside of the typical 9-to-5 Monday-to-Friday work week. Yet too many of our bus and subway routes still operate on a traditional rush hour schedule. Whether the Bx29 to City Island or any other route in the five boroughs, it is essential that the MTA accommodate the city's changing work and commuting patterns.

Moreover, as we documented in our recent report, "The Other Transit Crisis," New Yorkers are moving deeper into the boroughs, new employment hubs are emerging, and more commuters are working within their home borough. It is imperative, then, that MTA bus routes keep pace with the changing geography of jobs and redesign routes accordingly. Splitting the Bx29 into two separate routes — one to City Island and another to Co-op City — and exploring an extension to the nearby cluster of hospitals, for instance, could be one potential redesign.

Thank you so much for your consideration. I encourage you to work closely with the residents of City Island as well as with the local civic association as you consider extending Bx29 service to accommodate 24-hour travel. Together, I expect you will reach a satisfactory outcome.

Scott M. Stringer
New York City Comptroller

Memories of Tragedy

To the Editor:

Whenever I pass the City Island sign in the Bronx, images of my uncle immediately come to mind.

Ideally, it should have been a fun, sun-soaked day for my uncle and his friend on City Island on July 4, 1947, but fate took a tragic turn. The goal that day was for the two World War II veterans (my uncle Donald Adam King and his friend John Maglich) to rent a rowboat and go fishing, but their time out at sea was cut short. While they were fishing, a man, who was allegedly intoxicated while driving a cabin cruiser, didn't see the rowboat and slammed into it, splitting in half. My uncle and his friend died instantly, and it took several days for the divers to recover their bodies from the water.

My grandmother Irene Deery King had already lost a son in 1945, when my other uncle, Sgt. James Peter King, died in action in Germany at the end of World War II. My father, Edward Joseph King,

was the only surviving son.

Maureen King Cassidy



Photo courtesy of MAUREEN KING CASSIDY
World War II veteran Donald Adam King (above, right), was killed on City Island on July 4, 1947, in a tragic boating accident.

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VIACOMMUNITY DAY



Photos by RON TERNER and MATTIA PANZA

On Friday, April 20, 2018, dozens of employees of the media giant Viacom came to City Island to help spruce up City Island Avenue, along with many Island residents. Organized by Maria Caruso (above left) and her team, the volunteers cleaned the avenue, planted areas at the Nautical Museum, 267 City Island Avenue and P.S. 175, mounted large photographs celebrating the Island's nautical history in empty storefront windows, and painted a mural depicting Nevins Yacht Yard alongside the school, where Nevins was once located.

CITY ISLANDERS LIKE THEIR VEGETABLES

by RACHEL DUNHAM

"It turns out my kids are huge fans of kale!" says City Islander Jessica Wolk-Stanley, mother of two teenagers and a member of the island's Community Supported Agriculture, CSA for short. "I like that I'm supporting a local, family farm, and I like the variety and quantity of vegetables we get. It gets me out of a cooking rut, too, trying new vegetables we haven't eaten before like rutabagas and kohlrabi."

Family farms have had a rough time in recent years. Further, their products are perishable, and subject to the whims of nature. A CSA business model gives local farmers a secure customer base, who enjoy a steady supply of the freshest produce.

Now in its fourth year, City Island's own CSA makes farm-fresh organic vegetables available from June to November. The 2018 season starts June 4 and continues for 24 weeks until November 12, giving residents direct access to high quality, fresh produce grown on a regional farm. The seven to ten varieties each week is enough for an average four-person household – depending, of course, on appetites! All are grown upstate in Leeds, NY at Stoneledge Farm, a 200-acre certified organic farm located in the foothills of the Northern Catskills. Since 1996, the family-run farm, now in its second generation, has served as an official CSA resource.

The share price covers the farm's yearly costs, mostly incurred before the crops are harvest-ready. Following each Sunday harvest, the vegetables are washed, then delivered the following day to City Island. Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m., participants pick up their share at the Community Center. About twice a season, each member takes part in overseeing the distribution.

A standard vegetable share is \$575 (which works out to \$24 a week), and a fall share is \$320. In addition to the standard allotment, the CSA also offers half shares for smaller households or busy people who frequently eat out. Although all basic share produce is grown at Stoneledge Farm, optional fruit and mushrooms come from other area farms in the area. Shares can also be supplemented with varieties of coffee, hon-



Photo LISA WALDRON

Some of the vegetables provided for participants in the City Island Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

ey, maple syrup, seed oils, dry beans and other seasonal fruits and vegetables separately purchased through the Stoneledge website: www.stoneledgefarm.com.

Twice yearly, Stoneledge Farm hosts visiting days. In addition to the Spring Open House in late spring, the Fall Farm Festival attracts members from all over New York City. This year's Fall Festival, set for Labor Day Saturday, will include a variety of activities, including wagon rides around the farm, visits with other area farmers, zinnia picking, a surprisingly fun carrot dig and a barbecue luncheon provided by the farm.

Member Jessica Wolk-Stanley and her family look forward to another season of "beautifully fresh" vegetables. "Because everything was picked just the day before we get it, it usually lasts longer than veggies from a grocery store," she says.

If you are interested, check out the City Island CSA Facebook page or get in touch with Lauren Briggs, the local coordinator via e-mail or phone at Laurenbrigrn@gmail.com or 917-238-0529.

Islander to be Honored by 45th Precinct Community Council

By BARBARA DOLENSEK

The 45th Precinct Community Council will honor Island resident Frederick W. Ramftl Jr. and former Councilmember James Vacca at its annual breakfast, which will be held this year on Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

Fred Ramftl, a lifelong City Islander, plays several important roles on City Island. At the age of 12, he was riding his bike and hit a pothole, and that started his active role in the betterment of his community. Instead of complaining, Fred started a letter-writing campaign to all of the local officials, and later that year, the street was resurfaced. For many years he worked with the Garden Club of City Island to keep the Island's streets clean, and he has been involved in many other community organizations. He is currently first vice president of the City Island Civic Association; president of the City Island Republicans and district leader for the 82nd Assembly District: Part I; treasurer and trustee of the City Island Historical Society; and vice commander of the Sons of the American Legion. He lives on Carroll Street on the same property that his great-grandfather purchased back in May 1921. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming, driving his truck and his car, traveling and attending sporting events.

Jimmy Vacca recently stepped down as Councilmember of the 13th district, in which role he was very supportive of City Island projects at P.S. 175, the City Island Historical Society and Nautical Museum, the City Island Theater Group, among others. Before he was elected to the City Council in 2006, he served as district manager of Community Board 10 for 25 years.

Other community leaders who will be honored at the breakfast include Junius Williams, director of the Riverbay Corporation (Co-op City) and Public Safety Committee member and advocate; Michael McNerney, president of the Country Club Civic Association; Michele Torriani, president of the Pelham Bay Taxpayers Association; and Bill Mahoney, chair of the Edgewater Park Security Committee.

The breakfast will be held at Villa Barone Manor, 737 Throggs Neck Expressway, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. The \$15 donation should be made payable to the 45th Precinct Community Council and mailed to Annie Boller, c/o Abalon, 717 South Third Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550. For information, call Robert Bieder at 718-828-4400 or Joe Boiko at 718-320-3300, ext. 3409.

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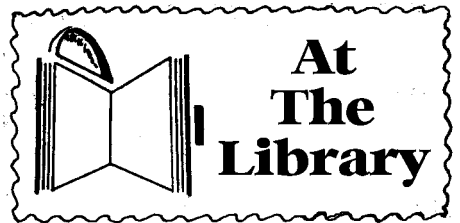


Free American flags (4 x 6 inches) on a stick, available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Memorial Day, May 28, at **Burck's Boat Store**, 526 City Island Avenue.

Premier specialty bakery **De L'or Cakery**, operated by Islander Kayisha Thompson, recently announced plans to begin a fellowship program for local at-risk youth in the New York City area through an Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign. The fun, hands-on learning program will teach participants fundamental skills in baking and cake decorating as well as introduce them to educational institutes that offer two or four-year degrees in pastry arts.

De L'or Cakery is passionate about being the cr me de la cr me of desserts by providing professional service to ensure that any event will be a complete success with their custom and themed pastry designs. The cakery, which has catering options for both private and corporate events, serves a wide variety of customers. Some of its major clients include Neiman Marcus, Curycon and the CEO of Cocoa Grinder.

To learn more about De L'or Cakery and to support its Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign, please visit <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/de-l-or-cakery-studio-fellowship-program-education/>.



PROGRAMS AT THE CITY ISLAND LIBRARY
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MAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Songs of Spring: Bring your toddlers and little ones for an interactive music show to welcome the new season with song and dance. Ian will perform children's favorites and some original songs, as well as classics that Mom and Dad will enjoy! Fun for the whole family! Best for ages 2 through 4 years old. Wednesday, May 2, at 11 a.m.

Circle Time: Children from birth to 3 years old and their caregivers can enjoy stories, songs and finger plays while spending time with other toddlers. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Craft included. Every Tuesday from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Read & Play: Children from birth to 3 years old and caregivers can take part in wonderful stories, discover amazing toys and meet new friends in this fun, informal program. Limit of 15 children with their caregivers. Every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Craft-A-Way: Drop in and participate in creating projects related to a theme or holiday. Ages 2 through 5. Friday, May 11, at 11:30 a.m.

MAY TEEN AND TWEEN PROGRAMS

Don't Judge a Book By Its Cover: An exciting poetry workshop where student work is generated/inspired by the books around them using "Found Material" techniques. Students will explore the library's collection of books, generate list of their favorites and write poems that draws inspiration from them. We will explore the link between imagery and the art of inference as a tool to help the writer tell a complete story. Monday, May 14, at 3 p.m.

After School Lounge: Come to the library after school for studying and a

chance to unwind. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Activities: On Fridays at 3 p.m. we plan a series of special activities to celebrate the beginning of the weekend, so check out this month's events and come hang out with us! May 4: Wii and Board Games; May 11: Mother's Day Cards; May 18: Wii and Board Games; May 25: Build A Birdhouse.

MAY ADULT PROGRAMS

NEW! Color Me Calm: Couldn't we all use a little relaxation from time to time? Here at the City Island Library, you can sit peacefully and unlock your inner artist, even if you never knew you had one! Coloring pages—and all of the necessary tools—will be readily available during this time slot. Take a break from errands and express yourself through this scientifically proven stress reliever. No registration required. Adults only. Wednesdays (beginning May 2), 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

City Island Scrabble Club: If you're looking for some friendly competition, then join our Scrabble Club! Come in and flex your vocabulary muscles. Note: Limited to 16 participants, registration required. Thursday, May 3, 17 and 31, at 1 p.m.

City Island Book Club: Call or stop by the branch for more information. Monday, May 21, at 5 p.m.

The Island Writers: This is a group for all who are interested in writing professionally or personally. All are welcome, so come join in on the literary fun! Every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

One-on-One: Computer, Tablet, and Resum  Instruction: Stop in or call to make an appointment for one hour of personalized instruction that addresses your questions and concerns. No computer? No problem! We have computers available for instructional use. Registration required.

Mobile Adoption Van: Saturday, May 19, at 12 noon.

Saturday Afternoon Movies: Feature movie titles, varying in length. At 1 p.m. May 5: "Victoria and Abdul"; May 12: "Kubo and the Two Strings"; May 19, "Home Again."

Some programs require advance registration, which can be done in person, or by phone. All programs are free!



Bartow-Pell Events

First Friday! on May 4, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. will celebrate the release of the Ken Morr Band's recent album "Along the Way." Come hear some of their new music live! Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments available. The free trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost: BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

The annual Kentucky Derby Party will take place on Saturday, May 5, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Watch the 144th running of the Kentucky Derby and support the museum in style! Raffle and live auction, a pop-up exhibit and prizes for the most elegant and original hats add to the excitement. Come for the race and cocktails, stay for dinner and dancing. Reservations required. Advance tickets \$80 and \$145 (includes dinner); at the door \$100 and \$160.

Paint Night at BPMM will be on Thursday, May 17, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy an elegant night of painting with local artist Katy Garry in the conservatory. No experience needed, just a commitment to having fun! Libations to lighten your mood and fan your artistic flame will be served. Reservations required. Cost: \$75 (includes materials fee).

Bartow-Pell's annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Let your garden be inspired by ours! Unusual annuals, perennials, herbs and roses for sale, plus demonstrations and potting plants. Bring your favorite container and

you will get help planting it.

Bartow's Literary Elevenses, Saturday, May 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join Museum Guides Laura DeRiggi and Caitlyn Sellar as they lead an historical-fiction book club where literature and tea blend for a savory adventure. Check online at bpmm.org for the current book. Tea and light refreshments will be served; please bring a sweet or savory snack for the group to enjoy! Come be part of the fun. Registration requested. Cost: Free.

Croquet Day! Saturday, May 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. Spend a delightful afternoon at the BPMM croquet party, which includes light refreshments and seasonal libations. Equipment and instructions will be provided. As is customary, please wear your best white sporting attire. Cost \$5.

June First Friday! June 1, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Glenwood is at Bartow-Pell! Enjoy the music, explore the museum and stroll the garden; light refreshments available. The free trolley makes an hourly loop starting at 5:25 p.m. from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. Registration requested. Cost BPMM Members \$5; Not-Yet BPMM Members: Adults \$15; Seniors/Students \$10.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Musgrave Ritual" will be presented June 2 through June 10, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Join us for a new site-specific, indoor/outdoor Sherlock Holmes mystery. An ancient family document hidden on the grounds of a beautiful country home hides a sinister ritual that only Sherlock Holmes can unlock—but some secrets might be best left buried. Explore the mansion and surrounding gardens on a quest to solve a deadly mystery. Adapted by Tal Aviezer from the story by Arthur Conan Doyle. A co-production of Red Monkey Theater Group and M&M Performing Arts Company. Registration required. Cost Adults: \$35; Seniors/Students \$30.

June Luncheon Thursday, June 7, from 12 to 2 p.m. Support the Bartow-Pell Conservancy and enjoy an elegant lunch outdoors on the pebble court overlooking the NYC-designated landmarked formal garden designed by Aldrich & Delano in 1914. Visit bpmm.org for details. Reservations required.

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Passover Finale: Temple Anniversary Dinner

By BARBARA DOLENSEK and KAREN NANI



Photos by MATT PANZA

City Island's Temple Beth-El held its 84th anniversary dinner on April 7, 2018, at Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Course. Rabbi Shohama Weiner (photo above, center) welcomed the new clergy from Grace Episcopal Church, Father John Covington (left), and Pastor David Jolly of Trinity United Methodist Church. Honorees included Patreesha Daniella Haney (photo right), who received her award from Temple president, Paul Klein (left), and New York City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj.

On the last night of Passover 2018, Temple Beth-El held its 84th anniversary on April 7, 2018, at Pelham Bay/Split Rock Golf Course. Rabbi Shohama Weiner and Dr. Alan Dattner welcomed

the many guests, including Councilmember Mark Gjonaj, Rabbi David Markus and representatives of other faiths, including Pastor David Jolly of Trinity Methodist Church and Father John Covington of Grace Episcopal Church. The honorees were Bob Berent and Patreesha Daniella Haney, and a special remembrance honored the late Bob Steinberg.

Patreesha Daniella Haney bounces back and forth between Brooklyn and the Bronx. She grew up in Edgewater Park, the eldest of six children. Since 2016, she has been a member of Temple Beth-El (TBE), where she has taught weekly yoga classes for more than two years and served on the board of directors for the past year. Her B.S. in accounting from CUNY and



her love of puzzles has made her a perfect candidate for treasurer of TBE. She has brought the temple into the 21st century and upgraded the financial system to Quick Books. After working for several firms, including H & R Block, she has worked independently as an accountant for over 15 years. She is a yoga alliance-certified teacher and has had 450 hours of yoga therapy training. She treasures her time with God in prayer, time with friends and family, and being outdoors in nature.

Bob Berent has been affiliated with TBE for the past 54 years. After serving in the U.S. Army, Bob joined the temple in 1964. Eventually he became a trustee, then second vice president and then president, until he stepped down in 2006. He became a trustee again until he left the board in June 2017. For many years, Bob wrote and published the temple newsletter, "The Written Word," first by snail mail and now electronically. Although much of the newsletter is now done by Rabbi David, Bob still assists with the temple's website (www.yourshulbythesea.org). In addition to sweeping the temple's sidewalk and photographing many events, Bob leads the congregation in worship on Friday nights when the rabbis are not present. He creates a unique Sabbath experience with his accordion and enthusiastic wife, Cheryl.

Bob Berent attended Brooklyn College and the Bank Street College of Education and served as a creative and dynamic teacher for 30 years. He ran an innovative, award-winning interdisciplinary approach to teaching called "The Railroad in America" during the 1970s

and helped his school become one of 20 Beacon Light Schools in the New York City school system. And then there's sailing. Bob and Cheryl love sailing off City Island on their sloop *Maccabee*. "It's a religious experience," he told *The Current*. "That and welcoming all to enjoy our wonderful community and special Temple Beth-El of City Island, your "Shul by the Sea."

A native of Syracuse, NY, Bob Steinberg was a loving son, grandson, brother, uncle and friend. As a member of Mensa, an avid reader and an encyclopedia of knowledge, Bob inevitably had the answers to questions posed by others. He was proud to be one of the earliest "computer nerds." His lifelong career as a computer programmer for Fortune 100 companies enabled him to live in France and England while working on special assignments. He was a dedicated ham radio operator and a member of the Westchester Emergency Communications Association. He participated in many Red Cross events and operations. After the 9/11 attacks, Bob provided many long days of radio support for the emergency responders.

Bob was a skilled sailor and a past commodore of the Stuyvesant Yacht Club of City Island. For over 20 years, he assisted with the New York City Marathon as part of the communications team and helped insure that the race was both safe and fair. Before Bob passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, he had requested that a donation be made in his name to help support Temple Beth-El of City Island. Members of the temple expressed their gratitude by remembering him at the anniversary dinner.

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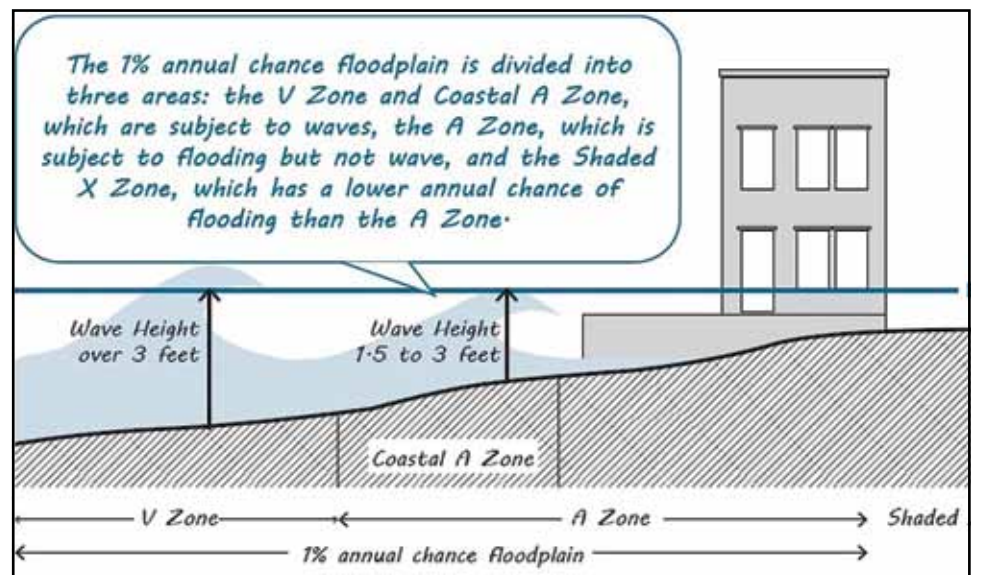
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Flood plain zones breakdown

Flood Zones

Continued from page 1

necessary for today's risk. These new maps are targeted for release in 2021. Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to e-mail ResilientNeighborhoods@planning.nyc.gov

or to explore the resources at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/flood-resilience-zoning-text-update/flood-resilience-zoning-text-update.page>, where one can sign up to receive a digital newsletter.

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Web Designer Finds a Home—Creative and Otherwise—On CI

By BILL STUTTIG



Katie Geddes, who runs a successful website and business design practice from her apartment on Fordham Street, loves City Island, and she credits the online world for making it possible for her to both live and work here and be successful. “I think there are more and more people like me living and working here,” Katie told *The Current*, in explaining how she has the best of both worlds. “Because of the online world, that is why it is possible.”

Not only does the digital universe make it possible to work from her City Island home, but it makes it possible for her to work at all. Katie defines her profession as a “spiritual business designer who “takes her clients on a journey of self-discovery” as part of the process of creating websites, graphics and marketing copy that define the business, its goals and its offerings to their potential



Logo developed for Sikorsky helicopters (on tail fin, photo above).



Photos by SUSAN FARLEY

Katie Geddes (above, left) designed the wine labels for City Island wines (above).

which she says gives her the space to both work and practice her essential yoga.

“On a practical level it was tougher for me up here, because I started to get more and more clients and I didn’t know about rush hours and traffic. I remember crying when it took to two hours for me to get to meetings,” she recalls. But she soon discovered some advantages to the City Island location—more than just the short walk to the beach and close to business opportunities in Westchester.

Katie’s client list began to expand, and so did her strategies for serving clients. “My request for my clients is for them to work with me,” she says. Each initial consultation involves at least one two-hour session, which she calls “Vision Work.” “It is marketing combined with psychiatry which helps me get to what lies underneath—the why, the what and the how. And what matters the most in the why. Without this you are groping in the dark.”

Her business has its own comprehensive website—www.embodyart.com—which markets her approach and lists testimonials from her past successes. Firms she has worked with include Sikorsky Aircraft, a British firm promoting butter, and clients who are what she called “brick and mortar” businesses operating out of an established locations, such as a Canadian orthodontist and a New Jersey-based veterinarian.

“Today, nobody in business should not have a website,” she claims. “It is not only a marketing tool but it also creates a system for entrepreneurs to have a regular flow of revenue.” Even though her clients come from all over, she has also done work designing websites for Islanders and Island businesses. “I like to design and I like to write,” she says. Among her most visible local design is the label of the popular and affordable “City Island” wine at J.G.L. Liquor store.

Recently Katie began advertising her resumé-writing skills in *The Island Current*. “That little \$6 ad has been so awesome,” she said. “I love the work and I am really good at it. I have a 100 percent success rate. Everybody gets an interview and a job from my resumé.”

She recalls that once a middle-aged man wanted to start working as an actor even though he had no prior credits. He came to her for help, and she was able to frame his previous experiences in such a way as to begin getting him a foot in door and work in film in small parts.

“I have people tell me things about themselves you would never know,” she claims. “I can present and put people’s best foot forward. The method is relatively contained and simple. A very clean layout and a good cover letter will get you an interview.” For this service she charges \$598, which may seem high to some, but other resumé-writing services charge much more and don’t have her record of success. She also said she likes and has designed business cards and that she would love to delve into designing menus for local restaurants. She also designs and sells rugs and is looking into the possibility of renting space in one of the Island storefronts to showcase her works.

A typical work day from her home on City Island includes four or five hours of design work and writing, but as she puts it, “I really never stop working, creating and thinking. Ideas come to me at all hours of the day and night.” When she is not working, she says, “I really do love City Island. I like to go down to the beach just to look at the water. This place is definitely unique.”

ALLELUIA! SNOW-FREE HOLY WEEK



Photos by KAREN NANI and MATT PANZA

It snowed the week before and the day after Easter, but the crazy March weather took a break for the blessing of the palms at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church (top photo) and for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Grace Episcopal Church on March 31, 2018 (middle and bottom left photos). It was cloudy for the Trinity Methodist Easter sunrise service at Pelham Cemetery, but at least the snow held off until the day after, on April 2 (bottom right).

customers.

“What I mean by spiritual business designer is that I’ve grown from being a graphic designer to handle all aspects of business and what people need,” she says. “In my own business, I figured out what I needed and I have taken that process to my clients.”

Katie said that the journey to what is now her successful home-based business was long, winding and not always easy. She graduated from college with a degree in religion and came to New York to pursue a career in acting. “I started out as an actress, but I never loved it. It is a very competitive business, and you feel guilty when you decide you are no longer going to pursue it,” she recalled. “But we are all here to figure out why we are here. I am a really good designer and writer and communicator. I love technology and I love design passionately. The one thing different about me it that I am equally strong in all of these.”

So she left acting and took her communication skills to the corporate world and found work as a communications consultant for the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse. She left that firm after five years to expand her horizons, start her own business and work her own hours, but she soon found out that the ebbs and flows of self-employment can take its toll if you are not prepared.

While Katie was living and working in Manhattan, she says, “I literally woke up one day and realized that I only had 46 dollars in my bank account. I don’t know how I slept at night, but we all get through these times in our lives.” Her plan to get through this particular time was to fall back on her secretarial skills. She accepted a job as a secretary with a Manhattan-based music publisher, and just as she was due to start, her own business landed a client. She was offered the chance to design the art work for employees benefit packages and material for Pepsi Bottling. Pepsi would go on to become a long-time client of hers, and designing packages to accompany corporate employee benefit explanations became a niche that she has since brought to other firms.

Katie reports that she was still making a living at this kind of work in Manhattan in 2005 when the community of City Island, which she never heard of, came to her attention three times in the space of one week. She thought of that as an omen. “At the time I just learned how to drive and I realized that, because of this, I can actually live somewhere beside Manhattan.” So she got in her car and drove to City Island for the first time. She liked what she saw.

“It is so important if you are artistic to nurture whatever makes you feel creative. I came to City Island and I said, ‘I like it here. This is the place.’” She rented one apartment but soon moved to the one she lives in now,

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

MAY

Tues., May 8, **Blood and Clothing Drive**, sponsored by the Bronx Masons and Boy Scout Troop 211, Trinity United Methodist Church, 113 Bay Street, 3:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Thurs., May 17, **Garden Club Luncheon**, City Island Yacht Club, Pilot Street, 12 noon.

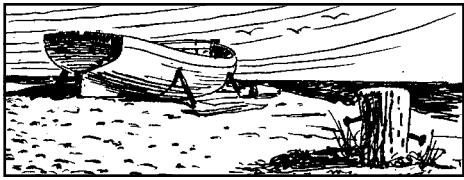
Sat., May 26, **POTS Program**, St. Mary's School Yard, Minneford Avenue and Kilroe Street, drop-off between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Menu: ziti or rotini with meatballs/meat sauce.

Mon., May 28, **Memorial Day Parade**, 2 p.m., sponsored by the American Legion. Starts at Pilot Street and City Island Avenue and ends at the Legion Post on Cross Street.

Tues., May 29, **City Island Civic Association meets**, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

JUNE

Sat. and Sun., June 2 and 3, **Spring Arts and Crafts Fair**, sponsored by the City Island Chamber of Commerce, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., City Island Avenue.



Garden Club of City Island

Spring is finally here! The Garden Club's planter boxes along City Island Avenue now have a lovely selection of colorful pansies for the season, thanks to our Beautification Committee and your donations to the Garden Club's beautification fund. The planting was done by club members and Helping Hands on April 14, directed by Beautification Committee chair Kathy Gibbons.

We have already had responses to our Beautification Fund Drive letters, which were mailed to Island businesses in early April and delivered to Island residents beginning in mid-April. Please be on the lookout for your letter and your chance to donate and help beautify the Island. This fund is used for the upkeep of the planter boxes, seasonal plantings, maintaining tree pits along the avenue and special beautification projects. Please consider donating if you haven't done so yet; you can help make our Island a lovely place for all residents and visitors. Many, many thanks to those who have already sent in donations.

Everyone is invited to our annual spring luncheon at noon on Thursday, May 17, at the City Island Yacht Club. The theme chosen this year is "Spring Flowers" and luncheon committee chair Francine Alheid has worked with the yacht club's new steward to create a special menu. Entrée choices are broiled filet of sole stuffed with crabmeat, parmesan-crusted chicken breast and a vegetarian option. We will also be raffling off gift baskets, gift certificates and special items, including a small Mark Whitcombe etching. The cost is \$55 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. Reservations may be made by contacting a Garden Club member or calling Vivi McGuire at 718-885-1442 by the May 14 deadline. We look forward to seeing you there!

You are also invited to join us at one of our Garden Club meetings, held the first Monday of each month (except August) at the City Island Yacht Club, and for special projects, field trips and presentations. Our next meeting is on June 4 at 10 a.m. All meetings conclude with home-baked goods and refreshments served by the hospitality committee. Everyone is welcome!

Sharynne Wilder

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #156

On Saturday, May 5, we are hosting a Kentucky Derby Cinco de Mayo day from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Post. The cost is \$15.

On Saturday, May 26, we are having our Spring Fling dance from 8 to 11 p.m. with live music provided by That Duo Group. The cost is \$20 per person.

On Monday, May 28, all members are asked to attend the annual Memorial Day parade. We will meet at Pilot Street at 2 p.m. We have new parade stars-and-stripes shirts available for \$30. If you are interested, stop by the Post and leave your size information and payment. You will be contacted when your shirt is available. We also need volunteers back at the Post to serve beverages and hot dogs.

Congratulations to our very own Billy Clancy. He has just completed his term as New York State Detachment Commander for the Sons of the American Legion, visiting all 62 counties. When you see him, ask him about his travels. He has many interesting stories to tell.

For more information about membership or upcoming events, please contact the post at 718-885-0639. As always, your dues are \$30. If you have not paid your dues for 2018, your membership privileges are currently invalid with the Sons. Please pay as soon as possible. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Peter Booth

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 156

National Poppy Day begins on May 26. The national American Legion Auxiliary has been conducting a Poppy Program for many years, and their members raise more than \$6 million annually to provide support for veterans, military service members and their families. By wearing poppies on May 26, we honor every U.S. service member who has given his or her life in the name of liberty, freedom and democracy. At the same time, by wearing this simple red flower, we show our support for veterans of generations to come. Our poppy program runs throughout the year. Please be generous when donating.

ALA Unit 156 sponsored a "Purple Up" Event" on Sunday, April 22, at the Leonard Hawkins Post to show our support for military children. Youngsters decorated purple hearts with messages to military children that were forwarded to the Fort Drum military base. Please continue to support our military families as service members continue to be deployed around the world. If you know of a family who needs our support and service, please let us know. The Auxiliary is always there to support. We also celebrated Earth Day with a story hour and presentation.

The ALA Unit 156 participated in the April 29 three-mile walk for "My Brother Vinny." Members met at the FDR Park in Yorktown Heights for the City Island Ladies Auxiliary 156 Walk Team. It was great networking with other veteran organizations sharing our mission to support veterans. A great time was had by all.

Please stop by the ALA Mother's Day Event on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have 20 craft vendors, a bake sale and children's crafts and face painting. All proceeds go to veteran programs.

The Memorial Day Parade is on Monday, May 28. Auxiliary members will meet on Pilot Street at 2 p.m. in full uniform.

The ALA Unit 156 is holding a memorial service on Sunday, June 10, at 1 p.m. in memory of our deceased members. All are welcome to attend. Details to follow.

Joanne Valletta



Photo by JOANNE VALLETTA

Sandra Panzarella, Legion Auxiliary member, displays her hand-made patriotic afghan, which she is donating as a raffle prize for the Auxiliary's Mother's Day Craft Fair on May 12. Mark your calendars!

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Episcopal Church, located at 116 City Island Avenue on the corner of Pilot Street, a place of worship and fellowship, warmly welcomes you to the following:

Worship Schedule: Sundays at 10 a.m. led by Father John Covington. Holy Eucharist Rite II. After the service, we offer coffee hour, a time for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome. We have birthday and anniversary prayers during the service and healing prayers after the service on the first Sunday of each month.

Bible Study, led by Father John Covington, takes place every Sunday after service during coffee hour.

May 20th is the Day of Pentecost, one of four times in the year recommended for baptisms. We invite families with children who have not yet been baptized and are not affiliated with a church to contact Grace Episcopal at 718-885-1080.

Sunday School: It's never too late (or too early) to join our enthusiastic group of children. Sunday School meets on the first and third Sundays each month, led by Karen Nani. The students range in age from 2 to 12 and newcomers are welcome. No extra time is needed; students will begin the service with the entire congregation at 10 a.m. and then leave with Mrs. Nani for

lessons and activities, including arts and crafts, for 30 to 40 minutes during the service. They will rejoin the congregation after the exchange of peace. They are planning a special Mother's Day presentation and have begun rehearsing for a Family Service in May, where the Sunday School students lead the worship, including all the readings and the homily.

Music Ministry: The Grace Tones, our music ministry, is beginning our third year! Composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island, we perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. On May 19, we will entertain the residents of Providence Rest in the Bronx. If you'd like to join us, remember that you don't have to sing like an angel, just have the desire to help lift the spirits of those in need. Interested? Please call Sandy Dunn at 917-566-1296 or e-mail accentfix@gmail.com.

Sandy Dunn

American Legion Post #156

The next meeting is Sunday, May 6, at 12 noon. We will be conducting nominations for Post officers. Dues are past due; \$55 for 2018. Please drop your dues off at the Post, and make sure your name is on the envelope. The hall is available for your next party. We can accommodate up to 80 people. Members receive a discount on all hall rentals. Please call our Activities Vice Commander Joe Goonan at 917-825-9576 for availability.

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

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

On May 6 at 9:30 a.m. will be the blessing of the Colors at St. Benedict's Church, located at 2969 Otis Avenue. A breakfast gathering will follow at Post 1456, 1456 Shore Drive.

Happy Mother's Day to all on May 13.

On May 19 the Legion family will celebrate "Homecoming" at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Further information can be found on the Legion website at Nylegion.net. The homecoming honors Department Commander Rena Nessler, Department President Patricia Hennessy, and our own Department Detachment Commander William Clancy.

The annual Memorial Day chances will be hitting mailboxes soon. And on May

Continued on page 18

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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.

The Center is happy to be the meeting place for City Island Community Supported Agriculture, which provides weekly distribution of organic fruits and vegetables. Be sure to enroll soon. See details below.

Annual membership to the CICC is only \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals. Members can rent the center for family events at reasonable rates. To join the Center, to request our brochure, and for up-to-date information, visit www.cityislandcommunitycenter.org, or call 718-885-1145, or like us on Facebook and check FB for any changes in classes.

The Center is run by a volunteer board of directors who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Main Room at 190 Fordham Street. All members are encouraged to attend this open meeting. We always welcome and really need volunteers and donations.

COMING UP

Craft Crop Fair and Workshop: Saturday, May 19, 12 noon to 8 p.m. We welcome all adult crafters who like to create, with card-making, paper-scrapping and mixed media. Demali Handcrafts sponsors this get-together for crafters. The fee is \$35 for a space where vendors can sell crafts and offer classes. For information, please contact Desiree Demali at 914-562-5857 or e-mail demailhandcrafts@aim.com.

City Island Community Supported Agriculture: It's time to join! Weekly delivery of fresh organic fruits and vegetable beginning June 4. Contact laurenbriggsrn@gmail.com or call 917-238-0529.

Latin Night: Saturday, June 16, at 7 p.m. A fundraiser to enjoy dancing the night away with Latin music and refreshments and more. For more information, call 718-885-1145.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Irish Dance for Children: Mondays, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Step dancing for

all ages taught by Caitlin Nora Kelly. For information, e-mail caitlin.nora.kelly@gmail.com or call 914-262-4517.

Introduction to Art Portfolio Prep: For high school prep or just for fun! To enroll, call Geri Smith at 718-885-1503.

Island Tots: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Preschool children get together to socialize, have fun and play. To register or for information, call Barbara at 917-359-1871.

Spanish Classes for Children: Wednesdays and Thursdays after school classes. In this educational program for children grades K through 5, conversational Spanish is taught by experienced school teachers, through fun-filled activities and visits by performing artists. The Español Experience enables children who know a little Spanish to speak more fluently and introduces children who don't know any Spanish to a whole new cultural experience. All skill levels welcome. For more information, call 917-889-4938, or visit www.espanolexperience.com.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics with Mary: Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m. Stay strong with cross fit/aerobic strength training. Call Mary Immediato at 718-885-0793. AFA Certified.

Ballroom Dance: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Maurice Bonilla returns on a new day to teach us how to "Dance with the Stars." It's great fun and good exercise. For information, call 718-502-2825.

Belly Dance: Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Join Ezma and Amira for this unique fun-filled dance experience and enjoy the benefits of feeling fit and limber. Beginners and all levels welcome. For more information, call Amira at 917-251-1269.

Bollywood and Indian Folk Dance: Saturdays, Teens/Adults, 4 p.m. Join Lalitha Cosme to explore the dance, energy, movement and culture of India and Indian films. To register or for more information, call 646-269-2033 or e-mail lalithadance@gmail.com.

Chess & Card Club: Tuesday at 7 p.m.: Come play cards. Wednesday at 7 p.m.: Chess taught, played and discussed. All levels welcome. Come on in! Avoid TV. Have fun. If you plan to attend, call Bill at 718-541-3995.

City Island Civic Association: Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Join your community in action.

City Island Culinary Club: Mondays, May 7 and 21 at 7 p.m. It's Latin Cuisine this month. Share recipes and have fun

with other Islanders who like to cook. For information, call Kenny Selesky at 917-533-7873.

City Island Indivisible: Join other concerned citizens who are supporting progressive action on issues such as health care for all, environmental protection policies, civil rights, women's rights and reproductive health choices, voter rights, and public education. We come together to discuss actions, write letters, and work together to help find ways to preserve our democratic ideals. For more information and meeting dates, contact Michael Morrison at michamorrison@hotmail.com or like City Island Indivisible on Facebook.

Healing Service: Francesca Vitale, RPP, founder and director of "The Healing Force," is a board-certified educator and practitioner in polarity/craniosacral/raindrop therapies. Formerly of the NY Open Center, Francesca is an intuitive healer and offers sessions in energy medicine that works to correct energetic imbalances and distortions and leads to clarity of mind and restored health. Partial proceeds given to C.I.C.C. Visit www.thehealingforce.net. For free consultation or an appointment, call 914-837-6830.

Weight Watchers Meetings: Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join our unofficial WW meetings while we build up membership to become official. Enjoy support and help of a great group with Cheryl Brinker leading. For more information, please call Emily at 718-885-2430 or Patty at 718-885-1891.

Yoga with Jo Ann: Wednesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 to 9:15 a.m. Gentle level-one class. Please bring a mat, a strap and if possible, a yoga blanket. For information, e-mail joannngny@aol.com or call 917-853-4719.

Zumba with Julia and Lettie: Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Want to lose those extra pounds and that belly fat? Well, here is your chance. Join this high-energy 90-minute workout with toning. For information, call Julia at 917-601-5514.

Zumba with Lettie: Thursdays, 6 p.m. Lettie's very creative class is a real calorie burner and a blast. For information, call 917-292-4228.

Patty Grondahl

PSS City Island Center

The mission of PSS City Island Center is to provide neighborhood adults 60 and over with the tools to live life to their fullest, keeping them healthy, engaged and connected through innovative programs and classes. We are not your everyday senior center!

The center is located at 116 City Island Avenue in Grace Church Hall and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. A delicious lunch is served every day from 12 to 1 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. Programs are funded by PSS and the NYC Department for the Aging.

All programs and events are subject to change. Please call ahead to check if you have not attended before. To receive our newsletter and calendar of events send your email to pattis@pssusa.org.

Highlights

May: A new Tai Chi class for Beginners will be every Thursday and Monday at 9:15 a.m.

May: Dance Party every Thursday at 1 p.m.

May 11: Friday, Mother's Day Celebration from 12 to 2:30 p.m.

May 24: Thursday, Nutrition Presentation by Toni Marinucci from Shop Rite at 12:30 p.m.

May 28: Closed for Memorial Day

Aging Mastery Program

As part of PSS LIFE! University program, we are pleased to announce that we are the first in the area to offer an innovative new ten class health and wellness program to residents 60 and over. The Aging Master Program (AMP) was developed by the National Council on Aging. This is a wonderful opportunity

to participate in and reap the benefits of this cutting-edge program. We are currently recruiting adults ages 60+ to participate in the 10-class program. Not all classes are required, but we encourage you to attend at least seven.

AMP is a fun, innovative and person-centered education program that empowers participants to embrace their gift of longevity by spending more time each day doing things that are good for themselves and for others. The program encourages mastery and developing sustainable behaviors across many dimensions that lead to improved health, stronger economic security, enhanced well-being and that increase societal participation.

May 5: Financial Fitness, Anthea Perkinson, CFP

May 18: Falls Prevention, Katrina Dinham

May Physical Exercise: The exercise program offers classes at various levels of fitness. Drop in and try one of our classes for yourself. Mondays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: Cardio Fitness at 9:15 a.m. and Yoga Stretch at 1 p.m.; Wednesdays: Self-Defense class at 9:15; Arthritis Workshop at 10:15 a.m.; Thursdays: Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:15 a.m.; Fridays: Fit for Life at 9:15 a.m., Yoga Stretch at 10:30. The suggested donation for Arthritis Workshop, Yoga Stretch, Balance and Tai Chi classes is \$1 each. The suggested donation for other exercise classes is \$3 each.

May Programs: Mondays: Card Games and Canasta at 10:15 a.m.; Computers will resume after June; "Sounds on the Sound" singing group at 1:15 p.m.; Tuesdays: Learn Piano, 10:30 a.m.; Blood Pressure Monitoring 11:30 to 12 noon on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; Crafters Corner 1:45 p.m.; Wednesdays: Calligraphy at 1 p.m.; Haircuts by Brenda for \$10 at 1 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month; please call to sign up; Thursdays: Acrylic Painting at 10 a.m.; Dance Party every Thursday at 1 p.m.; Fridays, May 4 and 18: Aging Mastery Classes at 1:15 p.m.; May 11: Mother's Day Celebration at 12 noon; May 25, Birthday Celebration at 12:30 p.m.

Information, Referrals and Assistance. Need help with filling out forms or applying for certain benefits? Don't know if you are eligible for benefits? We can help. Call Patty at 718-885-0727 or drop by the Center.

Caregivers Support. If you are caring for someone or if you know someone who is caring for another, we have some supportive services that might be helpful. Please call Patty at 718-885-0727.

Transportation Services. Off-Island shopping trips leave at 9:00 and include Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Target, Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's and more. All shopping trips require you to sign up ahead of time as we have limited seats. Sign up is available starting the Thursday before, for the following week's trips. See our monthly calendar for specific dates. The suggested contribution for a round trip is \$1 on City Island \$2.50 for off-Island shopping trips and \$3.00 for longer off-Island trips. Anyone over 60 is encouraged to take advantage of our door-to-door transportation services. Call Alex at 347-834-6466 for pickup or trips.

Patty Attis

Trinity United Methodist Church

Our weekly worship service and Sunday school are at 10 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Trinity often has a coffee hour after the service. Come and join us for worship and fellowship. Children's Sunday school takes place during the 10 a.m. service. All children are welcome to attend.

At Trinity's home on the web (www.trinityofcityisland.org), you will find all things Trinity, including some background on Trinity's new minister, Reverend David Jolly. The Budget Shop is open and bursting at the seams! Stop in and see what is new. Trinity is thankful for City Island's continued support, both in the volunteering of time and the generosity of the donations.

Rick DeWitt

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The Amazing Meryl in the 21st Century Part II

The Hours (2002) is actually three stories in one, each building on the character of Mrs. Dalloway. One is the story of author Virginia Woolf (the unrecognizable Nicole Kidman) writing the novel in 1923. The second is of Laura Brown (Julianne Moore), a depressed suburban housewife in the 1950s who is reading the book. The third is of Clarissa Vaughn (Meryl Streep), who is giving a party for her former lover, poet Richard (Ed Harris), who calls her Mrs. Dalloway. This is an extraordinary piece of film-making with a stunning ensemble cast, which also includes Stephan Dilane as Virginia's husband, John C. Reilly as Laura's husband, Allison Janney as Clarissa's partner and Claire Danes as the daughter the two women are raising together. Although **Chicago** was great, **The Hours** was my personal choice for best picture of 2002.

The updated version of **The Manchurian Candidate** (2004) is the story of Raymond Shaw (Liev Schreiber), the son of Senator Eleanor Shaw (Meryl Streep), who pushes her son into running for Vice President of the United States. Brainwashing has taken place in the first Persian Gulf War, and high-tech computer chips have been implanted that will allow control over Raymond's actions. Major Ben Marco (Denzel Washington) is also a victim of the conspiracy. It is interesting to see the strong Denzel portraying the tormented, seemingly paranoid military man. When Raymond replaces liberal Senator Jordan (Jon Voight) as the vice presidential candidate, Marco turns to Raymond for help. The danger in this film is not from foreign enemies but from domestic fanatics and the sinister power of corporate America.

The Devil Wears Prada (2006) is the story of Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway), a would-be journalist who "settles" for a job for which scores of young women would sell their souls—that of assistant to the managing editor of Vogue Magazine, Miranda Priestly (Streep). The supporting cast includes Stanley Tucci as designer Nigel, Emily Blunt as Miranda's primary assistant, Andrian Grenier as Andy's boyfriend Nate and Simon Baker as Christian Thompson, a rakish writer who tries to capture Andy's heart. The entire cast is excellent, with the scene stealers of course being the clothes.

All of the four main characters in the film adaptation of the New York stage play **Doubt** (2008) by James Patrick Shanley received Oscar nominations. The film takes place in an urban Catholic school led by Sister Aloysius (Meryl Streep). When young Sister James (Amy Adams) suggests to Aloysius that Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman) might be giving too much personal attention to the school's only black student, Donald Miller (Joseph Foster), Aloysius starts a crusade against Flynn. The film also features Viola Davis as Donald's mother, with a short amount of screen time in a performance that stays with the viewer long after the picture ends.

Streep and Adams appear in a second film together, the delightful true story **Julie and Julia** (2009). Streep stars as famous cook Julia Child, who is married to American diplomat Paul (Stanley Tucci). Adams is Julie Powell who created a blog describing her experience preparing all of Child's recipes published in "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" in 365 days, to both the enjoyment and consternation of her husband, Eric (Chris Messina). The juxtaposition of each woman's experience is very sweet indeed, and Streep's voice captures the essence of Julia Child.

It's Complicated (2009) is an adult romantic comedy set in Santa Barbara, CA, that stars Streep as Jane Adler, a divorced successful bakery shop owner. She has three adult children, Luke (Hunter Parrish), Gabby (Zoe Kazan) and Lauren (Caitlin Fitzgerald), who is engaged to Harley (John Krazinski). Jane is a woman in late middle age who, after years of being on her own, becomes sexually and romantically involved with two very different men—her former husband, Jake (Alec

Baldwin), who has remarried; and her newly hired architect, Adam Schaffer (Steve Martin).

As the most nominated actress in Oscar history (21), Streep went 20 years without receiving her third award. Then she was finally honored for her amazing performance as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in **The Iron Lady** (2011). Jim Broadbent plays her husband, Denis, whose ghost keeps her company as flashbacks trace her life from modest beginnings through her leadership of the Conservative Party. Many critics were put off by the portrayal of an aging Thatcher losing her sense of reality, but Streep fans will not be disappointed.

In **Hope Springs** (2012) Kay (Streep) and Arnold (Tommy Lee Jones) are a devoted couple, but decades of marriage have left them jaded and bored. Desperate to find some real connection with her husband, Kay convinces him to travel to the small town of Great Hope Springs, where they will spend a week doing marriage counseling with the renowned couple's specialist, Dr. Feld (Steve Carell). It is an inordinately difficult task just to convince the stubborn Arnold to go, but the real challenge for both of them comes when they attempt to be honest with each other for the first time in years, as they try to reignite the spark that caused them to fall for each other in the first place.

Into the Woods (2014) is a modern twist on several of the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales, intertwining the plots of a few stories and exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. This humorous Sondheim musical cleverly follows the classic tales of Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), Little Red Riding Hood (Lilla Crawford), Jack and the Beanstalk (Daniel Huttleston) and Rapunzel (MacKenzie Mauzy), all tied together by an original story involving a baker and his wife (James Corden and Emily Blunt), their wish to begin a family and their interaction with a witch (Streep), who has put a curse on them. Other cast members include Johnny Depp as the Big Bad Wolf, Chris Pine as Prince Charming and Christine Baranski as the Wicked Stepmother.

Ricki and the Flash (2015) is a film loaded with music and live performance in which Streep stars in the title role as a mother who has given up everything for her dream of

rock-and-roll stardom, but is now returning home to make things right with her family. Streep stars opposite her real-life daughter Mamie Gummer, who plays her film daughter, Julie. Rick Springfield is on hand as Greg, a Flash band member in love with Ricki, and Kevin Kline portrays Ricki's long-suffering, very straight and proper ex-husband, Pete Brummel.

Florence Foster Jenkins (2016) is a 2016 biographical comedy-drama film that casts Streep in the title role of a New York heiress who has become an opera singer known for her painful lack of singing skill. Hugh Grant plays her husband and manager, English Shakespearean actor St. Clair Bayfield. Streep, who sang beautifully in two earlier movies, stated that it was extremely difficult to sing off key. This is a sometimes funny yet sad biopic.

Steven Spielberg's **The Post** (2017) stars Streep as Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and Tom Hanks as Ben Bradlee, the executive editor of the Washington Post. Set in the early 1970s, the film depicts the true story of attempts to publish the Pentagon Papers, classified documents regarding the 30-year involvement of the United States government in the Vietnam War. This fascinating thriller is a race between the Washington Post and the New York Times to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spanned three decades and four U.S. Presidents. Graham and Bradlee must overcome their differences as they risk their careers and freedom to uncover long-buried truths.

Looking forward to seeing what wonders Streep has in store for us in the future; and until next time, happy viewing. . .

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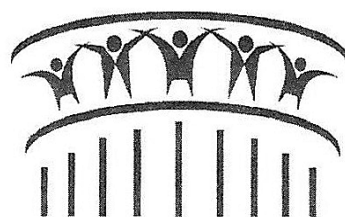
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Photo by MATT PANZA

City Island's Boy Scout Troop 211 held its annual Easter plant sale from March 28 to 31, 2018, and it was a blooming success. The dedicated green thumb scouts are shown above including: Alex Persteins, Cassias Walker, Brendan Best, Peter Hickey, Joe Kramer, Brandon McGaughan, Ginutis Sipas, Scoutmaster Angelo Bellocchio and Assistant Scoutmaster Brian Kenny. The funds raised will support scout trips, such as summer camp at Ten Mile River in upstate New York.

SCHOOL NEWS
 $2+2=4$
 By VIRGINIA DANNEGGER

Public School 175

Spring has arrived—barely—and our students are in full bloom (despite the less than spring-like weather)!

Our educational trips this month included the kindergarten visit to the Queens College Performing Arts Center for a performance of "The Three Little Pigs"; the first grade went to Lehman Center for the Performing Arts to see "The Wizard of Oz," as well as a trip to the NY Botanical Garden; the second grade went to the Bronx Zoo; grades 6 through 8 attended the Bronx Schools Yankee Day game; the seventh grade went for its annual trip to Philadelphia, and the seventh and eighth grades visited Woodlawn Cemetery for their fabulous, interesting educational programs.

P.S. 175's school-wide Community Service Program is getting ready to go! Some projects being considered are making book-marks to be given out at the City Island Library; a children's book drive for Jacobi Hospital Pediatric Unit; baking for POTS; work with the Bronx River Alliance to clean up and beautify the river and surrounding area and raising funds for various animal adoption organizations. The eighth graders have been doing many individual and group

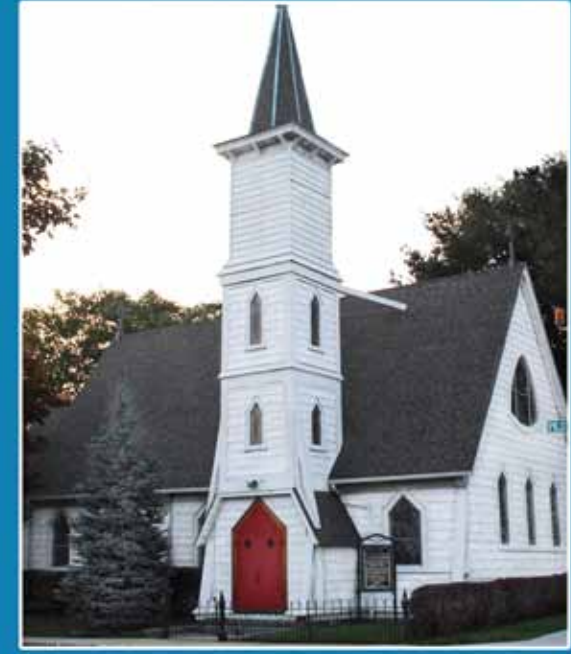
projects, which include assisting with various Community Center events, helping the PTA at the Pocket Book Bingo, cleaning up Orchard Beach, and cleaning the Community Center. We thank Brenda Prohaska for coordinating many of these activities!!

The P.S. 175 tradition of going to Camp Greenkill will continue this year in May. Our sixth-graders will spend three days learning about the environment and themselves. Ms. Ramos, Ms. Berk and Mr. Cowen will accompany the students for what will be an enriching experience for all!

Finally, our Publiccolor painting project has been completed, and the first floor of our school looks amazing. A big "thank you" to our Parent Coordinator, Tina Gisante, who coordinated all the work that took place after school and on Saturdays, as well as the students and teachers who participated in this wonderful event that beautified our school!

Please keep in mind these important dates: Families with children turning 5 on or before Dec. 31, 2018, who have not already used the online tool to pre-register their children for kindergarten should call the school and speak with our secretaries, Sally Veltri or Gabby Pirraglia as soon as possible. The DOE website also has registration information. The eighth grade graduation will take place on Friday, June 22, at 9 a.m. The Eighth-Grade Dance will take place the same evening from 7 to 10 p.m., and the Eighth-Grade Awards Night Dinner will take place on Thursday, June 14, at 6 p.m. The kindergarten moving-up ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 20, at 9 a.m., followed by a family celebration in the gym with a DJ and Sunny the Clown.

Grace Episcopal Church




~ Inclusive
 ~ Friendly
 All are Welcome!

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 10 AM

Church School meets the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 10 AM

The Rev. John E. Covington, Pastor
 116 City Island Avenue at Pilot Street
 718-885-1080 ~ www.gracecityisland.net





The Grace Tones, Grace Church's music ministry led by parishioner Sandy Dunn (above with guitar), is composed of members of the church choir and singers from on and off City Island. They perform at area nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. They debuted on City Island at Starving Artist gallery on April 15, 2018, and on May 19, they will entertain the residents of Providence Rest in the Bronx. If you'd like to join them, see Organization News.



Photo by RON TERNER

A group of high school students from Manhattan came to City Island on Monday, April 16, to see the students' art show at the Focal Point Gallery and to visit the City Island Nautical Museum.

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

MAY 2018									
DAY	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT	DAY
	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	HH MM	FEET	
01 Tue	0113	8.22	0750	-0.58	1343	7.53	1952	0.23	Tue 01
02 Wed	0146	7.99	0828	-0.21	1421	7.30	2013	0.57	Wed 02
03 Thu	0214	7.74	0901	0.20	1455	7.08	2028	0.87	Thu 03
04 Fri	0241	7.51	0921	0.59	1528	6.90	2100	1.13	Fri 04
05 Sat	0315	7.29	0943	0.90	1603	6.76	2142	1.39	Sat 05
06 Sun	0356	7.08	1022	1.16	1648	6.69	2231	1.60	Sun 06
07 Mon	0444	6.91	1109	1.34	1742	6.70	2326	1.72	Mon 07
08 Tue	0539	6.79	1203	1.42	1845	6.80			Tue 08
09 Wed	0028	1.68	0640	6.77	1302	1.36	1942	7.01	Wed 09
10 Thu	0136	1.47	0744	6.87	1400	1.16	2025	7.30	Thu 10
11 Fri	0244	1.08	0841	7.05	1453	0.87	2104	7.64	Fri 11
12 Sat	0339	0.60	0929	7.27	1541	0.54	2145	8.01	Sat 12
13 Sun	0428	0.11	1014	7.50	1626	0.21	2227	8.36	Sun 13
14 Mon	0514	-0.33	1059	7.69	1711	-0.05	2311	8.65	Mon 14
15 Tue	0559	-0.66	1145	7.82	1757	-0.21	2356	8.82	Tue 15
16 Wed	0646	-0.83	1232	7.86	1845	-0.23			Wed 16
17 Thu	0043	8.85	0736	-0.84	1322	7.81	1936	-0.11	Thu 17
18 Fri	0133	8.70	0831	-0.68	1416	7.66	2031	0.13	Fri 18
19 Sat	0227	8.40	0933	-0.41	1516	7.47	2135	0.44	Sat 19
20 Sun	0327	7.99	1045	-0.12	1631	7.30	2302	0.68	Sun 20
21 Mon	0442	7.57	1159	0.09	1800	7.30			Mon 21
22 Tue	0028	0.68	0624	7.35	1307	0.15	1913	7.49	Tue 22
23 Wed	0139	0.47	0741	7.37	1410	0.11	2015	7.76	Wed 23
24 Thu	0242	0.13	0844	7.48	1507	0.01	2110	8.02	Thu 24
25 Fri	0339	-0.22	0940	7.59	1559	-0.08	2201	8.23	Fri 25
26 Sat	0432	-0.51	1030	7.66	1648	-0.11	2249	8.34	Sat 26
27 Sun	0521	-0.67	1118	7.66	1734	-0.05	2333	8.35	Sun 27
28 Mon	0606	-0.68	1202	7.60	1816	0.10			Mon 28
29 Tue	0014	8.26	0649	-0.54	1244	7.48	1853	0.32	Tue 29
30 Wed	0051	8.10	0728	-0.30	1323	7.35	1925	0.58	Wed 30
31 Thu	0123	7.90	0803	0.01	1358	7.20	1940	0.82	Thu 31
JUNE 2018									
01 Fri	0144	7.71	0830	0.33	1427	7.09	1956	0.98	Fri 01
02 Sat	0205	7.58	0840	0.58	1448	7.02	2030	1.12	Sat 02
03 Sun	0238	7.46	0905	0.74	1517	7.01	2111	1.25	Sun 03
04 Mon	0317	7.33	0942	0.87	1556	7.03	2158	1.35	Mon 04



Spring Migration

After a bumpy beginning, the spring migration appears to have finally settled in. Some of the first migrants to pass through our area were the pine and palm warbler, the hermit thrush and the golden crowned kinglet. We have even heard reports of a pileated woodpecker near the parking lot at Orchard Beach. Those of us who have birded the woods nearest Orchard Beach are much more familiar with the red-bellied, even red-headed, woodpeckers that occur much more regularly there. A pileated woodpecker is one for the bird bucket list!

The migrant birds that stop over in New York City parks do so for the insects that feed on the vegetation there. The best time to observe these passersby is early in the morning, not too long after sunrise. If the breezes are light, or better non-existent, the insects become active in the warmth of the new day. This invariably leads to a flurry of activity among the insectivores in the area. The best park for observing warblers and other migrants is Central Park. The reason for this is that from the point of view of migratory species, the green of Central Park appears oasis-like in the midst of all that big city gray. Many's the truck driver who has felt the same urge to pull over when confronted by the only eatery on the road for miles and miles.

Out on the water, the buffleheads

were taking their time again, heading north to the Arctic, as is their custom. We couldn't help thinking they were waiting for the snow here to be done with once and for all. After all, if it were still cold and snowy here in April, how spring-like could the Arctic be? Also, out on the water, we were surprised to notice a small group of northern gannets circling the Island over the bay, although surprised is probably the last thing we should have been, given all the avian surprises we have had in our area lately. Remember the snowy owl!

Still, surprised we were. We have seen northern gannets before, off the beaches of Cape May, diving for prey in their dramatic fashion, but never in this area. They were not exactly diving, either, when we saw them. It was more like swooping. They would swoop down to the water; then fly back up again without touching it. We surmised they were swooping for food but without success.

If you have seen a bird over the water that looks like a gull but not like one at the same time, it may have been a northern gannet. Mature adults, like the ones we saw, are slightly bigger than most gulls but with a subtly different body shape. Their plumage is mostly creamy white except for a light brown top of the head and jet black for the ends of the wings. Positively identifying something new and alive in our area is always a bit of a thrill.

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IN THE GARDEN

By MARY COLBY



Rudbeckia Triloba



Photos by MARY COLBY

Ox Eye Daisy

Plants We Can't Do Without— The Daisy Family

Plants that bloom over a long period of time are a boon to the gardener who loves color. The daisy family cannot be overlooked and must be included in any garden for floriferous staying power. Is there anything fresher than a daisy? There are so many kinds that I must devote a full column to them.

The common white ox eye daisy, *leucanthemum vulgare*, can easily be had by sowing seed, available from the Wildflower Farm seed company. Scatter them now or in the fall and delight in their cheerfulness the next year. Following them would be the shasta daisies and then on to the Montauks, which come at the very end of the season. Remember to cut them back to five inches in height in early July; otherwise their flowers will not stand up to show their bright white petals and yellow eyes.

Rudbeckias are indestructible, and their seed heads are long lasting, providing food for the birds. I love the common *R. fulgida* and delicate *R. triloba*. The star of this group is *R. maxima*, a tall, stately plant that flowers late with clump-forming bluish leaves and tall flowers with black cones reaching sky-

ward. There is also an annual that goes by the common name of gloriosa.; it is larger and eye-catching and has the ability to re-seed.

Closely related to rudbeckias are the echinaceas, which mix well with grasses; these are popular with prairie planting and desirable to the homeopathic inclined. *E. purpurea* lights up the garden with pinkish tones; their central cones are colored in a robust, rusty bronze.

Heleniums are charming with buttonseed heads, and helianthus, a perennial sunflower, is also good for larger gardens where it can romp and spread.

Last in the daisy family come the asters. Without asters, fall gardens diminish in interest. Their loveliness can be massed in borders, giving life to a landscape of grasses and evergreens. Another pairing could be with tall artemisias and rudbeckias. *Aster x frikartii 'Monch'* is a lovely blue, as is blue bird, which is taller. These garden stalwarts do take up space eventually, so it is important to divide them every three to four years. By doing this, vigor returns and we have more plants to give away or add to our existing planting schemes.

When space is limited, the perennial geraniums take up very little. Being able to scramble over plants, geraniums produce a cloud of color for a long time in early summer. *Geranium buxton blue*, and pratense are easy to cultivate. They mix well and create a lovely softening effect with all daisies.

Prairie gardens, meadow gardens and borders cease to be without movement if grasses are not included. Next month I will wax poetic on these symphonic beauties.

Mary Colby is an artist and gardener whose studio is at 276 City Island Avenue. She can be reached at 917-804-4509 for consultation and design. www.theartistgardener.com.

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Photo by RICK DeWITT

Trinity United Methodist is very proud that three of its young adults were confirmed as an important part of the Easter Service. Laci Howard and Olivia and Benjamin Chadwick were all part of this class, which has been gathering for several months. Pastor Dave Jolly and all of Trinity welcome their three newest members (shown above). Their families have long blessed our congregation and the City Island community.

The Secret of Parenting: "Just Show Up"

By JOHN SCARDINA

I have had the luxury of working with children of all ages for the past 45 years. I especially enjoy middle schoolers, the group often dubbed the most challeng-

ing to parent and the most challenging to teach, because of their energy, their idealism and their willingness to try new things. If you talk down to middle schoolers, all is lost; they have radar for adult disdain. If you enjoy and encourage a middle schooler, he or she will be an enthusiastic fan; recruit middle schoolers for your next personal project, treat them with respect and enjoy their loyal participation.

I recently began working with a middle schooler, and, as usual, I asked about personal interests: What's your favorite TV show? Your favorite book? What kind of music do you listen to? What's your idea of a perfect Saturday? This young person immediately told me about "Grey's Anatomy," a long-running TV show about doctors in a Seattle hospital, and so I agreed to watch "a few episodes" to get the gist of things. (Previously, young people have introduced me to the band Nirvana, "Beavis and Butthead," Taylor Swift, "Dexter," "The Witches of Waverly Place" and YouTube videos on how to solve Rubik's Cubes quickly. You get the picture. . . .)

More than 250 episodes of "Grey's Anatomy" later (I got my wife hooked, too), I now enjoy the various relationships and professional quandaries the characters find themselves in on that show. And, in fact, there is parenting advice to boot!

In one episode, a regular character, Doctor Alex Karev (played by Justin Chambers), is helping a new father whose baby has just been born to a mother who is about to die. The father is struggling: "I don't know how to be a father by myself!" and Karev (in his usual brusque but loving way) says, "There is only one trick: just show up!"

I think this is good advice for all of us as parents: just show up for the events that will shape our child's life. These can be the usual "special days," like birthdays, school concerts, playoff games and the like, but they can also include making breakfast together, taking a walk, driving them places with their friends and just hanging out after school.

This also means being really "present." No electronics, no reading the newspaper while asking about their day, no taking phone calls on that walk. We used to joke about "quality time," but it is a useful concept. "Be here now" is more than just a saying from the 1960s. Some people talk about the "precious present," not a material gift but the gift of *now*. That gift is available to us, and our children, all of the time. Just show up.



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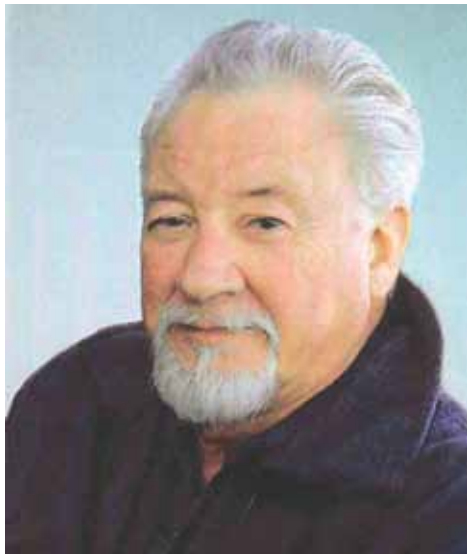
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PADDY'S ON THE ISLAND

Obituaries

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



Francis Joseph Murray

Francis (Frank) Joseph Murray, a City Island resident, passed away at his home on March 28, 2018, at the age of 75.

Frank was born in Manhattan to James Murray and Kathleen Thornbury. He graduated from Cardinal Farley Military Academy in 1960. He continued his education at Iona College, where he studied to be an accountant. He graduated in 1965 and later became a CPA.

Frank spent most of his life on City Island. After a life-long career in finance, he retired and became a consultant. He had a passion for politics and theology and was very active in the community. He enjoyed cruising on his motorcycle, traveling with his family and sailing and fishing with his friends.

Frank is survived by Maria, his wife of 15 years; his children David Murray (Jo-Ellen), Tanya Newnam (Benjamin) and Pamela Murray. He is also survived by his stepdaughters, Stephanie and Aimee C. Zambrana; his granddaughters Isabeau, Olivia, Jordan and Lara; his oldest brother, Gerald Murray, and his brother and sister-in-law, Jose R. and Agnes Izquierdo. He is predeceased by his brother Donald Murray. He will be missed by everyone he knew.



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

IRS Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2018, Part 1

The IRS compiles an annual "dirty dozen" list of common scams that taxpayers may encounter. Although many of these scams peak during the tax filing season, they may be encountered at any time during the year. Following are six of the dirty dozen; the remaining six will be described in the June issue.

Phishing

Scam artists continue to victimize taxpayers during filing season by using a steady onslaught of new and evolving phishing schemes. E-mail phishing schemes target payroll professionals, human resources personnel and schools, as well as individual taxpayers and even tax professionals, by deploying various types of phishing e-mails in an attempt to access client data. Thieves may use this data to impersonate taxpayers and file fraudulent tax returns for refunds.

In the most recent scam, thousands of taxpayers have been victimized by an unusual scheme that involves their own

bank accounts. After stealing client data from tax professionals and filing fraudulent tax returns, the criminals use taxpayers' real bank accounts to direct deposit refunds. Thieves are then using various tactics to reclaim the refund from the taxpayers, including falsely claiming to be from a collection agency or representing the IRS.

Fake e-mails and websites also can infect a taxpayer's computer with malware without the user knowing it. The malware gives the criminal access to the device, enabling them to access all sensitive files or even track keyboard strokes, exposing login information.

Phone Scams

Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers. Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victims if they don't get the money. Since October 2013, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) reports they have become aware of more than 12,716 victims who have collectively paid over \$63 million because of phone scams.

Con artists claiming to be IRS officials call unsuspecting taxpayers and demand they pay a bogus tax bill. Scammers often alter caller ID numbers to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim's name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official. They convince the victim to send cash, usually through a wire transfer or a prepaid debit card or gift card. They may also leave "urgent" callback requests through phone "robocalls," or send a phishing e-mail (see above for more information about phishing).

Identity Theft

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses your stolen Social Security number to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. Although the IRS has made significant progress in deterring tax-related identity theft (from 2016 to 2017 identity theft decreased by 40 percent), criminals continue to devise creative ways to steal even more in-depth personal information to impersonate taxpayers. As such, taxpayers and tax professionals must remain vigilant to the various scams and schemes used for data thefts. Business filers should also be aware that cybercriminals file fraudulent Forms 1120 using stolen business identities as well.

Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protection and make sure security software is always turned on and set to automatically update. Encrypt sensitive files such as tax records stored on the computer. Use strong passwords. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails. Protect personal data. Treat personal information like cash; don't leave

it lying around. Don't routinely carry a Social Security card, and make sure your tax records are secure.

Tax Return Preparer Fraud

About 60 percent of taxpayers use tax professionals to prepare their returns. The majority of tax professionals provide honest, high-quality service, but there are some dishonest tax preparers who set up shop each filing season. Well-intentioned taxpayers can be misled by tax preparers who don't understand taxes or who mislead people into taking credits or deductions they aren't entitled to in order to increase their fee. Avoid tax preparers who base their fees on a percentage of their client's refund or who boast bigger refunds than their competition.

Illegal scams can lead to significant penalties and interest and possible criminal prosecution. IRS Criminal Investigation works closely with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to shutdown scams and prosecute the criminals behind them.

Fake Charities

Taxpayers should be aware that phony charities use names or websites that sound or look like those of respected, legitimate organizations. For instance, following major disasters, it's common for scam artists to impersonate charities to get money or private information from well-intentioned taxpayers. Scam artists use a variety of tactics including contacting people by telephone or e-mail to solicit money or financial information. They may even directly contact disaster victims and claim to be working for or on behalf of the IRS to help the victims file casualty loss claims and get tax refunds. They may also attempt to get personal financial information or Social Security numbers that can be used to steal the victims' identities or financial resources.

Inflated Refund Claims

Taxpayers should be on the lookout for unscrupulous tax return preparers pushing inflated tax refund claims. Scam artists routinely pose as tax preparers during tax time, luring victims in by promising large federal tax refunds or refunds that people never dreamed they were due in the first place. They might, for example, promise inflated refunds based on fictitious Social Security benefits and false claims for education credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) or the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), among others. They may also file a false return in their client's name, and the client never knows that a refund was paid.

Filing a phony information return, such as a Form 1099 or W-2, is an illegal way to lower the amount of taxes owed. The use of self-prepared, "corrected" or otherwise bogus forms that improperly report taxable income as zero is illegal. So is an attempt to submit a statement rebutting wages and taxes reported by a third-party payer to the IRS. In some cases, individuals have made refund claims based on the bogus theory that the federal government maintains secret accounts for U.S. citizens and that

taxpayers can gain access to the accounts by issuing 1099-OID forms to the IRS.

Because taxpayers are legally responsible for what is on their returns (even if it was prepared by someone else), those who buy into such schemes can end up being penalized for filing false claims or receiving fraudulent refunds.

Next month we will look at some problems caused by unscrupulous tax return preparers or taxpayers wanting to avoid paying more than they should. If you think you've been a victim of a tax scam, please contact a trusted tax professional, an attorney, the IRS and/or New York State tax authorities immediately.

Organization News

Continued from page 10

26 at 7 p.m. the Memorial Day Weekend Dance will be held at the Post 156 hall.

The Annual Memorial Day Parade will commence on May 28, at Pilot Street and City Island Avenue at 2 p.m. The parade will conclude at the Post with well-deserved hot dogs and cold drinks.

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

Peter C. Del-Debbio

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Twelve-Step Meetings on City Island

Narcotics Anonymous:

Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, City Island Avenue near the Bridge.

Thursdays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall, 113 Bay Street.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Mondays at 8 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church hall.

Tuesdays at 8 p.m., St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church.

Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 a.m., AA open meetings at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church: 718-885-1440

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ART PRINTS OF CITY ISLAND BRIDGE by Island artist Marguerite Chadwick-Juner are available at: marguerite-chadwickjuner.pixels.com. Seasonal panoramic views of the bridge as well as iconic portions of the bridge can be purchased as prints on archival paper, aluminum, acrylic and canvas, but here you can purchase the images on iPhone and Galaxy cases, pillows, duvet covers, tote bags, and t-shirts! Show your bridge love!

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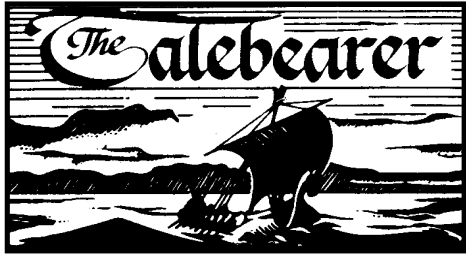
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Information for the Talebearer must be received in writing no later than the 15th of the month except July and December. Mail to The Island Current, P.O. Box 6, City Island, NY 10464; include your name and telephone number.



Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger

Birthday greetings across the miles in California being sent to former Horton St. resident Lyla MacDonald, who turns 17 on May 23. Good luck with your driving lessons! With love from your City Island family and friends.

Welcome to Tier Street's newest resident, Helen Werner, R.N., who comes to us from Larchmont. We wish her well in her new home.

Congratulations to Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger, a lifelong educator and daughter-in-law of former P.S. 175 principal, Ena Ellwanger, on her recent promotion as president and CEO of Data Quality Campaign. Your City Island family is very proud of you!

Happy 28th anniversary on May 12 and best wishes for continued happiness to the Sailmaker's Judy and John Iovieno, with love from the Iovieno and Swieciki families.

Kudos to the "Fighting Islanders," who joined WALK MS on April 15 to raise funds to help those with multiple sclerosis.

Happy birthday on May 1 to Diane Duryea from the gang at Atlantic Emeritus Realty, Inc.

Keep up the good work to Bobby Swieciki, who celebrates his 12th anniversary with the U.S. Coast Guard on May 1.

Happy mutual birthday greetings to my favorite cousin, Genie Jones. Genie is a former resident of Minneford Avenue and now resides in Oceanside, CA. I wish her the very best and a happy and healthy year. Love, Cuz Barbs (Barbara Haas) Lynch.

Birthday wishes to Patrice Ortega on May 28, with love from your family and friends.

Happy 6th anniversary on May 12 to King Avenue's Kim and Brian Moore.

It's a boy! Welcome to the world Christopher Mario, born April 9. Proud parents are Eddie and Jackie Ciarletta, and thrilled grandparents are Bay Street's Katherine Ciarletta and Lawrence and Margaret Iuso of Country Club.

More birthday greetings go out to Terry Carmody on May 8, Peter Lenz on May 19 and Jackie Kyle Kall on May 26.

Congratulations to my longtime friend, (we met in first grade) Barbara Haas Lynch who will be celebrating a very special birthday on May 9. I too, Carolyn Foley Peters, will be celebrating this special birthday on June 21. We both have many fond memories of growing up on City Island.

Wishing all our hard-working mothers and grandmothers a very Happy Mother's Day on May 13.

Maria Swieciki

SWEET SUCCESS



Photo by MATT PANZA

The young girl scouts from City Island's troop 1325 did a brisk business in cookie sales on April 7, 2018, helped by patrons including New York City Councilmember Mark Gjonaj (above, center).



Photo by RON TURNER

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, this group of Fighting Islanders, organized by Alex Cepek and Sara Pryor, joined Walk MS at Pier 97 in Manhattan, a major fundraiser to help those with multiple sclerosis. The City Island group traveled by bus and met other Islanders at Pier 97 on behalf of Islanders Melisa Pryor and Dean Pecoraro to show their love and support by participating in this important event.



Eddie and Jackie Ciarletta welcomed their new son, Christopher Mario, on April 9, 2018.

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